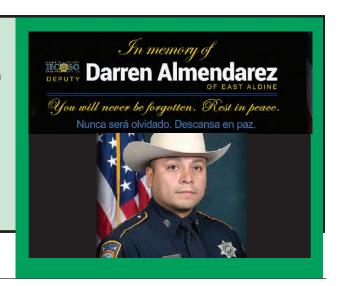
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NEWS NOTES

BAA holds Civic Engagement Event

New citizens gain voting information, experience

APR. 8, SATURDAY EAMD and BakerRipley host an **EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

East Aldine District and BakerRipley host an Eggstravaganza at the East Aldine Town Center, 3000 Aldine Mail

Join us for an egg hunt, food trucks, games, arts & crafts, family photo station, door prizes and more. This is a fun event for the whole

Call 346-570-4463 to register.

Flor Almendarez testifies for bill to curb Catalytic converter thefts



AUSTIN - Flor Zarzoza Almendarez, the widow of a Harris County sheriff's deputy who was murdered while confronting suspected catalytic converter thieves last year gave powerful testimony last week to state senators pushing Senate Bill 224, otherwise known as the Deputy Darren Almendarez Act.

The bill, which is named for her late husband, adds a specific theft offense in the penal code for catalytic converter theft. It also creates a penalty

Walle files bill to name road for Almendarez

Rep. Armando Walle has filed House Bill 2205 to designate a portion of United States Highway 59 in Harris County as the Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway. The name change honors the life of Almendarez, who was shot and killed last spring while off-duty when he found three men attempting to steal a catalytic converter from his vehicle.

"Deputy Sheriff Almendarez was my constituent and, most importantly, my friend," Rep. Walle said. "By renaming this highway, we show respect to his memory and to his life of service to Harris County and to our community. We will never forget Darren, and I know everyone that loved him will spend the rest of our lives honoring his legacy and remembering his spirit.

Community gets involved Beyond Citizenship

By Julieta Paita

EAST ALDINE - As part of its new BEYOND CITIZENSHIP program, Bonding Against Adversity (BAA) hosted a Civic Engagement Roundtable at the East Aldine Management District (EAMD) building on March 18.

Special thanks to guest speaker, EAMD Executive Director and President of the Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees, Richard Cantu, who shared his personal experience and story as a 30 year public servant in Aldine and Houston areas. Attendees included new or about to be sworn-in citizens who were eager to know about the duties and responsibilities of candidates when elected. Cantu addressed all of their questions by providing samples of those responsibilities at a city level. Cantu is also a candidate for Houston City Council at - Large, Pos. 3 for the upcoming elections on May 6, 2023.

Shirley Wong, Outreach Continued. See Civic

Engagement, Page 5

Attendees at Civic Engagement Roundtable at East Aldine building. A large group participated.



Richard Cantu, EAMD Executive Director and and President of the Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees talks about responsibilities and duties of local oficials. BAA's Mariana Sanchez also participated in the discussion.



Participants practice on new voting machines. Shirley Wong, Harris County Elections Outreach Strategic Coordinator is next to them explaining the process. (Photos by Julieta Paita)

College won't renew **Chancellor's Contract**

HOUSTON - On March 1, 2023, the Houston Community College (HCC) Board of Trustees voted not to extend Chancellor Cesar Maldonado's contract beyond its expiration date of August 31, 2023. HCC issued the following: Statement from HCC Board Chair Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary Relating to HCC Chancellor's Contract:

"Chancellor Maldonado has had a notable nineyear run, in part, expanding student achievement, ensuring a high credit rating for our institution, forging value-added partnerships with the community, and expanding the mission, vision and strate-

gic priorities of HCC. On behalf of the HCC governing board, we celebrate the successes of HCC under the leadership of Dr. Cesar Maldonado and extend our gratitude for his leadership and longstanding service as HCC's Chancellor."

About Houston Commu-



CESAR MALDONADO HCC CHANCELLOR

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

Houston Community Over 1000 homes rebuilt after disasters

GLO helps after hurricane, flooding

Harris County and Houston Community Rebuilds with the **Help of Texas General Land**

HOUSTON - (Contributed Story) The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has worked tirelessly to help residents of Harris County and Houston to recover from disasters such as Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda. The GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) has rebuilt more than 1,000 homes in Houston and Harris County, with nearly 1,000 more approved or currently under

construction. At a recent event, Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., presented the keys to Earnestine Henry, an 86-year-old Houstonian whose 72-year-old home was flooded with 17 inches of water during the hurricane, causing significant damage. Henry's home is just one of the many success stories of the GLO's HAP program.

"No other state or terri-



A milestone was marked by the presentation of keys to Earnestine Henry, an 86 year old Houstonian whose 72 year old home was flooded with 17 inches of water during Hurricane Harvey causing significant damage.

tory has performed like Texas in the recovery from Harvey," said Buckingham. "In total, the GLO has helped more than 10,000 Texas homeowners and renters by rebuilding homes and affordable rental units."

Ms. Henry's home is

now energy efficient and resilient against future storms. GLO homes meet the housing needs of the residents, including those with mobility challenges. On average, homes rebuilt

Continued. See 1000 homes Rebuilt, Page 5

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, March 23, 2022

Dear Aldine Community,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Spring Break! As we begin the last nine weeks of school, it is full steam ahead. There are lots of upcoming opportunities for our students and families. Let's stay connected and engaged as we power through the final quarter of the school

SEL WeekSupporting the students' and staff members' well-being is one of the district's strategic priorities. We have been intentional in our work, providing all students with safe and secure learning environments that focus on every student's social, emotional, and cultural needs. We focus on building relationships and connections with students and their families. When you teach from the heart, you inspire change and positive outcomes for students.

This week, we are celebrating SEL Week in Aldine. Check out the flyer with activities and tag us on Twitter using @SELCulture_AISD!

