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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Aldine ISD Forum



HOSTS for the Forum were Selina Valdez, GFCC president, and Linda Morales, Moderator

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 47 Years  
 VOL. 47, NO. 38 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

### NEWS NOTES

## Aldine ISD candidates hold Public Forum

### Early Voting starts October 23; Four seats remain contested

#### Lone Star College FALL PREVIEW DAY Sat. Oct. 21

Attend Fall Preview Day at Any LSC campus. Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10am to 1pm. Discover all the great opportunities and resources LSC has to offer. ALSO available online. Register at LoneStar.edu/FallPreviewDay. More information on Page 8.

#### Small Business Seminar Oct. 26: Retirement

East Aldine District hosts a Free Seminar Luncheon Series for Small Business owners.

Thursday, October 26 from 12pm to 1pm at the East Aldine District Office, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.

Program: Will You Be Ready For Retirement? Speaker Crystal Gomez.

RSVP to LDean@AldineDistrict.org, or 512-658-4985. See more information on Page 8.

#### Fall Festival: Dia De Los Muertos Sat. Oct. 28

East Aldine District hosts a Fall Festival and DIA DE LOS MUERTOS from 11am to 3pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre, Saturday October 28.

Music, Entertainment, Food, Hay Ride, Pumpkin Patch, Haunted House, Costume Contest. More information on Page 8.

### \$1.82 Billion Bond Issue also on Ballot

ALDINE – The East Aldine District office building was the location for a well attended Candidate Forum for open seats on the Aldine ISD school board for the next term. Originally scheduled to take place at the BakerRipley campus, it was moved to this location when BakerRipley's building was needed by the Red Cross for disaster relief after a huge apartment fire in Cypress Station. The audience of about 75 interested citizens were able to make the move to the new location next door.

The Forum was sponsored by BakerRipley and the Green Forest Civic Club. GFCC president Selina Valdez was the emcee, and Linda Morales, well-known local political activist, was the discussion moderator.

There are four open positions on the ballot, with ten announced candidates for these. Positions 1, 2, and 6 have one challenger to the incumbents who are running, and Position 7 has three challengers to the incumbent who is running for reelection.



ALDINE ISD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES AT FORUM: L TO R: POSITION 1 Randy Bates, Jr. (incumbent president) vs Jill Metcalfe; POSITION 2 Zaheer Malik vs Paul Shanklin (incumbent); POSITION 6 Araceli Ramos vs Kimberley Booker (incumbent); POSITION 7 four candidates: Steve Moore, Viola Garcia (incumbent), Belinda Valdivia (not present), and Mikela Levi.

For Position 1, Jill Metcalfe is challenging incumbent president Randy Bates, Jr.

For Position 2, Zaheer Malik is challenging incumbent Paul Shanklin.

For Position 6, Araceli Ramos is challenging incumbent Kimberley Booker.

For Position 7, incumbent Viola Garcia is challenged by candidates Steve Moore, Belinda Valdivia, and Mikela Levi.

The Forum lasted for about 90 minutes, and was ably moderated by Linda Morales. She limited each speaker to one minute for their portion of a statement or rebuttal.

The Forum started with each candidate presenting

a brief biography, and a statement of their interest in the position on the board.

Next each candidate was asked to respond to specific questions prepared by the host sponsors, (with some questions suggested by the audience).

Questions presented to the panel for response included:

1. Why should I vote for you?
2. What do you see as your duties or responsibilities as a board member?
3. How do you feel a board member should hold the Superintendent accountable?
4. What is your position on passing the \$1.8 Billion bond issue. You may comment on each of the 3 separate bonds, or total.

5. What is your position on the use of Eminent Domain by the School District to acquire property?

6. If elected, what are your 2 top priorities to be accomplished?

Candidate Randy Bates is an attorney for 40 years. He has 25 years experience governing educational organizations including the Aldine ISD and Lone Star College boards. He is currently president of the AISD board. He is for seeking good teachers and better pay for them. He supports the Bond issue, as it sets a higher level of achievement for the district for the future. He seems to be in favor of the

use of Eminent Domain, especially for the Upchurch property, and said the issue will be decided at a board meeting in October. However, some members of the panel disagreed, saying it had already been voted on at a previous board meeting.

