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NORTHEAST NEWS



State Representative Walle was one of about two dozen speakers opposing the TCEO permit.

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 VOL. 47, NO. 23 TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

MONTH OF JULY

Movies on the Green at East Aldine

- Every Friday Night in July, 8:30pm at the Amphitheater. Free Popcorn & Snowcones. Just bring a blanket or chair. Enjoy.
- JULY 7 - PUSS N BOOTS
 - JULY 14 - JURASSIC WORLD
 - JULY 21 - MINIONS
 - JULY 28 - GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

JULY 15, SATURDAY

BakerRipley SUMMER BASH

Saturday, July 15 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Looking to cool down during this hot summer? Join BakerRipley for the Summer Bash Event at the East Aldine BakerRipley campus. Water Slides, Water Games, Snow Cones, Nachos and more! Make sure to call 346-570-4463 to register for this Fun Family Event!!

Lone Star College-EA "Enrollment Breeze"

Tuesday, July 11 - 12pm to 6pm
 Friday, July 28 - 10am to 2pm
 Saturday, August 12 - 10am to 1pm.
 LoneStar.edu/LearnMore. 346-378-7503.

TCEQ hearing draws large crowd; turns contentious

East Aldine residents oppose expansion of Existing Concrete Plant

By Marina Sugg for the Northeast News

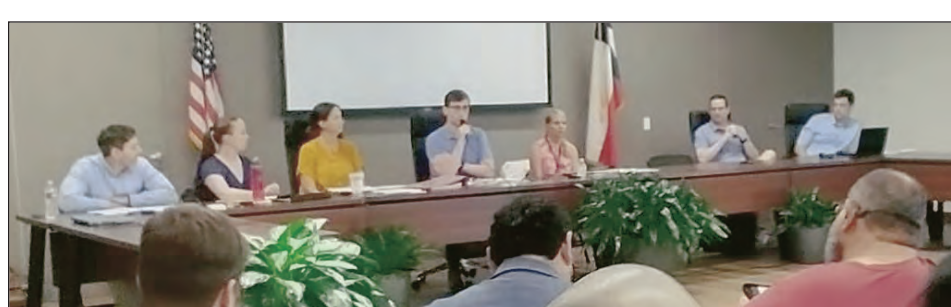
EAST ALDINE – On Monday, June 12, 2023, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) held a meeting and protest hearing (the “hearing”) regarding an application filed by a concrete batch plant (the “plant”) operating under the name Yellow Jacket Readymix, LLC (“Yellow Jacket”). The meeting was held at the offices of the East Aldine District, 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Drive, Houston, TX 77039.

Yellow Jacket is located in the heart of East Aldine at 2219 Hartwick, Houston, TX 77093, between Aldine-Westfield Rd. and Halls Bayou. It is right in the middle of a single-family residential neighborhood and within feet of several private residences. Yellow Jacket is one of nine (9) concrete plants—seven (7) concrete batch plants and two (2) concrete crushing plants—located within a three (3) mile radius of Yellow Jacket.

For years, the residents who live on Hartwick nearest the plant have complained to the TCEQ, their elected officials, county of-



State Representative Armando Walle speaking before the panel



TCEQ panel. Two men on the far right are owners of Yellow Jacket. (Photos by Marina Sugg)

ficials, and to the news media, about the numerous health and quality of life issues the residents experience due to the dust, noise, heavy truck traffic, and road damage caused by Yellow Jacket’s employees, sub-contractors, and customers.

On January 18, 2023, Yellow Jacket applied to

the TCEQ to amend their permit for the plant by adding a second cement silo. Although Yellow Jacket’s request also included a reduction of hourly concrete production, operating hours, and a proposal to not operate the facility at night, the addition of the second silo would bring the operational capacity at the

plant to two (2) cement silos and one (1) fly ash silo.

Adding another silo means more truck traffic, more dust.

The June 12 hearing was open to the public. The panel sitting at the head table consisted of approximately five (5) representatives from the TCEQ,

including Sheldon Wayne, Assistant Public Interest Counsel (OPIC). Also sitting at the head table were two (2) men who claimed to be the owners of Yellow Jacket (the “Applicant”).

The audience consisted of about 75 attendees including numerous East Aldine area residents who lived in close proximity to Yellow Jacket; State Senator Carol Alvarado; State Representative Armando Walle; F. Chan Tysor, Senior Assistant Harris County Attorney, Environmental Division; representatives of Air Alliance Houston; East Aldine District; BakerRipley-East Aldine Campus; members of the Green Forest Civic Club (GFCC), members of the East Aldine Civic Association, and Houston Chronical Climate and Environment Reporter, Rebekah Ward.

The format of the hearing included an unrecorded “Question and Answer” period, followed by a recorded “Formal Comments” period. During the Q&A period, the public was allowed to ask questions of the TCEQ and/or the Applicant. The ques-

Continued. See TCEQ Hearing, Page 5

Aldine residents suffer storm damage, power outages



ALDINE – A brief but powerful storm struck the city of Houston last Wednesday night, with heavy rain and strong winds causing widespread power outages, and damage from trees that were uprooted or torn asunder by the windstorm.

Seen in these photos, a tree was ripped apart and fell on a Dodge vehicle in the adjacent driveway, causing extensive damage. This house was on Magic Drive, near Sandydale Lane, occurring Wednesday night about 9pm.

In Green Forest and much of Aldine, the power was disrupted and outages of several hours occurred. Most of the power was restored that evening, according to Centerpoint Energy.



Aldine ISD Trustees Approve 2023-24 Budget, Tax Rate

Aldine ISD Trustees approved the general operating budget for the 2023-24 school year and set the proposed tax rate during its June 13 meeting.

The general operating budget for the upcoming school year will be \$810,725,513, a 26.94% increase from the 2022-23 budget. The budget recommendation was made by Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne. Osborne said the 2023-24 budget provides funding for all district operations, instructional programs, and student activities and provides for hiring new staff members.

“Prior to this presentation, each Board member was able to provide feedback regarding the proposed budget and given multiple options for consideration,” Osborne said. “Additionally, each Board member was provided the proposed general fund budget by function, as seen in this presentation. Also included in the 2023-24 proposed budget are the debt service and child nutrition services budgets for



the 2023-24 school year.”

Also, during the June 13 Board meeting, Trustees approved the proposed tax rate for the 2023-24 school year. Osborne recommended the tax rate be set at \$1.2217 per \$100 valuation (.3025 cents for the Interest and Sinking fund and \$0.9192 cents for the Maintenance and Operation fund).

The 2023-24 tax rate is the same as the 2022-23 tax rate. Trustees unanimously approved the proposed tax rate. The Board will not officially be able to approve the proposed tax rate until the district receives the certified roll from the Harris County Appraisal District in late August. At that time, the district will be able to set the tax rate. Proper notifi-

cation of the proposed tax rate for the 2023-24 school year was published in the Houston Chronicle.

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED

During the June 13 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced a number of staff assignments.

Dr. Faviola Cantú was named Chief Academic Officer after serving as a School Assistant Superintendent.

Elizabeth Arias-Robles was named Principal at Marcella Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Thompson Elementary School.

