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NORTHEAST NEWS

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VOL. 47, NO. 32 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nnewsroom.com

County plans \$2.5 Billion Bond vote for Harris Health System

LBJ Hospital will become Level 1 Trauma center; more beds, more clinics for county

HARRIS COUNTY - Thursday, August 17, 2023, Today Harris County Commissioners Court approved an order for a bond election for the November 2023 General Election to finance upgrades to the Harris Health System. The \$2.5 billion bond would help fund the following improvements and expansions to facilities within the Harris Health System by:

- Constructing a Level 1-capable trauma center at Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Hospital. Level 1 trauma

- centers provide the highest level of trauma care to critically ill or injured patients on a 24/7 basis.
- Renovating the existing LBJ Hospital to address current service gaps and increase the availability of outpatient services.
- Increasing capacity at Ben Taub Hospital by adding approximately 120 patient rooms, extending the facility's lifespan by at least 15 years.
- Creating three new community clinics in high-need areas.

LBJ Hospital and Ben

Taub Hospital have not undergone significant upgrades or renovations since their initial construction 30 years ago. Harris County's population has nearly doubled during that time and both hospitals are currently operating at or over capacity. Over the next ten years, the bond is projected to have minimal impact on the average homeowner with a cost of approximately \$6/month. Individuals can learn more about the upcoming bond election by visiting

www.harrishealth.org. Individuals can register to vote or update their registration by visiting www.harrisvotes.com before October 10th. **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM:** Harris Health System is the public healthcare safety-net provider established in 1966 to serve individuals in Harris County, Texas. Harris Health champions better health for the entire community, with a focus on low-income uninsured and underin-

sured patients, through acute and primary care, wellness, disease management and population health services. Ben Taub Hospital and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital anchor Harris Health's robust network of more than 40 clinics, health centers, an extensive health care for the homeless program, a chronic dialysis center, a dental services clinic, and virtual (telemedicine) technology. Harris Health is among an elite list of health systems in the U.S. achieving

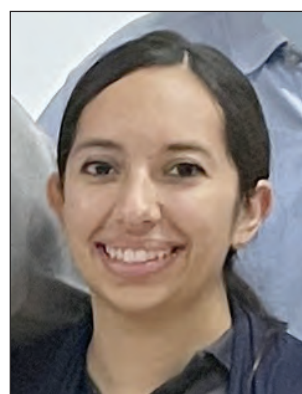
Magnet® nursing excellence designation for its hospitals, the prestigious National Committee for Quality Assurance designation for its patient-centered clinics and health centers and its strong partnership with nationally recognized physician faculty, residents and researchers from Baylor College of Medicine; McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth); and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Rocio Witte appointed to East Aldine Board



East Aldine Board Members welcome its newest member, Rocio Witte at center. Others, L to R, Gil Hoffman, Flor Zarzoza, Carlos Silva president, Witte, Bob Beasley, Patti Acosta, and Deborah Foster. Not Pictured, Reyes Garcia, and Abel Garza.

EAST ALDINE – A key figure in the Aldine community has joined the Board of the East Aldine District. Rocio Witte is the Community Developer for the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, and brings that experience and skills to the East Aldine board. Witte fills the vacant position held previously by Luis Lucio who has transitioned to another location and position in the Lone Star System. Rocio Witte was born and raised in El Paso, TX and moved to Houston with her husband in 2016. Rocio has worked in the East Aldine area for 4 years and has grown to love the community-spending more time here



ROCIO WITTE
BakerRipley Community Developer

than in her own community. Rocio is the Community Developer for the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus managing external relations, the campus Advisory Committee and campus

tours. She has worked in non-profit and at BakerRipley for 5 years. Prior to working at BakerRipley, she worked in retail for many years but her passion was always building community and helping others so when she started volunteering for BakerRipley during Hurricane Harvey, she knew she found her new home. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Human Resources from the University of Texas at El Paso and loves training, developing and helping others reach their goals. Rocio is certified in Adult

Continued. See WITTE ON EAST ALDINE BOARD, Page 2

Health Fair at East Aldine on Saturday, September 9th

A comprehensive Community Health Fair for the whole family will be held next Saturday, September 9 in East Aldine. The event is sponsored by a number of organizations in the community. Activities start at 8:30am with a Men's Health Walk from Great-

er Pure Light Church to Buckner Family Center. This will be followed by a Health Fair starting at 9:00am to 1:00pm at the BakerRipley campus. Participating families can receive free screenings and vaccinations, including Diabetes, HIV, STD, Dental, Hearing, Flu,

PHV, Child Immunizations, Shingles, Pneumonia, and Covid. There will also be a blood drive. In addition to health activities, there will be free food and entertainment. This will include a bounce

Continued. See EAST ALDINE HEALTH FAIR, Page 2

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 2

Texas looks to future when it visits Alabama on Saturday: DeMeco Ryans makes head coaching debut at Baltimore

It's going to be quite a weekend for football fans.

The NFL season begins its 103rd season when the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs host the Detroit Lions on Thursday.

On Sunday, Houston Texans first-year head coach DeMeco Ryans makes his debut as an NFL head coach when he takes his Texans to Baltimore to take on the Ravens and dual-threat quarterback Lamar Jackson.

Week 1 has a number of interesting matchups as Miami will visit the Los Angeles Chargers in what could be an offensive showcase. Both teams are loaded with weapons on that side of the football so that game should be a must see for pro football fans.

The Dallas Cowboys will visit The Meadowlands to take on their NFC East rivals the New York Giants on Sunday Night Football. This game will feature



two teams that qualified for the playoffs a year ago as the Cowboys finished 12-5, dominated Tampa Bay in the Wild Card round, before following to their playoff nemesis San Francisco in the Division Playoffs. The Giants won at Minnesota in the Wild Card, before being blown out by Philadelphia the following week.

Week 1 concludes with Monday Night Football on the 22nd anniversary of 9-11 as the Buffalo Bills will take on Aaron Rodgers and the New York Jets in an AFC East battle.

In the college game, No. 23-

ranked Texas A&M travels to South Beach to take on the Miami Hurricanes in an important game for both teams. The Aggies and 'Canes both finished 5-7 a year ago and want it's important that both teams get off to solid starts in 2023 or their head coaches could start feeling the heat. The Game of the Week will take place in Tuscaloosa when No. 11-ranked Texas takes on No. 4-ranked Alabama. A year ago, the Longhorns gave the Tide all it could handle before

CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 5

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WALLE WORLD

✉ UPDATES FROM ✉

CHILD CARE FUNDING

Some child care providers expect to shutter after Texas lawmakers leave \$2.3 billion proposal off final budget | Texas Tribune

With the federal pandemic relief money set to expire, state Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston had hoped the state could step in and buoy child care providers. He tucked a \$2.29 billion request to fund child care in the 2024-25 budget.

Walle admitted it was “an ambitious ask” but one that felt justifiable given the need and the record budget surplus of \$32.7 billion.

“We had a \$30 billion surplus so we thought that that was something we could pull off,” Walle said. “We weren’t trying to reinvent any wheel. There was already an existing funding source at the federal level that was helping. We just wanted to maintain that assistance.”

