

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Football Preview ..... 1,7
- Fugitive Captured ..... 2
- Aldine Library ..... 2
- AISD Trustee Election ..... 2
- AISD Superintendent ..... 3
- AISD Summer Graduation . 3
- OJOS LOCOS controversy 4
- Cooling Centers ..... 5
- Church Page ..... 6
- Buckner Family Center ..... 8
- LSC Your Future ..... 8

# NORTHEAST NEWS

**Buckner Family Hope Center**



**SYLVIA BOLLING**, Founder of Aldine Youth Center (Buckner). See Page 8

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years  
 VOL. 47, NO. 30 TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

**EAMD Small Business Seminar Luncheon 8/24**

East Aldine District is hosting a Small Business Seminar/Luncheon at their District Office, on Thursday August 24 starting at 12 noon.  
 All Small Businesses are welcome. Lunch and refreshments provided.  
 Program: How to write a Lending-Ready Business Plan, with David Liu of U of H SBDC.  
 Sponsored by East Aldine District, Woodforest Bank, UH SBDC, BakerRipley.  
 Register at AldineDistrict.org/RSVP.  
 More info or phone registration 512-658-4985.

**BakerRipley Farmer's Market Aug. 23**

Every 4th Wednesday, from 10am to 1pm at the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus.  
 Open to the Public.  
 Fresh Produce, Vendors, Food Truck, Garage Sale. Have SNAP? Get more Fruits & Vegetables with Double Up Food Bucks. \$1 Dollar per \$1 match for up to \$20 Dollars per Day.

## Aldine EXPO distributes 6000 Backpacks & Supplies

**ALDINE** – On Saturday, July 29, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department hosted its annual Back-To-School Expo at the M. O. Campbell Educational Center, where FACE staff members and district employees distributed free backpacks and school supplies to all families who attended the event.

The drive-through expo utilized volunteers and donations from various business sponsors of the event. From 9 to 11 a.m. about 2,000 vehicles were assisted with nearly 6,000 backpacks and school supplies provided to families and students.

Finding opportunities to provide assistance to the Aldine community is paramount in AISD. Thanks to the FACE Department, this opportunity was able to be met.

FACE would like to thank sponsors and in-kind donations from the Aldine Noon Optimist Club, East Aldine Management District, Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA of Greater Houston, Texas Children's Health Plan, State Representative Senfronia Thompson, Bea-



A line of over 2000 cars at M.O. Campbell received the Back to School items.



Volunteers filled the Backpacks with School Supplies.



On hand to help were Candice Houston, Connie Esparza, Superintendent LaTonya Goffney, State Representative Senfronia Thompson and Steve Mead.



FACE staff members, school employees, and volunteers helped with the distribution of School Supplies.

sley Tires, Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan Houston Foundation, Children Flow, Camdon Graphics, Asian American Health Coalition Hope Clin-

ic, No Excuses Today LLC, Bailor Backpacks, Villa Serena Community, Aldine American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Amerigroup, Whataburger, United We Care and the Harvest Church for making this event possible.  
 Also, a special recognition for all of the volunteers from Aldine ISD, Memorial

Hermann Hospital, United Airlines, Lone Star College-North and Nabor Oil and Gas Industries.

## East Aldine District votes major support for Westfield Fire Dept.



In the photo above, Westfield Fire Chief Adrian Dellehay is at center, with members of the fire department and the East Aldine Board of Directors on either side.  
 At their meeting last Tuesday night, the East Aldine District voted to support a request from Fire Chief Adrian Dillehay of the Westfield Fire Department for funding to purchase loose equipment, personal protective equipment and communications equipment.  
 In their request, loose equipment included fire hoses, saws, nozzles and more. Personal Protective Equipment included "Gear" of coats, boots, helmets, breathing masks, and more for 10 firemen. Communication equipment included 6 laptop computers. The total amount of support was \$99,256.

**SEASON FOOTBALL PREVIEW**

### Texans fortunes looking up with new head coach: All roads lead to Houston for CFP title game in Jan.

It's been a very busy offseason in the NFL and college football.

The Texans appear to have finally found the right head coach when they hired former star linebacker DeMeco Ryans to take over a franchise that has been the laughing stock of the NFL for the last few years.

Ryans was one of the best defensive players in the history of the Texans and when his playing days were finished due to an injury, the former Alabama standout linebacker joined the San Francisco 49ers coaching staff where he moved up the ranks and served as the team's defensive coordinator the last two years. Last year, Ryans' defense was the best in the NFL and featured Defensive Player of the Year Nick Bosa (18.5 sacks).

Texans owner Cal McNair might have gotten this hire right. This team is nowhere near a playoff contender, but General Manager Nick Caserio has been stockpiling talent the last couple of drafts and via free agency. The Texans drafted Ohio State QB C.J. Stroud with the second overall pick in last spring's NFL Draft, then

### KEENEY'S KORNER

By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

traded for Arizona's the third pick where they snatched Alabama All-American defensive end Will Anderson Jr. Anderson should be an impact player the moment he steps on the field. He's that good, while it might take Stroud some time to adjust to the pro game. Houston fans need to be patient and give Stroud time to adapt to the pro game. While the Texans might not be a playoff team this year, their future is definitely looking up and that has to please their fans who have suffered through the Deshaun Watson debacle, and just seven wins over the last two seasons.

Ryans is one of five new head coaches this year. The four others are Frank Reich at Carolina, former

Saints head coach Sean Payton at Denver, Shane Steichen at Indianapolis and Jonathan Gannon at Arizona. Steichen was the offensive coordinator of the Eagles, while Gannon was the Eagles' defensive coordinator. Philly will be breaking in two new coordinators this year.

Speaking of new beginnings, former Packers QB Aaron Rodgers have moved onto the New York Jets. Jets fans hope Rodgers is the missing link to ending the Jets long playoff drought.

**CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 7**

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- Mentoring, Job Skills Training, and Employment Assistance
- Food, Emergency Shelter, and Housing for Homeless Veterans
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Therapy and Group Counseling

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## Pan Riko BAKERY

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**281-442-1991**

**REBECA GARCIA, a Happy Shopper at Pan Riko...**

**Wednesday**  
**3 Bolillos for \$1**



# Aldine ISD Trustees Election Slated for Nov. 7

## Potential Candidates must file by August 21

Aldine ISD will hold a school board election for Positions 1, 2, 6 and 7. The election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Aldine ISD Trustees called for the election during their Aug. 15 Board meeting.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on election day.

Trustee Randy Bates holds the Position 1 seat, Trustee Paul Shanklin holds the Position 2 seat, Trustee Dr. Kimberley Booker holds the Position 6 seat and Trustee Dr. Viola M. Garcia holds the Position 7 seat.

Candidates may file for a place on the ballot between now and not later than 5 pm on August 21. Candidates can pick up an election packet from Yolanda Loera in the superintendent's office at the Donaldson Administration Building (located at 2520 W.W. Thorne Blvd.) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Candidates have until 5 p.m. on Aug.



The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees has four open positions on the ballot in November. Trustees Bates, Shanklin, Booker, and Garcia will be re-elected or replaced.

21 to file an Application for a Place on the Ballot).

Early voting by personal appearance shall be conducted at the following times:

- Monday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 28 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 29, from noon to 7 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 30, through Friday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Registered voters can vote at any polling place in Harris County. Voters may

apply for a ballot by mail now and Oct. 27 (applications must be received, not postmarked). To apply for a ballot by mail, visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com) or call (713) 755-6965. Ballot by mail applications can also be picked up at any public library.

Harris County will provide polling place locations prior to the election. Locations will be listed on the county's website and in the Houston Chronicle prior to the election.

# COMMUNITY WATCH

## Authorities capture fugitive that shot Sheriff's Deputy on Homestead Road traffic stop

By Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

On Wednesday, August 16, 2023, Harris County Sheriff's Office Deputy Joseph Anderson was shot during a traffic stop at the 13600 block of Homestead Road in north Harris County. He was transported via life flight to a hospital, where he underwent surgery and remains in critical but stable condition.