James Metcalf was named Principal of Eisenhower High School after serving as Principal of Davis Ninth Grade School.

Cindy Buentello was named Principal of Carter Academy after serving as an Assistant Principal at Carter Academy.

CONTINUED. SEE ALDINE BUDGET, PAGE 2

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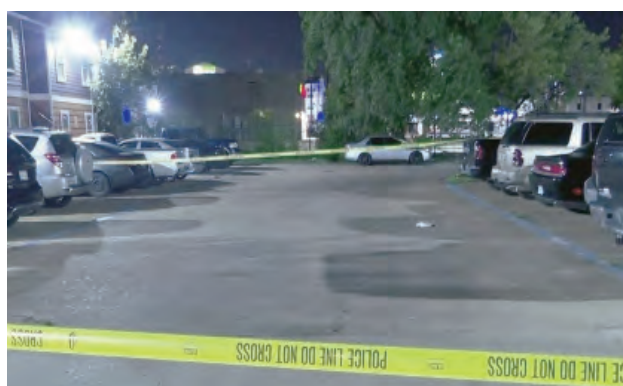
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COMMUNITY WATCH

Man shot, crashes into parked vehicles on Airline Drive, dies



Scene of Fatality at Northgate Apartments parking lot, 11960 Airline Drive.

HOUSTON – A man was shot before crashing into parked vehicles and dying in north Houston Monday, the Houston Police Department said.

HPD and the Houston Fire Department responded to reports of a shooting in the Northgate Apartments parking lot located at 11960 Airline Dr.

Officers said when they arrived at the scene, they located an SUV that had struck multiple vehicles. They found the victim inside the SUV with a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead as HPD was treating him, authorities said.

Investigators canvassed the area and said they found multiple shell casings on the other side of the lot.

No suspects have been arrested in the shooting.

Aldine ISD Budget,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lori Brooks was named Principal of Ermel Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Ermel Elementary School.

Sergio Llanas was named an Assistant Principal at Aldine High School

after serving as an Assistant Principal Intern at Odom Elementary School.

Joseline Herrera was named an Assistant Principal at Escamilla Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal Intern at Escamilla Ele-

mentary School.

Kimberly Bowie was named an Assistant Principal at Garcia-Leza Primary School after serving as the Literacy Instructional Specialist at Magrill Primary School.

Red Cross opens shelter at BakerRipley for Victims of Heat, and Power Outages

Houston, TX, June 24, 2023- The American Red Cross has opened an emergency shelter in Northeast Harris County to assist those affected by the power outage caused by the strong storms Wednesday evening. The shelter will open at 2 p.m. today, June 24. Red Cross workers are prepared to provide meals, a place to cool off and safe place to sleep. The shelter is located at BakerRipley, 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston.

Anyone evacuating to a Red Cross shelter should bring essential items for each member of the family:

- Prescriptions and emergency medications
- Foods that meet unusual dietary requirements
- Identification and important personal documents
- Extra clothing, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies and other comfort items
- Supplies needed for children and infants, such as diapers, formula, and toys
- Special items for family members who are elderly or disabled
- Chargers for any electronic devices you bring with you
- Books, games and other ways to entertain your family and yourself

DOWNLOAD RED CROSS EMERGENCY APP

Have safety and first aid information at your fingertips. The emergency app features weather alerts, information on open Red Cross shelters, a toolkit with a flashlight, strobe light and alarm, and a one-touch "I'm Safe" button that lets you use social media outlets to let family and friends know you are okay. The apps include a Spanish language toggle switch and can be downloaded by visiting redcross.org/apps.

Stay informed: The Red Cross has several smartphone apps available that will alert you to National Weather Service warnings for severe weather and flash flooding and provide you with preparedness and safety information. These free apps are available at redcross.org/apps.

VOLUNTEERING

The Texas Gulf Coast Region of the American Red Cross is fortunate to have volunteers who are trained, ready and willing to support our response to flooding in our communities. We thank individuals and community groups who are willing to support this effort and encourage them to register to become new volunteers to help with future disaster responses. Learn more and register online at redcross.org/volunteer and complete the online application.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Red Cross mission is delivered through the commitment and passion of its volunteers. Whether you have four hours a month or four hours a day, there's a place for you. If interested in joining the Red Cross, discover the possibilities at redcross.org/volunteer.

Help people affected by disasters like severe storms, hurricanes and countless other crises by making a donation to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small across the United States. Please consider making a donation today. Visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

LEARN MORE: For more updates, follow the American Red Cross Texas Gulf Coast on Twitter and Facebook at @RedCrossTXGC. You can also contact the Greater Houston Chapter at (713) 526-8300, visit <https://www.redcross.org/local/texas/gulf-coast.html> or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY WE WILL BE CLOSED AT 5PM ON MONDAY JULY 3 AND BE CLOSED DAY JULY 4.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Babies, Kids, Teens, and Adults - win prizes for reading! Also earn prizes for attending programs! Sign up for the Summer Reading Program on Beanstack: <https://hcpl.beanstack.org/reader365>. You can also register in person at the library.

Every day, All month:

This summer we want to focus on Kindness/Friendship/Unity. Let's get together as a community and make a mural. Each participant will be given a post-it to create a mini piece of art. Just ask at the front desk.

TODDLER TIME

We'll read stories, sing songs, and use our hands (for fingerplays) to help toddlers build their early literacy skills. This program is appropriate for children ages 18 months to 3 years old. **Monday, June 25, 11:30am - 12pm.**

Summer Reading Program Movie Monday

Join us for an entertaining, team spirit- themed movie! **Monday, June 26 at 2pm.**

Bilingual Storytime/ Tiempo de cuentos Bilingüe

You're invited to attend Story Time every Tuesday at 11 am. Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome!

¡Estás invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

¡APRENDA A USAR SU CHROMEBOOK!

¡Aprenda a usar su Chromebook para el trabajo o uso personal en 4 sesiones! Áreas cubiertas:

Sesión #4 June 27, 5pm - 6:45pm - Vistazo general de las aplicaciones gratuitas de la nube (Office 35 y Google Apps Workspace)

KIDS CRAFTS/MANUALIDADES PARA NIÑOS

Let's get creative! Join us at 6pm every Tuesday for our weekly summer crafts at Aldine! (Don't forget, this is a great opportunity for kids to work on essential life skills like sharing, reading instructions, cutting, gluing, and working in a group.)

¡Seamos creativos! Están invitados a las 6 pm todos los martes para nuestras manualidades semanales de verano en Aldine! (No olvide que esta es una gran oportunidad para que los niños trabajen en habilidades esenciales para la vida, como compartir, leer instrucciones, cortar, pegar y trabajar en grupo.)

