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NORTHEAST NEWS

Dr. Head to retire



Lone Star College Chancellor Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., has announced his retirement effective Aug. 1, 2023. See STORY, Page 1

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NEWS NOTES

Lone Star College Chancellor to retire Aug. 1

HOUSTON (Jan. 10, 2023) – Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor has announced plans to retire effective Aug. 1, 2023.

“My reasons for making the announcement at this time are straightforward,” said Head. “I want to give the LSCS Board of Trustees plenty of time for a search and selection of the new chancellor. I am very proud of what we have accomplished and have watched the college evolve into one of the premier community colleges in the country.”

Head began his career with LSC in 1984 and has a 30+ year history of high-level positions at LSC including serving as president at three LSC campuses and Executive Vice Chancellor. During that time Head focused on student access, equality, success and completion; academic quality; workforce programs in alignment with community needs; and collaborative agreements with educational, business and local civic organizations.

“Dr. Head’s legacy will be felt for generations to come,” said Michael Stoma, LSCS Board of Trustees Chair. “I feel honored to work alongside him helping students, professors, staff and the community it serves.”

Head received his Ph.D. in History from Texas Tech University. He earned a Master of Arts degree in History and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Lamar University. In addition, he previously taught history undergraduate and graduate classes for LSC and university partners, and graduate classes in community college leadership and higher education finance.

“Serving eight years as Chancellor at Lone Star College is without a doubt the most rewarding job I have ever had,” said Head.

The Lone Star College System Board of Trustees will begin conducting a search for its fifth chancellor. A search committee will be formed in addition to selecting a search consultant.

Continued. See Chancellor to Retire, page 7

88th Legislature convenes in Austin

The Texas Legislative session has begun. Here are 6 things to watch. Lawmakers will debate over the state budget, school issues, border security and property taxes, among other issues.

BY JAMES BARRAGÁN AND PATRICK SVITEK
JAN. 10, 2023
Texas Tribune

Lawmakers returned to Austin last week for their biennial assembly to pass new laws and decide how to spend the state’s money for the next two years.

Republicans maintained their nearly 30-year dominance over Texas politics in last November’s midterm elections, growing their majorities in both legislative chambers and keeping their grasp on every statewide elected office. That means Texans can expect the Legislature to continue to swing conservative on both fiscal and social matters.

Just how conservative they go will be the main question, as the battle between far-right, socially conservative Republicans and business-oriented GOP



Texas State Legislators gather last Tuesday at the Capitol in Austin for the first day of the 88th Session. At left, Astros Owner Jim Crain and the team were honored for their World Series win, and at right center Aldine’s State Representative Armando Valle.

legislators, who have tried to move away from fights over social issues, continues within the party.

Democrats, who have been in the minority in both chambers of the Legislature for 20 years, will have limited tools to fend off Republican advances and will have to choose their battles wisely.

With a record-breaking budget surplus, lawmakers will be putting out their hands for funding for their pet projects across the state, and top leaders will no longer have the ready excuse of limited means. But with rising costs due to inflation, lawmakers will also have to factor in how much more they’ll have to spend in the state budget to cover infrastructure and

staffing costs that keep the state running.

Texas has seen major challenges since the last time lawmakers assembled in Austin in late 2021: a school shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, higher inflation hitting Texans in their pocketbooks, a record number of migrants attempting to cross the state’s southern border, the outlawing of abortion following a U.S. Supreme Court decision and parents who have grown increasingly agitated about what public schools are teaching their children about gender, sex and race.

With major issues at play in the Capitol, here are six things to watch as Texas’ 88th legislative session kicks off.

HOW TO SPEND THE BUDGET SURPLUS

The biggest topic of conversation heading into today is how to spend the state’s \$32.7 billion budget surplus, and everyone — including top legislative leadership — is chomping at the bit over how to use that cash.

Texas lawmakers will have \$188.2 billion available for the next budget after record-breaking revenue growth

The surplus, or one-time money that was left over from the previous budget cycle, is historic in its enormity.

But not all of it is up for grabs. A share of it is reserved for highway funds, and some of it will flow into the state’s rainy day fund, also called the Economic Stabilization Fund.

Gov. Greg Abbott promised during his campaign to deliver “the largest property tax cut in the history of the state.” He said he wanted to use half of the budget surplus to deliver on that promise. But Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, another property tax relief hawk, has

Continued. See 88th Legislature, page 2



NORTHEAST NEWS DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ike’s Tyler Hutcherson lets his play do his talking for him on field

By Mike Keeney
Contributing Writer

Eisenhower High School senior cornerback Tyler Hutcherson might not be the biggest guy on the football field, but he sure plays like it.

The 5-9, 160-pounder was a three-year starter for Eric Jackson’s Eagles as a defensive back.

During his senior season, Hutcherson recorded 45 tackles, 5 tackles for losses, broke up 16 passes and came up with two interceptions.

That big season by the likable Hutcherson earned him the Northeast News’ Defensive Player of the Year honors.

Hutcherson’s play also helped the Eagles reach the playoffs, which made his senior season all the more special.

“It (the season) was good,” Hutcherson said. “It



Eisenhower Senior Defensive Back Tyler Hutcherson

was the best year we’ve had since I’ve been here.”

Hutcherson may not have ideal size, but he has one skill that has made him attractive to college coaches. He runs the 40 in 4.4 seconds. That’s really, really fast.

He’s not only a talented football player, but also excels at track, where he has been a three-year letterman (he’ll run for his fourth straight year this track season).

CONTINUED. SEE OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR, PAGE 5

64th Annual AISD FFA Livestock Show set Jan. 25-27

ALDINE – The 64th annual Aldine ISD FFA Livestock Show will be held Jan. 25-27 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

“Please know that we are taking every measure to ensure that the safety and health of our students, staff, parents and visitors will be our top priority,” said Brooke Martin, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education. “All shows and the live auction will be available virtually for those whom wish to not participate in person.”

Individuals interested in viewing the show Live online can find the link at:

<https://sites.google.com/aldineisd.org/aldineisd-livestockshow/home?pli=1> On Wednesday, Jan. 25, the pig show will be held at 10 a.m. and the steer show will be held at 4 p.m.

On Thursday Jan. 26, the horse show will be held at 8 a.m., followed by the poultry show at 9 a.m. and the lamb and goat show at 1 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 27, the Buyer’s Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Sale of Champions at 1 p.m. in the M.O. Campbell Arena.

This year, two new additions are being added to this year’s show. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, a Staff Swine Showmanship event will be held immediately following the pig show. AISD staff will show off their talents as exhibitors. The winner will not only take home an award, but more importantly, bragging rights for an entire year.

In addition, Livestock Show T-shirts will



2022 Grand Champion Steer Deebo was exhibited by K'Ven Horn of Nimitz High School.

be on sale through RevTrack on all of the district’s high school websites. A competition was held among elementary students who were tasked with creating a design for this year’s Livestock Show. Darius Jack, a fifth-grader at Cypresswood Elementary School, came up with the winning design.

Individuals who would like to order BBQ plates may do so by visiting AldineLivestockShow@aldineisd.org.

If you have further questions, contact the CTE Department at 281-985-6646 or email the Livestock Show Committee AldineLivestockShow@aldineisd.org.

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88th Legislature convenes in Austin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

introduced a note of caution, warning the Legislature could not spend half of the surplus without busting its self-imposed spending cap. (The Legislature can vote to spend beyond the cap.)

