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NORTHEAST NEWS

Tall Ships Galveston



Tall Sailing Ships were on display last week in Galveston. See Story & Photos, Page 2

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years
VOL. 47, NO. 14 TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Walle reports on legislature's progress

Holds virtual Town Hall on internet Zoom

Lone Star College Open House at East Aldine April 26

On Wednesday, April 26th the East Aldine Center of Lone Star College will hold an OPEN HOUSE for returning, new and current students to answer questions on subjects such as Admissions/Advising/ Financial Aid/Academic Degrees/Workforce/ Continuing Ed/Paying for College/Student Resources/Testing Services/Technology Services.

Attendees will be eligible to win a new Smart TV!

The OPEN HOUSE is at the East Aldine Center, 2430 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston 77039 from 4pm to 6pm. For more info, LoneStar.edu/ LearnMore.

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 Possibilities 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

AUSTIN - State Representative Armando Walle held an internet Virtual Town Hall last Wednesday evening, to update all his constituents in District 140 on his activities in the current 88th Legislative session.

There were about 20 participants, who could join in the Town Hall to listen and comment, over a Zoom app on their computer or phone. Walle said this was the first time he had used this method, but it seemed to go well as a method of communicating. The event lasted about an hour, starting with a report of Walle's sponsored legislation, and ending with a Q and A session for listeners.

Walle started with an overview of the workings of the state House and Senate, pointing out that it started in January and would end May 31st, with about 40 days left in the session.

He pointed out committees that he was assigned to, including the important House Appropriations Committee, where he is working on the budget for Sections 6, 7, and 8.

At the event, Rep. Walle discussed his legislative portfolio, including the three bills he has passed



Screen Capture image of Rep. Armando Walle during his Virtual Town Hall.

out of the House so far:

1. HB 899 - allows counties to regulate noise in unincorporated areas

2. HB 1472 - expands eligibility for the Bootstrap Program, an owner-builder loan program operated through the state, to improve access to affordable housing

3. HB 1704 - creates a \$50 million revolving fund for owner-builder loan program.

Rep. Walle also gave updates on the two applications for modifications to concrete batch plant per-

mits pending in House District 140.

1. Yellow Jacket Ready-mix (2219 Hartwick) Permit #78606

Application is to modify existing permit to reduce site production from 250 cubic yards per hour to 120 cubic yards per hour, add a fly ash silo and convert an existing fly ash silo into a cement silo.

Rep. Walle has requested a public meeting on this permit to allow constituents to provide comments and feedback. We will reach out

once that meeting is scheduled this summer.

2. LS Ready Mix (9756 Veterans Memorial Drive) Permit #147696

Application is to modify existing permit to build a secondary concrete batch plant to the existing plant on-site, including a new cement silo and fly ash silo. It would also increase production from 60 cubic yards per hour to 210 yards per hour.

Rep. Walle has requested a public meeting on this permit to allow constituents to pro-

vide comments and feedback. He will reach out once that meeting is scheduled this summer.

Walle's position on these concrete batch plants, and other environmental problems, is that the state TCEQ should have more resources to enforce compliance with environmental concerns of the public.

Walle has also sponsored a bill, which is advancing, to rename a section of Highway 59 as the Almandarez Memorial Highway, in honor of the Sheriff's Deputy from Aldine who lost his life this year during a theft of a catalytic converter.

Walle is also co-sponsoring HB4177, a bill to provide additional funding for state parks, in the amount of \$1 billion.

Walle wants to expand the PUFF fund to include other Texas universities besides UT and TAMU. This money comes from oil and gas royalties, and is now limited to funding those two.

Flooding is a concern of the legislature, and they have budgeted \$500 million to study an "Ike Dike" barrier to hurricane surg-

Continued. See Walle Town Hall, page 2

Man shot at Little York gas station



Bullet holes can be seen in the windshield of the victim's car.

HOUSTON - A man is recovering in the hospital Sunday morning after his car, with a child inside, was shot multiple times at a gas station in northeast Houston.

Houston police said the shooting happened shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday at the Exxon Gas Station at 10801 Eastex Freeway. Witnesses told investigators the car was parked when about three to four men began shooting at the vehicle for unknown reasons.

Investigators said the victim then drove across the street to the Chevron at 3810 Little York Road,

where officers ultimately found him.

"They found the (victim) bleeding from the head," Lt. Ignacio Izaguirre said.

They said the victim was grazed by a bullet and was transported to Ben Taub Hospital. The video of the scene shows two bullet holes in the windshield and about five bullet holes in the front passenger side door.

Officers with the Houston Police Department also found a 2-year-old girl in the victim's car, who was uninjured and was turned over to family members. Investigators said the man is expected to survive.

At this time, it is unclear what the motive was, and there is no word on whether any arrests have been made.

The investigation has been turned over to the Harris County Sheriff's Office because the area is on the border between city and county jurisdiction.

House construction starts in Robins Landing

450-single family homes planned



HOUSTON - Houston Habitat for Humanity announces construction has begun on single-family homes at Robins Landing. This vibrant master-planned community will provide critically needed affordable housing along with the essential services and enhancing amenities that make a thriving community. The first phase of home construction includes 84 homes, 18 of which will be built by Houston Habitat for those earning 80 percent or below the City of Houston's average median income (AMI) through the Habitat Homeownership program.

"When we started envisioning what could be possible for this land in 2014, it was important to us that we design something that could truly address the affordability crisis and serve as a model that could be replicated across the country. This meant building more than just homes - it meant creating a community with resources and partnerships to uplift residents and inspire families to plant roots," said Allison Hay, executive director of Houston Habitat for Humanity. "We are ecstatic to be reaching this milestone as our vision for Robins Landing becomes a reality."

Continued. See Robins Landing, Page 5

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Tall Ships festival in Galveston Harbor



Photos above show the Parade of Tall Ships, as they sailed both east and west along the Seawall in Galveston last week.

GALVESTON – The Tall Ships Galveston festival was held last week, on April 13 through April 16.

