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# NORTHEAST NEWS

Eggstravaganza at East Aldine Town Center



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years  
VOL. 47, NO. 12 TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

## Aldine ISD hosts "Daring to Dream" April 15

### Inaugural Soñadores Summit for All High School DREAMERS

**Lone Star College Summer & Fall Registration**

Reach your highest potential! Your future awaits. Lone Star College Fall Registration Opens April 6. Register now for Summer and Fall classes. LoneStar.edu/learnmore. See more info on Page 8.

**APR. 27, THURSDAY East Aldine Small Business Seminar**

East Aldine District Free Luncheon Seminar series. Subject of this class is Commercial Leasing, with Speaker Joaquin Orozco.

12noon to 1pm, Thursday April 27. Reservation required, aldinedistrict.org/RSVP, or 512-658-4985.

Also register for future classes on June 22 and August 24.

**APR. 29, SATURDAY EAMD Unlimited PossABILITIES Day at Town Center**

A Day of Fun and Adventure at East Aldine Town Center. Where your abilities and disabilities become possibilities!

9am to 2pm at Town Center, Fun Run, Basketball, Origami, Miss AMazing Pageant, Yoga, Face Painting, Music, Balloon Artists, Petting Zoo, Fire Truck and so much more. Everyone welcome. Bring a blanket, a chair, and come have fun. Oh, it's FREE!

**BakerRipley April Events Calendar**

- April 5th – Food Fair, 7:30am - 11am
- April 8th – Eggstravaganza, 10am - 1pm
- April 10th – World Autism Awareness Parent Talk, 5pm - 6pm
- April 20th – Senior Games, 11:30am – 1pm
- April 26th – Farmer's Market, 10am - 1pm
- Heads up for May..
- May 13th – Asian American & Pacific Islander Cultural Celebration, 10am – 1pm

**Art Car Parade, show, events**

The Orange Show will present the 36th annual Art Car Parade on Saturday, April 15 starting at 2pm. On Sunday, April 16 the Art Cars will be parked at Discovery Green for free public viewing.

Art Car events will happen all week.

Tuesday, April 11 talk at Art Car Museum, 6pm

Thursday, April 12 Main Street Drag, 9am-1pm view all over the city.

Friday, April 14, Art Car Ball at the Orange Show, 2401 Munger Street

ALDINE – Aldine ISD will host its Inaugural Soñadores Summit for All High School DREAMERS this Saturday, April 15 at the Aldine High School.

The event targets ninth-10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students seeking answers to college dreams.

The school district will host its inaugural Soñadores Summit, themed "Daring to DREAM," from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 – to assist undocumented students in pursuing their dreams. The Spanish word 'soñadores' translates to dreamers.

"Aldine ISD is committed to ensuring all our students have the opportunity to pursue their educational goals, regardless of residency status," Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. "The Soñadores Summit is part of our commitment to providing students with the resources and support they need to achieve those goals."

**Soñadores Summit Event Details**  
**Saturday, April 15**  
**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Aldine High School**  
**11101 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77037**  
**No registration is required to attend.**

Interpretation will be available as needed.



Note: Students should contact their school counselor if they have questions about school transportation to the event.

The target group for the summit will be students in Grades 9-12, and their families, that fall into one of the following categories:

- Undocumented Students
- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients
- Visa holders
- Permanent residents
- Refugees
- Asylum grantees

However, the summit is open to all Aldine ISD high school dreamers born in and outside the U.S. who support equity, their undocumented classmates,

and the community.

It will feature keynote speaker Katherine Calderama Najera. Katherine, a DACA recipient, is an Aldine grad and active with DACA events at the University of Houston, where she attended as a Dream U.S. Scholar. She is currently an account manager and plans to attend law school. The event will also have a resource and college fair, college and financial aid application labs for 12th graders, and financial aid and college information sessions for parents and students. Sessions will be spread throughout Aldine High School (LMC/library, auditorium, and classrooms).

Susana Velis, with the

district's Scholarship Office, is one of the event's coordinators. Velis stated that the summit is another way the district addresses this population's unique needs as they select their postsecondary pathway and identify and seek financing for higher education.

The resource fair will include representatives from Houston Community College, Texas State University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Texarkana, Bethel University, and Lone Star College-North Harris. Also present will be a men-

*Continued. See Dreamers Summit, Page 5*

**Aldine ISD celebrará su cumbre inaugural Soñadores Summit para todos los DREAMER de escuelas secundarias**

El evento está dirigido a estudiantes de noveno-10º, 11º y 12º grado que buscan respuestas a sus sueños universitarios.

El distrito escolar organizará su Cumbre inaugural Soñadores Summit, bajo el tema «Atrévete a SOÑAR», de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. el sábado 15 de abril, para ayudar a los estudiantes indocumentados a perseguir sus sueños. La palabra en español 'soñadores' se traduce como deamers.

«Aldine ISD se compromete a garantizar que todos nuestros estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de alcanzar sus metas educativas, independientemente de su estado de residencia», dijo la Superintendente Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney. «La cumbre Soñadores es parte de nuestro compromiso de proporcionar a los estudiantes los recursos y el apoyo que necesitan para

*Continuado. Ver Dreamers Summit, Pagina 5*

## New housing in Greenspoint area



**Arbor at Wayforest Housing is meant to replace housing that was flooded during Hurricane Harvey.**

The Harris County Housing Authority, Harris County - Community Services Department (HCCSD), Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and development partner - an affiliate of Atlantic Pacific Companies (A|P) announce the grand opening of The Arbor at Wayforest, a multifamily development to replace housing lost during Hurricane Harvey.

The Arbor at Wayforest is financed with Harris County's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-

DR) funds in conjunction with construction financing and tax credit equity from Bank of America and private permanent financing from Citi Community Capital. The \$36M community will create 192 beautiful new apartment homes for families seeking quality housing in the Greenspoint area.

Harris County Precinct One Commissioner, Rodney Ellis; Harris County Community Services Department Executive Director, Thao Costis; Harris County Housing Authority

*Continued. See Housing Greenspoint, Page 2*

## EGGSTRAVAGANZA at East Aldine Town Center

The Eggstravaganza was celebrated last Saturday at the East Aldine Town Center, hosted by BakerRipley, East Aldine Management District and other partners working together for this massive community event.

There were 3 egg hunt times for different ages

groups from 1-4 years, 5-8 and 9-12.

Other activities and entertainment included food trucks, local vendors and providers, basket raffle for those who fill out a lottery card and sack games. The Easter Bunny was present greeting kids and families.

Other activities beside the egg hunt were a photo booth, kite flying, arts & crafts booths, door prizes, chalk art, fab lab paper rocket launch, face painting, henna, bubble station, and more. Everyone had a good time, in spite of cool damp weather.