TeenBookConThe district is hosting TeenBookCon this Saturday, March 25, at Davis HS. The mission of TeenBook-Con is close to my heart since it focuses on an important priority — reading. My love of reading began with trips to garage sales with my Big Mama. It's where I discovered Nancy Drew, The Babysitters Club, and others. Reading has opened so many doors for me. And I want the same for our students. It can take that one book, series, or author to spark a love of reading. This is why opportunities like TeenBookCon to connect teens with authors matter. I hope our young adult readers take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. Click here to register to

GIRLS Empowerment SummitMarch is Women's History Month. If there's one thing I know is that empowered women empower women. Women in leadership can and do help young females by encouraging and guiding them in their respective fields or inspiring them. I am proud to announce a great new opportunity for our graduating female high school students. On March 30, the district will host its inaugural GIRLS Summit. The students will hear from three diverse, inspiring women. Our goal is to have our young women leave the summit believing in their own powers and self-worth. They have Grit, are Irreplaceable, are Resilient, will leave a Legacy, and cultivate Self-love.

PreK Enrollment ExpoWe know that $kindergarten\ and\ first\mbox{-}grade\ readiness$ aren't based on age but on a set of skills. Children start school with different language and literacy skills. Early childhood learning is the key to leveling the playing field and closing those learning gaps.

Aldine offers many choices for eligible families, like our free, full-day programs for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds (Head Start/ PreK/K). We have great neighborhood schools, Choice Schools with specialized programs, and schools that offer dual language instruction in English and español. Families can join us at our PreK Enrollment Expo on Saturday, April 1. They can meet with teachers and school leaders from all our early childhood schools and learn about district resources like special education, English language learners, student transportation, gifted and talented, and more. Click here for details about the event.

Soñadores SummitThere is a quote by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk that states, "A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others." It's a great analogy showing that we educators exist to assist students in pursuing their dreams. Aldine ISD is committed to ensuring all our students have the opportunity to pursue their educational goals, regardless of residency status — all means all. The inaugural Soñadores Summit on Saturday, April 15, is part of our commitment to providing students with resources and support. For my non-Spanish-speaking friends, soñadores translates to "dreamers." The summit will offer a college fair, admission and financial aid lab, and more. Click here for details.

Festival de PrimaveraAldine is a diverse school district. I am always impressed when I hear that more than 45 languages are spoken in Aldine. Another district goal in our strategic plan is to expand communication to meet our families' needs. The district has contracted with a company to provide telephonic interpretation in multiple languages for our families that need them. These services include 37 languages other than Spanish and ASL. This is a huge step forward in communicating with our

I am also excited to announce that Aldine will host our 2nd Annual Festival de Primavera. Once again, the event will be entirely in español so families can learn about Aldine, like our programs and student opportunities. I encourage our Spanish-speaking community to join us at the M.O. Campbell Educational



Center on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. We'll share more details as they become available.

Congratulations & Shout-outsYa'll, I do look at social media. It's a great way to see all the happenings throughout the district. I also see the great things students are doing and achieving. Congratulations to our MacArthur High School and Eisenhower HS speech and debate students who made it to the UIL Texas State Debate Tournament!

I loved seeing our students at Eisenhower High School continuing their journey with the Newcomer Empowerment Initiative with Dr. José Luis Zelaya. Students gain life skills to be successful, like believing in themselves and individual responsibility. We want them to develop grit or ganas en español.

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendent of SchoolsTwitter: @drgoffneyContact Me

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Now-March 24: Window for the AISD Employee Student Transfer Renewal form for 2023-2024.

March 25: Aldine ISD is hosting TeenBookCon at Davis HS. Click here for details and to register.

March 30: GIRLS Empowerment Summit (Click here)

April 1: PreK Expo Enrollment (Click

April 15: Soñadores Summit from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Aldine High School -For students born in and outside the U.S. (Click here for details)

Now-April 21: Free GED and ESL classes for AISD parents with a student enrolled in the bilingual or ESL program in AISD. Click here for details and to

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

April 29: AISD's 2nd Annual Festival de Primavera (an all-Spanish event), from 9 a.m. to noon, at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center

Now-June 1: AISD is applying to receive its share of ARP ESSER III (ESSER III) funding as determined by the Texas Education Agency. Aldine ISD seeks feedback from all district and community stakeholders to help determine how the district should best utilize these resources. Click here to take the

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

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

March

Mar. 20: Start of Nine Weeks (Traditional)

Mar. 20-24: Aldine ISD SEL Week (Click here)

Mar. 22: ENVI2ION School Day

March 27: Report cards are to be available to students and families on

Mar. 29: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY)

REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Outside food and beverages are prohibited on all secondary school campuses (middle, ninth-grade, and high school campuses) premises. 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.

The Lone Star Adventure: Aldine Student Ambassadors **Explore the Texas State Capitol** in Austin



The Aldine Independent School District's superintendent student ambassadors recently had the opportunity to visit the capital of Texas, in Austin. The students were excited to take part in this unique opportunity. During the visit, the student ambassadors toured the state capitol building and learned more about the political process and how the legislative process works in Texas. The students were hosted by Texas Representative Senfronia Thompson, who welcomed them to Austin and spoke with them about the importance of education and leadership.

"The students did a great job representing the school district," said Assistant Superintendent of Governmental Affairs and Constituent Services Abel Garza. "Students received a civics lesson on the legislative process and a history lesson on Texas politics. For many, it was their first time visiting the capital, and it was special to see them take in the moment."

Carol Alvarado, a Texas Senator, also recognized the students for their outstanding accomplishments and encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives. Overall, the Aldine ISD student ambassadors had an unforgettable experience in Austin. They gained valuable insight into the workings of state government and had the chance to meet some of Texas's influential leaders, including State Representative Armando Walle. This trip was a testament to the district's commitment to providing its students with unique and enriching educational experiences that will prepare them for success in the future.

Aldine ISD to Host Community Meetings



Aldine ISD will host five community ilies about the latest district news. Hear tions listed below: campus updates, and learn about our Tuesday, April 4, at Aldine High numerous programs, choices, and opportunities for Aldine ISD students. Topics include safety and security, accomplishments, summer learning experiences, college and career opportunities, and more. All faculty, staff, parents, students, and community members are invited to attend.

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Aldine ISD Trustees, and district leaders will be present to answer your questions.