The event started with the Parade of Sail on April 13, which gave people a chance to get a view of the tall ships as they sailed along Seawall Boulevard in

Galveston. The ships then docked at Galveston Bay for viewing by the public.

Tourists and residents were also able to get tours of the ships and participate in other activities. There were sail-away excursions, food and music.

Organizers said almost 50,000 people attended the event. The Galveston Historical Foundation helps put on the festival.

Ships participating in the Festival included:

1877 ELISSA

Elissa was taken from a scrapyard in Piraeus Harbor, Greece and brought to Galveston in 1978 so the ship could get a makeover. There are only two other ships in the world like Elissa that still can sail.

ERNESTINA-MORRISSEY – BUILT IN 1894

The ship was created in 1894 at the James and Tarr Shipyard to join the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing fleet. The vessel was taken on an expedition and was 600 miles away from the North Pole.

GLEN L. SWETMAN – BUILT IN 1989

This ship is a 65-foot two-masted Biloxi Oyster Schooner that was referred to as a “white winged queen.” These

types of vessels were used in the late 1800s and into the start of the 1900s.

NAO TRINIDAD – BUILT IN 2016

This ship was built in Punta Umbria, Spain, and is part of the Nao Victoria Foundation nonprofit, which focuses on educating people about history. The Nao Trinidad is typically docked in Huelva, Spain, when it is not traveling.

PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II – BUILT IN 1987

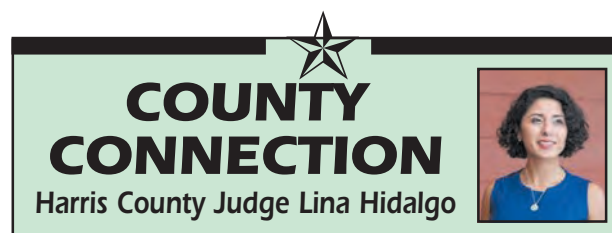
This ship was constructed in Baltimore. She has stopped at over 200 ports in North and South America, Europe, Asia and more.

WHEN AND IF - BUILT IN 1939

General George S. Patton wanted this boat to built for him for “when the war is over, and if I live through it, Bea and I are going to sail her around the world.” The ship was supposed to be luxurious and built for racing.

Thomas Jefferson – built in 1991

This ship was a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hydrographic survey vessel that was used until 2003.



Harris County Expands Fund to Assist Residents Facing Eviction

In Harris County, residents are under-represented by attorneys when an eviction is filed against them. From 2020 to 2022, 146,618 eviction cases were filed and of those cases, only 1.92% of defendants were assisted by attorneys. In these same situations, landlords almost always have legal representation. To assist renters fighting eviction, commissioners court last month expanded the Housing Legal Services Fund with \$4 million for legal aid that will fund support for approximately 5,010 eligible cases total with approximately 90% receiving full representation and the remaining receiving brief services. Applications for assistance are open now.



More High-Skill, High-Growth Jobs for Harris County!

The jobs of the future are coming right here to the heart of Harris County! In February we were excited to announce the approval of \$31.6 million to provide training to unemployed and underemployed veterans and young adults through specialized apprenticeship and retraining programs. The programs administered by NPower and the AFL-CIO will prepare folks for careers in high-growth industries like cybersecurity, IT support, and IT administration, construction, nursing, and more. This move marks just the first step of our work to expand workforce training in the County!



Harris County Approved \$26.2M Investment to Create Up to 1,000 New High-Quality Childcare slots

Last month, Harris County Commissioners Court approved a \$26.2 million federal American Rescue Plan Act investment to create up to 1,000 new high-quality childcare slots for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in areas of Harris County with the highest need. This full-year, full-day high-quality child care will be available to eligible families at no cost and pay staff a living wage of \$15 an hour. The program builds on our groundbreaking Brighter Futures for Harris County Kids Initiative.

“This is a historic investment. Never before has Harris County had such a strong focus on children and high-quality child care that will transform lives for generations to come,” said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. “This is an important step for charting a brighter future for our young ones. The American Rescue Plan Act provided an unprecedented opportunity to invest in families, and we’re making the most of it.”

Major Expansion of Jail Competency Restoration Program to Cut Case Backlog and Jail Population

In Harris County, we have over 220 individuals in jail with significant mental health needs languishing in jail – sometimes for years – just to get access to the educational resources and services that will help them restore competency in order to stand trial. This month, Commissioners Court approved \$646,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars to provide the services needed to more than double the number of individuals annually restored to competency, which will help reduce the jail population and overcrowding, and cut the court case backlog.

We’ve all heard the Harris County jail is Texas’ largest provider of mental health services. This is one step forward in changing that.

Harris County’s Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Efforts

The Harris County Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program is one part of our aggressive efforts to tackle and reduce crime, clean up the streets in neighborhoods where decay and abandonment are driving violent crime, and ultimately contribute to keeping our communities safe. According to the Centers for Disease Control, “communities applying CPTED activities have reported decreases in gun violence, youth homicide, disorderly conduct, and violent crime.”

The Precincts and Harris County Public Health (HCPH) are currently working to carry out CPTED investments in target, high-crime, neighborhoods. CPTED is just another tool in the toolbox we can use to help our law enforcement officers and our courts focus on tackling violent crime.

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

BILINGUAL STORY TIME

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

KIDS CLUB

It’s that time again - It’s Lego Night! Join us for some fun and creative building! **Wednesday, Apr. 26, 4:30pm**

TEEN THURSDAY

Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! **Thursday, Apr. 27 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

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, photos, copies, 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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, April 17, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

State of Education Last week, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce's State of Education. I and my fellow sister superintendents — Dr. Jenny McGowen of Klein ISD and Dr. Lupita Hinojosa of Spring ISD — discussed critical legislative issues affecting public education, including our school districts and the impact of the pandemic on student learning. It was also an opportunity to tell Aldine's story and share all the great things happening here.