Hundreds of children scrambled to collect eggs at the Eggstravaganza. (Pardon the pun). Groups were divided into separate starts by age. MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8. (Photos by Julieta Paita)

**MARKETPLACE – Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.**

**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

*We're Here For You!*

**Executive Director: Richard Cantu**  
713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

**Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches**  
713.595.1226 VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

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## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Fatal shooting at funeral

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 115 West Hamilton Street about 11 a.m. on Saturday (April 8).

The suspect, Queen Smith Jackson, 67, is charged with manslaughter in the 338th State District Court. A booking photo of Jackson is attached to this news release.

The identity of the victim, 22, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives D. Hobson and R. Rivera reported:

An argument occurred among family members at a funeral service in the funeral home at the above address and continued into the parking lot, where Jackson (one of the attendees) pulled a gun and fatally shot a family member.

Jackson admitted shooting the gun, but stated it was her intention to shoot the gun in the air. Paramedics transported the victim to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Detectives contacted members of the Harris County District Attorney's Office and Jackson was subsequently charged for her role in the shooting.



QUEEN SMITH JACKSON

## New Civic Association formed in East Aldine District

The East Aldine Civic Association is East Aldine's newest resident-led community organization.

The organization was founded and is currently chaired by local community advocate Ruben A. Salazar who resides in the Oakwilde neighborhood. Salazar, who previously served as President of the Green Forest Civic Club, says "I wanted to create an organization that would serve the entire East Aldine District area, all neighborhoods and subdivisions in and around!"

He also said "I wanted an organization that would work for the best interest of our residents and one that would focus efforts on those forgotten neighborhoods and focus where the need is the greatest." The association will aim to enhance the quality of life for residents of all neighborhoods in the East Aldine area.

According to the group's brochure, "We believe all residents have the right to live in a clean, safe, and thriving community. We value the diversity and distinction of our community



amongst others and pride ourselves on community engagement.

The East Aldine Civic Association's main goal is to provide residents with the tools to empower themselves to advocate for their community by providing access to resources and local government services.

Our overall goal is to bring the necessary and long overdue improvements to East Aldine neighborhoods and communities including, but not limited to additional streetlights, new sidewalks, increased police presence,

and increased nuisance abatement awareness and resolution."

The East Aldine Civic Association will meet EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 PM in the Reunion Hall of the Baker Ripley East Aldine Campus which is located at 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston TX. 77039. Residents of all neighborhoods in and around East Aldine are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Ruben A. Salazar at (713) 569-8305 or email eastaldinecivic@gmail.com.

## New Housing in the Greenspoint area,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ty; Texas General Land Office; and Atlantic Pacific Companies.

"The affordability crisis that leads to evictions and inhabitation in Harris County is extraordinary. We must alleviate those obstacles through projects like The Arbor at Wayforest as well as the tenant protection program Commissioners Court passed last year. This is the kind of project that every Harris County resident deserves. Everyone should be able to choose to live in the neighborhood of their choice, but they can't do that if this County doesn't support affordable housing in all neighborhoods for all residents. This represents just one of many County-led affordable housing investments to come," said Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

"The Harris County Housing Authority's mission is to provide quality affordable housing and assist residents in achieving



economic independence. Hurricane Harvey exacerbated the affordable housing stock throughout Harris County. This is an opportunity to help improve the quality of life for 192 families through sustainable affordable housing," said Melissa Quijano, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Harris County Housing Authority.

"Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston and has had a lasting impact on our city. While communities

continue to recover from the storm, Houstonians have stepped up to help their neighbor. This really speaks volumes to the heart of our city and our people. At Bank of America, we share the same spirit. Helping communities is a part of our fabric. We are honored to be part of the team helping to rebuild homes for families that lost theirs to the storm," said Hong Ogle, Houston Market President, Bank of America.

"The Arbor at Wayforest is designed to provide each resident a high-quality place to live where their families can thrive," said A|P Executive Vice President, Dan Wilson. "We are proud to be a part of Harris County's extraordinary effort to deliver high-quality affordable housing to families in need. This beautiful new community is going to improve lives and we look forward to the substantial positive impact it will have on the res-



idents that call it home."

WHERE: The Arbor at Wayforest  
17744 Wayforest Drive,  
Houston, TX 77060

Notable community members were in attendance including Harris County Housing Authority Chairman of the Board Gerald Womack, Harris County Housing Authority Executive Director Melissa Quijano, Bank of America Senior VP and Community Development Banking Cassandra Silver-

Deputy Director of Policy at Harris County Precinct One Janae Ladet, and more.

"We're so excited about the partnership that we've had with the developers, the banks, and also the community and our elected officials. We're thrilled today to have this opening and we know that this is the dream of families to be able to move into a brand-new home with all of the amenities," said Gerald Womack, Harris County Housing Authority Chairman of the Board.

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

### TEENS MAKE IT - DIY BOOK BINDING

Make something new with us at Teens Make It! In April, we're making DIY books using common book binding techniques! Make a journal, a field guide to yourself, a zine, or even your own picture book! **Monday, April 10th for teens ages 12-18.**

### BILINGUAL STORY TIME

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

### CITIZENSHIP CLASS

There is still time to register for Citizenship class. We'll help you prepare for the civics portion of your Naturalization interview! Study materials included. **Registration required before April 12th.** Register on the HCPL website events page. If you need one-on-one help with preparing for the interview, contact us at 832-927-5410.

### KID'S CLUB

This week we are letting our imaginations run wild and we'll be recycling cardboard boxes

to make houses a village. Wednesday, Apr. 12, 4:30pm!

### CRAFTY CORNER

We're making seed bombs so we can plant native flowers in our garden. Seed bombs are little clay-covered mounds of seeds and growing soil. They're often used to help reseed natural plants to wild areas. Join us on **Saturday, April 15th from 2-3 pm.** Be prepared to play in some dirt!

This is a family event; parents must attend with their children.

### COMPUTER CLASSES

We have computer classes in Spanish and in English, online and in-person. If you want to participate, register online at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

**Wednesdays: Office 365 & Google Apps**, (English, Online), 5-7pm

**Thursdays: Office 365 & Google Apps** (Spanish, in person), 5-7pm

### MAGNETIC POETRY FOR POETRY MONTH

April is National Poetry Month. Come in and create your own temporary poem

on our Magnetic Poetry Board and inspire someone! Available all day during operating hours in April.

### 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  
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832-927-5410**

**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 15	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**

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Aldine ISD Trustees Pass Resolution Opposing Vouchers

During the March 28 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to any bill that would allow for public tax dollars to go to private entities via vouchers, educational savings accounts (ESA) and tax credit schemes.