WITH ASTROS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Houston Latino leaders join Astros at White House | Our Esquina (Rep. Armando Walle) developed his love of the Astros from his late maternal grandfather Armando Zamarripa, a welder who helped raise him in Aldine. Walle watched countless Astros games on the television with his grandfather, who died in 2021.

“The last convo I had with my late abuelo was about the Astros’ score as he was dying from cancer,” Walle said. “That’s why the Astros’ visit was important to me and my family personally.”

PROTEST CANTINA CHAIN COMING TO ALDINE

Houston neighborhood says incoming cantina chain is a crime magnet | Houston Chronicle

The Ojos Locos dispute also caught the eye of State Rep. Armando Walle who lives nearby. Walle and State Sen. Carol Alvarado, whose district includes East Aldine, have filed protests against Ojos’ application for a liquor license and permit.

“I’m going to have discussions with TABC themselves,” Walle said. “I sit on the licensing committee. A lot of their legislation comes through our committee. We’re going to use public policy, every tool to fight this.”

Witte on East Aldine Board,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mental Health First Aid and is a Harris County Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar. She believes that civic engagement is one of the most important ways to help make change happen in a community. Getting the community involved takes time but it is a worthy investment.

Rocio received the Inclusive Heroic Award at BakerRipley in 2021 and the Community Excellence Award from East Aldine Management District in 2022. Rocio is a part of the BakerRipley Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee and a part of the East Aldine Stakeholder Committee along with other East Aldine partners.

In her spare time, Rocio likes to spend time with her husband & family, be outdoors, explore farmer’s markets & events and experience new foods & cultures.

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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!

COMMUNITY WATCH

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Shooting at 13360 Northborough Drive

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 13360 Northborough Drive about 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday (Aug. 8).

The suspect, Kevin Ray Vercher, aka “Pee Wee”, 52, is charged with murder in the 232nd State District Court. A booking photo of Vercher is attached to this news release.

The identity of the victim is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives J. Jorsch and C. Bowling reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting call in the parking lot of a business at the above address and found the victim suffering from a gunshot wound on the sidewalk. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced him deceased at the scene.

A witness and surveillance video indicated the suspect fled the scene in a motorized wheelchair. Officers searched the area and found Vercher in a nearby apartment complex with his motorized wheelchair and took him into custody.

Further investigation revealed the victim at been sleeping on the sidewalk at the time of the shooting.

Vercher was subsequently arrested and charged for his role in the shooting.



Kevin Ray Vercher

East Aldine Health Fair,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

house, popcorn, sno-cones, free haircuts, and sausage and BBQ from Chef Coy.

There will also be face painting, funnel cakes and more.

All activities, screenings, vaccinations and food are free, thanks to the following sponsors: East Aldine District, BakerRipley, Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Buckner Family Center, State Representative Armando Walle, and Greater Pure Light Church.

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

THE ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY SEPT. 4. WE WILL RE-OPEN TUESDAY, SEPT. 5 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 sentarse con los niños y cantar las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

ENGLISH COMPUTER CLASS: MICROSOFT EXEL AND GOOGLE SHEETS

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Sept. 7, 5pm

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

Application Basics: Interviews

Learn about how to dress for interviews, the most common questions asked and how to answer them, and practice your interview skills. Registration not required. Saturday, Sept. 9 at 11am.

Hands-Only CPR workshop - Taller de RCP (solo con los manos)

Molina Healthcare of Texas will be providing a hands-only CPR workshop for families at no cost on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 1-3pm. This is an informational workshop, a certificate will not be issued. Registration required: <https://tinyclub.com/tz2s4f2t>

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Limited space/ Espacio limitado Sept. 7, 5pm

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

Formato de la clase: Las instrucciones son en Español. Las aplicaciones: Windows, Office365, Google apps son todas en Inglés* **Important-Instructions are in Spanish language; Software (Windows OS, Office 365, Google) apps are all in English language.**

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Types of phones
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Q/A

TEEN THURSDAYS

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, Sept. 7, 3:30 - 5:30pm.

PARA LOS NIÑOS

Para Los Niños will be every First Thursday of the month throughout the Fall from 5 - 6:30pm. Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week. For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!) Thursday, Sept. 7, 5pm

SMARTPHONES-MANEJO DE FOTOS Y VIDEOS

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Sept. 7, 5pm

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

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COFFEE & CONVERSATION - ENGLISH SPEAKING PRACTICE

Are you learning English and would like to practice your conversation skills? Are you a native English speaker who would like to help others become more fluent? Join us for some easy-going conversation with friends over coffee and more! This

is NOT a class. This is just for fun and experience. Saturday, Sept. 9 and 23, 2pm. No registration required.

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/qSzMS-piaTL>.

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, **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.

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, September 1, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

The weather doesn't feel like fall, but September is upon us! It marks open house season for most of our schools. Please take the opportunity to talk with your child's teachers and see all the great things happening in our schools.



National College Colors Day is tomorrow. On September 1, AISD staff and students can wear jeans, tennis shoes, and a branded college, trade school, career, or military shirt!

billion bond package with three propositions and how these will allow the district to fulfill our vision of providing choices and opportunities for future generations by providing our students with the learning environments they need to continue moving forward and be future-ready.

I encourage you to read the issue to see which AISD campuses made U.S. News Best High School Report, learn about the nearly 50 students named 2023 College Board National Recognition Program awardees; we shined the spotlight on an alum now a Tony Award winner, and see which high school athletic training staff was honored by Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine.

Handwritten signature of Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

With Aldine Pride! Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools Aldine ISD

Victory Early College High School Earns National, State and Houston-area Rankings From U.S. News Best High School Report



Victory Early College High School earns national, state, and Houston-area rankings from U.S. News Best High School rankings.

Aldine ISD's Victory Early College High School earned National, state, and Houston-area rankings in U.S. News' 2023-24 Best High School Report, released on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

By earning a national ranking in the top 40%, Victory Early College High School achieved status as a U.S. News Best High School and can display a U.S. News-trademarked 2023-24 Best High Schools award "badge."

Victory Early College High School, under the direction of Principal Dr. Phyllis Cormier, was ranked 404th in national rankings with a score of 97.2 and was ranked 53rd among Texas high schools

and 13th among Houston-area high schools. Victory Early College High School was ranked No. 1 among Aldine ISD high schools.

Aldine ISD has two other high schools that made U.S. News's list. Blanson CTE High School was ranked 202 in Texas, and Carver High School was ranked 568 among Texas high schools.

The 2023-24 edition of Best High Schools includes a numerical ranking of nearly all public high schools nationwide, totaling almost 18,000, based on multiple objective data sources.

Data used to rank high schools includes enrollment, graduation rates, study body demographics, location, type of school,

state assessment results, and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.

RIT International, a global research firm, produces the Best High School rankings. U.S. News does not collect data directly from high schools. All data collected comes directly from third-party sources.

AP and IB data come directly from the College Board and International Baccalaureate for use in the rankings.

The state assessment data and graduation rates are collected from each state, and other data comes from the U.S. Department of Education Common Core of Data.

