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NORTHEAST NEWS



Sunday, May 14, 2023

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years
VOL. 47, NO. 16 TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Abilities featured at East Aldine event

District helps Disabilities turn into Possibilities at Fun Event

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.

TCEQ to hold 2 meetings in East Aldine re: Concrete Batch Plants

From the East Aldine Civic Association:
IMPORTANT: East Aldine residents and neighbors, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND the following meetings:

*TCEQ Public Meeting regarding amendments to the Concrete Batch Plant standard permit

Date: Monday May 22, 2023, 6:30 PM

Location: East Aldine District Office, 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheatre Dr. Houston TX. 77039

Purpose: This meeting is being held by TCEQ to give residents an update regarding amendments that the agency has made on their permit applications for concrete batch plant. The public will be allowed to ask questions on this matter at the meeting.

*TCEQ Public Hearing on proposed permit amendments for the Yellow Jacket LLC. Concrete Batch Plant located on Hartwick Rd.

Date: Monday June 12, 2023 Time: 7:00 PM

Location: East Aldine District Office, 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheatre Dr. Houston TX. 77039

Purpose: This meeting is being held by TCEQ to discuss and allow public input regarding the changes that Yellow Jacket LLC. wants to make on their permit with the state. This is the plant located at 2219 Hartwick Road. Please bring family, friends, and neighbors to share their concerns!

It is very important that you attend these meetings to provide feedback to TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to voice your concerns regarding the pollution coming from these plants that is affecting our community's health and safety.

EAST ALDINE – As part of their community event series, the East Aldine District hosted a day of “Unlimited possAbilities” for the public last Saturday from 9am to 2pm at Town Center. Dozens of folks of all ages participated, some with disabilities and some without.

The idea behind the event was a day of fun for those who normally don't get out to participate in sports and public events.

Event coordinator Alma DeAlejandro organized a series of games and activities for everyone to enjoy something. These included a Fun Run to start the day at 9am with help from Gloria Suarez of the Bee Abled organization. Participants could walk, run, use wheelchairs, or walkers. Some even had canes and crutches.

This was followed by basketball games at 10am, assisted by Quentin Parks of The Fit Crew. These two activities were followed by an awards ceremony on the Amphitheater stage.

There was also music by a DJ, and at 11am a group gathered to have a Parachute Twist, helped by



Dozens of participants demonstrated their “possAbILITIES” at the Unlimited possAbILITIES event hosted by the East Aldine District last Saturday at Town Center.



Basketball Games were played with a mix of players with and without disabilities, and prizes were awarded at the closing ceremony. See Photos inside.



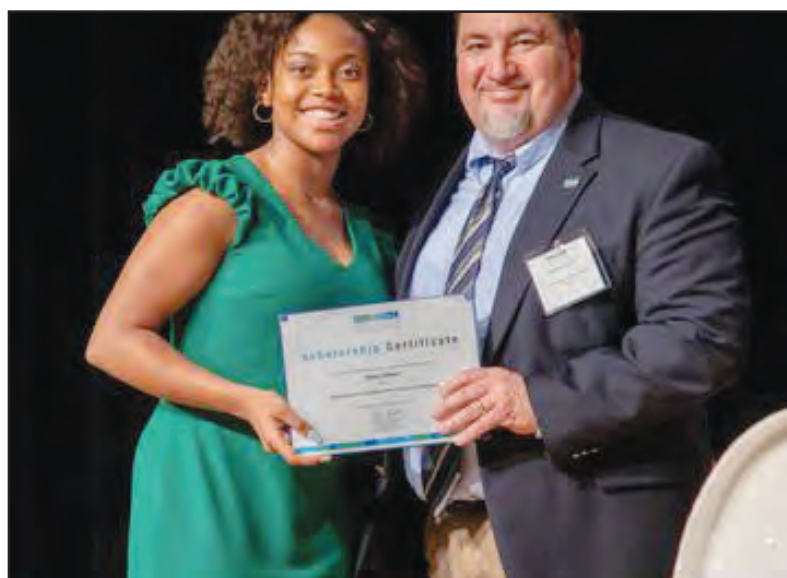
A Fun Run started the day, at 9 am with competitors as Runners, and with Wheelers, and Walkers. Everyone had fun and reveled in their abilities.

deputies from the Sheriff's office. There also was a motivational speaker, Gabriel Cantu, relating his own experiences with disabilities. This was followed by a raffle for prizes that included unique wheelchair hubcaps from Izzy Wheels.

In the afternoon, there was a class in making Textile Art, taught by Tori Christensen, and a Yoga Class led by Cindy Samudio. Textile Art is especially good for those who have

Continued. More photos and story on Page 5.

Avalos P-Tech grads receive surprise Scholarships



East Aldine District Executive Director Richard Cantu presents a scholarship certificate to a P-Tech graduating senior.

By Linda Flores Olson

The Aldine Education Foundation is grateful that 103 graduating seniors at Avalos P-TECH School experienced the surprise of a lifetime when they learned that they will get to go to college for free, thanks to the generosity of the East Aldine Management District.

“We are pleased to provide every graduating senior at Avalos P-Tech School an opportunity to launch their post-secondary education,” said Pat-

ti Acosta, Position 4 Board Member. This is the first graduating class from the Aldine area high school.

All graduating seniors from Avalos PTECH High School will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend any accredited college or university of their choice. This is the first in a series of surprises for the students – next year's graduating class will also enjoy the same opportunity.

The East Aldine Management District was created by the Texas Legislature in June 2001 to enhance the physical, social, and economic well-being of Aldine. It is a governmental entity administered by a nine-member, volunteer board of directors.