One of Gov. Greg Abbott's priorities during the 88th Texas Legislative session is to push for "school choice," meaning vouchers, educational saving accounts and tax credit tuition.

In the resolution approved by Aldine ISD's Trustees at the March 28 Board meeting, it stated vouchers divert funds from public schools to private, religious and corporate run schools. The resolution also stated that at a time when Texas schools are woefully under-funded, taxpayers cannot afford to pay for two separate school systems — one private and one for mover 90% of Texas children who attend public schools. Giving an ESA to 600,000 homeschooled and private school students could cost billions. In conclusion to the resolution, Aldine ISD Trustees opposes any bill that allows vouchers. In addition, the Board authorizes the (Aldine ISD) administration in conjunction with the Southeast Texas Education Coalition (STEC) to take the necessary steps to voice opposition to any bills that contain provisions for vouchers.

Staff Assignment Approved

During the March 28 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffey announced five staff assignments.

Kelvin Chatham was named head football coach and campus athletic coordinator at Davis High School after serving as the head football coach at Booker T. Washington High School in Houston ISD.

**Aldine ISD in partnership with TAS**

During the March 28 Board meeting, it was announced that Aldine ISD is partnering with Texas Academy of Soccer. Grace Delgado, Executive Director of Multilingual Services, provided an overview of the district's partnership with TAS. TAS is a training academy for youth soccer and is new to the Houston area. TAS offers a unique methodology developed by the best soccer team in the world, The Real Madrid. TAS' goal is to make their training program available to all children in the Houston area. Through a connection with the Education Office from the Embassy of Spain, TAS is now available to students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy and Dunn Elementary School. Present at the March 28 Board meeting were Eliseo Fernandez Barrioviento, Educator Advisor for the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain, Francisco Meza, Presidente Texas Academy of Soccer Real Madrid Foundation, Rinell Ponceleon, Operations Director Texas Academy of Soccer Real Madrid Foundation and David Gonzalez, Sports Director Texas Academy of Soccer Real Madrid Foundation.

Teaching, Learning, Leading Department highlights district's Performing Arts Department

During the March 28 Board meeting, the Teaching, Learning and Leading Department highlighted the district's Performing Arts Department. Refugio Rodriguez, Director of Performing Arts, recognized a number of Aldine ISD students who have earned state and national honors. MacArthur High School Band members recognized were: Joshua Lagos, Sean Walker, Christian Suazo, Shoniya Murphy, Alejandro Orta, Jonathan Bautista



The Aldine Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 28 in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

and Bryan Aguilar. MacArthur Brigade Belles recognized were: Erick Garcia, Daryanna Garcia, Mildred Ramirez, Ariadny Zacarias, Isabella Delgado, Stefany Mondragon, Abigail Marroquin, Daphne Ordonez, and Mary Martinez. Carver High Drama students recognized were: Ryan Randolph, Ivan Davidson, Kamiliyah Washington, Delores Sells, Alyssa Dorsey and Takera Swain, Anisah Ali, Tyler Brantley, Morgan Childs, Lee Fransaw, April Guzman, Desmond Hampton, Camron Lettires, Tatiana Smith, and Nevaeh Law. Eisenhower High School Debate student recognized were: Elizabeth Rubio and Summer Smith. MacArthur High Speech and Debate students recognized were: Noe Carrillo and Brandon Hernandez. Blanson CTE High School Debate student recognized was Steven Barrios. The Aldine High School Vaqueras were also recognized. The Nimitz High Starboard Angels recognized were: Cinthia Estrada-Gomez, Jesse Coronatapia, and Tony Coronatapia.

Black History Oral Competition Winners Recognized

During the March 28 Board meeting, the top three finishers in Aldine ISD's Black History Oral Competition were recognized. The event was held during Black History Month in February. LaTashia Abrams, Director of Family and Community Engagement, introduced the students. In the Ninth Grade and High School category, Ivanna Carrington of Blanson CTE High School finished in first place, while Branda Brooks of Victory Early College High School placed second and Emily Spiller of Hall Success Academy finished in third place. In the Middle School category, Sade Jackson of the Young Women's Leadership Academy finished in first place and Isabel Escobar Phan of Garcia Middle School finished in second place. In the Elementary School category, Jessica Bhola of Marcella Elementary School finished in first place, while Julianny Hernandez of Houston Academy finished in second place and Matias Bermudez of Kujawa Elementary School finished in third place.

Employees Recognized

During the March 28 Board meeting, a number of Aldine ISD employees were recognized for their leadership, connecting with fellow employees and impacting student success.

Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne recognized the Purchasing Department for receiving the TASBO (Texas Association of School Business Officials) 2023 Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations. The Purchasing Department consists of Director of Purchasing Carlotta Nicholas, Purchasing Supervisor Frances Tucker, Lead Buyers Victoria Lee and Bianca Ellis, Buyers Gloria Harris, LaShadre Paul, Jennifer Garcia, and Selena Prado. Osborne also recognized members of the Business

and Finance Department who received the ASBO (Association of School Business Officials) International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the fiscal year 2022 Annual Comprehensive Report. The team consists of Osborne, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Alexia Rogers, Director of Accounting and Business Services Desiree Smith, Assistant Director of Accounting and Business Services Fernando Flores, Assistant Director of Accounting and Business Services Veronika Norris, Accountants Shantay Lee, Robin Armendariz, and LaTasha Rigmairdiz, Accounts Payable Supervisor Minerva Alba, Payroll Manager Tony Silva, Director of Consolidated Programs Perla Davila, Director of Federal and State Compliance Dr. Dametra Skinner, Director of Special Programs Stacey Smith and Bookkeepers Ceci Romo, Sandra Wiggins-Johnson and April Vega.

Aldine ISD Chief of Police Paul Cordova named Sergeant Christopher Harris as his department's Employee of the Month.

Chief Operations Officer Fred Washington named Melrick Stevenson as his department's Employee of the Quarter. Stevenson handles maintenance duties at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Other Operations employees nominated for Employee of the Quarter were: Deanna Truvillion of Facilities Planning and Construction, Dimas DeLeon of Central Receiving, Maria Reynosa of Child Nutrition Services, Charlotta Liggins of Transportation and Dionisio Lopez-Martinez of Buildings and Properties.

