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# NORTHEAST NEWS

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Jan. 14 & 21



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VOL. 47, NO. 1 TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

**JAN. 17 to FEB 3 I-45N Planning & Environmental Study Meetings**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is holding a third virtual public meeting with two in-person options to gather public input on the I-45N: Beltway 8 North to Loop 336 South (Conroe) PEL Study in Harris and Montgomery Counties.

Through public and stakeholder engagement, the PEL study will explore transportation alternatives to address the growing safety, mobility and multimodal needs along the corridor due to the projected population and employment growth in the Houston metropolitan area.

The virtual and in-person meeting options provide an opportunity for the community to review and comment on the reasonable alternatives developed to address the I-45N corridor needs and the evaluation process that will be used to identify the recommended alternatives. The virtual and in-person meetings will cover the same content.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**VIRTUAL** - Jan. 17 through Feb. 3, see details on Page 8

**TUESDAY, JAN. 17, 2023**  
5:00 - 7:30pm  
In Person

Oak Ridge High School  
27310 Oak Ridge School Road  
Conroe, TX 77385

**THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 2023**  
5:00 - 7:30pm  
In-Person

Hochzeit Hall  
427 Gentry Street  
Spring Texas 77373

See more details in Ad on Page 8, and at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov). keyword search "I-45N PEL"

**JAN 17, 19, 21. Aldine Regional Study Meetings**

You are invited to Join the Study Group at the 3rd Round of Public Meetings.

Harris County needs the Aldine community's help in determining projects which will improve this vibrant community the most. Your input from rounds one and two of our public meetings in 2022 showed us which 20 projects you want the highest.

Now we are working to get to a prioritized list of 20 project to implement, and we need to hear from you again.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023**  
6pm - 7:30pm  
North East Community Center, 10918 Bentley.

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023**  
6 pm - 7:30pm  
North East Community Center, 10918 Bentley

**Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023**  
11:30am - 1:30pm  
James Drive Park Pavilion 10918 Bentley

## Aldine ISD hosts "Share the Joy" Holiday event at M.O. Campbell Center

By Dylan Esquina

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department held their Share the Joy event at the M.O. Campbell Education Center, for the nominated district families to receive gifted donations from the community.

The event was created through the help of principals from each school "nominating" families to receive gifts. Donations were made by Aldine ISD employees, AISD departments and the Aldine community to provide up to 300 families with free groceries, a blanket and a gift card. Leftover donations were all given to the families of the Haverstock Hills Apartments.

The event was run by FACE, along with volunteers from several of the community partners that donated food, jackets and



Volunteers from the Aldine ISD Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department helped with the Share the Joy Event.

gift cards. As the families entered the education center, they were greeted and guided, by the volunteers and staff, through the various stations where they could grab each of their gifts.

The Greater Houston Church sponsored the Share the Joy event, and they had an abundance of volunteers and support-

ers who purchased gift cards and donated and packaged the food boxes for the families. Dr. Martha Escalante, Executive Director of FACE, thanked all who made the Share the Joy event a success.

FACE would like to thank the following organizations for their help with this event: Greater



More of the volunteer helpers from FACE.

Houston Church, Aldine AFT, Baker Ripley, Fresh Start Community Services, Villa Serena Communities, Equitable Advisors, Bonding Against Adversity, Living Word Christian Academy, TAS Realty, FedEx Grounds, Aldine ISD Staff, Latinx Leaders, Aldine Education Foundation and Pheido

Advertising. The event would not have been a success without their generosity and support.

To keep track of FACE's various events, and how to participate in future ones, see website AldineISD.org.

Continued on Page 7. MORE PHOTOS.



### NORTHEAST NEWS COACH OF THE YEAR Cornelius Harmon leads Nimitz to playoffs in first year on the job

By Mike Keeney  
Contributing Writer

After he graduated from Texas Southern University, Cornelius Harmon was like a lot of young adults. He didn't know what he wanted to do for a living. But a phone call changed all that and sent him on a career as a high school football coach.

Is he ever glad he took that call.

After starting for three years at quarterback for TSU, Harmon accepted a job at his high school alma mater, Port Arthur Memorial thanks to that phone call from his former coach Kenny Harrison.

Harmon spent nine years at PA Memorial, working his way up the ranks and left as the offensive coordinator. After leaving PA Memorial, Harmon became the offensive coordinator at Summer Creek in Humble ISD before being offered his first



Nimitz Coach Cornelius Harmon

head coaching job at Nimitz in March of 2022.

He made quite an impression in his first stint as a head coach.

Because he did not start until March, Harmon did not have the Cougars go through spring training. Instead, they started falls drills a week earlier than most of their District 14-6A rivals. The Cougars got off to a slow start, but played well down the stretch and earned a play-

CONTINUED. SEE COACH OF THE YEAR, PAGE 5

## In two incidents, pedestrians hit, killed by HPD cars

EAST ALDINE — A man walking in the middle lane of Aldine Bender Road in North Houston, was hit and killed by a Houston police officer last Wednesday night. This is the second fatal auto-pedestrian crash involving an HPD officer in the last week.

Cpt. Anthony McConnell with the Harris County Sheriff's Office said the officer was traveling in the westbound middle lane of Aldine Bender Road near Picton when he struck a pedestrian around midnight. There are no visible crosswalks near the location of impact.

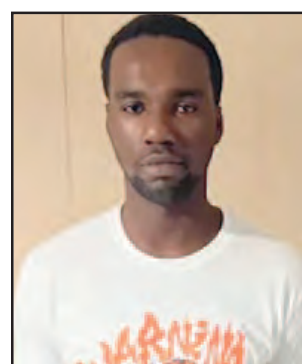
Sean Teare, chief of the Harris County District Attorney's Office Vehicular Crimes Division, said the officer was responding to a non-urgent call, so he was not using his lights and sirens in an area that's not well-lit. Investigators do not believe speed was a factor.

The officer reportedly turned around and performed life-saving measures on the victim, but was unsuccessful.

"These cases are incredibly tragic for everyone involved, the officer included," said Teare. "We've got to go through and determine the exact speed that was involved. The real lighting, what the line of sight was, and a number of different things that are going to go into this."

Family members and friends identified the victim as Caleb Swafford to media at the scene. They said he was on his way to visit a friend who lives at the Haverstock Hill Apartments when he was struck.

On Friday Dec. 30, an HPD sergeant hit and killed a pedestrian who was walking across the I-10 East Freeway near Wayside Drive while responding to a non-emergency call around 2 a.m.



CALEB SWAFFORD

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 7100 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 2 a.m. Friday (Dec. 30).

The identity of the deceased male, 35, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant E. Fendia and Officer T. Phillips reported:

An on-duty HPD Northeast Patrol Division sergeant was driving a marked patrol vehicle westbound at the above address when he struck the male, a pedestrian,

CONTINUED. SEE PEDESTRIANS KILLED, PAGE 2

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**BID NOTICE for Church Repair & Renovation Construction**  
See details on Page 6

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## Updated COVID-19 boosters for children at Harris County

Houston – On Friday, December 16th, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will begin administering Moderna COVID-19 updated boosters (Bivalent) to children six months of age to five years old and Pfizer COVID-19 updated boosters for children six months to four years old at all HCPH Vaccination Sites. The updated COVID-19 booster vaccine offers higher protection against the original COVID-19 strains and the Omicron variant.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children six months to five years old who previously completed the primary series of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive a Moderna updated booster vaccine two months after their final primary series dose. Children six months to four years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer updated booster vaccine

as their third primary dose.