Candidate Jill Metcalfe said she was certified as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, and has worked in the Aldine transportation department. Currently she is an administrator at Lone Star College. Her priorities as a board member would be a safe environment, and high academic achievement or skill set for graduates. She says board members should set the vision for the district, have a strategic plan, and monitor its progress. She is against the bond issue at this time, but perhaps later it could be adopted. She is against Eminent Domain use to acquire the Upchurch property or any legacy property adjoining AISD.

Candidate Zaheer Malik is a graduate of Eisenhower High School, has been a teacher in Aldine, a contractor, and is now an Electrical Engineer. His priorities would be improving student achievement,

Continued. See ALDINE ISD BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM, page 5.

## Senator Alvarado gives Legislative update, honors Deputy Almendarez

Part of Highway US59/I-69 to be named in his Honor



State Senator Carol Alvarado, center, and State Representative Armando Walle, right, announced at a public meeting last Saturday that a portion of State Highway 59 from Little York to Beltway 8 would be named in memory of Deputy Darren Almendarez. The Legislature passed HB957 to that effect in the last session. Fund raising to pay for the signage has been led by the Harris County Deputies Association, and Lt. Eric Batton was on hand at the meeting. ABOVE, Flor Zarzoza, widow of Deputy Almendarez thanks the community and the Legislature for the honor and the support for the memory of her husband. Harris County Precinct 2 also honored Deputy Almendarez recently by renaming the Northeast Community Center on Bentley in his name.

### SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 8

## Penn State, Ohio State pits 2 Top 10 teams: Dolphins visit Eagles in stellar SNF tilt: Texas have Bye

It looks like we will finally have a good Sunday Night Football game to watch this week when the Miami Dolphins visit the Philadelphia Eagles in prime time.

That will be a pleasant departure from what we had to witness two weeks ago when the Dallas Cowboys were blown out on SNF by the San Francisco 49ers, 42-10. Thankfully for Cowboy fans (and I'm one of them), Dallas will have its bye week, along with the Texans, to try and figure out how to salvage a season that started with so much promise. After back-to-back dominating wins over the Giants and Jets, Dallas lost at Arizona, blew out New England (which isn't saying much if you've seen how bad Bill Belichick's team is this year) and then had it handed to them by the 49ers.

Dallas QB Dak Prescott continues to struggle to make plays downfield and the defense that looked so good in Weeks 1 and 2 were thoroughly dominated by Brock Purdy (four touchdown passes) and the 49ers.

While the Cowboys were being dominated, the Texans lost a 21-19 heartbreaker at Atlanta on a last-second field goal.



DeMeco Ryan's team is showing a lot of fight and rookie QB C.J. Stroud is looking like he could be the franchise quarterback Houston has been looking for since it parted ways with Deshaun Watson.

While Texas' teams take the week off, the focus on Sunday will be the prime time meeting between the Dolphins and Eagles in what should be an offensive shootout. Both teams have weapons galore on that side of the football, so this game should be must viewing.

Other key games on Week 8 have the Jaguars visiting New Orleans. Jacksonville won back-to-back games in London with wins over the Falcons and Bills, while the Saints handed the Patriots a 34-0 stomping two weeks ago.

Detroit, which leads the NFC

North, has a tough road matchup at Baltimore, while the Browns and Colts go at it in Indy. Week 8 will conclude with Monday Night Football as the cruising 49ers visit the disappointing Vikings in what could be a make or break game for Minnesota's season.