PARA LOS NIÑOS

Each workshop includes learning activities to use at

home related to the theme of the week. For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!) **Wednesday, June 28, 11:00am - 12:30pm**

Cada taller incluye actividades de aprendizaje para usar en casa relacionadas con el tema del taller. Para padres y niños menores de 8 años (y hermanos también!) **Miércoles, 28 de junio, 11:00am - 12:30pm.**

TOMMY TERRIFIC'S WORLD PEACE MAGIC SHOW

Let's all come together and celebrate World Peace in the summer of 2023. In Tommy Terrific's new Peace Magic Show, magic tricks are presented representing symbols of peace throughout the world. Kids will help Tommy with magic tricks involving everything from a magically appearing Peace Quilt to doves to a tie-dye Peace t-shirt. For each magic trick, the kids will learn how to say, "Peace" in another language. This show will inspire kids to help foster Peace in their homes, communities, and throughout the world! **Wednesday, June 28, 4:30pm - 5:30pm.**

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, June 22, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

TEAM PUZZLE RACE

Sign up today to participate in our Team Puzzle Race on June 29 starting at 4:00pm! Four teams will get the same 100+ piece puzzle, and the first to assemble it wins a prize!

Teams can be as small as 2 people or as large as 5, and ages 6 and up can participate. All teams will get to keep their puzzle at the end of the event. Only 4 teams will be able to compete in the race, so sign up TODAY! Sign up at the front desk.

HARRIS COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION

Are you registered to vote? Do you have questions about the process but never had an opportunity to ask? Well, here is your chance! A representative from Harris County Elections Administration will be on site at the Aldine Branch Library to get you registered. They will also be able to answer any questions you have as well. Don't delay, register today! Your vote is your voice! **Thursday, June 29, 1pm - 5pm.**

¿Está registrado para votar? ¿Tiene preguntas sobre el proceso pero nunca tuvo la oportunidad de hacerla? ¡Aquí está su oportunidad! Un representante de la Administración de Elecciones del Condado de Harris estará presente en la Biblioteca Sucursal de Aldine para registrarlos. También podrán responder cualquier pregunta que tenga. ¡No se demore, regístrese hoy! ¡su voto es su voz! **Jueves, 29 de junio, 1pm - 5pm.**

Chromebook Workshop Series Thursday, June 29, 5pm - 6:45pm

Learn how to use your Chromebook for work or personal use in 4 sessions! Covered areas: **Session #4 June 29, 5pm - 6:45pm** - Overview of Free Cloud Apps (Office 365 and Google Apps)

Roblox Fridays

Join us every Friday for Roblox Fridays! Compete against your friends in a variety of games. May the best player win! For ages 9-13. **Friday, June 30, 4:30pm.**

SUMMER SPANISH LEARNING

CLUB

¿Donde está la biblioteca? Want to learn what that means and more? Join our Summer Spanish Learning Club! This program is meant for beginner and intermediate Spanish language learners. A Spanish speaking staff member will be there to help you learn. Meets every Saturday at 10 am - 11 am this summer. First meeting will be June 10, 2023. See you there! You can record 5 points in Beanstack for every time you participate in the Summer Spanish Learning Club

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: LITTLE RED

Bright Star Theatre is coming back! The woods are scary enough without having to worry about a big bully howling in the shadows! Follow Little Red and meet her friends – the three little pigs, the Gingerbread Man, and more – as they learn to face their fears and stand up to the Big Bully Wolf! Learn to identify, report and resist bullying as we follow Little Red on her journey to Grandma's house. Funny, dramatic, and highly entertaining! **Saturday, July 1, 12:00pm - 1:00pm.**

Coffee & Conversation English Language Practice

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, July 1 & July 29, 2pm.**

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? We are looking for adult volunteers to help with tasks and programs at the library as well as volunteers to teach English language classes, citizenship classes, or computer classes in person and virtually. Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library, call 832-927-5410, or click here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qSzMS-piaTL>.

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

MacArthur Band Director James Debose Hits all the Right Notes While Building a Musical Powerhouse

MacArthur high school has been called home to some phenomenal band directors in its program's history. Grammy Nominated Music Educator Jose Antonio Diaz once led the way for the award-winning band. Still, under James Debose, the Jammin' Generals hasn't missed a beat, winning awards, and competitions, showcasing the talented musicians for MacArthur while representing Aldine ISD.

Hailing from a military background, James's upbringing took him on a captivating journey through Texas, Georgia, and Hawaii, which greatly influenced his musical styles. His exposure to diverse cultures and vibrant music scenes nurtured his love for a wide range of genres, spanning from classical music to the magic of jazz and the soulful rhythms of gospel.

Through his passion and dedication, he uses music as a medium to connect and teach life skills to his students, instilling in them the belief that young people are capable of accomplishing anything. The remarkable achievements of the past year serve as a testament to his unwavering commitment.

"During my time as a student teacher at Dekaney high school, those students opened my eyes to how incredible education can be. That is when I found something that I loved more than music, and that was teaching kids."

The Award-Winning Jammin' Generals have triumphed in numerous competitions throughout the 2022-2023 season. Their accomplishments include 6 Region Level Jazz Students, 2 Area Level Jazz Students, 2 Region Level Orchestra Students, 5 District Level Band Students, 2 Freshman Region Level Band Students, 8 Region Level Band Students, and 1 Area Level Band Student. Moreover, an astounding 9 State Level Students advanced and medaled at the prestigious Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest. The Winter Guard received Superior Ratings at three separate contests, while the Indoor Drumline secured a remarkable 3rd place at the Texas Color Guard Circuit Contest and 1st place at the Aldine ISD Percussion Festival. Notably, the Jazz Ensemble's incredible talent shone through with a 1st place finish at the Harlem Hell Fighter Jazz Festival and a 3rd place finish at the Sam Houston State University Jazz Festival. Under the guidance of Director James Debose, these achievements demonstrate the limitless potential of his students and their unwavering commitment to excellence in music.



"Young people are capable of anything you put in front of them. It's incredible how much they accomplish as long as you're able to provide the resources and opportunities," said Debose when asked about what he's learned about himself as a director and teacher. Debose also credits the Diaz Music Institute for the outstanding support and resources they have provided.

Over the past couple of years, Debose has been able to understand the impact of being kind, as he believes that he is fortunate to work with students from different backgrounds but creating that connection based on kindness helps establish the relationship that he can hold his students to high expectations.

James Debose's lasting message to his students is "be bold, and be unapologetic about striving towards your goals and do not allow anyone to tell you your goals are out of reach and tell you that you are unworthy."

AISD Trustees Approve Pay Raises for All Employees, Retention Stipend For Full-Time Employees



Aldine ISD Trustees approved a pay raise for all employees during its June 13 Board meeting.

During the June 13 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees unanimously approved pay

raises for all employees as well as a retention bonus for all full-time employees. Trustees also approved the general operating budget and tax rate for the 2023-24 school year. The general operating budget for the 2023-24 school year will be \$810,725,513, an increase of 26.9% from the 2022-23 general operating budget. The tax rate was set at \$1.2217 per \$100 valuation.

The budget provides funding for all district operations, instructional programs, student activities and hiring of new staff.

The 2023-2024 District budget includes an in-

crease of the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, a 3% raise for all exempt employees, a \$1,500 raise for non-exempt staff, and a \$1,500 one-time retention stipend for all full-time employees that will be paid during the upcoming school year.

Additionally, the starting salary for Aldine ISD Police Officers will increase from \$51,000 to \$55,000 (salaries will be adjusted accordingly for all police officers).

