

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- ARTS FESTIVAL, Pages 1 and 8
- Community Watch, 2
- Library News, 2
- AISD news, Page 3
- Metro Ridership, Page 4
- Abilities Photo Album, Page 5
- Brock Park reopens, 7
- HCC Summer Registration, Page 8

# NORTHEAST NEWS



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VOL. 47, NO. 17 TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## NEWS NOTES

# Arts Festival at Town Center May 20

*Multi-cultural event for the Family; Mural Fest too*

### 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.

### JUNE 16, FRI. Field Trip to the Zoo with Pct. 2

Field Trip FRIDAYS will include a trip to the Houston Zoo on Friday, June 16 from 8 am to 3 pm, leaving from James Driver Park.

Registration starts on Monday, May 1. Call 713-274-2222 for information.

EAST ALDINE – The Town Center beside BakerRipley and the East Aldine offices will be an exciting venue this Saturday, May 20 when the community comes together with an International Art Festival, displaying all the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic richness of the community.

The all-day event has all types of performing and visual arts scheduled to entertain, educate, and enthrall residents of the Aldine area and North Houston.

### MURAL FEST, TOO!!

Additionally, the day will start with a Mural Fest at High Meadows Library. An award winning professional muralist, Pinky Weber from New York City will be present, to paint a mural and talk and teach about mural techniques. The Mural Fest will run from 9am to 11am at the Library at 4500 Aldine Mail Route.

The library also will have the Curiosity Cruiser present, and entertain with a Floor Piano Keyboard, Power Tiles, and



Cosmo Bots. Then attention will turn to the International Arts Festival at Town Center.

Activities start at 10am with a Frida Kahlo Puppet Pizzazz for young audiences, followed by the Zion Gospel Choir at 11am to 11:30am.

Next on the full program will be an Aztec Ceremony, performed by the Calmeac Indigenous Arts Organization, symbolically blessing the land. This will take place at 11am at the

Amphitheatre.

Do you like the colorful Dragon dances? At 12noon the Soaring Phoenix CRCT Dragon & Lion Dance Association will perform a traditional Dragon dance for everyone's enjoyment.

This will be followed by a poetry reading by Brittney Alexander of Lady 380 Poetry.

From 1pm to 2pm, Carter Academy will give a drama performance, and various other schools from Aldine ISD are scheduled

to perform at the amphitheatre.

At 2pm the Young Audiences West African Drumming promises to round out the performances until the afternoon ends at 3pm.

Carter Academy has planned on several activities during their presentation time, including how to build violins, African Rain Sticks, Asian Calligraphy, Lantern Pastel and Chalk, and learning Bollywood or Capoeira (splash pad).

There will be several classes, including at 11am how to make a Pinata, and at 1pm a Frida Art Class.

Displays will be provided by the MacArthur Fashion Students with Fashion Hats, and Art in the Heart by HTX will be showing their art and classes.

BakerRipley plans "spin art" for the kids, and games include a giant Rubik Cube, a Kerplunk, and a Pin Press.

Event planner Alma DeAlejandro said that there will also be a showing of Houston Art Cars in the parking lot, and chalk artists will display their techniques and art. The public will be able to sign their names in chalk on a "ChalkStang" or a/k/a Mustang.

Kids and families can spend the whole day at the International Art Festival, and enjoy more: facepainting, arts and crafts booths, tables, and classes, train rides, and moon walk.

Sponsors include East Aldine District, Aldine ISD, HCSO, BakerRipley, Suvida Healthcare, and the East Aldine Arts Council.

## Walle honored as UofH Distinguished Alumnus



Congratulations to Armando Lucio Walle ('04, JD '14), winner of the Rising Star for Achievement Award at the 68th Annual Alumni Awards Gala! The Rising Star for Achievement Award recognizes and honors motivated young alumni who have excelled beyond the norm and who exhibit leadership, involvement and hold key volunteer positions on campus or within the University of Houston Alumni Association.

Alumnus Walle said "I'm proud to represent all of the young alumni." State Representative Walle went on "This is our university, and there's no reason why any aspiring young person should go somewhere else to get a good education."

## Day of Prayer observed at East Aldine District



East Aldine District hosted a service at their office building on Thursday, May 4th National Day of Prayer. It was attended by many from the public, officials, first responders, and civic club members. The ceremony included music, talks, and breakfast served by the District. See MORE Photos on Page 2. Photos by Juan Islas, ev1pro.



"I PRAY WHEN..." This group from the Church of Latter Day Saints attended the Prayer Day. They are holding up signs professing what caused them to pray.

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

## Fatal U-Turn on Eastex Service Road at Tidwell

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 3601 Tidwell Road about 4:35 p.m. on Sunday (April 30).

The identity of the deceased female, 79, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant J. James and Officer F. Serna reported:

The female was driving a tan Honda Accord southbound on the Eastex Freeway service road and failed to control speed while attempting to make a U-turn. The Honda struck a curb and a maroon Toyota Tacoma traveling eastbound on Tidwell Road. The Honda then went airborne, flipped and struck a black Mercedes-Benz E-Class, also traveling eastbound on Tidwell Road.

Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the driver of the Honda deceased at the scene. The drivers of the Toyota and Mercedes-Benz were not injured.

The investigation is continuing.

## Fatal Crash as auto runs red light at Freeway service road intersections

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 6196 North Sam Houston Parkway East service road about 3:20 p.m. last Friday (April 28).