Community meetings will be held meetings this spring to inform our fam- from 6-7:30 p.m. on the dates and loca-

> School Thursday, April 20, at Eisenhower

> High School Thursday, April 27, at Davis High

Thursday, May 4, at MacArthur High

Thursday, May 11, at Nimitz High

The event will be streamed live on AISD's Facebook page for those who cannot attend.

5 Aldine ISD Soccer Teams Earn Playoff Berths

Going into the season, Aldine ISD's boys and girls soccer teams knew district matches would be competitive and wins would be earned, not given. The coaches used this opportunity to build resilient student-athletes who grew as a team throughout the season.

Both MacArthur teams accomplished a rare feat, each going 14-0 in District 14-6A play. In addition to an incredible regular season, MacArthur boys' head coach, Salvador Fernández, earned his 200th career win in the fourth game of district play. Last year, the Generals reached the Region 2 Finals, one game away from earning a trip to the Class 6A State Soccer Tournament. The girls' head coach, Saúl Zamora, has built confidence in his team, preparing them for the upcoming playoffs.

After securing his 100th career win during district play, head coach Mark Kuehl led the Aldine High Lady Mustangs school girls to a 2nd place finish in District 14-6A, showing they are ready for an extended playoff run. Coach Melbin Barahona led the Aldine senior boys' team to a second-place finish in league play.

Not to be outdone, coach Daniel Bui at Eisenhower High School showed his boys' team belongs in a competitive district, leading them to a third-place finish.



All five AISD soccer teams will open play in the Class 6A State Soccer Tournament this week. The schedule is as

*The MacArthur boys take on New Caney at Randall Reed Stadium in New Caney on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets for MacArthur vs. Caney

*The Aldine girls play at Grand Oaks High School on Friday, March 24 at 6 p.m. vs. Willis.

*The Aldine boys take on College Park at Woodforest Bank Stadium on Friday, March 24, at 7:30 p..m. Tickets for this match can be purchased HERE.

*The Eisenhower boys face off against Grand Oaks at Planet Ford Stadium on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for Eisenhower's match can be purchased online HERE.

*The MacArthur girls take on College Park at CE King Panther Stadium on Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

OPINION PAGE *

OPINION

By Public Citizen and Air Alliance Houston

TCEQ reluctance is damaging to our communities

Everyday Texans demand bold people-focused reforms to the state's environmental agency

AUSTIN, Texas - Community members and advocates from across the state told a state House committee today that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is ineffective, leaving their neighborhoods unprotected and at the mercy of corporate polluters.

The Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation hearing was to consider House Bill 1505 by state Rep. Keith Bell, R-Forney, also commonly called the TCEQ Sunset bill.

Sunset is the state's process for auditing its agencies and provides an opportunity for reforms.

"Too much pollution is something we live with every day in my neighborhood," said Delores McGruder, a resident of Houston's Fifth Ward who traveled to the Capitol today. "People feel like they are being left to fend for themselves against these big facilities that put toxic pollutants into our air, land, and water. The TCEQ is supposed to protect people, but we don't see it happening. All we are asking for from the legislature is a much better TCEQ that sides with us first."

While the bill's current iteration contains some favorable provisions - such as increasing maximum fines for polluters – it needs to do more. At today's hearing, advocates and community members asked lawmakers for improvements.

Public Citizen and Air Alliance Houston support the current version of the bill but are requesting improvements that include:

—Directing the TCEQ to consider the cumulative effects on health of approving multiple air permits in the same neighborhoods

—Clarifying that permit application virtual public meetings will supplement, not replace, existing in-person meetings

-Removing "economic development" from the agency's mission statement, which has led the agency to protect industry interests over public

-Requiring the agency to consider environmental justice in permitting and enforcement.

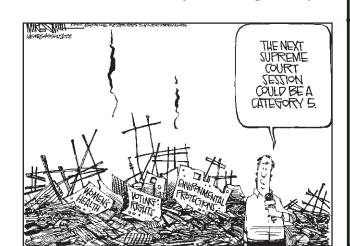
As part of the Sunset review, the state issued a report last year which called the TCEQ a "reluctant regulator," echoing community concerns that the agency too often sides with polluters and their profits rather than local neighborhoods and public health.

"The TCEQ needs to go from reluctant to responsive and effective," Adrian Shelley, Texas director of Public Citizen said. "Too many Texans in some of the most vulnerable communities live with a polluting facility not far from their front door. Lawmakers must take this opportunity to pass a bill that makes bold changes to an agency that needs it. A healthier Texas is possible when we protect people, not polluters."

"We appreciate the efforts of the Committee to improve the effectiveness of the TCEQ. Unfortunately, HB1505 misses the opportunity to make truly transformative change that would finally prioritize people over polluters," said Genesis Granados, Environmental Justice Programs Manager at Air Alliance Houston. "Without such fundamental changes as a permitting process that considers all pollution sources in a community and the removal of economic development from its mission, TCEQ will continue protecting industry interests when it should be protecting public health."

The bill is considered must-pass legislation that will reauthorize the agency's function until its next Sunset review cycle in about 12 years. An identical bill in the Senate, SB 1397, has been filed but has yet to receive a hearing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Senate Passes Tax Cut Package

The Texas Senate last week unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

As reported by the Texas Tribune, the three separate bills require the state to send at least \$5.38 billion to public schools while at the same time raising the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with an additional \$20,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. According to the Tribune, the proposal would save an average homeowner \$341 on their annual tax bill. Seniors would save an additional \$227 annually.

In exchange for the increased state funding, local school property tax rates would be cut by 7 cents for every \$100 in appraised value. An owner of a \$300,000 home paying the state's average school tax rate would save \$210 annually in property taxes.

"This is off-the-charts, incredible property tax relief for millions of Texas homeowners," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR MAY 6 ELECTION NEARS

The deadline for eligible Texas voters to register in order to vote in the May 6 local elections is just around the corner, Secretary State Jane Nelson announced.

"If you are not already registered to vote in the upcoming local elections - there is still time! Make sure to submit your voter registration application to your county voter registrar by Thursday, April 6 so that you can have an opportunity to make your voice heard in your local com-

munity," Nelson said. Check with the local elections office to learn which municipalities, school districts and other entities are holding elections. Early voting begins on April 24 and ends on May 2, with Election Day on May 6.