Board Approves Action Items

During the March 28 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

Approved the consent agenda

Approved the Region IV Regional Day School Program for Deaf Shared Services Agreement effective July 1, 2023

Approved single contracts and purchases of more than \$50,000

Approved a Resolution Extending Depository Contract for Funds of Independent School Districts Under Texas Education Code, Chapter 35, Subchapter G. School District Depositories

Approved Local Policy Update 120 on Board Policies CB, CKC, DGBA, FFI, FNG, FO and GF – Second and Final Reading

Prior to the start of the March 28 Board of Trustees meeting, students from Carroll Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. The colors were presented by the David High School Color Guard. The April Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18 and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

# Over 500 Young Women Bring Girl Power to GIRLS Empowerment Summit



Over 500 female high school 12th graders across Aldine ISD attended the inaugural GIRLS Empowerment Summit on March 30 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The soon-to-be graduates from all 10 high schools brought the

girl power. Influential, successful female leaders from Houston — Meagan Edwards, Amanda Edwards, and Izzy Anderson — inspired them and shared helpful nuggets. M. Edwards is an educator and among the Top 50 women leaders of Hous-

ton, A. Edwards is a lawyer and candidate for the City of Houston, and Anderson is Houston Community College Vice Chancellor and Chief HR Officer. The acronym GIRLS stands for — Grit, Irreplaceable, Resilient, Legacy, and Self-love.

# District to Host Inaugural Fun Day in the Park for Families of Students With Autism



Mark your calendars for April 22! The fun-filled event will offer resources to help support and empower families.

Aldine ISD is hosting its inaugural Fun Day in the Park later this month. The district invites the community to join us at the 2-hour event filled with fun activities and empowering information for families of students with autism in

Grades PreK-12.  
**Fun Day in the Park**  
 To register and to learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/3U3qa5w>  
 Saturday, April 22 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 East Aldine District Park  
 2800 Aldine Mail Rt.  
 What Families Can Expect  
 Food trucks will be available to purchase

lunch  
 A variety of activities, including a quiet sensory area, hands-on sensory activities  
 Games and crafts for all ages  
 Resources to help support and empower families with autism.  
 The Aldine ISD Special Education Department has organized the event.

# AISD to Hold Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 APR at April 18 Board Meeting

Aldine ISD will hold a public hearing to discuss the 2021-2022 Annual Performance Report (APR) at the April 18 Board meeting. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines: "A hearing for public discussion of the annual report must be held within 90 calendar days from the district receiving Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPRs). Parents and property owners must be notified of the hearing."

The April 18 Board meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building and begin at 7 p.m.



OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Paul Bettencourt, Texas State Senator

Inflation is up, but Homestead ISD Tax Bills are Not! Over 3.5 Million should see savings this Fall

Senator Bettencourt calls on Cities and Counties to adopt the No-New-Revenue-Rate this Fall Taxpayers should visit the State's New Tax Portal to get their Estimated Property Tax Bill

Austin, TX – Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) says that while the current National inflation rate is 8.6%, millions of under-65 Texas Homesteads should see their Independent School District (ISD) tax bills cut this Fall.

In May of last year, Texas' Voters overwhelmingly approved Propositions 1 and 2, which provided direct tax cuts to homeowners with homestead tax bills in 2022 and 2023. 2.1 Million over-65 or disabled homeowners will receive the benefits of the state's compressed property tax rate for school maintenance and operations (M&O) in 2023. Proposition 2 increased the statewide school homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000, meaning that over 3.5 million under-65 homestead homeowners will receive this tax cut this year. My Senate office calculations indicate an actual cut of \$44 on average for an average \$301,000 taxable homestead in Texas despite massive appraised value increases across the state. An office survey of the top 25 ISDs in the state indicates a range of cuts from \$107 to \$8. These calculated cuts comes before Cities and Counties set their tax rates in the Fall, which could save the average taxpayer hundreds of more dollars on their tax bills.

"The Cavalry is coming over the Hill for Texas Homesteads in the Fall, just like in an old John Wayne movie!" said Senator Paul Bettencourt. "Because of the passage of Prop 1 and 2 in May, 3.5 Million homesteads will on average pay less on their school tax bills this year than they did last year. Over-65 homeowners are frozen this year, but will get an actual property tax cut in 2023, too." He added.

Property Appraisals are rising amidst a booming Texas economy, but taxpayers can be assured that property tax rates are on the way down to offset these increases. This is attributed to the significant reforms contained in SB 2 and HB 3 that the legislature passed in 2019, and the additional property tax legislation that was passed in 2021. In fact there are 16 cents of property tax relief, overall a \$482 savings compared to last year's tax rate.

"Lawmakers have given property owners valuable protections against rising tax bills in this red hot real estate market, but there is no substitute for vigilance. Taxpayers must be prepared to weigh in with their local taxing jurisdictions if they believe tax rates are too high," stated Dale Craymer, President of Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. Note: TTARA supplied county and city penny rate reduction estimates.

The no-new-revenue-rate is the rate that provides the same amount of money to a taxing entity this year as last year. As Texans are having to be extra careful with their dollars due to very high inflation, government entities should be doing the same thing or go to the voters for adoption. "I am calling on all Cities and Counties to adopt the no-new-revenue-rate, it will save the taxpayers' money!" concluded Senator Bettencourt.

To check on your property tax bill, please visit the Texas property tax database. Click below:

www.texas.gov/living-in-texas/property-tax-directory/

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.

Americanisms "A person doesn't know how much he has to be thankful for until he has to pay taxes on it." — Ann Landers © 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Burro in Pants"

I saw the burro wearing pants and carrying a basket filled with paper flowers. "Oh, my gosh!" I said. "That poor burro." There are several burros with this job in this Mexican town and, as burro employment goes, it's a pretty easy gig. The burro wears a rustic basket filled with bright paper flowers and is led by a man in a similarly rustic costume, and they follow wedding processions, providing photo opportunities for the guests. The burro is photographed dozens of times and spends the afternoon in the park, doing her best to look picturesque.

On weekdays, when weddings are less common, the burro and her handler park themselves on a narrow bit of cobblestone street with a beautiful view of the old church in the background. Tourists get their photos taken with the burro for a few pesos. I saw no harm in it until the day the burro showed up in pants.

"Oh, my gosh!" And I felt a sense of indignation rising on the burro's behalf.

I mean, it's one thing to carry around fake flowers all day. It is another thing entirely (according to me) to put the poor burro in trousers. To add insult to injury, the pants were not even on her back legs! She was wearing trousers on her front legs that made her look sort of like a little person with a donkey head.

"Outrageous!" I decided in furious defense of the burro's dignity. Making a burro dress up in a silly costume was somehow intolerable, as far as I was concerned. Her handler was making her look comical, a ridiculous punchline to lure more tourists in. She was a joke burro, and I decided—from my vantage point as the Tourist Who Knows Everything—this was unacceptable.

From that moment on, I made it my mission to restore the burro's dignity. On days when she showed up in pants, I shook my head disapprovingly and said, "No pants!" in Spanish. On days she showed up in her natural attire, I indicated my approval. "I am happy the burro has no pants!" I said—a phrase I am unlikely to need on many other occasions.

