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See Page 2 for Your Chance to Win 4 Free Tickets to the TRF. Value \$120.

FREE TICKETS TO TEXAS

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years VOL. 47, NO. 36 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS

East Aldine National Night Out set Oct. 3

The East Aldine community is planning the 40th year of this event, a partnership with the Police, Sheriff's deputies, and the public.

Tuesday night, Oct. 3rd from 6pm - 9pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre.

Join us to meet neighbors and celebrate those who help keep our community safe.

Free Rock Climbing, Train Ride, Face Painting, Prizes, Food, Games, and music with a DJ and More.

AISD School **Board Candidates** Forum Oct. 12

BakerRipley and Green Forest Civic Club are cohosting an ALDINE ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDI-DATES' FORUM Thursday evening OCTOBER 12 at BakerRipley-East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine-Mail Rte., 77039.

Eight (8) of the ten (10) candidates that are running for a position on the school board have already confirmed that they will participate in the forum. Please join us. Light snacks will be served.

Keep your eye out for for additional information. Marina Sugg, VP, GFCC, greenforestcc1983@gmail.com

Lone Star - East Aldine hosts Hispanic Heritage Forum

EAST ALDINE - Significant contributions of the Hispanic Americans, Latinos and Latinas are recognnized each year from Sept. 15-Oct. 15 in the United States. Lone Star College celebrated these achievements at its Hispanic Heritage Month event Sept. 21 at LSC-East Aldine Center.

"Lone Star College is ranked as the fourth largest Hispanic-serving higher education institution in the nation, which reflects the rich and diverse community we serve," said Mario K. Castillo, LSC chancellor. "Representation matters, and by hosting events such as Hispanic Heritage Month, students can see themselves in the college's top leadership from dean to chancellor. This is an exciting time for Lone Star College and the community it serves."

LSC welcomed 39,633 Hispanic students this fall, representing 45% of the total population.

The LSC Hispanic Heritage Month panel included Chancellor Castillo, LSC-Kingwood President Dr. Melissa Gonzalez, Texas State Rep. for District 140 Armando Walle, LSC-Kingwood Interim Vice



HISPANIC HERITAGE PANELISTS included LSC administrators Ernesto Valenzuela, Reyna Tippetts, Melissa Gonzalez, State Representative Armando Walle, and LSC Chancellor Mario Castillo. The leaders shared their journeys filled with success, challenges, perseverance and encouragement with students who attended the Forum at the East Aldine Campus of Lone Star College.

President of Student Success Ernesto Valenzuela and LSC-East-Aldine Center Dean Reyna Tippetts. The leaders shared their journeys filled with success, challenges, perseverance and encouragement with LSC and Rose M. Avalos Pathways in Technology Early College High School (Aldine ISD) students.

"We all have individual stories that can hinder us, but whatever you strive in life to achieve, go do it," said Texas Rep. Walle. He told attendees about his challenges with the State Bar of Texas, which he passed on his third time. "Do not let anyone tell you, you can't be who you are. Believe in yourself."

The panelists also stressed how education and academic services can open the door to opportunities resulting in brighter futures. They spoke about how their experiences with academic advisors helped shape their journeys.

"I am where I am today because of the guidance and support I received from my advisors in high school and college," said President Gonzalez. "Now as a college president, I want to make the community aware of the resources, opportunities and partnerships available at Lone Star College to help them reach their personal or career goals. I want them to know that regardless of their background or where they are in life, the college is here

to help them succeed."

Watch the entire presentation at https:// youtu.be/5TcxOO4w3pM to learn more about each panelist's story. Visit Events.LoneStar.edu for a list of all upcoming activities taking place at LSC campuses.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area. LSC has been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in TexasTM. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

County passes \$2.4 billion budget; SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6 emphasis on Crime reduction

Tax Rate reduced for 5th year in row

HARRIS COUNTY -County commissioners last week voted for a tax rate decrease for the fifth year in a row, as well as a \$2.4 billion budget for 2024. The vote was unanimous, and taken without the rancor that has accompanied previous budget measures.

Commissioners Court approved an overall tax rate of 53.03 cents per \$100 of assessed value. While that's down from 53.06 cents last year, taxpayers could still end up with a higher bill depending on increases in their appraised property values.

Commissioners also approved the county's operating budget for the upcoming year. Nearly two-thirds of the \$2.4 billion budget is dedicated to justice and safety, a spending plan that includes the sheriff's office, the district



County Commissioners voted unanimously for a 2024 budget of \$2.4 billion. Pictured above, Commissioners Briones, Ellis, and Ramsey. Not pictured, but voting in favor, was Commissioner Garcia.

attorney's office and a large court system.

The allocation reflects that public safety "continues to be a top priority," according to Democratic Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

Garcia also said in a statement the county was able to decrease the tax rate without "sacrificing our ability to rebuild our aging infrastructure, create a workforce for jobs today and into the future, and combat the climate crisis with clean energy."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, a Democrat, said the budget makes the most of limited resources.

"It represents a set of investments in a more just legal system, expanded access to health care, hous-

Continued. See COUNTY BUDGET PASSED, Page 5

Texas, OU meet in Cotton Bowl for last time as Big 12 foes: Texans look for another road win; Dallas has tough SF

The start of October brings with it the annual meeting between Texas and Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl, but this year's game will have historical significance as it will be the last time these two programs meet at Big 12 rivals.

As many of you know, this is the last year for Texas and Oklahoma to play in the Big 12 as both will head to the SEC in 2024. Both teams won their first four games of the season and the winner of Saturday's game could be in the driver's seat to make it back to the Metroplex in early December to play in the Big 12 title game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Last year, UT ran roughshod over the Sooners, 49-0, as quarterback Quinn Ewers torched the Sooners for four TD passes. I'm sure OU head coach Brent Venables will remind his charges of that long afternoon in Dallas a year ago heading into this year's game.

While the 'Horns and Sooners do battle in Dallas, Texas A&M hosts No. 12-ranked Alabama on Saturday at Kyle Field. Two weeks ago, the Aggies opened SEC play with a dominating 27-



10 win over Auburn in a game where starting QB Conner Weigman left right before halftime with a knee injury. Backup Max Johnson filled in admirably passing for 123 yards and 2 TDs. Nick Saban's team may have saved its season with a 24-10 home win over previously undefeated Mississippi. Jimbo Fisher may have the team to contend for the SEC West title this year, and win over the Crimson Tide would be huge for those hopes.

In the NFL, the Texans hit the road looking for their second straight victory away from home when they visit the Atlanta Falcons. Two weeks ago, DeMeco Ryans picked up his first win as an NFL head coach as his team dominated at Jacksonville and left with a convincing 37-17 victory. The

Texans scored a rushing touchdown, two passing touchdowns and a special teams score when fullback Andrew Beck returned a kickoff for an 85yard score. The win over the Jags could do a lot for this young team's confidence.

Other key matchups have Baltimore traveling to Pittsburgh in a key early-season AFC North battle, while Jacksonville (losers of two of their first three games) has a tough matchup with the Bills in Buffalo.

