GLO Homes Built ..

MORTHBAST MANS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS VOL. 47, NO. 31 www.nenewsroom.com



since Hurricane Harvey. See Pages 4,8

Aldine ISD plans major \$1.8 Billion Bond Issue

Voters must approve 3 measures on November ballot

Projects are to focus on safety and security, facility enhancements, and technology; school rebuilds, renovations, and $performing\ arts\ center$

Aldine ISD Trustees approved three bond referendums totaling approximately \$1.8 billion during their Aug. 15 Board meeting. Trustees also voted to hold the bond election on Nov. 7.

Board President Randy Bates said the time has come for Aldine to improve its facilities on behalf of the community it serves. "We are at a crossroads; we either move forward or go back," he said. "We had professionals evaluate all of our buildings, and they came up with a list of needs. These bond referendums will address those needs."

The 2023 school bond will focus on safety and security, facility enhancements, and instructional technology and is divided into three propositions.



Proposition A will cover campus rebuilds, campus redesigns and renovations, safety and security, facility improvements and high-priority maintenance, technology infrastructure, and transportation at a cost of \$1,622,325,676.

- Campus rebuilds include:
- Carver Magnet High School • Aldine High School
- Aldine Middle School
- Hambrick Middle School • Orange Grove Elementary School
- Odom Elementary School

Campus redesign projects would take place at Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior High School and Mac-

saved lives and led to the

suspects being caught and

movement to pass a new

law in Texas, known as the

Almendarez Law, to tough-

en penalties for catalytic

Later his widow led a

charged with murder.

Arthur Senior High

Safety and security projects would include a dedicated district police department, updated security technology systems, safety film, site fencing, and lighting and emergency generators.

Technology infrastructure projects would include wireless network system updates (enhanced WiFi).

Continued. See AISD BOND ISSUE,

COMMUNITY CENTER NAMED FOR DEPUTY ALMENDAREZ

NORTHEAST HOUS-TON - Last Saturday, August 19 the Pct. 2 Community Center was renamed in honor of fallen Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Darren Almendarez.

Almendarez was a resident of the East Aldine community which he served, and was killed on March 31, 2022 while attempting to stop a theft of a catalytic converter from a pickup truck in North Houston.

Present at the naming ceremony was his wife, Flor Zarzoza, family and friends, community members, and many officials and guests. These included Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, State Senator Carol Alvarado, State Representative Armando Walle, and HCSO Chaplain Don Savell, all of whom spoke during the ceremony.

The Center was renamed in honor of fallen HCSO Deputy Darren Al-



Officials, guests, the Sheriff and Deputies, gather with Flor Zarzoza Almendarez in front of the Community Center

and the sign naming the bulding in honor of her husband Deputy Darren Almendarez.

DARREN ALMENDAREZ

Flor Zarzoza at Center in front of the sign naming the Community Center

in honor of her fallen husband. Also Comm. Garcia, Sheriff Gonzalez, State



Flor Zarzoza, the Deputy's wife, with Comm. Garcia (Photos by Gil Hoffman for the Northeast News)

mendarez. On March 31st, converter thefts. Aiding 2022, Almendarez was with the passage of this shot and killed, while off law was Senator Alvarado duty, when he confronted and Rep. Walle. three men attempting to Speaking at the ceremosteal a catalytic converter ny, Commissioner Adrian in the parking lot of an Garcia said it was approarea-grocery store. Almenpriate to name the center darez's heroic actions in his honor, as a place "to

> Continued. See CENTER NAMED FOR DEPUTY, Page 2

respect and remember hi-

mand keep his memory

alive." Garcia said it would

recognize his courage, and

his oath to serve and pro-



HCSO Deputy Darren Almendarez official photo

Rep. Armando Walle, and others at the ceremony. **Burn Ban now for Harris County**

Ban in Effect for 90 Days or until cancelled

Harris County - Harris County Commissioner's Court approved a burn ban in Unincorporated Harris County due to extreme temperatures and continuous dry conditions. Harris County joins 168 Texas counties that have already implemented a burn ban, including our neighbors in Galveston, Waller, Chambers, and Liberty County.

"The burn ban is in place to reduce the potential of a devastating wildfire happening in our community," said Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. " The excessive heat conditions we have been experiencing and lack of rain have elevated KBDI levels and vegetation fuels. The safety of Harris County is in our proactive actions- let's heed the ban, reduce risks, and protect our community."

The burn ban means no outdoor burning is allowed, except in an enclosure that contains all flames and/or sparks; outdoor burning activities authorized by TCEQ; approved ceremonial fires; non-commercial cooking such as backyard cookouts and barbeques are allowed; and welding and other "hot work" performed in accordance with county fire code requirements.

Violation of the ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

Preparation is critical when protecting your property and home from the

Flag" or windy days, and think twice before burning outdoors when KBDI approaches 700 or more.

tank clear of flammable vegetation.

-- Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

-- All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats, and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.

Continued. See BURN BAN IN

HARRIS COUNTY, Page 5

threat of wildfire damage. Here are a few effective actions and precautions you can take to minimize the risk:

-- DO NOT burn on "red

-- LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep the area around the

-- Clear roof surfaces

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 1

AISD varsity programs enter second week of season: College football gears up over Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day Weekend brings with it the official start of the college football season and to celebrate its 154th year, fans can watch games from Thursday to Monday, in addition to celebrating a three-day weekend.

While some schools started the season last weekend, many consider this the first meaningful weekend of the 2023 season. Teams from the West Coast, to the East Coast, to the Southwest. Southeast and Midwest. will be vying for the coveted four berths in the College Football Playoffs (CFP), which will culminate on Monday, Jan. 8 at NRG Stadium where the CFP title game will be played.

I shared my predictions in last week's column on who I think will be the final two teams standing next January and now it's time to once again try and predict who wins what games on a week-to-week basis.



This holiday weekend offers some interesting matchups in the college game and some mismatches, especially Texas A&M hosting New Mexico (2-10 a year ago), while No. 11-ranked Texas will look to get off to a good start in head coach Steve Sarkisian's third year in Austin against a frisky Rice squad.

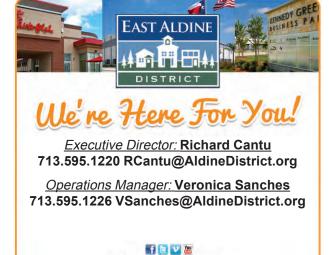
One of the better games this weekend will pit the University of San Antonio-Texas (UTSA) against the Houston Cougars at TDECU Stadium. A year ago, the Cougars won in San Antonio, 37-35, in what was a thrilling game.

Aggie fans are hoping Jimbo Fisher's sixth season in College Station is much better than last year's 5-7 record. Another subpar year could make things uncomfortably warm for Fisher.