"I want to thank our Trustees for their recognition of the hard work our staff puts in on a daily basis," said Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "These salary increases reflect our Trustees' and the district's ongoing commit-

ment to remaining competitive in recruiting and retaining employees who are prepared and determined to offer meaningful learning experiences each and every day to our students."

Board President Randy Bates said he and his fellow Board members were proud they could reward Aldine ISD's hard working employees.

"As a team, we are pleased we could reward our employees for their dedication to our students and the district," Mr. Bates said. "Thanks to Dr. Goffney's leadership and our Finance Department, our district is in sound financial shape and that has allowed us to provide our employees with these raises and retention stipends."

Rice University Summer Camp Gets District Students Excited About Math



AISD Cardin Tran and Arlene Sanchez (two students in the middle of the photo) are shown engaged in math discussions with students from another district

Nearly 10 students representing Avalos P-TECH-School, Blanson CTE High School, and Davis High School are in the middle of their RUSMP Camp experience, hosted annually by the Department of Mathematics, which teaches complex math concepts to high school students.

The Rice University School Mathematics Project (RUSMP) Camp is a math camp for high school students hosted by the Department of Mathematics at Rice University. Aldine ISD students this year are participating in the Preparing for Success in Calculus camp session.

The Camp Experience

The content focuses on introductory calculus topics, including limits, continuity, differentiability, and applications of the derivative, focusing on mathematical communication, proof and justification, and real-world applications. Precalculus topics are necessary for success in advanced mathematics, including properties and characteristics of function families, and are reinforced through the lens of calculus.

Groups of students will engage in learning activities and use visualization technology when appropriate. The instructional approach used in this program helps students make mathematical connections. It will provide students with mathematical knowledge and skills and learning strategies to prepare them for success in their future mathematical studies.

Dr. Anne Papakonstantinou and Dr. Richard Parr will facilitate the program. They are award-winning mathematics teachers who have taught calculus at the high school and university levels and are acknowledged experts working with gifted and talented mathematics students.

Guest speakers will include faculty from the Rice University Departments of Mathematics and Computational and Applied Mathematics and mathematicians from the industry.

Campers will see the creative, discovery-driven side of mathematics. By showing them some of the ways mathematicians approach problems, RUSMP Camp hopes to encourage young mathematicians to continue studying math beyond the high school level.

Camp Selection Process

The program offers a competitive \$950.00 scholarship for high-achieving precalculus students in the Greater Houston area. The program only has two seats available per school. Due to a couple of students in Aldine dropping out due to scheduling conflicts, a couple of seats opened up.

According to Divina Browne, the district's program director of high school mathematics, this is the second consecutive year AISD has sent students to this camp. This year, Browne wanted to expand the program because of the positive feedback from Papakonstantinou and the enthusiasm of the AISD students last year. She also wanted to remove the biggest barrier for students, which is transportation, which is why Browne sought out the assistance of Susan Pelezo, AISD executive director of advanced academics, in funding the registration fees and transportation.

Browne started recruiting students in February by contacting precalculus students and asking teachers to recommend their advanced academic students on track for calculus in the 2023-2024 school year. Students had to fill out an application paper, and their precalculus teacher had to attest that they had completed their precalculus class.

Previous participants from Aldine have gained valuable skills that enabled them to succeed in calculus and earn acceptance and scholarships to reputable universities such as Columbia University.

Aldine ISD Students Taking Part

Avalos P-TECH School
 Cirilo Cancino Miguel Cuevas Elaine Villeda
 Blanson CTE High School
 Cristina Juárez Leodan Martínez Arlene Sánchez
 Davis HS
 Cardin Tran

District Students Showcase Their College Readiness



Papakonstantinou was so impressed with the Aldine ISD students' knowledge and interest she emailed Browne.

"The sound preparation and enthusiasm for learning of all the AISD students make this year's calculus class especially enjoyable to teach," said Papakonstantinou. "The students make me want to go back to the classroom full-time! They are unafraid to try everything (including limit proofs) and ask insightful questions. Kudos to the AISD Pre-Calc teachers at their schools. 'L' was not assigned. I told the class not to try it because it was too hard at this point in the class. Well, the group, of course, focused on 'L.' These are the killer limits from 'Calculus for a New Century.' Nothing scares the kids, and Cardin (Tran) was the leader!"

Danielle Picklesimer, an AP calculus/precalculus teacher at Davis High School. She chaperones the students to and from Rice University. Terrea Anderson is an AP calculus/precalculus teacher from Blanson. He has also been teaching the Blanson CTEHS students. Francis O'Brien is the teacher from Avalos P-TECH School.

Davis High School student Cardin Tran also received a direct email from Dr. Papakonstantinou. She shared how she and Dr. Parr were really impressed with his poise and knowledge in front of the class. Picklesimer is Cardin's teacher.

"Your (Cardin) presentation and explanations were spot on. They exhibit a deep understanding of the topic and your creative insights. 'L' was an unusually difficult limit to think through," said Papakonstantinou. "You add so much to the learning that takes place in the class. In one of the pictures posted on Twitter, you were the magnet that mesmerized others in the class. We certainly appreciate your enthusiasm and dedication. You'll make an excellent professor! ... Keep sharing your brilliance with others!"

Pelezo added that these learning experiences and opportunities inspire highly motivated and talented mathematical students to expand and supplement their mathematical interests. Students can explore as they are guided by mathematical faculty and staff in fun and challenging environments. They are presented with different mathematical problem-solving techniques to enhance their future mathematical and academic pursuits.

"This is one way by which we can enrich the mathematics learning experiences of our advanced academic students," said Browne.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Giffords

Texas Fails to Enact Gun Safety Measures to Protect Communities

Washington DC — GIFFORDS, the gun violence prevention organization led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, criticized Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas legislature for failing to take action against gun violence this legislative session.

Peter Ambler, GIFFORDS Executive Director:

“While families still mourn the tragedy at Robb Elementary last year, and the devastating mass shooting in Allen just weeks ago, Governor Abbott continues to ignore their demands for action. When 19 children and two teachers were senselessly murdered in their classrooms, voters called on elected officials to take swift action to ensure that no child or parent has to experience this kind of tragedy. Legislators have failed our communities with their lack of action this session and continue to choose gun lobby profits over the lives of our children. I am furious that Republican leadership would betray these victims and families. We will continue to stand behind Texans and demand change in our fight against gun violence. When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate: the time for action is now.”

Steven Kling, GIFFORDS Gun Owners for Safety Senior Ambassador, Texas Chapter:

“Texans are supposed to have each other’s backs, but Governor Abbott and lawmakers in the state continue to look the other way while our fellow Texans are shot and killed in record numbers. We have lost far too many friends, neighbors, and children to this epidemic. Instead of protecting our communities, lawmakers would rather accept funds from the for-profit gun lobby, which is contributing to these mass shootings. Like countless others here in the Lone Star State, I refuse to allow this to be our reality. We will never stop fighting until our streets and schools are once again safe.”