International Arts Festival set for May 20 at Town Center

EAST ALDINE – The District will host an International Arts Festival on Saturday, May 20 from 10am to 3pm, at the Town Center. This will be a showcase for the Multi-cultural nature of the District, taking full advantage of the many ethnicities that live or work in the area. The Festival will be a showcase for all types of art, from performing to dancing, to visual and participatory, and meditation and poetry.

Event Coordinator Alma DeAlejandro has a full day planned, or art, dance, displays, classes, games, and more. A “Chalk Car” and chalk artists will be a special part of the event, she said.

The event schedule starts with a Puppet Pizzazz of Frida Kahlo theme at 10am, and then at 11am the Zyion Gospel Choir. At 11:30 the Aztec Calmecac Indigenous Arts group will perform a blessing dance on the event, and look for the Phoenix CRCT Dragon & Lion Dances at Noon.

In the afternoon, you can listen to a poetry reading by Britney Alexander, Lay 380 Poetry. The at 1pm the Aldine Carter Academy and other schools will perform. At 2pm, you can relax and listen to West African Drumming.

Local as well as city-wide groups will participate. Baker Ri-

pley will present Spin Art, and High Meadows Library will have the Curiosity Cruiser, a Floor Piano, Power Tiles, and Cosmo Bots.

Carter Academy will show how to build a voilin, have Asian Calligraphy or Lantern Pastel and Chalk, and you will be able to learn Bollywood or Capoeira (at the splash pad).

The theme uniting all of this is Chalk Artists, and you can leave your thoughts written in chalk on a ChalkStang (Mustang chalk car). Art cars will be on display, mural artist Kimberly Gillespie will be painting, and 3 giant games will be available: Rubik Cube, Kereplunk, and Pin Press.

Groups planning static displays are Art in the Heart by HTX, and MacArthur Fashion Students displaying Fashion Hats. There will also be Face Painting, crafts vendors, food trucks, a petting zoo, train rides, and more. A great Family Event, only in East Aldine District.

Classes will be available to participate in. At 11am there is a class to show you how to make a Pinata, and at 1pm there is a Frida Kahlo Art Class.

Alma said that the many nationalities of the City and the District will be on display and participating. The East Aldine Arts Council helped put the event together, and there will be more in the future.

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

We're Here For You!
Executive Director: **Richard Cantu**
713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org
Operations Manager: **Veronica Sanches**
713.595.1226 VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

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PRECINCT 2 UPDATE: International Delegation tours James Driver Parak



This month, Precinct 2 hosted an international delegation of adapted sports advocates and athletes at James Driver Park Inclusive Park. The group is part of the U.S. Department of State Global Sports Mentoring Program and represented 16 different countries! This is the first time the program hosts its orientation week in Houston, and Precinct 2 is honored to have been a part of it! Click here for more photos and information.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Complaint Leads Investigators to Unsafe Boarding Home on Gaston, Occupants Relocated



Harris County, Texas — On Apr. 27, the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office (HCFMO), along with the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), removed 12 residents from a boarding home located in the 4600 Block of Gaston, Houston, TX 77093, due to unsafe living conditions. Harris County revoked the permit for the boarding home, and with the help of other agencies, the residents were relocated to various locations. Of the twelve, five had to be hospitalized, three were transferred to hospice care facilities, and the remaining four were released to family care.

Upon inspection, officials discovered that the boarding home had been approved to house up to seven people but was exceeding its capacity. There were several safety hazards, including open and exposed electrical wiring and bedridden occupants who required a higher level of care than what a boarding home is allowed to provide. To minimize the risk of fire, HCFMO has requested CenterPoint to disconnect power service to the home.

As a part of our mission, fire, and life safety is of utmost importance, and providing appropriate care and support to those in need is our top priority," said Harris County Fire

Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "Protecting our most vulnerable populations is a community effort, and we are incredibly thankful for the complaint made by a concerned county resident. We would also like to extend our appreciation to our community partners at Harris County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Service District 1, SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SET-RAC), and Texas Adult Protective Services for their assistance in this matter.

The regulations for boarding homes serve to safeguard the health, safety, and general welfare of residents from potential abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud. These homes are locally regulated, and to comply with regulations, they must receive fire and life safety inspections annually to renew permits. The boarding home in question obtained its permit in July 2022. An investigation into its operation is still ongoing.

To learn more about boarding homes and what to look out for, please visit our boarding home webpage. If you encounter any unsafe or unlicensed boarding homes or care facilities, please report them via email to fmosupoort@fmo.hctx.net.



Prioritizing public safety

Since 2021, Commissioners Court has allocated over \$39.2 million in backlog reduction efforts that affect every aspect of a case's life cycle—from intake to empaneling a jury. Progress is underway, and the data shows it. During the one-year period between January 2022 and January 2023, the felony backlog (361+ days) dropped by 30%, and the misdemeanor backlog (181+ days) dropped by 32%.

Behind the Scenes in Precinct 2

This month in Commissioners Court, the following Precinct 2 infrastructure projects were approved: Baytown Sidewalk Improvements Project: It includes the installation of approximately 8,825 square yards of sidewalk improvements along Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road, Lee Drive, South Main Street, Decker Drive, and Baker Road in the city of Baytown. Cedar Bayou East and West and Oak Glen Place Subdivision Drainage Projects: These two projects will improve and reduce flooding issues in the surrounding communities.