Deputy Anderson is 29 years old and started his law enforcement career with Brookshire Police Department in 2017 and joined the Harris County Sheriff's Office in June 2022. He is currently assigned to patrol District 2 in north Harris County. His twin brother, Jacob Anderson, also works in patrol with HCSO.

"Deputy Anderson builds good relationships through open and friendly communication. He's easy to work with and is well-liked by his peers," said his supervisor.

The suspect, Terran Green, was taken into custody Thursday evening after a SWAT standoff in the 15100 block of Silhouette Ridge in northeast Harris County. During the standoff, Green injured two U.S. Marshal deputies and a Harris County Sheriff's Office deputy. The injured officers are in good condition and have been released from a local hospital. Green has been charged with three counts of Attempted Capital Murder.

Incredible work by HCSO SWAT and our negotiators. We appreciate the assistance from the Houston Police SWAT, FBI Houston, and all our public safety partners.



Fugitive Terran Green clings to the art of a "Rook" as he is brought out of the house where he was hiding.



Authorities tore this house in Humble apart with a "Rook" truck mounted vehicle in the attempt to get fugitive Green to surrender.



Late night News Conference Wednesday night by Sheriff Ed Gonzalez brings the public up-to-date on the manhunt. Also present were Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Houston Police Chief Troy Finner, FBI, US Marshals, and other law enforcement authorities.



Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Anderson

## DA files charges against Green; may get 25 yrs to life sentence

The Harris County District Attorney's Office has filed four charges of attempted capital murder of a peace officer against 34-year-old Terran Doral Green for shooting at law enforcement officers on two separate occasions this week, District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

"Anyone who would shoot at uniformed police officers presents the greatest level of threat to our community," Ogg said. "That kind of person will stop at nothing, and our prosecutors are already working on the case."

Green is accused of shooting a Harris County Sheriff's deputy during a traffic stop on Wednesday. The deputy is expected to survive. During a stand-off in an Humble neighborhood on Thursday night, Green also shot at three other officers, two with the U.S. Marshal Service and one with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant District Attorneys Katie Warren, a Division Chief in the DA's Office, and Rebecca Marshall, a Chief in the trial division, assisted with

both crime scenes in Humble to aid law enforcement.

"We are very grateful right now that we are not planning four funerals for law enforcement officers," said Warren. "Attempted capital murder of a peace officer means that there was an intent to commit the murder of a peace officer in the line of duty, so those are the most appropriate charges."

Green is expected to be arraigned in a Harris County District Court early next week. Prosecutors for the Harris County District Attorney's Office will ask that Green be held without bail because he is charged with these shootings while he was free on bond for two earlier felonies, aggravated assault of a family member and felon in possession of a firearm.

"The defendant is a habitual offender so we will be filing motions requesting no bond and seeking to deny his bail until we can bring him to trial," said Rebecca Marshall.

Because he is a habitual offender, Green faces a minimum of 25 years in prison and a maximum of life.

# AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

### BILINGUAL STORY TIME

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 cantar en las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

### ENGLISH COMPUTER CLASS: MICROSOFT WORD AND GOOGLE DOCS

\*Important- Instruction is in English.

\*Google account is required (Though we can help you make one if you don't have one already)

\*Class format: In-person, in the computer lab at the Aldine Library.

Learn computer basics by practicing on our PC's with Instructor Nyla! We will learn about using web browsers, google apps, Microsoft suite, keeping your information safe online, and MUCH more! Join us for a weekly class on Tuesdays! Join us Tuesday, Aug. 22, 11:30am - 12:30pm.

### APPRENDA COMPUTERS & TECH

Limited space/ Espacio limitado

Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

\* Important- Instructions are in Spanish language; Software (Windows OS, Office 365, Google) apps are all in English language.

Nivel -1 Habilidades Esenciales- Martes- 5:00 a 6:45 PM: Computer Essential Skills (Spanish computer class)

- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegación por Internet e interface, ti-

pos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes

### CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

Are you applying for Naturalization? You need this class! WE can help you prepare. We will meet Wednesdays from 10:30am - 12:30 pm. 10-week course. Last day to register: Wednesday, Aug. 23. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/k53c6hth> or on the first day of class.

All these must apply. Are you ready? \*Eligible to apply for Naturalization \*Age 18 or older \*Speak, read, & write Basic English

### 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, Aug. 24, 3:30 - 5:30pm.

### APPRENDA COMPUTERS & TECH

Limited space/ Espacio limitado

Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

Nivel 2- Intermedio-Jueves- 5:00 a 6:45 PM: Cloud Computing-Google workspace + Office 365 (Spanish computer class)- Computación en la nube-Aprenderá sobre los servicios de Google (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms), Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Además, cubriremos otras aplicaciones como: Adobe Sparks, Canva, Box y otras apps. El enfoque general de de las practicas de computación serán para su uso en empleos y uso personal.

Importante: \*Se determinará sus habilidades y el nivel de su clase con una evaluación de habilidades en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia

\* requerirá una cuenta de [google.com](http://google.com) y [outlook.com](http://outlook.com) para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet

Formato de la clase: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés

### APPLICATION BASICS: JOB SEARCH WEBSITES

Learn about popular job search websites like Indeed, how to confirm job listings are legitimate, and how to navigate them efficiently. Saturday, Aug. 26, 11am - 12pm.

### ADULT VOLUNTEERS

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/qSzMSpiaTL>.

### PASSPORT SERVICES

Do have plans to travel out of the country for the holidays? You need to get your passport in order NOW! Current routine processing is estimated at 13 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 9 weeks. 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 - Appointments required. 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 to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

MICHELLE PICHON  
LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST  
HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY  
11331 AIRLINE DR.  
HOUSTON, TX 77037  
832-927-5410



Fugitive Terran Green

## Green had history of assaults; was out on bond

Green has five prior felony convictions and has been to prison three times.

He was sentenced to two years for Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon but did not serve the full two years.

Green bonded out on April 1 on two other charges. One charge of Aggravated Assault of a Family Member on a \$50,000 bond and a second charge of Felony Possession of a Weapon on a \$5,000 bond. His total bond was \$55,000.

In the Aggravated Assault of a Family Member charge, he pulled a gun on his girlfriend and said "I'm going to end you."

DA asked for no bond but Judge DaSean Jones let him out on the \$55,000 bond. He was supposed to appear in Judge Jones's court but didn't show up.

He forfeited the bond in May, so he was wanted by authorities.

## House fire on Bauman Road causes \$65,000 in damages

Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on July 23, 2023, at 12:02 a.m. The house was located at the 9900 block of Bauman Rd. 77076.

No reported injuries.

The Fire Department reports \$348,500 in estimated property saved. but \$65,000 in estimated damage.

HFD Arson investi-

gators ruled the cause as accidental (careless discard of smoking material).

Firefighters arrived on scene within four minutes to find fire coming from the side of a vacant 1-story house. They made an attack on the fire, ventilated the roof, and pulled ceiling. A primary search was completed

and cleared. The utilities were secured, and the fire was extinguished. HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. 32 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including firefighters from Stations 15, 31, 34, 30 and 58.