Patrick, whose railing against property taxes swept him into the Senate in 2007, has said he is committed to cutting property taxes but wants to move cautiously to ensure the state has enough money left over in its rainy day fund for emergency spending and for other state priorities.

In the House, Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, has suggested allocating some of the surplus to one-time infrastructure spending. That plan carries the advantage of not having to reproduce that spending in the budget every two years, like with property tax relief, which is a recurring state cost.

Lawmakers will also have to weigh additional costs to running the state. Because of inflation, the costs for state services will be more expensive, and state employees will be lagging behind without a cost-of-living adjustment in their salaries.

"PARENTAL RIGHTS"

Republican leaders and lawmakers have targeted "parental rights" at the center of their agendas this session. They want to give parents more say in their children's education, whether it be the school they attend or the books they read.

How exactly that goal manifests itself in the session remains to be seen. Abbott campaigned for reelection on a "parental bill of rights" that, among other things, seeks to increase the transparency of school curricula and crack down on what he's called "pornographic" materials in books available to schoolchildren. In some ways, it is a continuation of GOP efforts from 2021 that led to restrictions on how teachers talk about race and gender in classrooms in an effort to ban critical race theory from being taught in schools.

A more divisive concept inside the GOP could be the revival of an effort for school vouchers, or redirecting tax dollars to let parents take their kids out of public schools and send them to other kinds of schools. Abbott voiced his clearest support yet for the idea during his campaign, but it has historically run into opposition from rural Republicans in the House.

Patrick, who oversees the Senate and has considerable power over legislation, has long supported the concept. In a podcast interview posted Sunday, he said he sees it as part of this session's focus on "parental freedom."

"Those who oppose school choice, [they say], 'Oh, vouchers are terrible!' No, parents deserve the freedom to decide where their kids go to school," Patrick said.

LGBTQ ISSUES AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Social conservatives are also attempting to crack down on LGBTQ rights this session. Around three dozen bills targeting LGBTQ people had been filed as of last week.

These bills vary from putting restrictions on drag shows to restricting gender-affirming care for transgender children and even criminalizing it. Such care is recommended by major medical associations to treat gender dysphoria, but socially conservative legislators have decried gender-affirming care as "genital mutilation" and "child abuse."

Still, major leaders like Abbott have supported the push by

conservatives to launch child-abuse investigations of parents who provide such care to their children.

Backlash against drag shows has also grown, with far-right groups targeting the shows and accusing performers of "grooming children" — a trope that has historically been used against LGBTQ people.

Lawmakers will also have to figure out how to tackle access to abortion in the state after the procedure was outlawed in Texas law following the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion case last summer.

Before the November elections, some Republican candidates and lawmakers had expressed an openness to creating exceptions to the state's abortion ban in cases of rape or incest. But after Republicans maintained their dominance in state politics on Election Day, Smith said he does not see a political motivation for GOP leaders to revisit the issue.

BORDER SECURITY

Last session, the Legislature allocated a record \$3 billion toward border security efforts, including Abbott's highly touted border mission, Operation Lone Star, which has sent thousands of state troopers and National Guard service members to the Texas-Mexico border. Some of that money has also been used to build a border wall, the first in the country funded by state coffers.

But with a record number of migrants trying to cross into the country — U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded 2.4 million attempts to cross the U.S.-Mexico border in 2022 — the funding could not keep up with the large number of resources sent to slow the crossing of migrants.

State lawmakers had to transfer another \$1 billion to keep Abbott's border mission going through 2022, often taking money from underfunded state agencies like the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. More money — ranging from hundreds of millions of dollars to another billion — is expected from the state to continue the effort until the end of the fiscal year in August, DeLuna Castro said.

Still, the number of migrants crossing the southwest border has remained stubbornly high, and state lawmakers will have to decide whether they want to continue spending multiple billions of dollars on an effort that has failed to produce a resounding success.

"People say, 'Well, they're still crossing.' Yes, they're still crossing because of President Biden," Patrick said at a news conference unveiling his legislative priorities. "Without our DPS, without our National Guard, without the state doing what we're doing, the situation would be far worse ... so we have to keep that up until we get a new president in the White House who hopefully will make border security No. 1 in 2024.

But there could also be other ramifications and questions lawmakers will attempt to respond to legislatively. As Abbott ramped up the mission to deploy 10,000 service members to the border in the fall of 2021, troops began complaining about poor living conditions, a lack of pay and no sense of mission. The mission has also seen the deaths of 10 troops tied to Operation Lone Star, including five suspected suicides and the death of Bishop Evans, a servicemember who died in the Rio

Grande while trying to rescue drowning migrants. The migrants survived.

THE "BIG THREE" DYNAMIC

Sessions always hinge on the relationship among the Big Three — the governor, the lieutenant governor and the House speaker. This time around, there is ample cause for tension from the outset of the session.

The two chamber leaders do not like one another, especially after the marathon of sessions in 2021. Patrick repeatedly criticized Phelan's management of the House after Democrats broke quorum over the GOP's priority elections bill. And then Patrick wielded his clout with former President Donald Trump to try to gin up primary opposition to Phelan, who ultimately ran unopposed.

Phelan, speaking at the Texas Tribune Festival in Austin in September, added it had "been a while" since he talked to Patrick.

Abbott and Patrick are also a duo to watch. Like Phelan, Abbott saw Patrick meddle in his primary and took note. And more recently, they are especially at odds when it comes to the fallout from the 2021 power grid collapse.

After Abbott declared later that year that lawmakers had done all they needed to do to fix the grid, Patrick campaigned on improving the grid and has named it a top priority for this session. He wants to build more natural gas capacity, a topic on which Abbott has been silent. Patrick has sought to downplay any leadership tensions on the issue. The grid is "fixed for now, but we need to fix it forever," Patrick told Spectrum News in December.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY

Democrats are returning to the Legislature with very similar numbers — 64 members in the House and 12 in the Senate. But in the House, they have a new caucus chair, Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer of San Antonio, who is known as more sharp-elbowed than his predecessor, Rep. Chris Turner of Grand Prairie.

"Trey is a much different leader," Rep. Ron Reynolds of Missouri City, chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, said in a recent interview. "I anticipate there'll be a more aggressive nature when combating Republicans on the issues."

House Democrats already showed a new willingness to fight in 2021 when they broke quorum for weeks in protest of new voting restrictions. Martinez Fischer has not ruled out doing that again as a last resort for trying to derail Republican legislation.


Democrats in the House are also watching to see how much of a seat at the table they get as Phelan faces pressure to do away with committee chairs from the minority party, a long-time tradition. Phelan is highly unlikely to give in, as he has defended the practice as one that sets the Legislature apart from the gridlock in Washington. But he could take other steps to reduce Democratic influence in the House.

House Republicans have a new leader, too. On Monday, their caucus elected a new chair, Rep. Craig Goldman of Fort Worth, previously the treasurer of the caucus. The chair during the 2021 sessions, Rep. Jim Murphy of Houston, did not seek reelection to the House.

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, January 19, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,
 Living the Dream I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was super special for me this year. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner invited me to ride in the 45th Original Dr. MLK Parade. It was a blessing to see people from all walks of life who came out to remember the one who had a dream.

This week is short, but we are full steam ahead with students learning in our schools and celebrating new opportunities for our community.