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR **STATE WORKERS?**

For the first time, state employees could get 30 days of paid leave for childbirth or adoption. A bipartisan bill passed the Texas Senate last week with unanimous sup-



The Austin American-Statesman reported that Senate Bill 222, besides allowing the 30 days of paid leave, would apply to anyone paying into the Employee Retirement System of Texas; to employees working within the executive branch of state government; and give 10 days of paid leave to employees whose spouse gave birth.

"Paid parental leave will help the state attract and retain talent while combating the workforce shortage," the bill's main sponsor, state Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, said. A similar bill in the House would grant 60 days of paid leave under the same circumstances detailed in the Senate bill.

AGENCY WARNS OF DANGEROUS DRUG COMBINATION

An animal tranquilizer called xylazine has been found mixed with illegal drugs distributed in the state, resulting in at least four deaths, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported.

The tranquilizer has been combined with fentanyl and other opioids, as well as Xanax and other drugs. It produces a strong sedative effect and can cause unconsciousness, low blood pressure, a slowed heart rate and breathing. It can also cause organ damage due to

loss of blood flow. Since it is not an opioid, the effects of xylazine cannot be reversed by using Narcan, officials said.

NEW FOSTER CARE MODEL

Community groups representing nearly 50 counties in North and East Texas are assuming oversight of foster care from the state of Texas in a groundbreaking attempt

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conservatorship. Three contracts were signed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and private groups. One serves Dallas County along with eight surrounding counties. Another serves 23 counties in Northeast Texas, while a third serves the Beaumont-Port Arthur area.

"This largest expansion to date for Community-Based Care is a real turning point in our state's intensive effort to move to local control, and a better system overall for the children and youth in our care," Stephanie Muth, DFPS commissioner, said. "Those kids belong to their communities, and those communities want the opportunity to make every day better for a child in foster care."

The expansion means that community-based care is now in place in half of the state geographically, representing a third of the population.

FIRST CASE OF AVIAN FLU IN MAMMALS IN TEXAS

A striped skunk recovered from Carson County in the Panhandle has been confirmed as the first case of avian flu in a mammal in the state.

Officially called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is a highly contagious virus transmitted easily among wild and domestic birds. It has been detected in all states except Hawaii, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Transmission occurs through consumption of infected animal carcasses. Symptoms include stumbling, tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, coughing and sneezing or sudden death.

While transmission risk from infected birds to people remains low, precautions should be taken, such as wearing gloves and face masks if in contact with wild animals, TPWD advised.

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING DRAWS HUNDREDS

A Senate Education Committee meeting on proposals that would give parents public money for private schools drew about 200 people and stretched past midnight last Thursday the Statesman reported.

Supporters spoke about allowing school choice and financial relief for parents of private school students, while opponents warned against siphoning money from public districts, lack of oversight and using taxpayer money for religious schools.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, is sponsoring Senate Bill 8, which would provide \$8,000 per child for private school, homeschooling, tutoring or other educational costs. He told the Statesman that education savings accounts would not hurt public schools.

POSTSCRIPT Carrie Classon

"Enough Steps"

Anxiety likes numbers. I only recently realized that a lot of my anxiety fixates on meaningless numbers. I like to know how many there are of a particular thing and then attach meanings—usually sinister, sometimes hopeful, always unreasonable—to these numbers.

How many words are in this column? Six hundred exactly. Why are there 600 words? Because I once read that 600 words was a good length for a column, I have always written exactly 600. Never more. Never less. But if my wonderful editor suggests I let an extra word in or suggests a hyphen that makes two words become one, does this bother me? I am proud to tell you this does not bother me—very much.

How many pounds do I weigh? How many pounds should I weigh? Does the fact that I weigh less today mean I am at a better weight? If I weigh less tomorrow, would that be better still? How many days would it be better? When would it no longer be better? Because there is no exact answer to this question, I've decided it's better not to weigh myself. Instead, I take notice if I can no longer get into my pants.

How many steps have I taken? How many should I take? Should it bother me that I took 500 fewer steps today than I took yesterday? Should I try to take 500 more tomorrow? What if that works out to be an odd number? Wouldn't it be better if it were a nice even number? Should I run around the bed a few times until there are at least two zeros at the end of whatever number it is? For obvious reasons, I have never had a fitness watch. It was my brother-in-law who pointed out that a watch that counted my steps would be a very bad idea. I was a little embarrassed that he knew me so well.

Waiting also increases anxiety, and that's what I'm doing right now. I'm waiting to see if a publisher is interested in my first novel. How many days will it take an editor to read my novel before replying? How many days would it take them if they liked it? How many days will it take them if they hated it? At what hour of the day will I know that I am waiting for nothing? Will I ever know?

This is a very long process-and I knew it would be. But knowing something will take a long time and actually waiting for it—day by day, week by week, sometimes minute by minuteis a very different thing. It makes me worry more about other things—like whether I have more or less hair than I used to and how much sugar I am eating. It makes me take longer walks than usual, and it makes me grateful to my brother-in-law, once again, because I do not have a fitness watch.

Instead, I just walk. I realize that whatever I weigh, it's about right. I realize that, in reality, I have not been waiting very long for publishers to read. I realize that my hair is actually looking pretty good these days (a stranger even gave me a compliment!), and I probably don't need to worry about going bald. And, after enough steps (although I cannot tell you how many), I realize, once again, what a lucky girl I am to be able to do all these wonderful things and have all these wonderful opportunities.

I'd tell you more, but I've hit 600 words—exactly.

Till next time,

Carrie

Check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.



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Almendarez testifies,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

enhancement for those who possess a firearm during the

Nearly one year ago, Almendarez was killed while confronting suspected thieves who were reportedly in the process of stealing a catalytic converter from his personal truck outside a grocery store.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said Deputy Darren Almendarez protected his wife in his final moments.

"But I shouldn't be living in fear, because I am not going to give up. I'm not," Flor Zarzoza-Almendarez said. "My husband gave up his life for me, and not just me, for the community.

