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# NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years  
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## NEWS NOTES

### Cantu will run for Houston City Council

Richard Cantu has recently filed to run for Houston City Council At-Large, Position 3. In a statement to the public, he said "I want to take my 30-year record of public service leadership to City Hall. My service on the Harris County Board of Education since 2019 has proven that we can



work together for the betterment of our city and county, especially when we are not concerned about who gets credit.

The city needs leaders who will invest in our youth like the future of our city depends on it — because it does! Too many of our parks and community centers are underutilized. I know what it takes to bring communities together to maximize its

Continued. See Cantu, Page 7

## Legislature releases first Budget draft

State Rep. Walle statement on State Budget

AUSTIN — The initial draft of the Texas state budget has been released for fiscal years 2024/2025. The draft leaves more than \$40 billion additional dollars in general revenue unspent. Contingent on how the various spending limits end up and on the different funding mechanisms used, legislators will have the opportunity to allocate billions of surplus dollars by the end of this Legislative Session.

Rep. Armando Walle (HD 140), who currently serves as the chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII & VIII and who also sits on the Legislative Budget Board, released the following statement in response.

"Our state's economy is thriving right now. With the state's general operating budget covered in this initial draft, legislators will now need to work out how to spend this unprecedented and historic surplus of dollars.

"This money came



State Representative Armando Walle On Budget Committee

from the people of Texas, and should be invested back into our communities in meaningful ways that bring about lasting change. This session, I will fight for these dollars to go to creating good jobs, improving our education system — not least by increasing teacher pay — and to expanding access to life-saving health care.

"I look forward to continuing my work with Speaker Dade Phelan, Chairman Greg Bonnen and all of my colleagues over the next few months to use this surplus to foster opportunities for every Texan."

## TEXAS HOUSE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

### SUMMARY

As proposed, the total funding of House Bill 1 is **\$288.7 billion**, a decrease of **2.9 percent**. While remaining well below the Pay as You Go limit, constitutional tax spending limit, and the newly created consolidated general revenue limit, the 88th Legislature has identified a series of priorities that are addressed through this fiscally conservative budget and will meet the needs of Texans.

#### EDUCATION

- \$38.4 billion** in General Revenue for the 88th Legislative Session.
- \$15 billion** to deliver property tax relief to homeowners.
- \$600 million** for school safety equipment and safety measures.
- \$2.5 billion** to strengthen research-based funding at universities.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$1.95 billion** dedicated to water and transportation infrastructure.
- \$1.45 billion** to support the Gulf Coast in trade and natural disasters.
- \$500 million** for maintenance and land acquisition by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

#### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- \$2.3 billion** for increased capacity and renovations at mental health facilities.
- \$55.5 million** for Crisis Services, specifically targeting youth.
- \$20 million** increase to the Alternatives to Abortion Program.

#### PENSIONS AND LEGACY OBLIGATIONS

- \$1 billion** to ensure the soundness of the state's employee pension fund, resulting in **\$5.5 billion** in interest savings and retiring the fund **5 years** early.
- \$1.14 billion** to retire unfunded liabilities of law enforcement and judicial retirement systems, and the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- \$4.6 billion** maintaining our commitment to border security, including **\$1 billion** to the Governor's office for constructing physical barriers.
- \$334 million** for the Texas Juvenile Justice System.
- \$22 million** to improve the state crime lab and eliminate testing backlog.

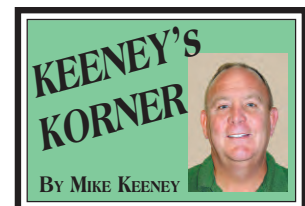
## Mahomes goes for second title, Hurts first, As Chiefs, Eagles meet in Super Bowl LVII

By Mike Keeney

After all the dust has cleared after the NFL's second 18-week and 117-game season, the two teams with the best records during the 2022 season will meet in Super Bowl 57 in Glendale, AZ this Sunday.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles both finished 14-3 on the season, were the top seeds in their respective conferences and will each carry 16 wins into Sunday's big game to determine who takes home the coveted Lombardi Trophy.

This should be a classic contest featuring two of the game's best young quarterbacks in KC's Patrick Mahomes and Philly's Jalen Hurts. Both are products of Texas high school football, with Hurts coming out of Channelview High School. In addition, this will be the first time in Super Bowl history that two African-American



quarterbacks will start in a Super Bowl.

Before we take a deeper look into the Big Game, I want to personally thank all of you who have shown me support and compassion after the passing away of my wife Sharon on Jan. 19 in our home in Humble. I do not know what I would have done without your care, calls, texts and sympathetic ears.

Sharon and I were together for 27 years and married for 21 years. She was my best friend and made me a better person. I am going to miss her more than you can know, but I will be sustained by the wonderful memories we shared for almost 30 years. I'm fortunate that I have my stepdaughter

Kim, her husband Sean, my stepson Shane, his partner Jill and our grandchildren Cooper, Vivian and Cole here for each other.

Rest well, Babe. I will always love you.

Now, back to this year's SB column.

This will be the Chiefs fifth SB appearance, they have won two (the last being following the 2019 season when they defeated San Francisco, 31-20). The Eagles will be making their fourth SB appearance and seeking their second title after winning it all following the 2018 season with a 41-33 victory over Bill Belichick, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

KC head coach Andy Reid will be looking for his second Lombardi Title and has forged a 247-138-1 record in his 24 years as a head coach. This is his

Continued. See Super Bowl, Page 7

## Channelview exQB will lead Philly in Super Bowl

Win over North Shore in 2014 was start of legacy

As the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs gather in Phoenix for next Sunday's Super Bowl LVII, Houston fans from Channelview and throughout the city will have their eyes on a favorite son, Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts.

Jalen has become well-known nationally, leading the Philadelphia Eagles this year to the Super Bowl, with a 14-3 record in the regular season, and subsequent play-off wins.

However, his rise to fame began in October 2014, when as a junior quarterback for his high school team, the Channelview Falcons, he led his underdog team to a 49-48 victory over the dominant North Shore Mustangs with a 38-yard Hail Mary pass with no time left. Thus began his claim to fame and his legacy.

Jalen was playing under the tutelage of Averion Hurts, the head coach for Channelview and his father. After that win in 2014, recruiters began to follow his performance. He continued to show promise with a technique that included record set in passing and rushing.

Jalen excelled through hard work and determination to succeed. He was recruited by top football schools such as Texas A&M but chose Alabama under coach Nick Saban. At Alabama he was the SEC Offensive Player of the Year, and Freshman of the Year, but lost 35-31 to Clemson in the National Championship Game.



Jalen Hurts, native of Channelview, is the QB for the Philadelphia Eagles

Thus would start a tale of doubts and setbacks along with his successes. Although he led the Crimson Tide to the 2018 Title Game against Georgia, he was pulled for Tua Tagovailoa in the game that Alabama won. He spent much of the next year as a back-up, and decided to transfer to Oklahoma.

Continued. See QB Jalen Hurts, Page 2

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# QB Jalen Hurts in Super Bowl,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At OU he led the Sooners to a winning record in 2019, losing only to LSU in the semi-finals. He finished second in the voting for the Heisman Trophy, after LSU's Joe Burrow.

