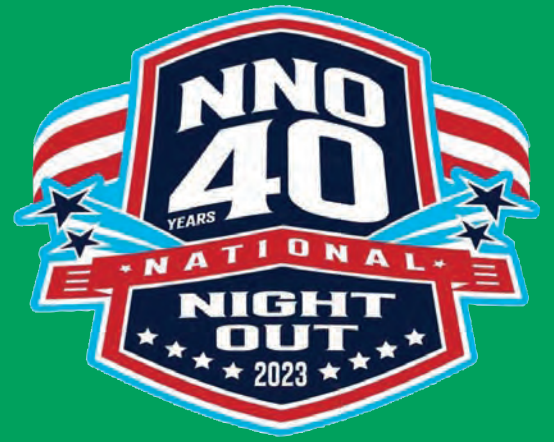


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NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years
VOL. 47, NO. 37 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

East Aldine enjoys a wet National Night Out

Rainy weather cancels NNO in North Houston; East Aldine moves inside

AISD School Board Candidates Forum Oct. 12

BakerRipley and Green Forest Civic Club are co-hosting an ALDINE ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES' FORUM Thursday evening OCTOBER 12 from 6pm to 7:30pm 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 additional information. Marina Sugg, VP, GFCC, greenforestcc1983@gmail.com

Senator Carol Alvarado's State of the District Oct. 14

State Senator Carol Alvarado, TX District 6, will present a State of the District report, or 88th Legislative Session Wrap Up, at two occasions on Saturday, Oct. 14.

9:30am-11:30am at East Aldine Building
12:30pm-2:30pm at Harris County Dept. of Education, 6300 Irvington.

Discussion of priorities, accomplishments, and new legislation, including Special Session #3 which starts Monday, Oct. 9. Public invited. Info 713-926-6257.

EAST ALDINE – Everyone in the community was looking forward to the National Night Out festivities last Tuesday evening, and a little rain didn't stop the activities. But some of the events moved into the East Aldine building that would have been outside otherwise.

Some rain and threat of more caused the North Houston District to cancel their NNO event since most of it was planned outdoors. Northeast CC continued with their event.

Traditionally National Night Out is when neighbors and first responders such as the fire departments, EMS, and Sheriff's deputies meet and get to know each other in a friendly social atmosphere. The public turned out in Aldine, as well as Civic Clubs, Senior Citizens groups, and others.

Nationally, this was the 40th Anniversary of the NNO event. Although it is usually celebrated in August around the country, in Texas the Event occurs on October 3rd due to cooler evenings (and sometimes no rain!)

The event was well attended, with games, food from Chick-fil-A, prizes, music and dancing, and displays from several organizations in the community.

Continued. See Page 5 for more NNO Photos.



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez had more fun than even the little ones.



Marina Sugg thanked Chick-fil-A for providing food and fun for the Green Forest CC and everyone.



Westfield Fire Department had their equipment on display, in spite of a little rain during the evening.



Lots of Dancing during the evening, including the Deputies.



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez had a good time with the Explorers group.



Westfield Fire Department vs. Harris County Sheriff's Deputies for a lively Tug-of-War



Live Music filled the room.

Aldine ISD defers action on controversial Upchurch property

Multiple Protests at Board Meeting draw no response; Community speaks out: "Save Pawpaw's House"

By David Taylor Northeast News

The Aldine ISD school board got an earful at their last board meeting during public comments from members of the community urging them to stop the eminent domain action taking 78-year-old Travis Upchurch from his life-long home.

At the June 14, 2022 board meeting, the Aldine ISD board of trustees approved plans to build a state-of-the-art stadium facility that, according to the district, would meet established safety standards as well as create an enhanced experience for student-athletes, parents, spectators, and other members of the community.

None of the comments made at the meeting were tied to any official action taken by the board at the September meeting.

For almost 30 minutes, leaders in the community and residents pleaded with board members who many of them believe made their decision based on incomplete information. One by one, they lined up to share their dismay with the board.

"I can say, for the first time that I'm ashamed to be an Aldine ISD alumnus,



Aldine resident Ruben Salazar, in person and on TV monitor, speaks to the Aldine ISD board in defense of Upchurch family's homestead.

and y'all should be ashamed here as well," said Ruben Salazar, president of the East Aldine Civic Association.

Salazar appeared before the board to demand the immediate stop of the "egregious use of eminent domain."

"We stand in solidarity with the Up-

Continued. See UPCHURCH PROPERTY CONTROVERSY, Page 7

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 7

Aggies face big test at Tennessee: Texans look for another home win, against Saints

Houston had one heck of a day two weeks ago. The Astros completed a sweep of the Arizona Diamondbacks and thanks to Seattle's 1-0 win over the Texas Rangers on that same day, Houston's Local Nine wrapped up the American League West Division. It was a great road trip for Dusty Baker's team as they won five of their last six games to win their third straight division crown.

While the Astros were doing their thing in the desert, the Houston Texans were overwhelming the Pittsburgh Steelers at NRG Stadium, 30-6, on the day the team inducted star defensive end J.J. Watt into its Ring of Honor.

Let's hope the Astros have one more run in them as they look to win a second straight World Series title. It won't be easy, but at least we get to enjoy the ride.

The Texans have been one of the surprise teams thus far in the NFL. After losing their first two games, DeMeco Ryan's team has run off two convincing victories (37-17 at Jacksonville and 30-6 at home against the



Steelers).

This Sunday, Houston hosts New Orleans at noon in NRG Stadium. The Saints are struggling on offense as former Raider Derek Carr is the new man under center. NO did get back all-purpose running back Alvin Kamara after he served a three-game suspension, which should help Carr and the offense. The Texans have received stellar play from rookie QB C.J. Stroud, who in his first four games as a pro has yet to throw an interception, while tossing six touchdown passes.