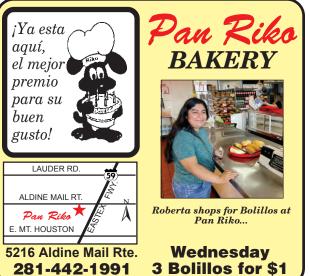
Sunday Night Football will feature the Cowboys visiting their nemesis, the 49ers. Two weeks ago, Dallas was upset and shocked by the then winless Arizona Cardinals as Dallas QB

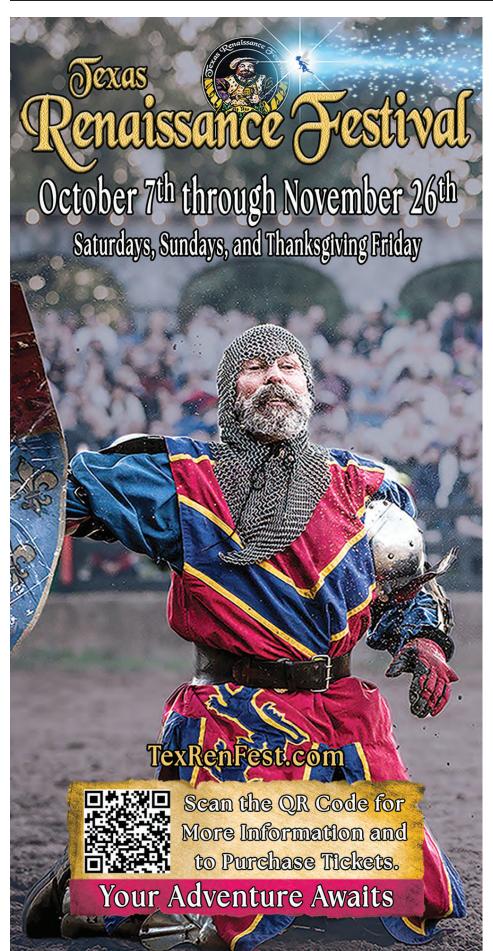
CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 5

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CONGRATULATIONS To Christina Martinez of Houston, who won Free Tickets to the Texas Renaissance

Festival. You can win too. Just send us a photo reading this newspaper. See information

in this issue, and enter the Drawing.



COMMUNITY WATCH

Reward for information on Hit & Run on Eastex

WHO KILLED SERGIO GUADIANA?

Reward of up to \$5,000 leading to the arrest of the suspect(s) involved in this

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance $identifying \ the \ suspect(s) \ responsible \ for$ a Hit and Run - Failure to Stop and Render Aid – Fatality.

On Thursday, August 24, 2023, at approximately 1:16 a.m., Sergio Guadiana was struck by multiple vehicles in the 8600 block of N US 59 Fwy. OB in Houston, Texas. During the incident, Mr. Guadiana was crossing the freeway when he was struck by multiple vehicles which were traveling northbound. The suspect(s) fled the scene without rendering aid to the father of four. As a result of the collisions, Mr. Guadiana suffered major injuries and died on the scene.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

3 Alarm fire in Greenspoint Apartment building causes \$1 million in damage

GREENSPOINT - The Houston Fire Department reports a 3-alarm apartment fire on September 21, 2023, at 1:26 p.m. The apartment building was located at 16826 $\,$ City View Place, 77060.

Injuries included One firefighter evaluated on scene, and two deceased dogs.

Damage was estimated at \$1,000,000. HFD Arson investigators ruled the cause as accidental (rooftop).

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find fire and smoke coming from the roof of a 2-story apartment building and began an attack. A primary search was completed, and second alarm was requested.

The ceiling was pulled, and the attic was accessed for fire control. Crews switched to a defensive attack as conditions worsened at the roof level. A third alarm was requested to help rotate the firefighters through rehab until the fire was controlled just before 3 p.m.

Two deceased dogs were found, and a firefighter was evaluated on scene for smoke inhalation. The American Red Cross was requested to assist the residents of 16 units. CenterPoint turned the power off to the building and property management had a restoration company on site. HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

Crews remained on scene to insure there were no hotspots. 113 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including firefighters from Stations 74, 84, 2, 15, 4, 31, 34, 64, 38, 44, 56, 58, 67, 11, 63, 6, 8, 30, 57, Rescue 42, Rehab 8 and 17 and the Aldine Fire Department.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

LUCHA SCAVENGER HUNT

Oh no! The luchadores lost their masks in the library. Can you help us find them? The scavenger hunt will be available all day for all ages starting Sept 15th through Oct 15th. Find them all to claim your prize at the desk.

ALEBREJE ART

In honor of Hispanic Heritage month, the Aldine library will be converted to an immersive display of Hispanic culture and art. A big part of Mexican folk art are Alebrijes. They are representations of Mexican spirit animals, typically hand-carved and painted

In Mexican folklore, their role was to link the spirits and the real world and guide a person through their lives. Spiritual guides for your soul, reminders of your place in the world, and society, holders of the torch; They are meant to lead you in your path and help you become who you are supposed to be.

We have coloring sheets for you to create your own Alebrije to add to our display available any time we are open.

BILINGUAL TOTS

We'll read stories, sing songs, and use our hands (for fingerplays) to help toddlers build their early literacy skills. This program is appropriate for children ages 18 months to 3 years old. Monday, Oct. 2, 11 -11:45am.

Leeremos historias, cantaremos canciones y usaremos nuestras manos (para juegos con los dedos) para ayudar a los niños pequeños a desarrollar sus habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa es apropiado para niños de 25 meses a 3 años.

Bilingual Story Time/Tiem-

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

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

ENGLISH COMPUTER CLASS BASICS -SMARTPHONES

*Important- Instruction is in English.

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

*Class format: In-person, in the computer lab at the Aldine Library. Learn about how your smartphone connects with your computer with Instructor Nyla! Join us for a weekly class on Tuesdays about various tech topics or bring in your own questions! Join us Tuesday, Oct. 3, 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Apprenda Computers & Tech 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 language.

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

- Aprenderá a como obtener las 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

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT

Join us Wednesday to get to know your local homeschool community. Chat with your librarians about how we can better meet your needs. The meeting room will be open for children of all ages, along with space for them to interact and play. Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1-2pm.

ARE BOOKS GOOD?

Help us decide once and for all whether books are good. Ms. Gage and Ms. Nicole will read stories out loud, provide snacks, and YOU will vote on how good the stories actually are. For the month of October, we'll be getting spooky with scary stories! Wednesday, Oct. 4, 4:30 - 5:30pm.

TEEN THURSDAY

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

APPRENDA COMPUTERS & TECH

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Pre-registrese aquí: https:// $\underline{forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy}$

Nivel 2- Intermedio-Jueves-5:00a 6:45 PM: Cloud Computing-Google workspace + Office 365 (Spanish computer class)- Computación en la nube-Aprenderá sobre los servicios de Google (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms), Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Además, cubriremos otras aplicaciones como: Adobe Sparks, Canva, Box v 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 cuenta 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

KIDS CLUB: PARA LOS NIÑOS

The Children's Museum of Houston has created special workshops for the library! Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week. Thursday, Oct. 5, 5-6:30pm. For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!) Fall Schedule: *Para Los Niños will be every First Thursday of the month throughout the Fall.*

CHILL VIBES FOR TEENS

Life is stressful, this program is not. Chill Vibes for Teens is for slowing down and decompressing from a stressful week. Relax with us and start your weekend off right. Every other week we'll have a different set of activities to unwind and unclutter your mind. Or, you can just veg out in one of our comfy chairs. Friday, Oct. 6, 3:30-5:30pm.

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 $here: {\color{red} \underline{https://forms.office.com/r/}}$ $\underline{qSzMSpiaTL}.$

PASSPORT SERVICES

Do have plans to travel out of the country for the holidays? You need to get your passport in order NOW! Current routine processing is estimated at 13 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 9 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - https:// www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services.

Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm -7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, photos, copies, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

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



SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Empowering Diversity: One Student Hispanic Heritage Impact on Advancing Aviation

In the heart of Davis High School, a transformative program is soaring to new heights as the Aldine Aviation program embarks on its third year. With each passing year, this exceptional initiative has continued to expand its wings, and now, it welcomes its largest class to date, consisting of 12 bright and ambitious students. Nestled in the vibrant community of Aldine, Texas, this program has become a beacon of opportunity and inspiration for those with a passion for aviation.