In the 2019 NFL draft, Jalen was the second round pick by Philadelphia, and named starter late in the season. He led the Eagles to the play-offs last season, and this season was one of five finalists for the NFL MVP Award.

Jalen continues to get

support and advice from his coach father, his brother Averion Jr., and support from his whole family who usually attend his games. This year they will again be in the stands, for the Super Bowl in Glendale, Arizona.

His father summed it up, saying "I am proud of the man he has become." And this feeling is shared by all of his fans, friends and former teammates, as he continues to represent the best of Houston's #Eastsides.

# Surveillance Photos Released in Fatal Shooting at 6566 Homestead Road

Houston police have released surveillance photos of two wanted suspects in the fatal shooting that occurred at 6566 Homestead Road about 6:10 p.m. on Friday (January 20).

Surveillance photos of both suspects are attached to this news release. They are described only as black males in their late teens to early 20s. They fled in a 2002 silver Buick, four-door sedan with Texas license plates GDX5831.

The identity of the male victim is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives N. Henderson and L. Patterson reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a report of a shooting at the above address and found the victim suffering multiple gunshot wounds. He was pronounced deceased by responding Houston Fire Department paramedics.

Additional investigation revealed the victim was walking to his vehicle when a masked suspect exited his vehicle and began shooting at the victim. A second suspect also exited the vehicle and both began robbing the victim of multiple items. They then fled the scene east on Miley Street.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.



# Walle Speaks at Green Forest Civic Club



## GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB AT EAST ALDINE MURAL

State Representative Armando Walle said:

"You cannot be a good public servant if you are not connected and listen to community concerns. Democracy entails participation from your folks. I provided a brief update from the TXLEGE but also heard from residents of Green Forest Civic Club.

I was saddened to learn that Ruben A. Salazar stepped down as civic club President, but proud of your advocacy of Aldine and expect big things from you in future.

(ABOVE, Ruben Salazar in middle behind banner, with Representative Walle behind him.)

## Ruben A. Salazar Letter:

Today I submitted my letter of resignation as President of Green Forest Civic Club. While it is bittersweet closing this chapter of my life and career in community advocacy, I am excited to see what life has in store for me in the future!

This is not a goodbye however. I will continue to fight and advocate for East Aldine and ensure our neighborhoods receive the attention they deserve. I'd like to thank all those who have guided, mentored, and supported me along the way, through my journey to becoming a successful community advocate. I will forever be grateful for all your time, attention, and dedication, and for giving me the privilege to have served you all in this capacity.

Words cannot express how much this community means to me, ESPECIALLY the people who live here. You all have given me so much, I hope to one day return the favor!



Walle speaking at the GFCC meeting.

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, February 4, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,  
 We ended January celebrating and supporting our students! Last week we held our Livestock Show, and everyone had a great time. More importantly, the money raised from the food sales and the sale of champions benefited future student projects and went toward college scholarships. Thank you to our giving community, generous business partners, and fantastic staff for being #AldineConnected.

Celebrating Black History Month: Resilient's February, and we are kicking off Black History Month! This year's theme, Resilience, recognizes the power of the Black community to withstand and overcome the systemic oppression and discrimination they have faced throughout history while also honoring the strength, determination, and perseverance of Black individuals and communities to survive, thrive and make positive contributions to society. Click here to learn more about how we are celebrating this month.

Eisenhower College Prep Opens in Fall 2023! We have exciting news! Eisenhower College Prep at Eisenhower 9th and Eisenhower High School will open in August 2023. The program, which replaces YES Prep Eisenhower at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, continues our commitment to providing choices and opportunities for our students. The rigorous and enriching educational program will propel our students forward and prepare them for a successful post-secondary experience. Click here to read about the curriculum, support, and opportunities Eisenhower College Prep students will have.

2023-2024 School Year Calendars Announced! The instructional calendars for the 2023-2024 school year are now set. What's new? The district has REIMAGINED the traditional calendar for students and teachers to create a more balanced approach, which now includes fall and spring mid-term breaks. The first mid-term break will be in October, and the second will be in February. The start date for most students and schools on the reimagined traditional calendar is August 10, 2023. The first day of instruction for students attending the district's four schools on the Additional School Days School Year (ADSY) calendar will be July 13. For these and other important dates on the two calendars, click here.

Hiring Teachers: Looking for the Best Educators for Our Schools — Incentive Pay for Recruiting In Aldine, we are committed to a bold vision for our students. We dedicate every day to ensuring our students have access to high-quality schools and receive high-quality educational experiences. The district continually looks for the most talented teachers to work with our students. On March 4, we are hosting a Job Fair. Click here to view the flyer detailing the event and ideal candidates. Please share the information with incredible teachers you know, soon-to-be college graduates, retired teachers considering coming back into the classroom, and individuals with a bachelor's degree looking to switch careers. We are providing incentive pay for recruiting teachers — an Early Bird Referral by June 2 and one after June 2. Incentive pay ranges between \$1,000 to \$300. For details, click here.

Leadership Matters Recently, I participated in the Texas Council of Women School Executives Conference and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Midwinter Conference in Austin. I am forever grateful for the relationships that evolved from these organizations. When I served as president of TCWSE, one of my proudest accomplishments was creating the TCWSE Female Superintendents Summit. It thrilled me to be among over 600 female educators, including 68 female superintendents, at the 8th Female Superintendents Summit! It continues to grow strong with so many SHEros! To any educator looking to pursue executive leadership roles, I encourage you to become a member of TCWSE.

Whether taking an active part in leadership organizations at the national level, state level, or inspiring leaders locally, it is not lost on me the importance of the work we all do and the work still left to be done. No one can do this work alone. Hannah Arendt once said, "Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it." Let's work together and remember our most important why — our students — each and every day. We had a fantastic lineup of keynote speakers at the TASA Conference — professor, lecturer, author Dr. Brené Brown; Fall Creek School District (WD) Superintendent Dr. Joe Sanfelippo, and comedian Michael Jr. They all shared so many great nuggets of wisdom and inspiration. I encourage you to click here to watch Michael Jr. talk about knowing your why and purpose in life. It is truly inspirational!

Staff Shoutouts In Aldine, our staff members know their why. During our Instructional Leadership Team meeting today, we captured all the shoutouts — we do this every month, but this was the first time we got it on film! Thank you for your work, and know that you are valued. Your dedication is recognized and appreciated. Click here to view the video. To everyone mentioned today and every month. Good Job, Good Job, Good Job, Good Job, G-OO-D J-O-B, Good Job, Good Job!

Congratulations As a leader of leaders, it's always a blessing when anyone on the Aldine ISD team gets acknowledged for their work. Congratulations to Chief of Staff Sheleah D.



Reed for earning the TCWSE 2023 Bravo Award for her remarkable leadership. And what an incredible achievement — TCWSE selected only one leader from each region for the award!

Young Bookworms! Join Us Saturday, February 4! — The Festival is Completely Bilingual This Year! Young readers (Grades PreK, K, 1, 2, and 3) are in for a fun morning at the Bookworm Festival! It is the first time the festival will be in English and Spanish. Hear from award-winning authors and illustrators. What an incredible opportunity for our young readers! Read the story on our website for details. Thank you to our sponsor Blue Willow Bookshop. Families can click here to register to attend.