Last Wednesday marked one year since the horrific mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, and GIFFORDS released a new report on the aftermath of the Uvalde shooting. The Uvalde Report: A Path Forward for a Community—and Nation—Struggling to Heal highlights key recommendations for reforms at the local, state, and national levels. After speaking with Uvalde residents and national experts, GIFFORDS Law Center outlined the following recommendations to improve support for the community:

- Pass, Implement, and Improve Gun Safety Laws
• Expand Community-Based Programs and Services for At-Risk Youth and Young Adults
• Develop Long-Term Mental Health Services
• Address Structural Racism
• Reform Victim Compensation Systems
• Create Trauma-Informed Schools

GIFFORDS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, GIFFORDS shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

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.

LETTERS To The Editor

GFCC - Green Forest Civic Club

Message from Selina Valdez, President of GFCC: “GFCC has been serving the residents of East Aldine off and on since the mid-1960s. In 2019, under the leadership of then-President Marina Flores Sugg, the boundaries of the civic club were expanded to include all of the neighborhoods and residents of East Aldine, as it remains to this day. Just look around East Aldine as a whole. Together, we have made East Aldine more vibrant and responsive to our community’s needs! Won’t you join us?”

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. June 27, 2023 at 6:30pm.
GFCC Monthly Meetings:
LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
6:30 P.M.
Offices of East Aldine District
2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Dr.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Residents and community members living in East Aldine are invited to attend. Bring family and friends. For additional information, contact us at the following:
greenforestcc1983@gmail.com
or on Facebook under the name
Green Forest Civic Club



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

“Stubby’s Company”

I spent the week visiting my parents at their retirement home “up north,” and so I got to see them and my mother’s outside pet, Stubby, the red squirrel.

I hadn’t seen Stubby since last winter, when he had made an elaborate network of tunnels in the deep snow outside my parents’ window facing the lake. My mother fed him on the ground beneath the bird feeder, and Stubby would pop out of one of his several tunnel entrances to eat, then pop into his tunnel and emerge on the other side. He occasionally had some red squirrel visitors. I named one Evald, after a greatuncle, and my mother named the second one Sigfrid, after another one of her uncles. But the squirrel visitors were just that—they stayed for a short time, enjoyed Stubby’s handouts and left, leaving Stubby alone with my parents.

Stubby seemed happy to see us.

We all sat outside on the deck after dinner, and Stubby came out and chattered at us. He popped under the deck and reemerged on the other side. He ran along the deck railing and then stopped and stood up, his front paws together, his fingers knitted, as if he was about to make a speech or say the blessing.

“I think he likes the company,” my mother said. I think my mother enjoys Stubby’s company, and this is quite a change.

My mother has been battling with red squirrels since they moved “up north” more than 30 years ago. The red squirrels do everything in their power to get in to the bird food, although my father’s technique of wiring a length of stovepipe onto the pole that holds the bird feeder thwarts their efforts to make it to the mother lode. Instead, they have to sit below the feeder and wait for the chickadees to drop seeds—which is slow going.

They also dig up my mother’s garden and her flowerpots. They hide seeds in the pots and make a terrible mess, leaving potting soil all over the deck. My mother spent a portion of many days over the last 30 years chasing red squirrels off the deck.

But all that changed with Stubby.

Stubby has been my mom’s friend and charity case for a full year now, ever since he lost the end of his tail and gained a name and my mother’s sympathies. Now he is her year-round outdoor pet, and he sits just outside the window watching her activities inside.

My mom buys a special bag of bird food, just for Stubby, and puts some outside below the feeder or along the top of the deck railing, for him. If the food gets low, Stubby climbs up a Norway pine and chatters loudly to alert my mother to the shortage. By now, Stubby has her very well trained.

My mom knocks on the window to let him know she sees him. Stubby stands up and looks at her, fingers knitted. They have a good relationship.

I don’t think my mother ever expected to have a red squirrel as a pet. I know she resisted for a long time. But Stubby has changed her mind about at least one red squirrel, and I think that is kind of remarkable. Getting to know Stubby has changed what my mother thinks about red squirrels.

“He’s pretty smart,” my mother says.

“He knows a lot more than we think,” my dad agrees.

Stubby stands on his hind feet, his fingers knitted together, and watches them through the window. I like to think Stubby has reconsidered his opinion of people as well.

Till next time,
Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Conservation Urged as Searing Heat Wave Sweeps State

Texas’ power grid reported record electricity use early last week. Both the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas are urging residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce electricity use as temperatures soar above 100 degrees over much of the state. So far the grid, which administers 90% of the state’s power load, has been able to keep up with demand.

Temperatures set record highs for June in several Texas cities: 111 degrees in Junction, 115 in Laredo, and 113 in Del Rio. The heat wave stretches from the Pecos River Valley in the west to the Rio Grande in the south to the Pineywoods in the east. State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon pointed to several factors, including near-record temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, a high-pressure system trapping the heat over the state, and climate change.

“Texas is running about 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it did during the 20th century,” Nielsen-Gammon told the Texas Tribune. “So if you’re close to a temperature record, that will put it over the edge.”

ERCOT has implemented a voluntary curtailment program for so-called flexible customers — such as bitcoin mining facilities — to reduce power use during periods of high demand. “These customers are large power users but have the flexibility and willingness to reduce their energy use quickly, if needed. By working with these large loads during peak demand periods, we will better serve all Texans while keeping the grid reliable and resilient,” said Woody Rickerson of ERCOT.

STORMS SPUR SPATE OF DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Storm systems have caused widespread damage across the state and prompted Gov. Greg Abbott to issue disaster declarations for Ochilree, Cass, Franklin, Harrison, Marion, Upshur, Wood, Camp, Gregg, Hopkins, Panola, Smith and Titus counties. The storms caused loss of life, severe damage to power lines and structures, and flash flooding. A subsequent declaration came after a tornado hit Matador in West Texas



and killed four people. That declaration covers Motley, Nolan, Fisher, Jones, Kent, and Stonewall counties. Just days earlier a tornado killed three and injured dozens in Perryton in the Texas Panhandle.

“What Texans in Perryton have gone through over the past couple of days have been nothing short of horrific,” Abbott said. “At the same time, it’s encouraging and inspiring to see the way the community has come together to rebuild.”

HOPE RISES FOR BREAKING LEGISLATIVE IMPASSE

An impasse over property tax relief appears to be near an end after the Senate unanimously passed a package that would cut both homeowners’ property taxes and taxes on thousands of businesses by a record \$18 billion, the Austin American-Statesman reported. At the same time, House Speaker Dade Phelan appointed a select committee to provide “recommendations for long-term, sustainable” relief. The first special session called by Abbott ends this week, making it likely a second session will follow. The Senate bill would raise the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. The franchise tax on businesses would further exempt an estimated 67,000 small businesses. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have feuded over which version of the property tax bills should ultimately prevail, with Abbott backing a House plan passed on the first day of the special session.

AG’S OFFICE TRIES TO DEFY COMPTROLLER OVER PAXTON’S PAY

The Texas attorney general’s office attempted to con-

tinue paying impeached Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was suspended pending a Senate trial set for Sept. 5. The Dallas Morning News obtained communications between the attorney general’s chief of staff and the Texas comptroller’s office, regarding Paxton’s paycheck for June. “Simply put, it is unclear that the CPA (Comptroller of Public Accounts) has authority to withhold AG Paxton’s salary under these circumstances,” Lesley French, office chief of staff wrote in an email to the director of the comptroller’s fiscal management division on Wednesday, The News reported.