Other interesting games on tap in the NFL this weekend have the Detroit Lions visiting the surprising Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Two weeks ago, Detroit dominated the Packers in Green Bay and left with a 34-20

win, while the Bucs won at New Orleans, 26-9 to take over sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

The Cowboys rebounded from their embarrassing loss at Arizona in Week 3 with a 38-3 stomping of the New England Patriots, handing head coach Bill Belichick his worst loss as an NFL head coach. This week, the Cowboys travel to Los Angeles to take on the Chargers on Monday Night Football.

In the college game, Jimbo Fisher and his Texas A&M Aggies face a tough road test when they take on Tennessee in Knoxville. This will be a good test for the Aggies who looked solid

CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 5

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Husband wanted, after shooting wife more than 10 times on Pine Park Drive

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – The Harris County Sheriff's Office said they're looking for a man accused of shooting his wife several times and killing her in north Harris County on Sunday.



Husband Ever Navarrete

Deputies were dispatched around 12 a.m. to the 5600 block of Pine Park Drive regarding the shooting.

When they arrived, they discovered a 48-year-old woman, whom deputies identified as Carly Navarrete, had been shot several times.

Carly was getting divorced from her hus-

band, Ever Navarrete, 55, and she had moved to the address where the incident happened.

Authorities said her husband found her new home, confronted her, and shot at her more than 10 times. He then fled the area in a 2002 white GMC Sierra pick-

up truck with the following Texas license plate: PBV-3006.

Deputies said Carly was later taken to the hospital where she later died.

The sheriff's office said Ever has been charged with murder and remains on the run.

If you have seen Ever Navarrete, you should call the sheriff's office at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477.

Authorities are hoping to speak to more witnesses and continue their investigation.

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 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 by artisans.

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. 9, 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.

TEENS MAKE IT! - UPCYCLED CDS

Teens Make It! is a monthly maker program for teens ages 13-18. This month, **Monday, Oct. 9 at 3:30pm**, we'll be making something new from something old by reusing old CDs to create artistic wall hangings, coasters, suncatchers and more. The only limit is your creativity! (And even if you're not creative, we'll have premade templates for you!) Join us for this super simple and easy to do craft. All materials are generously provided by FABLE (Friends of the Aldine Branch Library Extraordinaire!).

BILINGUAL STORY TIME/TIEMPO 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 sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

ENGLISH COMPUTER CLASS BASICS

*Important- Instruction is in English.

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

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

Learn computer basics by practicing on our PC's with Instructor Nyla! We will learn about using web browsers, google apps, Microsoft suite, keeping your information safe online, and MUCH more! Join us for a weekly class on Tuesdays! **Tuesday, Oct. 10, 11:30am - 12:30pm.**

Apprenda Computers & Tech

Limited space/ Espacio limitado
 Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

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

Nivel -1 Habilidades Esenciales-

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

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

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. 11, 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. 12, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

APPRENDIA COMPUTERS & TECH

Limited space/ Espacio limitado
 Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

Nivel 2- Intermedio-Jueves- 5:00 a 6:45 PM:

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

Importante:

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

* requerirá una cuenta de [google.com](https://www.google.com) y [outlook.com](https://www.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

Slime Day

Let's get creative! This is a special afternoon Thursday kids craft at Aldine! **Thursday, Oct. 12 at 2pm and 2:40pm.**

This week we're having multiple sessions for slime, please double check the calendar!

Session 1: 2 p.m. - limit 10 children

Session 2: 2:40 pm. - limit 10 children

This program is appropriate for children ages 5+ or Kinder to 12th grade.

Tickets are required to participate. We will hand out tickets for children and or parents the day

of the program. (Don't forget, this is a great opportunity for kids to work on essential life skills like sharing, reading instructions, cutting, gluing, and working in a group.)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Are you learning to speak English as a second (or third or fourth, etc.) language and would like to practice speaking in a casual, low-stress environment? Join us for Coffee & Conversation where you can have conversations with native English speakers as we do fun activities. **Saturday Oct. 14 and Oct. 28 at 2pm.**

TEEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Do you need volunteer hours for school or scholarships? Do you want to gain work experience, but aren't sure where to start? Volunteer at the Aldine Branch Library. Teens older than 15 who have parent permission are welcome to join us for one of our mandatory volunteer orientations. **Saturday, Oct. 14, 2:30pm - 4pm.** During this orientation, you'll learn how to work side by side with library staff to provide exceptional service to the Aldine community.

You only need to attend one of these sessions.

Apply today by filling out a volunteer application in person or online at hclpl.net/get-involved.

Please note: this orientation is only for teens ages 15-18 who want to volunteer at Aldine Branch Library (11331 Airline Dr, Houston TX 77037).

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

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

PASSPORT SERVICES

Do you 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
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WIN FREE TICKETS to Texas Renaissance Festival

Send us a Photo of You, reading the NORTHEAST NEWS.
 (Be sure the front page shows.)
 We are holding a drawing for 4 FREE TICKETS to the TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANY WEEKEND THRU NOV. 26

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CONGRATULATIONS To Vilma Nolasco 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.

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Message From the Superintendent, October 3, 2023



Dear Aldine Community,
 October is here! The weeks are flying by quickly, and as I visit schools, students are engaged and learning, and schools are celebrating the progress made. It brings me joy to see all the great opportunities our students have. Everyone is bustling between classrooms full of student learning, meetings, initiatives, and student games and contests. It is just the way I like it.