My mission was going well, I thought. The burro was showing up in pants far less often and everything was going well—until yesterday.

Yesterday, I actually stopped to talk to the burro's handler.

"I'm glad she is not wearing pants!" I reiterated as if, by now, he might not have gotten my point.

"I will show you," he said in English. And he gestured that I should come near.

The burro had large patches on the back of her legs where the flies had been eating her skin. He told me they hurt her, and he could not keep the insects away. He put poison on the spots, but it did not work well, and it cost 500 pesos for a small bottle. The pants kept the flies away and allowed her poor legs to heal. And I am an idiot.

"I'm so sorry," I said in Spanish. "I didn't understand. She should wear pants if she needs them!"

And I thought of all the assumptions I make every day, all the opinions I form with no basis but my own ridiculous preconceptions. This man took the time to show me the truth—about one little burro in pants—and I wondered how often I am just so, so wrong.

"Gracias," I told him. "De nada," he said. "It's nothing."

But of course, it was something. It was something very important.

Till next time, Carrie

Check out CarrieClasson-Author on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



House OKs \$302 Billion Budget

The Texas House approved a \$302 billion budget last week that included an amendment prohibiting the use of state money on private school tuition—a major setback to Gov. Greg Abbott's plan to establish a school voucher system. The Austin American-Statesman reported that more than 20 Republicans joined nearly all House Democrats to pass the amendment, while 11 lawmakers voted present.

The amendment is seen as a rebuke to Abbott, who has traveled the state pushing what he calls "school choice."

The amendment's sponsor, state Rep. Abel Herrero, D-Robstown, said his proposal to block using public money for private schools boiled down to "public money for public schools."

The House's budget now heads to the Senate, which has passed an education reform bill calling for \$8,000 in state funding a year for a student who attends a private school. Since that funding is not included in the House budget, the issue could lead to tense conference committee negotiations between the two chambers. Some lawmakers have speculated the conflict could lead to a special called legislative session after the regular term ends on Memorial Day.

Among the highlights of the House budget are record funding increases for public schools and highway construction, as well as raises for state employees.

CONTROVERSIAL ELECTRIC GRID PLAN PASSES SENATE

The Texas Senate has passed a controversial plan to build more natural gas-powered plants in the state, despite widespread opposition from critics who say the two bills could lead to billions in added costs to customers. The goal of the bills, according to its sponsors, is to avoid another massive power outage such as the one in the winter of 2021 that killed more than 200 people, the Texas Tribune reported.

Houston Chronicle columnist Chris Tomlinson reported that 22 out of 24 people who testified on Senate Bill 6 voiced opposition. The plants would sit idle at least 97% of the time.

"The Association of Electric Companies of Texas found common ground with the Sierra Club. Texas Competitive



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Power Advocates agreed with the South Texas Electric Cooperative. Energy giant NRG joined the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen in declaring SB 6 a lousy idea," Tomlinson wrote.

State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, the lead sponsor of both bills, said the measures were "in memory of the hundreds of Texans that died and the millions of Texans that suffered."

COURT RULES DEGREES CAN BE REVOKED FOR MISCONDUCT

The Texas Supreme Court reversed previous lower-court rulings and ruled last week that Texas universities can revoke previously awarded degrees for academic misconduct, the Statesman reported. The University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University, in separate cases that were consolidated, argued they should be able to revoke doctorate degrees from students who committed academic misconduct to "protect their reputations and the value of degrees conferred upon their students."

Both cases involved students accused of fabricating data that was discovered after the degrees had been conferred. Both students sued their respective universities after their degrees were revoked.

"The only difference between expelling a current student for academic misconduct and revoking the degree of a former student for the exact same academic misconduct is one of timing," Justice Debra Lehrmann wrote.

TEMPS TOPPED 100 DEGREES IN TEXAS PRISONS

The indoor temperature inside at least 15 state-operated jails and prisons exceeded 100 degrees last summer, according to a report by The Dallas

Morning News. The data indicates that both inmates and staff are exposed to dangerous levels of heat in the state's facilities that do not have air conditioning.

A lack of climate control has contributed to the deaths of nearly two dozen inmates between 1998 and 2012, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, as well as the heat-related illnesses of dozens of prison guards.

The News reported that state standards say county jails and animal shelters should get no hotter than 85 degrees, but Texas prisons are not required to have air conditioning.

While previous attempts to fund air conditioning for the state's prisons have failed, the House budget passed last week sets aside more than a half-billion dollars for that purpose. In addition, two bills to install cooling systems in the prison system were approved in committee.

LAND OFFICE AWARDS \$6 MILLION FOR COASTAL COUNTIES

The Texas General Land Office has awarded \$6 million for projects across seven coastal counties with a combination of federal and state funding

The projects are intended in part to improve amenities for greater beach access in a number of locations, as well as developing early warning systems for coastal flooding

"As a Texan who grew up near the coast and lived in Galveston for more than a decade, preserving our state's precious shorelines and their communities is a top priority of mine," said Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham.

TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT IN TEXAS CHURCH SHOOTING

The Justice Department last week announced a tentative \$144 million settlement with the families and victims of a 2017 mass shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, the Associated Press reported. More than two dozen people were killed when a former U.S. airman opened fire during a church service. It was later determined that the gunman had been able to purchase firearms despite a criminal history. Three years earlier, while in the Air Force, he was convicted of assaulting an ex-wife and stepson, cracking the child's skull. He was discharged for bad conduct.

The Air Force had previously acknowledged it was remiss in not putting the felony conviction for domestic violence in into the FBI database, which could have prevented the shooter from buying guns from a licensed firearms dealer.

The settlement is still subject to court approval.

"No words or amount of money can diminish the immense tragedy of the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs," Vanita Gupta, associate attorney general for the Justice Department, said in a statement. "Today's announcement brings the litigation to a close, ending a painful chapter for the victims of this unthinkable crime."

top ten MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES 1. New York and Singapore (tie) 3. Tel Aviv, Israel 4. Hong Kong and Los Angeles (tie) 6. Zurich, Switzerland 7. Geneva, Switzerland 8. San Francisco, California 9. Paris, France 10. Copenhagen, Denmark Source: CNN

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# Aldine ISD hosts “Daring to Dream” April 15

## Inaugural Soñadores Summit for All High School DREAMERS

Continúa de la página 1

lograr esos objetivos».

Detalles del evento Soñadores Summit

Sábado, 15 de abril  
9 a.m. a 1 p.m.  
Aldine High School  
11101 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77037  
No es necesario registrarse para asistir.  
La interpretación estará disponible según sea necesario.

Nota: Los estudiantes deben comunicarse con su consejero escolar si tienen preguntas sobre el transporte escolar al evento.