Nearly 50 Aldine ISD High School Students Named 2023 College Board National Recognition Program Awardees

AISD students are among the 72,000 who earned academic honors from The College Board.

Thousands of students presented with academic honors from The College Board can easily showcase their hard work in high school each year. The National Recognition Programs are four programs that celebrate the strong academic performance of rural area, Black, Indigenous, and Latino students.

The College Board is honoring 72,000 students nationwide who met the academic criteria and belonged to an underrepresented student group in the 2022-2023 academic year. This was the first year students could apply for the award on BigFuture@.

Carver High School Diane Chagoya, NHRA Alyssa Dorsey, NAARA Carlos Ferrer, NHRA Diana Herrera, NHRA Alessandra Martínez, NHRA Tionna Shine, NAARA Tatiana Smith, NAARA MacArthur High School

Marlene Bermúdez, NHRA Noé Carrillo, NHRA Khalil Chambers, NAARA Micheal Guevara, NHRA Lisa Hernández, NHRA Lupita Herández, NHRA Jahasiel Ibarra, NHRA Vanessa Macías, NHRA Aritzi Martínez, NHRA Shoniya Murphy, NAARA Josué Reboloso, NHRA Josué Quezada, NHRA Rafael Vásquez, NHRA

*Student headshots and award information provided by campuses. Award Key National African American Recognition Award (NAARA)

National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA) National Rural and Small Town Award (NRS-TA)

National Indigenous Award (NIA)

Students must meet these criteria to qualify:

*Have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

*Earn PSAT/NMSQT@ or PSAT™ 10 assessment scores within the top 10% of test takers in each state for each award program or earn a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP@ Exams.

*Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American or Black, Hispanic or Latino, or Indigenous or

Native.

*The introduction of the National First-Generation Recognition Program this fall will give even more students who apply for the recognition award the chance to celebrate what they know and can do. To qualify as a first-generation student, the student's parents may have some education but didn't complete a bachelor's degree. Applications for the First-Generation Recognition Program will open in December 2023.

Colleges, scholarship organizations, and other educational organizations are looking for ways to diversify their recruitment strategy and reach more underrepresented students. In order to achieve these goals, colleges, and organizations using The College Board's Student Search Service™ can connect with students who have been recognized by the National Recognition Programs.

The National Recognition Programs are driving positive outcomes. Research shows that National Hispanic Recognition Program recipients are more likely to enroll at a four-year institution. National Hispanic Recognition Program eligibility also increases attendance at out-of-state colleges and at public flagship institutions.

ALDINE ISD 2023 NRP AWARDEES

Avalos P-TECH School



Blanson CTE High School



Davis High School



Victory Early High School

OPINION PAGE

WALLE WORLD

Rep. Walle Tours Major Water Projects in HD 140



On Aug. 22 and 23, Rep. Armando Walle teamed up with the Airline Improvement District and the Harris County Flood Control District to tour two major water infrastructure projects in HD 140 that he helped to secure funding for during the 88th Legislative Session.

On Aug. 22, Rep. Walle met with Teri Koerth, executive director of the Airline Improvement District (AID), and her team to visit an Aldine-area neighborhood that will soon be connected to modern water and sewer lines. Rep. Walle helped AID secure nearly \$3 million in grant funding through the Economically Distressed Areas Program at the Texas Water Development Board to support the project.

On Aug. 23, Rep. Walle joined Dr. Tina Peterson, director of the Harris County Flood Control District, and Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia for a tour of Halls Bayou, which has received an \$18 million investment from the state through the Representative's work on the House Appropriations Committee.

IN THE DISTRICT

Deputy Darren Almendarez Community Center Dedicated on Aug. 19th



On Aug. 19, the Harris County Precinct 2 North East Community Center in Aldine was renamed in memory of Deputy Darren Almendarez, a constituent of House District 140 who was killed last year during a catalytic converter theft.

HISD Takeover Listening Session



On Aug. 22, Rep. Walle joined Members of the Houston Delegation, the Houston Federation of Teachers, Community Voices for Public Education, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the NAACP for a listening session with constituents about the state takeover of the Houston Independent School District.

During the meeting, panelists heard concerns from educators and parents. The Houston Delegation of House Members will be meeting later this month to discuss potential next steps for lawmakers to respond to issues with the takeover.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions Begin Aug. 27

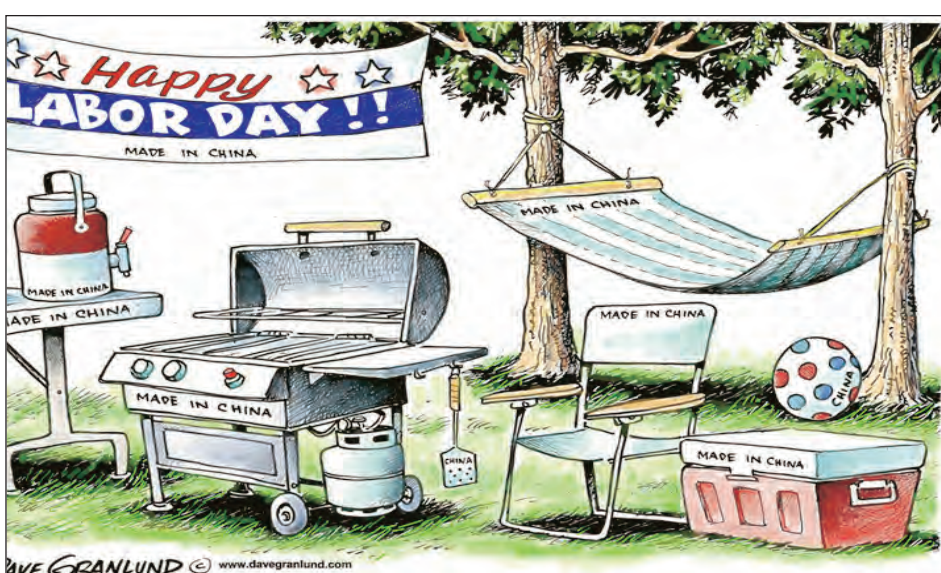
The City of Houston entered Stage Two of the City's Drought Contingency Plan on Aug. 27 after a summer of high heat and little rain. Stage Two requires all residents of the city adhere to the following water use restrictions:

Limit outdoor watering to twice a week between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. with the following schedule:

Sundays and Thursdays for single-family residential customers with even-numbered street addresses;

Saturdays and Wednesdays for single-family residential customers with odd-numbered street addresses; and

Tuesdays and Fridays for all other customers.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Texans Asked to Conserve Energy in Heat Wave

The agency that operates the power grid for much of the state asked Texans to conserve energy use several times last week as the grid was beset with high demand and low wind-power generation, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas has asked electric users to reduce energy use as the state continues to face a tenacious heat wave.

Demand on the grid operated by ERCOT has record levels 10 times this summer. The system has held up to the strain to this point. Any outages across the state have been local and caused by other reasons other than demand on the grid, such as downed power lines or blown transformers.

ERCOT is calling on large electric customers to voluntarily cut consumption during peak periods and is working with out-of-state power operators to secure additional power generation capacity.