This month, Commissioner Garcia led or voted in favor of the following items: \$15M for the acquisition of single-family homes: This allocation of federal funds allows the Community Services Department to purchase single-family homes in Harris County that are outside the city limits of Houston and outside major flood plain areas, to resell the homes at an affordable rate to income-eligible buyers. This is the first batch of funds for the Single-Family Acquisition program. All homes in this program will be entered into the Harris County Community Land Trust, to ensure long-term affordability for homeowners through a 99-year ground lease. This is one of many steps in the countywide plan to commit more than \$200 million in ARPA funds for affordable housing.

Swift water training facility: This training facility will accommodate and train up to 1,600 law enforcement officers annually in waterborne evacuations and rescues, mitigating flooding casualties in Harris County. This investment is the first of several to establish Harris County as a premier training hub for law enforcement nationwide.

Harris County Animal Shelter: Commissioner Garcia made a motion to direct the Office of County Administration to lead the effort to find a new Director for the Harris County Animal Shelter.

H.U.D. Efficiency/One Bedroom Housing for the Elderly and Disabled

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ELIGIBILITY:

- Age 62 or older
- Disabled
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Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

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

Pokémon are hiding in the library. Find them all to get a prize! Each Pokémon will have fun facts about **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.** This activity will be available **all month long.**

TEENS MAKE IT
Summer is here and this month, we're making candles that can repel mosquitos and bugs! **Monday, May 8, 4 - 5pm.**

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

KIDS CLUB
Come for Kids Club and make Mother's Day Crafts! **Wednesday, May, 10, 4:30pm.**

MELANIN MINDS COLORING WORKSHOP
All those **ages 15 and up** can join us for a workshop that connects coloring and relaxation, right on

time for Mental Health Awareness Month. **Tuesday, May 9 at 4pm.** Register on the HCLP website: <https://hclp.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

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, May 11 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

CRAFTY CORNER - TEACUP MINI GARDENS
Join us for Crafty Corner where we're recycling teacups and mugs to make a mini garden! They could even make a great Mother's day presents. Join us Saturday, **May 13th from 2 - 3 pm!**

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

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

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, May 2, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

April came and went in a blur of activity. Can you believe that May is here? But truth be told, I wouldn't have it any other way. It is a constant reminder of how vital our role is in the community. We continue giving our students access to high-quality educational experiences and many choices and opportunities. Recently, our CTE students signed letters of intent to be teachers in Aldine ISD once they complete college and certification requirements. In addition, two of our students will be taking part in the Mickey Leland Kibbutzim Internship this summer in Israel. We also hosted the Transition Expo and Job Fair for our special education students — hearing their success stories about how these events and the district's transition specialists nearly brought me to tears. We also hosted events like Fun Day in the Park for our families of students with autism, empowering them with resources and information; the AISD Photo Contest, where PreK to 12th-grade students submitted over 500 photographs, and our Beginner Band Festival, where students got the chance to showcase their talents. And just this weekend, we celebrated our Festival de Primavera — ¡gracias a todos mis amigos, familias y alumnos que asistieron! Again, these are just a few of many happenings and opportunities.

As we wind down the semester, there are many lasts, like my last meeting with my Superintendent Student Ambassador group. Each one is becoming the leader they want to be. It has been an honor to work with them this school year.

Graduation Dates
With May comes thoughts of graduation — one of my favorite times of



the year. Students are deciding where they want to attend college, like Eisenhower High School student Sydney Prier's acceptance to Stanford University. I also enjoyed participating in Victory Early College HS' Signing Day. The school has 100% of students graduating with a choice and opportunity at a college, university, or military! Good Job! Good Job! As families across the district make plans to celebrate their high school seniors' milestones and achievements, click here for the 2023 Graduation Schedule.

Community Meetings
Seeing families at our Community Meetings has been fantastic. Thank you to all who attended the Eisenhower High School and Davis High School events. Our final two Community Meetings will be at MacArthur High School on Thursday, May 4, and Nimitz High School on Thursday, May 11. Meetings start at 6 p.m.

Kudos and Shout-outs
I have to give a shout-out to our Aldine Education Foundation. The AEF Awards Ceremony was once again a huge success. The foundation awarded over \$425,000 in scholarships! What a blessing that our AEF Board, Aldine ISD Board of Trustees, staff, and community members believe in our students so much that they invest in their future.

It all begins with our students' strong start in our schools, like Kujawa Elementary. I visited the school last week and got to witness how they provide a strong start to our young scholars. Our schools are

building great students, great staff, and outstanding leaders by creating equitable learning environments for students. All means all in Aldine.

And we couldn't do any of this without teachers! I hope you join me in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers are a huge part of each student's success. They change the lives of students every day by helping them learn and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. Please let them know what they mean to your child, your family, or if you are a student or staff member, what they mean to you.

There is another group that I encourage you to celebrate later this week with me — our school nutrition professionals. The "lunch ladies," as our students sometimes affectionately refer to them, also impact students' lives. They ensure our students have full bellies with nutritious meals that keep them energized and ready to learn. Give our hard-working cafeteria workers a shout-out and thank them on School Lunch Superhero Day on Friday, May 5.

May also marks Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The third most spoken languages are by our Asian American/Asian students. I have long believed that diversity is a strength, and it is definitely a strength in Aldine. Our identity, traditions, and cultures are important to each of us. They can show us more often than not how similar we all are, like how we value the importance of family. Visit our website to learn how our district leaders will celebrate with activities planned for each week this month.

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

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States. AAPI Heritage Month celebrates the unique journey of all AAPI immigrants and citizens in the United States and their unique life experiences, traditions, and cultures.