Have a great rest of the week! With Aldine Pride, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools Twitter: @drGoffney

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Feb. 4: Bookworm Festival at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Click here to register.

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 and to register.

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

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 — Click here to register.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

Houston Food Bank: Food Market at La Promesa (video on Facebook)

Aldine ISD Livestock Show Pig Competition Winners (Facebook post)

MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS

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. 23: 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.

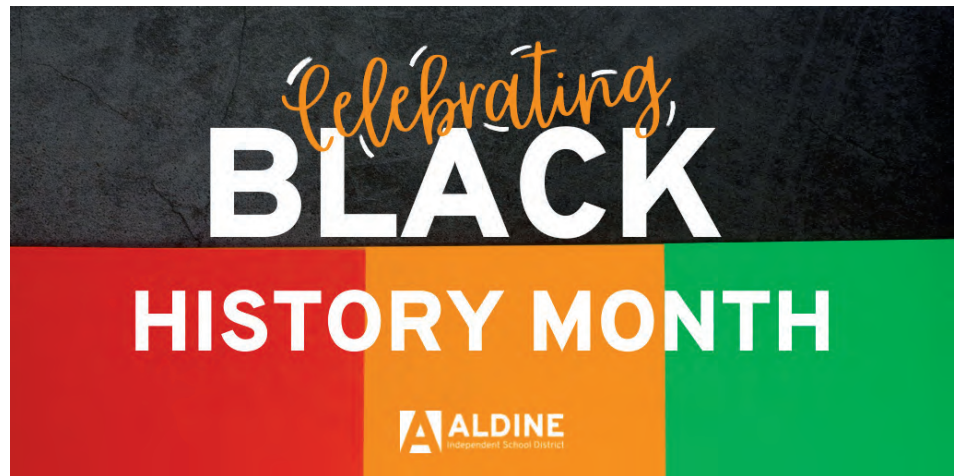
The state requires high school seniors to apply for financial aid to graduate. — FAFSA Application link or TASFA Application links

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

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

FOLLOW US! Stay connected by visiting AldineISD.org. Check out our District News and Aldine ISD Podcast pages to stay updated on all the great things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Aldine ISD Celebrates Black History Month: Honoring Resistance and Resilience



Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Texas, is proud to celebrate Black History Month by highlighting the resistance and resilience of African Americans throughout history. Throughout the month, Aldine ISD will host a series of events and activities aimed at educating staff and shareholders about the contributions of black people to American society and the challenges they have faced and overcome.

This year, the national Black History Month theme focuses on the importance of Black resistance and resilience, a theme purposed to highlight the challenges African Americans faced in order to create history. Challenges such as those of Lonnie Johnson, a celebrated African American inventor who had been instrumental in developing numerous technological innovations. Johnson is perhaps best known for his work on the Super Soaker water gun, but he has also made significant contributions to a wide range of fields, including energy and space technology.

The district will also highlight the Divine Nine and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Divine Nine refers to the nine historically black fraternities and

sororities that have played a significant role in the African American community. These organizations have provided a sense of community, leadership, and scholarship to their members and have been instrumental in the fight for civil rights.

HBCUs were established during a time when African Americans were denied access to higher education, and they have continued to play a vital role in the education of African Americans to this day.

District Events & Activities

Aldine ISD Black History Oratory Competition

The third annual Aldine ISD Black History Oratory Competition began on January 23, 2023. The competition will coincide with Black History Month in February and serve as a districtwide celebration. The competition is open to all Aldine ISD students in grades 3-12. In addition, each campus will host individual campus competitions before selecting the top winner at each campus. Campus competitions will take place between January 23 – February 17. The district competition will take place from February 20-22. To participate in the competition, students will individually cre-

ate a spoken presentation that relates to the theme, Resilience.

Sounds of Blackness Aldine ISD Employee Choir performance sent out via email to the district; also shared via social media. If you would like to sign up, use this link. For additional information contact Kenyatta B. Herring, director of choirs at Carver Magnet High School.

Book Study

To honor this important month, the district has chosen the powerful and inspiring book, "Black Joy: a story of resistance, resilience, and restoration." "Black Joy" is a powerful tale that focuses on the strength and resilience of the black community in the face of adversity. The book highlights the incredible strength of the black community and the ways in which it has persevered and thrived despite the obstacles placed in its way. To further promote this message of resilience, Aldine ISD is hosting a book study event on Tuesday, February 28 from 12-1 PM on Zoom. During this event, participants will have the opportunity to engage with the book, discuss its themes and implications, and connect with one another.

Aldine ISD to Host Free Virtual Literacy Matters Conference on February 11

Registration is open for anyone interested in transforming reading, and writing can join the event.

This is the third year Aldine ISD is hosting the conference. The conference continues to grow, drawing more than 2,500 people in 2022 from Texas, the country, and worldwide. Experts in the science of reading, equity, literacy, curriculum, multilingual, early childhood, school reform, education research, and more are participating.

Literacy Matters Conference 2023 — Chapter 3: Creating Equity Through Literacy Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CST Free Online Event (website) Register: bit.ly/3RpKixt

Sessions and schedule details will be emailed to registrants as presentations are finalized.

Breakout sessions will take place each hour and include topics geared toward administrators, elementary and secondary teachers of all subjects, multilingual teachers, special education teachers, literacy leaders, and anyone interested in learning about the science of reading and improving students' literacy skills.

Sessions. and Panels With Experts, Keynote Speakers, Authors, and

More!

There are over 80 sessions available, including author panels, keynote speeches, curriculum-specific sessions, and general sessions on instructional strategies. The district will use an app platform where registered attendees will find all the sessions. Organizers will share the app information with individuals who register after finalizing sessions.

There is a more significant focus on equity and differentiation this year. Many sessions are focused

on serving students from a variety of backgrounds. In addition, an authors' panel will speak on behalf of ensuring students have access to books that provide mirrors and windows. AISD has added sessions for families and others focusing on social-emotional learning this year.


Expert Speakers As of January 25, the following speakers have committed to taking part in the conference:

Literacy Matters Conference 2023 Speakers Graphics - 3



OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By U.S. Senator  
**JOHN CORNYN**



*Time to Get America's Fiscal House in Order: Here are the First Steps*

The national debt is \$31.5 trillion and counting. If it were divided among all income taxpayers, each person would be on the hook for nearly \$250,000.

Will we ever be in a situation where the average taxpayer receives a quarter-million-dollar bill from the U.S. government? Not a chance. But it's startling to see how much debt the United States has taken on, and even more jarring to realize there's no plan to address it.

Making matters worse, we're quickly approaching an alarming deadline. Unless action is taken soon, the U.S. will default on its debts in the coming months, sending our wobbly economy into a full-blown spiral.

This looming crisis didn't pop up out of nowhere. The U.S. narrowly avoided a debt crisis in 2021, but we've been moving toward this unavoidable reality for years. Out-of-control spending habits have driven the national debt from \$3.2 trillion in 1980, to \$9.7 trillion in 2000, to \$31.5 trillion today.

Washington can't continue to borrow and spend like there's no tomorrow. It's time to address the root causes that brought us here.

First, Congress needs to return to regular order in funding the government each fiscal year. It must abandon the habit of stopgap funding bills and last-minute omnibuses and pass regular, on-time appropriations bills.