What sets the Aldine Aviation program apart is its dedication to nurturing the dreams of aspiring pilots and its commitment to equipping students with the skills and certifications necessary to succeed in the aviation industry. Some of the remarkable students in this program have already earned their UAV drone certification, and they are poised to achieve yet another noteworthy milestone - the completion of their private pilot certification - before donning their graduation caps. With the Texas Flight School in Spring, Texas, serving as their launchpad, these students are not just learning about aviation but actively taking flight toward their futures.



Uziel Cardenas, a proud Davis student, bears an even greater sense of pride in his identity as a Hispanic American. With a determination to challenge conventions and inspire change, Cardenas states, "Honestly, I don't see a lot of Hispanic pilots, so I have to represent viva la raza." His journey is rooted in his family's aspirations for a better future. When asked about the role of his family and culture in igniting his passion for aviation, Cardenas reflects, "Being hungry, wanting to be somebody." He goes on to express, "I didn't know what I wanted to be yet, but this program is a step for me to learn who I am for myself and as a pilot. And my mom has always pushed me to be in the upper echelon."

In the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month, this junior at Davis understands the significance of inclusion and breaking barriers. He embraces the role of a trailblazer, determined to show fellow Hispanics that they, too, can soar to new heights. Cardenas believes, "It's possible; there are programs, there are scholarships; we should be determined to show them that you can be anything you want to be." As the Aldine Aviation program enters its third year, Uziel Cardenas exemplifies the spirit of ambition, inclusion, and aspiration that defines this remarkable journey in aviation education.

District to Host Transition Expo on October 28

The Transition Expo is an opportunity for families of children with disabilities, ages 3-22, to meet with agencies and organizations that can meet their diverse

Representatives from local agencies, from local community colleges to public transportation, will provide resources and information regarding all transition phases from toddler to adulthood.

REGISTRATION FOR TRANSITION EXPO AND EVENT LOCATION

Saturday, October 28, 20239 a.m.-12 p.m.Click the Link to Register if You Plan to Attend: AldineISD.org/TransitionExpoM.O. Campbell Educational Center | 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX

STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES, COLLEGES, AND MORE WILL BE AT THE EXPO!

- *Texas Workforce Commission *Colleges and Universities
- *State Agencies
- *Parent Groups
- *Vocational Programs
- *Aldine ISD's Lane School
- *Day Habs
- *And Many More!

CAREER EXPLORATION!

We will have fire trucks, police vehicles, and EMTs (emergency medical technicians) to give tours of their vehicles, talk about safety, and give information about their respective careers.

FREE CHILDCARE

The event will offer free childcare, allowing parents to visit each vendor without distractions.

FOOD TRUCKS!

Food trucks will be available to purchase lunch. QUESTIONS

The Aldine ISD Special Education Department is hosting the annual expo. For more information, contact Brittany Edwards, program manager of high school special education instructional improvement, at (281) 985-6617 or via email at bsedwards@aldineisd.org.

Aldine ISD to Launch Second Unified Champion Basketball Games

On Monday, Oct. 2, Aldine ISD will kick off its second annual Unified Champion Basketball games across the district.

According to Julie Grutzmacher, the lead for the Adapted Physical Education Department and one of the event organizers, the Unified Champion Basketball games promotes inclusion, teamwork, and sportsmanship by bringing together students with and without disabilities to compete on the same team.

Grutzmacher said the games promote the follow-

*Inclusion: By creating an inclusive environment where all students can participate in a competitive sport together, regardless of their abilities. *Promotes friendship:

Fostering friendships and understanding between students with and without disabilities benefits both *Sportsmanship: Stu-

dents are taught values such as fair play, respect, and teamwork.

*Skill development: The games provide all participants with skill development and physical activity. *Breaking stereotypes:

Challenging and promoting awareness of the abilities and potential of individuals with disabili-*School spirit: The

games enhance school spirit and a sense of belonging among all students. Grutzmacher said this

is AISD's second year to partner with Unified Champions Sports. The first game will be on Monday, Oct. 2, between Nimitz High versus Davis High at 7:45 a.m. at Nimitz High

She said the goal this year is for all five high schools in Aldine ISD to compete against one another at least twice during the 2023-24 school year.

"Unified Champion Sports benefits our special education population along



A Nimitz High School coach discusses strategy with two players during last year's Unified Champion Basketball game.

with our general education students." Grutzmacher said. "It decreases the assumption that students with disabilities aren't able to compete in competitive sports. The benefit is that friendship and acceptance develop. There is an understanding between students with and without disabilities, and it provides an opportunity for skill development and physical activity for all participants. This Unified event is an opportunity for our students with disabilities to have the opportunity to shine and have the spotlight while working alongside general education students as actual teammates. Unified Champions schools also engage the school community, parents, and local community in supporting inclusive

Liz Durden and Hugo Maese will coach the Aldine High team. The school's structured learning teachers and Principal Lulu De-Anda also support the team. The Davis High team is coached by Chris Welday-Zimney, Andrea Gipson, Miranda Grotenhuis, and Taylor Green and supported by the school's structured learning teachers, Principal An-

sports."

thony Watkins and Assistant Principal Laah Buie. The Eisenhower High team is coached by Jessica Corrick and Krystal Washington and supported by the school's structured learning teachers and Principal James Metcalf. The MacArthur High School team is coached by Larissa Coulter and Kelli Hodgkinson and supported by the school's structured learning teachers and Principal Shauna Showers. The Nimitz High team is coached by Grutzmacher, Kendra Venzant, and Ben Wells and supported by the structured learning teachers and Principal Walter Stewart.

Other support for the program has come from Dr. Tracey Bailey, executive director of special education; Tommie Elmore, program manager of related services and the manager of the Mendel Heritage Museum; and Kenneth Hernandez, coordinator of health and physical education. AJ Edenzon, executive director of United Champion Schools and Holly Chandler, the USC specialist for Special Olympics for East Region Ares 5 and 6, have also come to support.

October Exclusive Literary Event: Award-Winning Author and Illustrators to Visit AISD



Book Debut

Aldine ISD has been offered an exclusive literacy event: New York Times bestselling and awardwinning author Jason Reynolds and award-winning author-illustrators Jerome and Jarrett Pumphrey will visit Aldine ISD on October 6. They will be in AISD for Reynolds' debut picture book, There Was a Party for Langston, to be re-

leased on October 3. Reynolds' debut picture book is described as a snappy, joyous ode to Word King, literary genius, and glass-ceiling smasher Langston Hughes and the luminaries he inspired. Reynolds is the former National Ambassador of Children's Literature.

An Aldine ISD Exclu-

This will be the only school visit in Houston for the book's release. Aldine ISD has been recognized as a district that honors and celebrates diversity and inclusion in literature.

It is also the only scheduled visit where all three book creators will be present. The book is for young readers ages 4-8. The authors and illustrators will talk to students about reading, writing, history, and culture of the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance was the development of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City as a Black cultural mecca in the early 20th Century and the subsequent social and artistic explosion that resulted. Lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, the period is considered a golden age in African American culture,

manifesting in literature,

music, stage performance, and art. AISD students have studied about the pe-

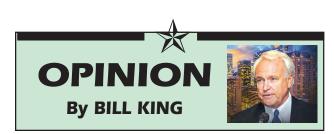
About the Book

The story is historical and contains non-fiction information and an illustrated story. Publishers Weekly, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, and School Library Journal have starred reviewed the book. Visit the publishing house Simon & Schuster to learn more about the book.

Stay Tuned for More Details to Come

Aldine will purchase books for the students in attendance so the students can share the story with their families as part of a home library and home literacy. Participating schools will share details once these become avail-

OPINION PAGE \bigstar



Day of Forgiveness

orgiveness is not a word that we hear very often on social media. The Forgive ness Project on Twitter has 8,700 followers, while all manner of hate groups garner followers in the millions. According to Google's Ngram tracker, the word "revenge" was used ten times as frequently in books in 2019 as "forgive-

Every great faith tradition teaches that forgiveness is central to our humanity. Jesus, in his pattern prayer, reminds us that we will be forgiven as we forgive others (Matthew 6:12). The Quran teaches that "The retribution for an evil act is an evil one like it, but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is from Allah" (Quran 42:40) and forgiveness is one of the six cardinal virtues in the Hindu Darma. The Jewish faith sets aside today as a special day to seek and grant forgiveness. It is called Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Forgiveness is not just a moral virtue that benefits the person forgiven, it heals the forgiver. During his eulogy at George Bush's funeral, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson said, "Hate corrodes the container in which it is carried."