In the college land, there's a big one in the Big 10 as No. 6-ranked Penn State visits No. 3-ranked Ohio State. In the SEC, No. 11-ranked Tennessee visits No. 19-ranked Alabama. A year ago, the Vols upset the Crimson Tide 52-49 on a last-second field goal. You'd better believe 'Bama head coach Nick Saban will be looking for revenge on Saturday in Tuscaloosa. In the ACC, No. 17-ranked Duke visits No. 5-ranked Florida State.

CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 5

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

## We're Here For You!

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¡Ya esta aquí, el mejor premio para su buen gusto!

## Pan Riko BAKERY

Steve and Ayden on a Shopping trip at Pan Riko...

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

**Texas Renaissance Festival**  
 October 7<sup>th</sup> through November 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Saturdays, Sundays, and Thanksgiving Friday

**TexRenFest.com**

Scan the QR Code for More Information and to Purchase Tickets.

**Your Adventure Awaits**

**COMMUNITY WATCH**

**House Fire in the Northline Area on Julia Street**

HOUSTON -- The Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on September 27, 2023, at 5:57 p.m. The House was located at the 200 block of Julia St. 77022. Estimated damage was \$260,000. There were no reported injuries. Cause of the fire is under investigation. Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find fire coming from a 1-story house and made an attack. They conducted a primary search, ventilated the home, and extinguished the fire. The utilities were secured and the HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. 49 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including crews from Stations 30, 39, 2, 15, 31, 34, 9, 67, 19 and 74.

**Fatal Crash at 5100 North Freeway**

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred at 5100 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 4:15 a.m. (Sept. 25). The identity of the deceased male is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant R. Dallas and Officer C. Morales reported: A male driving a silver Nissan Xterra northbound entered the North Freeway near the Airline Drive ramp. The Nissan then crossed four lanes of traffic and struck the concrete median. Both the driver and a second male were ejected from the vehicle. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced one male deceased at the scene and transported the other to Ben Taub Hospital in critical condition.

At this time, it is unknown who was driving the vehicle. The investigation is continuing.

**AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS**

**ALEBRIJE ART**

Dia de los Muertos is approaching and we are preparing at ALD. A big part of Dia de los Muertos is alebrijes, 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. They are 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. 16, 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/ 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!

**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 Es-

**enciales- 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. 18, 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. 19, 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

**KID'S CRAFTS**

Let's get creative! Join us at 5 pm every Thursday for our weekly crafts at Aldine! (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.) **Thursday, Oct. 19, 5-7pm.**

**CHILL VIBES FOR TEENS**

**Friday, Oct. 20, 3:30-**

**5:30pm.** 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 week-end 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.

**CRAFTY CORNER - PUMPKIN PATCH HOME DECOR**

Welcome to the Fall season! Paint a pumpkin patch wall hanging to decorate your home. **Saturday, Oct. 21, 1-2pm.** This is a family event, we ask parents attend with their children. **1 project per family, supplies limited, first come, first served.**

**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/qSzM-SpiaTL>.

**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**

**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

Submit this information to enter the drawing:

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**NORTHEAST NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS WORK FOR YOU 713-266-3444 FORM ON PAGE 6**

**CONGRATULATIONS To Angela Gedmin of Huffman, 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

# Stovall Student Embarks on Game Development Journey: Creating and Coding his first Game

Stovall Middle School has a super-talented 6th grader named Victor Flores. He's good at making video games! Victor loves his family a lot, and he loves learning new things. He uses an excellent app, Code, to write special instructions for the computer (coding), and with this, he's made some awesome games that surprise everyone because he's so young!

Victor started a coding project to make a special game for his family, inspired by his dear brothers. He loves sports and cares deeply for his family, so he decided to create not just one but three games based on different sports. It's an exciting adventure for him!

Victor had never created a game before. His enthusiasm, however, was unbounded. He recounted the countless times he "messed up" during the development process, often finding himself backtracking to recode his program to fine-tune the game. Victor's favorite part of this coding journey? Learning the ropes, overcoming challenges, and honing his skills in game development. With a grin, he ex-



Victor Flores at Stovall Middle School

pressed a burning desire to continue creating games in the future. Next on his wishlist? A captivating story-mode game, the kind that can whisk players into magical realms and adventurous tales.