Nationally, the best game on the schedule comes on Sunday night when No. 5 LSU takes on No. 8-ranked Florida State in Orlando. Other good games on the schedule have Florida visiting No. 14-ranked Utah on Thursday night, No. 21-ranked North Carolina facing South

CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 7

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



AldineDistrict.org





Community Center renamed for Deputy Almendarez,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A cadre of Harris County Sheriff's Deputies, along with Sheriff Gonzalez and his command staff, line-up as a salute for the renaming of the Northeast Community Center as the Darren Almendarez Community Center.



tect and defend the public.

said that naming a bilding

is always reserved for the

very best, and that "Dar-

ren was the best. He was

an incredible hero, and his

final act was given in ser-

State Senator Carol Al-

varado led the effort in the

state legislature to pass

the Almendarez Law. She

said he was "one of a kind"

as an individual, and it

was appropriate that his

name would be on a build-

ing next to a "one of a kind"

park, to always be remem-

Representative Armando

Walle mentioned that he

was a "home boy" and grew

up a few blocks from the

In his remarks, State

bered that way.

vice to the public good."

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Texas State Senator

Carol Alvarado priate that it would be named in honor of another who lived and served only a few blocks away. Armando remembered Darren as a kind and gentle person, who never complained. Yet he also told the story of how at a meeting, when a person seemed to threaten Walle, Darren was there to

"have your back." Armando said Darren was someone you could always count on. In turn, Armando promised to Flor that he would always have her back in support in the future. On Darren, Armando said that he led by example of service in his com-

Flor Zarzoza was the last speaker, and said it was "an honor to be here." She de-

munity, and paid the

ultimate price for that ser-



Texas State Representative Armando Walle

scribed her despair at Darren's death, as "I'm broken. I don't have a lot of memories of the last year or so." She told about how much the park and building meant to her, and that she and Darren would often come there to walk or jog.

Flor said that "Darren was my inspiration, because he did so much for our community. Now I think of him as my Hero."

Speaking to the audience, she said "we have a long way to go. I'm not done fighting for Darren."

"Darren is my Hero. A wonderful Father and Stepfather. I miss him

Commissioner Garcia closed the ceremonies, saying "We will do all we can to recognize the Legacy of your incredible partner."



Harris County Pets to Host "Clear the Shelters" Adoption Drive

HOUSTON - In an effort to find forever homes for homeless animals, Harris County Pets (HCP) is excited to announce its participation in the annual Clear the Shelters pet adoption drive from August 18 to 20. (Check for a date extension). All adoptable animals at HCP will be available for free to loving families and individuals during this special event.

Clear the Shelters is a nationwide initiative to promote pet adoption and reduce the number of animals in shelters. HCP has been a proud participant in this event for several years, and its commitment to finding homeless animals loving homes has significantly impacted the

Thousands of homeless animals find themselves in shelters every year, seeking a second chance at a happy life. Clear the Shelters offers a unique opportunity for families and individuals to open their hearts and homes to these animals, providing them with the love, care, and attention they deserve.

"At Harris County Pets, we are dedicated to improving the lives of homeless animals," said Corey Steele, Harris County Veterinary Public Health Director. "Clear the Shelters allows us to showcase the wonderful animals in our care and connect them with compassionate families ready to provide them with a forever home."

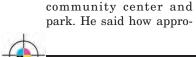
All adopted animals at HCP are spayed or neutered, receive age-appropriate vaccinations, including rabies, are microchipped, and are eligible for a one-year Harris County pet license. Our thorough approach to pet care guarantees that every adopted animal is equipped for a healthy and joyful life with their new family.

Harris County Pets Resource Center 612 Canino Road, Houston, TX

Hours of Operation Friday, 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information on adoptions, fostering, volunteering, and donating to Harris County Pets, please visit CountyPets.com or call (281) 999-3191.







East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Cost-free Community Activism Course Strengthens East Aldine's Voices

GRADUATION

lasting friendships.

They are a group of "community engineers" who help East Aldine shape its future by promoting community events and advocating for cleaner air and neighborhood improvements -- while forging

Graduates of the BakerRipley "Community Engineers" training classes say they expect "lifelong" benefits from the course.

Ruben Salazar, the youthful founder of the East Aldine Civic Association and a senior senator at the University of Houston-

Downtown, graduated from the course last year.

"The skills you learn in this course stay with you for life and help you become a better advocate for yourself and your entire community," Salazar said. "I am forever thankful to have been allowed to participate in this program and hope to continue to be a part of this great group of community advocates for many years to come."

The third round of Community Engineers training classes will start soon at the East Aldine campus. The 15-hour course starts at 6 p.m. on August 2, with classes from 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday in August. The class can accommodate as many as 30 students.

The classes are free. For information on enrollment, contact Pearl Castaneda at pcastaneda@bakerripley.org. The Community Engineers classes were started at other BakerRipley campuses in the

Houston area in 2014. Before the new BakerRipley East Aldine campus was opened, the classes were provided at other locations in the community, starting in 2017.

Bolivar "Bo" Fraga, a Houston native and graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy who holds a masters's degree in social work, is a long-time BakerRipley employee involved in

teaching the Community Engineers classes. Fraga, whose parents were social workers in Houston for many years, worked as a community organizer in St. Louis, Mo., before joining BakerRipley in 2009. 'The emphasis on relationship building is a way of

understanding power," Fraga said. "The class gives people in a community the ability to achieve a purpose, (whether) it's to build a park or something else you're concerned about, like concrete batch plants."

Now, the training is being considered for a younger group of potential leaders, said Castaneda, director of civic engagement

for BakerRipley East Aldine. Officials of the Aldine Independent School District's P-Tech Avalos Campus recently reached out about starting the training for students at the school, which is conveniently located on the campus of the East Aldine Center of Lone Star College. A prominent graduate of the course is long-time community volunteer Marina Flores Sugg, vice president of the Green Forest Civic Club.

Sugg, who mentored Salazar, helped her neighborhood block the recent proposed expansion of the Yellow Jacket concrete batch plant in the community. The company withdrew its expansion permit application after residents protested against what they expected to be increases in pollution and noise.

"When we see victories like that, that's really rewarding," Sugg said. "It makes it thwhile that all of the work that you did to get po community paid off.'

CASTANEDA

"Marina is the epitome of what a community engineer is," said Selina Valdez, president of the neighborhood group. "She has long been a fantastic leader for this community."

The Civic Club, in cooperation with Air Alliance Houston, testified against the permit in a hearing before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Sugg not only helped organize the community, she wrote a detailed account of the hearing for the Northeast News.

Because Sugg has joined in a variety of civic activities since the mid-1970s, including serving as a deputy voter registrar and board member of Bonding Against Adversity, she encourages others to get involved in learning how to advocate for a better East Aldine.

