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Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years VOL. 47, NO. 15 TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



NEWS

Business Seminars offer lunch, learn

Free Service at the East Aldine District

National DAY OF PRAYER at East Aldine District Join the Aldine

MAY 4, THURSDAY

community at the East Aldine District Office, to observe the National Day of Prayer.

Thursday, 8:00-8:30 am at the East Aldine District Office building, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.

PRAYERS & BREAKFAST in front of and inside the building. Everyone is welcome. Rain or Shine. Meet at the flagpole.

MAY 10, WED. High Meadows Library hosts Coffee with a Cop

Join your neighbors and your Aldine ISD Police Department for Coffee and Conversation! No agenda or speeches. Just a chance to ask questions, and get to know the community leaders in your neighborhood.

High Meadows Branch Library, 4500 Aldine Mail Route Road, Wednesday May 10, 2023 from 10:00am to 11:00am.

Everyone welcome. Coffee with a Cop.



ness owners, either current or prospective, also heard from two other speakers. East Aldine Economic Development Director Lance Dean briefly outlined two programs that the district has available for businesses. The Aptly named BIG program is grants for improvements to your property, such as facades, parking lots, signage or other visual elements of your location. The grants are a 50% match up to \$10,000. Contact the District if your are interested. There is also a second program, which will issue grants for demolition and clearing of a site, with the same terms as BIG.

The seminar participants also heard from the federal SBA (Small Business Administration) representative, Valerie Maher, about a THRIVE program, which is an "intensive executive-level training program to accel-



The presentation on Commercial Leasing was made by Joaquin Orozco, principal with Resolut RE commercial real estate brokers. Assisting was East

erate the growth of high potential small businesses. Maher spoke briefly, but will return on June 29 in the next session of this business seminar series, to speak on SBA programs and services.

Orozco spoke about steps in the commercial leasing process. The hourlong session covered topics such as site selection, documents required, negotiations, construction process, permiting, working with commercial brokers and landlords, and more. The information was presented in a clear manner for new business prospects, but

also as a refresher for those already active businesses.

Orozco said a broker can help with optimum site selection, noting that near your home is often not the right place.

For documents required, he said you will need a Letter of Intent, Personal Financial Statement, Tax Returns, Bank Statements, Business Plan, and a Lease Agreement with the prospective landlord.

He advised that an attornev should always review your lease with your interests in mind.

Orozco explained rent, as base rent or cost per square foot, which doesn't change during your lease, and "triple net" which includes common area maintenance, real estate taxes, and building insurance for the landlord, all of these likely to rise during the lease and passed on to the tenant. He said that leases are usually for a 5 year term, although they could be 1 or 3 years.

He said that a broker can help with negotiation between the tenant and the landlord, on issues such as base rent, free

Continued. See Business Seminar, P. 7



Aldine's Economic Development Director, Lance Dean.

About 25 business entrepreneurs attended the lunch and learn session, to hear about steps in the process of acquiring a lease space for their business.

HCC announces new B.A. degrees Aldine ISD police to help fight in A.I., Healthcare Management **Catalytic Converter thefts**

HOUSTON — Houston Community College (HCC) Chancellor Cesar Maldonado. Ph.D., P.E., last week told an invited audience of more than 250 busigovernment, economic development and education leaders that HCC's new four-year degree programs in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics and Healthcare Management are evidence of the college's visionary workforce development and leadership.

His remarks were made at HCC's annual State of the College address, held at the college's West Houston Institute. Maldonado cited HCC's Chancellor's Champions Business Council of 30 key industry leaders, a recent national Bellwether Award for entrepreneurial and small business development, and partnerships with NASA, AWS, Intel, Dwyer Workforce Development and others, as recent initiatives that bring great bento students, communities and businesses.

"We are proud to be at the forefront of the excit-



State of the College Speakers included Chancellor Maldonado, at right.



ing field of AI," the chancellor said in announcing the baccalaureate degrees. "Our associate degree AI and Robotics program is highly regarded across the country. So, it only made sense, as a recognized leader in this space, to offer a bachelor's degree program in fall 2023.

Likewise, Healthcare Management is already a career track experiencing high demand. The new

program will be offered at HCC's Coleman College for Health Sciences in the Texas Medical Center (TMC). HCC is the only community college with an instructional presence in the TMC.

The Bachelor of Applied Technology in AI and Robotics will address a growing and critical need for

Continued. See New HCC degrees, Page 7

The upcoming "Paint the Convert" event will be held on Saturday, May 20, at Blanson CTE High

The Aldine ISD Police Department wants to help the community by lowering the number of thefts in the area. Painting your catalytic converter a bright color and etching the last 8 of your VIN will help prevent thieves from hurting your pockets. Donations will be accepted.

Stop the Hurt, Paint the

Convert Event

Saturday, May 20, 202311:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.Blanson CTE High School311 West Road-Houston, Tx, 77038

Note: The event will accept all vehicles of individuals who sign a waiver.

Time Slots: Please get in touch with Aldine ISD Police Officer Ariel Holliday at (281) 924-6926 for time slot availability.

Officer Holliday has partnered with multiple AISD schools, with many

student volunteers, to paint the catalytic converters free for citizens in the Aldine ISD area.