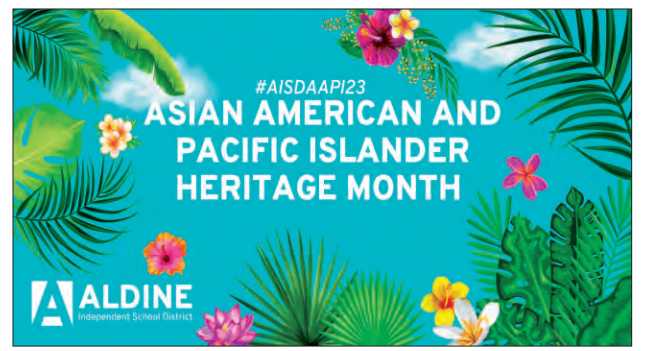
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly to American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, history, culture, film and recreation, education, finance, international trade, government and politics, and activism and law.

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month occurs every May in the United States. As of 2019, there were about 24 million of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. When many think of AAPI communities, they think of people from or that have descended from South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific Islands. However, AAPI also includes West and Southwest Asia (commonly referred to as the Middle East in the U.S.). According to the Pew Research Center, AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that makes up about 7% of the total U.S. population.

The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent, including the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Easter Island).

District Administrative Activities
District leaders will be celebrating AAPI's rich cultures and traditions. A special event will be held at the Donaldson Administration Building (DAB) and the Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center (BAM).

Be sure to share how you are celebrating AAPI Month on social media. Include the



Luke Museum in Seattle, WASmithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art in Washington, DCMuseum of Chinese in America in New York, NY

MAY 12: WEAR ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE ATTIRE!

Wear your Asian American heritage attire to celebrate and commemorate Asian American/Pacific Islander culture and heritage, using textiles as another visual art form.

MAY 15-19: PERFORMANCE ARTS

Asian American art heritage is kept up by cultural gems open to everyone all across the city. These are important to keep up your family's ancestral heritage or to see a different cultural perspective for the first time.

MAY 18: STUDENT PERFORMANCE AT ILT MEETING

At the ILT meeting on May 18, a performance from the students participating in the Vietnamese Bilingual Program will take place during lunch.

AAPI people have a long history in the United States. According to the Bering Land Bridge Theory, Asians first migrated to what is now known as North America over 15,000 years ago through a land bridge between Asia and North America. In the 16th century, Filipinos escaping forced labor and enslavement during the Spanish galleon trade immigrated to North America, eventually settling in St. Malo, La., in 1763. During the California Gold Rush of the 1850s, many Asian immigrants came to the West Coast and provided labor for gold mines, factories, and the transcontinental railroad; the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869. In 1882, Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese immigration for 20 years.

hashtags #AISDAAPI23, #AldineConnected, or #AldineConnectado.

MAY 1-5: HISTORY AND LITERATURE

Works of literature are great examples of people's culture. In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Month, commit to reading books about or written by Asian American or Pacific Islanders. Click each link below for information, titles, and a literacy activity:

[HistoryMust Read BooksNovelsHaiku](#)

MAY 8-12: ART, HISTORY, AND FASHION

Culture is the customs of people who live together. Aldine ISD art students will be creating cultural art walls representative of members of the Asian American community in areas of literature and fine arts.

Cultural Experience
Visiting a museum is a great way to honor people of our past and present. It's also a great way to learn more about different cultures and ways of life. Take a step to further your knowledge by visiting a museum or cultural site that authentically showcases AAPI cultures and artists.

Many museums and historical sites offer virtual exhibits focusing on AAPI arts, architecture, and more. Together, your team can traverse exhibitions and virtual walking tours to learn about many AAPI cultures near and far.

Click on the links below to visit museums and sites around the world with virtual opportunities to learn more about AAPI cultures:

[Asian Art Museum](#) in San Francisco, CA
[Wing](#)

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- 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 6: The AISD Day of Design event will take place at Eisenhower High School from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. More than 400 students in Grades 6-12 will be taking part.
- May 10: Coffee With a Cop (click here for details)
- May 11: Community Meeting at Nimitz High School from 6-7:30 p.m.
- May 11: Creative Pursuit, the district's Choice Schools' inaugural collaborative student art show, will be at BakerRipley East Aldine Campus-Reunion Hall from 5-7:30 p.m. Click here for details.
- May 20: Aldine ISD Police to host an event to paint catalytic converters. Click here for details.
- 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 — Click here to register.
- 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

- 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)

REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

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

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

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

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

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

Aldine ISD Police Dept. 'Coffee With a Cop' at High Meadows Library Wednesday, May 10

High Meadows
Branch Library
4500 Aldine Mail Rte. Rd.
Houston, TX 77039

Wednesday
May 10, 2023
10 a.m.-11 a.m.

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.

ALDINE
Independent School District

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By John Grimaldi
Association of Mature American Citizens

It's not about growing old; it's about how you grow old

More Americans than ever are growing older and healthier these days. Consider the fact that on average we were lucky if we lived past 47 years of age at the beginning of the 20th century.

To be sure, the covid pandemic has taken its toll, causing an increased mortality rate in general among the elderly as well as a time out when it comes to expanded life spans.

Going forward the question is, will life expectancy in the U.S. resume its growth in the future. It most likely will, say the experts.

According to the National Library of Medicine, the risk factors of aging are the human pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases.

What it all comes down to is what Abraham Lincoln allegedly said: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members.

LETTERS To The Editor

Reader wants help with toxic waste from Superfund site

Please we need help our back yard is full of toxins ! I live 3000 feet from the waste pit on I-10 and my health as well as family and a dear friend who has lived here since the early 90 !!

2017 mercury lots of mercury washed up from hurricane Harvey , We were promised help but no reply from any agency !