And we should never forget that sometimes we also need to forgive ourselves. I have always been a big fan of Tim McGraw. About ten years ago, he recorded a song about forgiving ourselves entitled One of These Days . I hope that you will take a few minutes today to enjoy his song and consider joining our Jewish brothers and sisters in forgiving those who have wronged you and forgiving yourself for the times you have fallen short of what you expected for yourself. I think you might be surprised at the peace you will feel from doing so.



Revive2Thrive: Infrastructure project updates

Community planning begins with you

On Wednesday, September 27, Precinct 2 held a community meeting with residents from the North and South Castlewood communities. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the residents an opportunity to voice their needs

and concerns as to the future of the Castlewood community with Commissioner Garcia and the Precinct 2 team.

Some of the concerns addressed include curb streets and gutters, new



and Alex Esparza.

water pipes, more street lights, and street repairs. Mark your calendars for these community meetings

- happening in October: • Reimagine Market Street: Market Street Corridor Study --Friday, October 13 from 3pm to 7pm (Open house)
- --Flukinger Community Center: 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, TX 77530
- Bay Area Ped/Bike Safety Plan
- --Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 pm
- Bay Area Community Center: 5002 E. NASA Pkwy, Seabrook, TX 77586

This month in Commissioners Court, the following Precinct 2 infrastructure projects were approved:

Denver Harbor Park

· Approval to execute an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston to design and construct improvements at Selena Quintanilla Perez-Denver Harbor Park. The \$2,253,800 improvements will make Denver Harbor Park more vibrant, safer, and accessible for all.

Highlands Reservoir

• Approval of the Highlands Reservoir Improvements Study. This is a partnership project with the San Jacinto River Authority to identify and prioritize improvements to make Highlands Reservoir an even more cherished amenity that improves the quality of life for residents. Some of the potential enhancements include dedicated parallel parking areas at the pier, renovated fishing piers, and an accessible loop trail.

Reimagine Jensen Corridor

 Approval of interlocal agreements for Corridor Studies with Greater Northside Management District and Hardy/Near Northside Redevelopment Authority. Both of these partnerships involve corridor studies that seek to fully reconstruct and reimagine major streets. One is with the Greater Northside Management District for "Reimagine Jensen," and the other is with the Near Northside for "Reimagine Hogan-Lorraine." Reimagine Jensen extends from Kelly St. to IH-69, and Reimagine Hogan-Lorraine extends from IH-45 to IH-69.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Special Session to Begin on Oct. 9

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a letter to legislative leaders indicating a special session will begin on Oct. 9 dealing with what he has called "school choice" but is more widely known as vouchers.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott has threatened another special session if lawmakers can't come to an agreement this month, and then will take the issue to voters by finding candidates to run against those opposing vouchers.

During the regular session, a coalition of Democrats and many rural House Republicans blocked legislation concerning vouchers that had easily passed the Senate. Abbott has spent much of this year traveling the state encouraging parents and pastors to advocate for school choice.

"I will keep fighting every step of the way until we have school choice in the state of Texas," Abbott said.

Opponents of vouchers say they would divert taxpayer money from public schools. Many public school district leaders say they already struggle to balance their budgets and retain teachers.

DELAYED FARM BILL PASSAGE **WORRIES AG PRODUCERS**

One of the key bills delayed by the wrangling in Congress is the massive farm bill, which is renewed every five years. The Texas Tribune reports a temporary extension of the current bill is expected to pass, however. The farm bill is key to a host of programs, from crop insurance to food access for low-income families through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,

or SNAP. "In a perfect world, we get a farm bill this year. If we don't, though, let's extend it. And let's not pass a farm bill just to say we passed a farm bill," Laramie Adams, national legislative director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said, "We want to make sure that the farm bill is meaningful."

Since the last farm bill was passed in 2018, farmers have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine cutting world grain shipments, and rising costs for equipment and fuel. Meanwhile, market prices for most agricultural products remain stagnant.

"As you look at that and inflation and adjusting for inflation, from our perspective, we need to look at strengthening



By Gary Borders

crop insurance," Adams said. "And that is not an easy task."

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON PAXTON'S BACK PAY

After being acquitted in his impeachment trial, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is seeking around \$50,000 in back pay. However, the state comptroller's office says the best course of action is to let the Texas Supreme Court decide, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The comptroller's office is responsible for authorizing payments, and Paxton's pay was withheld when he was impeached and suspended from office in late May by the Texas by the Senate in September.

"Because we disagree with your interpretation of the Texas Constitution on this very important issue, we encourage you to file a writ of mandamus with the Texas Supreme Court for a definitive ruling," read the letter signed by Victoria North, the comptroller's general counsel on fiscal and agency affairs.

Meanwhile, four ex-employees of Paxton have asked the Texas Supreme Court for permission to move forward with a wrongful termination suit against their ex-boss since they still haven't received their settlement money, kut.org reported. The four had reached a \$3.3 million settlement with Paxton in February, but the Texas Legislature never approved the settlement. They are now seeking to move forward with the lawsuit in

Travis County. "After seven months and after the positions taken at the impeachment trial, there is no reason to believe a final settlement agreement is achievable at this point," Monday's filing with the court reads.

ANTI-DRAG LAW RULED **UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

A federal judge last week

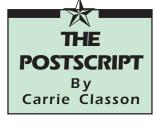
NORTHEAST*NEWS

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September Sunshine

He was sitting outside his home on a tiny patio, wearing a fedora and smoking a cigar.

He had a portable music player sitting beside him, and he looked as if he was enjoying the September sunshine about as much as anyone

"Good afternoon!" I said as I passed.

"Good afternoon!" he agreed.

I don't smoke, but I like the smell of cigars. My grandpa smoked a cigar occasionally, and the smell of cigar smoke reminds me of my childhood. In fact, all of September reminds me of childhood.

ruled a law restricting drag

performances in Texas violates

free speech and is unconstitu-

tional, the Texas Standard re-

ported. Senate Bill 12 banned

sexually oriented performanc-

es in the presence of minors.

Hittner, appointed to the

bench by then-President

Ronald Reagan, said the law

timony presented at the hear-

ing, the court finds there is

substantial likelihood that SB

12 as drafted violated the First

Amendment of the United

States Constitution under one

or more of the legal theories

put forward by the plaintiffs,"

Hittner wrote in the tempo-

NEARLY 900,000 TEXANS LOSE

enacted during the pandemic

banned states from removing

people from Medicaid were lift-

ed in April, nearly 900,000

Texans have lost those bene-

fits, with many also having

their SNAP benefits delayed,

the Texas Tribune reported.

The state has been rechecking

the eligibility of every person

in the program, and the logiam

has resulted in hundreds of

thousands losing their health-

care coverage, largely due to

children, women who recently

gave birth, and disabled

about their child getting hurt

or seriously ill," Michelle

Castillo, deputy director for

the nonprofit Children's De-

fense Fund, said at a news con-

ference. "That fear is

magnified when your child's

fits have also been slowed,

with the waiting period now

100 days in Texas. The feder-

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN OIL-

Texas is well known as the

nation's largest oil producer. It

also leads the nation in deaths

related to oil and gas extrac-

tion, according to a report in

the Texas Standard. Between

2014 through 2019, there were

460 deaths in the industry na-

tionwide, and 219 of the fatal-

ities occurred in Texas -

nearly half. That's according to

a recent report from the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and

safety incidents, and we work

toward that every day, but

work in our industry is chal-

lenging and can be dangerous

if proper safety protocols are

not followed," said Stephen

Robertson of the Permian Ba-

award-winning Texas journal-

ist. 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

Gary Borders is a veteran

sin Petroleum Association.