Holliday has hosted several "Stop the Hurt, Paint the Convert" events. Over 200 vehicles have had their converters painted and had the last eight numbers of the vehicle's VIN etched into the catalytic convert-

Questions Please get in touch with Officer Holliday at (281)

GLO Commissioner meets with Pastors

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Addresses **Houston Pastors Meeting, Brings Homeowners** to Set the Record Straight

HOUSTON - Houston pastors and faith leaders congregated to hear Texas General Land Office (GLO) Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., speak about the success of the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP). Commissioner Buckingham was invited by Reverend Perry Wooten, who organized the meeting to discuss housing recovery efforts by the GLO and to clarify mis-

During her address, Commissioner Buckingham spoke about the importance of ad-Continued. See GLO Housing, Page 5

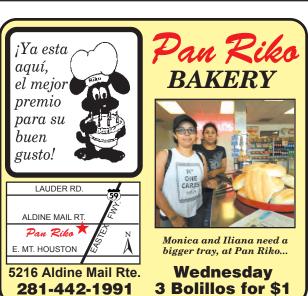


Commissioner Dawn Buckingham meeting with faith leaders and community members in Houston.

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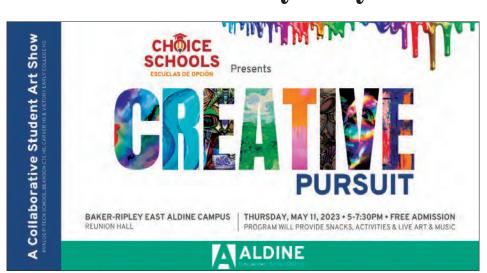






SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Choice Schools to Host Collaborative Student Art Show Thursday May 11



Four Aldine ISD Choice School high school campuses — Carver High School, Avalos P-TECH, Blanson CTE, and Victory Early College HS — will host Creative Pursuit, the inaugural collaborative art

Aldine ISD Choice Schools' Creative Pur**suit** — A Collaborative Student Art Show

May 11, 2023, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.Baker-Ripley East Aldine Campus-Reunion Hall 3000 Aldine Mail Rt Rd, Houston, TX

Entire Community Invited to Attend

The district invites students, families, and the entire community to join us in supporting our talented students.

What to Expect

Enjoy live painting and music, activities for the whole family, snacks, and over 150 works on display!

Join Us in Supporting Our Students

Please help us celebrate our exceptional students at this inaugural event showcasing the excellence offered at our choice schools

8 Individuals, 2 Relay Teams **Advance to Region 2 Track and Field Meet**

Eight individuals and two relay teams from Aldine ISD have qualified for the Region 2 Track and Field Meet, slated for Waco Midway High School April

The Eisenhower boys' 400-meter relay team consisting of Tyler Hutcherson, Braylon Oliphant, Ryan Niblett, and Deven Austin will compete at the Region 2 Meet. Darius Adams and Jonathan Corbin will serve as alternates.

Hutcherson will also compete in the 100-meter, and 200-meter dashes at regionals, while Preston Johnson will compete in the long jump. Niblett will compete in the long jump and triple jump. Mac-Arthur High's Keenan Jackson qualified for regionals in the long jump.

Davis High School's Andre Washington qualified in the 200-meter dash.



Eight Aldine ISD student-athletes have qualified for the Region 2 Track and Field Meet.

The Eisenhower High School girls' 400-meter relay team also qualified for the Region 2 Meet. The Freeman, Warneshia Horn, Dorian Bell-Lewis, and Alaina Nathan. Daisha Williams will serve as an alternate.

Eisenhower High's Devin Fox qualified in the 100-meter dash; Nimitz

High's Na'Zahra Thomas qualified in the long jump and triple jump, and teammate Andrea Franco qualteam comprises Brandy ified in the discus and shot put.

The top two individual finishers in each event and the top two relay teams will earn a trip to the Class 6A State Track and Field Meet, set for May 11-13 at the University of Texas in

District Partners With University of Houston to Offer an Alternative **Certification Program**

Aldine ISD is pleased to announce a new partnership with the University of Houston's College of Education for the Teacher Alternative Certification Program.

Aldine is looking for degreed professionals interested in transitioning into teaching. The University of Houston's College of Education has launched an exciting program for college graduates (or soon-to-be graduates) who want to teach but need to get certified. Participants will teach in their classrooms while earning a salary and receiving coaching from experienced UH faculty. The initiative is a win-win for all.

The UH program is one of many alternative certification options for interested future teachers. According to Ruby Allen, director of human resources, Aldine ISD has several partnerships with other universities and organiza-

"The UH alternative certification program is a university-based program that will provide the support and training needed for our teacher candidates," said Allen. "We are excited to attract new talent to the teaching profession while ensuring students have high-quality teachers. The participants or 'interns' are prepared through rigorous summer course work, and professional growth is nurtured throughout the year of induction, utilizing trained public school mentors and university faculty. The interns will have support at the campus and the university

Program Benefits for

Participants

Learn the art and science of teaching from a high-quality university-based program.

Receive supportive, effective training and coaching from UH faculty.

Earn a full-time salary. Participate in ongoing pro-

fessional development. Apply their new skills to help their students succeed!