As a result of the expanded eligibility, the original (monovalent) Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is no longer authorized as a third primary series dose in children six months to four years old and will not be offered at HCPH sites moving forward.

HCPH encourages everyone to get their updated booster when they meet eligibility criteria. Residents can also utilize the CDC's online vaccination tool or reach out to their healthcare provider if they have questions.

HCPH offers free COVID-19 vaccines and updated booster doses. Please visit readyharris.org or call 832-927-8787. Appointments are not necessary, but HCPH can help you find a location closest to you or help with special accommodations for those who need travel assistance.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### 2 Pedestrians killed by HPD Police cars,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who was in a moving lane of traffic on the freeway. Paramedics pronounced the male deceased at the scene. The sergeant was not injured. Houston Police said that as of Thursday, the sergeant is back on duty.

HPD Asst. Chief Patricia Cantu said the officer involved in Thursday's

crash, who has been with the department for about two years, has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Police Department Internal Affairs, and Harris County District Attorney's Office are all investigating

the crash.

Investigators returned to the area on Thursday to gather surveillance video and speak to individuals who may have witnessed the crash. Teare said the case will eventually be handed off to a grand jury, who will determine if charges will be filed.

### Apartment Building Fire in the Greater Greenspoint Area, \$134k damage

Houston Fire Department reports they fought an apartment fire on January 2, at approximately 6:00 am at 802 Seminar Drive, Houston, 77060. In addition to HFD, the Aldine Fire Department answered the call.

There were no reported injuries, the building sustained \$134,094 damage according to HFD, and they saved \$1,876,948 in estimated property saved.

The cause is under investigation by HFD Arson investigators.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find

heavy fire coming from a 2-story apartment building and made a defensive attack.

The building was vacant with the entire attic space fully involved on fire. A primary search of the adjacent apartments was completed. The fire was controlled and extinguished, and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. Crews from Stations 15, 34, 64, 63, 67, 74, 84, 15, 30, Decon, Rehab 17 and The Aldine Fire Department responded to this incident.

## HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

### JANUARY HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE:

The library will be closing at 5pm on January 13th and will remain closed through January 16th in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday. We will reopen Tuesday, January 17th at 10am.

### ROBLOX TOURNAMENT:

Kids ages 7-13 are invited to join our Roblox Tournament on January 20th at 4:30pm. Play and compete in a variety of games! Registration is required.

### FAMILY TIME:

Family Time is back. Every Saturday, bring the family to the library and create memories with crafts, games, and more!

### ESL & CITIZENSHIP CLASSES:

Our ESL and Citizenship classes are open for registration. Stop by the library and ask the staff to register for a class today. All classes are free.

### KRAFTY KIDS:

Get creative with our afternoon kids craft program. Join us on January 11th and 25th at 4:30pm.

### PINT-SIZED SCIENTIST:

Pint-Sized Scientist is now a pop up program. Try quick experiments made for curious kids. New experiments each week!

### GRADCAFÉ:

Every Tuesday from 10am-6pm we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library. GRADcafé is a one-stop-shop offering free services to help you decide on a career, explore education and training options, apply to

college, and find the financial aid you need. Whether you want to attend college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too young or old to get started. Services are available in English or Spanish.

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

**JENNIFER NANDLAL**  
**SR ADULT PROGRAM**  
**SPECIALIST**  
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**HOUSTON, TX 77039**  
**832.927.5540**  
*"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE. TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."* - HELEN KELLER

### Apartment Fire in Greenspoint Area results in \$1 million dollar damage

Houston Fire Department reports an apartment building fire on January 1st, 2023 at approximately 12:30 am at 16826 City View Place, Houston 77060. The Aldine Fire Department also answered this call.

No injuries were reported, but the building sustained \$1,100,000 in damage, according to the HFD. Fire Department Arson investigators ruled the cause of the fire as accidental.

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find smoke coming from a 2-story apartment building. The fire

was found in multiple void spaces and extinguished. Crews conducted a primary search and checked for extension. The building was ventilated, and the utilities were controlled.

The American Red Cross was contacted to assist the displaced families. HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Firefighters from Stations 15, 34, 64, 58, 67, 74, 84, 30, Rehab 17 and the Aldine Fire Department responded to this incident.

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

### PARA LOS NIÑOS

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:

- January 7** - How your child learns
- January 14** - CLOSED
- January 21** - Raise a Reader
- January 28** - Building Blocks

### 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 **Wednesday, Jan. 4 from 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

### YOUNG TUTOR ORIENTATION

Are you our next tutor? Join us for a volunteer tutor orientation on **Saturday, January 28th at 10:30am** to find out how you can teach classes & support the community!  
 - English language acquisition

- reading  
 - citizenship  
 Register in-person at the library or follow this link: <https://bit.ly/ALD-tutororientation>

### 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).

Give the gift of life! Donate blood!

The **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center** will be here on **Dec. 27 from 11am - 3:30pm.** [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org)

### COMPUTER CLASSES

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

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

**Wednesdays:** Beginner Computer Class (English), 1:30pm, at the library Beyond the Basics with Office 365 plus Google Apps, (En-

glish computer class), 5-7pm, online

**Thursdays:** various intermediate 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>

Our **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.

### 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**  
**ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY**  
**11331 AIRLINE DR.**  
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**832-927-5410**

### Local man sentenced to 191 months in jail for carjacking on FM1960, and gun crime

HOUSTON – A 20-year-old Houston man has been ordered to federal prison following his conviction of one count of carjacking and one count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, announced U.S. Attorney Alamar S. Hamdani.

Keiffer Frederick Edwards pleaded guilty Sept. 23.

Today, U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison ordered Edwards to serve 71 months for the carjacking. He also received 120 months for the discharging of a firearm offense which must be served consecutively to the underlying carjacking offense. The total 191-month sentence will be immediately followed by five years of supervised release.

On April 28, the victim drove his vehicle to a gas station located at 407 Farm to Market Road 1960 in Houston.

While in the parking lot, Edwards approached and attempted to enter the driver's door of the victim's vehicle. After a brief struggle, Edwards shot the victim several times, fled the scene in the victim's vehicle. Law enforcement apprehended him a short time later.

The victim was reported to have 18 gunshot wounds, but medical personnel treated him, and he survived his injuries.

Edwards has been and will remain in custody pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

The FBI, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Mont Belvieu and Houston Police Departments and Texas Department of Public Safety conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Michael Lewis is prosecuting the case.

### Suspect Charged, Wanted in Fatal Shooting at 8695 Mesa Drive

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a man at 8695 Mesa Drive about 6:10 p.m. on December 8.

The suspect, Miguel Angel Gomez, 49, is charged with murder in the 482nd State District Court. A photo of Gomez, who is not in custody at this time, is attached to this news release.