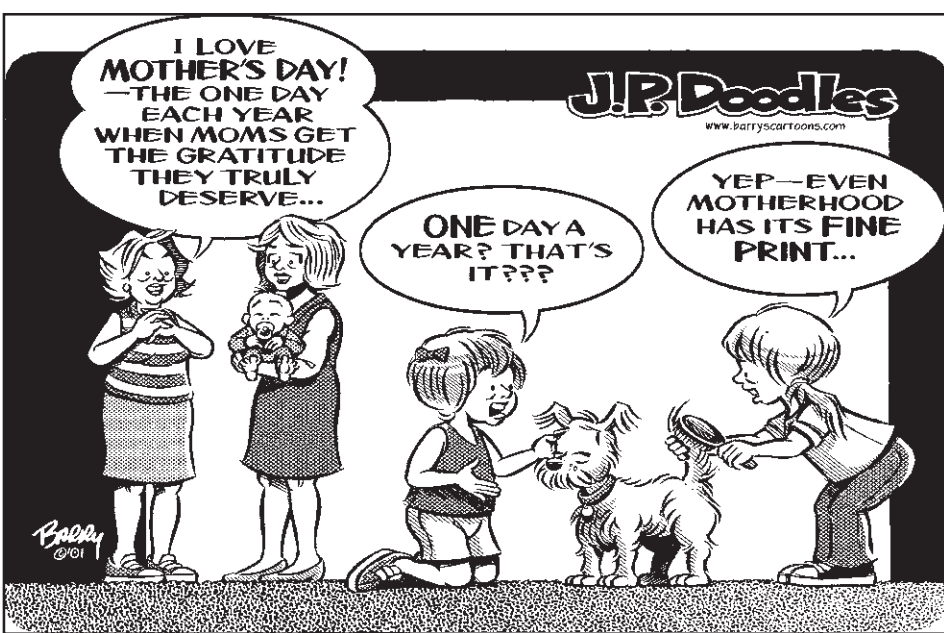
New York Times did a story on the devastation of toxic chemicals found post Harvey but was made to make revisions to the story per EPA AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES!

Harris county health dept left message in article they would have someone come investigate but no one ever showed. We have proof - pictures, documentation's, years of research and finally maybe some answers ..

Sincerely

Natalie Cullom
346-417-8252

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.



"Taking Pictures"

I like taking photos when I'm out of the country. Photographing things in Mexico is effortless. I'll never understand the nuances of every festival or ritual, but I can enjoy the pageantry and the color and the incredible effort and artistry that goes into creating so much beauty

Then I come back up north and look at the mud. It's a big change.

The skies were overcast for the first five days after my return from Mexico. The temperatures were unseasonably low. There was some rain. There might even have been some snow, if you count the white, pelletlike things that dotted the sidewalk.

"What is this?" I asked an innocent passerby. He shook his head disapprovingly.

And I realized that I was terribly spoiled. Taking pictures in Mexico took no skill at all. I decided I needed to start taking pictures right here at home.

The first day was not a great success. The sun stayed stubbornly behind a cloud. The few blooms that were out had been nipped by the frost. I took a photo of some branches against the gray sky and a carved stone pillar covered in green lichen.

The next day I happened upon some crocuses forcing their way through the muddy soil. The crocus is not a showy flower, but their sheer numbers were amazing.

The third day was colder than ever. I headed out the door for my walk and turned right around, went inside and put on warmer clothes. The sky was dark in the middle of the afternoon. I photographed a hydrangea, left over from the previous year, bleached and brittle, shaking in the chill wind.

I wanted to photograph one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood through the fence, but a row of garbage cans was in the way. I contorted into a strange position, and a woman walking by looked at me curiously.

"I'm trying to take pictures," I told her, "even on the gloomy days."

"Well, this is a good house to photograph when it's gloomy!" she replied. The house looked menacing under the heavy clouds.

On Sunday, I went to church. A new pastor had been hired while I was in Mexico, and he preached a good sermon. The choir was especially strong. And, sometime in the middle of the service, a little bit of sun crept out. I looked up and saw the stained glass.

"Oh, look," I thought. "Finally, some color."

After the service, I climbed the wooden stairs to the balcony, and I looked through the vibrant stained glass. It was all the color I had been missing since coming back from Mexico.

And I felt a lot better.

I'm not sure if the new minister would approve, but those windows did more for my soul than his sermon and the beautiful music put together. Those windows gave a sermon of their own. Those windows lifted my spirits and made me remember how much unseen beauty there is—all the time.

They reminded me that it's not what I'm looking at that matters—it's what I'm looking through. Looking through eyes trained to see beauty, I see beauty everywhere.

I left the church, thanking the windows on my way out. Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Clock Ticking on Moving Bills

The clock is ticking on getting bills out of the House and to the Texas Senate. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week in a story in the Austin American-Statesman.

"I previously expressed concern the House was far behind in the passage of bills and a train wreck was coming," Patrick tweeted. At that time, more than 1,100 bills had made it out of committee but still had not been set on the House calendar.

House Speaker Dade Phelan did not comment on Patrick's concern but has put that chamber on a six-day work schedule for the rest of the session.

POLL: RAISE MINIMUM AGE FOR GUN PURCHASES

A new poll released by the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin indicates three-fourths of Texans polled said they support raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21, the Texas Standard reported.

"That included 91% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans," Joshua Blank, director of research, said. "This is a consistent finding, to be quite honest. We've asked this question before. We've asked similar questions. So, there's an appetite in some ways for stricter gun laws in Texas. It's just not something that is politically palatable in the process that we have."

Attempts by some Democratic legislators to push a similar measure in this legislative session have not gained traction and appear unlikely to pass.