The Senate and House Appropriations Committees are charged with writing 12 separate bills to fund different components of the federal government prior to Sept. 30, the end of the government's fiscal year. That didn't happen in 2022 or 2021. The Democrat-led Senate did not pass a single regular appropriations bill and instead used stopgap funding measures to keep the wheels of government turning while they compiled a massive spending bill. All of this happened in a rushed fashion, completely out of the public's view.

This is a maddening way to fund the government, and it's time for change. Public hearings, debates, and votes on individual appropriations bills are the only path forward. Temporary funding legislation and 4,000-page appropriation bills are not the picture of responsible governing.

Next, we need to reform spending. There's bipartisan agreement that entitlements, which account for nearly two-thirds of the federal budget, are unsustainable in their current form. Projections show Social Security recipients will see a reduction of almost 25% in their benefits if we do nothing — an unacceptable outcome. It's time for tough conversations and significant reforms to protect the longevity of these programs for the people who need them most. Sen. Mitt Romney's, R-Utah, TRUST Act, which seeks to rescue the Social Security Trust Fund, is a great starting point for these conversations.

Finally, Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment — similar to ones I've authored and voted for previously — to make clear that the government can't spend more than it takes in. There's real-world evidence that balanced budget requirements work. Virtually every state in the nation has one, including Texas, which just started its legislative session with a \$33 billion surplus. States, families, and businesses across the country have no choice but to operate on a balanced budget. The federal government should do the same.

There are a range of other measures Congress can take to address the financial fire that's raging.

Congress should ban earmarks to ensure critical funding bills are not a playground for quid pro quo. I've opposed the use of earmarks and voted to strip them out of the most recent omnibus bill.

Senate Republicans have offered a laundry list of bills to restore order and accountability in federal spending.

Sen. Mike Braun's, R-Ind., No Budget, No Pay Act would suspend pay for members of the House and Senate if Congress fails to pass a budget or spending bills on time.

Sen. Mike Lee's, R-Utah, CBO Show Your Work Act would require the Congressional Budget Office to publish the data and models it uses to analyze the cost of legislation.

If government funding is not enacted on time, Sen. James Lankford's, R-Okla., Prevent Government Shutdowns Act would force Congress to stay in session until funding agreements are reached, and ensure the government stays open until that happens.

These are just a few of the countless proposals Senate Republicans have put forward that deserve serious consideration.

President Biden needs to ditch his head-in-the-sand approach to this crisis and work with Republicans to get our financial house in order. He was in the room when Congress negotiated the 2011 Budget Control Act, which was the last meaningful attempt to restrain Washington spending. If the president wants to lead, this is his chance.

The national debt will haunt every generation until enough leaders show the courage to make tough choices and fix this mess. There's never been a more important time for action. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this process.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



*Ice Storm Wreaks havoc in Much of State*

Residents in Central and Northeast Texas are still cleaning up after a winter storm last week snapped power lines and tree limbs, causing widespread power outages, canceled flights and damage to homes and vehicles.

At its peak, nearly 400,000 Texas households were without power, according to [poweroutage.us](http://poweroutage.us). As of Sunday, that number had dropped to 62,456.

The outages were due to downed power lines, not by problems with the state's power grid. The Texas Railroad Commission said the state's natural gas supply also held steady, with natural gas utilities reporting no service issues during the storm.

Airports in the state's metropolitan areas reported several hundred flight cancellations because of icy conditions. Many schools in the Dallas area and around Austin were closed for the entire week.

The Texas Department of Insurance offered some advice to homeowners dealing with damage caused by fallen tree branches landing on vehicles and homes. That includes taking photos of the damage before moving the tree; making temporary repairs and contact your insurance agent as soon as possible; and saving all receipts for labor and repair materials to be reimbursed.

While the danger from last week's storm has largely passed, the Texas Department of State Health Services provided advice for future winter events, urging people to use extreme caution with electric generators and heaters that produce carbon monoxide.

Generators should only be used outdoors, at least 10 feet away from buildings. Outdoor grills, camp stoves and other heaters that produced carbon monoxide should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause death.

**FENTANYL TEST STRIPS BACKED BY LAWMAKERS**

Test strips that would determine whether pills, powders, or other forms of drugs are laced with deadly fentanyl might be legalized, if a bipartisan group of lawmakers have their way.

The percentage of overdose deaths tied to fentanyl has risen to 97%, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman. Gov. Gregg Abbott has ended his opposition to legalizing the strips, and several nearly identical bills have been filed



in both the House and Senate as a result.

"They deserve action, action that will save other innocent families from the devastation they have suffered," Abbott said in January. "And they will get that action this session."

Legislators are also considering measures to increase the penalty for manufacturing or delivering fentanyl even in small amounts to a third-degree felony. Right now, it is a state jail felony.

Meanwhile, the state comptroller's office is being pushed to speed up distribution of more than \$1 billion in funds from the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund, intended to mitigate the fentanyl crisis. The money comes from settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors.

"We've somewhat sacrificed expediency in getting dollars out the door," Hegar said. "We have to create a system that treats everybody fairly and everybody understands the process."

DSHS data indicates 1,569 Texans died of a fentanyl-related overdose last year, according to the Statesman report.

**STATE PARKS CONTINUE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

Texas state parks turn 100 years old in 2023 and are celebrating with a host of events. This month includes several celebrations in North Texas, East Texas, Huntsville and San Antonio, including a variety of events marking Black History Month.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is partnering with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and H-E-B for the celebrations, with the grocery chain donating \$1 million to help the parks system engage Texans to discover and enjoy their state parks.

For more information on the celebration, including community events, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make

a day visit or overnight reservation, visit the Texas State Parks 100 Years website at [TexasStateParks.org/100years](http://TexasStateParks.org/100years).

**HOUSING COST BURDEN EXAMINED**

The Texas Demographic Center has used census data to examine housing cost burdens in the state. That is when a household spends more than 30% of its monthly income on housing costs, including rent or mortgage payments, utilities and other costs.

The center concludes that counties with the highest percent of households dealing with housing cost burdens are in the so-called Texas Triangle along the Austin-San Antonio corridor, as well as some border counties.

The study found that nearly half of Texas renters — 1.7 million — spent more than 30% of their income on housing costs from 2017-2021, with a median monthly housing cost of \$1,146. Among homeowners, 21% experienced housing costs burden during the same period, with median monthly housing costs of \$1,747.

Texas ranked 10th in median gross rent from 2017-2021. Hawaii was the most expensive state, followed by California.

**TEXAS COMPANY HOPES TO BRING BACK DODO BIRD**

A Texas company is hoping to bring back the long-extinct dodo bird, along with the woolly mammoth and the Tasmanian tiger, according to a Statesman story.

Colossal Biosciences, with offices in Austin, Dallas and Boston, is using gene-editing technologies to restore extinct animals.

The dodo bird, closely related to the pigeon, went extinct in 1662 in its native Mauritius, an island nation located in the Indian Ocean. It was wiped out due to human settlement and ecosystem competition.

The company was founded in 2021 to work in the field of de-extinction and combatting climate change. It recently announced an additional \$150 million in new funding.