The identity of the victim, 35, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant N. Lazo and Detective A. Herrera reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and found an unresponsive male in the parking lot. He had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the male deceased.

A preliminary investigation indicated the victim had an altercation with a suspect(s) outside of a business, which led to the shooting.

Further investigation identified Gomez as the suspect in this case. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and, last Friday (December 9), a murder warrant was filed. Gomez remains at large.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Miguel Angel Gomez or in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.



**WANTED: Miguel Angel Gomez**

# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## Message From the Superintendent, December 13, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

Here we are in the middle of December, about to wrap up the fall semester and 2022! During this holiday season, I've also enjoyed hearing student groups from schools across the district sing and entertain us.

Reflecting on the past semester and year, I cannot help but swell with pride. We have been busy giving all our students opportunities to grow. As I look back, below are a few moments that I hope fill you with pride as much as they do me. I could list many more examples, but it would be a really, really long message! With that, here are some highlights:



Student Achievement STAAR Everyone, including our partnership with Teach for America and iEducate, has worked hard to close the gaps COVID made in education. And what an excellent year for gains!

\$150,000 goal. The AEF Board is now also focusing on building the endowment, and a planned giving program is a great way to grow and benefit even more AISD grads.

**Choice Schools** We offer so many choices for our families like nationally recognized Victory Early College High School. Between partnerships with Prairie View A&M University to the opening of our new all-boys school, Impact Leadership Academy, the launching of Hoffman College Prep, and the announcement of new options like Eisenhower College Prep, it has been another exciting year for our Choice Schools. We held our annual Choice Schools Festival, and Choice School Showcases this fall. These events give families opportunities to know our different programs better. They can then choose the best school for their student to attend in the 2023-2024 school year. Incidentally, there is still time to register (click here)!

**Accelerated Campus Excellence (ACE) / Additional Days School Year (ADSY)** After two successful years, we extended our ACE program at Goodman and Worsham elementary schools for another two years. Due to the success at Vines Primary and Ermel Elementary, we expanded the ADSY program to Harris and Smith elementary schools and expanded to support the entire feeder pattern. The ACE model and ADSY program support a positive trajectory for each student's educational journey to help them reach their full potential. They offer opportunities to apply innovative learning practices to equip our students with the tools they need to succeed. We are committed to maintaining academic rigor and high expectations.

**School Culture** From the start, I meant it when I said, "All means all." Since then, we have been working toward opportunities to ensure we reach all our students in the best possible way. We made a bold move by partnering with the University of Houston's College of Education in the Community Teacher Equity Development (CTED) program to advance our equity goals, which include efforts to increase the number of community educators of color working in schools. We know that students of color reach better outcomes when taught by teachers of color. Students have better academic performance, improved graduation rates, and are more likely to attend college.

We launched a mentor program in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The "Big Brothers and Sisters" at Aldine High School provide academic support to "Little Brothers and Sisters" at Bussey Elementary, while the "Bigs" develop social-emotional skills like working with others and establishing a foundation for a life of serving others.

**Mission-Driven Leadership** Talent is so important to drive excellence. Our School Board Trustees made bold moves to attract high-quality teachers by approving a teacher starting salary of \$61,000 and sign-on bonuses. To retain and reward our staff for their years of service and dedication to Aldine, the Board approved pay raises for all employees.

As I've repeatedly stated, leadership matters, especially in our schools. As part of the five-year partnership between Aldine and The Holdsworth Center, leaders at participating schools — Escamilla Elementary, Thompson ES, Garcia Middle, Stovall MS, and Nimitz Ninth Grade School — completed the two-year Campus Leadership Program. The work of the campus leaders will continue to impact and build a legacy of equity and excellence across the district.

The University of Houston-College of Education featured our principal residency program. Through our partnership with UH, Aldine is equipping future principals to ensure that all students in our district receive a rigorous, enriching educational experience. A deciding factor was the need to increase the number of bilingual principal candidates that mirror the ethnic and racial trends in the current student population. We are committed to creating a strong, diverse bench of leaders who are prepared to transition into principal and assistant principal roles.

**Organizational Efficiency** School leaders set a vision and maintain the systems and culture required that lead toward instructional excellence. Toward that end, the district created several new positions — Chief Information Officer, Chief Operations Officer, and Chief Financial Officer — to ensure they develop the conditions that result in accomplishing district goals.

**Community Engagement & Outreach** The district is a source of empowerment for Aldine families and students. We continue to offer our Parent Leadership Academy and GED classes, Fall Family Conference, Youth Empowerment Summit, and support our non-traditional students. We held several inaugural events, like the Family Health Fair and Festival de Primavera.

Working with the HOPE Clinic, the second HOPE Clinic opened in Aldine. Aldine families — uninsured, underinsured, those with limited English proficiency, and low-income patients — can receive health care services regardless of their ability to pay.

To support communication between schools and families, this year, we implemented TalkingPoints — a tool that can translate messages into more than 100 languages — at 30 schools in the district, ranging from early learning to high schools. The new tool ensures teachers communicate easily with parents in their preferred language at home.

**Awards** We are not about awards, but it is nice to be recognized for the work we do to provide the best learning experience for all. The Mexican American School Board Association honored the district with MASBA Excellence Awards for two different programs. AISD received the Outstanding Civics Initiative Award for its Family and Community University and the Outstanding English Language Learner Initiative Award for the specialized high school: La Promesa: The Dual Language Experience. Demonstrating excellence in financial stewardship, Aldine's Purchasing and Finance departments received the TASBO Award of Merit and the Certificate of Achievement from the GFOA, respectively. Our Child Nutrition Services received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Furthermore, the Texas Art Education Association named Aldine a District of Distinction for a fourth consecutive year.

I am also grateful to the many organizations that honored me this year. It is my privilege and honor to work for Aldine ISD. Thank you to Latino Learning Center, K-12 Dive magazine, the Houston Area Urban League's (HAUL) Black Excellence Award in Education, and Keith J. Davis for the recognition as one of 30 influential women in Houston. Again, the work is always about doing what is right for all students and multiplying hope in our students. The work we do is about giving our students opportunities that equip them to succeed and to graduate with choices.

**A Few Firsts** We also had some incredible firsts! This school year, we added water polo as a UIL sport, and one of our schools, MacArthur High, made history by winning the first-ever District title for AISD, advancing to the Area round of the playoffs. One of our students taking part in the first aviation class at Davis High School was one of only two in Texas to earn a private pilot certification. We also had three of our mariachi students at Carver High School that competed for the first time and made the Texas UIL Region 33!

We certainly have been busy, but I hope you reflect on all we have accomplished and be proud of our district! We are showing what is possible! I am grateful to each team member for your hard work this year.

During the break, I hope everyone takes time to rest and recharge. Then, read or enjoy your favorite hobby and spend time with your loved ones!

With Aldine Pride and Joy,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 2-Apr. 22: AISD's Health Services Department is holding monthly CPR classes. (click here)

Feb. 11, 2023: Virtual #LiteracyMatters Conference — Click here to register.

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.

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.