It is hard to believe I am nearly completing my fifth year as your superintendent of schools. The years have come and gone so quickly. Each day has been filled with bustling activity in and out of the classrooms. Between meetings, games, and events supporting students, it is easy to forget how much we have accomplished for students. Between new programs, choices, opportunities, and new initiatives that impact student learning and academic progress — each day, I am once again reminded of how proud I am to serve the Aldine community. I am living the dream!

Soñadores Summit On Saturday, we held our Soñadores Summit for our undocumented high school students, DACA recipients, Visa holders, permanent residents, refugees, asylum grantees, and all high school students — born in and outside of the U.S. This event was full of information as well as gave all dreamers a chance to make connections to guide them in reaching all their possibilities. Thank you to all that made this summit possible.

SHINE Celebration We also connected with our first-year teachers at the SHINE (Supporting Hon-



oring Inspiring New Educators) event on Saturday. I hope you left feeling accomplished and so very valued. Aldine is committed to investing in our new teachers to yield positive student outcomes. We celebrated them on completing their first year in Aldine. I can't wait to see the amazing things you do in your classrooms next year!

Legislative Session Students — again, all students — are my why. A part of my work entails advocating for public education. I was at the State Capitol in Austin last week, giving testimony and extending the dialogue about public education. It should come as no surprise that I, like so many fellow public school superintendents and districts, am against vouchers, which drain needed dollars from all public schools. Public schools also already offer so many choices for families. And while I know we still have to fight for public education, my hope was lifted when state legislators voted 86-52 to ban school vouchers from the state budget. Thank you, legislators, for listening. Together we're stronger and will make a difference for all Texas students.

Long-Range Planning Committee It starts with authentic partnerships. Listening to and working with the people we serve is something that we in Aldine do. Last week, we held our third Long-range Planning Committee meeting. We are reviewing and assessing, and thinking about the future. We'll

present the committee's suggestions to the Board of Trustees later this spring. Click here to view our long-range planning committee webpage.

Kudos and Shout-outs Spring is full of competitions, and our students across the district are excelling! Follow us on social media and visit AldineISD.org, where you can read about Carver High School's theater troupe being named a finalist in 10 categories, including best musical and best director, in the Tommy Tune Awards! Good luck at the awards ceremony on May 4!

Kudos to Carver HS theater director Roshunda Jones-Koumba! Roshunda as she continues to advocate for the arts and our students! She was invited to speak on Houston Public Media's Town Square podcast. Click here to hear the entire podcast.

The semester is full of opportunities, like the Aldine String Festival. We had special guest star David Connor with the Houston Symphony this year. Click here to hear our students perform with him.

We have exciting news! Davis High School has been selected to be a part of The College Board's African American Studies pilot program. The Advanced Placement (AP) African American Studies course will be offered next school year at the campus.

STAAR Testing Starts This Week Before I close, I remind everyone that STAAR testing begins this week, April 18th. Please rest up and continue to keep a positive attitude. I know all our students will do their best! You can click here if you would like ideas to support students during testing.

Have a great week ahead!
With Aldine Pride,
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

FACE University Expands Opportunities for Non-Native English Speakers With New ESL Classes

FCUniversity (Family and Community University) is hosting E.S.L. classes from now until June 5th. The classes will be taught by bilingual and ESL-certified teachers with extensive experience in adult education. F.A.C.E. is committed to serving the community, and this is its first year offering these classes to parents and community members. The program has already been successful, with many parents returning for the second term.

Classes will be held in two different locations and take place in the evening to accommodate those working during the day. The classes will be held at La Promesa on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and at Saint John Neumann on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.



The E.S.L. classes offered by FCUniversity are tailored to meet the needs of the community. The program is designed to help individuals improve their English language skills, with a focus on speaking and listening. The teachers use a variety of teaching methods to ensure that each student is able to learn at their own pace and in their own way. The program is also structured to help students develop confidence in using English in everyday situations.

The program is designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of their level of English proficiency. To enroll, interested individuals can visit the FCUNIVERSITY/Educación Continua website and register online. With such a positive response from the community, FCUniversity is excited to continue offering these classes and helping people improve their English skills.

Long-Range Facility Planning Underway



The Long-Range Planning Committee began meeting in February to review the district's recent facilities assessment. The group will review and analyze the findings from the study along with other district data, including but not limited to demographic studies, financial forecasts, city and county planning documents, and department audits, to plan for the community's ever-changing needs.

The committee is charged with providing recommendations to the administration for planning needs. It does not have decision-making au-

thority. All committee agendas and reports will be posted on the district website to ensure transparency.

Aldine ISD administrators will facilitate all meetings. Workgroups/subcommittees may evaluate specific and targeted strategies or review other information.

The committee will comprise various district stakeholders, including teachers, campus staff, school leaders, parents, community members, students, and district administrators. Aldine ISD staff and various consultants

will serve as resources to the committee, providing information and expertise as needed.

The committee meetings are held at the Donaldson Administration Building, 2520 W.W. Thorne Blvd. (Houston, TX 77073), from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and will continue to meet through the fall of 2023. The committee will make a presentation to the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees with a recommendation following the completion of their work.

Visit the long-range planning committee website to learn more: <https://lrpc.aldineisd.org>.

Aldine ISD Hosts Community Partners Meeting

April 6, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department hosted a community partners and superintendent-parent advisory committee meeting. The various district partners gathered to hear about the successes they all assisted with throughout the year.

The meeting started with Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney expressing her gratitude for the community partners and the support they had shown throughout the school year. From there, they were given updates about the district, testing improvements that had been achieved by the students and campuses and legislative goals the school board aims to support.

The meeting wrapped up with the community partners being allotted time to speak on their personal experience supporting Aldine during the school year, what they



learned, what memories they made and how they want to continue supporting the district and its families. These testimonials also provided the parent advisory committee with valuable insight as to how the partners made a difference during the school year, and the ways in which they would like to continue with their support going forward.

"It was great to have the partners speak on their experience," said FACE Specialist

Nancy Gauthier. "We organize these events to support our families, and to have the partners speak to the parents of our families about the enjoyment their support brings them was a great full circle moment."