The identity of the deceased male, 29, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant J. James and Officer M. Keita reported:

The driver of a white Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck was traveling eastbound near the above address and approaching the intersection of the Eastex Freeway (North Interstate Highway 59) service road. The driver of a white Chevrolet Cruz was traveling southbound at the Eastex Freeway service road, ran the red light at the intersection of the Sam Houston Parkway and was struck by the Dodge.

The passenger in the Chevrolet was pronounced deceased at the scene. Both drivers and the 2-year-old passenger of the Dodge were transported to area hospital with minor injuries. The drivers of both vehicles were determined not to be impaired.

No charges have been filed at this time, as the investigation is continuing.

## House Fire in the East Little York / Homestead Area

Houston Fire Department reports a House Fire on May 2, 2023 at 2:17 a.m. at 10300 block of Lera St. 77016, near the intersection of East Little York and Homestead

There were no reported injuries, in spite of the hour of the night. Property saved was \$118,759 in estimated property saved. Damage to the house was \$35,000 in estimated damage.

The cause of the fire was failure of equipment or heat source.

Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find smoke coming from a 1-story house. They made an attack on the fire and ventilated the home. The fire was extinguished. It appeared to have been caused by an electrical malfunction that caught nearby items on fire. Crews from Stations 34, 45, 32, 43, 56 and 30 responded to this incident.

## Houston Gang Member Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2017 Murder in Humble

A Houston gang member was sentenced to life in prison this week for a 2017 murder, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

"This was a premedi-

tated ambush that cost the life of a promising young man," Ogg said. "Far too often, these kinds of quick-hit armed robberies turn fatal. One man will never come home, and another is going to prison for life."

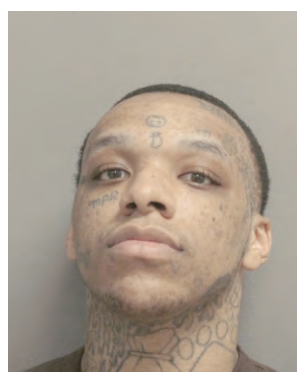
Horace Harris, 24, was facing life in prison without parole if convicted of capital murder in the fatal shooting of 21-year-old Melton McGee on Oct. 23, 2017. Instead of going to trial on capital murder, Harris pleaded guilty to murder, which means he cannot appeal the conviction or his life sentence.

McGee was sitting in his SUV at an apartment complex on Atasocita Road in Humble when he was ambushed by Harris and two other men armed with guns.

Harris' fingerprints and palm prints were later found on the window of McGee's door, consistent with Harris trying to push the window down or hold it down as it was being rolled up.

McGee tried to drive away, but one of the men fired a pistol at him, hitting him in the back of the head and killing him.

Harris, who is a documented member of the 59 Bounty Hunters (a street gang affiliated with



Horace Harris

the Bloods), later admitted to helping rob McGee and taking property out of the SUV after McGee had been killed.

After an extensive investigation by the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Harris was arrested and charged with capital murder. Because he was convicted of murder, he must serve at least 30 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

"The evidence in this case was so overwhelming that the defendant offered to plead guilty to a life sentence," said Assistant District Attorney Karen Barney, in the DA's Homicide Division. "This agreement saves the victim's family from having to testify in at least one trial, and we look forward to going to trial on the other two defendants."

## Day of Prayer Observance at East Aldine District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### The National Day of Prayer

*This day has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to come before God, humbly seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.*

### El Día Nacional de la Oración

*un gran significado para nosotros como nación, ya que nos recuerda y enseña a nuestros padres fundadores buscando la sabiduría de Dios cuando se enfrentaban con decisiones críticas. Se presenta como un llamado para que nos presentemos humildemente ante Dios, buscando Su guía para nuestros líderes y Su gracia sobre nosotros como pueblo.*



Photos courtesy of Juan Islas, ev1pro.

## 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.**

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

**KIDS CLUB**  
School-aged kids, come for **Game Night! Wednesday, May 17, 4:30pm.**

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

**TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**  
Do you need volunteer hours for school or scholarships? Do you want to gain work experience, but aren't sure where to start? Volunteer at the Aldine Branch Library. Teens older than 15 who

have parent permission are welcome to join us for one of our mandatory volunteer orientations. During this orientation, you'll learn how to work side by side with library staff to provide exceptional service to the Aldine community.

We will have two orientation sessions before the summer begins:

Thursday, May 18th @ 4:00-5:30pm  
Saturday, May 20th @2:30-4:00pm

You only need to attend one of these sessions.

Apply today by filling out a volunteer application in person. Please note: this orientation is only for teens ages 15-18 who want to volunteer at Aldine Branch Library (11331 Airline Dr, Houston TX 77037).

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION CLUB**  
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. **Saturday, May 20, 2pm.**

**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.

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## SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

### Former Nimitz HS star QB X'Zavier Bloodsaw inducted into Texas College HOF

Former Nimitz High School star quarterback X'Zavier Bloodsaw had quite a career at Texas College.

In three seasons, he threw for 8,107 yards, threw 81 touchdown passes, rushed for another 3,425 yards and 12 scores and to this day holds all of the major quarterback records at the Tyler school with the exception of yards in a game.

Bloodsaw, now an Assistant Principal at Teague Middle School, was honored for his outstanding collegiate career by recently being inducted into the Texas College Hall of Fame. Bloodsaw and his fellow inductees were members of the school's inaugural HOF Class.

Bloodsaw, a humble and soft spoken person, said he was touched by the honor.