El grupo objetivo de la cumbre serán los estudiantes en los grados 9-12 y sus familias, que caen en una de las siguientes categorías:

- Estudiantes indocumentados
- Beneficiarios de DACA (Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia)
- Titulares de visados
- Residentes permanentes
- Refugiados
- Beneficiarios de asilo

Sin embargo, la cumbre está abierta a todos los soñadores de secundaria de Aldine ISD nacidos dentro y fuera de los Estados Unidos. que apoyan la equidad, sus compañeros de clase indocumentados y la comunidad.

Contará con la participación de la oradora principal Katherine Balderrama Nájera. Katherine, beneficiaria de DACA, es graduada de Aldine y participa activamente en los eventos de DACA en la Universidad de Houston, donde asistió como Dream U.S. Scholar. Actualmente es gerente de cuentas y planea asistir a la escuela de leyes. El evento también tendrá una feria de recursos y universidades, laboratorios de solicitud de ayuda financiera y universitaria para estudiantes de 12º



grado y sesiones de información sobre ayuda financiera y universidad para padres y estudiantes. Las sesiones se extenderán por toda la Escuela Secundaria Aldine (LMC / biblioteca, auditorio y aulas).

Susana Velis, de la Oficina de Becas del distrito, es una de las coordinadoras del evento. Velis declaró que la cumbre es otra forma en que el distrito aborda las necesidades únicas de esta población a medida que seleccionan su vía postsecundaria e identifican y buscan financiamiento para la educación superior.

La feria de recursos incluirá representantes de Houston Community College, Texas State University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Texarkana, Bethel University y Lone Star College-North Harris. También estará presente un autobús de vacunación contra la meningitis y la Clínica Hope.

«Esta Cumbre inaugural de Soñadores hace más que reafirmar el compromiso de Aldine de servir a toda nuestra diversa población estudiantil», dijo Goffney. «Muestra que nuestro compromiso es una promesa

continua y diaria que cumpliremos a todos nuestros estudiantes».

1,500 estudiantes de Aldine ISD caen bajo la categoría DREAMERS

Actualmente, el distrito tiene 1,500 estudiantes que entran en la categoría DREAMERS. La mayoría de los DREAMERS en Aldine ISD son de México, El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras. Pero Aldine es un distrito escolar diverso donde se hablan más de 46 idiomas diferentes, incluidos algunos idiomas indígenas.

En todo el país, de los casi 2.3 millones de DREAMERS que viven en los Estados Unidos, la mayoría son de México, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Perú, Brasil, Corea del Sur, Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina, Filipinas, Jamaica, India, República Dominicana, Venezuela, Haití, Etiopía y Ucrania, por nombrar algunos.

¿Quiénes son los DREAMERS y por qué se les llama DREAMERS?

Aquellos protegidos bajo DACA (Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia) y los estudiantes indocumentados no cubiertos se refieren a sí mismos como «Dreamers». DACA fue un compromiso ideado por la administración Obama después de que el Congreso no aprobara la Ley de Desarrollo, Alivio y Educación para Menores Extranjeros (DREAM, por sus siglas en inglés), que habría ofrecido la oportunidad de residencia legal permanente. La legislación bipartidista se introdujo en 2001 y ha fracasado repetidamente en convertirse en ley. Visite el sitio web de la Liga Antidifamación para obtener más información.

Actualmente, todavía no hay un Dream Act convertido en ley. Sin embargo, los senadores Dick Durbin (D-IL) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) han propuesto un nuevo Dream Act bipartidista de 2023, estableciendo un camino hacia la ciudadanía para ciertos Dreamers, inmigrantes indocumentados que llegaron a los Estados Unidos a una edad temprana y han crecido aquí. Visite el sitio web de FWD.us, una organización política bipartidista, para obtener más información y un desglose por números.

# Aldine ISD hosts “Daring to Dream” April 15

## Inaugural Soñadores Summit for All High School DREAMERS

Continued from Page 1

ingitis vaccination bus and the Hope Clinic.

“This inaugural Soñadores Summit does more than re-affirm Aldine’s commitment to serving all of our diverse student population,” Goffney said. “It shows our commitment is an ongoing, everyday promise we will deliver to all our students.”

1,500 Aldine ISD Stu-

dents Fall Under the DREAMERS Category

Currently, the district has 1,500 students that fall into the DREAMERS category. Most DREAMERS in Aldine ISD are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. But Aldine is a diverse school district where more than 46 different languages are spoken, including some indigenous languages.

Across the country, of the nearly 2.3 million DREAMERS living in the U.S., most are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Brazil, South Korea, Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina, Philippines, Jamaica, India, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Haiti, Ethiopia, and Ukraine, to name a few.

Who are the DREAMERS, and Why are They

Called DREAMERS?

Those protected under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and undocumented students not covered refer to themselves as “Dreamers.”

DACA was a compromise devised by the Obama administration after Congress failed to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would have offered

the chance of permanent legal residency. The bipartisan legislation was introduced in 2001 and has repeatedly failed to pass into law. Visit the Anti-Defamation League’s website for more information.

Currently, there is still no Dream Act passed into law. However, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) have proposed a new bi-

partisan Dream Act of 2023, establishing a pathway to citizenship for certain Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. at a young age and have grown up here. Visit the FWD.us website, a bipartisan political organization, for more information and a by-the-numbers breakdown.

# Houston announces new campaign to stop illegal dumping

Mayor Turner Releases Comprehensive Plan to Combat Illegal Dumping  
Holistic Approach Invests Resources in Cleaning Up Communities

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner released his One Clean Houston initiative today to combat illegal dumping throughout the city.

The initiative focuses on three key areas to address the issue and clean up Houston’s neighborhoods, especially areas that have been repeatedly targeted by individuals committing illegal dumping.

- Rapid cleanup
- Better enforcement
- Prevention and education

The plan outlines the City’s commitment to work with homeowners, community members, non-profits, industry and other governmental organizations.

The One Clean Houston Plan allocates nearly \$18M in additional dollars over the next two years to comprehensively address illegal dumping; this is an unprecedented investment in this issue that impacts many of Houston’s neighborhoods, particularly the most vulnerable..

“My administration has always prioritized the eradication of illegal dumping, and now One



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Mark Wilfalk, Solid Waste Management director, Councilpersons Tarsha Jackson and Karla Cisneros, Constable Alan Rosen.

Clean Houston outlines how we will move forward together to combat a prevalent problem,” said Mayor Turner. “Illegal dumping is a blight on our community, threatening the health and welfare of people living in neighborhoods where illegal dumping occurs. It is unlawful for anyone to dump trash in areas where it does not belong. Not only do we intend to clean up Houston, but we will intensify our work to hold offenders responsible for their dirty work.”