For attending, each of the invited guests were given a special gift to take home with them and commemorate the past school year. For more information on how you can partner with FACE's upcoming events.

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- April 18: STAAR Testing ... End-of-Course (EOC) English 1
- April 18: The district will hold a public hearing on the 2021-2022 APR at Board Meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. at the Donaldson Administration Building-Board Room.
- April 19: STAAR Testing ... Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 Reading and Language Arts
- April 20: STAAR Testing ... EOC English 2
- April 20: Community Meeting at Eisenhower High School from 6-7:30 p.m.
- 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 register.
- April 22 (Saturday): Fun Day in the Park is a fun-filled event that will offer resources to help support and empower families of students with autism. It is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at East Aldine District Park, 2800 Aldine Mail Rt. We'll offer activities, and food trucks will be present too. Click here for details and to register.
- Now-Apr. 22: AISD's Health Services Department is holding monthly CPR classes. (Click here)
- April 25: STAAR Testing ... Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science, EOC Biology
- April 25 (Tuesday): Gifted and Talented Education Expo will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd. Nearly 300 students in Grades 1-5 from the district's Gifted And Talented Education (GT) programs will be showcasing projects.
- April 26: STAAR Testing ... Grade 8 Social Studies, EOC U.S. History
- April 27: Community Meeting at Davis High School from 6-7:30 p.m.
- 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
- May 2: STAAR Testing ... Grades 6, 7, and 8 Math, EOC Algebra 1
- May 3: STAAR Testing ... Grades 3, 4, and 5 Math
- May 4: Community Meeting at MacArthur High School from 6-7:30 p.m.
- May 11: Community Meeting at Nimitz High School from 6-7:30 p.m.
- 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 survey.
- Ongoing: Family and Community University's 2022-2023
- 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

- April National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
- Apr. 15-19: National Volunteer Appreciation Week
- Apr. 19: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY)
- Apr. 26: ENVI2ION School Day (ADSY)
- May Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
- May 1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 2: Decision Day
- May 13: School Communicators Day
- May 29: Student Holiday (traditional & ADSY)
- Click here to view the 2022-2023 school year calendars — traditional and Additional Days School Year (ADSY).
- FOLLOW US!
- Stay connected by visiting aldineisd.org. Check out our District News and Aldine ISD Podcast pages to stay updated on all the great things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By Joyce LeBombard
League of Women Voters of Texas

Texas Preemption of Local Authority is Out of Control

AUSTIN, TX — In response to the alarming attacks on local government authority trending in the 88th Legislative Session, League of Women Voters of Texas President Joyce LeBombard issued the following statement:

“Legislation currently in front of the Texas Legislature seeks to take over control from local governments and other vital local entities, including election administration. The League of Women Voters is alarmed at this proposed change as it threatens the trustworthy and transparent work of our local election officials.

The Texas Legislature proposes to rewrite the rules that have governed state and local relationships for decades. Lawmakers have re-adopted or proposed to re-adopt legislative district maps that significantly erode the representation of Texans in large population centers. In addition, they are debating sweeping legislation preempting local ordinances in significant areas such as natural resources, finance, and labor. These changes would be enforced through private action at the expense of local government.

The League is concerned about seeing the same pattern in elections. Real and perceived issues with election administration in Harris County in 2022 are being used as an excuse to subject election officials and election workers across the state to everything from increased criminal and civil liability to outright takeover by the State.

Examples include:

- Legislation allowing the Secretary of State to directly administer county elections based on a ‘good cause to believe,’ not actual evidence of fumbles in election administration;
• Legislation giving the Secretary of State the same power as a district court judge to order a new election;
• Legislation creating elections marshals to police local elections;
• Legislation allowing prosecution of election law violations in counties other than the county in which the alleged violation occurred;

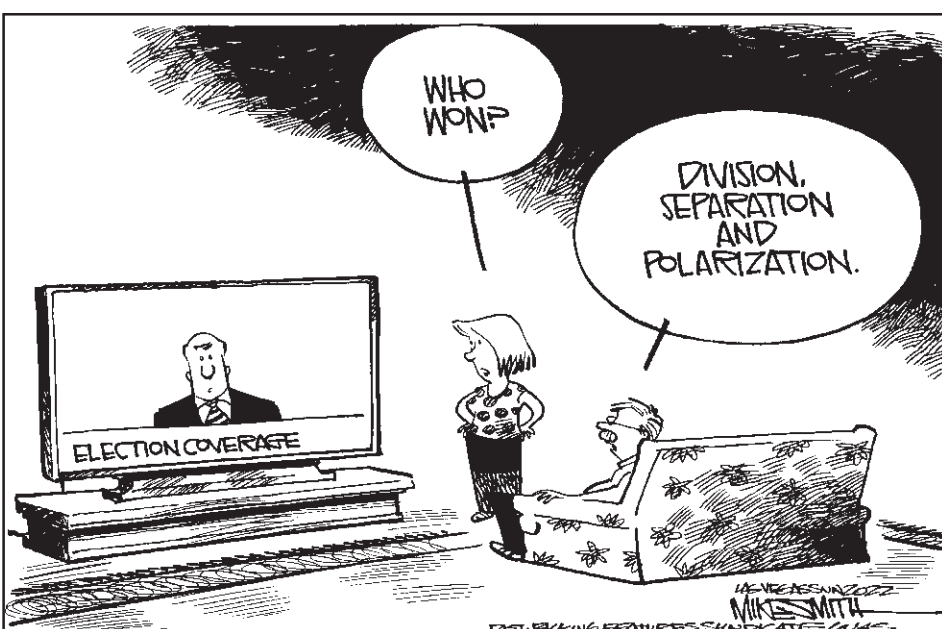
The League remembers the axiom ‘Government is best that is closest to the people.’ Our lawmakers in the statehouse would do well to remember it also.”

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About the League of Women Voters of Texas: The League of Women Voters is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older. Learn more about the League of Women Voters of Texas at LWVTexas.org.