"Being able to recreate something that is functionally similar to an extinct species that's as prevalent in people's minds as the dodo is hopefully going to create a little bit of enthusiasm for thinking about consequences of human cost extinctions," Beth Shapiro, a paleogeneticist with the company, said.

**NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS RISE**

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week rose to 38,947, more than 15,000 from the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The center reported 400 deaths in the state, also a marked increase. Officials reported 2,142 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, down a few hundred 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. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
Carrie Classon

*"Barely Remembered"*

"The worst thing," I told my mother, "was when you made us eat venison sausages for lunch. That sausage lasted forever!"

I am visiting my parents, and we somehow got to discussing our less-than-favorite foods. My mother always made wonderful school lunches with fresh fruit and a homemade cookie. But memory is fickle. What I remember most clearly was when my father brought home from work what seemed to me, as an elementary-school-age kid, a venison sausage the size of a baseball bat, and I had to eat sandwiches made from it—forever, as I recall.

"That was not the worst thing," my father said.

"No, you're right," I agreed. "The worst thing was when you made tongue sandwiches. I didn't eat those."

"When did I make you a tongue sandwich?" my mother asked.

"You made it for my lunch!" "How did you know it was tongue?" she asked.

"It had bumps!" I told her, suddenly reliving the experience.

"It couldn't have had many bumps," my mother said.

"How many bumps do you think it needs for an 8-year-old to refuse to eat it?" I asked.

My mother laughed. She's not a fan of tongue, either.

We were talking after dinner. My husband, Peter, and I were visiting my parents in their home "up north." We were having my mother's pumpkin bars for dessert and talking about old times and relatives I barely remembered—if at all.

I knew my mother's father had a brother named Evald, and I knew they used to go fishing. I remember my grandmother saying that grandpa was not going up north to fish but to drink beer with Evald. I figured with 11 kids to raise and 50 cows to milk, drinking a little beer with Evald once a year wasn't the worst thing a guy could do.

"I've never seen the house you lived in when you were little!" I told my mom.

"It's in kind of sad shape, last I saw," she told me. "But it's still there. You need a tour!" "I do," I agreed.

Memory is a funny thing. It seems to disappear completely, then slaps us with a vivid clarity—like an image of the bumps on a tongue sandwich eaten (or not eaten) 50 years ago.

I'm going to take a tour of the house my mother and her siblings grew up in the next chance I get. Even if the old farmhouse isn't looking as fine as it used to, even if it's been empty for a long time. I'd like to hear what memories my mom has when she sees it again and try to imagine some of the things that are now barely remembered.

"That was not the worst thing," my father said again. "We didn't make you eat the worst thing."

"What was the worst thing?" I asked him, trying to think what could be worse than a tongue sandwich in elementary school.

"You remember what your Uncle Evald gave us?" my dad asked my mom.

"No!" my mother said. Uncle Evald lived off the land, up in the north woods, occasionally driving a school bus, from what my mother said.

"It was canned bear meat. In a jar. The fat had separated from the rest of it."

"I don't think I ever saw that," my mother said.

"That wasn't the worst of it," my dad continued. "There was hair in the jar!"

"No!" my mother said.

"There was," my dad said. "So, it could have been worse than venison sausage for lunch."

I had to admit, my dad was right. Till next time, Carrie

Photos and other news can be found at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

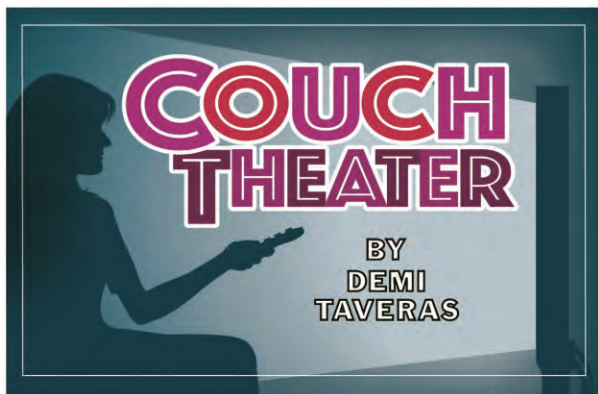
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Angela Bassett earned a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Queen Ramonda in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" (PG-13) — The sequel to "Black Panther" (2018) hit theaters in the U.S. last November, two years after the tragic and shocking death of Chadwick Boseman, who played the titular character.

Since Marvel Studios chose to retire the character of King T'Challa with Boseman's death, the sequel starts with the king succumbing to an illness. One year after his death, Wakanda is now being threatened by nations around the world attempting to steal their vibranium — their most precious element, which they refuse to share. This creates great tension for the citizens of Wakanda,

as they're still in the process of building their country back up after the loss of their Black Panther. Angela Bassett recently earned a Golden Globe for her portrayal of Queen Ramonda, as well as an Oscar nomination. This makes Bassett the first Marvel actor to receive a nomination from the Academy. "Wakanda Forever" is out now. (Disney+) "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile" (PG) — Eighteen months after magician Hector P. Valenti (Javier Bardem) loses his New York home and leaves his singing crocodile, Lyle, in the attic, the Primm family moves in. Josh, the Primms' son, discovers Lyle in the attic and easily starts to be-

friend the crocodile, who can sing beautifully but can't speak. Mr. and Mrs. Primm aren't the happiest to find out about the talented, yet large reptile living in their new home, but Lyle seems to bring out the best in the Primms and starts to become a member of their family.

A film adaptation of the children's story by Bernard Waber, this goofy musical-comedy has lots of feel-good vibes that no doubt made it a success in the box office last year. Popstar Shawn Mendes stars as Lyle in the film, out now on streaming. (Netflix)

"Somebody I Used to Know" (R) — On Feb. 10, the second directorial project from Dave Franco ("21 Jump Street" and "Neighbors") reaches Prime Video.

Franco's wife, Alison Brie ("Community"), stars as Ally, a workaholic who decides to make a trip back to her hometown. While at a bar, Ally runs into her ex-boyfriend, Sean (Jay Ellis), and the two reconnect and make up for lost time.

Almost as if she's retracing the steps of her past, Ally starts to wonder if she made the right decision by leaving her hometown all those years ago. Even after she accidentally crashes Sean's engagement dinner to his fiancée, Cassidy, Ally feels a pull to stay, as Cassidy reminds her of herself when she was younger.

Kiersey Clemons, Danny Pudi and Haley Joel Osmert also star in this heartfelt romantic comedy about trying to find newfound freedom well into adulthood. (Prime Video)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Sounds like "Magic Mike's Last Dance," opening Feb. 23, will be unlike the first two "Magic Mike" films. Channing Tatum, now pushing 43, will be dancing, but so far, no word if the other male dancers (Joe Manganiello, Matt Bomer and Adam Rodriguez) from the first two films, will be back. The film was shot in London and also stars Salma Hayek Pinault.

What's more interesting is the fact that Tatum has acquired the rights to the Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore 1990 film "Ghost," which won Oscars for Whoopi Goldberg as Best Supporting Actress and for Bruce Joel Rubin's screenplay. The film cost \$23 million and grossed \$505.7 million.