Paxton is accused of bribery, obstruction of justice and abuse of office — allegations he has denied. The comptroller’s office has oversight over the state’s expenditures, and officials there noted money is appropriated for only one attorney general. After Paxton’s suspension, former Secretary of State John Scott was appointed the interim attorney general and is now leading the office. The attorney general’s position pays \$153,700 annually.

LATINOS NOW MAKE UP BIGGEST SHARE OF STATE’S POPULATION

In new population estimates released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos now make up the largest share of the state’s population and have since at least July 2022. The bureau reported Hispanic Texans made up 40.2% of the total, edging out non-Hispanic white Texans, who made up 39.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. Hispanic Texans are expected to make up a majority of the state’s population in the decades to come. Recent census estimates indicate 49.3% of the state’s residents under 18 are Hispanic.

ERCOT CAN’T BE SUED, HIGH COURT RULES

The Texas Supreme Court on Friday ruled that ERCOT, which operates the state’s power grid, is a government entity and is immune to lawsuits resulting from Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. The 5-4 ruling reversed a previous judgment from a Dallas appeals court, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, writing for the majority, said it should be immune to suits because “it prevents the disruption of key governmental services, protects public funds, and respects separation of powers principles.”

ERCOT is the nation’s only power grid contained wholly within a single state.

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: gbborders@texaspress.com.

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TCEQ hearing draws large crowd; turns contentious

Existing Concrete Plant wants to expand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions were to be responded to by TCEQ and/or the Applicant.

During the Formal Comments period, the public could voice concerns or comments. TCEQ or the Applicant, however, were not to respond to the concerns or comments. Instead, at a later date, TCEQ would respond to the individual in writing.

Questions asked during the Q&A period of the meeting:

State Senator Carol Alvarado asked for a definite answer on how “nighttime” was defined for permit applicants. TCEQ didn’t give an adequate response. She also asked what hours the concrete batch plant owners were operating, and they couldn’t answer that either.

State Representative Armando Walle asked what could TCEQ do to ensure that communities close to a batch plant were able to enjoy a quality of life free of noise at all hours of the night. TCEQ did not provide a clear answer.

Kenneth Sugg, Jr., long-time resident of East Aldine and a member of GFCC, explained that he was a cement truck driver and was well aware of what actually took place at concrete batch plants. When the moderator tried to cut him off because he was making comments rather than asking questions, the audience shouted out, “Let him speak!” The moderator explained and encouraged Mr. Sugg to save his comments for the recorded session of the hearing. She added that Mr. Sugg was making some valid and important comments and that he should say them during the recorded session of the hearing. Mr. Sugg then asked, “Do you have a computer model that includes the various conditions of the materials being used?” TCEQ replied that they did use computer models, but did not say if the models included the various conditions of the materials being used. Mr. Sugg then added that over 100 lbs of cement powder did not go into the mixer. Instead, the dust got stuck on the chutes of truck and then went into the air while loading.

Resident Eric Garcia, who lives in very close proximity to Yellow Jacket, asked the panel, “How would you like to try sleeping through all of this noise?” as he played a recording of the loud noise generated at the plant during the night. He said he had many photos and videos of the activity going on at the plant during all hours of the day and night. He also said that he had met with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and had shown them the photos and videos. He said the agents he met with could not believe what was going on at the plant.

Attorney Tysor asked the TCEQ and the Applicant to define “night.” He asked them to tell him what time did “night” begin and end. He also asked them to explain the undefined use of the word “operate.” He asked the panel to more specifically define the term to include operation of motorized equipment including, but not limited to, material delivery trucks, earth moving equipment, conveyors, sweepers, and fans or blowers. Neither the TCEQ nor the Applicant could give a definitive answer.

East Aldine resident Felipe Avila, a BakerRipley-East Aldine Campus Community Engineer, asked several questions including what was the TCEQ’s mission statement, and why did the Applicant not use land located around the airport. TCEQ read Mr. Avila their mission statement, and said that the Applicant was using land they already owned.

Resident David Gonzales, who also lives in very close proximity to Yellow Jacket, said his family was experiencing many health issues he felt were directly related to the poor air quality created by Yellow Jacket. He asked what would Yellow Jacket or TCEQ do if the residents blocked the trucks from coming down Hartwick? Someone from the panel replied that the residents had a right to protest as long as it was in a peaceful manner.

SPEAKERS AT THE TCEQ HEARING



Kenneth Sugg, Jr., Member, GFCC



Resident David Gonzalez live next door to Yellow Jacket



Resident Chris Sustaita takes her grandchildren to East Aldine parks



Senior Assistant County Attorney F. Chan Tysor



State Senator Carol Alvarado



Selina Valdez, President, GFCC



BakerRipley's Rosalva Hernandez. Her parents live on Hartwick



East Aldine resident lives near Yellow Jacket



Eric Garcia lives near Yellow Jacket, and has met with EPA concerning Yellow Jacket.



Marina Flores Sugg, VP GFCC



Approximately 75 people attended the hearing last Monday night, at the East Aldine building.

Someone asked what was the OPIC for the hearing? TCEQ OPIC Sheldon Wayne, responded that he was there to help facilitate the hearing and was always available to the public. He stated anyone could reach him at his phone number, 512-239-3144.

Resident Jose Macias asked what action TCEQ took after a company was found in violation. TCEQ said a number of steps were taken including, but not limited to, sending a letter to the company with a timeframe in which to correct the violation, and sending an investigator to the site.

Selina Valdez, President, GFCC, asked how many employees Yellow Jacket employed at the facility on Hartwick. The applicant replied that they had about 25 employees. Ms. Valdez’s concern was that, to the best of her knowledge, the plant only employed about three peo-

ple and that the plant was not creating a substantial amount of economic development in the community.

Comments made during the Public Comments period of the hearing:

In part, Representative Walle stated that concrete batch plants should never be sharing fence lines with homes, schools, churches, and parks. He added that he would continue to help his constituents fight this injustice.

Attorney Tysor commented that the county had concerns regarding the use of the word “night” and that the amended permit be defined as describing night as “the period 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.”

Long-time East Aldine resident Marina Flores Sugg, Vice President, GFCC, stated that she followed much of what happened in East Aldine through social media platforms such as NextDoor. She said that nothing good was ever said about concrete batch plants, only complaints. Ms. Sugg also said that she had read studies that showed that East Aldine had a higher occurrence of respiratory and heart diseases than did the rest of Harris County. She closed by saying, “In my opinion, our civil rights are being violated!”

Kenneth Sugg commented that TCEQ should require dust collectors on all cement plants.

Selina Valdez stated that at another concrete plant protest hearing, a choir teacher had said that over 50% of the students had asthma.

Resident Chris Sustaita said she was concerned for the health of her grandchildren whom she took to the parks around East Aldine on a regular basis.

She said TCEQ was doing wrong and that they would have to answer to a higher authority.

The hearing became heated at times when the audience felt the moderator of the meeting, a TCEQ representative, was cutting off some of the people who were at the mic.