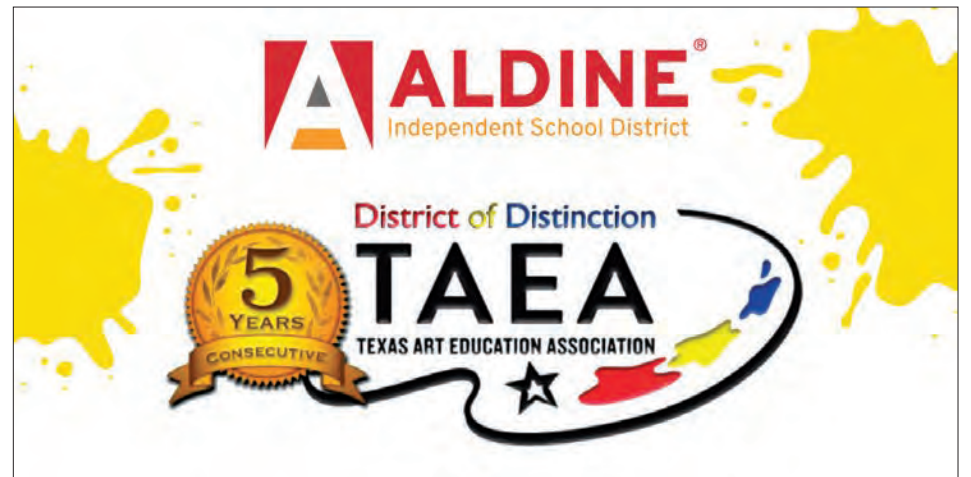
# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE



## Aldine Named District of Distinction for 5th Consecutive Year by Texas Art Education Association

### Message From the Superintendent, August 18, 2023

Dear Aldine Community, These are exciting times in Aldine ISD! We are in the final year of our 5-year strategic plan, A New Way Forward, and are embarking on a journey to develop a new plan together with you. Our Board of Trustees this week called for an election of \$1.8 billion in school bonds. The 2023 School Bond package would focus on safety and security, facility enhancements, and instructional technology, with three propositions divided into them. Again, the newsletter is for families, students, and staff members. You'll find many updates, a bit about the great things happening in Aldine, celebrations, important dates like our upcoming Class of 2023 Graduation ceremony, hyperlinks, and so much more!



With Aldine Pride!

*Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney*

The honor places the AISD in the state's top 1.3% of all visual arts programs. Aldine ISD was honored for providing a well-rounded education. The district advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social-emotional learning that connects learners to their community and beyond.

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney  
Superintendent of Schools Aldine ISD

Only 16 school districts have achieved this honor for five consecutive years. That is, every year, the award has been bestowed.

### Planning Our Future



We have had a great start to the '23-'24 school year! I am filled with joy visiting campuses and talking with students and staff. Again, to all our families, thank you for entrusting us and letting us serve you and your students. It is truly an honor to work for you.

TAEA is the leading advocate for the visual arts in the state and annually honors school districts that meet its rigorous criteria.

Programming documented for judging for the TAEA award of distinction included, but was not limited to:

- VASE
- Junior VASE
- TEAM
- Field experiences
- Community service
- Community exhibitions

For the 2023 award, more than 1,200 school districts were eligible to apply. Each section submitted documentation they met from the 14-point rubric.

Kaileigh Newman, AISD visual arts director, credited the district's art teachers for guiding and bringing students' talent out. She praised art teachers' passion for their work with art students and nurturing their talent and creativity.

Aldine ISD will be honored at the TAEA Fall Conference on November 17, 2023. TAEA is the largest state professional organization for art educators in the United States. It is the mission of TAEA to promote quality visual arts education through leadership, advocacy, service, and professional development.

August symbolizes a fresh start, like the new school year, going through new experiences, building new relationships, and setting new goals. Since serving as Superintendent, we have been striving to meet our goals, creating new choices and options, and building student opportunities. As we begin our last year of the 5-year strategic plan, A New Way Forward, we embark on a journey to develop a new plan, and we look forward to your involvement to build upon our continuous improvements.

## Aldine ISD to Host Power of Education Sessions in Preparation for the Family and Community University's Start

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Aug. 22: Teacher Virtual Job Fair from 4-5 p.m. RSVP to MPPerez@AldineISD.org.
- Aug. 23: Paraprofessional Virtual Job Fair from 4-5 p.m. RSVP to MPPerez@AldineISD.org.
- Aug. 26: Paint the Convert event will be held at Blanson CTE High School from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sept. 18: Board of Trustees Study Session starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Admin. Bldg.-Boardroom.
- Sept. 19: Board Meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Admin. Bldg.-Boardroom.
- Sept. 20: Virtual Job Fair.

On Monday, August 21, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department will be hosting their Power of Education – Real Stories of Transformation tour, in anticipation of this year's Family and Community University (FCUniversity) start date.



These free sessions will allow parents who previously graduated FCUniversity to speak about their experience, and how the classes helped them grow and better care for and support their families. FCUniversity will be starting its third year on September 5, and has seen continual growth in both enrollment and classes offered, since its inception. Last year's graduating class saw 300 parents walk the stage, and FACE is looking to expand on its previous success with this upcoming school year.

FCUniversity and its classes are all free, with the selection of classes offered being large and diverse.

### ATHLETICS KICKS OFF IN AUGUST!

With the return of school marks the return of fall sports. For a complete list of dates, times, and locations, visit the Athletics webpage

## Class of 2023 Summer Graduation Set for Thursday, August 24



Aldine ISD looks forward to celebrating the Class of 2023 summer graduation ceremony on August 24. Share your senior celebrations with us by tagging Aldine ISD in your photos on Instagram and Twitter and using the hashtags #AISDClassof2023 and #MyAldine.

**Class of 2023 Summer Graduation**  
Thursday, August 24, at 6 p.m. M.O. Campbell Educational Center 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, 77032

Aldine ISD prioritizes the safety of its students and community members and will be working with law enforcement and event security to ensure a memorable and safe event.

Families can direct any questions or concerns to the graduates' campus leadership.

Some classes offered include, but are not limited to:

- Special Education
  - Academic Programs
  - Virtual Reading Clubs
  - College Awareness
  - Paraprofessional Training (Teacher's Aide)
  - Financial Literacy including Entrepreneurs 101
  - ESL Programs (English as a Second Language)
  - GED Preparation
  - Citizenship Education
  - Digital Literacy
  - Health Literacy and Resources
- All sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the dates and locations listed below.**
- | Campus  | Date      |
|---|-----------|
| Cypresswood Elementary<br>6901 Cypresswood Point Ave. | 8/21/2023 |
| Johnson Elementary<br>13901 Homestead Rd.             | 8/22/2023 |
| Houston Academy<br>8103 Carver Road                   | 8/23/2023 |
| Spence Elementary<br>1300 Gears Rd.                   | 8/24/2023 |



OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By Ruben A. Salazar  
President, East Aldine Civic Association

### Association and Community Members protest against Ojos Locos Sports Cantina

HOUSTON - The East Aldine Civic Association and other East Aldine community members plan to host a protest outside of the proposed new Ojos Locos Sports Cantina to be located at 11743 Eastex Freeway Houston TX. 77093, in the community of East Aldine on Friday September 8, 2023 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

EACA President, Ruben A. Salazar, who has been headlining the efforts to protest the opening of the new location with the help of State Representative Armando Walle and State Senator Carol Alvarado, says that residents are ready to publicly display their opposition to the incoming business. Ojos Locos officially filed their application for a MB Mixed Beverage and FB Food Beverage License to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) on July 24, 2023. The protest applications that were submitted in advance of the application by Senator Alvarado and Representative Walle were immediately accepted by the TABC, and the investigative process into whether there is enough grounds for a hearing on the application is currently underway.

Law Enforcement will be present to keep order and control during the time of the protest. Residents and others willing to participate are encouraged to join East Aldine residents in the protest.

Residents and community members have expressed fears that this business will negatively impact their quality of life and pose a threat to public safety given the history of criminal activity at many of these establishments. Concerns regarding the potentially high amount of intoxicated drivers that will come from this establishment have also been raised.

EACA Board Members and local officials are continuing to monitor the situation and will issue updates as they come in regarding the investigative process for a possible hearing on this license application.

About East Aldine Civic Association

The East Aldine Civic Association aims to enhance the quality of life for residents of all neighborhoods in the East Aldine area. The East Aldine Civic Association has helped bring crucial infrastructure improvements to the East Aldine community that have helped improve the public safety, mobility, and welfare of residents throughout the East Aldine area.