Minimum Eligibility Requirements Bachelor's degree (by start

Passion for education and a willingness to learn

Interest in teaching in participating school districts in the program like Aldine ISD at the open grade levels and subject areas; applicants will be screened

Get started today! Check out the timeline!

UH TEACHER ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM Timeline

District Students Compete at Texas History Day 2023; One Student Heads to the **National Competition**

Aldine students competed at the 43rd Annual Texas History Day competition on April 15 in Austin. Several district students shined, with one - Tori White from Nimitz High School — advancing to National History Day in Maryland in June.

Texas History Day, a part of the National History Day (NHD) program, is a yearlong education program that culminates in an annual state-level history competition for students in Grades 6-12. This year's theme is "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas."

The state and national levels program equips students with college- and career-ready skills in collaboration, research, writing, and innovative thinking from studying history and civics. Students are prepared to handle impending-and complicated—global challenges through participation.

Students who placed first or second at state will now advance to National History Day, held June 11-15 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Texas History Day 2023 2nd Place and Willie Lee Gay Award for African American History — Advancing to NHDStudent: Tori White

from Nimitz High SchoolTitle: Reporting Live: Integration in the StatesCategory: Senior Individual PerformanceTeacher: Ian Harva-



Tori White from Nimitz **High School**

Award: Outstanding Regional Senior Level Project-Students: Dulce Najar, Emely Chávez, Erika Euceda, and Yeferson López from La Promesa High SchoolTitle: Óscar RomeroCategory: Senior Group ExhibitTeachers: Dule and Christopher Martínez

Award: Outstanding Regional Junior Level Project-Student: Lailah Graves from Aldine Young Women's Leadership AcademyTitle: The Untold Tale of the Night WitchesCategory: Junior Individual WebsiteTeacher: Charlot Finnigan

Distinction/Honor: A Top 6 FinalistStudent: Kali Patton from Carver High School-Title: Roberto Clemente — A Frontier for Latinos in BaseballCategory: Senior Individual WebsiteTeachers: Dominic Hammock and Todd

Distinction/Honor: A Top 6 FinalistStudents: Alice Conghuven and Jessica Sorn from Davis High SchoolTitle: Tiananmen Square Massacre: The People's Republic vs. The PeopleCategory: Senior Group DocumentaryTeacher: Assata Thomas

Special Award: Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration AssociationStudent: Kameron Mott from Mead Middle SchoolTitle: Buffalo Soldiers: Service on the FrontierCategory: Junior Individual ExhibitTeacher: LaToya Landry

NHD reaches over half a million students and tens of thousands of teachers yearly via its international student history contest and its wide range of teacher professional development programs, curriculum tools, and other educational activities.

Young historians choose a topic and dive deeply into the past by conducting extensive research in libraries, archives, and museums. They then present their conclusions and evidence through papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, or websites, moving through a series of contest levels where professional historians and

educators evaluate them. Students develop communication, project management, and historical thinking skills throughout the pro-

MacArthur High Baseball Coach Ernest Gonzales Earns 400th Career Victory



Aldine ISD's Athletic Department recently held a ceremony celebrating MacArthur High baseball coach Ernest Gonzales. Gonzales earned his 400th career win at MacArthur on Feb. 24 with a 2-0 win over Cy-Park. Pictured are (I-r): MacArthur High head football coach and campus athletic coordinator Wayne Crawford, Director of Athletic Services Sandra Mader, Aldine ISD Board Member Connie Esparza, Louisa Gonzales, Ernest Gonzales, Aldine ISD Board Member Rose Avalos, MacArthur High School Principal Shauna Showers and pictured in the back row is Aldine ISD Board Member Steve Mead.

It all started with an 8-7 win over then Jeff Davis High School (now Northside High School), and 37 years later, MacArthur High School's head baseball coach notched his 400th career victory with a 2-0 win over Cy-Park on Feb. 24.

Before a recent District 14-6A game against Westfield, the Aldine ISD Ath-Department letic recognized Gonzales' accomplishment with a ceremony attended by Aldine ISD Board Members Rose Avalos, Connie Esparza, and Steve Mead, along with Director of Athletic Services Sandra Mader, MacArthur High Principal Shauna Showers, head football coach, and campus athletic coordinator Wayne Crawford and members of Gonzales' family. Gonzales was presented with a plaque to honor his accomplishment.

Gonzales remembers his first win like it was yesterday."Yes, it was my first year as Terry High School head coach. We defeated Jeff Davis, 8-7," he said. "I still have the ball with all the player's signatures."

Gonzales has 416 overall victories, with 405 coming at MacArthur, where he has served as the Generals' head coach for the last 31 years.

He admitted he didn't think much about winning No. 400 until his family made him realize it was a big deal.

"At first, I didn't believe it was significant until my wife, children, especially my sons, and grandchildren were very excited about it," he said. "We discussed it around the dinner table and at every family gathering. They were full of joy and happiness. It made me realize the people I had spent so much time away from all these years because of coaching were very happy and proud of me. Several of my fellow coaches, athletic directors, administrators, and school board members congratulated me and told me it was well deserved. It made me realize it was a major accomplishment and very

Gonzales began his coaching career in 1980 in

significant."