"It's the future generation we're fighting for now," Sugg said. "We may not see all the things that we're fighting for, but you know our future generation will. So, it's worth it to

take the training. People should consider it.' While Salazar comes from a family with a history of civic involvement in East Aldine, he

says the course can be very helpful to residents who aren't familiar with the way government works, or who face language or cultural barriers. "(Many) community members speak little to no English, so we learned to find ways around

this, such as multilingual flyers, social media posts and messaging in the community," Salazar said. "We also learned how to effectively advocate for the changes we want to see in our community.' The skills can be as simple or subtle as "knowing who to talk to, who to push, when to wait,

when to raise concerns," Salazar said. Castaneda was working as a community health worker two years ago when she signed up

for the community engineers training.

"I actually took the class way before I started this position," Castaneda said. "It's been a complete circle for me because I did it right at the start of the pandemic, while I was a community health worker. Although I didn't expect it, the skills I developed help me get my current position."

Now, in addition to promoting BakerRipley, Castaneda is one of the teachers for the community engineers' leadership course.

"I think one of my favorite parts of my job is continuing to work with the community engineers, after they've graduated. It's exciting to keep up with them and find out new projects they can get involved in."

Castaneda said the course reinforces the idea that participants are "already leaders" because they enrolled in the course.

SALAZAR, LEFT, AND FLORES

"We want to bring out those leadership skills that they may not even know they already have," Castaneda said. "In addition to letting them know the basics of government - like who their representatives are – we give them knowledge of some of our tactics, such as 'appreciative inquiry.'



That technique, or tactic, begins with class participants breaking into small groups for conversations in which the goal is to "draw out" the other person, Castaneda said. For example, the conversation topic might be about the other person's success and/or failure at public speaking. Or, the topic could be "tell me what you are passionate about," Castaneda said.

"When you have that kind of conversation, they can see that asking about a person's background, or whatever they went through to achieve success kind of breaks

down barriers," Castaneda said. "They learn that they can actually use that skill to get more out of a situation, or get a better outcome.'

"Those kinds of skills can enhance their power of being a community leader and letting their own voices be heard," Castaneda explained.

Castaneda grew up in East Aldine and graduated from MacArthur High School. "The great thing is, there has been tons of progress in the last 10 years," Castaneda said.

"And I feel like training people will result in even more improvements." - by Anne Marie Kilday





SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Spotlight on Success: Tracing the Remarkable Journey of Tony **Award Winners Fernell Hogan** from Aldine to Broadway

In bright lights and grand stages, where many might feel overwhelmed and intimidated. Houston native Fernell Hogan stands apart, finding solace and a genuine sense of belonging on Broadway. For Hogan, the big stage isn't just a showcase of talent but also an opportunity for him to showcase his Houston roots and influence his perspective artistic endeavors as a Tony award winner actor.

"Aldine introduced me to Theater."

Fernell Hogan's journey into acting began at Reese Academy in Aldine under the influence of his theater teacher, Ms. Smith, citing he wouldn't have found Theater if it wasn't for Reese. "It was during one Christmas play where Hogan carried the role of the gingerbread man that his passion for the performing arts first ignited. However, a pivotal moment during a field trip to Theater Under the Stars shaped Hogan's aspirations. Witnessing the stage performance of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" left an indelible mark on his young mind. In that transformative instant, Hogan recognized his true calling and declared: "This is what I want to do in my life for my career.

Hogan's dedication and relentless work ethic propelled him forward. He understood the importance of committing himself to his craft, recognizing that pursuing his passion demanded unwavering effort. From his days at Reese and Houston Academy to the High School for Performing Arts, he immersed himself in the craft, dedicating three hours each day to perfecting his abili-

Hogan credits Broadway veterans to his acting growth: "They lived this life. and they're able to give me their knowledge. Specifically, Casey Nicholaw, distinguished for his directorial and choreographic brilliance in iconic stage productions like 'Prom' and 'Mean Girls,' stands as a guiding beacon in

Hogan's path. "Believe it or not, I still get nervous, which is still a hurdle for me." When asked about the challenges of being a Broadway actor. "The preparation behind approaching a role and figuring out who you think that character is and how that character fits into the story. The character is who I want it to be." Drawing inspiration from people Hogan has met throughout his life journey is a practice as it helps bring life to the. "If there is somebody in my life that I think the character relates to, I'll pull characteristics of what I like from their quality from that person, which is helpful for me to get into character."

Despite his love for the stage as an actor, lately, there's been a brewing intrigue, a gradual pull towards the creator side as he gravitates towards the idea of directing. When asked if an opportunity to direct a stage play presented itself, he quickly declared that "it would have to be something he knows like the back of his hand." After pondering momentarily, Hogan's face suddenly lit up. "Dreamgirls!" he exclaimed, grinning ear to

His choice for the lead actress was none other than the sensational Jazmine Sullivan. He joked with a hint of playful doubt, "Can I get Jazmine? Would she be too busy gracing us with her extraordinary talent on Broadway?" He couldn't help but emphasize her remarkable vocal prowess, noting that she could effortlessly hit every note like a gifted song-

Coming from the tightknit neighborhood of Acres



Fernell Hogan Actor from Reese Academy in Aldine





Home in Houston to the dazzling lights of Broadway in New York is a testament to his invincible spirit and unwavering determination. While reflecting on his path, Hogan candidly acknowledges his challenges, asserting they were not enough to hold him back. Relocating from the familiarity of his family and the comfort of his hometown proved to be one of the most formidable obstacles. Hogan's revelations spread to his internal struggles as he initially grappled with selfdoubt, questioning his suitability for the world of theater. Surprisingly, his move to New York was initially driven by aspirations of a business degree, but fate had different plans. Hogan's fortunate encounter with a dance class audition led him to his triumphant Broadway debut. Recounting the pivotal moment, he passionately asserts that "theater chose me; even when I tried running away from it, the universe let me know this is where I belong."

Hogan's wisdom shines through as he offers invaluable advice for aspiring performers, urging them to silence the inner voice of doubt and embrace their readiness and worthiness. As he continues to grace the Broadway stage, Fernell Hogan's remarkable journey stands as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us all that with perseverance and selfbelief, even the most daunting challenges can be surmounted.

With proud and supportive parents, missing home and the culture while also proudly admitting his love for New York, the Tony Award winner understands the barriers that play a role in the inclusion of African-American and Hispanic children in theater, citing the "play for pay" style of the profession, which discourages students from inner cities to participate. Hogan stated, "It isn't affordable unless you have parents or someone to back you financially while you're auditioning." In conclusion, Hogan's de-

termination to enrich the community through theater and his commitment to fostering a positive youth mindset has culminated in the establishment of the Here for Good TX Initiative. The initiative's visionary "Anything Is Possible" campaign stands as a powerful catalyst for nurturing the minds and lives of the upcoming generation. By addressing critical areas such as self-esteem, mentoring, goal setting, decision-making, overcoming challenges, time management, social skills, and the value of effort, this campaign will undoubtedly shape the future trajectories of countless young individuals. Hogan's unwavering belief in the transformative potential of theater and the profound impact of a positive mindset serves as an inspiring testament to the enduring power of community-driven initiatives. Through the Here for Good TX Initiative, the stage is set for positive change, enabling youth to forge their own paths with confidence, purpose, and a resolute belief in their boundless capabili-

Aldine ISD plans \$1.8 billion bond issue,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The East Transportation facility is set to be rebuilt. Additionally, the district plans to purchase state-of-the-art school buses and buses dedicated to special education and add vehicles to its white fleet.