Contact  
Ruben A. Salazar  
President & Founder  
eastaldinecivic@gmail.com  
(713) 569-8305

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

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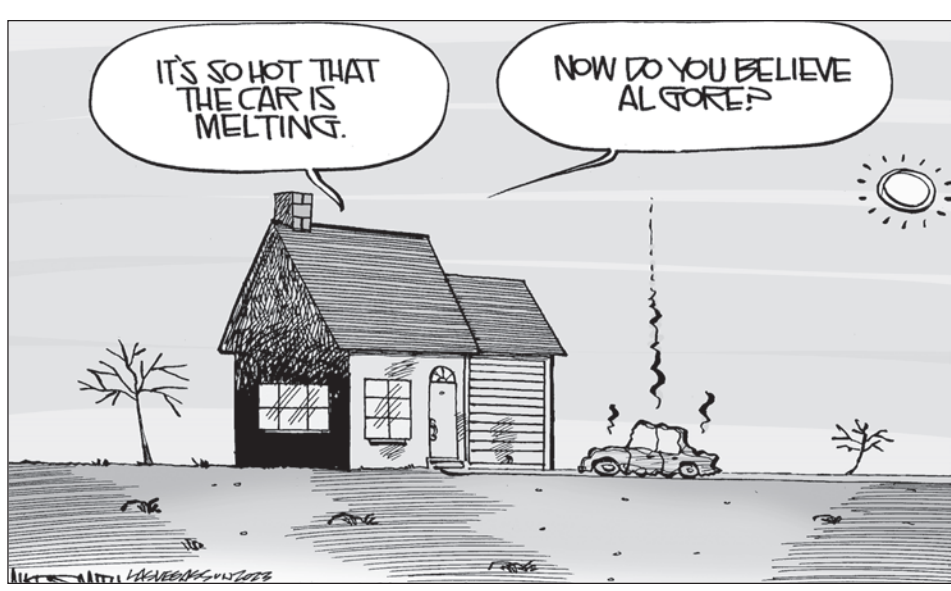
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**GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Hello, East Aldine Residents. Please mark your calendar! Monthly meetings of the Green Forest Civic Club Last Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Dr. 77039 At our meetings, you will receive in-person updates from elected officials, law enforcement officers, and service providers and organizations about issues, concerns, and events having to do with East Aldine. Also receive advice and assistance on any issue you may be having. Our meetings are open to the public. For additional information, contact Selina Valdez @ 832-416-0964 or at greenforestc1983@gmail.com or on our Facebook page: Green Forest Civic Club. We look forward to seeing you!



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### Hola Hour

Every day, whether here in Mexico or in the US, I take a walk. Walking in the morning would be nice, but that's when I write, so, in the afternoon, I head out to see what the world looks like.

I always greet a lot of people on my walk, no matter which country I am in. I talk to dogs if there are dogs involved, or I comment on the weather, or I compliment what someone is wearing, or I simply say, "Hello."

I do pretty much the same thing in either country, and my ability to converse with dogs in Spanish has improved dramatically, but there is one complication in Mexico that I do not encounter in the US, and I have taken to calling it the "Hola Hour."

Because what one typically says in the afternoon to a stranger (unless I am complimenting their hat or their dog or noting the imminence of rain) is simply, "Buenas tardes," ("Good afternoon!")

In English, this sounds a little formal, but teenagers and old women and shopkeepers and street workers all say it. It is the universal greeting—until it isn't.

As it turns to night, everyone naturally starts saying, "Buenas noches," ("Good evening.") This seems pretty straightforward, but determining when to stop saying "Good afternoon" and start saying "Good evening" is far more complicated than it seems.

I used to think there was some magic time that changed incrementally as the season changed, and everyone knew they should start saying "Good evening." But I could never determine when this was. Was it completely dark? No. Perhaps it was just as the sun set? Not necessarily. Maybe it was the quality of light or when the streetlights turned on?

I would sometimes ask for a clarification: "Is it evening? Or is it still afternoon?" Whoever I asked would scan the sky and give me an answer that sounded very certain. I assumed this knowledge of when afternoon changed definitively to night was something one must be born in the culture to learn, and I would never be able to make this determination on my own.

But I don't think I was correct.

Because in this twilight time—with the sun either up or down, depending on your altitude, or the buildings in the way, or the number of trees, or the density of clouds, or any number of other complications in this brief time of less than an hour—I don't think anyone knows.

And the reason I believe this is because people start saying "Hola." They simply say "Hello."

It's a simple solution. No one wants to get it wrong. No one wants to get into an argument about it. So, when it's too close to call, people start saying "Hola" to me instead of "Good afternoon," before they've begun to say, "Good evening."

I shared my theory with Jorge, the owner of our hotel. It was a slightly complicated thing to explain in Spanish, but Jorge is very patient. In the past, I had asked Jorge, "Is it afternoon? Or is it evening?" and Jorge, like everyone else I asked before, claimed to know exactly which it was.

But when I shared my theory about the "Hola Hour," he laughed. And he said, "It is true."

Jorge looked just a little embarrassed, as though I'd discovered a secret. And I was pleased.

It takes a very long time to understand another culture, and there are many things I will never know. But I feel much better prepared for the Hola Hour tomorrow.

Till next time,  
Carrie

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### Record Sea Temps Could Spur more Hurricanes

Forecasters for the National Weather Service are anticipating a more active hurricane season this year because of record-warm ocean surface temperatures, the Texas Tribune reported.

Hurricane season runs through the end of November. The Climate Prediction Center now predicts six to 11 hurricanes this season in the Atlantic Ocean, with as many as five of those being major hurricanes. The new projection is considerably higher than the one released in May just before hurricane season commenced.

Bradley Brokamp, an NWS meteorologist in Galveston, said the higher prediction is the result of the higher sea surface temperatures.

"The name of the game this season seems to be the heat because it's been quite exceptional," Brokamp told the Tribune.

Another NWS meteorologist, Jeff Lutze, based in Corpus Christi, said the higher probability of Atlantic hurricanes increases the likelihood of a storm striking Southeast Texas.

"The big question mark is whether or not we'll get the upper air pattern to allow the storms to get this far into the Gulf of Mexico," Lutze said. Some of the most damaging hurricanes to hit Texas in recent years came in August or September.

#### FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING PAXTON

The Austin American-Statesman reported last week that federal prosecutors have seated a grand jury in San Antonio and called witnesses close to suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to testify. Paxton's attorney has already confirmed that there is an active federal investigation of his client.

While the Justice Department has declined to comment, the secret proceedings come a few weeks before Paxton is set to stand trial for impeachment in the Texas Senate on bribery allegations involving Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, who was indicted on unrelated federal charges in May for mortgage fraud.

Paxton has been under indictment for securities fraud since 2015, with a trial set in Houston for February 2024. He was suspended without pay after the Texas House

#### TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Gary Borders

overwhelmingly passed 20 articles of impeachment in late May.

#### WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Continued hot, dry weather has increased the number of wildfires, prompting the Texas A&M Forest Service to raise the State Wildfire Preparedness to Level 4, the second-highest level, in order to ensure resources are available to fight first breaking out across the state.

"Areas with high potential for wildfires include the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains, Eastern/Western Hill Country where oak/juniper fuel is present and for the Western Pineywoods, as well as Central and Southeast Texas where pine fuel is present," the service said.

As of Sunday, there were seven active fires, the largest being the Hawkeye Fire in Wichita County, consisting of 2,150 acres, which was 50% contained, and the Burnet 109 Fire, also in Wichita County, consisting of 2,126 acres, which was 75% contained.

Gov. Greg Abbott last Friday declared a wildfire disaster declaration in nearly 200 Texas counties, while burn bans are now in place in 181 counties.

July was hotter and drier than norm for most of the state, according to Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, with 49% of the state now in drought, up 25 percentage points since the end of June.

#### ABBOTT SIGNS LARGEST PROPERTY TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

Abbott last week ceremonially signed legislation that — if voters approve it in November as expected — will provide what he is calling the largest property tax cut in Texas history. The \$18 billion

reduction raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and provides other tax-reduction measures.

Voters will decide its fate as one of 14 proposed constitutional amendments in November. The measure is widely expected to pass, as do most measures to reduce taxes when placed on the ballot.

"As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas—and now that includes property tax relief," House Speaker Phelan said at the ceremony.