Spring Branch and moved to Terry High School in 1986. In 1992, former Aldine Athletic Director Joe Young offered Gonzales the head coaching job at MacArthur, and the rest is

Gonzales is married to former Aldine ISD employee Louisa, his high school sweetheart. They have been married for 52 years and have three children, Kelli, Ernie, and Eric (MacArthur Class of 1998). All are college graduates, and each has a master's degree. Ernie and Louisa also have four grandchildren, Julianne, 13; Joseph, 10; Harlow, 10; and Oliva,

Gonzales said he does not plan on slowing down anytime soon.

"I have been head coach at MacArthur for 31 years, and I am looking forward to 32," he said. "I have been teaching for 43 years. It has never sounded like a long time until Channel 2 did a story about it, and I realized I've been doing this for a long time."

Now that he has 400 wins, why not go for 500?

OPINION PAGE

TEXAS GLO

By Dawn Buckingham, M.D. **Commissioner, Texas General Land Office**

Texas GLO posts amendment to expand housing programs

Second amendment of the plan expands eligibility of participants in the Homeowner Assistance Program and Resilient Home Program

AUSTIN - Today the Texas General Land Office (GLO) posted Amendment 2 of the Mitigation State Action Plan for \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grants for Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) for a federally required 30-day public comment period. This amendment allows additional individuals with a remaining need for housing assistance to be served in Cameron, Chambers, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, San Jacinto, and Willacy counties.

The amendment includes the following chang-

- Housing Oversubscription Supplemental: Expanded eligible participants to include waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants from the 2018 South Texas Floods HAP and 2019 Disasters (Lower Rio Grande Flooding and Tropical Storm Imelda) HAP.
- Resilient Home Program: Expanded eligible participants to include waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants from the 2018 South Texas Floods HAP and 2019 Disasters (Lower Rio Grande Flooding and Tropical Storm Imelda) HAP.

The GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program has successfully reached the hardest hit, low and moderate income, vulnerable, and historically hard-to-reach families and individuals as defined by the Fair Housing Act and required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of all approved applicants, nearly 90 percent identify as Black or Hispanic, and 89 percent of homeowners are considered low-tomoderate income with 63 percent of applicants making less than 30 percent of the area median income.

The innovative Resilient Home Program (RHP) reconstructs owner-occupied single-family homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey with additional resiliency and mitigation standards. Eligible participants will be drawn from the GLO's existing waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants. This program also serves as a showcase for more resilient residential construction practices and provide the opportunity to promote these practices throughout the residential construction industry on a scale larger than previously attempted. RHP offers four enhanced construction methods: tiltwall, steel-frame, structural composite lumber, and enhanced wood-frame construction. For more information, please visit recovery.texas.gov/rhp.

The amendment is available for review at recovery.texas.gov/public-notices. All comments should be submitted to cdr@recovery.texas.gov by 5:00 p.m. on May 30, 2023, to be considered. Per federal requirements, the GLO must respond to public comments before the amendment can be sent to HUD for final approval.

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



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**



House OKs \$4.5 Billion for Teacher pay Raises

The Texas House last Thursday passed two education-related bills, one that allocates \$4.5 billion for teacher pay raises and another to increase the annual per-student base funding from \$6,160 to \$6,300 - a 2.3% increase.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the bill would create minimum salaries for teachers ranging from \$35,000 to \$63,000 depending on experience and level of education. It would also increase funding for special education and fine arts.

Some education advocates worry the per-student funding is insufficient to keep up with inflation, which has grown by 17% in the last four years, the Statesman report-

The bill also creates a method to adjust the per-student funding for inflation every other year, starting in 2025.

VOTERS MAY DECIDE FATE OF BROADBAND EXPANSION

Voters could decide whether the state should invest \$5 billion to expand internet availability if a bill passed last week by the Texas House makes it through the Senate. House Bill 9, sponsored by state Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, would create the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund. the Texas Tribune reported.

"This bill will have a measurable impact on each one of your districts," Ashby said last week on the House floor. "No matter whether they be urban, suburban or rural."

Nearly 7 million Texans do not have reliable broadband service, a fact hammered home during the pandemic, when connectivity often was crucial for schools and people trying to work from home. However, state Comptroller Glenn Hegar said in March that it would take closer to \$10 billion to get all Texans connected.

The state is also expected to receive federal dollars for broadband expansion out of the infrastructure package passed by Congress in 2021, though it is unknown how much Texas will receive out of the \$42.45 billion allocated for broadband expansion. The state will need to match one-fourth of whatever it receives from the federal government.



A bill requiring electrical vehicle owners to pay a \$200 annual fee to the state has passed both chambers and sent to Gov. Greg Abbott, The Dallas Morning News reported. Backers of the bill say the higher vehicle registration fees are needed because EV owners don't pay fuel taxes built into the price of fuel and used to fund the state's highway system. The state fuel tax on both gasoline and diesel is 20 cents per

Opponents of the bill say it would slow the expansion of EVs in the state, which pollute less than vehicles using carbon-based fuels. They also note the fuel tax funds just 29% of what is spent on Texas highways.