During her testimony, Zarzoza-Almendarez described the moment she and her husband left the store, and her life changed forever

"All I remember him saying was, 'Wait baby. Just wait right here.' Just a few feet from me. The next thing I hear? Run," Zarzoza-Almendarez recalled. "This whole time, we're just looking at each other. I was looking at him. And just that image of me turning around, hearing the gunshot... but I didn't think he got shot

because he was such a brave

The fallen deputy is being remembered as a man who loved serving his community. Here, ABC13's Charly Edsitty explores who he was and his

"[I] turn around all I hear is 'Call 911.' [He's] walking around, he's just walking around," she continued.

"I see my husband, he approaches me, we hug," the widow recalled. "But I know, when we held onto each other, he just told me he couldn't breathe and that he loved me. We kissed, and that was his last breath."

Three people were arrested and charged with Almendarez's murder. Their cases are currently working through the legal system.

Investigators said they were part of a bigger catalytic converter theft ring.

Zarzoza-Almendarez told the senate committee she goes to every single hearing because she's not giving up on getting justice for her husband.

The bill has advanced out of committee and now heads to the senate floor for a full

BAA Civic Engagement,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Strategic Coordinator with The Harris County Elections Administration office explained to attendees in detail voters' registration process, important dates for the upcoming elections on May 6 and once registered, how to get their corresponding sample ballot at www.harrisvotes.com. A voting machine was also on site available to all participants to practice how to vote and get familiar with the new voting machines which now have a scanner where voters must cast their printed ballot with their selections obtained from the voting machine in order to be counted.

Voters' registration from League of Women Voters was also available for those who wanted to register at that moment.

"The Civic Engagement Roundtable was a success and Bonding Against Adversity plans to keep engaging new sworn-in citizens and the communitv in general BEYOND CITIZENSHIP with more Roundtables like this one as part of the new program." Mariana Sanchez, BAA Chief Operation Officer said.



Citizens registering to vote



Participants practice on new voting machines,

1000 Homes rebuilt, **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**



Texas GLO Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee, and Harris County Commissioners Adrian Garcia, Rodney Ellis, Tom Ramsey, and Lesley Briones

through the Homeowner Assistance Program increase the value of the property by \$85,765. Not only is the homeowner's investment protected, but their safety is

The GLO's HAP program has successfully reached the hardest-hit, low and moderate-income, vulnerable, and historically hard-to-reach families and individuals in Houston, as defined by the Fair Housing Act and required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Programs administered by the GLO have significantly outperformed the federal requirement. 80% of GLO disaster recovery funds help those most in need, even though HUD only requires 70%. Nearly 90 percent of all approved applicants identify as Black or Hispanic, and 89 percent of homeowners are considered low-to-moderate income, with 63 percent of applicants making less than 30 percent of the area median income.

Of her new home, Ms. Henry stated, "To the GLO, I thank you all. You all have helped us very, very much. God is still blessing me."

The GLO's HAP program is not just about rebuilding homes; it's about rebuilding communities. The program's success is evident in the stories of people like Earnestine Henry, who can finally return to her house and rebuild her life after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey

Protecting our Community Invest-

On Tuesday, March 14, Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., held a joint press conference with members of the Harris County Commissioners Court.

Since her first day in office, Commissioner Buckingham has made it her commitment to serve all Texans impacted by natural disasters and to do it well. One of her top priorities is to streamline communication between local and state officials and the General Land Office. As a former member of the Texas Senate, she recognizes that it is essential to work together to ensure remaining unspent disaster recovery funds are used to benefit the people of Harris County and Houston both efficiently and effectively.

Commissioner Buckingham understands the necessity for collaboration with Harris County leadership in order to best serve our mutual constituents, and this press conference will mark a new beginning for disaster recovery in the Harris County region. Commissioner Adrian Garcia has graciously offered to host the event at the Leonel Castillo Community Center in his district, and Commissioners Rodney Ellis, Tom Ramsey, and Lesley Briones joined together for the announcement.

"My goal is simple, serve the people we are supposed to serve and do it well," added Buckingham. "This collaboration is critically important as time is running out. We are in a use it or lose it situation as these federal dollars go away if they are not used by August 2026. I want to thank the members of the Harris County Commissioners Court for your partnership and communication on this topic. Together we will work to identify HUD eligible projects and ensure these dollars are used to protect Harris County communities from future flooding and other elements."



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.

iLas 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 February/febrero 16 March/marzo 16

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

RESUME 101 Learn to create a re-

sume for jobs, college applications, scholarships, and more! This program is for teens ages 15+.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME Join us in the library

for story time in English and Spanish now on Tuesdays 11:00am!

KID'S CLUB

It's that time again: Lego Night! Kids 5 and up come and join us Wednesday, Mar. 29, 4:30pm!

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.

MINDFULNES FOR TEENS

Teens ages 12 to 18 can learn stress relief techniques through mindfulness with Creative Minds Center. Saturday, Apr. 1, 2-3pm.

COMO MANTENER LA CALMA EN MOMENTOS DE CRISIS

- En este taller abor-

daremos las razones biologicas y fisiologicas relacionadas con el estres y la ansiedad y como salir de estos estados.

- Ven y aprende herramientas para controlar la ansiedad y el estres en cuestion de minutos.

- Conoce tecnicas de res-

piracion y meditación. Saturday, Apr. 1, 3-4pm, con Creative Monds Center, solo en español

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MOVIE

Join us for a celebration of Women's History Month with movies based on real women who have made differences and contributions to American History! Snacks provided. Saturday, Apr. 1, 2pm.

COMPUTER CLASSES We have computer

classes in Spanish and in English, online and in-person. If you want to participate, call us to register: 832-927-5410.

Wednesdays: Cloud **Computing - Office 365** & Excel (free version), (English, Online), 5-7pm

Thursdays: Office 365 - PowerPoint I (Spanish, in person), 5-7pm

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.

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

CHURCH PAGE

money by force? John the Baptist, Paul, Mark, Matthew

5. What Canaanite city was burned down by the men

6. In which book is the phrase, "Salt of the earth"?

of Dan? Tarsus, Antioch, Laish, Cana

TITLE: None, Matthew, Mark, Jude

BIBLE TRIVIA

I beseech you therefore,

brethren, by the mercies

of God, that you present

your bodies a living sacrifice,

holy, acceptable to God,

which is your

reasonable service.