"This honor means everything to me," Bloodsaw said. "This is a true testament that hard work pays off. I know that it is not the Heisman Trophy, but it is my Heisman Trophy. To be inducted to the HOF is truly an honor but means even more to me to be the first inductee in 129 years of school existence."

At Nimitz, Bloodsaw displayed the talents that led him to being offered a scholarship to Texas College. He was a three-year starter at quarterback (from 2003-05) for the Cougars and in his senior season he led his team to the fourth round of the Class 6A playoffs, were they eventually fell to perennial state power Katy.

After graduating from Texas College, Bloodsaw



Former Nimitz High star quarterback X'Zavier Bloodsaw was recently inducted into the Texas College (Tyler) Hall of Fame. Bloodsaw, now an Assistant Principal at Teague Middle School, was a member of the school's inaugural Hall of Fame Class.

spent three years in secondary education. He joined Aldine ISD seven years ago and spent six years at his alma mater serving as Offensive Coordinator and as a business teacher. He joined Teague Middle School at the start of the 2022-23 school year to serve under Principal Gerald Schattle as an Assistant Principal at Teague Middle School.

Schattle has had an up-close view of Bloodsaw's career having coached him at Teague and Nimitz and now working with him at Teague. He said he is extremely happy his former

pupil.

"Proud is an understatement," Schattle said, when asked how he felt about Bloodsaw being inducted into the Texas College Hall of Fame. "I was blessed to see Mr. Bloodsaw on the field as a coach at Teague and Nimitz High School early in my teaching and coaching career. To serve with him at Teague has brought me great pride as well. His leadership and gifts were evident back at Nimitz and transferred to Texas College. Our students at Teague are able to witness Aldine excellence serving here at Teague."

### Aldine Named Among Top School Districts in Texas Providing Students With Free Meals



The nonprofit Children at Risk recently released a new statewide ranking of school districts doing an excellent job of providing nutritious meals to students — Aldine ISD came out on top.

According to the list from Children at Risk, Aldine ISD placed first among districts with more than 50,000 students in the state.

"So far this year, we've served 3,623,377 breakfasts. We've served 6,620,513 lunches, and that doesn't count all the other things," said LaTonya Goffey, superintendent of Aldine ISD. The district also supplies kids with after-school snacks and supper options.

"If a student is hungry, everything else becomes secondary," said Goffey. "Learning won't happen, and our carefully crafted mission statements become meaningless."

In Texas, 56% of students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches. In Aldine, 92% of our students are economically disadvantaged, with approximately 85% qualifying for free lunch.

"We live in an area in the state of Texas where the majority of our children come from low-income households and have the potential to be coming from a food-insecure family," said Bob Sanborn, president, and CEO of Children at Risk. "These free breakfasts and lunches are part of the equation to ensure kids are successful."

Sanborn says each school district has the same potential for providing top-notch nutrition, and the ones that have seen the most success have proactively sought new op-

tions for getting food to kids. Schools are also working to reduce the stigma surrounding receiving free school meals for children who need them.

"School districts like Aldine are trying new things. For example, at a high school level, you're seeing grab-and-go breakfast in between periods, where kids are grabbing breakfast tacos in the hall in-between classes," said Sanborn. "At the elementary level, you might see breakfast delivered to the classroom."

Chief Operations Officer Fred Washington and Executive Director Susan D'Amico lead the Child Nutrition Services Department. D'Amico, executive director of child nutrition services, stated that Aldine ISD serves after-school snacks at all elementary schools and suppers at all secondary campuses. She explained that the district can only do so if the campuses operate an educational program. There are "currently about 55 operating with tutorials or classes."

The Aldine Child Nutrition Services Department has earned the right to be described as "exemplary." Last summer, the Texas Association for School Nutrition Department recognized the AISD Child Nutrition Services with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their practices. Staff members work hard to ensure students start every day with a nutritious breakfast, followed by an equally healthy and delicious lunch. This summer, Aldine Child Nutrition Services will again partner with the Texas Department of Agriculture to provide students with healthy,

no-cost summer meals so they are nourished over the summer break and ready to return to school in the fall.

The Aldine child nutrition team also focuses on wellness. It has taken the initiative to educate our students about healthy eating by hosting elementary students in their garden to teach them about fruits and vegetables and how to cook healthy meals, led by our district chef.

Goffney also acknowledges "lunch ladies" as a considerable part of the district's success. While the child nutrition staff has a few men, most are women. They are on the frontline of filling those bellies to ensure our students learn and are often one of the first faces students see when they enter school every day. They are active participants in students' school experiences, connecting with our kids and remembering many of their names.

"They make our students feel special — like someone sees and cares about them. Kids deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. The relationship between cafeteria staff and students is very important. We want them to have positive experiences at all levels in our schools, and each cafeteria staff member contributes to these positive experiences every single day."

Goffney also thanked our partners at Children at Risk for serving alongside AISD as advocates for children to provide them with a better quality of life, beginning with nutrition.

Visit [AldineCafe.org](http://AldineCafe.org) for more information about the district's Child Nutrition Services Department.

### AISD Partners to Commemorate Houston Loves Teachers Campaign



On Monday, May 8, Aldine ISD hosted a conference at Eisenhower Ninth Grade Campus, to announce their partnership with the College Football Playoff Foundation, 2024 Host Committee and Good Reason Houston for their Houston Loves Teachers campaign, in which a mural will be created at the Eisenhower campus.

The mural will be the product of a mentorship program in relation to the Houston Loves Teachers campaign. The campaign is a collective impact campaign, aimed at recruiting and retaining great teachers in the Houston area.