"The primary cause of the road funding shortfall in Texas has nothing to do with EVs, but rather with the fact that Texas has not increased their gas tax since 1991," Dylan Jaff, sustainability policy analyst with Consumer Re-

FENTANYL TEST STRIP BILL

of Abbott.

State Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, chairs the criminal justice committee. He said some members fear making the test strips legal would lead to more people feeling confident about using danger-

Fentanyl is often mixed with more expensive drugs such as heroin, leading to thousands of fatal overdoses, including more than 5,000 in Texas from July 2021 to July

"It's just illogical, but there's a belief by some members that it might safeguard the use," Whitmire said.

The testing strips are currently treated as drug paraphernalia. The strips are used to test for the presence of fentanyl in other drugs.

BILL CALLS FOR ARMED OFFICERS AT ALL SCHOOLS

A bill that would require school districts to place at least one armed officer on each campus has passed the House, Texas the Statesman reported. The measure comes almost a year after a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in a mass shooting in Uvalde last May.

Any officer or school employee would have to complete handgun safety training. The measure also requires at least one audit for intruder detection each year in all districts. The state would provide at least \$100 per student and \$15,000 per campus to maintain and improve school safety.

State Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, has filed several gun control measures in that chamber that have yet to receive a hearing. Gutierrez represents Uvalde and says more needs to be done besides the House measure.

"Let me be very clear: I'm for anything that's going to make our schools safer," Gutierrez said in the Statesman story. "But the three things that is going to really make our schools safer is extreme risk protective orders, you take guns out of the hands of the mentally ill, Florida did it, it worked; raising the age limit, take guns, AR-15's out of (the hands of) 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds, Florida did it, it worked; closing the gun show loophole and universal background checks."

DISASTER DECLARATION PARTIALLY APPROVED

President Joe Biden has partially approved the state's request for a major disaster declaration for counties affected by an ice storm in late January.

The original request included 23 counties, but 13 were given access to funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency — Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Hays, Henderson, Kendall, Lee, Leon, Milam, Robertson, Travis and Williamson.

The ice storm damaged millions of trees, particularly in the Austin area, and caused widespread power outages throughout Central Texas. A total of 350,000 people in Texas were without power at some point, according to Spectrum News 1.

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

POSTSCRIPT **Carrie Classon**

"Bunny Food"

The TSA agent looked stern—as they usually do.

"I'd like to look inside this bag, ma'am," he said.

"No problem!"

I always sound a little too eager when being questioned by an authority figure. I'm trying so hard to prove I have nothing to hide that I sound like I must have something to

The agent proceeded to open my carry-on bag.

"It's a bowl!" I told him, with a little too much enthusiasm.

My husband, Peter, was supposed to have put the bowl in his checked luggage, but at the last minute he became concerned it might break. It was a large ceramic bowl we were bringing back from Mexico, and we've had ceramic stuff break in the past.

"Why don't you put it in your carry-on?" Peter asked, after I was already more or less packed.

"That big bowl in my carryon?" I was dubious.

"I think it will be safer. I can take whatever you had planned to put in your carry-on."

So I took the bowl, already wrapped up in bubble wrap, and put it in my carry-on, and now the TSA agent wanted to take a look at it. Of course, it wasn't empty.

We had a lot of little things to bring back from Mexico after three months, and Peter had stuffed who-knows-what into the bowl before wrapping it in bubble wrap. So when the agent asked me what was in the bowl, I looked bewilderedwhich was not the look I was going for when being inspected by this serious agent.

"Peter!" I hissed. "What's in the bowl?"

"Food!" Peter replied. "Food?" the agent asked.

Oh, great, I thought. Now this agent is going to be thinking we're bringing in a ham or something. We know the rules of what can and cannot come into the country. But some things are a little vague. Meat is out. Cheese is OK. Some fruits and vegetables are out. It's confusing, and I was worried that whatever Peter had put in the bowl might cause is-

"Yup!" Peter said, apparently unworried. Well, it was my luggage after all, I thought.

The TSA agent proceeded to unwrap the bowl, tearing off the packing tape and taking a lot of time with the whole procedure. We had a connecting flight, and I was getting nervous, so I smiled even more broadly. At this point I was as curious as the agent to discover what was inside the bowl I had been blithely smuggling into the country.

Inside the bowl were several suspicious-looking bags. Inside the bags were lentils, chickpeas, chia seeds and shelled pumpkin seeds. The TSA agent looked up at Peter.

"Bunny food," he said. I couldn't tell if he was mocking Peter or simply making an of-

ficial identification. He wrapped the whole thing back up in the bubble wrap, and we went on our way.

"Bunny food!" I said to Peter, as we finally headed away from security.

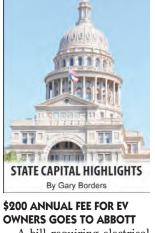
We got home late. It was cold and rainy and so different from the sunny Mexico we had just left behind. In the morning, we learned we had both gained almost 10 pounds. Everything seemed a little drea-

I unwrapped the brightly colored bowl. It looked wonderful in our apartment. I put Peter's bags of seeds on the counter for his morning break-

I was glad we brought these things back from Mexico. As we get used to gray skies and cool temperatures up north, we need the comfort of a little extra color. And we certainly need a little extra bunny food.

Till next time,

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



ports, said in a memo.