But beyond his dreams of creating captivating games, Victor remains grounded in his love for family. As an older brother, he is especially attuned to the importance of familial bonds. Victor cherishes

his family dearly and is keen on giving back to them through his newfound talent.

He's gearing up to surprise his mom on her upcoming birthday with a custom-made game. Imagine the delight on her face as she dives into a digital adventure crafted with love by her son. If you want to support and play Victor's games, visit <https://shorturl.at/qxGKM>. It's an easy way to enjoy the fun and show your support!

# MacArthur Tennis Team Wins 8th Straight District Title



The MacArthur High School tennis team recently won its eighth straight district title.

The MacArthur High School tennis team recently won its eighth straight district title when it finished in first place at the District 14-6A league meet.

The team, under the direction of head coach Matt Geisel, took on Oak Ridge in bi-district on Oct. 10 at Oak

Ridge.

Three other Aldine ISD tennis teams also qualified for bi-district.

Davis High School, under the direction of head coach Steven Hawkins, finished second in the district. Eisenhower High, under the direction of head coach Jeffrey Brush,

finished in third place, and Nimitz High, under the direction of head coach Jackson Alford, finished in fourth place.

Davis faced Grand Oaks in the bi-district, while Eisenhower took on College Park and Nimitz faced off against The Woodlands.

# Embracing Hispanic Heritage and Leadership: Celebrating Principal Miriam Acosta's Journey



In a school district with a thriving Hispanic population, the role of a Hispanic principal takes on profound significance. Miriam Acosta, the new principal at Sammons Elementary, embodies that role with pride and determination.

Principal Acosta's connection to Aldine ISD runs deep, as that is where she began her teaching career. She recalls, "I graduated from Texas A&M and a good friend of mine was a student teacher [at Aldine] at the time. I came in for an interview and I've been here ever since!" Under the guidance of her principal, she honed her leadership skills and took advantage of opportunities for growth.

Acosta's journey is intertwined with her His-



Principal Miriam Acosta

panic heritage and her family's pursuit of the American dream. She explains, "I come from a family of immigrant parents. I'm the second oldest of five and the first in my family to graduate from college."

Her upbringing was marked by a household where Spanish was the primary language and the value of education was stressed. This can be seen in her career as her previ-

ous roles included a bilingual teacher, math coach and assistant principal.

Principal Acosta's small, but vibrant, campus at Sammons Elementary holds a special place in her heart.

"My campus is small but mighty," she exclaims. "The students are fun, smart and energetic. They challenge us every day, but that's what makes the job so rewarding." She leads her campus by emphasizing the importance of guiding students to realize their potential.

In celebration of both Hispanic Heritage Month and National Principals Month, Aldine would like to highlight Principal Miriam Acosta for her inspiring journey and commitment to her students and community.

# José Lara Collazo, A Principal's Inspiring Journey from Mexico to Educational Leadership

Mead Middle School, located in the heart of Aldine ISD, is a place of learning, growth and inspiration, thanks to its dedicated leader, Principal Jose Lara-Collazo. Born into a Mexican family, and migrating to the United States at the age of 15, Lara-Collazo is the eldest of four children.

He learned early on the value of hard work and the importance of education. His family's migration to the U.S marked the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

"My Hispanic heritage is what makes me who I am," said Lara-Collazo. "It also gives me a sense of connection when 90% of my students are Hispanic"

Not only is he a leader within Aldine, but he is also a product of the district, even graduating from Nimitz High School! Much of his success can be attributed to his ESL teachers who challenged him to be better throughout his education.

Principal Lara-Collazo joined Aldine ISD in 2020 as



Principal Jose Lara Collazo

assistant principal to Mead Middle School, before being named curriculum assistant principal in 2022. This is his first year as both a principal and the principal of Mead Middle School.

Lara-Collazo's background serves as a basis of understanding for his community, giving both emergent bilingual students and newcomers a sense of identity and belonging within the school.