PUC CHAIR WARNS OF POSSIBLE SUMMER OUTAGES

The chairman of the Public Utility Commission warned last week that the state's main power grid is at risk if wind turbines don't produce enough power when needed, the Texas Tribune reported.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

mand power sources, such as power plants fueled by natural gas or batteries, need to be built to increase the electric grid's reliability.

"The Texas grid faces a new reality," Lake said last week. "Data shows for the first time that the peak demand for electricity this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand, dispatchable power, so we will be relying on renewables to keep the lights on."

Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at the news conference that wind and solar energy production results have increased considerably more than plants powered by coal or gas.

"So as a result, we are expecting to have to rely more on renewables during peak conditions than we ever have before," Vegas said.

Supporters of renewable energy scoffed at the view that the grid's reliability rests on renewable energy alone.

Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas, said in a statement that renewable energy's growth in Texas "should be heralded and welcomed — not blamed, contrary to evidence, for grid problems."

The PUC is proposing the use of performance credits, funded by an estimated 2% increase in customer electric bills. The funds would go to companies that operate on-demand power sources in hopes of incentivizing them to build more power plants or keep existing plants operating longer, the Tribune reported.

ALLRED TO CHALLENGE CRUZ FOR SENATE SEAT

A three-term Dallas-area congressman is seeking the Democratic nomination for

U.S. Senate in hopes of facing off against incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz next year. The Dallas Morning News reported last week that U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, is seeking the nomination. He released a video blasting Cruz for hiding in a supply closet during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and for leaving Texas weeks later for a Cancun vacation during the statewide electricity crisis caused by Winter Storm Uri.

"That's Ted for you. All hat, no cattle," Allred says in the video.

Cruz, whose campaign called Allred a "far-left radical," beat Democratic rival Beto O'Rourke by fewer than 3 percentage points in 2018.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Thousands of Texas motorcyclists are seriously injured or killed in crashes every year, the Texas Department of Transportation reports. In 2022, 562 motorcycle riders were killed, an 8% increase over the previous year.

"People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles — especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe."

During May, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month, drivers are urged to observe these safety precautions:

Stay alert. Even a momentary distraction, such as answering a phone call or changing the radio station, can have deadly consequences.

Pay special attention at intersections. That is where one-third of motorcycle fatalities occur.

Take extra care when making left turns. Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.

Stay back and maintain a safe following distance.

Slow down and observe posted speed limits.

SIX NEW STATE PARKS ON THE HORIZON

Texans will have the opportunity to enjoy six new state parks in the next 12 to 15 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced recently. As TPWD celebrates 100 years of state parks, it is planning the development of a half dozen new places to camp, hike, fish or just enjoy nature.

New parks in the works include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park near Fort Worth; the Dan A. Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio; Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area near Boerne; Powderhorn State Park near Port Lavaca; Chinati Mountains State Natural Area near Presidio; and Davis Hill State Natural Area near Houston.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Revelation (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 20, which person's last recorded words in scripture were, "My Lord and my God"? Samson, Matthew, Thomas, David
3. Paul was shipwrecked on what island while on his way to Rome to face charges? Arvard, Cos, Melita, Samos

4. Which Psalm begins, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"? 1, 11, 23, 50
5. Who wrote the first five books of the Old Testament? Peter, Abraham, Luke, Moses
6. What's the longest book of the New Testament? Luke, John, Acts, Romans

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Thomas, 3) Melita (Malta), 4) 23, 5) Moses, 6) Luke
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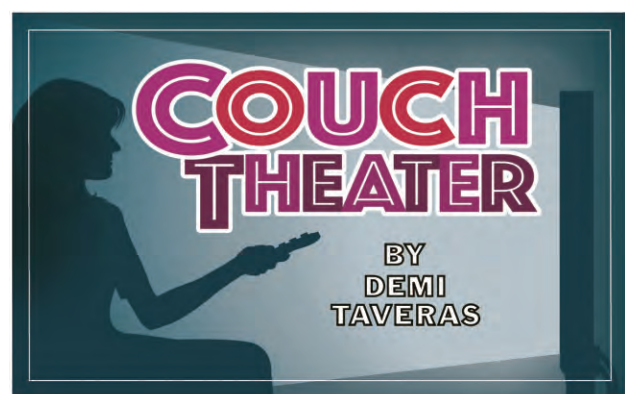
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Lucy Paez and Jennifer Lopez star in "The Mother."

"The Mother"

"THE MOTHER" (R) — In this action-drama film directed by Niki Caro, Jennifer Lopez stars as the nameless titular character, an ex-assassin who cuts a deal with the FBI. Forced to leave her newborn baby girl behind, the mother-assassin goes into hiding in order to keep her daughter safe, since there are other dangerous assailants on the lookout for both. So, the Mother remains in hiding until news of her now-12-year-old daughter's kidnapping reaches her. Now, she must resort back to her killer roots to find her daughter and free her from her captors.

While the story sounds like it's been done a few times before, Lopez's performance as an action star carries the film, along with other great performances by Gael Garcia Bernal and Joseph Fiennes. Premieres

May 12. (Netflix)

"BUPKIS" (TV-MA) — A new series described as the dramatized version of Pete Davidson's life is out now on streaming. The eight-episode, action-comedy series follows the comedian-actor as he tries to navigate his unique family dynamics and the complexities of rising to fame, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Joe Pesci ("The Irishman") and Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") play main roles as Davidson's relatives, while a myriad of big names in Hollywood make guest appearances throughout the half-hour episodes, including Bobby Cannavale, Steve Buscemi, Al Gore, Kenan Thompson and Machine Gun Kelly. While viewers should anticipate lots of self-deprecating humor and absurdist elements,

expect some profoundly heartwarming and human moments in between. (Peacock)

"TILL" (PG-13) — The brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till during the Civil Rights Movement in 1955 swept over our nation.