STALLS IN SENATE

A bipartisan effort to decriminalize the use of fentanyl test strips has stalled in a Texas Senate committee after passing the Texas House with near unanimous report, The Morning News reported. The bill also has the backing

NORTHEAST*NEWS

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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)

Member Texas Press Association

2023 Houston Art Car Parade Winners









We hope you enjoyed this year's incredible celebration of creativity, innovation, and "the drive to create.

We couldn't produce Houston's largest free cultural event without the help of our partners, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, staff, and the over 260 artists, schools, youth groups, non-profits, busi-

nesses, and creative individuals that entered a oneof-a-kind mobile masterpiece into the 36th Annual Houston Art Car Parade & Festival.

Mark your calendars for the Orange Show's 37th Annual Houston Art Car Parade, coming April 13,

Over \$16,000 was awarded this year to art-

ists who participated in the Houston Art Car Parade through a judging process that looked at craftsmanship, theme, design and originality.

This year's judges were Hot Wheels Diecast Design Manager Bryan Benedict, City of Houston Civic Art Program Manager Theresa Escobedo, Acclaimed automotive designer Randy

Grubb, Houston Museum of African American Culture CEO John Guess, Jr., Multimedia Artist, Opera Singer and Filmmaker Lisa Harris, and Custom Car Maker Will Robinson.

First Place Art Cars "Shelley's Truck by Peg E. Corn" by Rickey Polidore, Jr. & Friends - Hous-

"Gretapocalpyse" by

Rick McKinney - Fairfax,

"Traffic Safety Cone Monster" by James Keener & Team TXDOT - Houston, TX

Second Place Art

Cheerio, the Hippo Car" by Tom Kennedy for Sue Shefman - Houston,

"Smelly Cat" by Kimi

Bainter - Houston, TX "Dominotrix" by Tjody Deval - Columbia Heights,

Third Place Art Cars

"Sugar Rush" by Lovett Elementary - Houston, TX

"Face your Fears" by Sam Houston Math, Science & Tech HS - Houston,

"Kat Balue" by Queen Becky - Houston, TX

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Addresses Houston Pastors Meeting, Brings Homeowners to Set the Record Straight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dressing the housing needs of Houstonians who need help rebuilding as well as the GLO's success of having more than 1,000 homes rebuilt in Houston and Harris County with another 1,000 homes approved and under construction. She also emphasized the success of the GLO's program, which has helped homeowners who were not served by the City of Houston, which was initially administering the funds for home rebuilding.

"When I was running, I promised, you would see me, you would know me, and I'd be here serving your communities," said Commissioner Buckingham. "What I care about is meeting unmet needs and being sure we are bringing prosperity to your communities, your churches, and helping your folks who need help."

Several Houston-area Harvey victims shared their emotional stories with the audience, including June Battist, who expressed her

gratitude to the GLO for intervening when the City of Houston failed to help. Greg Luna shared his story of how the City of Houston mishandled his case and how the GLO was able to provide him with a new home in just 77 days.

Lloyd Helms, who had been approved by the City of Houston for assistance five years before the GLO's intervention, spoke about the frustration as he waited in vain for aid. Timothy LeBlanc also shared his experience, expressing how the GLO was able to build his new home in just 110 days.

Speaking on the importance of community memmeeting with Commissioner Buckingham, Reverend Perry Wooten stated, "[Commissioner Buckingham] has been here every step of the way. God put us here to lead our people and shepherd His flock. We need for her to be in here and touch base with the faith based community." He continued, "She's kept her word. She's



Houston resident Retta Miles had a particularly gut-wrenching journey after the 2017 storm devastated the area, "I am just happy to be in a place where I don't have to suffer, cry or worry anymore. GLO made that happen for me.'

doing what she's told me she's going to do. That's who she is. As long as I'm involved, we're going to bring it back to the community. We're going to make sure you're at the table."

Commissioner Buckingham also took the opportunity to correct some of the false narratives that have been repeated by those opposing the GLO's recovery efforts. She noted that some have falsely claimed the home rebuilding program, regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, diminishes home values when in fact, on average, homes rebuilt through the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program increase the value of the property by more than \$85,000.

Commissioner Buckingham also noted that 85% of funds are benefiting low-to moderate-income families, significantly outperforming HUD's requirements. Nearly 60% of the households served by the GLO are considered extremely low income, which means the household income would be less than \$27,750 for a family of four.

Commissioner Buckingham concluded the meeting by thanking Reverend

Wooten for organizing the event and highlighting the need for organizations to work together more effectively in the future. With the upcoming hurricane season only weeks away, she emphasized the importance of being prepared and working efficiently to provide aid to those who need

"We know there is another storm coming. We know we haven't recovered from the last one. We have got to get that recovery complete. Then we have to figure out how to come together so next time something happens - because we know it's going to happen - that we come together more efficiently and more effectively," said Commissioner Buckingham.