January January School Board Appreciation Month

Jan. 5: Student Holiday/Staff Development Day

Jan. 6: Student Holiday/Staff Development Day

Jan. 9: Start of 9 Weeks

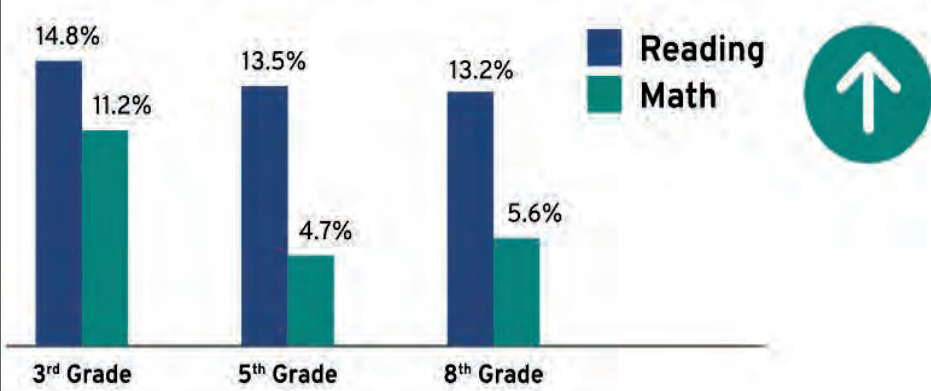
Jan. 9: Law Enforcement Day

Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

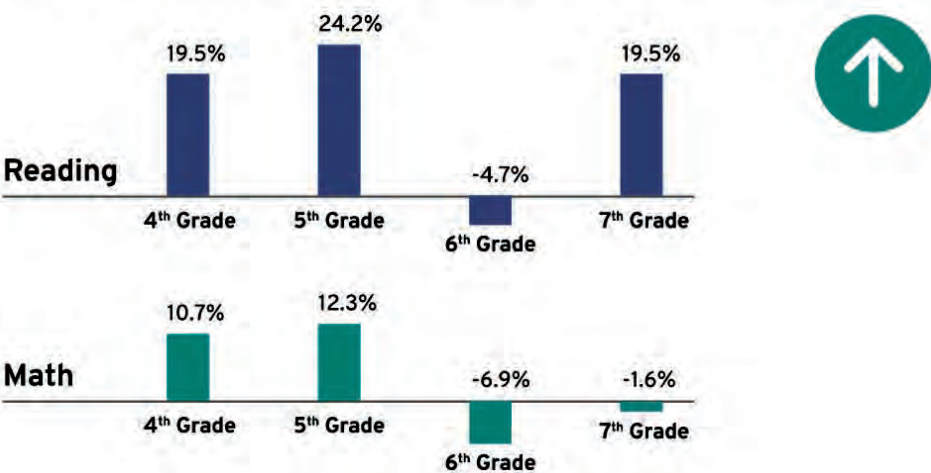
### The number of campuses rated A or B



### Gains in 2022 From 2021 Across Grade Levels



### Performance Growth in 2022 from 2021 for Student Group



\*Kindergarten growth in reading outperformed the national average on our universal screeners in 2021-2022.

\*Elementary Campuses outgrew the state in "% Meets" from spring 2021 in reading and math at all grade levels.

\*Middle School eighth-grade performance on STAAR in reading, math, science, and social studies outgrew the state from spring 2021 in "% Meets."

\*High School Campuses outgrew the state from last year in "% Meets" for Algebra 1, Biology, U.S. History, and English 2.

\*ACE Schools continue to demonstrate what is possible. Goodman and Worsham are in the district's Top 5 highest performing elementary schools.

\*AISD's latest Choice Schools - Young Women's Leadership Academy and La Promesa - are performing well, earning an A and B, respectively.

\*13 of 14 schools that received a "Bold" school action through the Office of Transformation grew a letter grade or more.

**New Frameworks** We launched our new reading framework during the pandemic, demonstrating what is possible. In 2022, we launched new visions and frameworks for mathematics and multilingual learners. The change continues the district's projects to serve students whose first language is not English and develop a deep understanding of math knowledge.

**Curriculum** There are many career and technology education opportunities for students across our district, like our aviation program at Davis High School and the Norman Borlaug Youth in Agriculture Program with Texas A&M University. We also continue to focus on increasing students' interest in STEM fields. Aldine teamed up with Microsoft, TEALS, and volunteer technology professionals to offer Intro to Computer Science to high school students this school year. Students have an exciting opportunity to gain technological skills, build their self-confidence to succeed, and pursue STEM careers.

**College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR)** One of the district's priorities centers on CCMR. Between the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, we increased the number of CCMR students by 4 percentage points. Additionally, we continue to expand opportunities to ensure our students receive a high-quality education to prepare them for a successful future. Among the opportunities available to Aldine students are the chance to tour a college campus, meet with college admissions representatives, study for and take their TSI Admissions exam, and explore careers as 10th, 11th, and 12th graders with their College and Career Readiness Coordinator. Aldine also works with programs like EMERGE Fellows, OneGoal, and College Community Career, which empower and prepare first-generation and low-income students to apply for and attend colleges and universities nationwide. Additionally, our partnership with the University of Texas OnRamps program is expanding to provide more students an opportunity to earn college credit from one of the top universities in the nation. They can also explore the experiences, resources, and special opportunities available to help students pursue their college and career goals.

**Aldine Education Foundation (AEF)** What a banner year for AEF, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary! The foundation sold out the 2022 Annual M. B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament, raising a record-breaking \$100,000 in support of scholarships for graduating seniors. The annual Your Dollar Makes a Difference, currently raising funds, has reached, as of Dec. 15, 87.33% of the

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

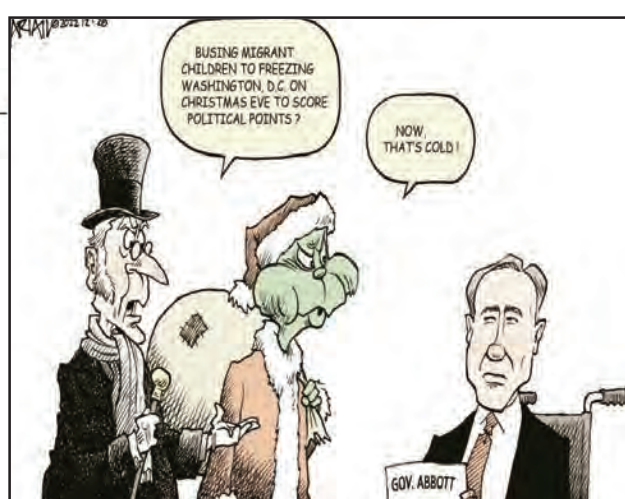
By Stephanie Swanson
League of Women Voters of Texas

Statement about the Busing of People Seeking Asylum

Austin, TX – The League of Women Voters of Texas condemns Governor Abbott’s busing documented immigrant asylum seekers to Washington DC, New York, Chicago, and other cities without warning or coordination with local and state officials, or aid organizations in those cities.

LWV Texas calls on the governor to stop this dangerous and inhumane political ploy. We call upon him and his administration to instead work with local, state, and federal officials, and immigration organizations to humanly aid these distraught people and to develop a fair and humane immigration policy.