#### ERCOT GRID HOLDS UP DESPITE RECORD TEMPERATURES

The state's electric grid, which supplies electricity to 90% of the state and is run by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, has thus far withstood record demand brought on by the summer heat. An analysis by the Dallas Morning News points to two factors for the grid's ability to meet that demand: planning and renewable energy.

"The secret to ERCOT's success has been astonishingly high levels of performance to date by the wind and solar ... and by the thermal fleet," Alison Silverstein, an electric system reliability consultant and researcher, told the News. The latter refers to the state's gas, coal and nuclear power plants.

In preparing for demand, ERCOT made conservative estimates of how much energy each power plant could generate and accounted for worst-case scenarios in preparing for summer.

#### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PROMPTS NEW TPWD RULES

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued new rules limiting movement and testing restrictions for white-tailed deer in deer breeding facilities after receiving confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties this year.

As the Texas Standard reported, CWD threatens both the deer and the state's hunting economy. White-tailed deer hunting generates more than \$4 billion of economic activity in the state each year. The new rules aim to manage the spread of the disease.

MCWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. It progresses slowly and may not produce visible signs for several years.

"Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate," said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. "It's our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the 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: gborders@texaspress.com

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com

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# Sheriff conducts successful Runaway Rescue operation

Harris County, TX — August 16, 2023 — Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) completed a three-day operation aimed at locating and recovering at-risk runaway youth. From August 10-12, 2023, the collaborative efforts of the Missing Persons Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Child Abuse Unit, and Crime Reduction Units (CRU) culminated in a comprehensive rescue operation resulting in the successful location of 31 youths.

The goal of this initial operation was to locate and rescue runaway youths ages 12-17 who were susceptible to human traffick-

ing and to ensure the safe return of runaway youth to their parents or guardians in time for the upcoming school year.

Highly trained search teams comprised of uniformed deputies, Human Trafficking and Child Abuse Investigators, were strategically deployed throughout Harris County.

On Friday, Aug. 11, Erika Salazar, 42, was arrested for Harboring a Runaway Child. In another case, through follow-up investigations, deputies were led to a young female located in the state of Louisiana who may be a potential victim of

human trafficking. The HCSO will continue to collaborate with law enforcement agencies locally and in Louisiana to ensure the safety and welfare of this young individual.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez expressed his gratitude to all the units involved, as well as the dedication and tireless efforts of the deputies and investigators. "Our mission to protect our youth and ensure their safety remains a top priority. This operation demonstrates our commitment to serve and protect our community's most vulnerable especially as they face potential risks and challenges."

# Lone Star College-Online Executive Director earns gold at international Taekwondo competition

HOUSTON (June 7, 2023) – Courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit are the five Taekwondo tenets that Vincent Nguyen, Lone Star College-Online Executive Director Student Success, lives daily. Those beliefs led him to bring home the gold from the Asia-Pacific Masters Games recently held in Jeonbuk, South Korea.

"Taekwondo is instilled in my being, my way of thinking and how I build relationships with others," said Nguyen. "The sport keeps me grounded and helps to dictate how I live my life, how I raise my family and how I conduct myself at work."

Nguyen started Taekwondo at age 13 and has become a well-rounded practitioner experienced in Poomsae (forms) and Kyorugi (sparring). In the last 32 years, he has participated in local, regional, national and international competitions where he exhibited his mastery in speed and strength breaking and participated on demonstration teams. Nguyen's skills have earned him numerous awards and medals.

"All of the competitions are truly memorable, but the ones that I hold dear are winning top podium at the 1994 U.S. Junior Nationals and bronze at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team Trials," he said.

Growing up, Nguyen



Vincent Nguyen, Lone Star College-Online Executive Director Student Success, earned gold at the Asia-Pacific Masters Games recently held in South Korea.

wanted to be a physical therapist, but his experiences at Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler inspired him to pursue a career in higher education. Nguyen started at LSC-Montgomery in October 2014 as the First Year Experience Program Manager and later became the Online Student Support and Enrollment Management Director.

Now as the Executive Director of Student Success at LSC-Online, Nguyen has over 25 years of experience in higher education.

"I met so many great administrators, faculty and staff who were instru-

mental in helping me achieve my college education," said Nguyen. "Those interactions motivated me to seek a career that will positively impact the next generation."

As for the sport, Nguyen teaches classes at Bang Elite Sport Taekwondo in the evenings and coaches his daughter, Olyvia, who is a current Taekwondo national champion.

Lone Star College added LSC-Online as its eighth official college to help address the growing demand for virtual learning in 2022. Visit [LoneStar.edu/LSC-Online/](http://LoneStar.edu/LSC-Online/) to learn more about LSC's newest campus.

**PET MATTERS**  
In Memory of  
Susan Hoffman

# Building Your Pet Disaster Evacuation Kit: Kids Edition

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Joins Comical Kids to Unbox Disaster Evacuation Bag for Pets

AUSTIN – Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is again joined by some of Texas' silliest kids to unbox items pets will need in case of an evacuation during a disaster. In this second video of a comical and educational series aimed at encouraging Texans to prepare for natural disasters, children remind Texans not to forget their furry, finned, and feathered friends.

"As you prepare your family's emergency plan, evacuation routes, and go-bag, remember to pack a separate bag with everything your pets need if you have to leave home in a hurry," Commissioner Buckingham said. "For many of us, our pets are an extension of our family so they should have a bag, too. This task is a great way to include children in your disaster preparedness planning, even if that means using dog bowls as drums!"

Watch these comically clever kiddos help Commissioner Buckingham unbox a pet evacuation go bag:

### WATCH UNBOXING VIDEO!

The GLO encourages all Texans to prepare for hurricane season by preparing an evacuation "go bag" for their pets, including the following:

1. Each pet should have enough food and water to last them at least 3-7 days. Don't forget to change out their food every 2 days
2. If daily medication is required for your animal, be sure to have enough for at least two weeks and



store them in an airtight container. In case of any injury to your pet, be sure to include a first-aid kit. Include the animal's health and vaccinations record book with other documents.

3. Bring copies of your animals' registration papers, adoption information, or other records for each pet. Include pictures of your pets individually with you. This will help reunite you if your pet gets lost during an evacuation.

4. Make sure your pet is microchipped, which provides the best chance for efficient reunification if you get separated during a disaster.

5. You can begin preparing your livestock and horses for a natural disaster by maintaining an inventory, making sure animals have some type of identification, and plan-

ning evacuation arrangements.

### WATCH VIDEO FOR MORE TIPS!

Whether excessive heat waves, powerful tornadoes or damaging hurricanes, it is important to be prepared to evacuate. Texas has had 372 declared disasters since 1953. Of Texas' total declarations, more than 30% happened in August or later. Evacuations are more common than most may think, and few disasters come with a lot of warning time.

Download the GLO's Disaster Evacuation Checklist for more information. Texans can follow along on social media, watch the GLO's preparedness tips on YouTube, and find resources for family and pet preparedness at [recovery.texas.gov/pet-prepared](http://recovery.texas.gov/pet-prepared).

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lamentations (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which book may be summarized as "It really is true, Jesus Christ is God Himself"? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. In Esther 2:17, who was she (Esther) made queen instead of? Vashti, Ruth, Anna, Sapphira

4. Who gave Solomon cedar and fir trees according to all his desire? David, Hiram, Chalcol, Mahol
5. From Ecclesiastes 3, there is a time to mourn and a time to ...? Leave, Dance, Love, Profit
6. In 1 John 4:8 God is ...? Always, Grace, Love, Beloved

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) John, 3) Vashti, 4) Hiram, 5) Dance, 6) Love  
 Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*Yours is the day, Yours also is the night;  
 You have prepared the light and the sun.  
 You have established all the boundaries of the earth;  
 You have made summer and winter.  
 Remember this, O Lord, that the enemy has reviled,  
 and a foolish people has spurned Your name.*

PSALM 74: 16-18

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# SPORTS PAGE

## SEASON FOOTBALL PREVIEW

### Texans fortunes looking up with new head coach: All roads lead to Houston for CFP title game in Jan.

While a lot of attention will be focused on the Texans locally, the national spotlight will be on "H" town come January when NRG Stadium hosts the College Football Playoff (CFP) National Title Game on Monday, Jan. 8.

The Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl will host the CFP semi-final games, with the winners advancing to Houston for a shot at the title. The Georgia Bulldogs will be looking for a third straight national title and have a very good shot at hitting the trifecta. Head coach Kirby Smart's team returns six offensive and seven defensive starters and their schedule is an easy one.

But the big news in college football during the offseason has been realignment, and boy, have there been some eye-opening moves.

This will be the final season that Texas and Oklahoma will be members of the Big 12. In 2024, they will join the SEC (good luck with that Longhorn and Sooner fans!), while the 2023 season will see the University of Houston, BYU, Central Florida and Cincinnati join the Big 12. UH's entry into the Big 12 has been long overdue and let's hope they are prepared to make the move up from the AAC. In 2024, the Big 12 will expand to 16 teams as Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah join the conference. Four other Pac 12 schools, UCLA, USC, Oregon and Washington will join the Big 10. That leaves only four teams left in the Pac 12, which means that league, which has been in existence since 1915, is pretty much dead.

While the expansion might be good for college football, it's going to be a logistical nightmare for other sports, such as baseball, softball, swimming, volleyball and other lesser sports. Travel is going to be brutal. Think about it. The UCLA volleyball team could very well have to play to Columbus, OH on a Tuesday for a conference game against Ohio State. That's not fair to the student-athletes who will have to deal with the travel and lost time in the classroom.

But that's a matter for athletic directors and school presidents to handle. This space is dedicated to looking ahead to the 2023 college and pro football seasons, so let's get started.

We will start with the college game and the Big 12.

Third-year Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian is coming off an 8-5 season and has assembled a ton of talent in Austin. UT returns 10 offensive starters and six defensive starters. The only starter not returning is a big one as running back Bijan Robinson (1,580 rushing yards, 20 total TDs) as he has taken his talents to the Atlanta Falcons. If second-year starting QB Quinn Ewers has progressed and matured as the reports out of Austin say he has, the UT offense should be in good hands. Ewers had his ups and downs as a redshirt sophomore last year, passing for 2,177 yards with 15 TDs and six interceptions. If the 'Horns get the Ewers who tossed four TDs in a 49-0 win over OU they should be the team to beat in the Big 12. If they get the Ewers who threw three picks in a 41-34 loss at Oklahoma State, then the race will be on for the conference title. Ewers has a lot of weapons returning in the passing game in wide receivers Xavier Worthy (60 receptions, 760 yards, 9 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (50 receptions, 652 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders (54 receptions, 613 yards, 5 TDs). The UT defense will be led by linebacker Jaylon Ford (119 tackles in 2022).

Look for Texas Tech to be a dark horse in the Big 12 this year. Second-year head coach Joey McGuire led the Red Raiders to an 8-5 season in his first year in Lubbock and culminated it with a dominating 42-25 win over Ole Miss in the Texas Bowl. Tech returns veteran QB Tyler Shough (1,304 passing yards and 7 TDs in 7 games), a solid runner in Tahj Brooks (691 yards, 7 TDs) and a big-play receiver in Jerand Bradley (51 receptions, 744 yards, 6 TDs). The Red Raiders return eight offensive and six defensive starters and McGuire has been a recruiting machine his first two years in the Hub City. Shough is 8-0 as a starter.

You have to figure Oklahoma will rebound from its 6-7 disaster of a season, if not, head coach Brent Venables seat could get hot. Other teams that should contend for the Big 12 title include last year's champ Kansas State, and TCU, which finished 13-2 and reached the CFP Title Game where they were walloped 65-7 by Georgia.

The SEC looks like it should be a three-team race between defending national champion Georgia (15-0 in 2022), Alabama (11-2) and LSU (10-4).

As stated earlier, Georgia returns a load of experience on both sides of the ball, except at QB where Carson Beck (310 yards, 4 TDs in 7 games of mop up duty) will be given the first shot to replace two-year starter Stetson Bennett IV. Beck has a strong arm and Georgia fans have been waiting for him to take over the offense. He will have plenty of help as running backs Kenny McIntosh (328 yards, 3 TDs/22 receptions,

242 yards, 2 TDs) and Daijun Edwards (769 yards, 7 TDs) and All-American tight end Brock Bowers (63 receptions, 942 yards, 7 TDs) should make his transition to the starting an easy one. Bowers has the talent to be the next big tight end at the next level. In his first seven seasons in Athens, Smart has forged an 80-15 record (84% winning percentage), two national titles and three trips to the CFP title game.

Alabama and head coach Nick Saban don't like playing second fiddle to anyone in the SEC, especially Smart, who was Saban's defensive coordinator for a number of years. The Crimson Tide lost its two best players to the NFL, in QB Bryce Young (3,328 yards, 32 TDs) and linebacker Will Anderson Jr. (51 tackles, 17 for loss, 10 sacks), but the cupboard isn't bare in Tuscaloosa. The big question mark is who will replace Young. Saban has three candidates in Jalen Milroe (297 yards, 5 TDs), Ty Simpson and former Notre Dame QB Tyler Buchner (651 yards, 3 TDs). Milroe served as Young's backup a year ago and had a big day in 'Bama's win over Arkansas when Young left with a shoulder injury, but he struggled against A&M, so the verdict is still out on whether or not he can handle the starting job. The Tide returns The Woodlands product Jace McClellan (655 yards, 7 TDs) at running back and solid receivers Ja'Cory Brooks (39 receptions, 674 yards, 8 TDs) and Jermaine Burton (40 receptions, 677 yards, 7 TDs). Linebacker Dallas Turner (37 tackles, 8 for loss, 4 sacks) and cornerback Kool-Aid McKinstry (35 tackles, 1 interception, 15 passes defended) will lead the way on defense.

LSU surprised everyone by winning the SEC West in head coach Brian Kelly's first year as the Tigers head coach. The Tigers return a strong nucleus led by dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels (2,913 passing yards, 17 TDs/885 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and stud linebacker Harold Perkins (72 tackles, 7.5 sacks as a true freshman).

While LSU was the surprise team of the SEC, Texas A&M was the league's biggest disappointment. After starting the year ranked No. 6 in the nation, Jimbo Fisher's team limped to a 5-7 finish. Fisher's seat is getting hot and the Ags need a turnaround season to keep it from imploding. A&M returns eight offensive and eight defensive starters with hopes the young guys who saw a lot of playing time a year ago have matured. Conner Wiegman (896 yards, 8 TDs) should start under center, but if he struggles, veteran QB Max Johnson (517 yards, 3 TDs) is a capable replacement. Look for Fisher to get speedy wide receiver Aines Smith (15 receptions, 291 yards, 2 TDs in just four games) plenty of looks in the passing and running game. A&M does return two big-play WRs in Evan Stewart (53 receptions, 649 yards, 4 TDs) and Moose Muhammad II (38 receptions, 610 yards, 4 TDs). Muhammad is the son of former Carolina Panthers wide receiver Mushin Muhammad. Both were freshman a year ago.

In the Big 10, it should be another battle between Michigan and Ohio State in the East, while Wisconsin looks like the team to beat in the West. Jim Harbaugh's Wolverines own a two-game winning streak over Ryan Day's Buckeyes and return QB J.J. McCarthy (2,719 yards, 22 TDs) and one of the nation's top backs in Blake Corum (1,463 yards, 18 TDs). OSU has to replace Stroud and his 85 TDs passes over the last two years. Whoever lands the job will have a strong running game to rely on as back Miyan Williams (825 yards, 14 TDs) and Daallan Hayden (553 yards, 5 TDs) return. The Buckeyes have one of the best wide receivers in the country in Marvin Harrison Jr. (77 receptions, 1,263 yards, 14 TDs). Harrison is the son of Hall of Fame wide receiver Marvin Harrison.

Look for USC (11-3), led by Heisman Trophy winning QB Caleb Williams (4,537 passing yards, 42 TDs/382 rushing yards, 10 TDs) to battle Oregon (10-3) and QB Bo Nix (3,593 passing yards, 29 TDs/510 rushing yards, 14 TDs) for the Pac 12 title.