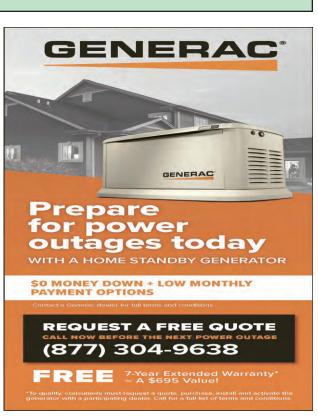
The meeting was an opportunity to set the record straight and provide homeowners with the required assistance. The Commissioner's remarks highlight the importance of collaboration and the need to work together to prepare for future disasters. (Contributed)



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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

it cannot save.

PSALM 33: 16-19 20

- 1. Is the book of Deuteronomy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. What city mentioned in Revelation is also the name of a city in Pennsylvania? Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Erie, Bethlehem
- 3. How many times does the word "eternity" occur in the Bible? 0, 1, 74, 212

No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior

escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength

But the eyes of the Lord are on those

who fear him, on those whose hope is in

his unfailing love, to deliver them from

death and keep them alive in famine.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

4. From Numbers 12:3, who was the most humble man on earth? Jacob, Elijah, Noah, Moses 5. "Here am I; send me" comes from which book?

Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Malachi 6. What's the longest book of the Old Testament?

Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Philadelphia (Rev 1:11, 3:7), 3) 1 (Isaiah 57:15), 4) Moses, 5) Isaiah 6:8, 6) Psalms

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HCC new BA degrees,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

skilled workers in a rapidly evolving technical field. Over the last decade, AI has gained a substantial foothold in a variety of industries. The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (2021) recognizes it as "already ubiquitous in everyday life" and that "application of AI techniques to solve problems is ... turning once-fantastical interest of disciplinas."

a range of disciplines." Graduates of the HCC program will enter a profession with 2,686 annual job openings in the region and a median annual salary of \$101,000.

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Healthcare Management will prepare students for career advancement or entry-level healthcare managerial positions. The degree program enables working professionals to advance their careers by focusing on leadership skills, knowledge and credentials

in healthcare manage-

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cites Medical and Health Services Managers as a growing occupational field based on increased demand for healthcare services as the baby-boom population ages. As medical service needs increase, the need for managers "who organize and manage medical information and healthcare staff" will also expand.

The program's graduates will enter a profession with 1,067annual job openings in the Houston region and a median annual salary of \$101,000.

The State of the College address was the last for Chancellor Maldonado, who is stepping down in August after nine years at the helm.

"During my nine-year tenure as HCC's chancellor, we have made phenomenal progress in student success, fiscal stability and planning for the future," he said. "We have embraced Houston's future. It is now a part of HCC's DNA. We are rightly positioned to continue with the success of this great institution, and I am proud to report that the state of the college is strong."

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

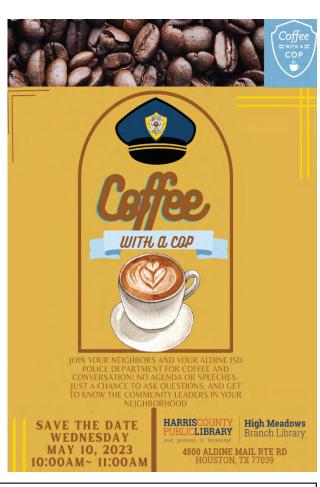
Business Seminar,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rent, improvement allowances, reserved parking, and signage.

In preparation for leasing the space, a tenant will require drawings, permits, a construction process, and a Certificate of Occupancy, all of which a broker can help with.

After the presentation, the audience asked questions, and some met later for personal advice. Dean said that the Small Business Seminars took place at the East Aldine District office every two months, The first session this year was about Tax preparation, and the next session on June 29 will be about the SBA services. The seminars and lunches are open to all business persons in the community and are a free service of the district.



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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month! Join us for Monday Matinees to celebrate the culture! Mondays at 2pm in May.

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 crea t i v e building! Wednesday, May. 3, 4:30pm

TEEN THURSDAY Teen Thursd

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, May 4 3:30 - 5:30pm.

ALDINE WALK IN PLACE -

15 MINUTE FITNESS

Are you looking for a way to ease into being a little more active? Join us Saturday, May 6 at 11am as we Walk In

Place the equivalent of 1 mile in 15 minutes! Can't make it in person? You can follow along with the video any time and as often as you want: https://youtu.be/Gbzjbmi1PWY

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Are you learning English and would like to practice your conversation skills? Are you a native English speaker who would like to help others become more fluent? Join us for some easy-going conversation with friends over coffee! This is NOT a class. This is just for fun and experience. May 6, 2pm.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Fatal Bicycle/Car Crash at 8700 Tidwell Road

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred at 8700 Tidwell Road about 9:40 p.m. on Monday (April 17).

The identity of the deceased male, believed to be in his 50s, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Le and Officer R. Ramos reported:

A male driver, 22, of a black Acura TL was traveling eastbound at the above address when the vehicle struck a bicyclist crossing the street, going northbound. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the male bicyclist to a Ben Taub Hospital, where doctors later pronounced him deceased.

The driver of the Acura remained at the scene and did not show signs of intoxication. He was questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.

Apartment Building Fire in The Greenspoint Area

Houston Fire Department reports fighting a major fire in an abandoned apartment building in the Greenspoint area, at W. Hardy Road at Greens Road. The fire occured on April 12, 2023 at 2:42 a.m.