ROMANS 12:1 20

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Thyatira (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Who was David's oldest brother who picked on him for coming to the battle lines? Abner, Omri, Amasa, Eliab

3. After Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, who lived in a cave with his daughters? Job, Lot, Levi, Joel 4. In Luke 3, who told Roman soldiers to avoid taking

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Eliab, 3) Lot, 4) John the Baptist, 5) Laish, 6) Matthew 5:13 Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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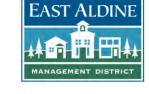
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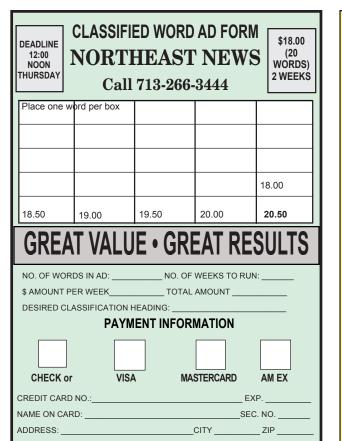
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by Dana Jackson

Q:I want to see the new film "Jesus Revolution," but I don't like going to movie theaters. Can I watch it at home on my TV? — H.W.

A:"Jesus Revolution" is the term Time magazine called an evangelical Christian revival that began on the West Coast in the 1960s and 1970s. The movie of the same name is based on that published article as well as on a real pastor, who is played by Kelsey Grammer ("Frasier") in the film. Jonathan Roumie co-stars in "Jesus Revolution" as Lonnie Frisbee, a charismatic street preacher who resembles Jesus. The actor started out doing guest roles in primetime shows like "Chicago Med" and "NCIS: Los Angeles," but he seems to have found his calling of starring in faithbased projects in recent years. He's played Jesus in three seasons of Angel Studios' "The Chosen," which can be streamed on Peacock. At the time of this writing, "Jesus Revolution" is only available in theaters, where it's been quite successful, generating more than \$45 million. It will eventually be available for rent and/or purchase on the Vudu/ Fandango streaming app (and perhaps someday a streaming platform like



Jonathan Roumie ("Jesus Revolution")

Prime Video and one of the network or cable channels). However, if you don't want to take a chance on missing it, I'd venture out to your local theater soon.

Q:What is Kiefer Sutherland's new show about? It looks like he's playing Jack Bauer again. — L.J.

A: While actor Kiefer Sutherland is best known for playing Jack Bauer on the hit Fox action series "24," his new show "Rabbit Hole" is a completely different project and character for him altogether. It definitely caters to Kiefer's fan base, though, but instead of playing a federal agent fighting terrorism, he's a private espionage agent framed for murder. "Rabbit Hole" comes from the creative minds of Emmy-winning producers

John Requa and Glenn Ficarra ("This Is Us"), and the show co-stars Charles Dance ("The Crown") and Rob Yang ("Succession"). The first season consists of only eight episodes, and the first two will premiere on March 26. It's available exclusively on the Paramount+ streaming service. Sutherland had another successful series after "24" called "Designated Survivor," where he becomes president of the free world after everyone above him in rank is killed in a catastrophic attack. It aired for two seasons on ABC before airing the third season on Netflix. He also recently played President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Showtime original series "The First Lady." Now, whether we'll see him in a silly comedy anytime soon remains to be seen.

Q: What happened to the period piece drama "Sanditon"? Wasn't it on Netflix? I tried to find it,

and it's gone. — A.K.

A:"Sanditon" recently had its third and final season premiere on PBS. The series is set during England's Regency era, in the early 1800s at a seaside resort called Sanditon. It's based on the unfinished novel by Jane Austen and stars Rose Williams, Andrew Davies, the Emmy and BAFTA award-winning screenwriter who has adapted classics like "Pride & Prejudice" and "Sense & Sensibility," has done a wonderful job carrying out Austen's original vision.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra @gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd.,

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD - Brad Pitt has a new love. His first public appearance with his new lady, Ines de Ramon, was in Paris at the Cesar Awards (the French Oscars) in late February. De Ramon is a fitness and health coach employed by celebs to help build nutrition plans, establish a fitness routine and maintain a healthier lifestyle. Insiders say they've been dating for some time and that Pitt hid their love affair behind the guise of being one of her clients. De Ramon is currently in the middle of divorcing "Vampire Diaries" star Paul Wesley. Pitt is currently shooting the AppleTV+ film "Wolves" with George Clooney (both are also producers) in New York. De Ramon, a New Jersey native, is 32, while Pitt's 59.

Let's take a last look at the Oscars: Halle Berry agreed to present the Best Actor award, taking the place of last year's Best Actor, Will Smith, who is currently banned from the Academy for 10 years. He joined Richard Gere, who in 1993 received a 20-year ban for injecting a political cause into his presenting time; though, he was welcomed back 10 years later, when he was nominated for "Chicago," which won Best Picture. Add "Me Too" movement losers Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski to the list, both getting banned in 2018, as well as Harvey Wein-

stein (who'll be in jail so long he can't at-

tend anyway).

Has diversity gone too far at the Academy? Did they go overboard compensating for their lack of diversity in the past? Of 34 presenters, 19 were women, and 15 were men. They compensated for not nominating female directors by having three pairs of actresses presenting and only two pairs of men. There were six Black actors, five Hispanic actors, one Asian actor but only four Caucasian actors. So, where were the superstars of yesterday? The only superstars present were Dwayne Johnson, John Travolta and Harrison Ford.