"This will be an artistic collaboration between our students and local artists," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "It will reflect shared values of our teachers and educators, who are the beating hearts of our school communities."

The mural will be executed by a selected local artist and Aldine ISD students. The concept of the design will implement an element of acknowledging and honoring teachers within the Houston area, and will be completed by September 15, 2023.

Aldine ISD art students will choose what ideas they feel encompass

the theme of the campaign, and the artist will interpret those ideas and turn it into the final design. In addition to helping each other finalize the design, AISD students, ranging from various grade levels, will all assist in the painting of the mural.

"These are the types of campaigns that Aldine ISD looks to be a part of, the kind that can spotlight the community, while also showing our appreciation to the teachers that make up our districts," said Dr. Goffney. "We are excited to have been able to partner with multiple organizations who feel the same about education."

### Over 500 Elementary, Middle, and High School Students Participate in Day of Design



Over 500 students from across the district walked through the doors of Eisenhower High School on Saturday, May 6, to participate in AISD's Day of Design.

Day of Design is an annual opportunity to recognize the value of design and its capacity to effect

change. Student designers are challenged to reflect deeply on the well-being of people within their local environments and to find innovative solutions to local needs by using design as a vehicle to honor diversity and transcend borders.

The event is an opportunity for elementary, middle, and high school students to use knowledge, creativity, and collaboration to develop big ideas using the design thinking process for creative problem-solving.

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**



## Metro has fewer Passengers now than 25 years ago

Recently, I have been asking people if they think Metro is carrying more or fewer riders than it did 25 years ago. Universally, they have assumed it must be much more. After all, Harris County has grown by about 50% over the last quarter century, so it only stands to reason that Metro must have, at least, grown proportionately.

But the sad fact is, after taxpayers have invested nearly \$9 billion in Metro and it has run up \$2.3 billion in debt over the last twenty-five years, in 2022 Metro carried 38% fewer riders than it did in 1998. To be fair, transit ridership globally has been dramatically affected by the pandemic for the last three years. But even before that pandemic, Metro's ridership was about 7% lower than 1998.

In 1998, when Metro relied exclusively on buses, it carried 96.6 million riders. It gradually increased ridership over the next several years, exceeding 100 million riders for the first time in 2000. But ridership swooned in the wake of the economic downturn in the early 2000s before gradually recovering. By 2006, Metro's ridership had grown to 103 million riders.

However, that would turn out to be the all-time high for Metro. For the next two years, ridership drifted lower then turned down dramatically with the financial crisis in 2009, hitting a low of 81 million riders in 2010. Over the next decade, ridership increased very gradually. It reached 89 million in 2019 before being slammed by the pandemic. Metro's ridership numbers have mostly reflected the trends for national transit ridership.

I think there are two principal takeaways from this data.

The first is that light rail did absolutely nothing to increase Metro's ridership. While ridership on the light rail has increased whenever Metro has opened a new line, there has been an almost identical, corresponding decrease in bus ridership. So, the only thing we accomplished by spending billions of taxpayer dollars on light rail was to change the mode of conveyance for some riders from a cheaper, more flexible alternative to a more expensive, inflexible one.

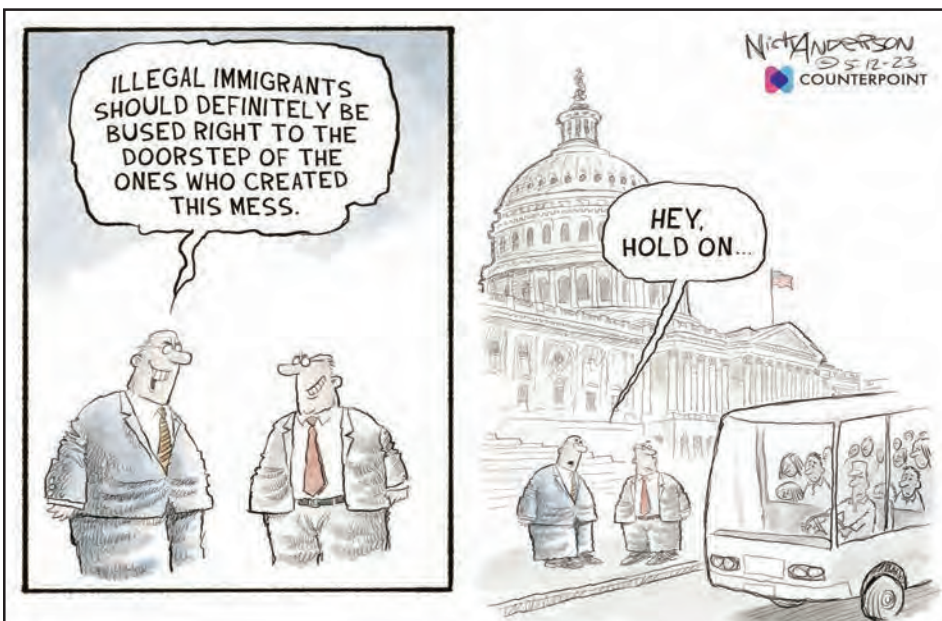
The second takeaway is that we still do not have a clear idea of what the mission of Metro is. Most people think that the purpose of transit is to reduce traffic congestion. But Metro has a very minimal effect on the traffic congestion because it accounts for such a tiny fraction of our daily trips.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that the average American makes four trips per day. Harris County had about 4.6 million residents, so that comes out to about 18.5 million trips per day. Before the pandemic, Metro was averaging about 250,000 trips daily or about 1.3% of all trips in Harris County each day. That is not enough reduction in daily trips to make any noticeable dent in traffic congestion.1

However, Metro does provide transportation to thousands of our neighbors who either cannot afford an automobile or who are not physically capable of operating one. It is an important and critical service to our community.