It takes great leaders to make things happen for our students each and every day. Leaders guide and inspire staff to meet the district's goals. During School Principals Month in October, please take a moment to thank school principals for their dedication and commitment to our students. We will also observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month by showing our support for those fighting the disease and the survivors by wearing pink every Wednesday in October.

We have a little over a month before Election Day in November. We have been holding Bond 2023 Community Meetings to ensure you have all the information and to give you a chance to ask us questions. This is your opportunity to learn the details of three propositions in the Bond 2023 package totaling \$1.8 billion. This week, we will hold three meetings — Oct. 2, Oct. 4, and Oct. 5. Details for the meetings are within this issue. Join us to discover how the three propositions will allow the district to fulfill our vision for our students to continue moving forward and be future-ready.

I encourage you to read the issue to be aware of the tax rate passed, discover upcoming events such as College Night, the Transition Expo for families of students with disabilities, a Day of Learning explicitly geared for families with students with dyslexia and read about a couple of students in our aviation program!

I look forward to seeing you at our Bond Community Meetings.
 With Aldine Pride!

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendent of Schools, Aldine ISD

Aldine ISD To Host Third Annual Fall Family Conference



On Saturday, Oct. 21, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department will host its third annual Fall Family Conference at Davis High School. This is an opportunity for Aldine's parents to learn about various student and family programs offered by the district.

There will be multiple breakout sessions held between 9 a.m. and noon. Families will be given brochures to view all of the sessions that are of interest to them, and they will be able to choose which sessions to attend. Some of the session topics include choice schools in Aldine, college scholarships for students within the district and mental health, which was the most popular topic at last year's conference. to support learning at home and college and career preparation.

Sessions will be held in various classrooms, and the event will feature several community partners who will be available to share information and resources about their organizations.

- Empowerment Session 1: 9:15 am-10:00 am
- Empowerment Session 2: 10:10 am -10:55 am
- Community Partner Exhibits: 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

Aldine ISD and FACE are committed to finding ways to provide information and resources to families. Come out at 9 a.m. on Oct. 21, and learn more about the programs that are offered at Aldine ISD. There will also be complimentary snacks for all guests.

Families that attend at least one empowerment session and visit with community partners will receive a special gift, while supplies last.



Proposition A: Improving Technology Infrastructure Projects

Aldine Independent School District (AISD) is committed to providing choices and opportunities for our students and staff. Proposition A provides for the technology and infrastructure that can support the evolving needs of our community.

Wireless Network Upgrades: One of the critical areas of focus under Proposition A is enhancing the district's wireless network system. The upgrades will ensure that every classroom has robust Wi-Fi. Why is this important? Wireless technology allows for connectivity to reach all the way to students' devices, enabling the rich digital learning that can transform our education system. Technology is advancing rapidly, and it's realistic to aim for upgrades every five years so that our students are utilizing the most current tools to learn. With a growing number of electronic devices, computers, and other devices requiring wireless bandwidth, a reliable and high-speed network to support them.

Upgrading Network Switches: Our current network switches are between 6 and 8 years old and must be upgraded to support the new access points and provide faster bandwidth. Switches are the key building blocks for any network. They connect multiple devices, such as computers, wireless access points, printers, and servers, on the same network within a building or campus. This is vital given the sheer number of students and staff we serve – nearly 58,000 students and 9,000 staff members will benefit from these improvements.

Enhanced Security: Improving our wireless network with Wi-Fi 6 technology is about speed and security. This upgrade will bolster the security of our network, ensuring the safety and privacy of our students and staff.

AISD's Chief Information Officer, Adam Galvan, emphasizes the benefits of these upgrades, stating, "Students will be able to collaborate on newer devices over Wi-Fi, take advantage of self-paced learning, and experience fewer issues with virtual learning. It will also lead to greater streaming services for all."

What You Need to Know About Voting in the November 2023 Election

The last day to register to vote is Tues., Oct. 10. Early voting runs from Oct. 23 through Nov. 3; Election Day is Nov. 7.

Early voting starts in just a few weeks for the upcoming election on Nov. 7. The last day to register to vote is Oct. 10. One of the items on the ballot is Aldine ISD's Bond 2023.

A 58-member Long-Range Planning Committee met multiple times to study and prioritize potential bond projects. The Committee consisted of parents, community members, district staff, senior citizens, and business/community leaders. This group presented a recommendation to the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees. After careful review and deliberation, the Trustees voted to approve a bond proposal in the amount of \$1.8 billion. This bond is largely their recommendation. Click here to learn more about Bond 2023.

Here are important dates and information to know if you plan on voting this election season.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

When is the last day to register?

Oct. 10 is the last day to register to vote.

Who can register?

You can vote if you are: A U.S. citizen.

A resident of the county where you're registering.

18 years or older on Election Day.

Not a convicted felon

Where can I register to vote?

Most people can't register to vote online — but you can print out a voter registration application on the Secretary of State's website. You can request a County Registration Form online if you live in Harris County through the Harris County Clerk's Office.

You can mail the application to your local county voter registration official, and it must be

postmarked by Oct. 10, the registration deadline. You can also drop off your application in person by Oct. 10.

If you renew your driver's license before Oct. 10, you can register to vote online through the Texas Department of Public Safety.

How can I check my voter registration status?

You may already be registered to vote with a driver's license. Check your voter registration status on the Secretary of State's My Voter Portal using your driver's license number, your unique voter identifier number, or your name, county, and date of birth. Harris County residents can also check their voter registration status through the Harris County Clerk's Office.

How can I update my voter registration?

If your name or address has changed since the last election, you can freely update your registration through the Secretary of State's online portal.