The bond program includes campus facility improvements and high-priority maintenance projects across the district, including installing digital marquees, lifecycle replacements (roofs, plumbing, and HVAC), science lab improvements, and athletic facility improvements.

Proposition B will cover instructional technology at a cost of \$65,547,500.

Instructional technology enhancements will ensure our students and educators have a technology-rich learning environment that supports, amplifies, and expands the impact of effective teaching practices so that our students are futureready. The technology projects are focused on student and staff device refreshes (iPads, laptops, and Chromebooks) and classroom technology (interactive display

Proposition C will call for the construction of an Education and Performance Center at a cost of \$122,282,967. This center will serve as the district's premiere performing and visual arts venue, able to accommodate groups of varying

If voters approve the school bond, Aldine ISD taxpayers will not see a tax rate increase for the next three years, according to Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne.

"We are always mindful of the community's tax contribution for Aldine students and are committed to responsible, transparent planning and use of those tax dollars," Osborne said.

The first planned rate change would come in 2026, and it would be 2 cents per \$100 value, meaning a homeowner with a

house appraised at \$100,000 would see a \$20 increase in their taxes beginning in

During the spring of 2023, the district convened a Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) co-chaired by Chief of Staff Sheleah D. Reed, Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne, and Chief of Operations Fred Washington. The LRPC was made up of a variety of community stakeholders who made recommendations to the Board after reviewing a comprehensive facilities assessment to address and plan for district improvements proactively.

Aldine ISD will continue to keep the community informed as the work unfolds and will soon go live with a web page dedicated specifically to Bond 2023 - complete with the most current information and updates to include individual projects, renderings, a calendar of community meetings, a tax calculator, and a way to ask questions and receive answers. We will also have FAQs and information about voting. Individual campus websites will also be updated, including how each school will benefit from the bond propos-

Community meetings will be held in September and October, where district leaders will share information and receive feedback directly from the community. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Registered voters can vote at any polling place in Harris County. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Election Day. Early voting by personal appearance shall be conducted at the following times:

Monday, Oct. 23, through Saturday, Oct. 28 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29 – from noon to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, through Friday, Nov. 3 - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Houston Health Department to Host Vaccine Event for Area Residents at Campbell



Are you or your child caught up on your routine and COVID-19 vaccines? If not, take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Houston Health Department. HHD has announced a vaccine event happening in Aldine ISD next week.

Houston Health Department Vaccine Event

August 29-31, 20239 a.m.-4 p.m.M.O. Campbell Educational Center 1865 Aldine Bender Rd. Houston, TX 77032

Note: Interested community members need to call to register at (832) 393-4220. What You Need to Bring

Proof of residence, citizenship, or insurance is not required at the Houston Health Department vaccine clinics. Bring immunization records.

For more information about the Houston Health Department, visit HoustonHealth.org.

Calling all Aldine teachers! Houston Loves Teachers is here to support you.





★ OPINION PAGE ★

TEXAS GLO

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

GLO has built more than 12,000 homes in Texas since Hurricane Harvey

When Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast nearly six years ago, the destruction was immense. The damage was so significant, Governor Greg Abbott tapped the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to be the first state agency to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with distributing short-term housing resources. Then in 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gave the GLO the greenlight to draft a plan for more than \$5 billion in long-term housing recovery funding. By 2019, the Texas GLO had launched the largest home repair and reconstruction program in Texas.



Happy Houston Homeowner Neisha Andrews

All long-term disaster recovery funding from HUD for homeowners in Houston and Harris County were initially administered at the local level. However, when progress lagged, the GLO stepped in to help rebuild homes, allowing local leaders to focus on other recovery efforts such as buyouts, infrastructure, multifamily rentals, and public services. Under a new cooperative plan spearheaded by Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, for the first time both Harris County and the City of Houston met all of their program benchmarks with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. These milestones were set by the city and county and approved by the GLO to ensure all programs will be completed as timely as possible.

The GLO has achieved tremendous success in administering the Homeowner Assistance Program, which has helped more than 2,250 Houstonians and Harris County residents get approved for home rebuilding assistance and has fully rebuilt nearly 1,600 homes. Overall, the GLO has rebuilt more than 12,000 homes for homeowners and renters in Texas since Hurricane Harvey. In January 2021, the GLO completed the state's first Homeowner Reimbursement Program having reimbursed about 3,000 Texas families for approximately \$86 million in out-of-pocket repairs. The GLO has also awarded \$89,125,000 to help 574 businesses recover from Hurricane Harvey while creating or supporting 1,843 jobs.

"My commitment remains steadfast, to serve the people we are meant to serve and do it well," said Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D. "This success is proof of my commitment to ensuring more than disaster recovery and mitigation funding is put to work to benefit the people who call Harris County and the City of Houston home."

On June 6, 2023, Harris County Commissioner's Court unanimously approved a list of projects for \$322 million in CDBG-DR funds and up to \$502.5 million in mitigation funds as well as authorized the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to take all necessary actions to expedite the administration of the funding. This development follows a robust commitment to cooperation, which was highlighted in March with a joint press conference with several county leaders and Commissioner Buckingham in Houston

Commissioner Adrian Garcia introduced Item 115 to the court stating, "I want to give a shout out to the GLO and Commissioner Buckingham for her support of Harris County and giving us a degree of trust." Commissioner Tom Ramsey noted the fairness of the plan noting that it worked out to about 25% for each precinct and stated, "job well done by the whole." Commissioner Lesley Briones echoed the sense of gratitude to HCFCD Director, Dr. Tina Petersen, and to Commissioner Buckingham for working together stating, "This is so wonderful that we were able to hit reset and really focus on the progress going forward."

"Thanks to open communications and focused cooperation, we are proud to see new success with disaster recovery, housing, infrastructure and mitigation funding," said Dr. Buckingham. "The GLO is dedicated to helping Harris County and the City of Houston put these vital funds to good use."



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

STAAR Scores Show Continued Struggles in Math, Reading

Texas public student scores in standardized testing continue to improve since the pandemic, but more than half of those taking the test still struggle with math and just under half read below grade-level, the Texas Tribune reported.

Students in grades three through eight took the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness tests in math and reading last spring. The results were released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

Math scores have improved since the pandemic low of just 35% meeting grade level or above in math in 2021, up to 43% in the latest STAAR scores. The percentage of students reading at grade level or above was essentially flat at 52%, but still above pre-pandemic levels, which were 47% in 2019.