Leadership Last week, we held our first meeting of the new year with school leaders. It is always a great chance to meet one-on-one with staff, hear stories of transformation in our schools, and experience feel-good moments that occur daily across the district. During this meeting, we also took a moment to recognize leaders who embody and are committed to our definition of leadership.

Livestock Show We recently revealed our "Kiss the Pig Contest" winner — our very own Chief of Human Resources, Dr. Javier Villarreal. It's all in good fun as we support our FFA students. I encourage you to join us for our 64th Livestock Show next week, starting on Wednesday, January 25, at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (MOC). The big event, the Livestock Auction, is on Friday, January 27. The Buyer's Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Sale of Champions at 1 p.m. in the MOC-Arena. Click here for more details.

The Livestock Show has been one of the district's largest annual events since 1959. All proceeds from the Livestock Show go directly back to the students to help further their educations after graduating high school.

Houston Astros Yesterday, we had a special guest visiting the district. The Houston Astros' spring caravan made a stop in Aldine. The team is traveling throughout Texas to celebrate with fans. Shortstop David James Hensley made a quick stop in our neck of the woods, visiting staff at the Wanda Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center. He took pictures and greeted fans after answering a few questions. Volunteers from the Astros Foundation also passed cups to honor us — educators. It was a fun time, especially for one young 'Stros fan.

Bookworm Festival — Fully Bilingual There are some events right around the corner. The district is hosting the 2023 Bookworm Festival in partnership with the Blue Willow Bookshop. This year, the festival will be fully bilingual in English and Spanish! We are super excited to expand this opportunity to our Spanish speakers. Click here to learn more about the event on Saturday, February 4th.

#LiteracyMatters Virtual Conference Our 3rd Annual #LiteracyMatters Virtual Conference is fast approaching! Each year we have over 2,000 attendees joining us from around the world. You still have time to register here to take part in the FREE conference on Saturday, February 11th. And keep checking the conference website where organizers will post information about presenters and sessions. You can also follow #LiteracyMatters on Twitter for special announcements on presenters. If you want to transform reading and writing, join us! So far, Emily Francis, Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa, Patty McGee, Trevor A. Bryan, Nic Stone, Mike Curato, A.S. King, and Callie Patton have pledged to present.

Celebrations Congratulations to the five students at Stovall Middle School who participated in UIL Region 33 Choir. They were among 150 select musicians.

One of our newer Choice Schools, La Promesa, launched its La Voz podcast deserves a big "Good Job. G-o-o-d J-o-b. Good Job!" for the multilingual learners at the campus for creating the podcast. Teacher and author Emily Francis is so impressed, and so am I.

And last but not least, congratulations to the 2023 Campus Teachers of the Year! Be on the lookout for the District Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year. They will be announced in March. Thank you to every single teacher for everything you do for our students each and every day.

Have a great rest of the week!
 pastedGraphic.png ~

With Aldine Pride, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

January 21: Aldine SHINE #4 for teachers will cover differentiation, classroom management 2.0, mindfulness, creativity, and more. Click here



to register.

Jan. 24-28: The Donna Summer Musical at Carver HS. Come and enjoy the story about a girl from Boston with a voice from heaven who shot through the stars from gospel choir to dance floor diva. Her songs broke every record. Her story broke every barrier. The musical shines a light on how Donna Summer risked it all, becoming the icon of an era and the inspiration for every music diva who followed. For tickets, email rdjones3@aldineisd.org or call (281) 878-1521.

Jan. 24 & Jan. 25: The student matinee starts at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$5.

Jan. 26 and Jan. 27: The evening show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

Jan. 28: The late afternoon show starts at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

Jan. 25-27: 64th Annual Aldine ISD FFA Livestock Show (details)

Winter Edition of VYPE: Be on the lookout for the latest edition of the Aldine ISD HS Sports VYPE Magazine.

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

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

Feb. 13-April 21: Free GED and ESL classes for Aldine parents who have a student enrolled in the bilingual or ESL program in AISD. Click here for details.

Ongoing: Read to the Final Four@ Competition has elementary students reading in a March Madness tournament. Follow us on Twitter to see which school is leading the district competition! Click here to read more.

Ongoing: Family and Community University's 2022-2023 Class — Click here to register.

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

MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS

January January School Board Appreciation Month

Jan. 25: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

February CTE Month Financial Aid Awareness Month Magnet School Month Black History Month

Feb 1: National Signing Day (student-athletes); ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar); Families (all campuses) can access Progress Reports via their Home Access Center (HAC) accounts.

Feb. 6-10: National School Counseling Week

Feb. 8: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

Feb. 15: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

Feb. 17: Student Holiday/Staff Development (Traditional Calendar)

Feb. 20: Presidents Day (Student Holiday in All Schools)

Feb. 22: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY Calendar)

Feb. 24: Go Texas Day!

REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Outside food and beverages are prohibited on the premises of secondary schools (middle school, ninth-grade schools, and high schools). Click here for details.

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

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

Aldine ISD's top priorities are student safety and academic success. The district posts information related to protocols along with any updates at www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts.

District Middle and High School Students Earn Scholastic Art Awards

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have inspired creative teens for nearly a century.

Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) recently announced the 2023 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running prestigious recognition program for creative teens. Aldine ISD students earned 50 Scholastic Awards, including five (5) Gold Keys, the pinnacle award.

HCDE annually sponsors the regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. School districts, private schools, and home schools are represented as students earning Gold Key, Silver Key, and honorable mention awards. Students submit their work through teachers. Several hundred volunteer art and writing professionals judge submissions.

All Scholastic Art and Writing competition entries are considered for multiple awards, with the Gold Key being the pinnacle. The awards are presented to students during celebration ceremonies and exhibitions in each region of the state.

The regional Gold Key entries are automatically considered for national awards in New York City, where world-renowned creative professionals will judge them. Many Scholastic Awards alumni have lent their expertise as jurors, including Michael Bierut, Philip Pearlstein, Edward Sorel, Red Grooms, and Gary Panter. Other luminaries who have served as judges include Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Judy Blume, Billy Collins, Paul Giamatti, Francine Prose, Edwidge Danticat, David Sedaris, Lesley Stahl, Nikki Giovanni, Roz Chast, Wangechi Mutu, Andres Serrano, Kiki Smith, Jill Kraus, Shinique Smith, Rashid Johnson, and Waris Ahluwalia.

Jurors look for work that exemplifies the Awards' core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Entries are selected for awards without knowledge of the student's gender, age, ethnicity, or hometown by some of the foremost visual and literary arts leaders.

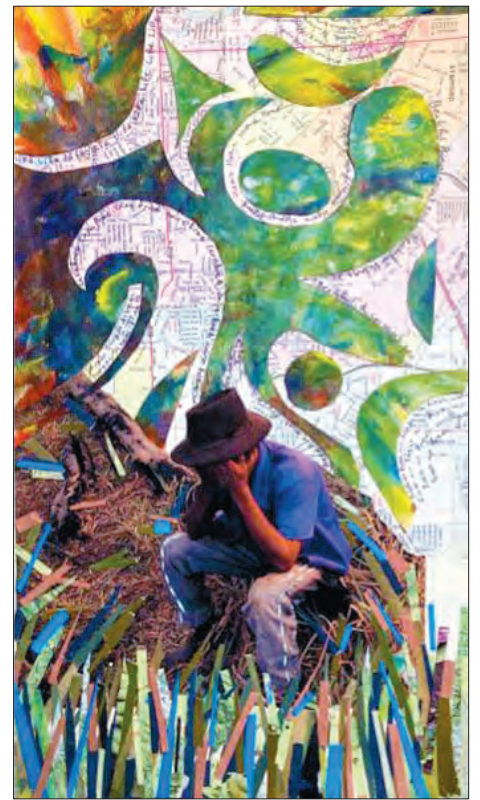
The national winners will be announced this spring and awarded in June at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country. Notable alumni include Stephen King, Robert Redford, Truman Capote, Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates, and Amanda Gorman. They all earned awards as Scholastic Art & Writing Awards as teens.