VOTING BY MAIL

When is the last day to apply to vote by mail?

The last day to apply for a mail-in ballot is Oct. 27.

If you're mailing your application back, county election officials must receive it by Oct. 27.

Who can vote by mail?

You may qualify to vote by mail if you are: 65 years or older. Sick or disabled.

Out of the county on Election Day and during the early voting period.

You are expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.

Confined in jail but otherwise eligible.

How do I apply to vote by mail in Texas?

You can print the mail-in ballot application PDF or order an application online through the Secretary of State's website.

Complete Sections 1-4 on the application, then sign and date Section 5. If another person helped you with your application, you must complete Section 6.

If you printed the application, place it in your envelope and add postage.

If you ordered the application online and it was mailed to you, fold it in half, seal it, and add postage.

Address and mail the application to the early voting clerk in your county. You can find the address on your county's elections department website.

When is the last day to submit a mail-in ballot?

If the Mail-in Ballot is Not in a Postmarked Envelope: Election officials must receive mail-in ballots on Election Day, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m.

If the Envelope is Postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day: It must be received by Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.

VOTING IN PERSON Does Texas require an ID to vote?

Yes. Make sure to bring one of the following acceptable forms of photo ID to vote:

- Texas driver's license
- Texas election identification certificate
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas handgun license
- U.S. military identification card with your photo
- U.S. citizenship certificate with your photo
- U.S. passport, either book or card

Where can I vote?


Many counties in Texas have opted for county-wide voting, meaning registered voters can go to any polling location within the county where they're registered. You can find your polling site on the My Voter Portal.

When can I vote?

You can vote early in-person from Oct. 23 through Nov. 3 during early voting and on Election Day.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
State Sen. Borris Miles



The Problem with School Vouchers

Once again, the Texas leadership is trying to divert taxpayer dollars for public education to private schools. They are calling it “school choice,” but it is really another voucher program that the Legislature has rejected for nearly two decades. I have always and will continue to oppose school vouchers and advocate for fully funding our public education system, which includes increasing the basic allotment per student for public education and teacher pay raises.

Historically, vouchers and private schools were utilized to sidestep the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1954 order to integrate public education. Many fear that taxpayer-funded vouchers may become the catalyst for the state of Texas to revisit that dark history. Additionally, there are several issues and concerns that families who reside within historically underserved communities face that make vouchers dangerous to neighborhood schools.

Taxpayer-funded vouchers will not be accessible to the majority of poor and middle-class students and families. Private schools have no legal requirement or obligation to enroll any student, including a student with a taxpayer-funded voucher. Admission choices will belong solely to these schools, not the parents. For example, private schools typically do not admit students with special education needs because they are not prepared to provide those essential and vital services.

Private schools will not be affordable to the majority of poor to middle-class students and their families, even with vouchers. Tuition at many private schools in Houston can often be as high as \$30,000 per year. If a taxpayer-funded voucher is valued at \$8,000 to \$10,000, how does that affect the school choice opportunity for a student from a poor or middle-income working-class family?

Taxpayer-funded vouchers will take tax dollars from everyone’s underfunded public school. The reality is that the vast majority of Texas students will remain in public schools, where the per-student funding is already more than \$4,000 below the national average. Within a few years, as much as \$1 billion could likely be diverted from our public schools.

Providing a high-quality public education should always be a priority in a state as large and diverse as Texas. At times, that task may be challenging. But as leaders, we must stay committed to providing quality, affordable and sustainable public education options for all Texans, especially those with modest means who may not have any other options.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Texas State Senator for District 13. If you need assistance navigating the local, state, or federal agencies of government, do not hesitate to contact one of my offices. We are here to serve you!

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight!
Borris L. Miles
Texas State Senator
District 13

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



State Fair Season

The calendar, and the quality of the air we breathe, insist it’s state fair season. The competition is great to watch, no matter what it is. You know, like trying to knock down a pile of cinder blocks with a ping pong ball at 50 feet.

But there is also love and devotion and great pride and tremendous work on display there. With the kids and their prize animals.

Over the years I’ve interviewed a ton of these kids for whichever newspaper I was working for, and it’s never ceased to amaze me. You give a kid a calf, or help him or her work to earn one, and then the work begins. There’s the brushing and polishing, and feeding scientifically to bring out the best in the animal’s conformation. And a kid must halter break the calf, which isn’t easy at all, so that 700 pounds of beef follows you around on a leash.

And the kid gives hugs and snuggles from the growing calf, and gets them back in spades. That’s the part I don’t understand. You see, if the calf and the kid have worked together well enough over the past season, the calf will bring big bucks to the owner at the big sale. Restaurant chains pay premium dollars to say their Flamo Burgers are made from prize-winning cattle.

So the kid and the calf are separated for good, one going on to college more affordably now, and the other to the Flamo Burger factory.

And there are tears, of course, and deep questions to be asked, but the bottom line is that a beef in great condition can pay for a lot of tuition.

Here’s a little something we can do to help:
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/online-ways-you-can-help-those-affected-by-the-lahaina-fire>



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

My Story

I’ve been thinking about forgiveness.

A lot has been said on the subject by people a lot smarter than I, so I don’t have anything valuable to add to the discussion at large, but I’ve been thinking of how it affects me, and what a powerful thing it is.

I’ve had very little to forgive compared to most people. People have always been kind to me. I am always astonished by how kind people have been—for no reason. As a young person, I received help and advice from strangers at every turn.

As I got older, I lived in different places and continued to meet a wide variety of people from different cultures, with different experiences, and time after time, people were kind to me when they had no reason to be. They were kind because it was who they were.