About the League of Women Voters of Texas: The League of Women Voters is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

A Letter to Krissy

A couple of days ago, a friend of mine posted something written by a friend of his on Facebook. This is what she had to say:

“I’ve been contemplating what I really miss in life. Why do I feel this empty space? I have not felt completely full in a very long time. I miss the outdoors... a good hike, fishing or camping. No radio, cellphone, TV, movies or internet. Just the birds, the river running...just the sound of crickets.

“I miss a good, deep, solid conversation about life, God and love. All the things that truly matter! The world has changed so much with technology that we don’t even know each other anymore. We don’t have time for each other anymore. You turn on the evening news and all you hear is bad news. Shootings and crime have skyrocketed, and it’s become the norm.

“We can no longer trust emails or use our debit cards without worry of scams or fraud. We can no longer leave a door unlocked or a window open.

“I miss the world I grew up in. Where people had time for each other. Where conversations mattered. Where there was respect for each other. When people knew what was right and wrong. Sometimes I honestly want to throw my cellphone out the window, but realize I have to use it to contact the ones I love.

“This new world has swallowed us up and there is not a damn thing we can do about it. Am I the only one who ever feels this way?”

“Signed, ‘Krissy’

I don’t know Krissy, but I wrote a letter to her anyway. This is what I said:

“Dear Krissy, “I think you should pull your tent out of storage and go camping this week. Unless you live up north. Then you might go snowshoeing in the woods. That’s fun, too.

“Shootings and crime have not skyrocketed—although reporting of them has. If you look at the statistics, you are actually far less likely to come to a violent end or die of disease than at any time in human history.

“But it does not sound like you are enjoying your smartphone. Maybe you should get a simple phone instead. They cost less, and you can still make phone calls. And use a credit card for online purchases instead of a debit card. Then you don’t need to worry so much.

“Meaningful conversations are there to be had. Sometimes you have to start them. I think you made an excellent start with this post. Maybe try again, but this time at your kitchen table with a friend and a cup of coffee.

“Krissy, you sound anxious, and I’m sorry. The world has not swallowed you. Meditation helps. Exercise helps. Being clear on your purpose in the world and helping others helps a lot. Life has never been perfect for anyone. But we have never had anywhere near as many years as we now get to enjoy life—or not. It’s your choice. And, yes, you can do something about it.

“All the best, “Carrie”

As I said, I don’t know Krissy. I don’t suppose she read what I wrote, and, if she did, I’m not sure she would care. We get invested in our beliefs, even if they aren’t making us happy.

But I wanted to tell her that every one of us gets frustrated and discouraged and sometimes feels things are going down the tubes. I wanted to tell her she was not alone.

And I wanted to wish her a happier New Year.

Till next time, Carrie

Photos from this week’s column and podcasts can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Feds Investigating Meltdown at Southwest Airlines

Massive flight cancellations by Southwest Airlines during the Christmas holiday week are prompting the federal government to look into why thousands of travelers were left stranded across the country, along with huge piles of luggage in airports served by the beleaguered airline.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said his agency would examine what caused Southwest’s widespread cancellations, which began as a massive polar storm gripped much of the country a few days before Christmas. The airline was able to resume normal operations on Friday as another holiday weekend approached. The airline canceled more than 15,700 flights since Dec. 22, according to The Dallas Morning News. Cancellations by other airlines were a fraction of that amount, according to published reports.

“Because what we’re seeing right now, from the system and the flights themselves to the inability to reach anybody on a customer service phone line, it is just completely unacceptable,” Buttigieg told CBS early Wednesday. The Senate Commerce Committee also plans to investigate.

Southwest does not use the hub-and-spoke system relied upon by other major carriers, instead relying on a point-to-point system. That means even where planes were available, often crews and pilots were stranded in other cities.

RRG LAUNCHES PROBE INTO ATMOS SERVICE ISSUES

The Texas Railroad Commission has launched an investigation of Atmos Energy’s gas distribution system, which left some Texans without heat during freezing weather just before Christmas. The company reported low gas pressure in cities across North and Central Texas, leaving some customers without heat. On Dec. 23, the Texas Tribune reported, Atmos asked its 2 million Texas customers to conserve gas use by lowering thermostats, not using gas fireplaces and any gas-powered appliances.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed a letter ordering the railroad commission and the Texas attorney general’s office to investigate Atmos Energy’s “failure to prepare for the winter weather event last week.”

Leading up to and during the winter event, State of Texas agencies worked around the clock to mobilize resources and



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

assist utilities in any way possible. At no time did Atmos Energy request assistance... It is apparent that Atmos Energy acted irresponsibly and was unprepared for the event,” the letter said in part.

ABBOTT PUSHES BACK ON MIGRANT BUS CRITICISM

Abbott has drawn criticism after a bus from Texas dropped off more than 100 migrants in freezing weather near Vice President Kamala Harris’ official residence in Washington, D.C. An Austin American-Statesman report noted the state has bused nearly 16,000 migrants to so-called sanctuary cities. Abbott tweeted a breakdown of how many migrants have been bused to cities outside of Texas.

Thus far, 8,900 have been sent to Washington; 4,900 to New York City; more than 1,500 to Chicago; and more than 630 to Philadelphia. The governor has maintained in the past that the migrants have given permission to be bused North. The White House has called the move “a cruel, dangerous, and shameful stunt.”

“We’re providing relief to local communities overwhelmed by President Biden’s open border policies,” Abbott said.

The U.S. Supreme Court has so far stopped the Biden administration from eliminating Title 42, a federal rule enacted during by the Trump administration during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the U.S. to return asylum-seeking migrants to Mexico or their country of origin.

TPWD OPPOSES LISTING PRAIRIE CHICKEN AS ENDANGERED

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has reiterated its opposition to a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the lesser prairie chicken as endangered in some areas and threatened in

others, citing “tremendous” voluntary collaboration with private landowners and industry to conserve the chicken’s habitat.

The federal designation will take place in January. It primarily affects Panhandle counties where the lesser prairie chicken is found.

“This decision jeopardizes decades of voluntary conservation efforts, increases regulatory burden and does not assure recovery of the species,” David, Yoskowitz, TPWD executive director, said.

\$54 MILLION IN CAREER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANTS

The Texas Workforce Commission has announced 152 grants totaling more than \$54 million to various public community, state and technical colleges, as well as school district and charter schools across the state. The grants will be used to buy equipment to establish or expand programs that offer Texas students the opportunity to earn licenses, certificates, or post-secondary degrees in fields such as nursing, welding, automotive repair and dentistry. “It’s important to identify high-demand jobs, but it’s critical to proactively commit resources to ensure Texans are ready to meet those workforce needs,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

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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.

top ten New Year's Resolutions 1. Living healthier 2. Personal improvement or happiness 3. Losing weight 4. Career or job goals 5. Financial goals 6. Improve relationship 7. Travel or moving 8. Exercising 9. Stop smoking 10. Reduce drinking Source: Statista

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# Lone Star College to host Academy for Lifelong Learning Open Houses

Houston (Jan. 6, 2023) – Lone Star College believes that learning is a lifelong endeavor and encourages adults aged 50+ to keep active by becoming a member of the Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) at an upcoming open house event.