Aldine ISD Award Recipients
 In the 2023 art categories, Aldine ISD students earned five (5) Gold Keys, 13 Silver Keys, and 32 Honorable Mention awards.

Aldine High School (8): 1 Gold Key, 3 Silver Keys, and 4 HMs; Blanson CTEHS (15): 2 Gold Keys, 3 Silver Keys, and 10 HMs; Carver HS (10): 1 Gold, 3 Silver, and 6 HMs; Davis HS (3): 2 Silver Keys and 1 HM; Eisenhower HS (9): 1 Gold, 2 Silver Awards, and 6 Honorable Mentions (HM); Grantham Academy (1): 1 HM; Mead Middle School (3): 3 HMs; and Shotwell MS (1): 1 HM.

Aldine HS Gold Key
 Sam by Madelyn Meléndez Media: Photography Teacher: Birgit Langhammer
 2) Silver Keys
 Downtown Blues and Beast by Jacob Salazar Media: Photography Teacher: Bir-



"Rupture" by Jade Jimenez, Carver HS

- git Langhammer
- Silver Key
- Tyrannosaurus Rex by Perla Rodríguez Media: Painting Teacher: Chinedu Onochie
- Avalos P-TECH School
- Silver Key
- Delay by Nina Butler Media: Photography Teacher: Carolyn Watkins
- Blanson CTEHS
- Gold Key
- Discrimination Overlooked by Dawn Abigail Calbalquinto Media: Photography Teacher: William Brink
- Alone by Lucia Mar Media: Painting Teacher: Chris Peel
- Silver Key
- Fever Dream by Elena Lai Media: Digital Art Teacher: Chris Peel
- Fever by Lucia Mar Media: Painting Teacher: Chris Peel
- Fading Away by Joe Williams Media: drawing Teacher: Chris Peel
- Carver HS
- Gold Key
- Quiet Place by Daniel Robinson Media: Photography Teacher: Matthew Kirkpatrick
- Silver Key
- La Tensión by Verónica Calderón Media: Photography Teacher: Matthew Kirkpatrick
- Rupture by Jade Jiménez Media: Mixed Media Teacher: Hunter Koch
- The Hidden by Daniel Robinson Media: Photography Teacher: Matthew Kirkpatrick
- Davis HS
- Silver Key
- What's In My Galaxy by Jazmin Estrada Media: Comic Art Teacher: Zachary Bradley
- Anemone in Black by Naomi Giron Media: Sculpture Teacher: Angela Shah
- Eisenhower HS
- Gold Key
- Somber by Jacqueline Jimenez Media: Photography Teacher: Óscar Medina
- (2) Silver Keys
- Persepolis and Savanna by Stephanie Pacheco Media: Photography Teacher: Óscar Medina
- MacArthur HS
- Silver Key
- Leap Into Fire by Evelin Salas Media: Fashion Teacher: Rebecca DeGroot

Aldine ISD to Host Bookworm Festival 2023 on February 4; Event to be Fully Bilingual

Registration to attend is open to the public.

The Bookworm Festival is back in person. Aldine ISD will host the event in partnership with sponsor Blue Willow Bookshop. There is a twist this year to increase access to more young readers — the festival will be fully bilingual in English and Spanish. Some Spanish speakers might be unfamiliar with the English word "bookworm." In Spanish, the expression used to describe a bookworm used another creature — ratón de biblioteca. The Spanish phrase translates to "library rat."

Bookworm Festival
 Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. M.O. Campbell Educational Center 1865 Aldine Bender Rd Houston, TX 77032 Register to Attend: bookwormfestival.org

Young readers (Grades PreK, K, 1, 2, and 3) are encouraged to join us for a fun

morning celebrating emerging readers and those who create books for them!

The Bookworm Festival started in 2014 as a FREE, family-friendly event. Families and young readers can hear from award-winning authors and illustrators! Readers hear about new books through a series of author/illustrator panels and learn from the presenters.

The 2023 all-star line-up includes the following authors and illustrators:

Kelly DiPucchio, Author Ángela Domínguez, Author Zaida Hernández, NASA Engineer and Author Rafael López, Illustrator Marcelo Verdad, Illustrator & Author Steven Shaskan, Author and Illustrator Anne Wynter, Author

Families can purchase books at the event. After the panel sessions, young readers can then take the books to the authors and illustrators to sign or take pictures. They can also chat with the authors and illustrators.

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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By BILL KING

A Hundred-Year-Old Christmas Gift from Ukraine

As many of us rushed to buy those last minute gifts and prepare for holiday gatherings with friends and family, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a stark reminder that half a world away his country is fighting the latest chapter in the war of freedom and democracy versus autocracy and repression this holiday season.

I suspect that one of reasons they have been able to prevail is their great faith traditions. While the country is overwhelmingly East Orthodox, other faith traditions thrive there as well, as demonstrated by the country electing a Jewish president.

Ukraine also has a rich cultural history, particularly in its music. But what I did not know until recently, was that Ukraine's faith and cultural traditions combined to give the world one of its iconic Christmas carols, The Carol of the Bells.

The Carol of the Bells was first performed in the United States at Carnegie Hall in 1922 and immediately became a Christmas classic. It has been performed and recorded by numerous artists.

I want to wish Merry Christmas to my fellow Christians and happy holidays to those of you who follow a different path. May 2023 bring you and your families health and happiness and, hopefully, peace for the Ukrainian people.



Starting at the top...

Down at the sale barn Saturday, the think tank had coagulated there with coffees to go. Doc and Dud had their dogs with them, while Bert and Dewey and Steve went stag.

Dud tried to start a conversation, but the loud-speaker soon drove them outside, where they arrayed themselves on dropped tailgates and waited to hear what Dud had in mind.

"I thought about it a lot," Dud said, "and I wondered what the favorite part of my job was, and wondered if you fellas ever gave that any thought, too."

They nodded. Yes, by mutual consent a worthy subject.

"With me," Dud continued, "it wasn't so much my job as it was my hobby. You know, writing that book. I'm claiming it as the best part of my job, anyway."

The assembled were still waiting to read "Murder in the Soggy Bottoms," as it had yet to see print, and was really a work in progress.

Then Bert picked up the conversation thread. "Of course I'm retired now," he said, "but when I was running the pawn shop, my favorite part of the job happened when a customer found something in there he really needed and ended up paying much less for it than he thought he'd have to."

Doc laughed "And you made more on it than you thought you would, too,"

Bert grinned and nodded.

"Yep. That was good too. And you, Dewey?"

Our accident-prone pharaoh of fertilizer got a serious look on his face. He finally said, "The best part of the fertilizer business is seeing the difference it makes in the flower gardens around town. Now maybe it's just my imagination, but I kinda like to take a little credit for a prettier town."