During this Hispanic Heritage Month, he has cultivated an inclusive environment at Mead Middle School by promoting cultural celebrations

within the school, such as Loteria Day and the upcoming celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Lotería Day, a traditional Mexican game of chance, brings students together to celebrate their cultural roots while enjoying a fun-filled day of camaraderie. Additionally, the upcoming celebration of Día de los Muertos will offer students and the community a meaningful opportunity to connect with their heritage and honor their ancestors.

Principal Lara-Collazo's dedication to education, and his commitment to a sense of cultural heritage are reasons for him to be highlighted for both Hispanic Heritage Month and National Principals Month. His story is a testament to the power of education and the pursuit of one's dreams, no matter the obstacles.

"My advice to students is to not give up," said Lara-Collazo. "No matter where you come from, we, as a community, have so much to offer."

# Celebrating the Accomplishments of an Aldine Leader: José Tuscano

October is National Principals Month, and Aldine ISD has great principals to highlight. One of those principals is deSantiago's principal Jose Tuscano. Principal Tuscano first worked for the Aldine district in 1997. He started in Aldine as a fourth-grade teacher at Magrill. From there, he worked his way up to his current position as the principal of deSantiago School.

Principal Tuscano was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico. Throughout his schooling, he had a love for science, and this is what led him to become a chemist. While working as a chemist in Monterrey, he found himself considering a career change. Soon after, he found himself at an educational job fair that Aldine was hosting in the city.

After interviewing for the kindergarten teacher position, Aldine made Tuscano an offer to start immediately. He and his family packed up their things on a Friday, moved to a new country on Saturday, and started his



Principal José Tuscano

new job as a fourth-grade teacher on Monday.

Tuscano made plenty of connections with the families of his community. For a brief moment, he left the district, but came back to Aldine soon after as the assistant principal of Magrill.

"I wanted to come back to my roots," said Tuscano. "I wanted to help the community that I had become close to."

Those roots can be seen in two different ways. They can be seen in the context that Aldine was where Tuscano first moved to when he immigrated to the U.S. They can also be seen in the context that Aldine ISD is a school district in which the vast ma-

ajority of students are of Hispanic heritage, or in the context that the majority of the students that Tuscano serves, the majority of the community, all share these common Hispanic roots.

For Hispanic Heritage Month, Tuscano promotes the diversity of cultures within his campus. He pushes the staff and students to share their cultures with the others.

"We have teachers from El Salvador, Nicaragua, and I encourage them to share their culture with the students," said Tuscano. "We are a very diverse group, and I want to be sure that we expose our students to that great diversity early on."

To celebrate both Hispanic Heritage Month and National Principals Month, Principal Jose Tuscano is an easy choice to make. From his story of success as an immigrant from Mexico, to his dedication to being a leader for his students and community, Tuscano sets a great example for the values that Aldine ISD looks to highlight.