"Our goal is to have zero

Prevention.

al standard is 30 days.

INDUSTRY DEATHS

Eligibility for SNAP bene-

Medicaid case is in limbo."

Those most affected are

"Every parent worries

procedural errors.

After federal regulations

The state is expected to ap-

rary restraining order.

MEDICAID BENEFITS

"Based on evidence and tes-

was overly broad.

U.S. District Judge David

I see yellow buses carrying kids to school and wonder how it is possible that school buses look so much the same, after all these years. I feel the same need for a new pair of shiny shoes. Autumn says that we should be putting on our new, shiny shoes and getting out our freshly sharpened pencils (remember that smell?) and heading off on adventures.

I actually bought new boots this fall. I've never had Dr. Martens and so I got myself a pair. I love them. My husband, Peter, says I look like Frankenstein-but I know he means that in the nicest possible way. With my new Dr. Martens all laced up, I feel as if I should be racing off to catch a yellow bus, or sharpening some pencils, or at least picking out some fancy new notebooks.

But there is no bus to catch, no new class starting. My life—as pleasant as it is remains very much the same, while all around me, the season is signaling that big changes are coming.

I've often envied birds, who have a much busier social calendar than I have ever had. They arrive from who knows where in the spring, scope out the neighborhood build a house, raise a family, leave the neighborhood, and are back on the road by fall, headed off to parts unknown. By comparison—even with the occasional trip to Mexico-my life seems very dull.

Then there are butterflies-who aren't even butterflies until they decide that's what comes next. They build themselves a cocoon and show up, looking like another creature entirely in a few weeks' time. It doesn't seem quite fair, buying a new pair of boots and trying to compete with that kind of transforma-

But although any transformation I attempt will pale beside the butterfly's, I think there might be something hard-wired within me that says in the fall, "Now is the time to get ready!"

"For what?" I can't help but ask. And when I don't come up with a ready answer, I feel frustrated. Surely, I should be busy growing wings or, at the very least, storing up a winter's worth of acorns. Instead, I walk around in my shiny new boots, and I wonder if I shouldn't be doing something different-even if it's less ambitious than learning to fly or stockpiling enough food to live on for six months.

And then I think about that fellow with the cigar and wonder if he isn't on to somethinG.

Because it is going to get colder and certainly less pleasant than it is today. This is as true of autumn as it is of life. Any reasons I might have had for delaying doing things that sound like fun sound pretty foolish in the autumn.

I'm glad I bought those shiny new boots. I don't think I'll take up cigar smoking, but I'm going to try very hard to do something new in the September sunshine, something fun, before it's too latE.

Till next time,

Carrie



SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6

Texas, OU meet in Cotton Bowl for last time as Big 12 foes: Texans look for another road win; Dallas has tough SF

Dak Prescott once again struggled in the Red Zone. The vaunted Dallas defense didn't fare much better as the Cards slashed the Pokes run defense for 222 yards. Things won't get any easier on Sunday night when Dallas has to face a healthy Christian McCaffrey. In the last two years, SF has eliminated Dallas in the playoffs. Perhaps that will be enough motivation for the Cowboys to show up this Sunday.

Week 5 concludes with the surprising Packers visiting Las

In District 14-6A play, Nimitz, which opened league play with a 35-20 win over MacArthur, takes on defending league champion Westfield on Friday evening. Davis, which opened league play with a 56-7 win over Aldine, faces Dekaney on Thursday night, with Aldine facing Spring and Eisenhower taking on MacArthur

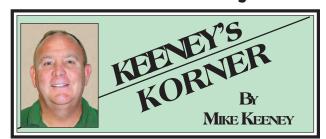
Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 20-18 (53%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL

Davis vs. Dekaney: Kelvin Chatman's Falcons take on Dekaney Thursday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. The Falcons opened District 14-6A play with a 56-7 win over Aldine High two weeks ago. The Falcons will look for another big night from running back Nicholas Tramble (228 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Treveon Bossier (14 receptions, 203 yards, 2 TDs). Dekaney is led by running back Dylan Jones (560 yards, 8 TDs). My pick, Davis 31, Dekaney 27

Nimitz at Westfield:

Cornelius Harmon's Cougars face Westfield in a key league contest on Friday night at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring ISD. The Cougars opened league play with a 35-20 win over MacArthur, while Westfield defeated Spring, 44-27. The Cougars will look for a big game from QB Albert Brown (664 yards, 8 TDs) and



wide receivers Kaden Phillips (10 receptions, 202 yards, 2 TDs) and Ke'lyn Washom (15 receptions, 190 yards, 3 TDs). Westfield is led by QB Taji Atkins (404 rushing yards, 5 TDs). This will be the Cougars first big test this season and if they pull off the upset, they could be the team to beat in District 14-6A My pick, Nimitz 34, Westfield 31

Aldine at Spring: Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs face off against the Spring Lions on Thursday night at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring ISD. Both teams dropped their league openers two weeks ago, with Aldine losing to Davis, while Spring fell to Westfield. The Mustangs are led by running back Rory Hernandez (179 yards, 3 TDs), while Spring is led by running backs Ahran Ogbar (472 yards,) and Delonte Henderson (395 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Spring 26, Aldine 20

Eisenhower vs. MacArthur: Odell James Eagles take on Wayne Crawford's Generals on Friday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. The Eagles dropped a tough 28-19 decision to Dekaney to open league play, while the Generals fell to Nimitz to open their district season. Ike is led by quarterback Jared Guter (416 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Eisenhower 30, MacArthur

NCAA

Oklahoma vs. Texas: The Longhorns and Sooners meet for the final time as Big 12 foes and once again, the State Fair of Texas will be the drop back when these two bitter rivals meet in the Cotton Bowl on Saturday. Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian has his team ranked No. 5 in the nation, while OU

head coach Brent Venables has the Sooners sitting at No. 14 in the land. Last year, OU finished 6-7 and many Sooner fans believed this was a make or break year for Venables. So far, so good in year No. 2. OU won its first four games heading into last Saturday's game against a struggling Iowa State team. The Sooners have gotten solid QB play from Dillon Gabriel (1,227 yards, 12 TDs) and wide receivers Andrel Anthony (21 receptions, 371 yards, 1 TD) and Nic Anderson (8 receptions, 223 yards, 4 TDs). The UT secondary will have to play well to slow down that trio. But UT has some weapons of its own in QB Quinn Ewers (1,033 yards, 9 TDs/0 interceptions), running back Jonathan Brooks (379 yards, 3 TDs), tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders (12 receptions, 268 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Xavier Worthy (19 receptions, 252 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the UT defense to be the difference maker in this one as the 'Horns continue to roll. My pick, Texas 34, Oklahoma 20

Alabama at Texas A&M: This is a big one for Nick Saban and his No. 12-ranked Crimson Tide. Two years ago, 'Bama was upset at Kyle Field 41-38, but Saban rallied his team to a spot in the CFP title game, where it lost to Georgia. This year's team is up and down, but did pick up a big win two weeks ago when it defeated Mississippi 24-10. Alabama has struggled at QB and in the offensive line. Two weeks ago, Saban went back to Jalen Milroe (674 yards, 6 TDs) at QB and he played better in the Ole Miss win. Running back Jase McClellan (263 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Jermaine Burton (8 receptions, 185 yards, 2 TDs) need to have big games against a pretty solid A&M

defense. The Aggies will hope to have starting QB Conner Weigman (979 yards, 8 TDs) back for this game after he sustained an ankle injury two weeks ago in the win over Auburn. Backup Max Johnson stepped up in a big way with 123 yards and 2 TDs, so head coach Jimbo Fisher has a capable backup should Weigman be out. A&M will also look for big days from running back Amari Daniels (234 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Evan Stewart (22 receptions, 307 yards, 3 TDs) and Ainias Smith (18 receptions, 272 vards. This could be Fisher's deepest team in his six years in Aggieland. Look for the Ags to pick up a huge win in the SEC West on Saturday. My pick,