"You deserve it, Dewey," Doc said kindly. "Well now ... with me it's a little different. I have doctoring skills, of course, and it's good when I can help someone, but these days the most satisfying part of my job is to check someone out thoroughly and find there's absolutely nothing wrong with them. Now that's special."

They all looked over at the tall cowboy, Steve. "Digging postholes," he said. "What?" they said. "You know," he said, "the favorite part of my job." "Digging postholes?" "Sure," he said, grinning. "That's the only job a cowboy has where he can start at the top and work down."

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Youth Choir from Ukraine performing last month at Carnegie Hall in New York.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Budget eyes \$288.7 billion; Priorities: Border Security, Tax Relief, Raises

For the Texas House and Senate, there is not much daylight between each chamber's priorities in this year's legislative session. Leaders say the focus will be on property tax relief, border security and employee raises.

The tussle likely comes when lawmakers start spending a whopping \$32.7 billion budget surplus sitting in the state's coffers from the previous biennium.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick want to provide property tax relief to homeowners, with Patrick proposing raising the homestead exemption to \$70,000 from \$40,000.

Increased funding for border security, public education and for raises for state employees are also in the draft budgets, which are likely to change several times before session's end.

The Texas Tribune reported the preliminary budgets still leave more than \$50 billion in state funds up for grabs. One of the biggest challenges is that state law and the Texas Constitution set limits on how much tax spending can increase between sessions.

POSSIBLE END TO CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY?

A 50-year-old state holiday honoring soldiers who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War is again the target of a lawmaker who wants to end the holiday. State Rep. Jarvis Johnson filed the bill, telling the American Statesman, "This is not the look we want for our state anymore."

Johnson has filed this measure before without success. Confederate monuments on public grounds have drawn complaints across the state, including the Texas Capitol.

The day is observed on Jan. 19, the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee. On occasion, the holiday celebrating slain civil rights leader Martin Luther



King, which is held on the third Monday in January, and Confederate Heroes Day fall on the same day.

"While (the King holiday) is a reminder that we are all created equal, how do we simultaneously celebrate an ideology that has been linked with oppression and supremacy?" Johnson asked.

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES HELD UP DURING WINTER STORM

The bout of sub-freezing temperatures blanketing much of the state a few days before Christmas sparked concern for the state's electric grid, which reached its highest peak for the entire year. But the grid held, and natural gas supplies to power plants were ample, state officials said.

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a press release saying, "There was ample natural gas supply to help the state's electricity supply chain and keep Texans safe."

The agency said it would continue to inspect natural gas facilities throughout the winter to ensure "infrastructure is hardened against extreme weather conditions."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in October said the grid is still at risk of failure during extreme winter conditions, such as what happened in February 2021 with Winter Storm Uri.

Overhaul plan for power market gets initial approval

The Public Utility Commission last week approved a potential overhaul of the Texas electricity market in hopes of attracting private investment in new power plants, the Statesman reported. However, the Texas Legislature has ultimate approval. Critics say the plan is untested and could increase electric bills for consumers.

Abbott has already backed

the plan, which is an effort to make the power grid, managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more reliable. It is intended to encourage more private investment in "plants that can turn on and off quickly depending on need."

If approved by legislators, the plan could take up to four years to implement.

LAWMAKERS HIGHLIGHT STATE'S FRAGILE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

A bipartisan group of 38 state legislators have banded together to educate fellow lawmakers about water security issues, the Texas Tribune reported. Aging infrastructure and lack of funding have created water-supply problems across the state, particularly in rural areas.

Last year there were more than 3,000 boil-water notices issued across the state because water quality was in doubt. Seven of the 10 water systems that issued the most notices were in rural parts of East Texas, the Tribune reported after analyzing data from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. There have already been 79 boil-water notices in January.

The group is not advocating for any specific bills.

"Water security is critically important to all Texans and our economy," state Rep. Tracy King, who heads the caucus, said in a statement. "We must continue to innovate, invest and strategize long-term to manage our water resources efficiently."

STATE'S NEWEST HISTORIC SITE

The Texas Historical Commission's latest historic site is 274 years old. Presidio la Bahía was the site of the Goliad Massacre in March 1836. More than 300 Texans were held inside the church before being executed by Mexican forces.

The presidio was established on that site in 1749 during the Spanish colonial period. The fort became the nucleus of the modern-day city of Goliad.

The Presidio underwent restoration in the 1960s under the oversight of renowned restoration architect Raiford Stripling of San Augustine. More than 33,000 people visit the Presidio each year, according to its website.

COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS DROP

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week reported to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University was 26,996, down about a third from the previous week, with 270 new deaths, up from 148. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Service, totaled 2,837, which was down 17% from the previous week.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Complimenting Strangers

"I have to say, that is a very nice hat!" I told the man as he passed me on the sidewalk.

The man in the snazzy blue fedora had a serious look on his face, as if he was thinking deeply about something far more important than the indigo-blue hat with the red feather sitting on his head.

But whatever less-than-cheerful thought had been preoccupying him (the gathering clouds? The declining stock market? His expanding waistline?), it was whisked away when I complimented his dapper blue hat, and his face broke into a genuine smile.

I know people who say you shouldn't compliment strangers.

"It is intrusive," they say. "It's fake." "Nobody wants a stranger commenting on their appearance!"

I think this is a load of nonsense.

Everyone likes a compliment. I think it means even more coming from a stranger. I don't interrupt conversations to compliment someone. I don't make things up or compliment something I don't genuinely admire. I don't think anyone has ever looked offended when I told them they looked good or something they were wearing was attractive.

I find myself complimenting strangers several times every day. I try to pay attention when I'm on my walks. I try to savor whatever is interesting or beautiful and, much of the time, this is either dogs (because dogs are always interesting and beautiful), or people. I have also complimented gardens, but the people responsible are rarely around to get these compliments. The nice thing about complimenting clothing is that the person associated with it is right there, ready to receive the positive feedback.

"Thank you!" the man in the blue hat said.

I'm sure he knew it was a good-looking hat. It was probably an expensive hat; I haven't bought enough hats to know. But it doesn't really matter. Even if someone has paid a lot for something—or perhaps especially if they have—they like to know that it was money well spent, that they look good and that someone has noticed. So, I try to notice.

I've complimented older women on their coats and scarves, young women on the color of their hair (especially if it is blue or green), and tough-looking men on their clever T-shirts. It is always surprising how the people who look the most withdrawn are usually the ones who seem the most pleased. The young man may have forgotten what T-shirt he put on that day, but he's pleased to know it met with an appreciative audience—even if that audience was the slightly odd, cheerful older woman.

"Thanks!" he'll say, looking both a little embarrassed and absurdly pleased.

It doesn't matter if it's odd, I've learned. It doesn't matter where the comment comes from. It really does not matter at all.

We all want to be seen. We want to know that we do not walk invisible in this world. No one wants to feel alone in a crowd. Compliments may seem trivial or superficial, but sometimes they are the easiest way to throw a line to someone and say, "I see you! Seeing you makes me happy." It costs nothing. And I think it can be more important than we will ever know.

The man in the blue hat had a little more bounce in his step as he walked past me. I have no illusions that I changed his day significantly. But that's not my job. My job is to be more like that little bird who sings the same song, day after day, and makes the world just the smallest bit sweeter.

Till next time, Carrie Photos and other news can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

NORTHEAST NEWS 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057 (713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188 email: nenewsroom@aol.com website: www.nenewsroom.com

Crawfish season opens this week!