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
**Mayor Sylvester Turner**

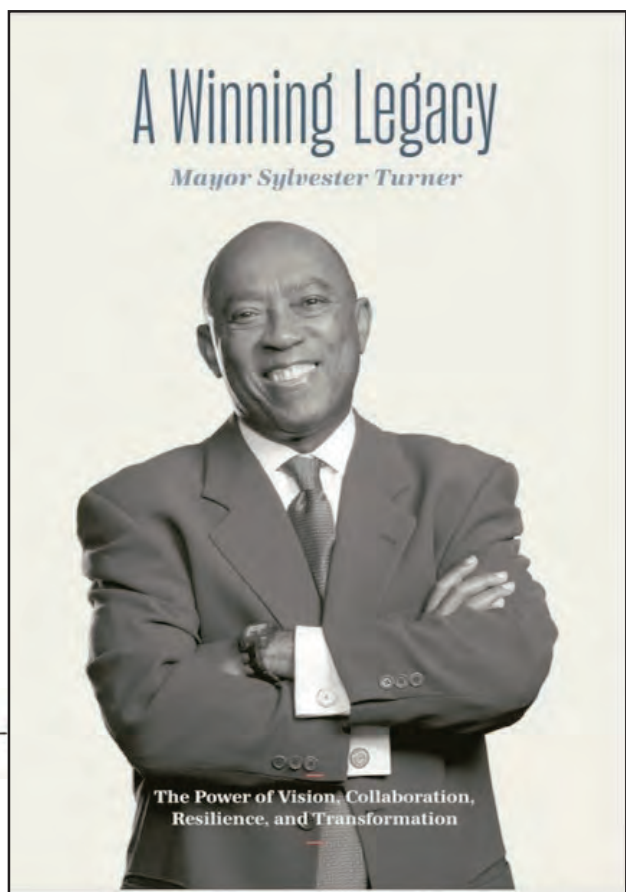


# Mayor Turner's 2023 State of the City

"I am proud of the city that I shall pass forward."  
 --Mayor Turner Delivers Final State of the City Address

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner delivered his eighth and final State of the City address Wednesday to a sold-out audience of 1,500 community members and business leaders. The mayor began his remarks by thanking Houstonians for their support and highlighting the work of all City of Houston employees. He gave special recognition to 35 outstanding municipal workers who have demonstrated dedication and passion for serving the public. A highlight of the event included the release of "A Winning Legacy," a book detailing the mayor's achievements and legacy of resilience and transformation during his administration.

A copy of the book is available online: Download/Read the Mayor's Legacy Book



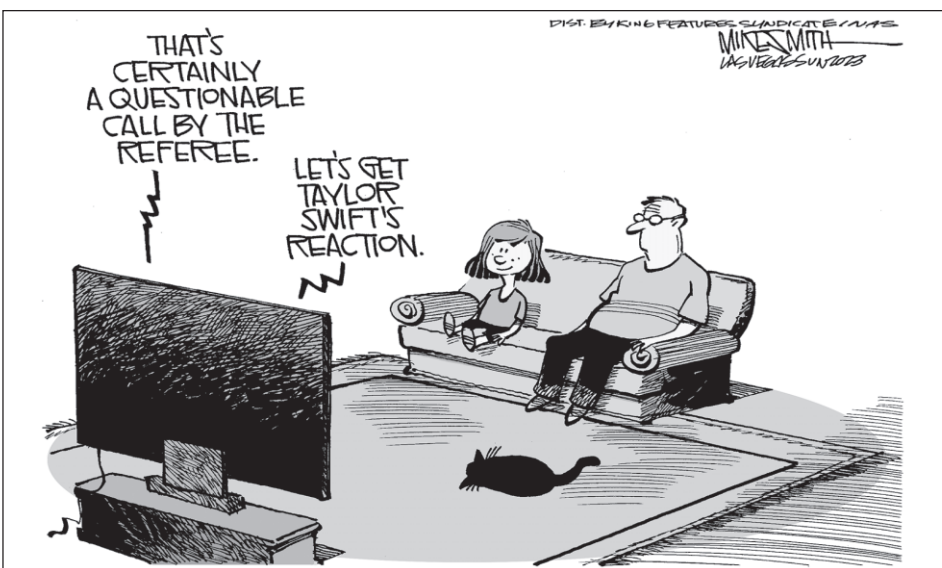
"Together, we have faced many storms – seven federally declared disasters in eight years. From floods or a freeze, from a Super Bowl or the pandemic, we rose and met the challenges of the day," said the mayor. "From inequities in neighborhoods investments to billions of dollars in pension unfunded liabilities, from One Safe Houston to One Clean Houston, we confronted each issue head on and set the City on firmer footing."