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.

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Source: WalletHub



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

“Fireworks in the morning”

I start noticing the planes overhead when it’s nearing the time to go.

Planes don’t fly low over this small Mexican city. San Miguel de Allende doesn’t have its own airport, so the few planes flying overhead are high in the sky, headed off to somewhere else. I rarely notice them at all until it’s time to leave.

Now I’m watching them leave a trail in the sky and wondering about the people inside. Are they happy to be going wherever they’re going? Are they sad to be leaving wherever they were? After almost three months here, in our little apartment in Mexico, everything we do in the last week takes on a new significance.

Will these flowers last until we leave? How many potatoes should I cook? Should we buy one more small jar of honey? We wonder where we should go out to eat, and we keep using the expression “one last time,” as if we will never return. We plan to return. We even have tickets. But life is uncertain and leaving, even for a few months, feels momentous.

At 6 o’clock this morning, we heard fireworks.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” My husband, Peter, mumbled something in his sleep. “Fireworks,” I told him.

He went back to sleep. He doesn’t mind. Peter is used to them now. Fireworks in the morning are not unusual. There are reasons for them, we are told, but they are complicated. They have to do with births and deaths and things we will never fully understand. This morning, I was wide awake at 6 o’clock, listening to the fireworks and wondering how they ever could have bothered me in the past.

I’m having a hard time remembering our home in the U.S.

I try to remember what pots and pans I use, and I can’t quite picture them. It seems odd that my other life has grown so fuzzy in such a short time. I have forgotten how many houseplants we left to be watered. (Very few, is the answer.) I try to remember what vase I put my flowers in and what coffee cup I use. It seems important that I remember these things. Otherwise, it feels as if I will be flying into a void.

I wonder if winter is finally over. (Not really, is what I am hearing from my family.) I wonder if the crocuses will be coming up when we get back. Unlike the kitchen and my coffee cup, I can picture the crocuses with vivid clarity, scattered across the lawns, growing oblivious to property lines, spreading brilliant purple blooms everywhere for just a couple of short weeks, then disappearing again for a full year. I look forward to the crocuses.

And I miss my parents and spending time with my family. I will enjoy my walk through the old neighborhood. It will be fun to see spring finally arrive and meet all my old dog friends who will be eager to smell whatever was hidden beneath all that snow.

When you read this, I’ll be back. And I’m sure I’ll feel happier about it than I feel today. Today, I think I’ll miss the fireworks.

Psychological studies report that, if I want to keep enjoying something, I need a little time away. I need to do something different for a while to keep the appreciation fresh. I believe this is true. But right now, I don’t feel like going away.

Right now, I feel like taking in the brilliant colors and the warm sun and even the fireworks for at least one more day.

Till next time, Carrie

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Senate, House Begin Budget Reconciliation Process

The Texas Senate unanimously approved a \$308 billion two-year budget last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The next step is to reconcile that budget with one passed earlier by the Texas House.

The Senate’s budget funds \$10 billion in electric grid reforms, provides pay raises to state employees, and devotes more than half of its budget to funding education.

“Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Gov. (Greg) Abbott before the legislative session ends,” state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston said in a statement. Huffman chairs the finance committee.

The main difference in the two budgets is in how to provide property tax relief. The House version dedicates \$17.3 billion to cutting the annual amount a home’s appraisal can increase, from 10% to 5%. The Senate budget allocates \$16.5 billion for property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with added breaks for homeowners 65 and older.

MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR NEW MOMS POSSIBLE

The Texas House has passed a bill that allows low-income moms to stay on Medicaid for a full year after childbirth.

The Texas Tribune reported that is a marked increase from current practice, in which postpartum Medicaid expires two months after birth in Texas.

The bill has widespread support, including from Gov Greg Abbott and more than 170 groups in the state across the political spectrum. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, has not publicly stated his position on the measure.

Texas has the largest



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

uninsured population in the country, with nearly 1 in 5 Texans lacking health insurance, the Tribune reported.

“As I have said before, it is essential that the Texas House makes meaningful progress this year on better supporting mothers and children in the state — and that starts with extending health coverage for new moms to a full year,” House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said previously when outlining his priorities for the legislative session.

BILL BANS ‘SEXUALLY EXPLICIT’ BOOKS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Texas House last week passed a preliminary measure that requires vendors to assign a rating to books with sexual content before selling them to school districts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The measure requires one more vote in the House before heading to the Senate, where it is likely to pass.

“This bill is about radically sexual content in the hands of unaccompanied children in public school libraries,” state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, the bill’s sponsor, said from the House floor Thursday.

Opponents to the measure are concerned it would lead to books about LGBTQ people being banned from libraries. About a dozen people with the Texas Freedom Network held a read-in on the Capitol rotunda’s floor as the bill was being debated.

State Rep. Venton Jones, D-Dallas, is one of eight openly LGBTQ legis-

lators. He said the bill would hurt children who grow up feeling out of place because of their sexual orientation.

“I remember going to my school library looking for books when healthy conversations with my loved ones were not always available or always comfortable,” Jones said. “What I was looking for was materials that spoke to me and for stories of the people who came before me.”

BILLIONS MORE FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LIKELY

Billions of dollars for higher education research appear likely as two bills have passed the House, the Statesman reported. One measure changes the name of the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund, while another proposes a constitutional amendment to enact the bill and allocate \$3.5 billion to the fund. Both bills were filed by state Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood.

“This is a transformative piece of legislation that will allow Texas for generations to come to be the intellectual capital of the world,” Bonnen said last week. “It changes the eligibility requirements for access to this fund, and it does so in a merit-based approach and in an approach that, as other universities grow and enhance their research performance, they will be able to access this fund and not dilute the ones that are currently in the fund.”

Similar measures have already passed the Senate, though that body allocated \$1 billion less than the House measure.