But very occasionally, I’ve been treated poorly. It usually takes me a long time to even realize it. I always assume I have made some dreadful mistake and, as soon as that is cleared up, their behavior will change.

When it turns out I am wrong—that no change on my part will change them in the slightest way—then I tend to get very hurt. Probably because I am so spoiled by the kindness of others, this less-than-charitable behavior strikes me to the core.

A few months back, I wrote a column about a friend who hurt my feelings. He had written a long essay and quoted my column about finding beauty in unexpected places. He accused me of being an idealist, someone who would rationalize mass shootings and natural disasters. He said I’d go “looking for a pony in a pile of horse poop.” He urged his readers not to be like me. It made me feel awful.

I wondered what I had done to cause him to write such a mean-spirited thing about me, and (as usual) I got very hurt.

But then I did something new. I gathered those feelings, and I did something with them. I took his point of view, and I wrote a story about a man who believed as my friend did. I tried to imagine what might happen to that man that could cause him to change his mind.

Writing that story put me inside this friend’s head in a way I had never been before. He annoyed me, but he also touched me, and I came to appreciate him in a new way—even if he was only a fictional character.

And this is my new idea about forgiveness.

Sometimes—most of the time—I can never know what causes people to say hurtful things. I don’t know why friends betray me or strangers curse at me on the street. These things have happened and will probably happen again.

My new idea is to make up a story.

My story will give that person a reason to be so hurt or angry that they would do these things. My story will help me to empathize with them, even though I know my story is fiction. Because even without a made-up story, I will make assumptions about why that person was unkind, and those assumptions will almost certainly be fiction—I will just imagine they are true. So I might as well make up a better story, a more compassionate story.

Yesterday, I wrote a note to this friend who had been unkind. I thanked him for the inspiration. He had no recollection of what he had written.

And that might just be the best part of the story. Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Texas employment at historic high, but joblessness rate is up

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT AT HISTORIC HIGH, BUT JOBLESS RATE IS UP

For the 30th consecutive month Texas showed job growth, reaching just under 14 million jobs and outpacing the nation in its annual rate of employment growth, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

“Our world-class Texas workforce has grown by more than 400,000 jobs over the last year, thanks largely to the energizing job creation by our private-sector employers,” said TWC commissioner Aaron Demerson. “This continued growth highlights TWC’s unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration and building partnerships with Texas employers across the state.”

At the same time, the state’s unemployment rate is tied for fifth-worst in the country at 4.1%, which is below the national average of 3.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. The jobless rate still has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

The higher jobless rate reflects a growing labor force due to increased population growth and fewer workers leaving the state, according to economic experts.

“Very tight labor markets, like what we’ve seen at the national level, are actually detrimental to matching workers to jobs because it’s so hard for employers to hire,” said Pia Orrenius, with the Dallas Federal Reserve office.

HEGAR: TEXAS ECONOMY CHUGGING ALONG

Comptroller Glenn Hegar says lawmakers are likely to have billions of dollars more than anticipated to spend as they go into another special session, The Dallas Morning News reported. However, though he has increased his revenue projection for the state by nearly \$5 billion over earlier projections, he warns that there are “dangers to the economic outlook.”

Hegar said his economic outlook does not assume a recession is imminent, but that possibility is “very real.” His current forecast indicates the state will finish the two-year budget cycle with \$18.5 billion in unspent discretionary funds.

Lawmakers entered their third special session on Mon-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



day to consider Gov. Greg Abbott’s proposal for school choice, widely known as vouchers, and increased border security. Other topics may be added later.

ERCOT SEEKING TO REGULATE NEW INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is seeking to require large electric consumers to get its approval before connecting to its grid, The News reported. Opponents of the proposal say it is unprecedented and could damage the state’s ability to attract large new businesses to the state.

Under ERCOT’s proposal, any new facility that consumes an average peak of 75 megawatts would need its OK before getting power from the grid. That is enough electricity to power 15,000 homes, according to The News.

The proposed regulation, which is months away from final approval, comes due to the influx of large data centers, including cryptocurrency mining facilities that gobble up electricity from a grid that has become increasingly strained during both winter storms such as Uri in 2021 and last summer’s intense heat wave.

Cryptominers and data centers differ from traditional power users in that they can turn power on and off almost immediately to take advantage of fluctuations in power prices. Some crypto centers made millions of dollars over the summer by voluntarily cutting usage when the grid is approaching peak levels.

“Many large loads that have connected to the system within the past two years are capable of going from full consumption to no consumption (or the reverse) in five minutes or less,” ERCOT spokes-

woman Trudi Webster said in an email to The News.

HISTORIC FUNDING FOR TEXAS SEAPORTS

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved \$200 million for Texas seaports, the first funding of its kind in the state. The funding comes from a bill passed in the last full legislative session and is intended for port development and infrastructure projects.

The funding goes toward 31 projects recommended by the Port Authority Advisory Committee, a nine-member body that represents the Texas port industry.

“Texas ports are a crucial link in the supply chain,” said Texas Transportation Commissioner Steven Alvis. “With the expansion of the Panama Canal, and under the governor’s direction, improving these port facilities along the Texas Gulf Coast helps support this key economic driver for our state and the nation.”

The state has two of the three largest ports in the country based on tonnage and drive \$450 billion in economic activity annually, according to TxDOT.

DSHS RECOMMENDS GETTING FLU VACCINES

All eligible Texans are urged by the Texas Department of State Health Services to get a flu shot as soon as possible. It takes about two weeks for the vaccination to be effective, experts say.

“Seasonal influenza presents a real public health threat to Texans, and immunization remains our best defense against serious flu illness,” said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford.