For the benefit of the attendees, TCEQ had provided professional Spanish/English translators for the hearing. However, the hearing became very heated when the applicants would not wear earbuds to hear the English translation of what the Spanish-speaking commenters were saying.

There was also an outcry of protest by the attendees when one of the applicants was texting while Senator Alvarado was speaking to him. She tried to get his attention by addressing him directly. He finally threw his phone on the table and asked her what she wanted.

Right before the hearing was adjourned, Kenneth Sugg stood up and asked for all the residents who

lived within 200 yards of the plant to stand up. The moderator tried to get Mr. Sugg to sit down, but he persisted and again asked them to stand up. About 25 adults and children stood up. Then he addressed the panel saying, “These are the people you are affecting!”

The hearing ended with a general consensus that some progress had been made at the hearing, and that it was largely due to the fact that the community was becoming better organized and more educated in the perils of living in a community filled with concrete plants. Smaller groups then gathered to plan their next steps in their continued battle against concrete plants.

Also after the meeting, Attorney Tysor gave Selina Valdez a copy of a letter he had sent to TCEQ protesting the Yellow Jacket application. In his letter, Attorney Tysor states the following: “If TCEQ approves the Application it will be re-authorizing a facility under the Standard Permit, which

fails to meet state and federal permitting requirements.”

Attorney Tysor also states in his letter, “TCEQ should not re-authorize this facility to operate under the Standard Permit because it is not protective of public health, general welfare, and physical property.”

In a later statement made on social media, State Senator Carol Alvarado said she “Attended a public meeting regarding yet another concrete batch plant in #Aldine. I appreciate the many members of the community who showed up. The health & quality of life of our neighbors matter. We can’t let our neighborhoods continue to be contaminated. I am hopeful that @TCEQ will help our vulnerable community.”

Also in a later statement made on social media, Representative Walle stated: “We’ve fought for over a decade to get any action being taken to address the negative impacts of concrete batch plants. The operators of Yellow Jacket demonstrated arrogance & disdain for our community. I will never allow our community to be disrespected. I am proud to represent good hardworking people that all they want is for state government to address their needs. Batch plants sharing fence lines with homes, schools, churches, and parks should never happen.”

The fight continues! Yes we can! “Si se puede!”

By Marina Flores Sugg, East Aldine resident and Vice President of Green Forest Civic Club

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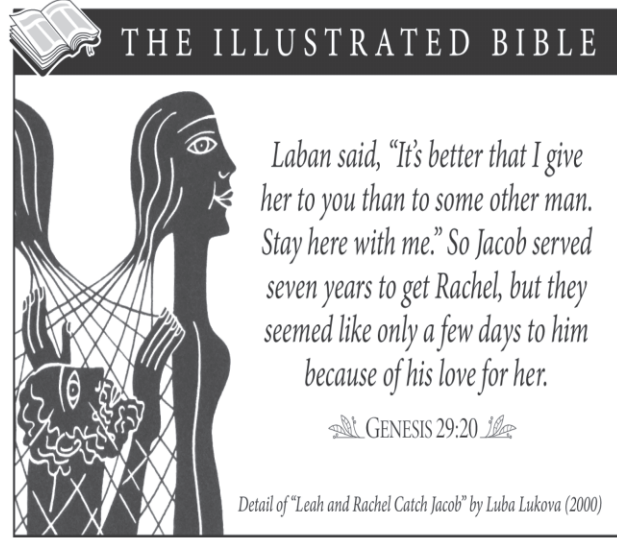
BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Numbers (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In which Gospel did Jesus say, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth"? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Mark 15:23, while on the cross Christ was offered wine mingled with ...? Salt, Water, Myrrh, Speck

4. In 2 Kings 5, who had his leprosy washed away in the Jordan? Naaman, Zacchaeus, Elijah, Joshua
5. From Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and ..."? Light, Builder, Wisdom, Strength
6. Who had a rod that God turned into a serpent? Noah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Mark 9:23, 3) Myrrh, 4) Naaman, 5) Strength, 6) Moses Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



Detail of "Leah and Rachel Catch Jacob" by Luba Lukova (2000)
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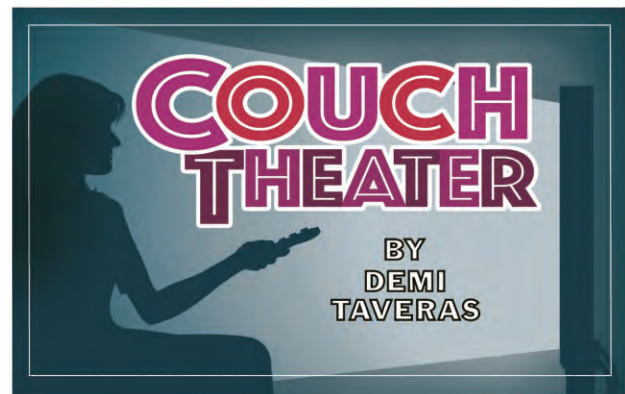
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Sarah Snook, left, and Lily LaTorre star in "Run Rabbit Run."

"Run Rabbit Run"

"RUN RABBIT RUN" (TV-MA) — Hot off the finale of the series "Succession," Sarah Snook has a new psychological thriller film premiering June 28.

When a white bunny strangely appears in their home, a sinister air subsequently takes over Mia. Sarah becomes increasingly terrified by Mia, who tries to convince her mother that she is a reincarnated version of Alice.

Critics have compared Snook's performance in the film to Toni Collette's in "Hereditary" (2018). (Netflix)

"M3GAN" (PG-13) — The Blumhouse sci-fi/horror success "M3GAN," which premiered in theaters earlier this year, is out on streaming June 27.

Coincidentally, Gemma's latest work project included the development of a child-sized robot doll, nicknamed M3GAN (Model 3 Generative Android). Gemma lets Cady pair up with M3GAN and watches as Cady's emotional struggles dissipate.

"HIJACK" (TV-MA) — In this new thriller series (we're sticking with the horror genre this week!) releasing on June 28, the stakes have never been higher — literally and figuratively.

On an almost seven-hour flight from Dubai to London, with 200 passengers on board, a group of hijackers gain control over the plane right after take-off.

But, in the event that his way with words doesn't pull off the job, Sam refuses to let the plane go down without a fight: "It's either us or them." (AppleTV+)

"BURIAL" (NR) — Taking place in 1945 Berlin, this British war thriller film follows a female Soviet soldier named Brana (Charlotte Vega). A part of the Red Army unit, Brana and her fellow soldiers are assigned to carry, from Berlin to the Soviet Union, a casket of unknown contents that must be buried every night and dug up every morning.

Critics have praised the performances of Vega, Harriet Walter ("Ted Lasso") and Tom Felton (the "Harry Potter" films), but also stated that the film lacks a certain vigor to make it all come together. "Burial" premieres June 30. (Hulu) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Candace Cameron Bure, who has starred in more than two dozen Hallmark movies and 18 "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" films, announced in April 2022 that she was leaving Hallmark to take on an executive role at Great American Media to develop, produce and star in original rom-coms and holiday fare.