Among big names missing from the in memoriam segment were two-time Best

ACROSS

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Yankees' vamp

15 Polish com-

13 Scarce

17 Squad

18 Oust from

office 19 Not 'neath

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31 Chaste

33 Till bills

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35 Corral

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29 Cat's coat

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34 Wyo. neigh-

Show to a

seat, slangily

Established

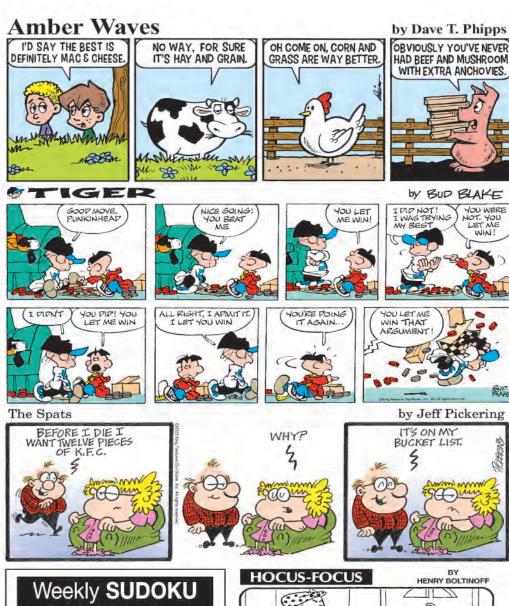


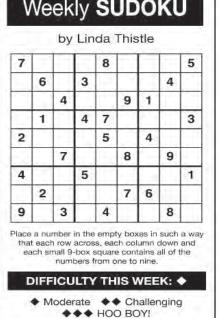
Guillermo del Toro ("Pinocchio")

Supporting Actress nominee Melinda Dillon (for "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Absence of Malice"); Stella Stevens ("The Nutty Professor"); Henry Silva ("Ocean's 11"); Cindy Williams ("American Graffiti"); Anne Heche, star of Gus Van Sant's 1998 "Psycho" remake; $Leslie\ Jordan\ ("The\ Help"); Tom\ Sizemore$ ("Saving Private Ryan"); Paul Sorvino ("Goodfellas"); David Warner ("Mary Poppins Returns"); Philip Baker Hall ("Boogie Nights"); Robert Blake ("In Cold Blood") and Chaim Topol ("Fiddler on the Roof"). Allegedly, Tom Cruise didn't appear to avoid his ex-wife Nicole Kidman, but I'm sure he would have miraculously appeared as producer of "Top Gun: Maverick" had it won Best Picture.

Guillermo del Toro, hot off his Best Animated Feature win for "Pinocchio" at the Oscars, is taking on a remake of "Frankenstein," which will star Andrew Garfield, Oscar Isaac and Mia Goth. Since there have already been 70 films made about Frankenstein, frankly, do we give a damn? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT







8. Miller Lite beer.; 9. Charlottesville, Virginia.; 10. Barack Obama. 4. Edna Krabappel.; 5. Thank you.; 6. Hydrogen.; 7. Famous voodoo queen.; Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama and Melania Trump.; 1. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.; 2. "Rocky" (1976).; 3. Five:

50 Dayton's state hero 1 7 9 8 1 6 8 3 L 6 8 9 2 Z 6 5 3 9 8 7 5 8 8 6 1 7 4 8

9 9

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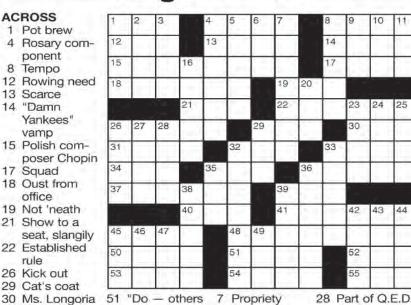
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2 9 8 4 3 6 5

Answer

7 2 8 5 3

March 27, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword



"Do - others Propriety 8 Book jacket

52 "I love," to Livy 53 Autograph

36 Sanctify - acid DOWN 39 Luau bowlful

2 3 8 9

7 6 1 9

40 Khan title 41 Blacksmiths blocks 4

45 Indolent 48 Curry powder spice

54 Take five 55 Bottom line

1 Bean curd Deserve 3 God of war

ing

Third rock from the sun 6 "Exodus"

write-up 9 Long time 10 "The Greatest"

Make lace 16 Wimbledon tie

20 Where Lux. is 23 Actress Russo

Elliot

Chicken serv- 24 Currier's part-25 Mama

> 26 Monumental 27 Dame Dench

28 Part of Q.E.D. 29 Summer cooler

32 Illinois city 33 Martini garnish

35 Glutton 36 Witticism 38 Synthetic fab-

ric 39 Seg-ments

42 Persia, today 43 Rickey flavor 44 Kilt wearer

45 Part of UCLA 46 Sashimi fish 47 Sharp turn

49 French article

Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. states share a border with Mexico?

2. MOVIES: Which movie was the first sports film to win the Best Picture award? 3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many former first ladies are still living?

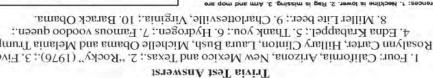
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of Bart's teacher on "The Simpsons"?

5. LANGUAGE: What does the Japanese phrase "domo arigato" mean in English? 6. CHEMISTRY: What is the lightest element?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is Marie Laveau of New Orleans? 8. AD SLOGANS: Which product was adver-

tised with the slogan, "Great taste, less filling"? 9. U.S. CITIES: In which city would you find Thomas Jefferson's Monticello? 10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the autobiogra-

phy "Dreams From My Father"? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.





Solution time: 26 mins. Answers __ King Crossword

Police "Pop Up" at High Meadows Libray

Police Pop Up March 13, 2023 Westfield Fire Department joined forces with our Harris County Sheriff's Department at the High Meadows Library for pizza and fun times.

Everyone got to ask the police offers questions and enjoyed time exploring the fire truck.

We also had a visit from Frank Gonzalez representing Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia.







HCC cited for helping "parenting" students

HOUSTON - Houston Community College has been named a partner in a group of colleges recognized for their excellent support of college students who juggle attending school and parenting childron

The nonprofit organization, Generation Hope in Washington D.C., named HCC as part of its FamilyU partnership along with a half a dozen other colleges and universities across the country. Its goal is to remove barriers and invest in support systems to ensure more parenting students succeed and graduate.

About one in five undergraduate college students nationwide is actively parenting. While such students generally do better in school, they are about 10 times less likely to graduate due to inadequate support systems on their college campuses.