LIGHTS OUT’ ACROSS TEXAS HELPS BIRDS MIGRATE

The annual migration of birds through Texas to northern breeding grounds has begun, and Texans are urged to help by turning off outdoor lights at night from now through May 12, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Bird mortalities are associated with light pollution, which disorients our winged friends. One of every three birds migrating through the United States comes through Texas in the spring and fall — nearly 2 billion in total, according to TPWD.

Texans can help by:

- Turning off all non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during this migration period.
• Not using landscape lighting to illuminate trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
• Aim security and safety lighting downward.
• In commercial buildings, ensuring custodial work is done by 11 p.m., and lights are turned off.

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Walle Virtual Town Hall,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

es at Galveston, and locally \$18 million to alleviate flooding of Halls and Greens Bayous.

In the Q & A session that followed Walle's presentation, a number of participants spoke out.

Reyes Garcia wanted to know the status of funding for Water and Sewer work in the East Aldine District, where he is chairman of that committee. Walle said that money has been received by the Airline District for that work, as well as East Aldine in the area east of US59. In addition, a large detention basin has been built in the Lauder Road area.

In response to a question about noise reduction, Walle said the HB99 will allow counties to control noise emanating from residences.

He said that HB8 has provided more grant money for community colleges and other higher education schools.

He discussed the current impasse on Property Tax Relief, with the House and Senate split on two very different approaches to relief. He said that this will have to be resolved before the final budget is passed in May.



Today I passed HB 704 out of the Texas House, to establish a revolving fund loan program for owner-builder affordable housing projects. This bill will help folks like Adasha Palmer, who worked with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for her family.

A lengthy discussion was held on the status of Aldine Westfield Road, especially in the area near Keith Wiess Park. Walle said that because it is a city road, our ability to move forward with improvements is limited. However, he has been working with the HGAC and City of Houston to fund improvements to the pavement, fix potholes, and clean ditches. He will continue to work on this.

Walle mentioned the planned takeover of the Houston ISD by the state TEA, and said he is not in favor of the takeover. He said that he feels the result will not be an improvement in education opportunities for students, nor an improvement in their test scores. He feels that funding of vouchers is not the answer, and it takes away funding for public schools.

East Aldine Civic Association Meeting

Great turnout at our April meeting. Our first meeting of many to come! Looking forward to seeing everyone again next month!



East Aldine Civic Association is at BakerRipley (BakerRipley East Aldine Campus) 20h · Houston ·

The East Aldine Civic Association had great turnout at our first official monthly meeting. Community members and representatives from State Rep. Armando Walle's Office, Air Alliance Houston, Harris County Public Library, and Aldine ISD's Worsham Elementary School were present and shared important information and updates to residents. Thank you to everyone for your continued support! We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back next month!

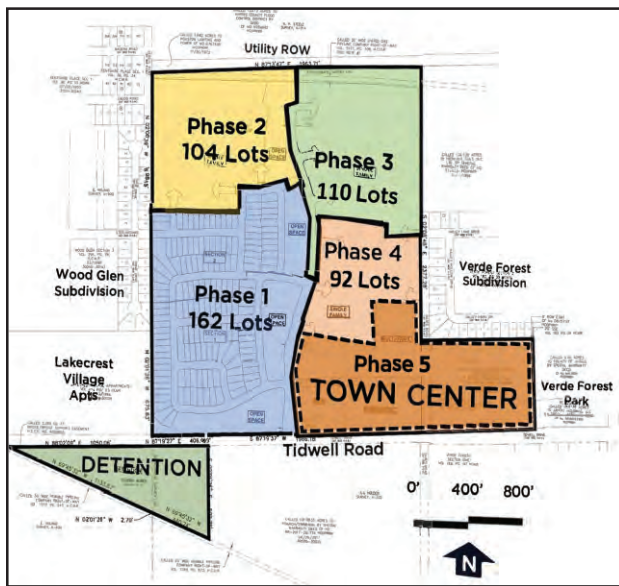
Construction starts in Robins Landing,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Located near Tidwell Road and Mesa Drive in northeast Houston, Robins Landing is ultimately set to include more than 450 single-family homes. A total of one hundred homes will be built by Houston Habitat and available to participants in the Habitat Homeownership Program, which prepares aspiring homeowners for long term success through true partnership. Prospective Habitat homeowners must demonstrate a need for housing, the ability to pay back an affordable mortgage, U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status, and a willingness to provide "sweat equity."

"We are pleased to see this community taking shape in northeast Houston," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The holistic approach Houston Habitat is taking to not only build homes, but an entire community with resources to help residents thrive exemplifies what government and partnerships can do when they choose to work together for the greater good."

The remaining homes in Robins Landing will be built and sold by partner builders CastleRock Communities and Chesmar Homes. 300 of these homes are reserved for those whose income is 120 percent or below the City of Houston AMI, with the rest of the homes available at



market rate. Lots will be available to purchase through partner builders later this year.

"We are thankful to have partners like CastleRock Communities and Chesmar Homes build alongside Houston Habitat in Robins Landing. This partnership has enabled us to evolve the design of the Habitat homes in Robins Landing, and, with each builder represented on every street, there is beautiful cohesion across the community," added Hay.

In 2021, Houston Habitat secured \$33 million in funds to begin adding necessary infrastructure which delivers resiliency and supports above-ground development on the 127-acre site. This includes clearing and grading; installing sewers and utilities; developing a stormwater management system with an added 20 acres of stormwater detention; and creating streets, curbs, and residential building lots.

Houston Habitat is continuing to raise \$10 million from philanthropy for above-ground features to ensure long term affordability, sustainability, and resiliency. Plans for this funding include a 12-acre central park with access to hike-and-bike trails, a neighborhood resilience hub, lot preparation and resilience for Houston Habitat homes, and more. In addition, the non-profit is collaborating with community partners to develop a Town Center with essential services and amenities.

Robins Landing is being developed by Houston Habitat in phases. Phases 1-4 will deliver all single-family lots and the central park over the next four years. Phase 5, which includes the Town Center and other resources, will be developed concurrently.