It is also both possible and safe to get a flu vaccine and an updated COVID-19 vaccine at the same time if one is due for both.

Approximately 36,000 Americans die each year from flu-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TWO SOLAR ECLIPSES ON THE HORIZON FOR TEXANS

There are two solar eclipses coming up over Texas skies in the next six months, the Texas Standard reported, the first in less than a week. The “ring of fire” solar eclipse arrives on Oct. 14 when a halo of light will be visible around the moon but should be viewed through solar eclipse glasses.

Depending on cloud conditions, the annular — Latin for ring — eclipse will be visible in Texas about noon, primarily in the Hill Country and around San Antonio. The total eclipse will occur on April 8 of next year starting at 1:30 p.m., along a line in Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana.

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. E m a i l : gbborders@texaspress.com.

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East Aldine enjoys a wet National Night Out

Continued from Page 1



HC Deputies with a young admirer.



McGruff the Crime Dog with a message.



Westfield Fire Chief Adrian Dillehay and firemen present East Aldine District with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Aldine ISD's Abel Garza, Dr. LaTonya Goffney, and GFCC president Selina Valdez.



Rock Climbing, even in the wet weather. How many climbers can you count?



Harris County Sheriff's Deputies, with a Certificate of Appreciation for East Aldine's Veronica Sanches, and board member Flor Zarzoza.

DEPUTIES & COMMUNITY MEMBERS OBSERVE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT October 3rd, 2023

Thanks to Harris County Sheriff's Office supervisors and deputies who do special work for the East Aldine Management District for joining us for National Night Out on Tuesday night (Oct. 3) and presenting the District with a certificate of appreciation (held by District Director of Operations Veronica Sanches, left, and District board member Flor Zarzoza).

The deputies and supervisors provide extra patrols in the area thanks to funding from the District as part of the overall effort to keep the lid on crime. Not only does that keep the community safe, but it also sets the stage for even more economic development in the rapidly improving neighborhood.

National Night Out is an annual event to strengthen community ties with law enforcement, but we encourage close cooperation between police and the public year-round. "See something? Say something!"



Green Forest Civic Club members, Chris Sustaita, Mary Garza, Marina Sugg, Lucy Alvarez Hernandez.



Seniors from Pilgrim Place enjoy games, food, and friends.

SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 7

Aggies face big test at Tennessee: Texans look for another home win, against Saints

in their 34-22 win over Arkansas two weeks ago. A&M has a ton of weapons on offense and will need every one of them when they take on the Vols on Saturday.

There are two big games on tap this weekend as No. 8-ranked Oregon visits No. 7-ranked Washington in a key Pac 12 battle, while No. 9-ranked USC visits No. 10-ranked Notre Dame in prime time on NBC.

In District 14-6A play, Nimitz and Davis do battle in what could be an offensive shootout. Two weeks ago, Davis lost a 49-42 decision to Spring, while Nimitz moved to 5-0 with a 20-0 win over Eisenhower. MacArthur will face Spring, while Eisenhower takes on Westfield and Aldine plays Dekaney.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 record (best of the season) brought the season record to 28-22 (56%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL

MacArthur vs. Spring: Wayne Crawford's Generals take on Spring on Thursday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. Two weeks ago, the Generals defeated Aldine 14-6 for their first league win of the season. The Generals run defense will get tested by Spring running backs Ahran Ogbar (639 yards) and Delonyte Henderson (395 yards). The Generals will look for a big game from QB Derrick McNeil. My pick, Spring 26, MacArthur 20

Eisenhower at Westfield: Odell James' Eagles take on Westfield on Thursday night at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring ISD. Two weeks ago, the Eagles fell to Nimitz 20-0. Westfield is led by running back Tajji Atkins (479 yards), QB Miles Dent (628 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Austin Abrams (19 receptions, 212 yards), while the Eagles are led by QB Jared Guter (448 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver

KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

Ulysses Thibodeaux (13 receptions, 180 yards). My pick, Westfield 33, Eisenhower 30

Aldine at Dekaney: Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs take on Dekaney on Friday night at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring ISD. Dekaney is led by running back Dylan Jones (614 yards), QB Quinten Foster (618 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers David Edmondson (14 receptions, 175 yards) and Nick Townsend (10 receptions, 171 yards). The Mustangs will look for a big night from running back Rory Hernandez (210 yards). My pick, Dekaney 31, Aldine 18

Davis vs. Nimitz: Kelvin Chatman's Falcons take on Cornelius Harmon's Cougars on Friday night at George Stadium in Spring ISD. This should be a high-scoring game as both teams have explosive offenses. Davis is led by QB Kamryn Jackson (1,202 yards, 12 TDs/218 rushing yards) and wide receivers J'Masruc Hopes (15 receptions, 282 yards) and Treveon Bossier (14 receptions, 203 yards). Nimitz is led by QB Albert Brown (896 yards, 10 TDs), running back Brashard Miles (234 yards) and wide receivers Malachi Augustus (16 receptions, 278 yards), Kaden Phillips (10 receptions, 202 yards) and Ke'lyn Washom (15 receptions, 190 yards). Look for plenty of fireworks in this one. My pick, Nimitz 34, Davis 31

NCAA

Texas A&M at Tennessee: Jimbo Fisher's Aggies travel to Knoxville to take on the Vols in what should be a key game for both teams in SEC play. The Aggies are in the hunt in the SEC