Teachers across Texas continue to work with passion and skill to help students learn," said Mike Morath, Texas Education Commissioner. "This year's results show the efforts of our educators continue to deliver improved results for students."

LAWYERS: PAXTON USED BURNER PHONES, FAKE UBER ACCOUNT

A series of documents filed by House impeachment managers claim suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton gave indicted real estate developer Nate Paul "unfettered access" to the AG's office in order to "harass his enemies," The Dallas

Morning News reported.

Paxton used burner phones, a secret personal email account and a fake Uber account in order to visit a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair, the documents indicate.

"Uber records reflect drivers picked up Paxton under the alias of 'Dave P' a block from his home and ferried him to his lover's or Paul's properties more than a dozen times from August 6, 2020, until October 2, 2020," the House managers wrote.



Paul allegedly bribed Paxton by paying for a house remodeling and giving Paxton's lover a job, the documents indicate.

Paul was indicted in June for federal financial crimes. A federal grand jury is reportedly looking into Paxton's connection with Paul. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House in late May and faces trial in the Senate on Sept. 5. He was immediately suspended without pay upon being impeached.

Paxton also faces a criminal trial next year on a 2015 indictment for securities fraud.

NEW STRAIN OF COVID-19 BEING MONITORED

The World Health Organization is monitoring a new strain of COVID-19 it says is accounting for a growing share of cases in several countries, including the United States, according to the Texas Standard. EG.5, or "Eris," is being monitored to see how it might mutate.

how it might mutate.

Dr. Catherine Trosi, an infectious diseases epidemiologist at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, said it's hard to know the exact cause of the recent uptick in COV-ID cases.

"When the public health emergency ended, a lot of tracking went away," she told the Texas Standard. "The latest data shows 17% of cases are due to this variant. But we're not tracking cases really well because people have stopped testing. Even if you test positive, it doesn't get reported to health departments. So really the markers we have are hospitalizations,

which we have seen go up quite significantly – although it's important to remember we are still at historic lows in terms of hospitalizations due to COVID."

The Texas Department

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a rolling seven-day average of 929 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, up 132 from the previous week, with 21 fatalities.

SURVEY: 80% OF ANTI-MIGRANT BUOYS ARE IN MEXICO

A survey by the binational agency in charge of the Rio Grande indicates nearly all of the anti-migrant buoys Texas has installed in the river are on the Mexican side of the river, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The survey by the International Boundary and Water Commission found that of the 995-foot string of buoys installed near Eagle Pass last month, 787 feet — nearly 80% — are on the Mexican side.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state in attempt to force it to remove the barrier. In court, the state has insisted the barrier is on the U.S. side of the river. Mexico contends the barriers violate both federal law and an international treaty between it and the United States.

EMPLOYMENT RECORDS SET IN THE STATE

Texas has more jobs and more people employed than ever before, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state has recorded 29 consecutive months of growth and again leads the nation in the number of jobs added over the past year — 441,700 new positions since July 2022.

"Texas leads the nation in sustainable job growth with more than 2.7 million positions added in the past decade," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "The Texas economy remains strong, and TWC will continue to provide support through tools and resources for job seekers and employers alike."

The leisure and hospitality sector led job growth with 9,800 jobs, while manufacturing added 6,600 positions, closely followed by private education and health service with 6,400 jobs. Of the 26,300 new jobs added in July, all but 400 were in the private sector.

GaryBorders 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



Daddy's Home

It's seven minutes after 10 p.m., and the usual ruckus ensues.

My husband, Peter, is wearing earplugs. He is in the habit of doing this when we're staying in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, because our little apartment is right in the center of town and, like all the homes in San Miguel, there is no air conditioning because it is cool this high in the mountains.

But the last few weeks have been warm, and it's nice to have fresh air. So we open the sliding door to our little balcony, and we hear everything that happens on our streeT.

The occasional truck rattles down the cobblestones. The street is too narrow for large vehicles, so it's only a few small trucks and folks getting home late from work.

We are surrounded by churches in all directions, and church bells ring early most mornings. Visitors are mystified, trying to understand when they ring and for how long. I suspect this is not, in fact, an exact science. Someone has to climb all the way to the top of the bell tower to ring the bells, and I guess anyone willing to take that job should be able to ring them as long as they like.

Firecrackers explode—sometimes in the evenings, but frequently in the mornings when the church bells ring. The fireworks have to do with the celebration of various saints and events on the religious calendar and so, while they are startling, I respect that they are part of the culture, part of living in the center of this very old city in the middle of Mexico.

But, usually, just before we go to sleep, the dogs across the street start barking like crazy, and even Peter's earplugs do no good.

This is the thing that used to irritate me the mosT.

I would be almost asleep, and there would be this terrific yapping—loud and persistent and very high-pitched. I assumed it was random, and I was irritated that the owner didn't do something about this nightly nuisance.

It was Peter who finally recognized the pattern.

At roughly the same time every night, we hear a motorcycle come down the narrow cobblestone road. We hear it stop, and as soon as it does, two little dogs start barking. We hear the sound of a metal garage door open, and the barking increases. Then we hear the motorcycle start up again and the garage door close behind. That's when the barking reaches a fever pitch.

Peter says, "Daddy's home." I wondered if he was right, so I started listening. Sure enough, it happened at the same time every night. Occasionally, Daddy got home an hour early, but generally, it was just after 10 p.m

Motorcycle stops. Barking starts. Motorcycle starts. Barking goes crazy.

And who can blame these two unseen dogs for losing their little minds once a night—the most exciting time of the day—when Daddy finally gets home?

Of course, we don't know what happens. We don't even know which house the little dogs live in. But I imagine Daddy makes dinner for them when he gets home. He probably tells them what good dogs they are. I can tell from their excitement it is a happy household with these two dogs and Daddy.

And so now, in addition to the church bells and the fire-crackers and the occasional rattling truck, I listen for those two excited dogs. They no longer annoy me. I imagine their anticipation—the motor stopping, the motor starting and finally the long-awaited moment.

Daddy's home! Till next time, Carrie



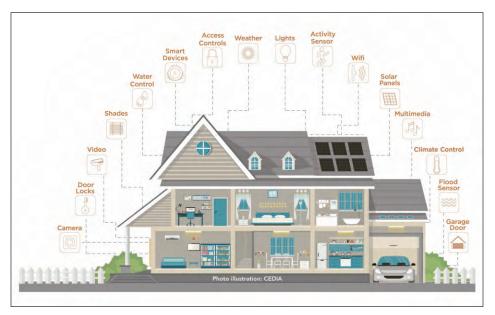
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HCC to launch new Smart **Building Technology program**



HOUSTON - This fall, Houston Community College's Central campus plans to launch a new, innovative program focused to teach students to integrate the multitude of systems people use every day in homes and offices. The program is pending final approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

The Smart Building Technology program will allow students to become "integrators" with the knowledge required to install low-voltage controls to manage, monitor and protect residential or commercial environments for home or commercial net-

"This program is both cutting edge and down to earth," said Walter 'Matt' Adams, instructor and program coordinator for HCC's Electrical Technology program. "Some of the systems students will learn to integrate include audio/visual systems, energy management, lighting controls, security cameras, burglar and fire alarm systems, retail and grocery store automation, medical automation and more."