The mayor was joined at the news conference by Mark Wilfalk, director of Solid Waste Management, Councilmembers Tarsha Jackson (District B) and Karla Cisneros (District

H), Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen, Houston Police Sgt. Patrick Morrisey Nichole Christoph, Deputy Director, Crime-Stoppers, Alan Steinberg of Keep Houston Beautiful, Jesse Bounds, director of the City’s Office of Innovation, Department of Neighborhoods Director TaKasha Francis, and several community representatives.

The initiative will dedicate funding to the City’s Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) to remove debris from dumpsites as quickly as possible. It will also increase funding for equipment and personnel to help arrest violators. One Clean Houston also will provide adequate alternatives to

dispose of waste, educating the community on the consequences and impacts and improving areas prone to dumping.

“In addition to increasing our debris removal capacity, Mayor Turner has supported the department’s requests to deploy several new mobile security cameras in specific neighborhoods subjected to frequent illegal dumping. Our teams will use these mobile devices to deter unauthorized dumping and identify the violators responsible for this careless and illegal behavior,” said SWMD Director Mark Wilfalk.

The full plan and more information regarding One Clean Houston can be found at <https://www.houstontx.gov/onecleanhouston>.

“We cannot do this alone. We need all community members to step up and say enough is enough; we love our City and will protect it from this unacceptable blight. I’m asking all Houstonians to take some pride and stand up for One Clean Houston,” said Mayor Turner.

During the news conference, Mayor Turner asked people, if they see something, to say something! Anyone can submit a tip anonymously to Crime Stoppers and be eligible for a cash award of up to \$5,000 - (Call 713.222.TIPS or report online at [CrimeStoppers.org](http://CrimeStoppers.org)). You can now provide tips directly to police through the online crime reporting form on HPD’s homepage or the Rat-on-a-Rat Hotline 713.525.2728.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey —


1. Is the book of Job (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Luke 17, when Jesus healed 10 men of leprosy, how many returned to thank Him? 0, 1, 3, All
3. What woman restored to life by Peter was known for helping the poor? Dorcas, Leah, Abigail, Miriam
4. Where are the names Abaddon and Apollyon used to denote Satan? 2 Peter, 3 John, Jude, Revelation

5. Who contracted leprosy for lying to the prophet Elisha? Deborah, Gideon, Gehazi, Matthew
6. From 2 Samuel 20, who led David's armies? Aaron, Dan, Abner, Joab

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 1, 3) Dorcas (also called Tabitha), 4) Revelation 9:11, 5) Gehazi, 6) Joab Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com). (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

...The dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark... He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. GENESIS 8:9-11



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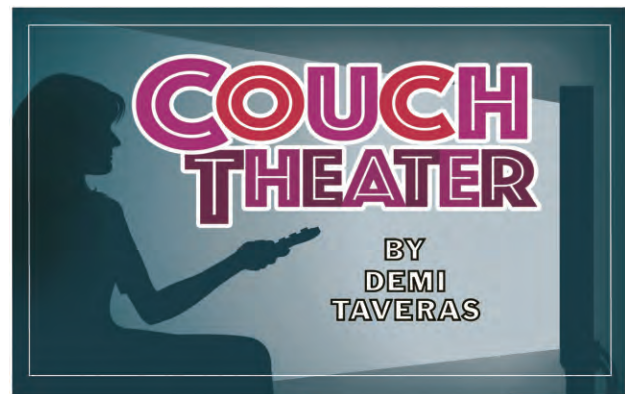
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Abbey Lee and Edgar Ramirez star in "Florida Man."

"The Last Thing He Told Me"

"The Last Thing He Told Me" (TV-MA) — A new limited series premiering April 14 follows the story of a woman named Hannah, who is married to a man named Owen and has become stepmother to Owen's only daughter, Bailey.

this riveting series. New episodes release every Friday. (AppleTV+) "Florida Man" (TV-MA) — Philly ex-cop Mike Valentine (Edgar Ramirez) has lost everything in his life to gambling. So, to pay off all his debt, Mike begins working for the gangster he owes all his money to ... which blurs more lines than one.

This seven-episode crime show produced by Jason Bateman premieres April 13. (Netflix)

"Tiny Beautiful Things" (TV-MA) — In this new series based on the book of the same name by Cheryl Strayed, Kathryn Hahn ("Bad Moms") stars as Clare, a writer persuaded to start an advice column.

But Clare wonders ... can someone really give good advice while their life is falling apart? Her marriage is in a rough place, and her bond with her teenage daughter seems to challenge her more and more every day. But, once Clare begins writing and speaking to her audience as if they were the 22-year-old version of herself, she finds powerful healing.

The first episode of "Tiny Beautiful Things" is out now. (Hulu)

"Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies" (NR) — The original 1978 "Grease" film is one of the most iconic movies in history. "Grease 2" was released a few years later in 1982, but it did nowhere near as well as the first film.

So, will a prequel spin-off series pick up steam? Taking place four years before the events of the first film, this musical series follows four Rydell High students as they band together to create the all-female clique known as the Pink Ladies.

With tons of visually appealing musical numbers and teenage naivety, it does well to capture the charming essence of "Grease."

The first episode is out now. (Paramount+) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jane Fonda, 85, finally fulfilled her wish to be a warrior queen when she voiced the Warrior Queen of the Seven Seas in the computer-animated, coming-of-age fantasy "Ruby Gillman: Teenage Kraken," due June 30. She'll first hit movie screens May 12 in "Book Club: The Next Chapter," with Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen. Hopefully, it will be more successful than "80 for Brady," which, despite having the star power of Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Sally Field, Rita Moreno and Tom Brady, cost \$28 million and grossed just under \$40 million.



Jane Fonda

\*\*\* Twenty-three years ago, "Gladiator" won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Actor (Russell Crowe), Best Visual Effects, Best Sound and Best Costume Design. Now, director Ridley Scott, 85, is finally making his sequel. This time, it'll star Irish actor Paul Mescal (who received an Oscar nomination for Best Actor this year for "Aftersun") and "Banshees Of Inisherin" Best Supporting Actor nominee Barry Keoghan. (Keoghan's up next in "Saltburn," with Rosamund Pike, Jacob Elordi and Carey Mulligan.) Add Denzel Washington (up next in "The Equalizer 3," due Sept. 1) to the mix, which will reteam him with Scott, his "American Gangster" director. You can also expect a Gladiator-style series that is currently in the works, starring Anthony Hopkins, and also a reboot of Starz's "Spartacus" series.

\*\*\* Russell Crowe is back with a vengeance, with "The Pope's Exorcist" (due April 14), co-starring Franco Nero. Crowe also has "Kraven the Hunter," with Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Ariana DeBose due October 6, as well as two films still awaiting release dates — first is "The Georgetown Project," with Sam Worthington, David Hyde Pierce and Karen Gillan. The second film is "Sleeping Dogs," also with Gillan, who will star as Nebula in the upcoming "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," releasing May 5.