His tragic story catapulted the young African-American boy into becoming a historic symbol posthumously, no doubt due to the fact that his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley, refused to let him die in vain. Making conscious choices to leave Emmett's casket open and speaking publicly about the circumstances that lead to his death, Mamie uses an experience that no mother should have to face as a way to help bring about justice for Emmett.

This biographical film emphasizes Mamie's powerful activist acts and the weight they still carry decades later. Premieres May 9. (Prime Video)

"CRATER" (PG) — From the producers of "Stranger Things" comes a sci-fi adventure film taking place on a mining colony on the moon! In the year 2257, a boy named Caleb, who spent his entire life in the colony, is about to relocate to a faraway planet after his father passes away. But first, Caleb wants to travel across the moon to a mysterious crater full of wonders that his father once told him about. Opting to bring along his three best friends and a new friend from Earth for the ride, the gang of five steal a rover and embark on a journey of a lifetime. Isaiah Russell-Bailey and McKenna Grace star, with Scott Mescudi (aka rapper Kid Cudi) taking on the role of Caleb's father. Out on May 12. (Disney+)

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jonathan Majors hardly had time to bask in the success of "Creed III" (which grossed \$272.2 million) when he stepped in some deep doo-doo. Everything's come crashing down after allegations of violence in an incident on March 25 in New York, when he allegedly had a dispute with a 30-year old woman, who, afterward, was taken to a hospital with minor injuries to her head and neck. His court date was set for May 8.

As a result of this incident, he's been dropped from "The Man in My Basement" with Willem Dafoe, from the Texas Rangers baseball team's ad campaign, and from the forthcoming Otis Redding biopic. Once upon a time, you were innocent till proven guilty, but rats desert a sinking ship as soon as the waters start churning.

One star who seems invincible is Sylvester Stallone. At 76, he's on fire. He's starring in and producing the Prime Video film "Never Too Old to Die," as well as Prime's crime series "Tulsa King," which had one of the biggest cable debuts in 2022.

Stallone reprised his role of Stakar Ogord in "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3," which opened May 5, and he's launching his Paramount+ reality series "The Family Stallone," co-starring his real-life family. Still upcoming for the actor is "The Expendables 4," with Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Andy Garcia, due Sept. 22.

The 1996 classic "Twister" starred Bill Paxton (who died in 2017), Helen Hunt and Philip Seymour Hoffman (who died in 2014) — the latter two being Oscar winners. The film grossed \$495.7 million. Twenty-seven years later, it will finally get a sequel, starring Anthony Ramos (of "Hamilton") and "In the Heights"). Ramos is also the upcoming star of "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," opening on June 9. Then, he'll be everywhere you turn, in



Jonathan Majors ("Creed III")

the Marvel series "Ironheart," Sony's "Dumb Money" with Paul Dano and Sebastian Stan (due Oct. 20), and the sci-fi film "Distant" with Zachary Quinto, due at year's end.

Pedro Pascal, who began acting in 1996 at the age of 21, has finally hit the big time. Now, at 48, he's definitely ready for anything they throw at him. Despite headlining two of the hottest shows on cable — Disney+'s "The Mandalorian" (as Din Djarin) and HBO Max's "The Last Of Us," (as Joel Miller) — he still found time to star in Ethan Coen's solo directorial film opening on Sept. 22, "Drive-Away Dolls," with Margaret Qualley and Beanie Feldstein (whose Broadway "Funny Girl" turn was less than great).

Pascal also has the drama film "Freaky Tales," opposite Ben Mendelsohn. As if that weren't enough, he's executive producing and starring in the HBO series "My Dentist's Murder Trial."

Only 27 years of auditions ... is that all it takes to become an overnight sensation? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

Comic strip by Dave T. Phipps with four panels of a boy talking to his mother about chores and TV.

Comic strip by Bud Blake titled 'TIGER' with four panels of a boy and a dog.

Comic strip by Jeff Pickering titled 'The Spats' with three panels of a boy and a girl.

Weekly SUDOKU puzzle by Linda Thistle with a 9x9 grid and instructions.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff with two panels of a man reading and a list of differences.

May 8, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues and a solution time of 26 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and a solution time of 26 mins.

Answers for King Crossword and Trivia Test, including solutions for crossword clues and trivia questions.

HCC and Dwyer developing skilled talent pipeline for healthcare workers

HOUSTON —Texas is facing a nursing shortage that could leave the state with 57,000 fewer nurses than needed in less than a decade.

To address this shortage, Houston Community College (HCC) and Dwyer Workforce Development (Dwyer) are teaming up to leverage partners across the region to train new healthcare workers who will impact the industry long-term.

The two organizations will come together to launch the Dwyer Scholar Apprenticeship program, which will support 500 apprentices in earning their Clinical Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificates each year. This effort will help address the region's skilled workforce shortage while providing opportunities for motivated, high-potential students to enter the workforce.

This innovative program also aligns with HCC's and the State of Texas' commitment to achieving specific, measurable outcomes by serving more students, awarding credentials of value, and developing the highly skilled workers that employers need.

"HCC is excited to partner with Dwyer to educate, train, and support 500 new healthcare professionals every year," said Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, president of HCC Southeast College where the apprenticeship program will be based. "These apprentices will be well prepared to serve our diverse communities and improve healthcare in Houston while also improving their own lives."

Dwyer Workforce Development is a Maryland-based non-profit. It recently acquired 64

skilled nursing facilities in Texas, including a half-dozen in Houston and southeast Texas, and is converting them into non-profits.