The Academy for Lifelong Learning Open Houses are a wonderful opportunity for active adults to learn more about the many programs that ALL has to offer. This is education simply for the enjoyment of learning.

Benefits include free or low-cost lectures on a variety of topics, workshops and seminars, advance notice of Lone Star College art shows with artist receptions, discount pricing on LSC performances such as plays, concerts and musicals, and much more. ALL members also have access to Lone Star College libraries.

The Spring 2023 ALL Open Houses take place at all Lone Star College campuses throughout the month of January.

Activities are designed with the busy schedules of seniors in



Active adults 50+ who are looking to expand their horizons can enroll in the Lone Star College Academy of Lifelong Learning.

mind with most classes being one to two hours in length.

Annual ALL memberships are \$25 and entitle you to in-person and virtual classes, as well the services of all Lone Star College campuses. Visit LoneStar.edu/ALL for more information, including a complete list of the Lone Star College ALL Spring 2023 schedule.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experi-

ence to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2022 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education, ranked 35th in Texas in the Forbes 'America's Best Employers By State' list and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Texas™. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



## NORTHEAST NEWS COACH OF THE YEAR

# Cornelius Harmon leads Nimitz to playoffs in first year on the job

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

off berth.

For leading Nimitz to a playoff berth and six wins in his first year on the job, Harmon has been named the Northeast News' Coach of the Year for the 2022 season.

The 37-year-old Port Arthur native said Harrison and former coach Dean Colbert, now Aldine ISD Director of Athletic Services, had a profound influence on him in becoming a high school football coach.

"I had a great relationship with my high school coaches (Harrison and Colbert)," Harmon said. "I'm glad I took that call. It worked out big time."

Harmon said he was attracted to the Nimitz job because the community reminded him so much of his home town.

"This area reminded me a lot of Port Arthur," he said. "It made me feel like I was back home."

Harmon said he was proud of what his team and coaching staff achieved in his first year on the job and he plans on building on that success.

"Your goals never change. I want to win district and a state championship, and we wanted to be successful this year. We wanted to create our own

narrative. When I got here, it was more important for me to get to know the kids and coaches. We spent time with the kids and I think we were able to relate to them. They realized I was here to help them be better players and be a better team. Before we left for the summer, we had 100% buy in."

Harmon's coaching philosophy is simple. Be disciplined, be physical and be fast. He brought with him the spread offense and 4-2-5 defense from his days at Summer Creek.

Now that he's firmly entrenched as a high school coach, he lives by a quote by Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin.

"Coach Tomlin says, 'I don't run away from coaching, I run to coaching.' That's pretty sound advice," Harmon said.

Harmon believes the future is bright for the Nimitz football program. The freshman team finished 8-2 and the junior varsity enjoyed some success as well.

While he's excited about the future, he said his first-ever Cougar team will always have a special place in his heart.

"We've got a great group

of kids coming up and I'm excited because they get my voice for the next four years," Harmon said. "But I'll never forget this great group of young men who trusted me and my philosophy. I wish nothing but greatness for them."

Harmon said he firmly believes he made the right choice when Aldine ISD Executive Director of Athletics Dre Thompson offered him the job and he accepted it.

"I'm very happy with the decision I made," Harmon said. "Aldine does a great job and I can't thank them enough for giving me this opportunity. While winning is important, our ultimate goal as coaches is to build young men to be successful in life. The great thing about coaching, and the most satisfying thing about coaching, is you can have a direct impact on young kids."

In his free time, Harmon likes to spend time with his wife Cheniska and his son Camben, 8, and Caleigh, 5. He also likes to fish.

If his first year on the job is any indication, the future does indeed look bright for fans of the Nimitz Cougars football team.

## SPRING 2023 LONE STAR COLLEGE ALL OPEN HOUSES

Location	Date	Time	Phone #
LSC-University Park	Tuesday, Jan. 10	1 a.m. – 1 p.m.	346.395.3215
LSC-Tomball	Wednesday, Jan. 11	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	281.357.3676
LSC-Montgomery	Wednesday, Jan. 11	1 – 3 p.m.	936.273.7446
LSC-CyFair	Thursday, Jan. 12	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	281.290.3460
LSC-North Harris	Thursday, Jan. 12	1 – 3 p.m.	281.618.5602
LSC-Houston North	Thursday, Jan. 12	1 – 3 p.m.	281.810.5604
LSC-Kingwood	Friday, Jan. 13	1 – 3 p.m.	281.312.1660

# Lone Star College-North Harris graduate overcame battle with mental health to attend Ivy League school

HOUSTON (June 6, 2022) – After a winding path of uncertainty, Lone Star College-North Harris Class of 2021 graduate Jesse Alvarez will be attending Columbia University.

Alvarez graduated from Westfield High School in 2016, but a struggle with his mental health forced him to take a three-year gap period before enrolling at LSC-North Harris in 2019.

"When I enrolled at LSC-North Harris, I decided to just make the best out of the situation I put myself in by trying my hardest to do what I should have done in high school," said Alvarez. "I kept my head down, stayed in my lane, and worked hard. Even when I gathered awards and achievements, I still had not considered applying to an Ivy League because I thought my mental illnesses would forever stain my academic career."

As an Honors College student, Alvarez earned his Associate of Science degree with summa cum laude distinction. Alvarez also participated in the National Model United Nations team, was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and selected as a winner of the 2020 Chancellor's Essay Contest.



Jesse Alvarez graduated from LSC-North Harris in 2021 with his Associate of Science degree and attends Columbia University.


While at Columbia, Alvarez plans to study Psychology, focusing on social and biological psychotherapy so he can help others who are going through the same struggles he endured.


"As someone who has a social anxiety disorder and depression that led to suicidality, I feel like it's my calling to treat people who suffer from similar conditions as myself since I've been there myself," said Alvarez. "I've been on the other side of the table where they would be sitting."

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Goliath (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Exodus 10, who made a false confession to Aaron and Moses? Herod, Malachi, Satan, Pharaoh
3. Who was bespoken by an angel to save Israel from the Midianites? Ishmael, Job, Gideon, Philip
4. From 1 Samuel 9 and 10, who was the first king of

Israel? David, Saul, Solomon, Jehu  
 5. Who laughed on hearing she would have a child in her old age? Sarah, Ruth, Lydia, Esther  
 6. From John 8:44, what is Satan the father of? Sin, Lust, Scepters, Lies

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Pharaoh, 3) Gideon, 4) Saul, 5) Sarah, 6) Lies  
 Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**



Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Detail of "Hand of God" by Clare Leighton (1952)

HEBREWS 4:13, 14

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### INVITATION TO BID

**BID TITLE: SEALED BIDS FOR CHURCH RENOVATION.** Our church needs several repairs.

**Electrical:** Electrical will need to be replaced throughout the church sanctuary meeting room and offices and ceilings.  
**Plumbing:** There is a need for plumbing for the restrooms and kitchen.  
**Roof:** Entire roof needs to be replaced on the entire church.  
**Ceiling:** Sheetrock needs to be replaced  
**Walls:** Sheetrock throughout the building needs to be replaced in offices, sanctuary, restrooms and ceilings.  
**Doors:** All doors will need to be replaced on the interior and exterior of the building  
**Flooring:** Flooring will need to be replaced throughout the sanctuary, restroom, meeting rooms, offices.  
**Siding:** Siding needs to be replaced on the outside of the building wood and brick

Details of the BID can be requested via email [RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM),

Small and minority owned businesses are encouraged to submit a bid

The period of the bid will be for 2 weeks, dates from 01/13/2023-01/27/2023 please contact me via email [RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM) so that we can schedule time if you like to come look at the building.