HCC is one of the first two-year colleges in the nation to offer a comprehensive Smart Building Technology program, which is part of HCC Central's Electrical Technoloprogram in the Architectural Design and Construction Center of Excellence (COE).

Industry leaders are applauding HCC for initiating the program.

Tommy Tabor, director of Workforce Development for CEDIA, a global membership association serving the smart home technology industry, said his organization "is excited for the launch of Houston Community College's Smart Building Technology A.A.S degree program and is looking forward to welcoming HCC as an official education partner later this year."

"The HCC program appears to be the first degree program in the U.S. that puts smart building technology at its core," Tabor

HCC's Adams noted that "a lot of new technology is coming into this industry, but a lot of the technology is the same as it has been for the last five to 10 years. What is new is the integration of it all, making it all work together, to make people's lives better."

"This integration will help save energy by working efficiently, and help the environment to become green," said Kris Asper, COE dean. "It will also help the local economy."

Earning potential for graduates, Adams said, is excellent. "As an integrator, you can make as much as you are willing to work, but \$50,000 a year is generally the starting salary. But you also can earn a sixfigure income if you keep learning and growing in this industry.'

Adams believes becoming an integrator can be a viable career option for students of any age who are "willing to learn, good with their hands and are technology driven."

"If you are a safety oriented, creative, out-of-thebox thinker with a curiosity for things you don't know yet, this could be the field for you," Adams said. "And this is a great option for women. There are a ton of entrepreneurial opportunities once you learn enough."

Students who successfully complete the 60-hour program will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree. HCC's 16week fall semester begins Monday, Aug. 21. Approval by SACS is expected in

To learn more, please contact Walter Adams at walter.adams@hccs.edu.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Adult & 2-month-old die in Crash at Airline and Aldine Mail Route



Deputies examine wreckage of one of the two pickup trucks involved in the Fatal crash.

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY - A 2-month-old girl has died after she was involved in a hit-and-run crash in the Aldine area last Saturday night. The driver of the vehicle she was in also died as a result of the crash.

Harris County Sheriff's Office released a photo of a suspected driver, identified as 30-year-old Jose Antonio Vazquez-Gonzalez, who fled the scene after the crash.

The double fatal crash happened at 11:50 p.m. Saturday at the intersection of Airline Drive and Aldine Mail Route Road.

Deputies said 31-yearold Juan Loredo was driving a Ram 1500 westbound on Aldine Mail Route Road and was turning northbound onto Airline Drive at a red light.

That's when Vazquez-Gonzalez, driving a Chevrolet Silverado, struck the left side of the Ram. Witness testimony and crash damage evidence suggest Vazquez-Gonzalez was speeding, deputies said.

The impact of the crash caused the Ram to land up the road and left both vehicles on the median, mangled and undrivable.

Loredo was ejected during the crash. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

A 28-year-old woman and three children — two boys ages 7 and 10 and the 2-month-old girl — were all transported to local hospitals. The baby died from her injuries on Sunday, HCSO said.

HCSO did not provide an update on the conditions of the other passen-

Authorities say Vazquez-Gonzalez fled on foot immediately after the crash but later turned himself in. He's charged with failure to stop and render aid - death and failure to stop and render aid - serious bodily injury.



Jose Antonio Vazquez-Gonzalez

Cpt. Anthony McConnell said the speed limit of the intersection where the crash happened is 35 miles per hour, and the area is under construction.

"If the vehicles were traveling 35 miles per hour, this accident wouldn't have happened. Not in this fashion anyway," McConnell said.

Anyone with information is urged to call the **HCSO Vehicular Crimes** Division at 713-274-7400 or HCSO Criminal Warrants at 713-755-6055.



Man accidentally fatally shoots self

Houston Police are investigating the apparent accidental shooting of a male at 7525 Homestead Road about 6:10 p.m. on Sunday (July 16).

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

HPD Homicide Division Detectives A. Herrera and D. Davis reported:

HPD patrol officers were dispatched to a shooting call in the parking lot of a convenience store at the above address and found the male in the driver's seat of a vehicle, suffering from a gunshot wound. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the male to a local hospital where doctors pronounced him deceased.

A witness told officers the male was putting the gun in a glove compartment of the vehicle when the weapon discharged.

The investigation in ongoing.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

Burn Ban for Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and gutters regularly to avoid the build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

-- Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more. -- In rural areas, clear a

fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures. -- Have fire tools handy

such as a ladder long enough to reach your roof, a shovel, a rake, and a bucket or two for water. -- Place connected gar-

den hoses on all sides of your home for emergency

-- Assure you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

The burn ban will be in effect for 90 days or until TFS determines that Harris County is no longer experiencing a drought.

To contact our office for questions, please email: fmosupport@fmo support@hctx.net.

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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 greenforestcc1983@gmail.com or on our FaceBook page: Green Forest

Civic Club. We look

forward to seeing you!

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

TIMES IN OBERSVANCE OF

THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: FRIDAY, SEPT. 1, CLOSING

CLOSED SATURDAY. SEPT. 2 - MONDAY SEPT. 4. WE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY. SEPT. 3 AT 10AM

BILINGUAL STORY TIME

You're invited to attend Story Time every **Tuesday at 11:00** 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 senterse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

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*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. 29, 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Apprenda Computers &

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Pre-registrese aquí: https://

forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy * Important- Instructions are in Spanish language; Software (Windows OS, Office 365, Google) apps are all in English lan-

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

- Aprenderá a como obtener las BRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos 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 pricipiantes

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. 30. Register at https:// tinyurl.com/k53c6htb or at the

class. All these must apply: *Eligible to apply for Naturalization *Age 18 or older *Speak, read, & write Basic En-

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!

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. 31, 3:30 - 5:30pm.