Notre Dame (9-4) and second-year head coach Marcus Freeman could also make some noise this year. The Irish will have Wake Forest transfer Sam Hartman (3,701 yards, 38 TDs) at QB and a strong running game led by Logan Diggs (822 yards, 4 TDs) and Audric Estime (920 yards, 11 TDs).

I'll have my conference champs and the 4 CFP teams later in this column.

Turning our attention to the NFL, the Kansas City Chiefs, fresh off their second Super Bowl title in four years, will be looking to become the first team since the 2004-05 Patriots to win back-to-back Lombardi Trophies. SB 57 will be played on Sunday, Feb. 11 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

As long as QB Patrick Mahomes (5,250 yards, 41 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (110 receptions, 1,338 yards, 12 TDs) remain healthy, Andy Reid's Chiefs will be the team to beat once again.

But they will have to get through a loaded AFC to get to a second

straight SB, and their third in five years.

In the AFC South, Jacksonville is the defending division winner and appears to be the best team in a suspect division. Quarterback Trevor Lawrence (4,113 yards, 25 TDs) came of age in 2022 and has a lot of talent around him in running back Travis Etienne (1,125 yards, 5 TDs/35 receptions, 316 yards) and wide receiver Christian Kirk (84 receptions, 1,108 yards, 8 TDs). The Jags also added former Atlanta wide receiver Calvin Ridley to the mix after he was reinstated after serving a one-year suspension for gambling on NFL games.

The Texans should be much improved, but have a way to go before they contend with Jacksonville for the division title. Stroud (8,123 yards, 85 TDs in two years at OSU) should start at QB and earn his stripes. Running back Dameon Pierce (939 yards, 5 TDs as a rookie) and wide receiver Nico Collins (37 receptions, 481 yards, 2 TDs in 10 games) will need to step up their games to help Stroud.

The AFC North should be an interesting race. All four teams are capable of winning the division. Baltimore is hoping dual-threat QB Lamar Jackson (2,242 passing yards, 17 TDs/764 rushing yards, 3 TDs in 12 games) is fully healthy. If he is, the Ravens could be dangerous on offense with the return of tight end Mark Andrews (73 receptions, 847 yards, 5 TDs) and new wide receiver Odell Beckham.

Browns fans are hoping Deshaun Watson (1,102 yards, 7 TDs in 6 games) returns to his Texans form and if he does, the Browns could be a team to watch in the AFC. They have strong running game led by Nick Chubb (1,525 yards, 12 TDs) and a capable workout in Amari Cooper (78 receptions, 1,160 yards, 9 TDs).

Look for the Steelers to be much improved, but the class of the division will still be the Cincinnati Bengals (12-4), who have played in two straight AFC title games. Quarterback Joe Burrow (4,475 yards, 35 TDs) has perhaps the best receiving corps in the league with Ja'Mar Chase (87 receptions, 1,046 yards, 9 TDs), Tee Higgins (74 receptions, 1,029 yards, 7 TDs) and Tyler Boyd (58 receptions, 762 yards, 5 TDs). If the defense plays better, the Bengals could very well challenge KC once again for the AFC title.

The Chiefs are still the best team in the AFC West, but look for the Los Angeles Chargers (10-7) to give them a run for their money this year. They too have a top five QB in Justin Herbert (4,739 yards, 25 TDs) and the most versatile running back in the NFL in Austin Ekeler (915 rushing yards, 13 TDs/107 receptions, 722 yards, 5 TDs). If wide receiver Keenan Allen (66 receptions, 752 yards, 4 TDs) can remain healthy for the entire season, LA could challenge for the AFC West title.

The AFC East should be a fun race to watch. Buffalo, Miami and the Jets should battle for the division title, while the Patriots will be bringing up the rear. When was the last time the Pats and head coach Bill Belichick were counted out this early?

Buffalo (13-3) will once again rely on QB Josh Allen (4,283 passing yards, 35 TDs/762 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (108 receptions, 1,429 yards, 11 TDs) and Gabriel Davis (48 receptions, 517 yards, 6 TDs). They need to get something out of their running game. The defense should be fine with a healthy Von Miller coming off the edge.

The Dolphins will have no trouble putting up points with QB Tua Tagavailoa (3,548 yards, 25 TDs). Tua has been cleared after suffering multiple concussions last year, which cut his season short. He has perhaps the two fastest wide receivers in the NFL in Tyreek Hill (119 receptions, 1,710 yards, 7 TDs) and Jaylen Waddle (75 receptions, 1,356 yards, 8 TDs). Miami will need to play better on defense to make a dent in the AFC.

The Jets are pinning their hopes on Rodgers (3,695 yards, 26 TDs in his final year in Green Bay) and he has plenty of weapons in his new gig. NY signed former Vikings running back Dalvin Cook (1,173 rushing yards, 8 TDs/39 receptions, 295 yards, 2 TDs), who should pair with Breece Hall (463 rushing yards, 4 TDs/19 receptions, 218 yards, 1 TD in 7 games) to give the Jets a formidable running game. If the Jets have success running the ball, that will set up the play action pass for Rodgers to make plays down field to second-year WR Garrett Wilson (83 receptions, 1,103 yards, 4 TDs) and former GB teammate Allen Lizzard. Wilson was the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2022.

Turning our attention to the NFC, the Philadelphia Eagle (14-3) are the defending conference champs and suffered a number of losses to the roster and both coordinators following their Super Bowl run.

Quarterback Jalen Hurts (3,701 passing yards, 22 TDs/760 rushing yards, 13 TDs) had a breakout year and an amazing individual performance in the Super Bowl loss to KC, as he accounted for four

touchdowns (three rushing, one passing). He'll have a new running back in injury-prone D'Andre Swift (542 yards, 5 TDs/48 receptions, 389 yards, 3 TDs) who came over from Detroit. He still has two top flight wide receivers in A.J. Brown (88 receptions, 1,496 yards, 11 TDs) and Devonta Smith (95 receptions, 1,196 yards, 7 TDs) and a dependable tight end in Dallas Goedert (55 receptions, 702 yards, 3 TDs).

The Eagles will be challenged by the Cowboys in the NFC East. The Cowboys finished 12-5 a year ago and they will go as far as Dak Prescott can take them. Prescott missed five games last year after injuring his ankle in the season opener against Tampa Bay. His backup, Cooper Rush, led Dallas to a 4-1 record in his absence. Prescott (2,860 yards, 23 TDs/15 interceptions in 12 games) has to cut down on the turnovers and prove he can win the big game. He's yet to prove that. The running game is now in the hands of speedy Tony Pollard (1,007 yards, 9 TDs/39 receptions, 371 yards, 3 TDs) after owner Jerry Jones released former starter Ezekiel Elliott (who recently signed with New England) in the offseason. Dallas has a strong receiving corps led by emerging star CeeDee Lamb (107 receptions, 1,359 yards, 9 TDs), the dependable Michael Gallup and new arrival Brandin Cooks (57 receptions, 699 yards, 3 TDs last year with the Texans. While Dallas should be solid on offense, they should be very, very good on defense, perhaps a top 5 defense in the league. The Dallas defense is led by linebacker Micah Parsons (13.5 sacks). The Dallas defense recorded 54 sacks, picked off 16 passes and scored three TDs in 2022. Look for that unit to be the difference maker this year.

The NFC North looks like a two team race between Detroit and last year's division winner Minnesota. The Lions lost six of their first seven games, but won seven of their last nine to finish with a winning record (9-8). Head coach Dan Campbell appears to have turned things around in the Motor City. The Lions have a fun and exciting offense led by QB Jared Goff (4,438 yards, 29 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (106 receptions, 1,161 yards,

6 TDs). They should be solid in the running game with former Bear David Montgomery and rookie Jahmyr Gibbs (926. Yards, 7 TDs/44 receptions, 444 yards, 3 TDs at Alabama in 2022). If the defense improves just a bit, the Lions could be roaring this year.