I think we would have better results at a more affordable cost if we were focused on that aspect of Metro's role instead of building grandiose vanity projects that end up doing little to help the people that need reliable and convenient transportation. Like say, for example, spending \$200 million on luxury, dedicated bus lanes in the toniest neighborhood in Houston that ends up having almost no riders.

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



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By **Carrie Classon**

## "Happy Place"

I have a sticker that says "My Happy Place," and I kept it for a while, wondering where to put it. In the end, I stuck it near my desk so I could see it while I write. I am usually happy when I'm writing.

On Monday, however, I was not happy. I had a major technology breakdown, and I had no idea what I had done wrong. As it turned out, I had done nothing wrong (which is rare, when it comes to technology). Microsoft had a failure that lasted for almost two hours. During the technology breakdown, I had an accompanying emotional breakdown. For two hours, I was not in my happy place.

Only after it was over did I look back on the experience and realize how easy all this annoying technology makes my life every day.

I've heard of writers who use old typewriters, or write entire novels by hand, and then type them up on their computers. They even have a device that only lets you see a couple of lines at a time and has no access to the internet. I guess this is because some writers consider the internet an obstacle to writing. This seems very silly to me. Without the internet, how would I know that avenues run perpendicular to streets and that lanes can run in either direction? How would I find funny cat videos?

I hear writers complain that they would get more done if they were in a cabin in the woods like Henry David Thoreau, but they forget Thoreau had somebody copying his manuscript for him and his sister bringing him lunch every day. All our imaginings of how the past might have been better for writing are romantic nonsense. Right now, at my little desk, I know I have it better than any previous generation of writers ever has.

I had a chance once to see an original manuscript written by Charles Dickens. It was behind glass, and I no longer remember which novel it was. But it was thrilling to see, in his handwriting, how he had come up with his stories, just like anyone else.

And like anyone who writes, he had circled sentences and entire paragraphs and drawn an arrow to where he wanted them moved. Of course, this was all done with a goose-quill pen. It must have taken Dickens a long time to finish anything, even if he got some help. I wondered if he would have written more if he'd had a computer. My hunch is that we would have at least one more novel by Dickens if he'd had word processing.

Now, a lot of people are concerned about how artificial intelligence might replace writers. I am not terribly worried. I suspect AI will be another tool—like word processing. It's unimaginable to us now, but we'll learn it and then wonder how we ever got along without it.

I don't think we'll give computers the job of telling stories because we like telling stories too much. Telling stories to one another is about the most human thing there is. A story comes from one person and is told to another person. We've been figuring out ways to do this since we were gathered around a fire. I don't think anything will stop us—no matter how much that storytelling changes.

In the meantime, I'll keep writing. Microsoft sent me a nice note explaining that what happened on Monday was their fault. I'm thinking of having it framed—and hanging it in my happy place.

Till next time,  
Carrie

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Gary Borders**



## Fort Hood Renamed After Korean, Vietnam War Hero R. E. Cavazos

It's official. Fort Hood, named for a high-ranking Confederate officer in the Civil War, has been renamed Fort Cavazos, in honor of native Texan Richard E. Cavazos, the country's first Hispanic four-star general.

Fort Cavazos is the Army's largest armored, active-duty military installation, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman. It is one of nine that are being renamed around the country, based on recommendations from a naming committee commissioned by Congress to remove the names, symbols and displays that honor the Confederacy.

Cavazos was widely decorated for his service during the Korean and Vietnam wars, receiving two Distinguished Service Cross medals during his military career. He died in 2017 at 88.

### STATE REP EXPELLED FROM TEXAS HOUSE

The Texas House voted 147-0 to expel state Rep. Bryan Slaton after an investigating committee determined he engaged in inappropriate behavior with a 19-year-old legislative aide. Slaton, R-Royce City, was found to have had sexual intercourse with the aide, who works in his office, and to have supplied alcohol to an underaged person on at least three occasions, the Statesman reported.

Slaton resigned the day before the vote to expel him but would have remained an officeholder and been paid until a successor was elected through a special election.

"Expulsion of a member of this body is rare," House Speaker Dade Phelan said. "Mr. Slaton's predatory behavior merits such a consequence. I am proud of my colleagues for holding each of us accountable."

Slaton is the first House member to be expelled since 1927, according to the Statesman.

### TEXANS ENJOY A COOLER-THAN-AVERAGE APRIL

The state enjoyed somewhat cooler temperatures in April than in years past, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. The eastern half of the state experienced above-average rainfall, though drought conditions persisted in the central part of the state, from Laredo to the Panhandle.



"Precipitation varied considerably, with half the state, East and coastal Texas, experiencing well-above-average rainfall, while the other half, West Texas and the Panhandle, received well-below-normal precipitation," Wentzel wrote.

Drought conditions dropped 12 percentage points compared to the end of March, with 55% of the state now under drought. The arrival of the El Niño weather system by fall is forecast to bring above-average rainfall to the state and lead to widespread drought relief by the end of 2023.

### EIGHT MORE COUNTIES ADDED TO DISASTER DECLARATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has added eight more Texas counties to a disaster declaration after an early February ice storm caused considerable damage across wide swaths of the state, Gov. Greg Abbott announced last week.

"This update will help support ongoing recovery efforts in Texas communities impacted by Winter Storm Mara in February," Abbott said.