APPRENDA COMPUTERS & TECH Limited space/ Espacio limita-

Pre-registrese 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, Power-Point). 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 evaluacion de habilidades en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia * requerirá una

n t a de google.com y 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

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/qSzMSpi-

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 - <u>https://</u> 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, BUT THERE IS NO PASSPORT SERVICE FRIDAY, SEPT. 1. 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



CHURCH PAGE

4. What king wrote a letter to Hezekiah concerning

BIBLE TRIVIA

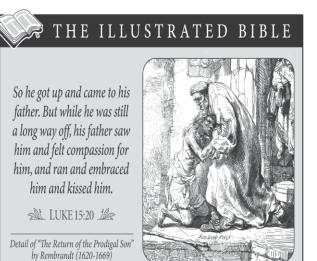
By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Amos (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. From Exodus 16, what wilderness did the Israelites come unto between Elim and Sinai? Nod, Lot, Dan,
- 3. In a letter to Christians at Corinth, what did Paul say was the greatest? Faith, Love, Charity, Tithes



Adonibezek, 6) Aaron "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiplechoice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 1

AISD varsity programs enter second week of season: College football gears up over Labor Day Weekend

Carolina for bragging rights of the Carolina's and No. 9 Clemson visiting Duke on Labor Day evening.

In the high school ranks, Nimitz will play at Cy-Ridge on Thursday night, followed by Eisenhower and new head coach Odell James (who led the MacArthur Generals to the Class 6A state title game in 1994) playing at Conroe. On Friday, Aldine High will take on North Brook, while MacArthur will visit Channelview and Davis and their head coach Kelvin Chatham (a Nimitz High School graduate) taking on Cy-Lakes at George Stadium in Spring.

So, without further ado, let's take a look at those games slated for Labor Day Weekend.

HIGH SCHOOL

Nimitz at Cy-Ridge: Secondyear head coach Cornelius Harmon's Cougars will face off against Cy-Ridge on Thursday evening Pridgeon Stadium in Cy-Fair. Last year, Harmon led the Cougars to the playoffs and a 7-4 season and return six offensive and seven defensive starters. Nimitz will be led on defense by defensive back Dominic Rue (6-2, 180 pounds) and defensive lineman Jaylin Bradley (6-2, 270 pounds). Cy-Ridge finished 10-2 a year ago and return eight offensive and five defensive starters. The Nimitz defense will face one of the area's top quarterbacks in Trey Owens (3,052 yards, 34 TDs). My pick, Cy-Ridge 26, Nimitz 23

Eisenhower at Conroe:

First-year Eisenhower head coach Odell James' Eagles will face off against Conroe High on Thursday in Conroe. The Eagles finished 5-6 a year ago and earned a playoff spot. James will rely on the defense led by defense end Jacorey Carter and linebacker Jeremiah Swain, while the offense finds its feet in



ago and returns four offensive

and five defensive starters this

year. Chatman, who led Booker

year ago before joining Aldine

ISD, will count on linebacker

and defensive tackle Terrell

year ago and returns five

23, Cy-Lakes 14

NCAA

offensive and four defensive

T. Washington to a 10-1 record a

Anthony Perry (6-1, 215 pounds)

Boyd (6-2, 260 pounds) to lead

the way. Cy-Lakes finished 2-8 a

starters this year. My pick, Davis

Florida at Utah: The Labor

Day Weekend football marathon

kicks off on Thursday night with

Florida of the SEC. The Gators

are entering their second season

No., 14-ranked Utah hosing

under the direction of head

coach Billy Napier and Florida

fans want to see improvement

after he led the team to a 6-7

Wisconsin transfer Graham

QB. Richardson is now the

finish in his first year on the job.

Mertz (2,136 yards, 19 TDs) will

replace Anthony Richardson at

starting QB for the Indianapolis

Colts. Mertz does not Richard-

son's athletic ability, but he has

big-game experience having

played in the Big 10 for the

Badgers. Utah finished 10-4 a

year ago and returns a strong

offensive nucleus led by QB

Cameron Rising (3,034 yards,

26 TDs), running back Montrell

Johnson (844 yards, 1 TD) and

wide receiver Ricky Pearsall)33

Florida beat the Utes 29-26 last

year in Gainesville and this year,

receptions, 661 yards, 1 TD).

the early part of the season. Conroe finished 6-5 a year ago and returns six offensive and seven defensive starters. My pick, Eisenhower 23, Conroe 20

Aldine vs. North Brook: Third-year Aldine head coach Cirilo Ojeda leads his Mustangs against North Brook on Friday evening at Tully Stadium. The Mustangs finished 0-10 a year ago and are looking to end their 35-game losing streak. Aldine returns seven offensive and nine defensive starters this season. Leading the way on defense will be linebacker Carlos Cruz (51 tackles). North Brook finished 1-9 a year ago and returns eight offensive and six defensive starters. My pick, Aldine 17, North Brook 14

MacArthur at Channelview: Wayne Crawford's Generals travel to Channelview on Friday night for their second game of the season. The Generals finished 2-8 a year ago and return four offensive and three defensive starters. Mac should be tough in the defensive trenches thanks to big defensive linemen Ian Polk (6-4, 290 pounds) and Tavion Atkinson (6-4, 290 pounds). Channelview finished 8-3 a year ago and returns six offensive and four defensive starters. My pick, Channelview 24, MacArthur 18

Davis vs. Cy-Lakes: Firstyear head coach Kelvin Chatman leads his Falcons against Cy-Lakes on Friday night at George Stadium in Spring. Davis finished 4-6 a year

Rice at Texas: Year 3 of the Steve Sarkisian Era at UT

Florida 23

begins on Saturday at Royal Memorial Stadium as his Longhorns take on Rice. UT is picked by many to win the Big 12 in their last year in the conference before they and OU depart for the SEC. Texas needs to get off to a good start to let the rest of the league know they are for real this year. It appears quarterback Quinn Ewers (2,177 yards, 15 TDs) has matured and taken more of a leadership role and that should be good news for UT fans. The Texas passing game should be solid led by him and WRs Xavier Worthy (60 receptions, 760 yards, 9 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (50 receptions, 652 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders (50 receptions, 613 yards, 5 TDs). The key to the Texas offense will be finding a replacement for All-American running back Bijan Robinson, who was drafted seventh by the Atlanta Falcons in last spring's NFL Draft. Jonathan Brooks (197 yards, 5 TDs) will get the first chance to be the starting running back. Rice finished 5-8 a year ago and earned a bowl bid. They have a veteran QB in well-traveled J.T. Daniels (USC, Georgia and West Virginia) who passed for 2,107 yards and 13 TDs last year at West Virginia. Look for Texas to roll on Saturday. My

look for Utah to turn the tide on

the Gators. My pick, Utah 31,

pick, Texas 41, Rice 14 UTSA at Houston: This should be one of the better games of the weekend and could turn into an offensive shootout like it did a year ago with the Cougars pulling out a 37-35 win in San Antonio. UTSA finished 11-3 a year ago and has one of the top dual-threat QBs in the country in Frank Harris (4,063 passing yards, 32 TDs/ 602 rushing yards, 9 TDs). He should give the UH defense fits on Saturday. UH will be starting a new QB now that three-year starter Clayton Tune has left for