Texas A&M 26, Alabama 24 LSU at Missouri: Brian Kelly takes his No. 13 ranked Tigers to Columbia to take on the surprising No. 23-ranked Missouri Tigers on Saturday. Mizzu won its first four games behind QB Brady Cook (1,073 yards, 7 TDs), running back Cody Schradel (403 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Luther Burden III (32 receptions, 504 yards, 3 TDs). LSU has one of the best dual-threat QBs in Jayden Daniels (1,297 passing vards, 12 TDs/193 rushing vards, 2 TDs). He also has a bigplay wide receiver in Malik Nabors (32 receptions, 523 yards, 5 TDs) and a capable running back in Logan Diggs (253 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Tigers to win this one thanks to its defense and big-play linebacker Harold Perkins (3.5 sacks). My pick, LSU 32, Missouri 23

NFL

Jacksonville at Buffalo: After playing in London the week before, the Jaguars visit Buffalo on Sunday. Two weeks ago, the Jags were upset at home by the Texans, 37-17, while the Bills rolled at Washington, 37-3. The Jags were expected to contend for the AFC title this year, but a 1-2 start has many Jaguars fans scratching their heads and wondering what's gone wrong. QB Trevor Lawrence (736 yards, 3 TDs/2 interceptions) has struggled and must play better if the Jags are going to turn things around. He'll need big days from running back Travis Etienne (205 yards, 1 TDs) and wide receiver

Calvin Ridley (12 receptions, 173 yards, 1 TD). The Jags will have their hands full with the Bills defense, which forced four turnovers and recorded six sacks in the route of the Commanders. Jacksonville's defense will have its hands full with Buffalo QB Josh Allen (728 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (25 receptions, 279 yards, 1 TD). It looks like it will be another long day for the Jags come Sunday. My pick, Buffalo 34, Jacksonville

Baltimore at Pittsburgh: A big one in the AFC North pits the Ravens against the improved Steelers. Two weeks ago, Baltimore lost in OT at home to Indianapolis, while the Steelers gritted out a 23-18 win at Las Vegas. Once again, the Ravens rely way too much on quarterback Lamar Jackson (608 passing yards, 2 TDs/193 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Head coach John Harbaugh needs to get him some other weapons. This week, Jackson will face an improved Pittsburgh defense that likes to bring the heat. On offense, the Steelers have gotten steady play from second-year QB Kenny Pickett (689 yards, 4 TDs) and second-year wide receiver George Pickens (13 receptions, 238 yards, 1 TD). Pittsburgh needs to get its running game going as running back Naji Harris has been inconsistent thus far. This should be a defensive battle, with the Steelers 'D' making one or two more plays than the Ravens. My pick, Pittsburgh 16, Baltimore 13

Houston at Atlanta: The young Texans look for their second straight road win when they visit Atlanta on Sunday. Like Jacksonville, Atlanta will be coming off a trip to London, so fatigue could be a factor for the Falcons. Two weeks ago, in their win at Jacksonville, rookie QB C.J. Stroud (906 yards, 4 TDs/0 interceptions) had another solid game. Rookie WR Tank Dell (15 receptions, 251 yards, 2 TDs) had a big day with five receptions for 145 yards and a TD. Atlanta loves to run the football with rookie RB Bijan Robinson ((213 rushing yards/14 receptions, 103 yards, 1 TD). If the Houston defense can slow down Robinson and force a turnover or two from secondyear QB Desmond Ritter (553 yards, 2 TDs), the Texans just

might pull off another road win. My pick, Houston 23, Atlanta 21

Dallas at San Francisco: The Cowboys heads to San Francisco to take on the 49ers on Sunday Night Football and if their run defense plays like it did against the Cardinals two weeks ago, it could be a long Sunday night for Mike McCarthy's team. In the inexplicable loss to a winless Arizona team, the Dallas run defense allowed 222 rushing yards. If things don't improve by Sunday night, SF running back Christian McCaffrey (353 yards 3 TDs) could have a field day against the Pokes. The Dallas secondary lost its top corner when Traveon Diggs was lost for the season when he suffered an ACL injury at practice two weeks ago. That unit also played poorly in the Arizona loss. If they don't improve, SF QB Brock Purdy (736 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Deebo Samuel (17 receptions, 247 yards, 1 TD) could have big nights. The Dallas offense must produce better in the Red Zone and that falls on QB Dak Prescott (647 yards, 3 TDs). Look for running back Tony Pollard (264 yards, 2 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (19 receptions, 273 yards) to pick up their games in front of a national TV audience, but it won't matter as the SF defense will have the final say in this game. My pick, San Francisco 24, Dallas 20

Week 5 concludes with the Packers visiting the Raiders on Monday Night Football. Two weeks ago, GB QB Jordan Love (655 yards, 7 TDs) led the Packers to an 18-17 win after trailing 17-0 in the fourth quarter. Love ran for a TD and passed for another to lead the Packers to a 2-1 start. Love has found new playmakers at wide receiver in rookie Jayden Reed (9 receptions, 148 yards, 2 TDs) and Romeo Dobbs (11 receptions, 127 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Green Bay offense to continue rolling against a suspect Raider defense. The Raiders will need a big night from QB Jimmy Garoppolo (709 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (25 receptions, 322 yards, 3 TDs). Adams had a huge night in Vegas' 23-18 loss two weeks ago against the Steelers as he grabbed 12 passes for 172 yards and two TDs. My pick, Green Bay 33, Las Vegas 23

Green Bay at Las Vegas:





Houston BARC to empty Shelters; Extend hours to 7pm on two nights

HOUSTON - To provide Houston-area animal lovers more access to visit and meet adoptable pets, BARC, the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, will begin extending adoption hours to 7 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday starting October 4, 2023. During these extended hours, BARC's Rescue and Foster office will remain open to allow potential partners more time for animal pick-up as well.

BARC's adoption center, located at 3300 Carr St., is currently open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. every Tuesday through Sunday. The BARC Houston team will be piloting this extended adoption hour program thanks to the leadership and approval of Mayor Sylvester Turner. To learn more about adopting a shelter pet from BARC, visit houstonbarc.com.

We have received consistent feedback from both potential adopters as well as foster and rescue partners who mention it is sometimes difficult to visit BARC during the week before the facility closes," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "Offering additional hours in the evening will now allow Houstonians with commitments during the day an opportunity to visit the campus and provide pets with better opportunities to find their forever families. I am proud of the team for being proactive and providing the public with even greater access to the facility."

To further help pets find a live outcome, BARC's foster and rescue office will also remain open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning October 4. This will allow anyone with commitments during the day or those traveling from outside the Houston region more valuable time to both meet and pick-up BARC's animals.

BARC continues to offer regular adoption specials and events to help pets find homes. BARC is proud to partner with BISSELL Pet Foundation, a national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending pet homelessness, for its Fall National "Empty the Shelters." From Oct. 1 - 15, thanks to the sponsorship of BIS-SELL Pet Foundation, BARC will be completely waiving adoption fees for all pets.

Learn more about ongoing adoption campaigns and specials at https:// www.houstontx.gov/barc/ adopt_a_pet.html.

BISSELL Pet Foundation's "Empty the Shelters" event is the largest funded adoption event in the country. With a goal of encouraging more families to choose adoption, this lifesaving effort has helped more than 190,000 pets find loving homes since 2016. As BISSELL Pet Foundation's largest program, a total of 687 animal welfare organizations in 49 states and Canada have participated throughout the years. During BISSELL Pet Foundation's "Empty the Shelters" quarterly national events, an average of 1,225 shelter pets are adopted each day.