Tatum plans to rework the story and will not have Goldberg — good luck with that. Tatum, who has started making pottery, said, "Now I know why they put [pottery-making] in 'Ghost.' This whole process is very, very sexual." Pottery ... what? \*\*\*

On the heels of the unsuccessful Whitney Houston biopic "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" (with a budget of \$45 million, it has only grossed \$56.4, which doesn't cover publicity costs) comes word of a planned Michael Jackson biopic from Lionsgate and Graham King, who produced the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody."

The film, called "Michael," will cover Jackson's childhood, leading up to his 13 Grammy wins and finishing with his demise in 2009 at the age of 50. Could it be a coincidence that this project was announced three days after the death of Jackson's former wife, Lisa Marie Presley?

Graham King is also planning a biopic of the Bee Gees. \*\*\*

How long is "long enough" for someone accused during the #MeToo movement to stop being ostracized? In October 2017, actor Anthony Rapp alleged Kevin Spacey made sexual advances toward him when he was 14 and when Spacey was 26.



Channing Tatum and Salma Hayek Pinault in "Magic Mike's Last Dance"

In 2020, Rapp sued Spacey for sexual assault, sexual battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Fifteen others came forward as well, expressing similar abuse they suffered. So, in 2017, Spacey was completely cut out of "All the Money in the World," and his scenes were reshot with Christopher Plummer instead.

Not being able to work in the U.S., Spacey went to London and was given a supporting role in "The Man Who Drew God," directed by Franco Nero. Vanessa Redgrave, cast before Spacey, dropped out of the film, even though her husband (Nero) was directing.

Spacey then returned to California for the film, "Peter Five Eight," with Rebecca De Mornay, where he plays a serial killer in the film. He was also recently cast in the docu-drama "Once Upon a Time in Croatia."

But here's the topper ... Italy's National Museum of Cinema in Turin presented him with their highest honor, the Stella Della Mole Award for Lifetime Achievement. Looks like it's been long enough ... (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a boy and girl looking at a 'VALENTINE SALE' sign and a 'CLOSE OUT SALE' sign. Task: Find at least six differences in details between panels.

February 6, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes clues like 'Niger neighbor', 'Existed', 'Close', 'Timber wolf', etc.

Answers for King Crossword. 1. Madrid, Spain; 2. Brazil; 3. Time flies; 4. Obelus; 5. 10 minutes, according to Dylan; 6. About 50 times; 7. 'Home Alone'; 8. 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe'; 9. 'How you doin'?'; 10. Outer ear.

Trivia Test Answerst. 1. ART: Where is the Prado Museum located? 2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country that the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn pass through? 3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "tempus fugit" mean? 4. MATH: What is another name for the division sign? 5. MUSIC: How long did it take singer Bob Dylan to write the big hit "Blowin' in the Wind"? 6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many times on average does a ruby-throated hummingbird flap its wings in one second? 7. MOVIES: Which movie features the line, "Keep the change, ya filthy animal"? 8. LITERATURE: Which novel features four children named Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy? 9. TELEVISION: What is Joey's famous line in the sitcom "Friends"? 10. ANATOMY: What is a common name for the pinna in human anatomy?



# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Eliab (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 21, who was commander of Abimelech's army? Benaiah, Omri, Sisera, Phichol
3. Saul consulted a medium wanting to talk to whose spirit? Goliath, Moses, Samuel, Solomon
4. Which natural disaster occurred only once in the Bible? Windstorm, Flood, Drought, Earthquake

5. Who was known as the "Weeping Prophet"? Jeremiah, Nathan, Elisha, Daniel
6. Who was the mate of Rachel? Ananias, Boaz, Jacob, Isaac

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Phichol, 3) Samuel, 4) Flood, 5) Jeremiah, 6) Jacob  
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.


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O God, You are my God;  
 Early will I seek You;  
 My soul thirsts for You;  
 My flesh longs for You  
 In a dry and thirsty land  
 Where there is no water.  
 So I have looked for You in the  
 sanctuary, to see Your power  
 and Your glory.

PSALM 63:1,2

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### Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!



## Cantu for City Council,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resources that will meet the needs of our youth. Our neighborhoods should be clean and safe, and it takes leadership to make it happen! The neighborhoods that have problems with dumping also have some of the worst crime problems. I will tap into my three decades of positive relationships with community leaders, law enforcement, educators, faith leaders, and businesses, to continue to bring results to neighborhoods across the city."

Cantu is currently the Executive Director of the East Aldine Management District, and would continue in that capacity if elected.

Last year his daughter Aleksis died from a gunshot at a social gathering. With gun violence a primary concern in the city, Cantu said "The loss of Aleksis has been the hardest thing our family has ever dealt with, and we wouldn't wish that pain on anyone! I know in my heart that Aleksis would want me to do everything possible to make a difference in our neighborhoods and for our youth so that families don't continue to suffer. We will honor Aleksis' memory by continuing to work to end gun violence.

We will campaign across the city of Houston with a message of Hope and Determination to bring about Safe and Clean Neighborhoods and to invest in our Youth so that all the families of our city have a successful future."

## Mahomes goes for second title, Hurts first, As Chiefs, Eagles meet in Super Bowl LVII

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10th year as the Chiefs head coach after spending 14 years as the Eagles head man. During his time in Philly, Reid had a 130-93-1 record, led the Eagles to four appearances in the NFC Championship Game, one NFC title and one SB appearance, where Philly lost to New England and the Belichick and Brady duo following the 2004 season, 24-21.

The Eagles were the class of the NFC led by brash second-year head coach Nick Sirianni. Sirianni has gone 25-11 in his two years leading the Eagles and has made the playoffs in each of his first two seasons as a head coach.

Reid is only the sixth head coach in NFL history to lead two different teams to the Super Bowl. The other four are: Don Shula (Baltimore and Miami), Dick Vermeil (Philadelphia and St. Louis Rams), Bill Parcells (New York Giants and New England Patriots), Mike Holmgren (Green Bay and Seattle) and Dan Reeves (Denver and Atlanta).

Both men will have their teams ready come Sunday, but will Reid's experience in playing and preparing a team three times for a Super Bowl be that big a difference? It very well could be.

While Reid and Sirianni prepare their teams, it's the players who will make the biggest difference in this game.

This game has the potential to be a high-scoring affair thanks to the fact



that weather will not be a factor come Sunday. The game will be played indoors on a fast track at State Farm Stadium, which should be a benefit to Mahomes and Hurts.

The health of a number of key Chiefs players will be a big concern this week as they prepare for the Big One. Starting cornerback L'Jarius Sneed is in concussion protocol, two of Mahomes targets at wide receiver are hurting as JuJu-Smith Schuster (78 receptions, 933 yards, 3 TDs during regular season) has a knee injury and speedy wideout Mecole Hardman has a pelvis injury. Starting linebacker Will Gay Jr., suffered a shoulder injury in KC's 23-20 win over Cincinnati in the AFC title game.

Mahomes (5,250 passing yards, 41 TDs during regular season) is also dinged up as he sustained a high ankle sprain in the Divisional round win against Jacksonville. The former Texas Tech star did return to the game and played all of the AFC title game. In two playoff games, Mahomes has thrown for 521 yards and has tossed 4 TDs. Having an extra week to rehab the ankle should have Mahomes at just about full speed come Sunday.