CROSBY – The much anticipated opening of the Crawfish season has arrived, and Crosby's outstanding Crawfish restaurant, Crawfish Shack on FM2100, will start serving drive-thru customers on Wednesday, January 18th, from 4 to 9 pm, weekends 12 to 9 pm.

According to owner Dan Meaux, he had to delay the season opener slightly, due to the condition of the crawfish crop this year. He said that a hard freeze in this part of the county, including the crawfish farms in Louisiana, kept the crop small and limited in quantity.

"We had a hard freeze during Christmas that slowed things down," crawfish specialist with LSU AgCenter Mark Shirley said. "Crawfish ponds in southwest Louisiana still have a lot of crawfish. A lot of the crawfish are kind of small, but they're growing."



Dan Meaux, owner of Crawfish Shack in Crosby, will open the Drive-thru on Wednesday, Jan. 18 and the Dine-in on Feb. 15th.

Meaux said he has had to raise his prices, from \$7.95/lb last year to \$8.95 this year.

Are you looking forward to Crawfish? Meaux said "There's probably as much crawfish eaten in Houston as in Lafayette per person. I mean it's huge here."

Shirley said while the mudbugs may be smaller now, they'll continue to grow. But the cost this year may be higher.

He runs the 100-meter dash and is a member of the 400-meter relay team, which just missed going to state last year by finishing third at the Region II Meet.

NORTHEAST NEWS DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ike's Tyler Hutcherson lets his play do his talking for him on field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hutcherson has accepted an offer from Stephen F. Austin State University where he will play football and run track. Hutcherson's decision to go to SFA is ironic because he has a number of family members who attended Sam Houston State University, SFA's biggest rival.

"My family are Sam people, when I told them I was going to SFA, they said, 'ah, no,'" he said, with a laugh. "I appreciate SFA offering me a scholarship. I'm one step away from my goal of going to college."

Jackson said the Lumberjacks will be getting an aggressive defensive back who has good coverage skills and has blazing speed.

"Tyler is very aggressive and is a fundamentally sound defensive back. Tyler also has good quickness and good feet and he's a solid tackler," Jackson said. "He loves to play football and he's a very humble young man."

He also returns punts, one more tool to help his future team.

Jackson added Hutcherson isn't a big talker on the field. He lets his play speak for him.

"Tyler is a low key kid," Jackson said. "He leads by example."

Jackson added SFA will be getting a player who can help them as a freshman.

"SFA's gain is our loss," Jackson said. "I'm very happy for him. He'll do everything that his coaches ask of him. He'll be an asset."

Playing at the next level will be a test for Hutcherson, but Jackson believes his former player will do what's necessary to compete at the next level.

"He needs to get a little better on his technique, but Tyler will work on that," Jackson said. "As a cornerback, you have to have a short memory and he did a good job of that if he got beat. He also needs to be a little more vocal in the secondary, but that will come with time and more practice."

Rep. Walle with Astros at State Capitol

Our World Series Champs Houston Astros were recognized at the State Capitol. Rep. Walle visited with Astros Owner, Jim Crane; General Counsel, Giles Kibbe; Closer Ryan Pressly & Catcher Jason Castro. Walle said "Can't wait for pitchers & catchers to report. Let's run it back."



<p>2022: \$8.00/POUND</p> <p>2023: \$10.00/POUND</p>	<p>2022: \$7.95/POUND</p> <p>2023: \$8.95/POUND</p>
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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OH MAN, IS IT WINDY AND COLD OUT HERE TODAY!
IT'S TERRIBLE OUT THERE! I CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD REASON TO BE OUT THERE.
WHAT? MY OPTIONS WERE THIS OR HELP MY MOM WITH THE LAUNDRY.

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

LOOKS LIKE I MAY HAVE TO PUT UP BARRIERS TO SEPARATE MY CUSTOMERS.
COVID GETTIN' BAD AGAIN?
NOPE... POLITICS ARE.
YOU'RE AN IDIOT IF YOU BELIEVE THAT!
WELL, YOU'RE AN IDIOT IF YA DON'T!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

I ACCIDENTLY GAVE MY WIFE A GLUE STICK INSTEAD OF CHAPSTICK.
...SHE STILL ISN'T SPEAKING TO ME.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenge
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

January 23, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

ACROSS
1 Choir voice
5 Right angle
8 Dallas team, to fans
12 Check
13 Sheep call
14 Out of the storm
15 Rub with an emery board, perhaps
17 Speck
18 Author Fleming
19 T-shirt fabric
21 Primitive
24 Spartan queen
25 Hamilton-Burr showdown
26 Criticize again and again
30 Nabokov novel
31 Two-tone cookies
32 Ms. Thurman
33 Road marker
35 Help a crook
36 Temporary calm
37 Steinway product
38 "With any luck"
41 Fragrant tree
42 2004 on a cornerstone
43 Color akin to turquoise

DOWN
1 "Bow-wow!"
2 Island garland
3 Up to
4 "Anna Christie" playwright
5 Black, in verse
6 Murphy's —
7 Guinevere's lover
8 Rum cocktail
9 Oodles
10 Presidential power
11 Penn or Astin
16 Calendar box
20 Praiseful pieces
21 Dutch cheese
22 German car name
23 Authentic
24 "The Sound of Music" teenager
26 Drags out
27 Hefty horn
28 Portent
29 Peacekeeping org.
31 Piece of work
34 Football team
35 Boeing rival
37 Chart format
38 Med. plan options
39 Skip
40 Tower city
41 Change
44 — pickle
45 Baton Rouge sch.
46 Exploit
47 Hosp. parts

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: Which band sang the theme song to TV's "Friends"?
- ANATOMY: What is the only bone in the human body that isn't attached to another bone nearby?
- LITERATURE: What is the setting for the "Anne of Green Gables" novel series?
- TELEVISION: Who plays the lead role in the sitcom "Mr. Mayor"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Spanish Steps located?
- HISTORY: How long did the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, orbit the planet?
- AD SLOGANS: Which restaurant chain advises customers to "eat fresh"?
- SCIENCE: What is the only form of energy that can be seen with the human eye?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: With which animal do humans share 98.8% of their DNA?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the famous line, "I see dead people"?

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1. The Rembrandts ("I'll Be There for You"); 2. The hyoid bone; 3. Prince Edward Island; 4. Red Danson; 5. Rome, Italy; 6. 108 minutes; 7. Subway Restaurants; 8. Light; 9. Chimpanzee; 10. "The Sixth Sense" (1999).

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Nahum (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Leviticus 19:25, the fruit of a newly planted tree must not be eaten until which year? 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
3. What was Bathsheba doing on the roof when David first saw her? Bathing, Praying, Singing, Hiding


4. Samson's strength was correlated with what part of his body? Heart, Chest, Hair, Legs
5. Job suffered from what physical affliction? Deafness, Boils, Blindness, Coughs
6. Who was the mate of Esther? Jehu, Darius, Xerxes, Abner

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 5th, 3) Bathing, 4) Hair, 5) Boils, 6) Xerxes
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

She made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

1 SAMUEL 1:11



Detail of "Les Morphinomanes" by Paul-Albert Besnard (1887)

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Lone Star Chancellor to retire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 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.