Live release is a primary objective for the City of Houston's BARC animal shelter. As a publicly funded shelter, BARC has dual missions - protecting the safety of human beings while seeking positive outcomes for animals. BARC is committed to protecting Houstonians from potentially aggressive and dangerous animals in the community—as evidenced by the 48 percent higher intake of strays and animals collected by Animal Enforcement Officers during calls for service last fiscal year. When the pandemic hit, BARC's adoption, foster, and rescue numbers dropped dramatically, and they have remained relatively unchanged since.

"The public has made it clear to the city that there is a stray animal crisis within the community that we must address. At this same time, however, our rescue, adoption, and foster numbers are not increasing. As the number of animals we intake annually increases, and the live outcome remains the same, the live release rate has ultimately decreased," said Greg Damianoff, BARC's shelter director. "Despite the decrease in outcomes, BARC's team still achieved an 81% live release rate in Fiscal Year 2023, which is comparable to other major Texas cities. BARC has had consistently higher live release rates during Mayor Turner's administration than during any administration in the City of Houston's recorded history."

County approves Budget,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; \$17M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PATROL & ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING SALARY INCREASES & INCIDENT RESPONSE FUNDING

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY ENGINEERING; \$20M INCREASE

\$3.7M

FROM FY 2023

FOR NEWLY CREATED CRIMINAL COURTS INCLUDING MORE STAFFING, EQUIPMENT, & SUPPLIES

FOR HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL; \$14M INCREASE **FROM FY 2023**

INCREASE TO HARRIS HEALTH TO PROVIDE BASIC HEALTH & EMERGENCY CARE TO A GROWING POPULATION

\$42M

FOR PRECINCT 2 NEIGHBORHOOD, INFRASTRUCTURE, & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS; \$5M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

\$383K

TO IMPROVE PROGRAMMING FOR SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ing, and jobs, and the advancement of fair and free elections," Ellis said in a statement.

Ellis is temporarily presiding over Commissioners Court while County Judge Lina Hidalgo is on an extended medical leave. Hidalgo is expected to return to work full time on

Oct. 2. The meeting was notably amiable, particularly compared to last year's partisan budget showdown over allegations that the Democrat-controlled court was "defunding" law enforcement.

On Tuesday, Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, the lone Republican on the court, struck a conciliatory tone, praising the budget office, law enforcement allocations and even his colleagues on the court. "I want credit where

credit is due," Ramsey said. "We focused on what was important to the people of Harris County." Garcia and Precinct 4

Commissioner Lesley Briones said they appreciated Ramsey's leadership.

Ellis held back from complimenting Ramsey, joking that he wasn't sure whether praise from him "would help you or not."

Ramsey has indicated he would support a tax rate increase for the Harris County Flood Control District next year.

"The number of bayous and drainage ditches and culverts that we have to maintain in the county, that's not sustainable in

terms of how much we currently fund it," Ramsey

The state limits how much Commissioners Court can increase tax rates without seeking voter approval. Ramsey said he would like to ask voters for a substantial increase.

"What I'm advocating is that we increase the amount that flood control gets every year much more," Ramsey said.

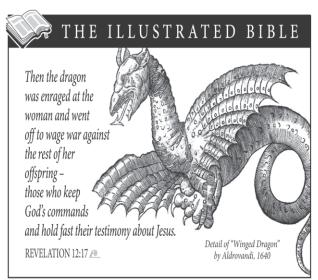
Ellis took a shot at those state-imposed limits on Tuesday. While he called the newly approved budget a "step in the right direction," he said "progress was made despite Austin politicians slashing vital services by restricting our ability to fund county government adequately."

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Malachi (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. What color is the great throne on which God sits while passing final judgment? Gold, Silver, Purple, White
- 3. In II Timothy 3, all scripture is given by the of God. Blessing, Reproof, Willingness, Inspiration



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4. According to Paul, who pretends as an angel of light? The unholy, Satan, Herod, The wicked 5. Which epistle warns against patronizing prostitutes? Luke, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians

6. "What" of the spirit is the word of God? Sword, Praise, Love, Lamp

ANSWERS: 1. Old, 2. White, 3. Inspiration, 4. Satan, 5. 1 Corinthians, Sword Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



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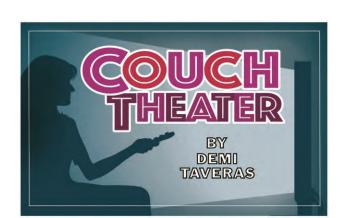
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From left, Alden Ehrenreich and Phoebe Dynevor star in "Fair Play."

"Fair Play"

"Fair Play" (R) — "Bridgerton's" Phoebe Dynevor and "Oppenheimer's" Alden Ehrenreich lead this sexv thriller that premieres on Oct. 6. Dynevor and Ehrenreich respectively play Emily and Luke, a newly engaged couple who also work at the same hedge fund firm together. The two decide to keep their relationship under wraps from the office, but when a better position at the firm unexpectedly opens up, their passionate relationship gets put to the test. With both feeling qualified, but only one receiving the promotion, Emily and Luke's relationship enters a new power dynamic that just might cause them to unravel. (Netflix)

"Haunted Mansion" (PG-13) — Even a cast filled with stars new and

old couldn't save this film from bombing at the box office (\$109.7 million gross after a \$150 million budget). Based on the Disney Parks attraction, Rosario Dawson ("Clerks 3") plays widowed mother Gabbie, who moves into Gracey Manor with her son, Travis. They soon learn the mansion is haunted and are forced to stay inside until their curse is lifted. Through the help of Father Kent (Owen Wilson) and his convenient connections, they're able to assemble a dream team so they can escape Gracey Manor. Tiffany Haddish, Danny DeVito and Jamie Lee Curtis star in this spooky comedy, and Winona Ryder even makes an uncredited appearance. Out

"The Boogevman" (PG-13) — Hulu begins its annual Huluween

on Oct. 4. (Disney+)

event with plain ol' jump-out-of-your-skin horror. And who does that kind of horror better than Stephen King? Based on King's short story written in 1973, this film follows two grieving sisters, Sadie and Sawyer, after the sudden death of their mother. After a disturbed man is killed inside their home, Sawyer starts seeing glimpses of a demonic entity. Feeding off fear, this entity continues to grow in strength, and it's up to Sadie, Sawyer and their father to ward the creature off. Premieres Oct. 5. (Hulu)

"Make Me Scream" (NR) — In this TV special premiering Oct. 3, Tempestt Bledsoe ("The Cosby Show") and Darryl M. Bell ("A Different World") host a competition that is utterly terrifying — for the contestants, that is, not the viewers. Three celebrity teams compete against each other by entering into a few scare zones. The object of the game is simple: Don't scream. The more you scream, the higher your score is. The team with the lowest score at the end of the competition

takes home the Medal of

Mayhem. Jaleel White

("Family Matters"), Sho-

niqua Shandai ("Har-

lem") and rapper Lil Xan

all lead their own celeb-

rity team. Grab some

popcorn, put your feet up

and get ready for some

serious laughs. (Amazon

Prime Video)

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by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Taylor Swift keeps breaking records. Not only has she become the first performer to gross more than \$1 billion in ticket sales in her recent tour, her movie "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" opens in theaters on Oct. 13. Tickets are priced at \$19.89 for adults and \$13.13 for children. The previous first-day record holder for ticket sales was \$16.9 million, and with AMC's highly aggressive measures, her film will no doubt break records even before it hits theaters. After earning \$92 million in 2022, a fraction of what Swift will make for 2023, it'll push her \$740 million net worth over the top. No doubt she's a "Taylor made" billionaire!