The eight added to the

13 already approved by FEMA are Falls, Hopkins, Red River, Anderson, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble and Limestone counties. The counties are now eligible for federal funding for debris removal and repairs to infrastructure.

### HOUSE CONSIDERS MODIFIED VERSION OF SENATE VOUCHER BILL

An 80-page version of the Senate's school voucher proposal is now before the House education committee, the Texas Tribune reported. This version would cut the number of students eligible for the program, modify the state's standardized testing program, and eliminate the Senate bill's restriction on teaching about gender and sexual orientation.

A move to get the bill quickly out of committee failed after state Rep. Ernest Bailes, R-Shepherd, questioned why the committee wanted to move forward without holding a public hearing.

"You're trying to bring an 80-page substitution to this body and force a vote without thoughtful deliberation," Bailes said. House committees have until May 20 to vote on Senate bills to advance them to the full floor.

The Senate version of the bill would give parents who opt out of the public school system up to \$8,000 in taxpayer money to pay for a child's private schooling and related educational expenses, such as textbooks or tutoring.

### CASINO BILL DIES; SPORTS BETTING ADVANCES

The bid to bring casino gambling to Texas is again officially dead, the Texas Tribune reported.

"Members, I do know when it's time to fold 'em," state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, said Friday as he postponed consideration of House Joint Resolution 155 until Jan. 12, 2027. A related bill sponsored by state Rep. John Kuempel, R-Seguin, was also postponed until after the session.

A separate bill to legalize online sports betting barely made it out of the House. Both measures required a two-thirds majority to be put on the ballot as proposed constitutional amendments. The Tribune reported that bill faces long odds in the Senate, where Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the presiding officer, has said his chamber does not have enough votes to pass it.

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 and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

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# Abilities featured at East Aldine event

District helps Disabilities turn into Possibilities at Fun Event

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUAN ISLAS, EV1PRO



Fun Run for all types of Abilities



Participants and Awards



MacArthur Cheerleaders show how to fly.



Quentin Parks and the Fit Crew.



Parachute Twist



Basketball Game with participants of all Abilities

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 participat-

ed, 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 deputies from the Sheriff's office. There also was a motivational speaker, Gabriel Cantu, relating his own experiences with dis-

abilities. This was followed by a raffle for prizes that included unique wheelchair hubcaps from Izzy Wheels.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 3 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 22:2, who did God command to sacrifice his only son? Isaac, Job, Noah, Abraham
3. How many times does the word "grandmother" occur in the Bible? 1, 3, 6, 21
4. From Exodus 20, to whom did God give the Ten Commandments? Noah, Abraham, Moses, Aaron

5. What's the middle book of the Old Testament? Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah
6. Where is the New Testament "Hall of Faith"? Luke 2, Titus 13, Hebrews 11, John 3

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Abraham, 3) 1 (2 Timothy 1:5), 4) Moses, 5) Proverbs, 6) Hebrews 11  
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.  
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1 THESSALONIANS 2:7,8

"Mother and Child" by Pablo Picasso (1929)

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# Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Brock Park to Reopen as Adventure Park

## Park to become a multi-use facility focused on adventure sports

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) will host the grand reopening of **Brock Park** on **Saturday, May 6, 2023, from noon to 3 p.m.** Brock Park is located at **8201 John Ralston**, Houston, TX 77078 in northeast Houston. The new Brock Park has been reimagined as an adventure park, featuring amenities like a ropes course, Ninja Warrior course, a kayak/canoe launch, nature-based programming, and enhanced site security. The park is the first of its kind in the City of Houston. "The transformation of Brock Park into an adventure park destination is an exciting development for the City of Houston parks landscape," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The amenities that will be available at the park, along with the addition of upgraded event space, will undoubtedly make Brock Park a destination stop for generations of Houstonians looking for unique entertainment options. Thank you to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and our dedicated Parks team for making this dream a reality." Funding for the project was made possible by a \$1 million grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife, and funding from the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement



without the generous support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Thank you all." Brock Park was acquired by the City of Houston in 1957. It later became an 18-hole golf course, that has since closed. The park is located in Houston City Council District B, which is represented by City Councilmember Tarsha Jackson. For a closer look at Brock Adventure Park, click: <https://youtu.be/MK4tTkHnhNI>. For more information about the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, please visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).



Fund. Brock Parks sits on 354 acres and features 2,500 square feet of interior space. It is situated about 20 minutes from downtown Houston. "I believe the Brock Park project is a game-chang-

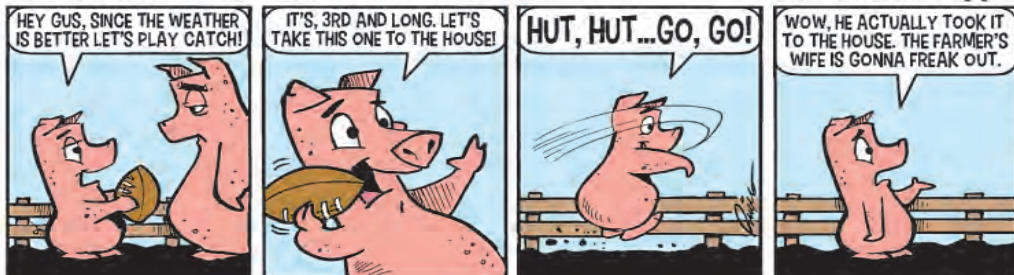
er for the City of Houston," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "With its focus on adventure sports, nature-based programming, and all of its other attributes,