In addition, two "virtual power plants" are now able to provide power to the grid, according to the Public Utility Commission of Texas. According to the PUC, "The pilot project tests how consumer-owned, small energy devices, such as battery energy storage systems, backup generators, and controllable Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers, can be virtually aggregated and participate as a resource in the wholesale electricity market, strengthening grid reliability."

The two pilot projects underway involve Tesla customers who have electric storage systems in their homes and have agreed to sell their surplus power in the ERCOT market.

WILDFIRE DANGER REMAINS HIGH IN TEXAS

The Texas A&M Forest Service continues to respond to requests for assistance on wildfires across the state as dry weather continues. Currently there are four active fires, the largest being the Shearwood Creek Fire in Jasper County. As of Sunday it had burned 3,000 acres and was 70% contained.

As of Sunday 208 counties had burn bans in place. Meanwhile, a helicopter delivering water to the 150-acre Barth Fire in Caldwell County almost collided with a



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

drone being flown by someone not with the agency. It came within feet of the helicopter.

"Pilots have no way to detect a drone or know there is one present in the airspace until they see it," said Jared Karns with the forest service. "Suppression aircraft can respond to wildfires quickly, increasing the likelihood that a new ignition remains a small, manageable wildfire. Utilizing aircraft greatly enhances the state's firefighting efforts, but they have to be able to fly in a safe environment."

Under Federal Aviation Administration rules, all aircraft, including drones, are prohibited from flying over wildfire areas. More than 1,350 wildfires have occurred in the state in July and August to date.

TPWD TRYING TO BUY PROPERTY CONTAINING STATE PARK

The commissioners overseeing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department voted unanimously last week to negotiate acquiring the roughly 500 acres that contains Lake Colorado City State Park in Mitchell County. The state has been leasing it from Vistra Corp. for more than 50 years.

Earlier this year, the energy company sold a piece of property that contained Fairfield State Park to a developer, forcing the park's closure.

"This makes all the sense in the world," outgoing commission chairman Arch "Beaver" Alpin III said about the purchase, according to The Dallas Morning News. "I believe we've had a meeting of the minds on being able to do it. This will allow us to secure one of our parks for the long term and be able to own it."

The park is located off Interstate 20 about halfway be-

tween Sweetwater and Big Spring and offers opportunities for water recreation and outdoor activities for nearly 30,000 visitors annually.

JUDGE REJECTS 'INVASION' DEFENSE IN BUOY SUIT

A federal judge in Austin rejected the state's assertion that it has the right to install buoys in the Rio Grande because of a "migrant invasion," The News reported.

"We are here for purposes of determining whether this is a barrier to navigation, whether this is a navigable waterway," U.S. District Judge Ezra said.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state over the buoys, saying their placement ignored the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which established that the federal government controls navigable waterways. The state's defense claims the Rio Grande is not navigable in the section where the buoys were installed, near Eagle Pass.

COUNTIES CAN'T BAN SOLAR FARMS, AG RULES

An attempt by Franklin County officials to ban solar farms has failed after provisional Attorney General Angela Colmenero ruled that counties don't have specific authority to do so, the Texas Standard reported.

Commissioners in that county voted last year to impose a 180-day moratorium on commercial solar development. They later rescinded it, but the Franklin County attorney asked for an attorney general's ruling.

As elsewhere, some Franklin County residents opposed the solar farms on grounds that trees would be cut down, grasslands destroyed, and wildlife blocked by fences.

WWI NAVAL SHIPWRECK FOUND IN NECHES RIVER

The Texas Historical Commission has confirmed a shipwreck found in the Neches River dates to World War I. The wooden-hulled vessel was one of nearly 40 built in Beaumont by the U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation and abandoned when the war ended.

Many of the 40 vessels were unfinished and often converted to barges or sold for scrap. Designed as steamships, they were nearly 282 feet long.

Many were eventually abandoned in the Neches and Sabine rivers near Orange in the 1920s.

THC said the shipwreck sites are protected under state and federal laws. The latest one became visible as a result of low water levels in the Neches due to drought and the summer heat.

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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Apple Empanadas

Usually, just as I am getting close to leaving Mexico, I find some absolutely irresistible treat and have to eat it every single day until I leave.

I arrive back in the U.S. a few pounds heavier, wondering how I ever got so carried away. I return to my more or less normal eating habits and more or less normal weight, only to return and discover some new treat across the border.

This week, it was apple empanadas.

I didn't know what an empanada was. I thought it was a sort of meat sandwich and not something I'd get excited about. That was until Jorge, our benevolent landlord (possibly too benevolent), showed up at our doorstep with a small plate. On the plate were two large, crispy, perfectly browned triangles covered in cinnamon sugar and filled with apples.

"For you!" He explained, unnecessarily. "Empanadas!"

It was midafternoon and not exactly our coffee and pastry hour. (Full disclosure: My husband, Peter, and I didn't have a coffee and pastry hour, although this soon changed.) We cut one of those apple empanadas in half and tried it. And that was pretty much it.

We ate the second empanada. Then, I went downstairs to find Jorge.

"Where do we get more of these?"

Jorge laughed and gave me directions, but no address. The next day, I went hunting.

"But only after 2 p.m.!" he warned me.

Jorge said it was near the flower shop. There was a bakery across the street, but I'd been in there, and there were no empanadas.

San Miguel is a historic town, so they don't put up much permanent signage. They will hang a shingle out when they are open and take it down at night. Many times, I have walked right by a business with no way to recognize it after it was closed.

On my first day, I found no sign of empanadas. On the second day, I asked a couple of gringos nearby, and they knew nothing about them. On the third day, I went into the flower shop and asked in Spanish. The owner pointed to the bakery.

"No, not the bakery." I told him it was empanadas, specifically, I was looking for.

The people in San Miguel are used to being asked stupid questions. They answer the same stupid questions over and over, and then gringos come up with new ones.

The owner of the flower shop stopped working on the roses at his table. He took me gently by the arm and guided me out the door. I wondered where we were going. He walked directly to the bakery that I had, by now, passed at least half a dozen times.

"Here are empanadas," he told me. Still, I doubted.

I stepped inside. There they were.

Miraculously, a whole new selection of baked goods had appeared. Because a crispy apple pastry was something I would eat in the morning, I expected them to be there in the morning. But that would be foolish if you wanted to eat them warm and fresh from the oven in the afternoon, as they do in San Miguel.

I got the last two on the tray and brought them home to Peter.

"Now we're in trouble!" I announced as we ate an empanada each.

But, before I went home, I stopped at the flower shop to thank the store owner. The vocabulary I have in Spanish to explain that I am stubborn and pigheaded is limited. And now I think I should do something about that—both the vocabulary and the stubbornness.

Till next time, Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS contact information and staff list.

SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 2

Texas looks to future when it visits Alabama on Saturday: DeMeco Ryans makes head coaching debut at Baltimore

'Bama escaped with a 20-19 win in Austin. Texas will get a taste of what life will be like in the SEC as they move into the nation's best football conference (along with Oklahoma) next season.

In high school action, Aldine ISD's five varsity programs will play their final non-district games before league action begins.