RSV, flu and COVID-19: How can you tell the difference? A Doctor Explains

By Pamela Parker via WABC logo

How to tell the difference between RSV, flu and COVID-19

The "triple epidemic" of flu, COVID-19, and RSV cases are on the rise this holiday season, leaving many wondering which virus they've caught. Here's how to tell the difference:

The "triple epidemic" of flu, COVID-19, and RSV cases are on the rise this holiday season, leaving many wondering which virus they've caught. Here's how to tell the difference:

SAN FRANCISCO — Doctors are seeing multiple different viruses circulate the community at increased rates.

The triple threat - or "triple epidemic" - of influenza (flu), COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) have many of the same symptoms in common, and it is hard to tell which one you've caught.

We talked to Dr. David Hoffman, pediatric hospitalist at MarinHealth Medical Center, to share his insights on how to tell them apart and when you should and shouldn't worry.

"While it's impossible to know for sure which one of these viruses you have without testing, there are some distinctive symptoms for each virus," Dr. Hoffman said.

Here are some symptoms of each and a guide on what to do if you or a family member is falling sick.

INFLUENZA

Overview
 The flu typically comes on very suddenly with an incubation period of one to four days, unlike COVID-19, which tends to have a gradual onset of symptoms. Typically, people feel more miserable with the flu than with other types of viruses, and it often comes with a sore throat, nausea, body aches, vomiting, or even diarrhea. A distinctive sign of the flu can be a very high fever — as high as 103 or 104 Fahrenheit. Fever is just the body's way of fighting the infection and is not dangerous in and of itself.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, said, "Hospitalizations for flu continue to be the highest we've seen for this time of year in a decade. If you do get sick, present yourself to your provider for early care. There are good antivirals to treat both flu and COVID-19."

The CDC is again suggesting people voluntarily wear masks indoors to reduce their chances of getting sick in the next few weeks.

It's not too late to get both vaccines - experts say you start getting protection within a week with a booster.

Distinctive characteristic

The most distinctive sign of the flu can be a very high fever in the 103 to 104 range.

Flu symptoms include:

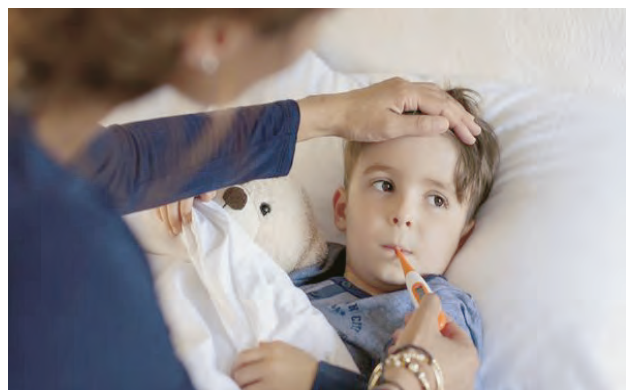
- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Runny nose
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Sore throat

COVID-19

Overview
 "The coronavirus has become familiar to most of us, and the signs are similar to flu and RSV. To complicate it further, some people become very ill, while others have very mild symptoms, and others show no symptoms at all. While most people develop symptoms within the first week after exposure, symptoms can occur from two up to 14 days after exposure to the virus."

Distinctive characteristic

"Unlike other viruses, COVID-19 can affect other areas of the body outside of the lungs and, in some in-



stances, cause long-term effects," Dr Hoffman says.

COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Cough
- Brief fever
- Shortness of breath
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

RSV

Overview

RSV is a virus that many adults would have already caught and it generally just causes cold symptoms for adults. "If you think back to that cold that you got that just wouldn't go away, you kept having congestion and perhaps a cough that lasted longer than usual, there's a decent chance that that was RSV. And again, symptoms of flu can include fever, chills, headache, runny nose, or congestion, nausea, fatigue, loss of appetite and sore throat," Dr. Hoffman said.

RSV causes a runny nose, congestion, and cough for most people. According to Dr. Hoffman, RSV has a greater likelihood of causing severe illness in very young children, especially those born premature or who have lung disease or heart disease. The most distinctive symptom that some children infected with RSV will exhibit is wheezing. Wheezing is a high-pitched sound with each exhalation.

"For most people, and even most kids, RSV doesn't cause a dangerous illness. But it does in a subset of kids. Even kids with significant illness that require hospitalization are usually going to do just fine. Maybe they'll need a little bit of oxygen, maybe they just need to be watched closely. RSV is most likely to cause significant or, you know, more concerning illness in very young children and very old adults," Dr. Hoffman said.

Distinctive symptom

The most distinctive symptom that some children infected with RSV will exhibit is wheezing, a high-pitched sound, with each exhalation.

RSV symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Decreased appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing
- When to see a doctor
- Dr Hoffman says to seek medical care right away if these symptoms appear:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake up or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
 - Severe abdominal pain
 - Refusing to eat and drink
- When should I keep my child home?

If your child is exhibiting any symptoms of RSV, flu, or COVID-19, health experts advise you to keep your child home from school to avoid spreading the virus to other people. It doesn't matter which of the viruses is the culprit. Caution should be taken to prevent the spread.

Prevention: How to keep your child from getting sick
 Prevention is the best medicine, particularly with these viruses. These sug-

gestions are good ideas to avoid seasonal viruses:

- Get your child vaccinated for flu, COVID-19, pneumococcus, and pertussis.
- Wash your hands regularly or use hand sanitizer.
- Sanitize high-contact surfaces, such as desks, tables, and doorknobs, if someone in your household is sick.
- If your child is sick, have them stay home to avoid spreading the illness.

"Everyone's talking about RSV but we do see other viruses in the community as well, like metapneumovirus, which can cause bronchitis or significant respiratory infection, or viral pneumonia. There are thousands of viruses that we don't have tests for so we don't know exactly which virus it is, but we're definitely seeing more of many different respiratory infections," Dr Hoffman said.

He says the most important message he wants to impart to parents is you can do a lot more harm to yourself by being overly concerned.

"By being anxious and increasing stress, you therefore are making yourself more susceptible to all types of illness, chronic disease, and infection," Dr. Hoffman says.

"That said, I do think that everyone should do whatever they can do to protect themselves from all of the respiratory illnesses and other vaccine preventable illnesses out there. He encouraged all pregnant mothers to get their pertussis vaccines during their pregnancy to 'cocoon' their unborn child, and preventing by preventing themselves from getting pertussis," he says.

Similarly, he urged kids to get the pneumococcal vaccine (whooping cough).

"Get the COVID-19 and flu vaccine for kids and adults. The flu vaccine will make you perhaps feel like you have a very mild cold but that's a lot better than getting seriously ill, or even dying from influenza. So a lot of people choose not to get the flu vaccine because they don't like that. But really the benefits are much greater than the very small risks of getting the flu vaccine or the inconvenience of getting the flu vaccine," Dr. Hoffman said.

"I don't think that it's a great idea to rush to your pediatrician's office or your primary care provider's office just to get tested, to try and figure out which one of these you have, aside from perhaps doing COVID-19 testing because most people who get RSV and flu and COVID-19 are going to do just fine. And so it's really only about dictating whether or not you need to isolate strictly and for how long," he said.

The fact is that these respiratory viruses tend to crop up with similar symptoms, such as cough, runny nose, and fever. Fortunately for most children, it doesn't matter which of these, or the thousands of other viruses causing respiratory illnesses or colds, your child has. Most children will recover from all of these viruses on their own, without receiving medical treatment and without serious complications. If your child is sick, consider testing for COVID-19 first to inform if and how long you need to isolate your child at home.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

INFORMATION FOR WEEK 1/23/21

FAMILY TIME:
 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.