Houston-area residents interested in becoming Dwyer Scholar Apprentices can apply through HCC's Gulf Coast Region Apprenticeship Hub. The first group of apprentices begin classes this month.

According to Texas Health Data, 349,000 nurses will be needed in 2032 — but only 292,000 will be available. The Dwyer Scholar Apprenticeship program will help create a workforce pipeline to close that 57,000-person gap in skilled nurses.

Coordinated by HCC's Office of Work-Based Learning and Industry Partnerships, the program is a first-of-its-kind initiative that will partner with other not-for-profits to produce measurable outcomes. It will offer both professional training and vital wraparound services to CNA students, thereby removing the barriers that exist for many people who lack opportunity.

During the year-long apprenticeship, participants will receive advanced education, competitive wages, health benefits, and hands-on experience while working towards their licenses. They also can pursue stackable credentials and additional certifications.

Apprentices can specialize in either phlebotomy or EKG and will be eligible to enter HCC's bachelor's in healthcare management program once they earn their certificates.

The apprentices will also receive mentoring, career support, and financial assistance for childcare, housing, and transporta-

tion. Unexpected, everyday problems in these areas too often prevent individuals from underserved communities from earning their certificates and entering the workforce.

"Circumstances should not define your life, and we are proud to partner with HCC to change the circumstances for hundreds of Houston-area apprentices," said Dwyer CEO Barb Clapp. "Great things happen when you give people the tools to change their lives, and that's what we plan to accomplish."

Under the model successfully used in Maryland, Dwyer partners with not-for-profits, workforce development organizations, and training programs to recruit and support students to become CNAs. More than 95 percent of the students that Dwyer has supported have either earned their certificates and are now employed or on track to do so.

HCC's Gulf Coast Region Apprenticeship Hub is already the primary source in the region to connect individuals seeking apprenticeships with companies looking to hire or train new workers.

"HCC's Gulf Coast Region Apprenticeship Hub is proud to partner with Dwyer to create a talent solution and pathway to meeting the needs of the growing healthcare staffing crisis. This apprenticeship is central to our mission to bring together people seeking learning and employees and to improve our communities," said Dr. Christina Robinson, HCC's executive director of Work-Based Learning and Industry Partnerships.

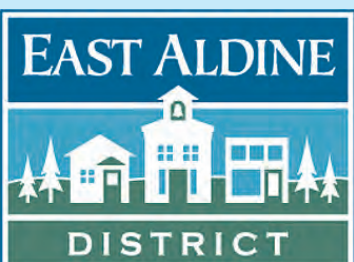
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East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

La Promesa: School for Newcomers to U.S. Enables Promising Futures

Starting high school can be intimidating for any student... new classes, new friends and looking ahead to a new chapter of life. Now imagine starting high school not only in a new city, but also in a nation where you don't know the language or the culture.

For students facing that situation, Aldine Independent School District created a means to ease the transition: La Promesa, a dual language high school for students who have been in the United States for three years or fewer. The name means "the promise" in Spanish.

Principal Ana Ferndanda Flores-Bolivar

La Promesa is located in a wing of Aldine High School, but operates separately, with its own faculty and classes, under the direction of Principal Ana Fernanda Flores-Bolivar. The school started with 150 students in the fall 2021 and add a grade each year. With its first students approaching the end of their sophomore year, La Promesa now has a total of 259 students.



"I think the Houston area as a whole is receiving more and more immigrants, but for Aldine we have seen an increase in our newcomer population and it's been very evident in the last two years," Flores-Bolivar said.

La Promesa has filled all available spots before the start of each school year, she said, and there are another 100 to 150 newcomers in the district's comprehensive high schools.

"In the past it was more of the Mexican immigrants (who) were coming. Now we're seeing more Central America. Right now at La Promesa our biggest population are families from Honduras," Flores-Bolivar said.

Students from El Salvador are the second largest group, followed by those from Mexico, but virtually every country in Central and South America is represented, she said.

Most of the students are native Spanish speakers, she said, but others Vietnamese and Arabic.

The curriculum at La Promesa is the same as at other Aldine high schools,



Flores-Bolivar said, with some additions to assist the newcomers.

In some classes, students might be offered written or video materials introducing a new concept or subject in their native language before learning about it in English in the classroom.

They also have the chance to learn about American celebrations and traditions and to share with one another about the cultures of their countries of origin.

All students are expected to speak English and Spanish or another language, which Flores-Bolivar said will benefit them as they enter the workforce.

"Let's give them those tools," she said, "so they can be the bilingual teacher. They can be the bilingual lawyer. They can be the bilingual engineer."

"The intention is not only to (give) back to our own community but open our communities up to other people so they can say there is value to learning other languages and cultures."



She said La Promesa also offers English as a Second Language and GED classes for parents of its students.

Students are also involved in community work, including involvement with a YMCA leadership group, Flores-Bolivar said: "We're not just

here to educate in the academics, but we're really trying to build better people for our community."

Beginning next year, enrollment at La Promesa will also be open to students who are not immigrants, thus giving other students the opportunity to learn in a bilingual, multi-cultural setting.

Flores-Bolivar has a special background in understanding the experience of students facing a new school in a foreign land. As the daughter of a Mexican foreign diplomat, she moved frequently to different countries.

Her English education began when her father served in New York and later El Paso. It was while attending a Jesuit school in Nicaragua that she became interested in education.

Life took a different direction and she became an attorney in Mexico City, where she practiced law for 10 years before attending a recruiting event there in 2006 for Houston-area school districts. She signed on for a one-year stint as a bilingual teacher in Aldine and stayed with the district.

"Now I'm in my 16th year in education, not missing law at all," she said.

— By Mark Fleming