So, without further ado, let's take a look at what this weekend has to offer.

HIGH SCHOOL

MacArthur vs. Cy-Lakes: Wayne Crawford's Generals will take on Cy-Lakes on Thursday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. The Generals suffered a heart-breaking 21-13 loss to Kingwood Park two weeks ago in their opener. This week, they take on a Cy-Lakes team that finished 2-8 a year ago and returns five offensive and four defensive starters. Look for the Generals to come out on top in their final non-district game of the season. My pick, MacArthur 23, Cy-Lakes 20

Davis vs. Westside: Kelvin Chatman's Falcons will take on a Westside squad that finished 4-7 a year ago and returns six offensive and six defensive starters. The game will be played on Friday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. Two weeks ago in their season opener, the Falcons fell to Katy Jordan, 39-21. My pick, Davis 26, Westside 23

Aldine vs. Houston Math and Tech: Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs will look to close out the non-district play against Houston Math and Tech (formerly Sam Houston High School) on Friday night at Delmar Stadium. Two weeks ago, Aldine dropped its season opener against Alvin and will look to right the ship on Friday against a team that finished 4-6 a year ago and returns five offensive and five defensive starters. My pick, Aldine 17, Houston Math and Tech 13

Eisenhower vs. Tomball Memorial: Odell James' debut as the Eagles' head coach was a successful one as the Eagles



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

defeated Morton Ranch 18-16 two weeks ago. The Eagles trailed 16-6 with 6:38 left in the game and won it on a 43-yard TD pass from QB Jared Guter to wide receiver Jonathan Corbin with just 16 seconds left in the game. Guter finished the game with 134 passing yards and three TDs. Running back Ulysses Thibodeaux caught two TD passes and rushed for 67 yards. This week, they will face Tomball Memorial on Friday night in Tomball. Memorial finished 6-5 a year ago and returns eight offensive and 10 defensive starters. This will be a good test for the Eagles heading District 14-6A play in two weeks. My pick, Eisenhower 24, Tomball Memorial 21

Nimitz vs. Cy-Park: Nimitz High head coach Cornelius Harmon and his Cougars got their season off on the right track with a 20-7 win over Grand Oaks two weeks ago. Cougar QB Albert Brown tossed touchdown passes to Kamren Washington and Malachi Augustus, while defensive back Dayvion Jackson returned an interception for a touchdown to close out the win. This week, Nimitz takes on a Cy-Park team that lost their season opener. Cy-Park finished 0-10 a year ago and returns seven offensive and seven defensive starters. My pick, Nimitz 31, Cy-Park 18

NCAA

Texas A&M at Miami: As stated earlier, this is a key early-season game for both teams. The Aggies had a disappointing 5-7 season in 2022, while the Hurricanes finished with a similar record. A year ago, the Aggies earned a hard-fought 17-9 win at Kyle Field. There should be more offense this time around now that

the Aggies have given the QB job to sophomore Conner Weigman (896 yards, 8 TDs). Weigman has two quality wide receivers in fellow sophomores Evan Stewart and Moose Muhammad II, but the key to the Aggie offense this year will be the health of speedy wideout/running back Ainias Smith. Smith played in just four games a year ago and he is back to full speed. That's good news for Jimbo Fisher's team and could be bad news for the 'Canes defense. The A&M defense will get tested by returning QB Tyler Van Dyke (1,835 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Henry Parrish Jr. (616 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the A&M defense to be the difference maker in this one as Fisher's team picks up a big early-season road win. My pick, Texas A&M 27, Miami 20

Texas at Alabama: This should be a good one as Steve Sarkisian returns to his old stomping grounds (he served as Nick Saban's offensive coordinator before departing for the 40 Acres three years ago) with a team many think can not only win the Big 12 this year, but also contend for a spot in the College Football Playoffs. UT's offense will go as far as QB Quinn Ewers (2,177 yards, 15 TDs) takes it. He has a stud at wide receiver in Xavier Worthy (60 receptions, 760 yards, 8 TDs) and a host of other talented pass catchers. Texas must find a replacement for running back Bijan Robinson, and Sark has a stable of backs to choose from. The Texas offense will get a big test against a solid 'Bama defense. That unit may have to carry Saban's team until an inexperienced offense grows up. Saban has three choices at QB in returning backup Jalen Milroe

(397 yards, 5 TDs, Ty Simpson and Notre Dame transfer Tyler Buchner (651 yards, 3 TDs in just 3 starts). Look for Saban to call on veteran running back Jase McClellan (655 yards, 7 TDs) to get a lot of work as the QBs settle into their roles. Look for UT to give the Tide a game, but the home crowd and 'Bama defense will be the difference maker come Saturday. My pick, Alabama 23, Texas 20

NFL

Detroit at Kansas City: The Lions would like nothing more than to spoil the Chiefs Super Bowl celebration in front of a national TV audience on Thursday night. Good luck with that, Detroit fans. But seriously, the Lions finished as one of the hottest teams in the NFL last year, winning seven of their last nine games and closed the season with a win at Green Bay that knocked the Packers out of the playoffs. The Detroit offense will give the KC defense problems as QB Jared Goff (4,438 yards, 29 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (106 receptions, 1,161 yards, 6 TDs) will give the KC secondary fits. The Lions have a new backfield as Jamaal Williams (New Orleans) and D'Andre Swift (Philly) have departed and have been replaced by former Bear David Montgomery (801 yards, 5 TDs) and rookie Jahmarr Gibbs (926 rushing yards, 7 TDs/44 receptions, 444 yards, 3 TDs at Alabama). The Chiefs have a pretty good offense as well led by league and Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes (5,250 yards, 41 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (110 receptions, 1,338 yards, 12 TDs). You know head coach Andy Reid will have a few tricks up his sleeve to get others involved in his offense. This should be a good season opener, with the Chiefs' offense leading the way. My pick, Kansas City 33, Detroit 24

Houston at Baltimore: The Texans begin the DeMeco Ryans era with a tough season opener when they face a solid Baltimore team on the road. No. 2 overall pick C.J. Stroud will make his first NFL start in a very hostile environment. Stroud, who threw 85 TD passes in two years as the starter at Ohio State, progressed nicely in the pre-season, but he will face a stern test in his pro debut against a

very good Ravens defense. He will need a big day from running back Dameon Pierce (939 yards, 4 TDs) and a coming out party for third-year WR Nico Collins (37 receptions, 481 yards, 2 TDs in 10 games). The Houston defense, which should be much improved under Ryans tutelage, will face a healthy Lamar Jackson (2,242 yards, 17 TDs/764 rushing yards, 3 TDs in just 8 games) who can be a handful. He still has dependable tight end Mark Andrews (73 receptions, 847 yards, 5 TDs) to throw too, as well as newly-acquired Odell Beckham, Jr. Look for the Texans to give Baltimore a game, but Jackson will be the deciding factor late. My pick, Baltimore 26, Houston 20