Brock Park is like no other park in Houston. I am just so proud of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department team that helped guide this makeover, and of course, it could not have been done

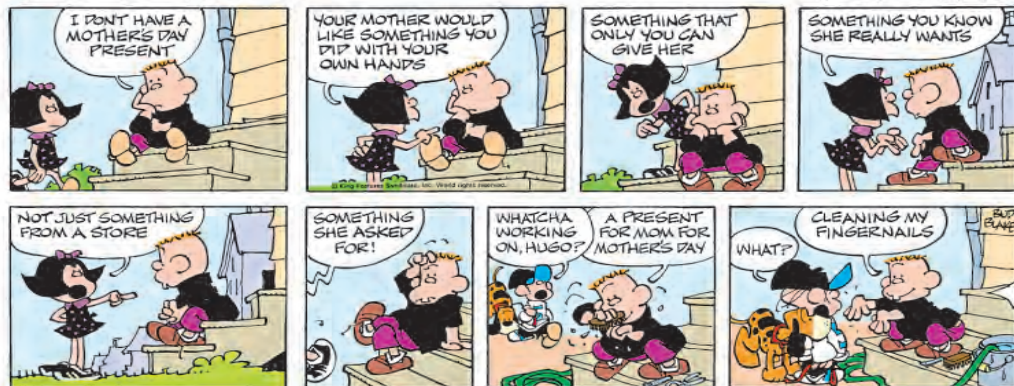
# ENTERTAINMENT

May 15, 2023 Posting Date

### Amber Waves



### TIGER



### The Spats



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 2 |   |   | 3 |   | 9 |   |  |   |
|   | 1 | 2 |   |   |   |   |  | 5 |
| 7 |   | 4 |   | 3 |   |   |  |   |
|   | 7 | 8 |   |   | 2 |   |  |   |
| 6 |   | 5 |   |   |   | 7 |  |   |
|   | 3 |   |   | 9 | 6 |   |  |   |
|   | 8 |   | 1 |   |   | 3 |  |   |
| 9 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |  | 4 |
|   | 6 |   |   | 5 | 2 |   |  |   |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row-across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Nose is different 2. Tie is different 3. Picture is moved 4. Handle is different 5. Sheave is shorter 6. Chair back is lower

### King Crossword

ACROSS

- Actor Baldwin
- Hindu hero
- ISP alternative
- Without help
- Burden
- Jima
- Woody's son
- A/C measures
- Moving vehicle
- High point
- Belief
- Fury
- "There's no — team!"
- Mil. morale booster
- "Bottoms up!"
- Perfect place
- Martial arts mercenary
- "Rubber Capital"
- Cancel out
- Heirs
- Workout unit
- Scratch (out)
- AAA jobs
- Scull tool
- Bigfoot's cousin
- Mimic
- Initial chip
- Cupid's alias
- CSA soldier
- Rhone city
- Baseball's Tommie

DOWN

- Now, in a memo
- Traditional tales
- Jazzy Fitzgerald
- Ginger snaps vessels
- Small song-birds
- Picnic invaders
- Hawaiian garment
- Ninny
- Prima donna
- Booty
- One and only
- Athlete's first season
- Hopping mad
- Pancake order
- Blitzer's channel
- Hasten
- Chang's brother
- Expert
- Charged bit
- Reply (Abbr.)
- Name derived from a person
- Tennis great Williams
- Tropical tuber
- Frank
- Entanglements
- Teensy bit
- Thus
- Low digits
- "Got it"
- Hearty quaff

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Trivia Test Answers  
1. Tennis elbow; 2. Lustrantia; 3. "I hope"; 4. The "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling; 5. The study of cells; 6. Ponderosa; 7. Kentucky; 8. Poland; 9. Scarab; 10. Komodo Dragon.

### Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?
- GEOGRAPHY: What was the country of Portugal known as in Roman times?
- MOVIES: What are the final words spoken in the movie "The Shawshank Redemption"?
- LITERATURE: Which novel series includes a fictional place called Godric's Hollow, England?
- SCIENCE: What is cytology?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the ranch in the 1960s western show "Bonanza"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state has the longest cave system?
- FOOD & DRINK: In which country were bagels invented?
- HISTORY: What kind of beetle was revered by the ancient Egyptians?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest lizard on Earth?

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# HCC opens courses in new Resiliency Center

Help businesses mitigate impact of hurricanes, other catastrophic events

HOUSTON – Houston Community College has opened registration for inaugural courses designed to help businesses mitigate the impact of hurricanes, other catastrophic weather events and unexpected disasters, part of the college's new Resiliency Center of Excellence.

With instruction led by the region's leading minds in business continuity, project management, regulatory compliance and other related topics, HCC's Resiliency courses will examine issues critical to an organization's ability to prepare for and swiftly return to normal business operations after a disaster.

"Anyone involved in protecting the health and safety of places and people can benefit from these courses," said Houston Community College Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. "It's really about aligning public safety, disaster mitigation and workforce needs."

Courses will focus on navigating supply chain challenges and coordinating preparedness and response partnerships. They also will address issues in construction, facilities, local infrastructure, communications, information and disaster case management.

Other courses will cover topics such as assessing risks, investments in preparedness, leveraging local and regional programs, and supporting neighbors and community.

A full-course curricula and

more information is available by emailing [hccs.edu](mailto:hccs.edu) or [cctrain@hccs.edu](mailto:cctrain@hccs.edu).

Before developing an organization's customized course curricula, college representatives will conduct an assessment with the client's internal stakeholders to develop content specifically aligned with a company's goals and objectives.