To stay up to date on Robins Landing, visit www.robinslanding.net.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In a fit of anger, what did King Saul throw trying to kill David? Spear, Vase, Shield, Ax
3. From Exodus 1, what were the people of Israel forced to make? Blankets, Boats, Baskets, Bricks
4. Who was the deceptive future father-in-law of Jacob? Masa, Laban, Jehoram, Rehu

5. What did Shamgar use to kill six hundred Philistines? Sword, Stones, Mina, Ox goad
6. How many deacons were chosen to help the apostles? 4, 7, 11, 15

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Spear, 3) Bricks, 4) Laban, 5) Ox goad (Judges 3:31), 6) 7
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the Lord, he rose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying: "Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

1 KINGS 8: 54-56

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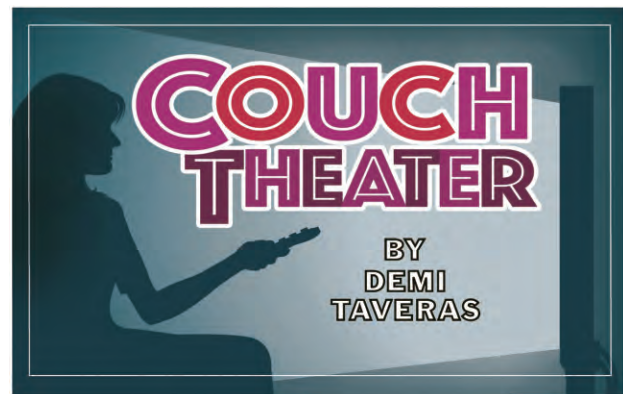
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Chris Evans and Ana de Armas star in "Ghosted."

"Ghosted"

"Ghosted" (PG-13) — Who doesn't know what it's like to be ghosted nowadays? Cole Riggan knows. After a successful date with a woman named Sadie, Cole is reeling and thinks he can see a real future with her. But Sadie has plans to travel to London for work, and when she leaves, Cole doesn't get a single text back from her. Still determined, however, Cole travels to London to meet her there. Once he arrives, Cole suddenly gets kidnapped and taken to a mysterious lair, where none other than Sadie rescues him. After Sadie reveals she's in the CIA, he realizes he might've bargained for more than he thought on this trip. Starring Ana de Armas, Chris Evans and Adrien Brody, this rom-com action film premieres April 21. (AppleTV+)

"Dead Ringers" (TV-13+) — Based on the 1988 film starring Jeremy Irons, this psychological-thriller miniseries premieres April 21 with six episodes all in one shot. Gender-flipping the roles originally played by Irons, Rachel Weisz plays both roles of Elliot and Beverly Mantle, who are identical twin gynecologists. Elliot and Beverly share everything — their occupations, their drugs, their lovers. And now, they share the same goal of expanding the boundaries of medicine, by essentially creating a baby out of science. The deranged twins must be careful where their ambition leads them, though, as there are eyes watching their every move. (Prime Video)

"The Diplomat" (TV-MA) — Kate Wyler is the new U.S. ambassador to the U.K., and her first crisis to solve takes her to London, right as a strike force inches closer to the Persian Gulf. With an imminent threat looming closer, Kate must play her role as diplomat very carefully if she wishes to succeed — and keep her husband, Hal, a former ambassador himself, from intervening in her career. This eight-episode series starring Keri Russell and Rufus Sewell can be compared to Netflix's recent release "The Night Agent," with tons of action, drama and politics. But the casts' performances, combined with hard-hitting dialogue, elevate the series to an entirely different level. (Netflix)

"The Fallout" (R) — Jenna Ortega ("Wednesday") and Maddie Ziegler ("Dance Moms") star in this heartfelt drama film centering on the aftermath of a high school shooting. Vada (Ortega) meets Mia (Ziegler) in the bathroom on what's supposed to be a normal picture day when a shooter appears on campus. The panicked pair hide in the bathroom, along with another student and are able to narrowly escape the shooter. During the weeks following the shooting, Vada and Mia form a close bond as they grapple with what happened at their school. Although this film is on the shorter side, Ortega and Ziegler's true-to-life portrayals are stunning and give insight to the difficulties that can arise after such a traumatic event. Out now. (HBO Max) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Adam Sandler has become the Netflix darling after completing his ninth film for the production company. Last month, he received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor presented by the Kennedy Center just in time for the release of "Murder Mystery 2," co-starring Jennifer Aniston.

Making the sequel for "Murder Mystery" was murder for the pair. Sandler admitted that he had to have a hip replacement, telling Variety, "I had been doing so many movies in a row. I did 'Spaceman,' and I was hanging in a harness all the time. I kept saying, 'Something's going on with my hip, man. I'm in trouble.'"

"Murder Mystery 2" director Jeremy Garelick confirmed, describing some of his stunt work as "Tom Cruise kind of stuff." Sandler bemoans, "I'm sluggish, man. My body hurts. ... I didn't think I needed to get in shape before the movie, but then when we were shooting, I was like 'Man, I should have gotten in shape.'" Aniston wasn't immune either. In what was the final day of shooting, she admits, "I had a back injury about three years ago, and it got really pissed off when I was in the harness. ... It was one of those things where you wake up the next day or two days later, and you're like, 'Wow, that got bad!'"

Up next, Aniston will be in an untitled comedy with Julia Roberts, and her series "The Morning Show" has been renewed for a third season. She and Sandler are planning another film together — which they want to be a drama.

*** Robert Downey Jr., no longer Iron Man after the last "Avengers" film, has set his sights on remaking Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 James Stewart and Kim Novak classic "Vertigo." But, first, we'll see him in the \$100-million "Oppenheimer" film (with Cillian Murphy in the title role of the father of the atomic bomb). It also stars Emily Blunt, Matt Damon and Rami Malek, and arrives July 21.