In November, she told the Wall Street Journal that she left Hallmark because it was a completely different network than when she started. Bure explained, "My heart wants to tell stories that have more meaning and purpose and depth behind them. I knew that the people behind Great American Family were Christians that love the Lord and wanted to promote faith programming and good family entertainment."

Her remarks were believed to allude to Hallmark's trend toward progressive themes, including recognition of the LGBT community in their productions. Well, "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" moved on without her. Mutiny is a witch! It now stars 29-year-old Skyler Samuels, who had a recurring role in "Wizards of Waverly Place," starred in the films "The Stepfather" (2009), "Furry Vengeance" (2010), "The DUFF" (2015) and "Scream Queens" (2015); and played the Frost sisters in the Fox series based on "X-Men," titled "The Gifted." She co-stars with Jason Statham in "Meg 2: The Trench," due later this year.

"SPIDER-MAN" Tom Holland learned the hard way that playing a good guy is a piece of cake compared to playing a criminal. During the production of the AppleTV+ crime series "The Crowded Room," in which he's arrested for a shooting in Rockefeller Center, Holland admitted, "We were exploring certain emotions that I've definitely never experienced before, and then on top of that, being a producer dealing with the day-to-day kind of problems that come with any film set just added that extra level of pressure."

Juggling producing chores while playing a character in a severe mental state apparently pushed him to a breaking



Candace Cameron Bure ("Aurora Teagarden Mysteries")

point, so he's decided to take a year off from acting. Amanda Seyfried co-stars, and it dropped June 9.

Many were shocked when James Corden announced last April that he was ending his hosting stint of "The Late Late Show" on CBS, which he'd done since 2015. Everyone wondered why he walked away from a yearly paycheck of \$6 million.

But CBS, who stuck by him when there was a ton of backlash from his bad behavior at restaurants, decided for him. The show, which cost \$65 million a year, was only making \$45 million a year in advertising revenue. A CBS executive confessed "It was simply not sustainable. CBS could not afford him anymore."

His show averaged 971,000 viewers during the 2020-21 season, while his competition, "Late Night With Seth Meyers," at NBC was pulling in 1.01 million viewers. Add in the fact that CBS is vacating their longtime Fairfax Television Center and would've needed to relocate his show, and it's a no-brainer.

While Carpool Karaoke is probably what most viewers will miss, he's back home in London, and our crosswalks are once again safe from his crosswalk musicals! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with numbers and empty cells for a puzzle. Includes difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO Boy!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man at a counter with a sign that says 'EXIT'. Task: Find at least six differences in details between panels.

June 26, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 America's uncle, 4 "Dracula" author Stoker, 8 Leftovers recipe, 12 Chinese chairman, 13 Roof overhang, 14 Arizona tribe, 15 Samovar, 16 On the rocks, 17 Hurler, 18 "Syriana" Oscar winner, 21 British ref. work, 22 Caribou kin, 23 Gold-loving king, 26 "See ya!", 27 Scale abbr., 30 Privy to, 31 "Of course", 32 Cheer (for), 33 Joke, 34 Chic, to Austin Powers, 35 Five dozen, 36 Droop, 37 Iota, 38 1997 film starring Nicole Kidman and 18-Across, 45 Only, 46 Algeria's neighbor, 47 Granada gold, 48 "Mamma Mia" group, 49 La Scala solo, 50 Apprehend, 51 Katy Perry hit song, 52 Adolescent Nanny, 53 Nanny.

Answers for King Crossword. DOWN: 1 Overconfident, 2 Bern's river, 3 Stereo alternative, 4 Linen shades, 5 Sped, 6 Opposite of "sans", 7 Musical mixes, 8 Trembled, 9 Undecided, 10 Duel tool, 11 Sly, 19 Reddish horse, 20 Flamenco cheer, 23 "Top Gun" target, 24 - jiffy, 25 Pooch, 26 Nap site, 27 Bagel topper, 28 Automaton, for short, 29 Hog haven, 31 Pad you bring to exercise class, 32 Ms. Moreno, 34 West of Hollywood, 35 Ape, 36 Asparagus unit, 37 Prove untrue, 38 Despot, 39 Vagrant, 40 Exile isle, 41 Give a darn, 42 Hawaiian coffee, 43 Historic periods, 44 Filches.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Bury Khaliifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.; 2. HyperText Transfer Protocol.; 3. Rabbits.; 4. 2007.; 5. Clownfish.; 6. Rainbow Road.; 7. Six of the eight planets.; 8. Abraham Lincoln.; 9. Talking in your sleep.; 10. Seven.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest building in the world? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does HTTP stand for in a website address? 3. LITERATURE: Which kind of animals are featured in the novel "Waterhip Down"? 4. HISTORY: When was the first iPhone released? 5. MOVIES: What kind of fish is Nemo in "Finding Nemo"? 6. GAMES: What is the final course on Mario Kart video games? 7. ASTRONOMY: How many planets in our solar system have moons? 8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was licensed as a bartender? 9. MEDICAL: What is a more common term for somnolency? 10. TELEVISION: How many castaways are on "Gilligan's Island"? Solution time: 21 mins.

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Lone Star College Phi Theta Kappa students earn prestigious award

HOUSTON – The University of Texas System and the Texas Association of Community Colleges recently named Lone Star College Phi Theta Kappa students to the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team.

“Lone Star College is extremely proud of our Phi Theta Kappa students and their achievements, reaffirming the top-quality education all students can expect to receive,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor. “Having strong programs, like PTK, signals to prospective students that Lone Star College has high academic standards and we will be committed to their success and development.”

The All-Texas Academic Team annual awards are for two-year college students who embody outstanding academic achievement, community service and leadership. Award recipients received recognition, certificate and medallion at a ceremony held in Dallas.

“The All-Texas Academic Team is an excellent opportunity to recognize Texas’s top-performing community college students and we celebrate their accomplishments and bright futures,” said Nichole S. Prescott, Ph.D., University of Texas System Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. “While some of the graduating community college students will enter the workforce, many will transfer to four-year institutions.”

The LSC PTK stu-



Lone Star College Phi Theta Kappa students earned a seat on the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team. Pictured (left to right) are Abdulrasaki Abdulkadir, LSC-CyFair student; Aileen Lu, LSC-North Harris student; Dean Bray, LSC-CyFair student and Lee Ann Ridgley, LSC-Tomball student.

dents who earned a seat on the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team are Abdulrasaki Abdulkadir, Dean Bray and Moriyah Thibodeaux, LSC-CyFair; Nourhan Afaneh and Taha Qureshi, LSC-Kingwood; Johnson Asiyanbola and Aileen Lu, LSC-North Harris and Lee Ann Ridgley and Brooke Sears, LSC-Tomball.

“Phi Theta Kappa was a valuable experience allowing me to have a sense of community at Lone Star College,” said Nourhan Afaneh, LSC-Kingwood graduate and current nursing student at Texas Woman’s University. “Memorable activities as a PTK member included volunteering at food drives and participating in international day activities.”

Phi Theta Kappa at Lone Star College recognizes students’ academic achievement and encourages individual growth and participation through leadership, service and fellowship opportunities. Students must be enrolled in at least 12

credit hours and have a 3.5 GPA or higher to join an LSC Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

Visit LoneStar.edu/PTK for information.

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

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