Miami at Los Angeles Chargers: If you are a fan of high-scoring games, this should be right up your alley. This game will feature two of the top offenses in the league with a boatload of offensive talent on both teams. The Dolphins are hoping that QB Tua Tagovaila (3,545 yards, 25 TDs in 13 games) is fully recovered from the concussions that derailed his 2022 season. He has two explosive wide receivers in Tyreek Hill (119 receptions, 1,710 yards, 7 TDs) and Jaylen Waddle (75 receptions, 1,356 yards, 8 TDs) to throw to and two solid running backs in Raheem Mostert and Jeff Wilson Jr. The Chargers have perhaps the best overall running back in the NFL in Austin Ekeler (915 rushing yards, 13 TDs/107 receptions, 722 yards, 5 TDs) and a top-flight QB in Justin Herbert (4,739 yards, 25 TDs). Herbert still has veteran WR Keenan Allen (66 receptions, 752 yards, 4 TDs) to throw to as well. This should be a fun game to watch. Look for Herbert to make one or two more plays than Tua to lead the Chargers to the win. My pick, Los Angeles Charger 34, Miami 31

Dallas at New York Giants: Nothing like starting your season with a key division game right off the bat, but that's the scenario facing the Cowboys and Giants as they meet on Sunday Night Football in an NFC East battle. Dallas begins the season with a new running back as Tony Pollard (1,007 rushing yards, 9 TDs/39 receptions, 371 yards, 3 TDs) is now the starter as former

starter Ezekiel Elliott was released in the offseason and signed with New England. Dak Prescott (2,860 yards, 23 TDs/15 interceptions) is still the starting QB and if the Cowboys are to move past the Division round, Prescott must cut down on the turnovers. He has plenty of weapons at wide receiver led by CeeDee Lamb (107 receptions, 1,359 yards, 9 TDs), Michael Gallup and former Texans WR Brandin Cooks (57 receptions, 699 yards, 3 TDs). Dallas has a solid defense led by Micah Parsons. That unit will get tested by Giants QB Daniel Jones (3,205 passing yards, 15 TDs/708 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and speedy running back Saquon Barkley (1,312 yards, 10 TDs). The Giants offense should also get a boost with the acquisition of former Raiders tight end Darren Waller. Look for the Dallas defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Cowboys get a big road win to start the season. My pick, Dallas 23, New York Giants 20

Buffalo at New York Jets: The Aaron Rodgers era for the Jets begins on Monday Night Football with a key AFC East contest against the Buffalo Bills. Rodgers (3,695 yards, 26 TDs in Green Bay last year) give the Jets a bonafide quarterback, something they have badly missed over the last few seasons. He won't be a one-man team. He has a solid running game in former Vikings Dalvin Cook (1,173 yards, 8 TDs) and second-year man Breece Hall (463 rushing yards, 4 TDs/19 receptions, 218 yards, 1 TD in 7 games). He also has the reigning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in speedy wideout Garrett Wilson (83 receptions, 1,103 yards, 4 TDs). The Jets also have a top 10 defense. That unit will get a stern test from Buffalo QB Josh Allen (4,283 passing yards, 35 TDs/762 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Stefon Diggs (108 receptions, 1,429 yards, 11 TDs). The Bills need to do better running the football and they will put their running game in the hands of James Cook (Dalvin's younger brother) and former Patriot Damien Harris. Look for Rodgers to give the Jets fans something to crow about as his Jets debut is a successful one. My pick, New York Jets 26, Buffalo 24

Lone Star College-Online sees growth in its first year

HOUSTON – Lone Star College is meeting students where they are with its newest campus, LSC-Online. LSC's eighth official college opened in fall 2022 with 3,643 students. Since spring 2023, 4,291 students find great value in taking courses virtually through LSC-Online.

"Lone Star College understood that while many people wanted to earn a college education, various factors hindered them from attending courses in person," said Seelva Keshvala, Ph.D., LSC Executive Vice Chancellor, LSC-Online CEO and LSC-University Park Acting President. "Lone Star College-Online allows those students to complete their degrees virtually in two years, the same for those who take on-campus classes."

The 17% increase in enrollment at LSC-Online is a credit to the comprehensive resources available such as 100% virtual student support services (advising, tutoring, library services and 24/7 technical support) and dedicated faculty and staff who specialize in online teaching and learning.

"Lone Star College-Online has provided an excellent support system that allowed me to work to provide for my family and earn a college education," said Olga Martinez, LSC-Online student. "Attending Lone Star College is one of the best decisions I have ever made."



Lone Star College-Online offers more than 30 virtual programs to help students earn a college degree in two years.

LSC-Online has over 30 programs that lead to an associate degree (arts, science or applied science) or an accredited certification. Offerings include administrative services, business administration, computer and digital technology, energy, manufacturing and construction trades, health sciences and teaching.

There's still time to enroll in a fall course at Lone Star College. Visit LoneStar.edu to view a list of available classes.

PET MATTERS

In Memory of Susan Hoffman



Shift Towards Adoption Of Shelter Dogs Over Purebred Purchases in Texas

In the past, the sight of purebred dogs like Dachshunds, Boston Terriers, and French Bulldogs was common in American neighborhoods. However, recently a notable shift in consumers' preferences has steered away from these purebreds despite their previous popularity.

For some, the exorbitant cost of purebred dogs, which can reach up to \$10,000 for breeds such as Rottweilers and Chow Chows, is a considerable deterrent. For others, the concern is over health issues commonly associated with purebreds. English Bulldogs and Pugs, for instance, are often plagued with respiratory problems. Also, many individuals also feel a moral obligation to provide homes to shelter dogs.

Bone Voyage Dog Rescue recently conducted a study revealing a significant shift towards adopting shelter dogs over purchasing purebreds from breeders. **A survey of 3,000 potential dog owners in Texas revealed that an impressive 46% of them expressed an intent to adopt from shelters, marking a 6% swing towards possible shelter dog ownership when contrasted with older data from the Humane Society of the United States, which indicated that 40% of pet dogs in households were previously shelter dogs.**

"This increasing trend towards shelter dog adoption promises substantial improvements in the welfare of homeless animals. The shift could lead to a decrease in the number of dogs in shelters, as more are adopted," says Annette Thompson, Executive

Director of Bone Voyage Dog Rescue, when commenting on the study.

A state-by-state analysis of the survey data revealed the strongest preference for shelter dog adoption is in Nebraska, with a remarkable 81% expressing a preference for shelter dogs over purebred breeds.

Interactive map showing survey results in each state (click on 'embed' to host)

In a complementary study, Bone Voyage Dog Rescue used Google Search trends to understand the public's interest in shelter dogs over the past year. The insights from Google mirrored the survey data, reinforcing the shift towards shelter dog ownership.

Among the top 25 states most interested in 'shelter dog adoption', 22 demonstrated a marked shift towards this preference, as per the survey data. Wyoming, for instance, had the highest proportion of shelter dog searches, reflecting its second-place ranking in the survey. **Similarly, Texas ranked 25th in Google searches for shelter dogs, aligning with its position in the survey for those most likely to adopt a shelter dog.**

The rising trend of shelter dog adoption holds considerable potential for improving animal welfare in the US. This shift could have multi-faceted benefits, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond the lives of the individual dogs adopted.