*** Nicholas Braun, two-time Emmy nominee for playing Greg Hirsch in the



Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston behind the scenes of "Murder Mystery 2"

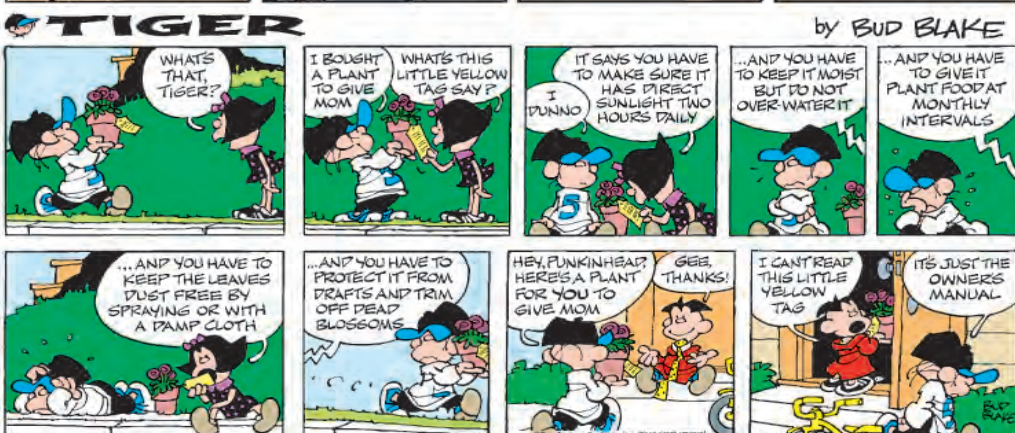
HBO series "Succession" (in its fourth and final season), has already completed the psychological-thriller film "Cat Person" (based on a New Yorker magazine story), with Emilia Jones and Isabella Rossellini. It's awaiting a distributor.

*** Netflix is back with its resurrecting again. They're now reviving the 29-season "Power Rangers" franchise into a new series titled "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: Once & Always," with returning members Karan Ashley, David Yost, Walter Jones and Catherine Sutherland. It drops April 19.

*** Jennifer Lopez didn't let her marriage to Ben Affleck (married on July 16, 2022) slow her career down. She's completed a pair of films for Netflix. The action-drama "The Mother," co-starring Joseph Fiennes and Gael Garcia Bernal, is due May 12, and the sci-fi thriller "Atlas," opposite Sterling K. Brown, is coming soon. Since she's now Jennifer Lopez Affleck (which means a "field of stone" in Scottish), dare we say they're stone cold in love? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Challenge.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a man at a desk and a list of differences to find.

April 24, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues for Across and Down.

Trivia Test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes a list of 10 trivia questions and answers.



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APRIL 29
SATURDAY 9AM-2PM

EAST ALDINE TOWNCENTER
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr
BRING A BLANKET / CHAIR
signup and be included AldineDistrict.org/Subscribe

FUN RUN 9AM
RUNNERS | WHEELERS | WALKERS

BASKETBALL 10AM
with Origami by Max Nguyen | Miss Amazing Pageant
YOGA RELAXATION CLASSES

FACE PAINTING | FREE EVENT | MUSIC | FUN
BALLOON ARTISTS, PETTING ZOO, FIRETRUCK & MORE

CAMION DE BOMBEROS | EVENTO GRATIS | PINTURA FACIAL
DIVERSIÓN | GLOBOS ARTÍSTICOS | ZOOLOGICO Y MÁS

EVENTO GRATIS | FREE EVENT
29 de ABRIL
SÁBADO 9AM-2PM

TRAIGA UNA COBIJA / SILLA
Únase a nosotros para un día de posibilidades ilimitadas.
Con una carrera divertida a las 9AM, baloncesto a las 10AM
y eventos divertidos como yoga, Miss Amazing y más.

MISS Amazing Estacionamiento Parking: LSC - East Aldine Center



Lone Star College addresses health care shortages

HOUSTON – Lone Star College is one of the leading institutions that continues to address the growing demand for skilled, compassionate health care professionals.

“I am pursuing a career as a clinical medical assistant because the field has always interested me and I enjoy meeting new faces and having the chance to help others,” said Valeria Moran, LSC-Conroe Center CMA student. “Lone Star College’s CMA program prepares me to work in a hospital and motivates me to continue my studies toward a nursing degree.”

LSC offers credit and continuing education health care programs featuring faculty with field experience, small class sizes and state-of-the-art labs and equipment based on real-world environments. The Physical Therapy program at LSC-Montgomery will host an information session on April 26 at noon at the Maverick Student Center, room 120.

Additionally, prospective students can learn more about other health care offerings at an information session via Zoom on May 10 at noon by visiting LoneStar.edu/HealthCareInfoSessionMay2023. The focus will be on emergency medical tech (EMT), medical assist-



Lone Star College will host online and in-person information sessions for prospective students interested in learning or working in the health care industry.

ing, patient care tech and phlebotomy programs.

“Lone Star College’s health care programs train qualified and compassionate workers to help the community address various medical challenges,” said Linda Leto Head, LSC Senior Associate Vice Chancellor External and Employer Relations. “Additionally, continuing education programs prepare students to enter their chosen medical professions at an accelerated rate and typically trains towards a state licensure.”

Lone Star College offers other health care workforce programs, including dental hygiene, medical lab, nursing, pharmacy and surgical tech. Courses are available at multiple LSC locations. For more information, view LoneStar.edu/Health-care-Programs.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2022 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year’s Best Workplaces in Texas™. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.dents interested in learning or working in the health care industry.



Smart TV Giveaway!
Attend Open House for a chance to win a TV.
* Must be present to win

Open House
LoneStar.edu/LearnMore

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WE ARE ROLLING OUT OUR RED CARPET TO GREET RETURNING, NEW AND CURRENT STUDENTS TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
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GUIDANCE FROM ADMISSIONS & ADVISING * FINANCIAL AID
ACADEMIC DEGREES * WORKFORCE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES
CONTINUING EDUCATION * PAYING FOR COLLEGE
STUDENT RESOURCES * TESTING SERVICES
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023, FROM 4 TO 6 P.M.