PJ PALS:

Pajama Storytime at 5:30, every 2nd and 4th Monday.

ANIME CLUB:

Teens are welcome to join our anime club on Tuesday at 3PM.

KRAFTY KIDS:

Join us for a children's craft on Wednesday at 4:30 PM.

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

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

PARA LOS NIÑOS

Para los Niños will be meeting every Saturday in 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 28 - Building Blocks

BILINGUAL STORY TIME

Join us in the library for story time in English and Spanish now on **Tuesdays at 11:00am!**

KID'S CLUB

Kids ages 6 - 13 can join us for some Lego fun **Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Are you between the ages 15-18 and interested in volunteering at the library? Volunteering helps build skills for the job market and college, including communication, time management, and dependability. Start building your skills and gaining experience at the Aldine Branch Library! We will be hosting two mandatory orientation sessions for new teen volunteers on January 25 at 3:30pm and January 26th at 4pm. Volunteers must apply in advance and have parental permission to attend.

LECTORES AVIDOS

Spanish book club meeting - Saturday, Jan. 28, 10:30am.

COMPUTER CLASSES

In addition to our online computer classes in both English and Spanish we will now be offering computer classes in person at the library. If 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

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

VOLUNTEER 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.

PASSPORT SERVICES

Do you have plans to travel out of the country soon? Get on the ball and make sure you get your passport in order NOW! You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>

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>.

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Lone Star College nursing graduate earns excellence award from the Good Samaritan Foundation

HOUSTON (Nov. 15, 2022) –The Texas Health and Human Services predict the Gulf Coast region, including Houston, will have a shortage of 10,611 vocational and 21,407 registered nurses by 2032. These shortages can negatively impact patients' care, cause nurse burnout and increase health care costs.

The Lone Star College Nursing program is working to address this serious shortage of health care workers. LSC graduates are qualified to seek careers as vocational nurses, registered nurses and nurse aids. Aastha Krebs graduated from LSC-North Harris in May 2013 with an associate degree in Applied Science - Integrated Nursing. Krebs, an international student from Nepal, believes her unparalleled experience of available resources such as the library, tutoring services, student organizations and events created a successful path toward her future as a registered nurse.

"The nursing program at LSC-North Harris is a competitive, exceptional and rigorous program filled with passionate faculty who care about their students and prepare us well for our careers," Krebs said. "The standards in didactic and clinical courses made me stand out as a new graduate and continue to do so."

After graduating from LSC-North Harris, Krebs attended Western Governor's University and



Lone Star College-North Harris Nursing Alumna Aastha Krebs, left, recently earned the 2022 Excellence Nursing Award from the Good Samaritan Foundation. Krebs is pictured with Rajrani Sharma, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris Nursing Professor, at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in 2013.

earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2016 and a master's degree in Business Administration-Health Care Management in 2018. Krebs is in her last year at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where she will earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree. She recently received the 2022 Excellence Nursing Award from the Good Samaritan Foundation.

"As a clinical student in 2012, I remember observing Aastha improve her skills steadily. She was always bright, energetic and professional," said Rajrani Sharma, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris Nursing Professor. "I am very proud of her and her accomplishments. She will undoubtedly be an asset to any

nursing team she joins." The LSC Nursing program has educated and awarded thousands of nursing degrees and certificates to students since 1972, with 828 served from spring 2021 to spring 2022. Students have access to state-of-the-art simulation equipment and laboratories to learn the necessary knowledge and skills for degree completion and successful entry into the healthcare field.

LSC offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing and certificate-level courses. For more information on all nursing programs, visit LoneStar.edu/Nursing.



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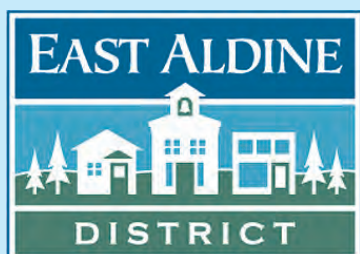
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East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

District expands public art with a President, and a Peaceful Path

Two very different art projects – a prominent, bold sculpture of the late President John F. Kennedy and a tranquil walking space through a “rambling rose” labyrinth – will soon bring more people into the East Aldine community.

The five-ton bust of the 35th president, designed by renowned sculptor David Adickes, will be installed soon on JFK Boulevard, near Houston's Intercontinental Airport, at the northern entrance of the East Aldine Management District.

The other project, a recently completed labyrinth on the grounds of the District's Town Center, was built by a corps of spirited volunteers using left-over materials from the construction of the building.

The JFK statue will serve as a landmark and “welcome mat” to Houston and the district. The labyrinth, soon to be listed on a national register, has already served as a peaceful and spiritual marker for the community.



Carlos Silva of East Aldine board, and sculptor David Adickes with JFK statue in his workshop.

"Even though the two projects are very different, they are very much in the spirit of East Aldine," said Carlos Silva, chairman of the East Aldine Management District and its East Aldine Arts Coalition. "They accomplish two things: to draw people into the community, and then to let everyone experience the sense of community that exists in East Aldine."

Official have already broken ground for the base of the JFK statue created by the 95-year-old Adickes. The acclaimed sculptor is best known to Houstonians for his outdoor sculpture of a larger-than-life cello player in downtown Houston, busts of other presidents just east of downtown and the massive Sam Houston monument on Interstate 45 near Huntsville.

The JFK bust, which is hollow on the inside, is composed of two pieces. The head and shoulders are separate and will be welded together and then covered in plaster, Silva explained.

The statue will be inscribed by the late president's famous words during his 1962 speech at Rice University, where a crowd of 30,000 heard his stadium address announcing the U.S. space program's mission to land a man on the moon.

"We choose to go to the moon (in this decade) and do other things not because they are easy, but because they are hard," JFK said.

There will soon be a ceremony to celebrate the official installation of the statue, which Silva said he hopes to see lighted at night for people who drive by.

As chairman of the Arts Council, Silva strongly believes that distinctive arts projects and programs can serve as an economic boon to the community.

"As soon as I told (Adickes) the nature of the project, he was completely on board. That was very exciting for me," Silva said. "But, in a way, I was putting the cart before the horse, because I hadn't sought any permission" from the council and board.



Labyrinth completion

The labyrinth was inspired by Silva's friend Jay Staley when they served on the Rothko Chapel Guild. Staley, a student of labyrinths around the world, helped design the Town Center project and led a winter solstice walk on through the pathway, which was lit by candelarias.

The project, designed in the same shape as a labyrinth at the Chartres Cathedral in France, was built by a corps of eager volunteers in two weekends. The crew included students from Rose P. Avalos P-Tech High School, who got curious about the project and then spent hours helping to install the pathway.

Many other volunteers, including staffers from BakerRipley and SMC Landscaping, also participated.

Labyrinths are designed to serve as spaces for thoughtful reflection or prayer. Near the new one, located between the district's office headquarters and the BakerRipley Community Center, is a sign stressing the importance of peace.

"It's the sign that (means) for there to be world peace, there must be peace in the nations, for there to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities, for there to be peace in the cities, there must be peace among neighbors. And, for there to be peace among neighbors, there has to be peace in the home," Silva said.

"The labyrinth, I hope, will allow visitors to connect a little more with that sentiment," Silva said.

— By Anne Marie Kilday