Decreasing the number of dogs residing in shelters is a primary benefit. With more dogs finding homes, the overall population in shelters

would shrink. Consequently, shelters would have more resources available per animal, including space, staff attention, and medical care. This shift would result in better living conditions for the remaining animals while reducing the strain on shelter resources.

Secondly, an increase in the adoption of shelter dogs could influence the supply-demand dynamics of the pet industry. If consumers choose adoption over purchasing from breeders, it might discourage unethical breeding practices, including those prevalent in puppy mills. This change would further contribute to enhancing animal welfare on a larger scale.

Finally, each adopted dog's individual quality of life would likely see significant improvements. Home environments typically offer more space, personal attention, and stability than shelters. Adopted dogs receive consistent care, training, and socialization opportunities, leading to better physical health and behavioral outcomes. This transformation enriches the adopted dog's life and can bring immeasurable joy and companionship to the family adopting.

"This rising trend of adoption not only promises a brighter future for shelter dogs but also signifies a broader cultural shift towards responsible pet ownership and empathy towards animal welfare," adds Thompson. "The data certainly supports the trend, and it's a trend that would have immense impact across the animal welfare field."

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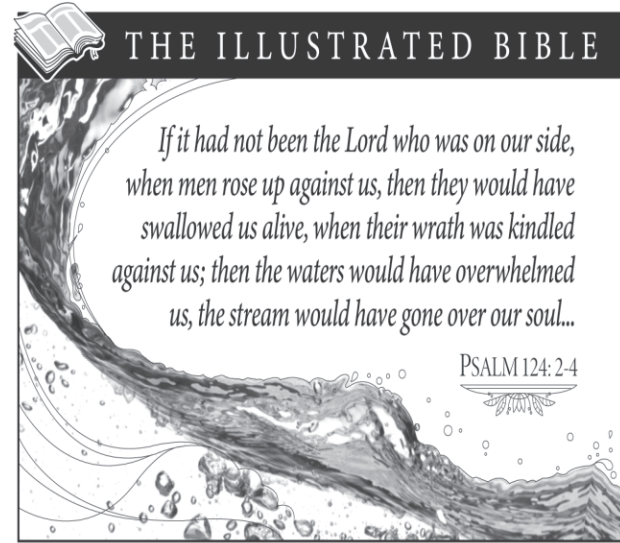
CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Labour (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 20:35, "That so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words, it is more _____ to give than to receive." Righteous, Understanding, Blessed, Bountiful
3. Ecclesiastes 3:13 states, "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the _____ of God." Will, Gift, Guidance, Law
4. From Proverbs 14:23, "In all labour there is profit, but the _____ of the lips tendeth only to penury." Whispering, Closing, Talk, Howling
5. In Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his _____." Brothers, Soul, Might, Hands
6. From Exodus 20:9, how many days shalt thou labour and do all thy work? Two, Four, Six, Seven

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Blessed, 3) Gift, 4) Talk, 5) Hands, 6) Six
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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Yara Shahidi, left, and Odessa A'zion star in "Sitting in Bars with Cake."

"Sitting in Bars with Cake"

"SITTING IN BARS WITH CAKE" (PG-13) — From Trish Sie, the director of "Pitch Perfect 3," this film follows two 20-somethings: a shy baker named Jane and her longtime best friend, Corinne. When Jane brings one of her cakes to the bar where Corinne's celebrating her birthday, Jane suddenly becomes the center of attention, and the girls realize that cake is just the icebreaker Jane always needed to find her romantic match. So, they plan to proceed with their "cake barring" once a week for a year, until Corinne receives a diagnosis that throws a wrench in their plans and their friendship. Yara Shahidi ("Black-ish") and Odessa A'zion ("Fam") lead this touching film about friendship and love, out on Sept. 8. (Amazon Prime Video)

action adaptation of Disney's 1989 animated classic hits streaming on Sept. 6 after racking up \$568 million in the box office. In her first lead role in film after having a promising start in music, Halle Bailey ("Grown-ish") puts a refreshing spin on the daydreaming red-haired mermaid, with vocals that simply couldn't be paired better for a live-action version of Ariel. Melissa McCarthy ("Bridesmaids") takes on the treacherous (and fabulous) villain, Ursula, while Prince Eric is played by Cambridge alumni Jonah Hauer-King. While some of the visual effects of the film did leave something to be desired, the final moments between Ariel and Ursula make for a beautiful bone-chilling climax. (Disney+)

"LOVE AGAIN" (PG-13) — If you're looking for a conventional rom-com to pour your heart into, look

no further than Priyanka Chopra Jonas' new film, out now. Chopra Jonas, who you might've seen in any of her numerous Bollywood films or thriller series like "Citadel" and "Quantico," plays Mira, a children's book author still mourning the loss of her fiancé. One of the only things that gives her solace is texting his old phone number, but she doesn't realize that a stranger, named Rob, now has her ex's old number. Rob lets these messages pile up, until he's overcome with such curiosity about the messages that he has to put a face to the name. When Mira and Rob finally do meet, sparks fly between them both, leaving Rob to figure out how to tell Mira that he's always been on the other line of those messages. (Netflix)

"THE CHANGE-LING" (TV-MA) — LaKeith Stanfield ("Judas and the Black Messiah") and Clark Backo ("Letterkenny") star in the lead roles for this new horror fantasy series based on the novel by Victor LaValle. Apollo (Stanfield) is settling into his new life as a father to his first child and as a husband to his wife, Emma (Backo). Emma, however, suffers from symptoms of post-partum depression, and with her symptoms going untreated, she commits a horrific act, then disappears into thin air. Now at a loss on what to do next, Apollo has no choice but to search for her in a New York City he didn't know existed. The first three episodes of the series AppleTV+ described as "a fairytale for grown-ups" premiere Sept. 8. (AppleTV+)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

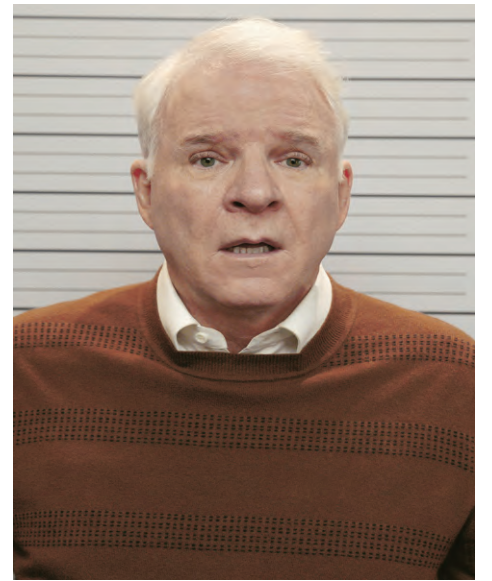
HOLLYWOOD — Big news! Two comic legends are contemplating self-imposed retirement. First up is Steve Martin, five-time Grammy Award winner (two for banjo-playing) and honorary Oscar recipient, who is now in his third season of "Only Murders in the Building." Steve turned 78 on Aug. 14, which may have brought this decision on. He is currently married to his second wife, writer Anne Stringfield, and became a first-time father at 67 in 2012.