HCC representatives also will create a course schedule that best suits the business, including evening hours and during overnight shifts. Sessions are generally conducted in four-hour increments but can be delivered in varying increments depending on the organization's needs.

Classes can be presented at the client's site or at any Houston Community College campus. Virtual and hybrid classes are available.

Some courses are federally funded and at no cost to a business. Funding also is available for eligible companies through HCC's partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission.

"A disaster impacts the workforce in very different ways because people are displaced," said Peter Beard, senior vice president for regional workforce development at the Greater Houston Partnership. "Employers need personnel to support what takes place during a disaster and access to a skilled workforce after a disaster strikes."

Five years in the making with input from first respond-

ers, government agencies and business leaders, the college's Resiliency Center of Excellence is designed to reduce casualties, property damage and economic loss caused by floods, tornados, snow and ice, spills and fires, power grid failures and other disasters.

According to the Harris County Flood Control District, a major flood occurs somewhere in the county every two years.

"Developing a resilient workforce is part of our role as Houston's community college," Maldonado added.

In addition to courses for large and small employers, HCC's new Resiliency Center of Excellence ultimately will include a \$30-million Resiliency Operations Center.

The five-acre training and simulation complex planned for the college's Northeast Campus will allow first responders to train in simulations of flooded residential streets with floating debris, downed power lines and submerged vehicles, a streetscape with mock training buildings, swift water rescue channel, and a lake with shallow and deep-water areas. Plans call for the center to operate year-round regardless of weather to replicate as many scenarios as possible.

Groundbreaking for the center is slated for spring 2023 with build-out estimated at 18-22 months.

For more information, contact the HCC Corporate College at (713) 718-5304.

Summer I classes begin

## JUNE 5

REGISTER NOW FOR

# SUMMER

We are here to help. Visit a campus near you or receive assistance virtually.

Summer II classes begin

## JULY 10

### GET AHEAD THIS SUMMER

# REGISTER NOW

Available at Northeast College campuses:

- More in-person classes
- Computer Service/Network Tech
- University transfer courses
- **Digital Communications (new)**
- High School Equivalency/GED
- Process Operator/Instrumentation Tech
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Petroleum Technician
- **Audio Recording Technology (new)**
- Police, Fire, & EMS
- Automotive & Diesel Repair
- Welding & Bilingual Welding
- Auto Body/Collision Repair
- Air Conditioning Technician I & II
- Business Administration
- **Bilingual AC Technician I & II (new)**
- Cosmetology
- Plumbing Technician I & II
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)

**Acres Homes Campus** | 630 W. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77091

**Northline Campus** | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022

**North Forest Campus** | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016

**Northeast Campus** | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013

**Automotive Tech. Training Center** | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

**713.718.8300**

[hccs.edu](http://hccs.edu)

Scan for steps on how to get started!

HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or Veteran status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: David Cross, Director, EEO, 504, & Title IX Coordinator, 713.718.8271 or Institutional Equity@hccs.edu

EAST ALDINE

# international

## ARTS FESTIVAL

**10 AM** FRIDA KAHLO  
PUPPET PIZZAZZ

**11 AM** ZIYON CHOIR

**11:30 AM** AZTEC  
CEREMONY

**12 PM** SOARING PHOENIX  
DRAGON & LION DANCE

**12:30 PM** POETRY

**2 PM** WEST AFRICAN  
DRUMMING

**1 PM** A.I.S.D.

GIANT  
RUBIK'S CUBE  
KERPLUNK  
PINPRESS

**Art cars** chalk car

**Capoeira - Cosmo Bots**  
Bollywood - Power Tiles

**MAY 20** EAST ALDINE  
TOWN CENTER  
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

**10AM UNTIL 3PM** » SATURDAY \ SABADO

FACEPAINTING | ARTS & CRAFTS | TRAIN RIDES | MOONWALK | CLASSES | FOOD TRUCKS | CHALK ART & MORE

PINTURA FACIAL | ARTE Y MANUALIDADES | BRINGOLIN | ARTE DE TIZA | PASEOS EN TRENACITO | TAMBOES | COCHES DE ARTE

[AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org)

EAST ALDINE

# international

## ARTS FESTIVAL

kick-off the festival & come  
paint a mural  
with

# Pinky Weber

**9AM UNTIL 11AM**  
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY  
4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE - 77039

[@pinkyweber](https://www.instagram.com/pinkyweber)

**Refreshments | Painting Jenga sets | Mural Coloring Pages**  
Pinky Weber is an award-winning professional muralist based in NYC!

Join us later

**10AM UNTIL 3PM**

**EAST ALDINE TOWN CENTER**  
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

PINTURA FACIAL | ARTE Y MANUALIDADES | BRINGOLIN | ARTE DE TIZA  
PASEOS EN TRENACITO | TAMBOES | COCHES DE ARTE Y MÁS

ART CARS | FACEPAINTING | ARTS & CRAFTS | TRAIN RIDES  
MOONWALK | CLASSES | CHALK ART & MORE

Gratis FREE

**MAY 20**

Join us for a free full day of fun starting at the Library and ending at the Town Center. For details, showtimes and more scan the code or visit [AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org).

**DANZA DEL DRAGON Y DEL LEON | MARIONETAS**  
**DRAGON & LION DANCE | PUPPETS | DRUMS**

Únase a nosotros para un día completo de diversión comenzando en la Biblioteca y finalizando en el Town Center. Para más detalles visite [AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org)

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