West, while the Vols look to contend with Georgia in the SEC East. Two weeks ago, the Ags had a workman like performance against Arkansas and left AT&T Stadium in Arlington with a 34-22 win. Backup QB Max Johnson (436 yards, 6 TDs) has filled in nicely for injured starter Conner Weigman. He has a load of talent on offense to help him out in running back Le'Von Moss (276 yards, 2 TDs) and Amari Daniels (270 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Evan Stewart (24 receptions, 357 yards, 4 TDs) and Ainius Smith (22 receptions, 343 yards, plus an 80-yard punt return for a TD against the Hogs. Tennessee is lethal on offense as well with QB Joe Milton III (1,164 yards, 9 TDs), running back Jaylan Wright (435 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Squirrel White (26 receptions, 276 yards). This should be a high scoring game and look for the Vols to make one or two more plays than the Aggies do to pull it out. My pick, Tennessee 37, Texas A&M 34

Oregon at Washington: This should be another offensive shootout as No. 8-ranked Oregon visits No. 7-ranked Washington. In its first five games, Oregon has averaged 51.6 points per game, while the Huskies have averaged 46 points per game. I don't think there will be a lot of defense played in this game. Oregon is led by QB Bo Nix (1,459 yards, 15 TDs), running back Bucky Irving (393 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Troy Franklin (32 receptions, 535 yards, 7 TDs). Washington has a pretty fair signal caller of their own in left-handed thrower Michael Penix (1,999 yards, 16 TDs). Penix has three quality wideouts to throw to in Rome Odunza (32 receptions, 608 yards, 4 TDs), Ja'Lynn Polk

(26 receptions, 468 yards, 4 TDs) and Jalen McMillan (20 receptions, 311 yards, 3 TDs). Look for those three to wear out the Oregon secondary as the Huskie pick up a big conference win. My pick, Washington 38, Oregon 35

USC at Notre Dame: No. 9-ranked USC travels to the Midwest to take on No. 10-ranked Notre Dame in one of the most storied intersectional rivalries in college football. USC QB Caleb Williams (1,603 yards, 21 TDs) could very well be the No. 1 overall pick in the 2024 NFL draft and he has a host of weapons that will test the Irish defense in running back Marshawn Lloyd (433 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Tahj Washington (18 receptions, 395 yards, 5 TDs) and Brendan Rice (17 receptions, 335 yards, 7 TDs). ND has a solid QB in Sam Hartman (1,458 yards, 14 TDs) and one of the best tight ends in the country in Mitchell Evans (18 receptions, 272 yards). They also have a solid running back in Audric Estime (672 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Notre Dame to give Estime plenty of work to work the clock and keep Williams off the field. USC is potent on offense, but it's defense is suspect. If ND can get an early lead and work the clock, Marcus Freeman could earn the biggest win of his young head coaching career. Playing at home under the lights will also be a huge plus for the Irish. My pick, Notre Dame 33, USC 31

NFL

San Francisco at Cleveland: The 49ers potent offense takes on one of the league's top defenses when these two meet in Cleveland on Sunday afternoon. The Browns will have their hands full with SF running back Christian McCaffrey (455 yards, 7 total TDs), QB Brock Purdy (1,019 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (17 receptions, 320 yards, 2 TDs). The Browns will need a big day from defensive end Myles Garrett (5.5 sacks in his first four games) to slow down McCaffrey. Cleveland should have starting QB Deshaun Watson (675 yards, 4 TDs) back after he missed the Browns loss to Baltimore two weeks ago with a shoulder injury.

Look for the 49ers to continue to roll as they take care of the Browns on Sunday. My pick, San Francisco 26, Cleveland 20

Detroit at Tampa Bay: The Lions travel to Florida to take on the Bucs in a meeting between two of the more surprising teams thus far in the 2023 NFL season. Two weeks ago, Detroit improved to 3-1 with a convincing 34-20 win at Green Bay, while the Bucs also improved to 3-1 with a 26-9 thumping of the Saints in New Orleans. Detroit is led by QB Jared Goff (1,029 yards, 6 TDs), running back David Montgomery (262 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (26 receptions, 331 yards, 2 TDs) and a stout defense led by defensive end Aidan Hutchinson (3.5 sacks in his first four games). TB has gotten solid play from journeyman QB Baker Mayfield (882 yards, 7 TDs) and big plays from wide receiver Mike Evans (20 receptions, 337 yards, 3 TDs). Evans injured his hamstring in the Saints win and he might not be available for this game. That would be a big blow to the TB offense. Look for the Lions to pick up another big road win as they look to take command of the NFC North Division. My pick, Detroit 24, Tampa Bay 20

New Orleans at Houston: The Texans will look for another home win when they host the Saints on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Two weeks ago, rookie QB C.J. Stroud (1,212 yards, 6 TDs) passed for 306 yards and two touchdowns in the Texans' 30-6 route of the Steelers. In his first four games, Stroud has yet to throw an interception and seems to have made a strong connection with wide receivers Nico Collins (22 receptions, 428 yards, 3 TDs) and Tank Dell (16 receptions, 267 yards, 2 TDs). The Saints split their first four games with Derek Carr (763 yards, 2 TDs) as their new QB. Running back Alvin Kamara is back after serving a three-game suspension and his return should help the Saints offense. Look for another solid day from Stroud as the Texans pick up another win that should put them squarely in the hunt in the AFC South race. My pick, Houston 26, New Orleans 20

New York Giants at Buffalo: I wish the NFL would flex this

game because I think we've seen enough of the Giants in prime time. After opening the season with a 40-0 loss on Sunday Night Football to the Cowboys, they lost 24-3 on Monday Night Football two weeks ago as Seattle recorded 11 sacks against the hapless Giants. It could be another long night for them when they face a Buffalo team that rolled previously undefeated Miami 48-20 two weeks ago. Now, the Bills will be coming off a game in London and could be fatigued, but even a tired Josh Allen (1,048 passing yards, 9 TDs/106 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and Stefon Diggs (31 receptions, 399 yards, 4 TDs) should have enough left in the tank to take down their in-state rivals. My pick, Buffalo 33, New York Giants 16