"Priscilla's revenge" is the new nickname for Sofia Coppola's biopic of Priscilla Presley, as it is somewhat of a rebuttal to Baz Lurhmann's "Elvis" (\$288.7 million gross and eight Oscar nominations, including one for its Elvis, Austin Butler). The Venice Film Festival audience afforded a tremendous ovation for "Priscilla." In a Venice news conference, Priscilla even took the mic to say, "It's very difficult to sit and watch a film about you and about your life and about your love. I think Sofia did an amazing job."

She also expanded on how "Priscilla" tells her side of the story. "It was very difficult for my parents to understand that Elvis would be so interested in me and why. And I really do think [it was] because I was more of a listener," she explained. "Elvis would pour his heart out to me in every way in Germany: his fears, his hopes, the loss of his mother, which he never got over. That was really our connection. People think, 'Oh, it was sex.' Not at all. I never had sex with him [then]. He was very kind, very soft, very loving, but he also respected the fact I was only 14 years old. We were more in mind, in thought, and that was our relationship."

In addition, the Venice Film Festi-

ACROSS Sketch Shock partner

Verdi heroine 12 Ms. McEntire 13 Scale note 14 Mosque VIP Shakespeare title starter

16 Centennial

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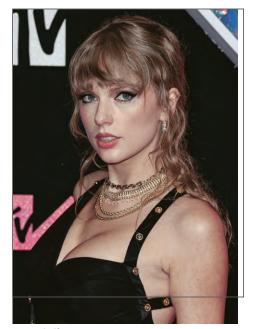
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Taylor Swift

val gave rave reviews to Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla and "Euphoria" star Jacob Elordi as Elvis. This has elevated Elordi to the status of a sex symbol, as mobs of girls went wild outside the festival screaming "Jacob, Jacob, Jacob" desperately. Judge "Priscilla" for yourself when it opens in theaters on Nov. 3.

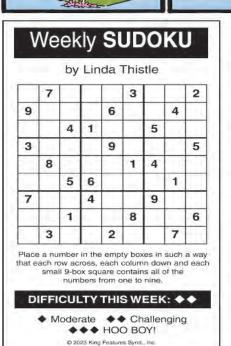
Woody Allen's newest and, perhaps, last film, "Coup de Chance," received a 5-minute ovation at the Venice Film Festival. Filmed in the French language, and also in France, it opens there on Sept. 27, but they haven't yet set a date in the United States. Protesters stood outside shouting "no rape culture," and "A rapist is not a sick man; he is the healthy son of patriarchy." The day before, banners read "Island of rapists" and "No Golden Lion for predators," referring to Allen and Roman Polanski, whose movie "The Palace" was up for a top prize. Sad that such giant creative talents have been marred by controver-

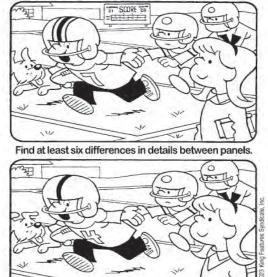
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October 2, 2023 Posting Date

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps WHEN I SAID TO GO OUTSIDE I DID NOT MEAN TO SIT ON YOUR PHONE. THAT KID DOESN'T GET IT. I THINK HE'S ADDICTED TO THAT DUMB THING. by BUD BLAKE JUST TETHIS STRING AROUND YOUR FINGER TO KEEP ME FROM FORGETTING WHATSA SOMETHING The Spats by Jeff Pickering ONLY WHEN I I MISS YOU. YOUR WAY





HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF





Solution time: 23 mins. SIƏMSUY King Crossword

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36 "Selma" director

DuVernay 37 Fitzgerald title character

39 Wear down 40 Garbage barge

Morse 42 Yankee nickname

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44 Wheeling's river

45 Bakery buy

46 Hunt for 48 Sternward

1. TELEVISION: How many noble houses are mentioned in "Game of Thrones"? 2. MOVIES: What is the name of the high

school in the musical film "Grease"? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which southeast Asian country's monetary unit is the ringgit?

4. MUSIC: The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin" is from which musical?

5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to be impeached?

6. ANATOMY: What is considered the "master gland" of the human body? 7. PHYSICS: What does a newton measure?

8. HISTORY: Which founding father wanted the turkey to be the national symbol of America rather than the eagle? 9. SCIENCE: What is studied in mycology? 10. U.S. STATES: What is Alaska's state ani-

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National NIght Out celebrated in 3 venues in the Aldine area

East Aldine residents and families will have their choice of several different National Night Out celebrations this year on Tuesday night, October 3rd.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places

East Aldine District is holding their event at the Town Center Amphitheatre on Aldine Mail Route, from 6pm to 9pm. In addition to public safety officers, it will have family-friendly games, prizes, food, and music.

Precinct 2 is holding their event at several community centers, including the Northeast center, or Almendarez Community Center.

The North Houston District will hold their annual NNO at Wussow Center on Greens Road. Family-friendly National Night Out event planned for North Houston District on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at Wussow Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WHAT: The North Houston District will bring together area residents, local law enforcement, businesses, military members, and community sponsors for its 2023 National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 3 at Thomas R. Wussow Park. Several activities are planned over the course of the three-hour event, including a "friendly" tug of war competition featuring the Houston Police Department versus Harris County Sheriff's Office, live performances, a dance competition between law enforcement agencies, a K9 Officer demonstration, and giveaways

including tablets, gift cards, gaming systems and TVs near the end of the event. Other fun and family-friendly plans in-

--Free Rudy's BBQ Sponsored by Ama-

--Harris County Sheriff's Office helicopter, High Water Rescue Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Bomb Squad

--Houston Police Department Mounted Patrol

- --Bounce houses --Cooling center
- -- Costumed characters, including Chick-fil-A Cow
 - --DJ with dancing
 - -- Face painting
 - --Photobooth
 - --Snacks, snow cones, and refreshments --Train rides

WHO: Participants will include area residents, local law enforcement, businesses and community partners, and elected

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 5 p.m. -8 p.m. Although National Night Out is celebrated in August in most parts of the country, it is scheduled in October in Texas to take advantage of more moderate weather.

WHERE: Thomas R. Wussow Park, 500 Greens Rd. (Near I-45 North & North Sam Houston Parkway/Beltway)

WHY: Public safety is a priority in the North Houston District. The NHD National Night Out celebration is one of the largest NNO events in Houston.

COST: The event is free and open to the



Lone Star College opens its doors to **Art Institute of Houston students**

 $HOUSTON\,(Sept.\,29,2023)-Lone\,Star$ College offers many academic and workforce programs with important resources to help students affected by the Art Institute of Houston's recent closure.

"Lone Star College is here to help students finish what they started, a college education," said Dwight L. Smith, III, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor Academic and Workforce Success. "Individuals can rest assured that our accredited programs will train them to enter their chosen industry or put them on the path toward a fouryear degree."

LSC offers the following programs that could interest students who attended the Art Institute of Houston. They can also visit LoneStar.edu/Art-Institute-Transfers for a list of all services available to

- •Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Program in Energy, Manufacturing and Trades Management
 - Fine Arts
- Game Design and Simulation Design-
- · Game Design and Simulation Designer-Programmer
 - •Live Entertainment Technology •Visual Communication
 - Mobile/Web Application Development

LSC also offers the following programs designed for transfer to a four-year university.

- Associate of Arts
- Associate of Science



Art Institute of Houston students can also view a list of all Lone Star College's current Programs of at LoneStar.edu/Programs.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing highquality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area. LSC has been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in TexasTM. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

Lone Star College Police Department earns prestigious accreditation



The Lone Star College Police Department earned the International Law Enforcement Accreditation through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Pictured (left to right) are Michigan State University Chief Marlon Lynch, Chairperson of the 2023 Commission; Ms. Deetra Spann, LSC PD Accreditation Assistant; Captain Mark Pemberton, LSC PD Accreditation Manager; Paul Willingham, LSC Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Public Safety and Chief of Police and W. Craig