"Houston Community College is honored and grateful to be selected to participate in Generation Hope's FamilyU program," said HCC Southeast College President Frances Villagran-Glover, whose campus is actively assisting many students with children. "Student parents are resilient and go above

and beyond to complete their degrees in order to make a better life for their families. HCC is committed to ensuring that student parents receive the support they need so that they and their children can succeed."

Other schools named include Austin Community College District, Madison Area Technical College, Norfolk State University, San Diego Mesa College, Santa Fe Community College and Virginia State University.

To learn more about the Generation Hope mission, visit https://www.generationhope.org.

HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #74 UPDATED REPORT FOR ONGOING PROJECTS IN FAIR GREEN, HIGH MEADOWS (SOUTH), AND EASTEX FREEWAY

Dear Harris County and W.C.I.D. #74 residents.

Water Plant #1 GST & Water Plant #2 EST Rehabilitation Project

The District is proud to announce the completion of the Water Plant #1 Ground Storage (GST) & Water Plant #2 Elevated Storage Tank (EST) project. Located on Winfield Road near McNaughton, this project required complete rehabilitation of both water storage tanks which included engineering design, fabrication, sandblasting, repainting and structural steel repairs of each water storage tank. In addition, the District added a new logo on the EST which can be viewed from U.S. Highway 59 and Aldine Mail Route Road.

CenterPoint Energy Street Lighting Plan - Phases I &II

The District partnered with the East Aldine Management District (EAMD) to install new street lights within the W.C.I.D. #74 district service area of the High Meadows (Phase I) and Eastex Freeway Forest (Phase II) Subdivisions. The District plans to begin Phase III of this street light plan for the Fairgreen Subdivision later this year.

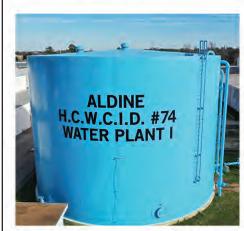
Eastex Freeway Forest Utility Improvements Project

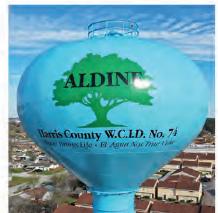
The District partnered with Harris County Precinct 2 to incorporate water and sewer improvements into the County's Eastex Freeway Forest Subdivision Drainage Improvements project which is still under construction. The utility improvements included water line, gate valve, fire hydrant with quick connect caps, and service line replacements along Winfield, MacNaughton, Marquita, Beau, and Bethany streets. In addition, the sanitary sewer system along Winfield was also replaced as part of the project.

Heavy Trash Pickup

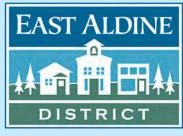
As a reminder, heavy trash is included with your regular trash pickup. Heavy trash is picked up on same days as regular trash days.

Best Trash does NOT pickup storm debris or sheetrock, shingles, insulation and construction debris. Be sure to contact Harris County for storm debris pickup.









East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Descendant of East Aldine's First Settlers "stands with" her Family Members

Angela Mitchell

For Harris County government bus driver Angela Mitchell, a recent trip to the East Aldine Management District's Town Center provided a big surprise and pleasing reminder of her family's lengthy history in the area.

Featured prominently on a floor-to-ceiling lobby mural, which depicts the area's history, are her great, great, great grandparents, Johan (John) and Charlotte Carolina Schlobohm. The couple, dressed in light purple garb, were among the region's first settlers. They had eight children.

Before seeing the mural, Mitchell did not know that her ancestors were included in the visual story.

"But I recognized them right away," she said.

Johan was a German immigrant who fought alongside Sam Houston with the Texan armed forces against the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Schlobohm was one of the four soldiers appointed by Houston to take custody of Mexican General Santa Anna.

"They turned him over to the custody of federal authorities in Louisiana," Mitchell explained.

For his service in the Texas War for Independence, Schlobohm was awarded a land grant in deep South Texas, which he traded for the family homestead in East Aldine. Schlobohm was a farmer who managed to expand the property to more

than 246 acres. His descendants, including 10 veterans, are buried in a 1-acre family cemetery near Lauder Road. The cemetery received a Texas Historic Landmark marker in 2007.

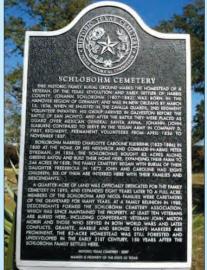
While the marker commemorates Johan's heroism, the Schlobohm family history is more colorfully relayed by Mitchell's grandfather, William Nicol, 85, who attended 1st grade in a one-room schoolhouse and now lives in Rusk. He and his wife, Velma, have been married for more than 65 years.

"They were among the first settlers in Aldine," Nicol said, referring to his great, great grandparents. "Of course, he had his land in Aldine, and they ran cattle on it. I don't know what else he did, but he owned a lot of property. I've still got the receipt for the land that he purchased -3,200 acres - for \$11 in unpaid taxes."

"That land ran from Buffalo Bayou all the way over to White Oak Bayou. It takes in all of what is now The Heights in Houston," Nicol said. "So, he gave his children quite a bit of land."

Nicol said he worked in the East Aldine area in an auto parts store, for a trucking line and as a methanol plant operator for Enron.

"I got out of that right before they went under," Nicol said.



Cemetery plaque

The cemetery has become a family gathering place.

"We go there on Easter and the kids have Easter Egg hunts," Nichol said. "Sometimes, folks think it's a little weird that we go to a cemetery on Easter. But that all got started in 1965, after my mother died. We all went down there on Easter Sunday.

"Easter is about life after death, at least we certainly hope so," Nicol said. "But it's like we say, 'It certainly does make an impression on the children.'"

Mitchell said the family cemetery, which sits next to a flood detention

pond, is maintained by family members who hold "workdays" to clear brush and debris. She frequently checks on it, sometimes replacing artificial flowers with new ones.

Her daughter recently went through the rigorous paperwork required to become a member of the Daughters of the Texas Republic, the Texas historical organization that once maintained the Alamo.

There are 95 Schlobohms or descendants buried in the cemetery, Mitchell said.

"I will be buried there," Mitchell said. "That land means so much. We've all grown up and some of us have moved away. But that little piece of land means so much. That's our home, that's where we come home to."

— by Anne Marie Kilday