Dallas at Los Angeles Chargers: The Cowboys take on the Chargers on Monday Night Football to close out Week 6. Two weeks ago, Dallas embarrassed New England 38-3 as the defense recorded two more touchdowns (a fumble recovery and a pick six). The offense did just enough behind QB Dak Prescott (908 yards, 4 TDs) to get the job done. Look for the Cowboys to try and get running back Tony Pollard (311 yards, 2 TDs) going against a very decent Chargers defense. If the running game gets going, that should open up things for Prescott to make some plays with wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (23 receptions, 309 yards, 1 TD). The Chargers had a week off to rest up for this one and should have running back Austin Ekeler back. Ekeler has not played since Week 1 after he injured his ankle. Speaking of injuries, QB Justin Herbert (1,106 yards, 7 TDs) suffered an injury to his non-throwing hand two weeks ago, but should be ready for this prime time matchup. He and wide receiver Keenan Allen (35 receptions, 434 yards, 3 TDs) have been hot thus far. This should be a fun game to watch, with the Dallas defense (14 sacks in first four games) being the difference maker.

My pick, Dallas 26, Los Angeles Chargers 17

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What phrase did Jesus use three times in resisting the temptations of Satan? My father above, God is love, It is written, Thou must repent
3. In II Peter 1, what were holy men moved by in regard to prophecy? Kindred spirit, Holy Ghost, Sins, Love of God

4. From Judges 6, which judge threshed wheat by the winepress? Gideon, Joash, Neco, Hosea
5. Who was Saul's daughter who married David? Jephthah, Oholah, Rahab, Michal
6. Shechem was the son of ...? James, Hamor, Jacob, Onan

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) It is written, 3) Holy Ghost, 4) Gideon, 5) Michal, 6) Hamor Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," now available in bookstores and online. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers... The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers... the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

JOSHUA 21:43-45

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For a Fiscally Responsible Aldine ISD School Board

Mission ★ Committed to better education for our students, conservative spending for our community and ★ providing a solid foundation for our families to thrive

Vote on November 7th

Early voting: Oct 23rd-Nov 3rd ● *All in for Aldine*

Learn more, earn more at Lone Star College



Spring 2024 registration at Lone Star College begins Monday, Oct. 9. Learn more at LoneStar.edu.

HOUSTON (Oct. 6, 2023) – The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics shows a lower unemployment rate for people who have some college credits or an associate degree than those with only a high school diploma. Lone Star College can help increase your career options or prepare you to transfer to a four-year academic program.

my education,” said Kristena Hackett, LSC-Online graduate. “Lone Star College-Online is educating students and changing lives, one student at a time.”

“Lone Star College’s mission is centered around student success by offering programs and resources to help students achieve their academic or career goals,” said Gerald F. Napoles, Ph.D., LSC vice chancellor, Student Success. “When our students succeed, families, communities and businesses succeed.”

Lone Star College classes are available in person, online and hybrid. The college will host a Fall Preview Day Oct. 21 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at all eight main campuses. Attendees will learn about world-class academic and workforce training and student life activities available at LSC. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/FallPreviewDay.

Registration for LSC’s spring 2024 semester opens Monday, Oct. 9, and classes start Tuesday, Jan. 16. Courses are structured to help students complete a degree, transfer to a four-year university or enter the workforce. Programs include accounting, anthropology, arts, biology, business, chemistry, criminal justice, communications, economics, drama, government, EDUC 1300, English, foreign languages, health care programs, history, humanities, math, speech and various workforce programs.

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 Texas™. 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 lowers tax rate



Lone Star College Board of Trustees voted to approve lowering the LSC fiscal year 2024 tax rate. Pictured are LSC trustees with (left center) Mario K. Castillo, J.D., LSC chancellor.

HOUSTON (Oct. 5, 2023) – The Lone Star College Board of Trustees voted to approve lowering the LSC fiscal year 2024 tax rate during its October meeting. The motion passed with a 7 – 0 vote.

“Lone Star College takes its fiduciary responsibility very seriously and is proud to be in the position to offer this relief,” said Michael Stoma, LSC Board of Trustees chair. “The board appreciates the citizens who attend our meetings and participate in the Public Comment to share their concerns with us. We do listen and are ready to make changes when necessary.”

The board agreed to lower the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate from \$0.0737 to \$0.0732. They also approved raising the Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate from \$0.0341 to \$0.0344, bringing the total tax rate to \$0.1076.

“This new rate allows Lone Star College to pay off \$30.25 million of debt early, saving the taxpayers \$9.7 million in interest payments,” said Stoma.

LSC already enjoys one of the lowest tax rates among Texas community colleges and has lowered or maintained the same rate since 2015.

“In addition to lowering the tax rate, the board also voted to approve an updated Homestead Exemption rate during its June meeting, resulting in homeowners paying less taxes for the 2023 tax year,” said Jennifer Mott, LSC CFO. “The new Homestead Exemption will be \$5,000, or 8% of the assessed value of a home, whichever is greater.”

Homestead exemptions remove part of a home’s value from taxation thereby lowering the taxes owed.

Get the classes you want for the Perfect Schedule.

REGISTER TODAY!
Spring classes begin January 16

Advisors are available to assist you:

Monday - Thursday	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**For more information, please call:
LSC-North Harris: 281.618.5400**

**LONE STAR COLLEGE
NORTH HARRIS**