\*\*\* Cheech & Chong were way ahead of their time when they made the pro-

marijuana film "Up in Smoke" (1978) for a mere \$2 million, which grossed a whopping \$104 million. Now 76, Cheech Marin has made about 80 films and starred in many TV series, including "Nash Bridges" (1996-2001). Tommy Chong, now 84, has made 21 films and about a hundred TV appearances. But now, the comedy duo are the subjects of an upcoming biopic. What could be more timely?

\*\*\* Before winning an Oscar for Best Actress for "Everything Everywhere All at Once," Michelle Yeoh was already the busiest actress in Hollywood. June 9 brings just her voice in "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," while Sept. 15 brings "A Haunting in Venice," with Kenneth Branagh, Jamie Dornan and Tina Fey. Yeoh's also lending her voice to "The Tiger's Apprentice" and starring as Madame Morrible in "Wicked: Part One," due November 2024, and "Wicked: Part Two," due in 2025. Not to mention, she's already filmed "Avatar 3," releasing December 2024, and "Avatar 4," releasing December 2026. Even before she won her Oscar, she was already yo-yoing between multiple movie sets! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 3, 4, 6, 8, 5, 1, 9, 6, 8, 4, 1, 8, 6, 5, 4, 7, 2, 5, 9, 7, 4, 5, 3, 1.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF. Two panels of a boy and girl in a kitchen. Text: Find at least six differences in details between panels.

April 10, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword. ACROSS and DOWN clues and a crossword grid.

Trivia Test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 trivia questions about television, geography, U.S. presidents, language, movies, literature, anatomy, states, ad slogans, and food.

# East Aldine Eggstravaganza,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



OLD FASHIONED SACK RACE WAS LOTS OF FUN FOR THIS AGE GROUP.



EGGS WERE COLLECTED IN THREE STARTS, DIVIDED BY AGE. LOTS OF EGGS WERE DISTRIBUTED ON THE TOWN CENTER LAWN.

RIGHT, THE EASTER BUNNY WAS A FAVORITE WITH MOST OF THE CHILDREN, SOME WITH AWE.





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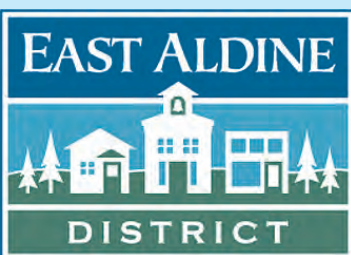
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## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

# Growth is in the Air at Compressor Maker in East Aldine

Just southwest of the junction of Beltway 8 and Interstate 69, the global business network Atlas Copco produces specialized air compressors that are pivotal to the success of industries across North America and beyond.

When oil and gas giants and the new players in alternative fuels need specialized compressor systems for operating in challenging environments, very often those systems come from the company's plant in East Aldine.

Operations Manager Ramsaran Palaniappan said he was a customer of the company before he joined in 2011. In 2012, Atlas Copco Product Company Houston consolidated several acquisitions of other companies into a building on Lee Road. Another company that manufactured low-pressure blowers was later acquired and moved to the location.

Atlas Copco, which started in Sweden, has facilities around the world and across the United States. It is one of the largest non-retail employers in East Aldine Management District, with about 300 workers there in manufacturing and customer service, according to a Data Axle 2022 report.



The Houston operation builds engineered, oil-free air compressors.

"These are basically larger industrial air compressors for mostly oil and gas companies, pharmaceutical, food and beverage industry — you name it and our compressors are there," Palaniappan said.

The compressors are not the off-the-shelf kind you can buy at a big box hardware store.

"Each one of our compressors is customized for the oil and gas industry. It can be as simple as just a paint job — the customer will want a different color on the compressor — to a completely customized unit, like changing all the instruments (to be explosion-proof) and changing the motors, changing the canopy, changing the enclosures, the control panels, everything" the operations manager explained.

Several large compressor units were being assembled lately for an order going to Mexican oil production companies. Some being prepared for onshore or offshore use are customized with extra-thick aluminum housing (NEMA 7) for control panels and all stainless-steel canopy and hood.

The drying units remove excess moisture from compressed air. The low-pressure blowers produce slightly pressurized but high-volume air flow, mainly used in municipal water treatment plants, for aeration.

The facility also has bays with sensors where compressors can be tested for output flow rate, pressure, humidity, and temperature, all monitored remotely. Rooftop exhaust pipes and silencers let the high-pressure air to be safely vented off.

Users can monitor all the measurements from an adjacent control room or remotely, including through a live video feed. Those features helped maintain production when travel was limited by the pandemic.

While proximity to the oil and gas industry is the biggest draw for locating the facility in Houston, the Aldine area has the added benefit of being close to Bush Intercontinental Airport so customers from around the country and beyond have easy access. Nearby freeways make shipping convenient, and Port Houston is nearby as well.



**Ramsaran Palaniappan**

Palaniappan said the Houston plant primarily serves the United States, Mexico, Canada and Peru. But it also recently shipped a project to Indonesia where the customer specified the equipment needed to be made in the United States. Other customers are in the Middle East.

While a lot of projects got put on hold during the pandemic, Palaniappan said, a backlog of orders meant the company's engineering and production staff saw little reduction in orders to work on. And it has gotten busier as projects got restarted. The oil and gas industry is booming and he expects the Houston plant to set a record for production this year.

Atlas Copco is facing a challenge adding staff, Palaniappan said, with job openings in engineering and production. Compared to the oil and gas industry, he said, the company is less subject to boom-and-bust cycles and offers a family-oriented, stable work environment.

Human Resources Manager Sabrina Sierra said the company is working to increase community engagement to help increase its visibility to potential workers. She started with the company during the pandemic after previous engagement efforts had been put on hold.

The company has participated in job fairs and hired interns from area universities, including University of Houston and Lamar University. "We're trying to prepare ourselves for what's to come," Sierra said. "We're promoting diversity and inclusion. Bring in more women — more women in the factory," she added. "We've increased our female population, both blue- and white-collar."

She has created a woman's network within the company to provide support, in addition to working with local organizations to find individuals who would want to be a part of a company that values their employees, opinions, and career paths. The company's mottos are, "We hire to retire" and "A company culture that is caring and supportive."

Sierra worked in an industrial co-op program when she was in high school and has drawn on that experience in her own efforts to reach into local schools.

**Atlas Copco recently celebrated its 150th year anniversary.**

To learn more about the company and its job listings, go to <https://www.atlascopco.com/en-us/compressors/contact-number/air-compressor-service-houston-texas>.

— By Mark Fleming