If Schuster and Hardman are out on Sunday, Mahomes will once again look to Mr. Reliable, tight end Travis Kelce (110 receptions, 1,338 yards, 11 TDs). In two playoff games, Kelce has grabbed 21 catches for 176 yards and 3 TDs. He tweaked his back two days before the Cinci game, but should be good to go for the SB. If Schuster and Hardman are out, or limited come Sunday, KC will need fellow wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling to step up. He played well in the AFC title game grabbing eight passes for 116 yards and a touchdown.

Rookie running back Isi-

ah Pacheco (930 rushing yards, 3 TDs in regular season) could be a key factor in this game, especially in the passing game. Pacheco has blazing speed and has started for a good portion of the season. Mahomes could look for him out of the backfield on screens and circle routes to let him do his thing in the open field.

Mahomes is the best QB in the NFL at the moment, but he will face a stern test Sunday when he faces an Eagles defense whose front seven has wreaked havoc all season long against opposing QBs.

The Philly defense has recorded 70 sacks this year and forced 27 turnovers (17 interceptions and 10 fumble recoveries). Philly became the first team in NFL history to have four defensive linemen record double-digit sacks. Javon Hargrove had 11, Hasson Riddick had 16 (3.5 in the playoffs and a fumble recovery), while Josh Sweat and Brandon Graham each recorded 11 sacks this season. The Eagles added 8 sacks in their first two playoff games.

The Chiefs offensive line will need to play its best game of the year and can't struggle like it did early against the Jags and Bengals. If Philly's front seven tees off on Mahomes early, it could be a long day for the Chiefs.

Offensively, Hurts (3,701 passing yards, 22 TDs/760 yards rushing, 13 TDs in regular season) has struggled in the passing game throwing for only 275 yards and 2 TDs in his first two playoff games. Big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (88 receptions, 1,496 yards, 11 TDs in regular season) and Devonta Smith (95 receptions, 1,196 yards, 7 TDs) have been limited in the post-season. Brown has been limited to 7 catches for just 50 yards and no TDs in the playoffs, while Smith has been limited to 8 catches

for 97 yards and 1 TD in the second season.

I expect that duo to get back on track against a suspect and beat up KC secondary. Should they struggle again, look for Hurts to turn to tight end Dallas Goedert (55 receptions, 702 yards, 3 TDs in regular season; 10 receptions, 81 yards, 1 TDs in playoffs).

Hurts could still be feeling the effects of a shoulder injury he sustained in Week 15 at Chicago. He hasn't been good throwing deep in the playoffs, and like Mahomes, perhaps the extra week of rest will help with his shoulder.

While the Eagles have struggled in the passing game, they have been rolling on the ground. In two playoff games, Philly has rushed for 416 yards (208 yards a game) and 7 touchdowns. Reserve running back Kenneth Gainwell has been the team's leading rusher in the postseason with 160 yards and 1 TD, while starter Miles Sanders (1,269 yards, 11 TDs in regular season) has added 132 yards and 2 TDs.

The KC defense will need a big game from defensive tackles Chris Jones (2 sacks in AFC title game) and Frank Clark to slow down the Philly running game and apply pressure to Hurts, who is an excellent scrambler.

The Eagles appear to be the better and healthier team on paper, but I think Mahomes' experience (this will be his third Super Bowl game in the last four years) will be a huge factor in the game, plus his big-play ability.

Hurts will make plays with his arm and legs and the Eagles defense will look to get to Mahomes early. Look for the KC offensive line to play its best game of the season. They, and Reid, know their only chance for a second Lombardi Trophy in the last four years rides on keeping Mahomes upright so he can make plays downfield to Kelce and his wideouts.

This has the potential to be a classic Super Bowl, and at the end of the day, Chief fans will be smiling once again thanks to No. 15. My pick, Kansas City 34, Philadelphia 30

## HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**  
**FEBRUARY 6-11TH**

**SIP AND PAINT:**  
 Monday at 5:30 PM. Join us for a fun painting program for adults.

Lula the Mighty Griot is coming to high meadows library. Join us for this awesome children's theatre program.

Family Time will be hosted every Saturday this month at 1 PM.

Krafty Kids: We have Krafty Kids happening every Tuesday at 4:30 PM. Kids of all ages are welcome to join.

Join us for our teen anime club. Otaku Out-

post will be held on Tuesday at 3pm.

The Art Thing is happening on Wednesday at 3 PM. Join us for a fun painting program.

Lunch and Learn Is this coming Friday at 1:30 PM. Join us for adult financial literacy.

**GRADCAFÉ:**  
 Every Tuesday we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library. GRADcafé is a one-stop-shop offering free services to help you decide on a career, explore education and training options, apply to college, and find the financial aid you need. Whether you want to attend

college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too young or old to get started. Services are available in English or Spanish.

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

**HERSHIRA BOONE-RODGERS**  
**ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER**  
 4500 ALDINE MAIL RTE RD  
 HOUSTON, TX 77039  
 281-590-1456

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**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, Feb. 1 from 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

**TEEN THURSDAY**  
 Teen Thursdays are a fun, safe environment for teens (ages 12-18) to hang out after school. Join us **Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOVIE**

In honor of Black History Month, we will be showing *The Woman King* Saturday, Feb. 11 starting at 2pm. Join us for this action-packed film depicting the Dahomey people's fight to uphold their freedom led by female warrior, Nansica. Inspired by true events. Rated PG-13.

**COMPUTER CLASSES**  
 In addition to our on-

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

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

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

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

**Thursdays:** various 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.  
 HOUSTON, TX 77037  
 832-927-5410

### CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 2023

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF WEEKS IS VARIABLE AND DEPENDS ON SPACE AVAILABILITY)  
 (POR FAVOR NOTAR QUE EL NUMERO DE SEMANAS ES VARIABLE Y DEPENDE DEL ESPACIO DISPONIBLE)

<b>JANUARY 15 – APRIL 30</b> EVERY SUNDAY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM <b>PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 19222 TOMBALL PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX 77070	<b>JANUARY 26 – APRIL 20</b> EVERY THURSDAY 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM <b>LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPPOINT CENTER</b> 250 N Sam Houston Parkway N HOUSTON, TX 77060	<b>FEBRUARY 11 – MAY 13</b> EVERY SATURDAY 9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON <b>ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 2131 Lauder Rd. HOUSTON, TX 77039		
<b>FEBRUARY 11 - MAY 13</b> EVERY SATURDAY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM <b>LONE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER</b> 2430 Aldine Mail Route HOUSTON, TX 77039	<b>FEBRUARY 11 - MAY 13</b> EVERY SATURDAY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM <b>ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX 77022	<b>FEBRUARY 18 – MAY 20</b> EVERY SATURDAY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM <b>NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 3220 Cypress Creek Parkway HOUSTON, TX 77068		
<b>FEBRUARY 25 – MAY 27</b> EVERY SATURDAY 10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM <b>ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 7810 CYPRESSWOOD DR. SPRING, TX 77379	<b>MARCH 20 – MAY 22</b> EVERY MONDAY 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM <b>CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 18511 Klein Church Rd. SPRING, TX 77379	<b>MARCH 24 – JUNE 16</b> EVERY FRIDAY 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM <b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 5356 11 <sup>th</sup> St. HOUSTON, TX 77493		
<b>MARCH 23 – JUNE 15</b> EVERY THURSDAY 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM <b>CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MATTHEW</b> 9101 AIRLINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77037	For your convenience Bonding Against Adversity is available in two offices at: ( <i>Para su conveniencia, Bonding Against Adversity está disponible en dos oficinas en:</i> ) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">                     Lone Star College Greenspoint Center Building                      250 N Sam Houston Parkway E                      Suite # 304                      Houston, Tx 77060                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">                     Lone Star College East Aldine Center                      2430 Aldine Mail Route                      Suite # 203 G                      Houston, Tx 77039                 </td> </tr> </table>		Lone Star College Greenspoint Center Building 250 N Sam Houston Parkway E Suite # 304 Houston, Tx 77060	Lone Star College East Aldine Center 2430 Aldine Mail Route Suite # 203 G Houston, Tx 77039
Lone Star College Greenspoint Center Building 250 N Sam Houston Parkway E Suite # 304 Houston, Tx 77060	Lone Star College East Aldine Center 2430 Aldine Mail Route Suite # 203 G Houston, Tx 77039			