Steve candidly admitted to Yahoo! Entertainment, "When I was younger, I was selfish and focused on my career. Now I'm just hanging around the house playing with [my daughter]. ... When ["Only Murders"] is done, I'm not going to seek [other work]. I have a family life that's really fun."

During club dates, Steve used to tell a joke about a guy who asked him, "Do you mind if I smoke?" Steve would say, "Not at all. Mind if I fart?" But when I ran into Steve one day at lunch, I said I had the perfect topper for his joke and told him he could use it, which he did: "Do you mind if I smoke?" "Not at all. Mind if I fart? At least mine's a natural thing!"

The second comedy legend talking retirement is Jim Carrey (61), who confessed, "Well, I'm retiring. ... I'm being fairly serious. ... If the angels bring me some script that's written in gold ink that says to me that it's going to be really important for people to see, I might continue down the road, but I'm taking a break."

Carrey has a 36-year-old daughter. His last two films were "Sonic the Hedgehog" (2020), which cost \$90 million and grossed \$320 million, and its 2022 sequel, which cost \$110 million and grossed \$405 million. They weren't "Jim Carrey films," though, so that may be why he's wishing for a heavenly script.



Steve Martin in "Only Murders in the Building"

Sad to report that one of Tim Allen's sons in "Home Improvement," Zachery Ty Bryan, now 41, has run afoul of the law again. He is facing two felony charges and one misdemeanor charge, and is due in an Oregon court on Sept. 5. Bryan was arrested on July 28 for domestic abuse and one charge of assault in the fourth degree for abusing his fiancée, Johnnie Faye Cartwright. Cartwright is the mother of three of his children; in all, he's fathered seven children.

Bryan was arrested back in 2020 for attempted strangulation and assault (also involving Cartwright). He made a plea deal and was sentenced to 36 months of probation, along with mandatory participation in a batterer intervention program. He also had DUI arrests in 2004, 2007, 2017 and 2020, and has been accused of jilting investors in a crypto scheme. If anyone ever needed "Home Improvement," it's him!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF. Find at least six differences in details between panels. Includes two panels of a school hallway.

September 4, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes clues like 'Martial art', 'Smack a baseball', 'Romance', etc.

Answers for the crossword puzzle. Includes answers like 'Judo', 'Pop', 'Romance', etc.

Weekly SUDOKU grid for a second puzzle.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes 10 trivia questions and answers.

1. India Pale Ale; 2. Suzanne Collins; 3. Michigan; 4. Wellington; 5. 300 points; 6. Plant growth; 7. A Jenny; 8. New Year's Eve; 9. Actor Alice Baldwin; 17 times; 10. Palette.

Lone Star College offers tips to 'beat the heat'

HOUSTON (July 17, 2023) – Rising temperatures in Texas and across the country are causing many people to suffer from hyperthermia, an overexertion condition caused by hot and humid conditions, resulting in heat illnesses or death. The Lone Star College Health Sciences department offers helpful suggestions to keep you and your family safe this summer.

“Current heat waves can contribute to hyperthermia and heat stroke,” said Nickie Loftin, RN, LSC-Kingwood Nursing Director. “A high internal temperature (greater than 104 F) can cause permanent neurologic, brain damage and even death.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports hyperthermia occurs when the body fails to control its temperature through sweat-

ing and can't cool down. The body temperature can rise to 106 F in 10 to 15 minutes. Several factors can increase a person's chance of developing heat-related illnesses including age (older adults and younger children), dehydration, heart disease and obesity. Other heat-related concerns include exhaustion, cramps, heat rash and sunburn.

“As the temperature rises, the body will struggle to get rid of the excess heat,” said Kim Zapata, M.Ed., LSC-CyFair Emergency Medical Services Department Program Director. “Hyperthermia can cause confusion, nausea and vomiting, increased respiration, fatigue, rapid heart rate and dehydration.”

The CDC recommends the following actions if someone shows signs of a heat stroke or other heat-related concerns.

- Seek immediate medical assistance.
- Take the victim to a shady area.
- Try to cool the person down rapidly.
- Monitor their temperature.

“The most important thing you can do is to remain hydrated; consistently replacing fluids will help reduce your overall temperature,” said Loftin. “If you must be outside, try to stay out of direct sun or wear a hat.”

The Health Sciences program at Lone Star College prepares students to enter the fast-changing and growing health care industry. The department offers associate degrees and certifications in various fields and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Visit LoneStar.edu/Programs-of-Study for more information.

View additional CDC guidelines on heat-related illnesses at CDC.gov/Disasters/ExtremeHeat.

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LSC Law Enforcement Academy helps address police officer shortage



The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy graduated 25 cadets from its spring 2023 cohort. Pictured are the new graduates and law enforcement guests who attended the graduation ceremony.

HOUSTON – Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed eight public safety bills into law following the 88th Regular Legislative session to ensure communities across the state have the resources needed to support law enforcement. The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) is also working to put more qualified officers on the streets to serve and protect communities.

goal is to become a detective and join the county's Swift Water Rescue Team.

“I think it will benefit the community to have more females in law enforcement because most people view women as motherly and nurturing,” said Dickerson. “For example, some women and children may feel safer speaking to a female officer than a male, especially if it's a domestic or family violence case.”

“Qualified law enforcement officers are paramount to the success and safety of our communities,” said Seelpa Keshvala, Ph.D., LSC Executive Vice Chancellor, CEO LSC-Online, LSC-System Office University Park and LSC-University Park Acting President. “The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy offers academic, physical fitness and other training procedures to prepare students to become peace officers.”

The six LSC female cadets joined their 19 male counterparts in the fall LSC Law Enforcement Academy Graduation held Aug. 10. Joshua Farmer, LEA graduate, served four years in the United States Navy, occasionally working with the Military Police Department. He then became a first responder with the Houston Fire Department.

The LSC LEA is also working to advance the 30x30 Initiative, a nationwide movement to increase the number of females in law enforcement from 12% to 30% by 2030. The college program has seen an increase in female students starting with zero in spring 2022 to six who graduated Aug. 10 from the spring 2023 cohort.

“Being a law enforcement officer will continue to help me do something more than myself,” said Farmer. “I've always wanted to give back, protect and serve the community.” Farmer will work full-time as a police officer with the Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable and remain a part-time firefighter with the Houston Fire Department.

“Lone Star College's Law Enforcement Academy understands the need to recruit more talented officers, including females, to help serve and protect our communities,” said Glenn Riddle, LSC Law Enforcement Academy Director. “Lone Star College hopes that our Law Enforcement Academy classes can assist with the 30x30 Initiative model by meeting this recruitment goal.”

The Law Enforcement Academy began in 2021 at LSC-East Aldine Center. Cadets learn how to maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, state and federal laws for various law enforcement agencies, including educational institutions. The LSC Law Enforcement Academy meets Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) requirements.

Nicole Dickerson chose a law enforcement career because she wants to help people and be a positive role model. Dickerson graduated from the LSC LEA Academy Aug. 10 and plans to work patrol for Montgomery County Constable Precinct 4. Her

Visit LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Law-Enforcement-Academy to learn more.