**BID MEETING:** will be held at 9505 GREENWICH ST HOUSTON TX 77078 on 01/20/2023 at 1:30PM  
 Sealed Bids will be received at 9505 GREENWICH ST HOUSTON TX 77078 until 01/27/2023

Please send bids to 9505 GREENWICH ST, HOUSTON TX 77078. Envelopes must be marked on the outside "SEALED BID."

THE LOWEST BIDDER WILL BE AWARDED BY 02/10/2023

A debarment check of the awarded vendor on the SAM.gov website will be completed

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
 Pastor Ronald Crawford Jr  
 9505 GREENWICH ST  
 HOUSTON TX, 77078  
[RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RONCRAWFORD85@GMAIL.COM)

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 Gladys House-El

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

### 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 58 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.**

# The Castlewood Civic Club Board Annual Christmas Raffle

"In celebration of the spirit of the Christmas season, the Castlewood Civic Club Board held its second annual Christmas raffle by gifting to its residents five handmade wreaths by Cyndi Cardenas of TxCyn Creations along with a handful of lotto tickets. Residents were asked to call or text their name and phone number to the Castlewood President, Connie Esparza, to submit their entry. Only Castlewood residents were eligible and only one entry per household was accepted. Although many residents are on the Nextdoor social media platform, residents were asked to share the posting with their neighbor. Deadline to submit their entry was set for December 23rd and drawing was held

that same late afternoon. Five lucky winners were notified right after the drawing held at the East Aldine District Office with our very own Chris Hernandez of the Special Response Group of the HCSO. Officer Hernandez has served on the Special Response Group of HCSO for the past 10 years and was also the recent recipient of the Public Safety Excellence Award recognized at the 4th Annual Strategic Partners' Awards. The Castlewood Civic Club Board would like to congratulate the winners and express appreciation to all who participated in the event. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and the best of 2023 from the Castlewood Civic Club Board."



Display of handmade wreaths on sofa



TxCyn Creations by Cyndi Cardenas



Connie Esparza, President Castlewood Civic Club and Officer Chris Hernandez of the Special Response Group of HCSO



Deloris Frederick and stray Pup



# Aldine ISD hosts "Share the Joy" Holiday event at M.O. Campbell Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



VOLUNTEERS HELP DISTRIBUTE COATS, BACKPACKS AND MORE AT THE SHARE THE JOY EVENT.



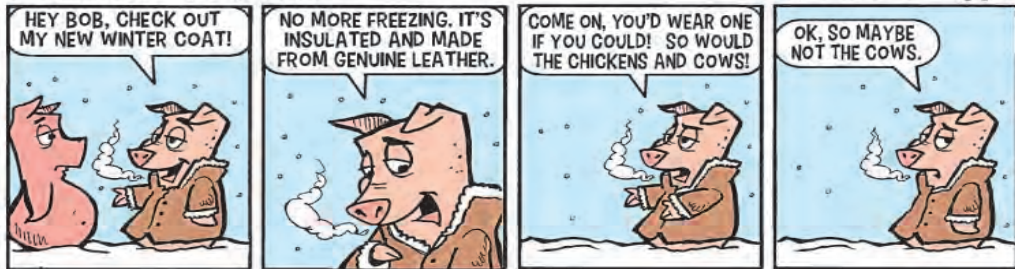
SOME OF THE FACE VOLUNTEER HELPERS.



DISTRIBUTING CLOTHING AS PART OF THE SHARE THE JOY EVENT AT ALDINE ISD.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Earloop is smaller. 2. Rope loop is missing. 3. Flag is missing. 4. Buttons are missing. 5. Tassel is shorter. 6. Sled is shorter.

### January 9, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Discoverer's call
- Island near Java
- "Cheers" order
- Brooch
- Oodles
- Plotting
- Swelled head
- Reed and Rawls
- "Hud" actress Patricia
- Star of "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- Klutz
- Singer Starr
- Photo book
- Witty one
- Crater part
- Corp. kingpins
- 24 hours
- Cab cost
- Sauce source
- Novelist Rand
- Avid
- Anderson Cooper's channel
- Calendar abbr.
- Official flower of Chicago
- Cash advance
- Manhattan area
- Lennon's love

**DOWN**

- Oil cartel
- Lofty
- about (roughly)
- Fragrant wood
- Unfriendly
- Noisy
- "Not a problem!"
- Energizer mascot
- Fencing sword
- List-ending abbr.
- Bakery buy
- Debtors' notes
- Pester
- Rm. coolers
- Sign before
- Virgo
- Lad
- Pallid
- Joplin tune
- Anger
- Debussey's "La —"
- Ming, for one
- Kismet
- Reply (Abbr.)
- Seconded
- "True Colors" singer Lauper
- Different
- Not naked
- Abode
- Banister
- Asta's feeder
- Relocate
- Quadrat
- NYC gallery

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which TV game show features a "Daily Double" to increase potential winnings?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of poisoned fruit does the fairy-tale character Snow White eat and fall into a deep sleep?
- ADVERTISING: Which cereal features a character named Seadog?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president officially named the executive mansion the White House?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the most famous Wookiee in the "Star Wars" movies?
- MONEY: What is the official currency of Nigeria?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many legs do shrimp have?
- HISTORY: How many states did Alabama Gov. George Wallace win as a third-party candidate in the 1968 presidential primary?
- MEDICAL: What is the common name for the human trachea?
- GAMES: How many suspects are in the board game "Clue"?

**Answers**

- Jeopardy!
- Apple
- Cap'n Crunch
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Chewbacca
- The naira
- Ten
- Five
- Windpipe
- Six

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 21 mins.

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# FRAME YOUR FUTURE



## Registration Fair

Saturday | Jan. 14

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
HCC Northline Campus  
8001 Fulton Road

(Registration assistance, information, and fun)

We are open and here to help you move forward.

## REGISTER NOW SPRING CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 17

Available at Northeast College campuses:

- More in-person classes
- University transfer courses
- High School Equivalency/GED
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- **Audio Recording Technology (new)**
- Automotive & Diesel Repair
- Auto Body/Collision Repair
- Business Administration
- Cosmetology
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
- Computer Service/Network Tech
- **Digital Communications (new)**
- Process Operator/Instrumentation Tech
- Petroleum Technician
- Police, Fire, & EMS
- Welding & Bilingual Welding
- Air Conditioning Technician I & II
- **Bilingual AC Technician I & II (new)**
- Plumbing Technician I & II

- Acres Homes Campus** | 630 W. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77091
- Northline Campus** | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022
- North Forest Campus** | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016
- Northeast Campus** | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013
- Automotive Tech. Training Center** | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

713.718.8300  
hccs.edu



Scan for steps on how to get started!



HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or Veteran status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: David Cross, Director, EEO, 504, & Title IX Coordinator, 713.718.8271 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

## HCC earns Texas Pathways honor for growth factors in student success

HOUSTON (Dec. 12, 2022) – Houston Community College has been selected as a recipient of the 2022 RODEO award in Recognition of its Dedication to Educational Outcomes, the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) has announced.

While many high-performing institutions find it difficult to maintain growth in student success, HCC has seen dramatic improvement in all factors since 2016. For example, over the last four years, the percentage of new enrollees earning 15 or more credits in their first year increased by 30 percent. In addition, the percentage of new enrollees completing college-level math, reading and writing courses in their first year grew by 56 percent.

“This impressive growth reflects HCC’s

commitment to Texas Pathways and student success,” the TACC said in a written announcement. The organization also lauded HCC expertise in comprehensive financial aid services, building sustainable practices to address students’ basic needs, and the use of student personas to improve student support systems.

The recognition is part of the Texas Pathways initiative, a strategic plan to support community colleges to build capacity for implementing structured academic and career pathways for students.

“To earn this recognition from TACC is an honor and shows just how hard our dedicated faculty is working to drive student success,” said HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. “Our team is truly focused on

empowering our highly diverse students to achieve their educational and occupational dreams.”

To learn more about TACC, visit: <https://tacc.org/tacc/about-tacc>.

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).

## HCC Approved to Launch Two Bachelor’s Degree Programs in 2023

HOUSTON, TX (Dec. 15, 2022) — Houston Community College (HCC) has been approved as a Level 2 baccalaureate granting institution, beginning with four-year degrees in Artificial Intelligence & Robotics and Healthcare Management.

The announcement was made by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees at its 2022 Annual Meeting Atlanta, Ga., recently. SACSCOC is the accrediting organization for HCC and other colleges and universities across 14 states in the southern United States.

HCC will launch its new bachelor’s degree programs in fall 2023.

The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics will address a growing and critical need for skilled workers in a rapidly evolving technical field. Over the last decade, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gained a substantial foothold in a variety of industries. The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (2021) recognizes AI as “already ubiquitous in everyday life” and that “application

of AI techniques to solve problems is...turning once-fantastical ideas into realities across a range of disciplines.”

Graduates of this program will enter a profession with 2,586 annual job openings in our region and a median annual salary of \$97,200.

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Management will prepare students for career advancement or entry-level healthcare managerial positions. The degree program enables working professionals to advance their career by focusing on leadership skills, knowledge, and credentials in the healthcare management field.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cites Medical and Health Services Managers as a growing occupational field based on increased demand for healthcare services as the baby-boom population ages. As medical service needs increase, the need for managers “who organize and manage medical information and healthcare staff” will also increase.

Graduates of this program will enter a profes-

sion with 1,752 annual job openings in the Houston region and a median annual salary of \$64,200.

“We are continually exploring ways to provide relevant programs and instruction that serve the needs of students and employers in our service area,” said HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. “With these two inaugural bachelor’s degree programs, we give students an opportunity to start and complete their four-year education on the same HCC campus.”

-30-

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).

## HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2 HEAVY TRASH/RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT



**EVERY 3RD SATURDAY**  
8 AM - 1 PM ONLY

**North Service Center**  
11901 West Hardy Road,  
Houston TX 77076 (Enter via John Albar Rd.)

Harris County Precinct 2 is hosting a **HEAVY TRASH/RECYCLING DROP-OFF** day at the Hardy Service Center. This is at **NO COST** to unincorporated Harris County residents. ID is required. **NO COMMERCIAL** waste accepted. Please see list below for items that can be dropped off onsite.

### ITEMS ACCEPTED INCLUDE:

- Furniture, bedding, junk waste
- Wood fencing
- Non-Commercial yard waste (less than 6 inches diameter, 6ft or less length)
- Shingles, carpet, lumber, sheetrock
- Tires (cars & pickup trucks)
- **RECYCLING ITEMS:** Paper, cardboard, plastics & glass.
- **METALS:** Steel, gutter, aluminum (large items must be dismantled)

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- batteries or motor oil
- paint cans or spray paint cans
- household garbage
- commercial tires or tires with rims
- chemicals of any kind
- concrete or brick
- electronics or appliances
- **RECYCLING ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** plastic bags, styrofoam, pizza boxes, coat hangers, paint containers, light bulbs, mirrors, windows, dishes & paper towels



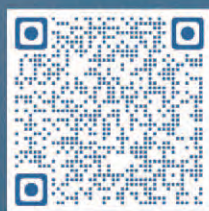
**ADRIAN GARCIA**  
COMMISSIONER

For more information call (281) 590-4120

### YOU'RE INVITED!

#### Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Options

I-45N Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study from Beltway 8 North to Loop 336 South (Conroe)



#### January 17 through February 3, 2023 (Virtual)

Scan the QR code or visit the website below to view materials at your convenience.

#### Tuesday, January 17, 2023 | 5 - 7:30 p.m. (In-Person)

Oak Ridge High School 9th Grade Campus Cafeteria  
27310 Oak Ridge School Road  
Conroe, Texas 77385

#### Thursday, January 19, 2023 | 5 - 7:30 p.m. (In-Person)

Hochzeit Hall  
427 Gentry Street  
Spring, Texas 77373

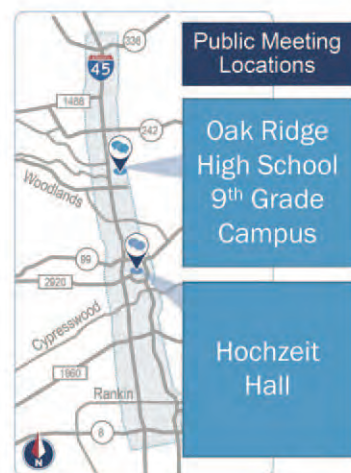
[TxDOT.gov](https://www.txdot.gov) | Keywords: "I-45N PEL"

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is holding a virtual public meeting with two in-person options for the I-45N PEL Study in Harris and Montgomery Counties. The purpose of the third public meeting is to present the latest study updates including the reasonable alternatives identified to address the growing safety, mobility, and multimodal needs along the corridor and to obtain input on the alternatives and evaluation process. The virtual and in-person meetings will cover the same content.

Comments on the TxDOT I-45N PEL Study may be submitted in the following ways:  
**Online:** [www.txdot.gov](https://www.txdot.gov) Keywords: "I-45N PEL"  
**Email:** [hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov](mailto:hou-piowebmail@txdot.gov)

**Mail:** TxDOT Houston District Office  
Advanced Project Development Director  
P.O. Box 1386  
Houston, Texas 77251

To be included in the public meeting’s official record, comments must be received or postmarked by: Friday, February 3, 2023.



### Questions or Comments

Kaitlyn Cantu

713-802-5272

[Kaitlyn.Cantu@txdot.gov](mailto:Kaitlyn.Cantu@txdot.gov)