They will need to subdue a Vikings team that has one of the top wide receivers in Justin Jefferson (128 receptions, 1,809 yards, 8 TDs) and drafted big-play WR Jordan Addison from USC in the first round. They also have a solid tight end in T.J. Hockenson (60 receptions, 519 yards, 3 TDs), who they acquired in a mid-season trade from the Lions. With Cook now gone, the running game will be in the hands of backup Alexander Mattison (283 yards, 5 TDs). The Vikes just need QB Kirk Cousins to be his steady self (4,547 yards, 29 TDs).

Green Bay fans are going to find out what life will be like without Rodgers. Third-year man Jordan Love (600 yards, 3 TDs in 10 pro games) will need to count on a strong running game led by Aaron Jones (1,121 yards, 2 TDs/59 receptions, 395 yards, 5 TDs) and A.J. Dillon (770 yards, 7 TDs) to take pressure off of Love.

The NFC West should be San Francisco's (13-4) for the taking. They do have an issue at QB as last year's surprise star Brock Purdy (1,374 yards, 13 TDs in 5 games) is recovering from offseason elbow surgery. But they have a star at running back in Christian McCaffrey (746 rushing yards, 6 TDs/52 receptions, 464 yards, 4 TDs) who was acquired from Carolina in midseason. The versatile Deebo Samuel (232 rushing yards, 3 TDs/56 receptions, 632 yards, 2 TDs) will look to bounce back after a so-so season in 2022. The 49ers did get a breakout season from wide out Brandon Aiyuk (78 receptions, 1,015 yards, 8 TDs). They also have the reigning Defensive Player of the Year in Bosa and the league's No. 1-ranked defense in 2022.

Seattle (9-8) was the surprise team in the NFC earning a playoff spot with Geno Smith (4,282 yards, 30 TDs) as their QB. He took over for Russell Wilson who was traded to Denver. Smith has plenty of weapons to help him out in second-

year running back Kenneth Walker II (1,050 yards, 9 TDs) and productive wide receivers D.J. Metcalf (90 receptions, 1,048 yards, 6 TDs) and Tyler Lockett (84 receptions, 1,033 yards, 9 TDs). They also drafted former Ohio State WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who had some productive years as a Buckeye.

Below are one man's predictions for the upcoming college and NFL seasons.

- BIG 12**  
Texas over Texas Tech
- SEC**  
EAST – Georgia  
WEST – Alabama  
SEC Champion – Alabama
- BIG 10**  
EAST – Michigan  
WEST – Wisconsin  
BIG 10 CHAMPION – Michigan
- PAC 12**  
NORTH – Oregon  
SOUTH – USC  
PAC 12 CHAMPION – USC
- CFP SEMIFINALS**  
ROSE BOWL – Georgia over Michigan  
SUGAR BOWL – Alabama over USC
- CFP CHAMPION**  
ALABAMA
- NFL**  
**AFC SOUTH**  
JACKSONVILLE  
**AFC NORTH**  
CINCINNATI  
**AFC EAST**  
BUFFALO  
**AFC WEST**  
KANSAS CITY  
**AFC WILD CARDS**  
BALTIMORE, NEW YORK JETS  
AND LOS ANGELES CHARGERS  
**AFC TITLE GAME**  
KANSAS CITY OVER LOS ANGELES
- NFC**  
**NFC EAST**  
DALLAS  
**NFC SOUTH**  
NEW ORLEANS  
**NFC NORTH**  
DETROIT  
**NFC WEST**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
**NFL WILD CARDS**  
PHILADELPHIA, MINNESOTA AND GREEN BAY  
**NFC TITLE GAME**  
DALLAS OVER SAN FRANCISCO  
**SUPER BOWL 58**  
DALLAS OVER KANSAS CITY

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0300 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0300 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0250 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0263 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0325 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON  
September 12, 2023 AT 03:00 PM AT 14418 Beaumont Highway, Houston, Texas 77049.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

**FOR the proposal:** Sonya Anderson, President Johnnie McClelland, Vice President  
Charles Anthony, Secretary Buster Gates, Commissioner  
Earl Skank, Commissioner

**AGAINST the proposal:**  
**PRESENT** and not voting:  
**ABSENT:**

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

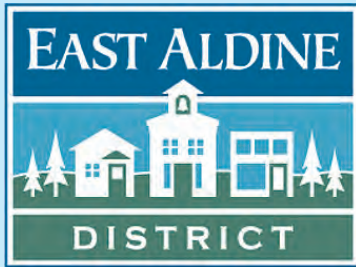
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 this year.

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	increase of 0.0000, or 0.00%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$173,759	\$194,296	increase of 20,537, or 11.82%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$52.13	\$58.29	increase of 6.16, or 11.82%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$1,627,065	\$2,006,706	increase of 379,641, or 23.33%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at 713-274-8000 or [tax.office@tax.hctx.net](mailto:tax.office@tax.hctx.net), or visit [www.hctx.net](http://www.hctx.net) for more information.





# East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

## Buckner Center In East Aldine Lifts Families to Brighter Futures

Dallas-based Buckner International has a 143-year history of serving communities across the U.S., but the Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine's history tells a story of generational struggles and gaining community trust through dedication to service.



SYLVIA BOLLING

"The Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine began as the Aldine Youth Center by Sylvia Bolling, who lived in the community with her children," said Whitney Nico, director of the Christian faith-based non-profit organization's Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine. "She wanted a safe place for her children and their friends to go after school."

Bolling was dubbed the Outstanding Woman of 2015 in the category of Community Service by the North Harris County chapter of the American Association of University Women. She has been a

treasure within her community since 1990, when, after realizing that Aldine offered very few afterschool programs for students, she began what would become the Aldine Family Hope Center.

"She was gifted the building and she grew the program and her heart for the community," Nico said.

In 2012, Bolling's passion for community service attracted the attention of Buckner International, seeing in the Aldine Family Hope Center a shared mission of uplifting the community's youth.

"Buckner acquisitioned the Aldine Youth Center and knew we had to continue the tremendous work that had been started in the community," Nico said.

In theory, continuing Bolling's work seemed like a streamlined process. However, winning over the trust of the Aldine community proved to be a challenge.

"[Aldine] is a tight-knit community that can be wary of outsiders. We had to

let families know we were invested in the community and them," Nico said. "We are here for the long term and want to see this community thrive."

The learning curve was steep for the Buckner family as well. For one, dispersing information within such a tight-knit community proved difficult.

"Letting the community know about all of the great services The Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine has to offer and them feeling like they can trust us [was challenging]," according to Nico. "It is a very close community and word of mouth is a big factor."

To address the area's poverty rate of 38 percent, the Center at Aldine sought set out to expand on Bolling's original after-school programming to also include "classes and activities for everyone in the family, so everyone feels welcome and is experiencing growth," Nico explained.

But generational change is a massive undertaking, particularly when each generation inherits its predecessor's trauma and struggles.

"We must pour knowledge and opportunities into the children of today and tomorrow by assisting and strengthening the family unit. If there is a need then we must help or provide resources to fill in those gaps," Nico said.



The Center now offers resources for job readiness, financial literacy, GED and ESL classes and parenting classes, along with a food pantry clothing for families with needs for the basics. Also on hand is a resale shop with gently used clothing.

Armando Walle, the area's elected representative in the Texas House, said he grew up nearby in the kind of family that often needed such assistance.

"That type of family really needs, sometimes, an advocate. I would not be in the position that I'm in without the work of centers like this (that) offer the opportunity for a kid to blossom and to fulfill their full potential, and that's being productive citizens and also giving back to their community."

The organization is also stepping in as childcare and other costs of living. Moreover, the Center — located near the East Aldine Town Center — provides free counseling services to help clients address mental health issues.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child and the communities across Houston should take that motto personally," Nico said. "I'd like for Houston to provide an environment where kids have great opportunities at their fingertips to be successful in life."

Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine  
4700 Aldine Mail Route, Houston 77039  
281.449.4828

www.buckner.org  
— by Caroline Cabe

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LSC-NORTH HARRIS



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