There were no reported injuries. The bulding sustainted \$600,000 in estimated damage. The cause of the fire is listed by the fire department as Careless fire practice.

Firefighters arrived on scene within seven minutes to find heavy smoke coming from the roof of a 2-story abandoned apartment building. They made an attack on the fire and conducted a primary search. The fire was extinguished and HFD Arson investigators to determine the cause and origin. Crews from Stations 64, 15, 34, 74, 84, 58, 30 and the Aldine Fire Department responded to this incident.

HFD responded to the same location about six hours later, just after 8:30 a.m.

Suspect Arrested, Charged in 2022 Fatal Shooting at 2502 West Little York Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of one juvenile male and the wounding of another at 25 Road about 6:15 p.m. on March 16, 2022.

The suspect, Marcus Haynes, 18, is charged with r State District Court. A booking photo of Haynes is a release.

The deceased victim is identified as Joshua Pedraz 15, was transported to an area hospital in stable con

HPD Homicide Division Detectives L. Patterson ared:

Officers responded to a report of a shooting at a collabove address and found a victim suffering from multiple current and to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

A second juvenile male (a suspect) also suffered a gunshot wound and was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

Investigators learned the victim was meeting with several suspects for a drug transaction when the suspects attempted to rob him. A physical altercation occurred and the victim and the suspects began shooting at each other. The victim and one of the suspects sustained gunshot wounds. The other uninjured suspects fled the scene on foot.

Further investigation identified Haynes as one of the wanted suspects. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and, on March 31, 2023, a murder warrant was filed. Haynes was arrested on April 5 in Wharton County. Two juvenile male suspects remain at large.

Anyone with information on the identity and whereabouts of the wanted suspects is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Fatal Shooting at 16900 Northchase Drive

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 16900 Northchase Drive about 1:20 p.m. on Tuesday (April 18).

The identity of the victim, 41, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives E. Torres and A. Graf reported:

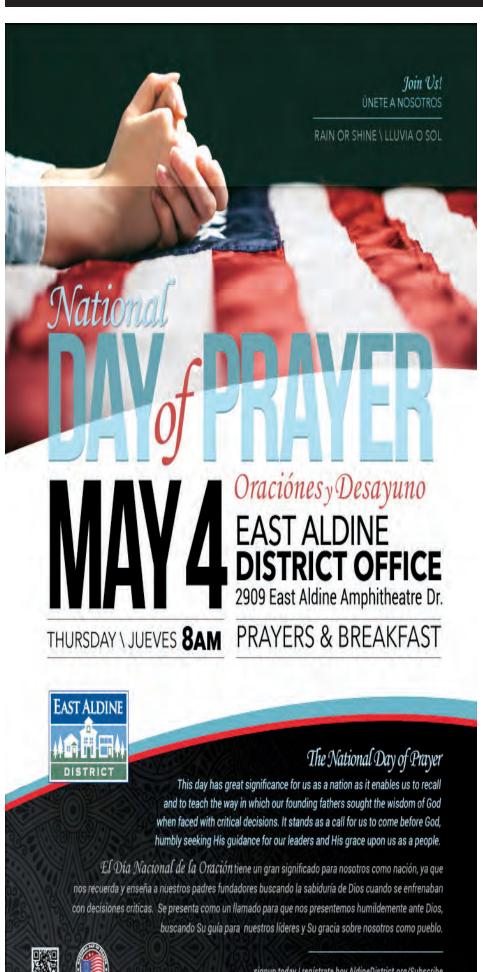
HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting call at an apartment complex at the above address and found the victim, suffering from gunshot wounds, in front of his apartment door. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the man to a local hospital, where doctors pronounced him deceased.

Witnesses reported seeing three or four unknown black males near the apartment moments before the shooting. At this time, there is no known suspect(s) or motive in the case.

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







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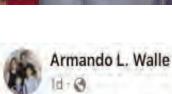
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Houston Community College launches virtual tour of campuses

HOUSTON - Prospective students and the community are now able to experience Houston Community College's state-ofthe-art learning spaces without ever having to step foot on a campus, thanks to a new virtual presence at tour.hccs.edu.

With the launch, HCC has become the first community college in the Houston-area to offer such a tour. "It's a point of pride that the institution is leading the way in providing access to tools that help students make their biggest decision – what they want to study," said Dr. Shantay Grays, HCC's vice chancellor of Student Ser-

HCC opted to use a virtual tour as a way to highlight its programs and learning spaces that feature innovative tools to prepare individuals for life and work in an ever increasing global and technologically advanced soci-

"With the virtual tour, we strategically expanded our capacity to provide students with the information they need to make informed decisions about their academic pathways," said Afrah Hassan, interim director of Outreach and Recruitment.

The virtual outreach includes guided tours of the college's various Centers of Excellence and 360-degree panoramic views of labs, classrooms and learning spaces along with an interactive campus map. There are also links to help visitors connect with support services team members

"The virtual tour is a perfect resource for those who need help in making academic pathway decisions and finding what's available at our campus locations," said Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. "It is now simple for anyone, anywhere at any time to view our awardwinning, high-quality affordable education options with just a click."

The tour is displayed prominently on the HCC website and related digital platforms. CampusTours of Auburn, Maine developed the tour platform for HCC.

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