the NFL. Texas Tech transfer Donovan Smith (1,505 passing yards, 12 TDs/116 rushing yards, 7 TDs) has been tabbed as Tune's replacement by head coach Dana Holgerson. Smith will have some help with veteran runners Branden Campbell (435 yards, 4 TDs) and Stacy Sneed (501 yards, 5 TDs) back in the fold and he has a big-play wide receiver in sophomore Matthew Golden (38 receptions, 584 vards. 7 TDs). Look for this one to go down to the wire like it did a year ago, with Smith making

one more play than Harris to

lead the Coogs to victory. My

pick, Houston 34, UTSA 31 New Mexico at Texas A&M: Aggie fans are hoping their team learned a hard lesson after last year's 5-7 record. They could use a blowout against a New Mexico team that finished 2-10 a year ago. Look for the Aggies to come out clicking on all cylinders led by QB Conner Wiegman (896 yards, 8 TDs) and the return of speedy wide receiver Ainias Smith (15 receptions, 291 vards. 2 TDs in just four games). Smith's loss last year forced true freshmen wide receivers Evan Stewart (53 receptions, 649 vards, 2 TDs) and Moose Muhammad II (35 receptions, 610 yards, 4 TDs) to grow up early and they did. They both should be big parts of the Aggie offense this season. Look for a blowout at Kyle Field on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 45, New Mexico 10

North Carolina at South Carolina: This game pits two talented QBs at NC's Drake Maye (4,321 passing yards, 38 TDs/698 rushing yards, 7 TDs) takes on SC's Spencer Rattler (3,026 yards, 18 TDs). Maye could be a top-five pick in the 2024 NFL draft and Mac Brown's team has another weapon in running back Elijah Green (558 yards, 8 TDs). The Gamecocks have a pretty fair back as well in Marshawn Lloyd (573 yards, 9 TDs). This should be a fun game to watch, with Maye being the difference maker. My pick, North Carolina 34, South Carolina 32

LSU vs. Florida State: This is probably the best game on the Labor Day Weekend schedule as the No. 5-ranked Tigers take on the No. 8 Seminoles in Orlando. This game features two of the top dual threat QBs in the country in LSU's Jayden Daniels (2,913 passing yards, 17 TDs/ 885 rushing yards, 11 TDs) and FSU's Jordan Travis (3,214 passing yards, 24 TDs/417 rushing yards, 7 TDs). LSU also has playmakers in running back Josh Williams (532 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Malik Nabors (72 receptions, 1,017 yards, 3 TDs). The 'Noles will counter with running back Tay Benson (990 yards, 9 TDs). A year ago, FSU squeaked out a 24-23 win over Brian Kelly's team, this year, the Tigers extract revenge. My pick, LSU 31, FSU 28

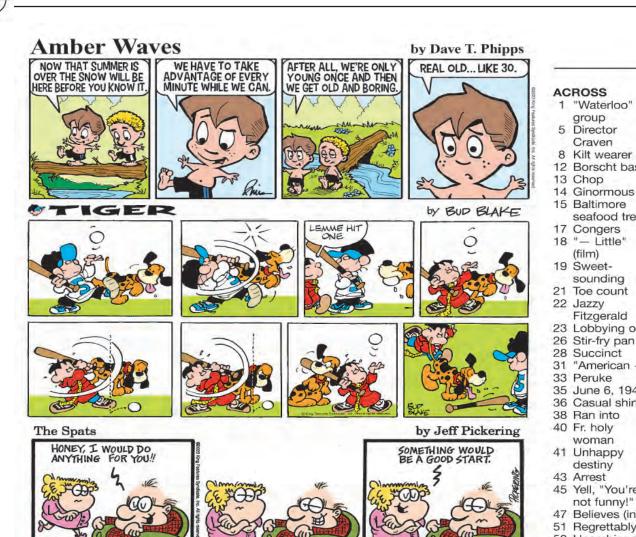
Clemson at Duke: No. 9

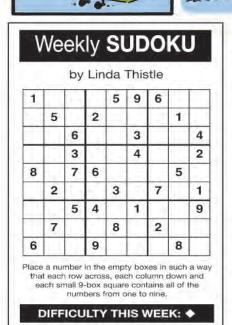
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Clemson (11-3 in 2022) starts the season with an ACC road game against a tough Duke squad that finished 9-4 a year ago. Clemson head coach Dabo Swiney, and Tiger fans, wants to become relevant again and contend for a CFP berth. Swiney is pinning his hopes on sophomore QB Cade Klubnik (697 yards, 7 TDS in 10 games). Klubnik was a star QB at Austin Westlake and has all the tools to be the next big "thing" that comes out of Clemson (think Trevor Lawrence). He will need help from running back Phil Matah (515 yards, 4 TDs). Duke won nine games a year ago in head coach Mike Elko's first season on the job, which included a Military Bowl win over Central Florida. The Blue Devils have a dual-threat QB in Riley Leonard (2,967 rushing yards, 20 TDs/699 rushing yards, 13 TDs). He also has some other weapons on offense in running back Jordan Watkins (566 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Jalen Calhoun (62 receptions, 873 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Clemson defense to make a play late to lead the Tigers to a big first win of the season. My pick, Clemson 26, Duke 23



ENTERTAINMENT

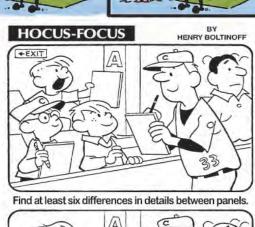




Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

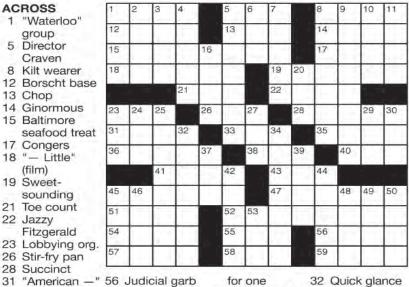
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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August 28, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword



56 Judicial garb Shopper's delight

June 6, 1944 36 Casual shirts 58 Be sick "Closer

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43 Arrest 45 Yell, "You're

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Answer

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25 Telemarketer's 49

Expectations"

barge Toothpaste holder 29 Perched

50 British gun 53 Floral neck-

34 Refined

site

37 Costa del 39 O'Hara estate

42 Pilgrimage

44 Small pack

45 Easter entrees

animal

Kazan

46 Director

30 Needle hole lace

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about 7,000 islands?

1. ANATOMY: What are the small bones that make up the human backbone? 2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is made up of

3. MOVIES: What native language is spoken in the movie "Avatar"?

4. BUSINESS: When did the first Apple com-

puter go on sale? 5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a male swan

6. FOOD & DRINK: Which nut is used in a Waldorf salad?

7. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in arithmophobia?

8. TELEVISION: Who played the lead in the series "Buffy the Vampire Killer"? 9. AD SLOGANS: Which restaurant chain

advertises itself as "no rules, just right"? 10. SCIENCE: Which science fiction author wrote the three laws of robotics??

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