**For additional information, call 281-799-9076 or text 832-906-4214**

BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Access Programs  
[WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG)



## SENIORS UNITED COMMUNITY

**11:30AM-1PM**

Seniors ages 60+ are welcome to join us along with EVERYONE-Counts for our monthly get togethers! Join us for prizes and resources from community partners. Must call to register.

¡Las personas mayores de 60 años pueden unirse a nosotros junto con EVERYONE-Counts para nuestras reuniones mensuales! Únase a nosotros para obtener premios y recursos de socios de la comunidad. Debe llamar para registrarse.

January/enero 19	April/abril 20	July/julio 13
February/febrero 16	May/mayo 18	August/agosto 24
March/marzo 16	June/junio 15	October/octubre 19

**LOCATION | UBICACIÓN**

BakerRipley East Aldine Campus  
3000 Aldine Mail Rt. Rd, Houston, TX. 77039

**(346) 570-4463**

# History of Valentine's Day

### VALENTINE'S DAY - HISTORY

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from?

#### THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE

Saint Valentine, who according to some sources is actually two distinct historical characters who were said to have healed a child while imprisoned and executed by decapitation.

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

#### WHO WAS THE REAL ST. VALENTINE?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

#### ORIGINS OF VALENTINE'S DAY: A PAGAN FESTIVAL

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or

February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

#### WHO IS CUPID?

Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros.

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

#### TYPICAL VALENTINE'S DAY GREETINGS

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas).



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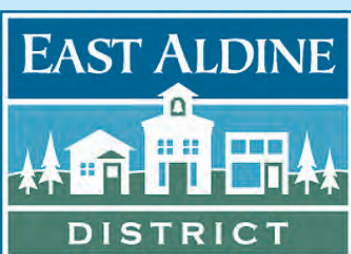
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## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### District Response Team Moves against Illegal Businesses, Encampments.

When a dangerous gang from the infamous Aryan Brotherhood set up camp on a remote and abandoned lot in East Aldine, Sheriff's Office deputies from the East Aldine Management District's Response Team targeted the location.

The deputies' efforts were aided, in no small part, by the gang's dangerously stupid attempt to pirate electricity from a CenterPoint transmission line — with a hook-up that included jumper cables.

The ill-fated connection caused the gang's dilapidated trailer home to catch fire and burn to the ground. "They're lucky nobody got killed," said Senior Dep. Ray Radney. Senior Dep. Jose Peña, added: "I didn't even know you could do that without killing yourself."

The incident is just one of the many efforts by the District Response Team, a special group of deputies who are out to rid East Aldine of unsightly, hazardous and illegal operations in the 20-square mile unincorporated area of north Harris County.



From illegal game rooms to lots overgrown with weeds or filled with abandoned vehicles, dumped tires, mattresses and furniture, the deputies are tasked with cleaning up East Aldine to improve residents' safety and security.

In some cases, their job involves helping elderly residents get access to social services or housing assistance. In others, they filed charges for illegal dumping against two scofflaws from Houston who were caught on security cameras unloading their trash in Keith-Wiess Park.



**DEPUTY RAY RADNEY**

Recently, the deputies began keeping an eye on several houses damaged by 2017's Hurricane Harvey to make sure the houses slated for demolition in the county's buy-out program are clear and safe before being

torn down. They recently had to evict homeless people who had taken up residence in a house that had partially burned down.

"I really do like to think that we put people before properties," Radney said. "A lot of this area was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. And a lot of people are literally still trying to resolve issues and get back on their feet. We do try to be understanding, we just don't want to come out like 'We're the big bad police, so you better do this or that.'"

"Sometimes we find an older person who just needs a little help," Radney said.

That was not the case with the Aryan Brotherhood gang, who had threatened the property owner with machetes and automatic weapons.



Their disastrous fire (and a methamphetamine lab) allowed the deputies to file criminal charges and eviction orders. Although it took nearly a year, Harris County cleared the land by placing a lien on the property. It has since been sold to the Harris County Flood Control District.

Similar encampments, marked by campers and trailers, occasionally end up on vacant properties, like one spot where a New York property owner was unaware of the squatters. Although the nuisance abatement team issued eviction orders, a woman claimed that she had the right to live on the land "because she was Native American," Radney said. Peña scoffed, adding: "She really was Native American — from South Dakota. Fortunately, there was an outstanding warrant for her arrest."

For reasons neither deputy can explain, such camps attract people who collect massive amounts of junk cars, machinery, and tons of used tires. "They just drag all of this crap on there, like they think they're going to be able to use it again and then it just piles up," Radney said.

"I really have no idea what they're thinking, with all the (stuff) they collect." But, he added, there is a sense of satisfaction in getting such properties cleaned up.

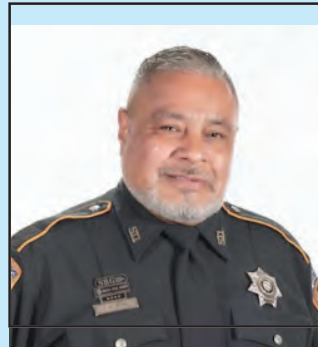
"There's not a lot of law enforcement work that you can actually see. It's not a product, or a result, at the end of the day. Even if it takes a year sometimes, you get satisfaction from it," Radney said. "It's the same kind of good feeling I get from mowing my yard."

The DRT also is responsible for cracking down on illegal activities at certain businesses such as sexually oriented clubs, chop shops and illegal game rooms. Nuisance abatement is about far more than just cleaning up the East Aldine area, Radney said.

"What we're trying to do is get at the root of the problem," he explained. "Instead of just making a single arrest, we're getting at the owners of a property for allowing criminal activities to continue. They bear a lot of the responsibility for crime."

"We work with the County Attorney's Office, and when they file suit, they like to say they 'sue the dirt.' I guess that gets their (the owners') attention. Because money talks, when you're going to lose your business unless you clean it up." And, keeping the area clean and attractive deters crime, Radney said. "Shutdown properties can attract crime. It affects the quality of life. People have to live around it," Radney said.

—by Anne Marie Kilday



**DEPUTY JOSE PENA**