### Speech Highlights:

- During the address, Mayor Turner announced the City of Houston and FEMA have reached an agreement on building a new municipal courts building damaged during Hurricane Harvey.
- His administration will leave a \$420 million surplus to the next mayor's administration. When Mayor Turner was elected, the City faced a \$160M deficit.
- The City's pension liability has been reduced from \$8.2 billion when he became mayor to \$2.2 billion.
- Houston will get nearly \$2 billion in the coming years to transform the convention center and the surrounding district, a project that will catalyze further development in that part of downtown.
- The Sunnyside Solar Farm will be operational in 2024.
- Groundbreaking of a new cutting edge Solid Waste Northeast Transfer Station to open in 2025.
- The North Canal Stormwater Project and the Lake Livingston Flood Water-gates in Kingwood are in the design stage.
- The I-45 Expansion Project is moving forward.

"We are diverse, yet inclusive. We are greener, more compassionate, more united, and more forward-moving than we ever imagined, but at the same time, we work every day to be inclusive. We are greener, more compassionate, more united, and more forward-moving than we can ever imagine," said Mayor Turner. "What I can say to Houstonians is that I have given you my best, and I am proud of the city that I shall pass forward."

**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.



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
 By Carrie Classon

# Talking to Dogs

It's no secret that I love dogs. I love dogs, and I don't have one right now because, traveling as much as my husband, Peter, and I do, having a dog makes no sense. We know this. We have discussed this. There are times I would like to have a dog so much it makes my heart hurt. And then I realize how easy it is to get on a plane without worrying about the welfare of a dog, and I know we have—at least for now—made the right decision.

And so my solution is to talk to other people's dogs. I'm sure I'm not the only one who talks to dogs on my daily walk. I'd be surprised, however, if anyone was more enthusiastic about it. I am also (if I say so myself) very good at it. This is because I have a secret method for talking to dogs.

I start before the dog (and their person) have even met me on the sidewalk. I see them coming, and I make a little noise. It is my secret little dog call. It is a high little squeak, and every dog can hear it, and most of their owners cannot. This little noise gives me my edge.

The dog is alert. "That person is talking to me!" the dog says. It looks at me closely. If it has ears that go up, they are at attention.

"What a sweet pup!" I then say, loud enough for the owner to hear. There is almost no one who does not like to hear they have a sweet pup.

I imagine every one of these pups has been something less than sweet at some time or another (maybe just last night), and the owner of that dog appreciates a total stranger—with no investment in the matter whatsoever—confirming their bias that this is an obviously special dog, a dog well worth any trouble they might have caused.

At this point, since the dog and I have already been having a conversation and the owner is now looking at me, most dogs figure I am "A Friend." If their owner was nervous around me or disinterested, some of them would pretend they were disinterested as well. But once their owner confirms that I am "A Friend," the dog almost always rushes over to become better acquainted.

I try not to hold them up too long. I don't stop runners because that seems rude. But most people strolling along with their dog don't seem to mind me scratching their dog's ears and maybe getting a dog kiss.

If the conversation is going well, I sometimes learn the dog's name. Learning his name is Barney extends our meet-and-greet time because then I get to say, "Oh, Barney! What do you think of this weather?"

Barney is even more delighted because not only am I "A Friend," I am "A Friend Who Knows His Name!" which is the very best kind. This seems to work equally well in English and Spanish, in the city or hiking through the woods.

Then I say goodbye, and I always thank the owner for sharing their dog. I go on my way, and I am aware—right there on my walk—that I feel better than I did before I met that dog. My heart is lighter. My step is quicker. My day, even if it was good already, has just improved.

So that is my secret for talking to dogs. It is also the secret to being a little bit happier every day.

Till next time,  
 Carrie

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Gary Borders



# Abbott Ties Voucher Passage to Teacher Pay, School Funding

Gov. Greg Abbott, just hours after the Senate initially approved a school voucher measure, said he would add teacher raises and increased public school funding to the ongoing special session agenda if the Texas Legislature passes his voucher plan, the Texas Tribune reported.

"I want to make sure we provide a carrot to make sure this legislation gets passed," Abbott said of vouchers. "Once [education savings accounts] are passed, I will put on the legislative agenda full funding for public education, including teacher pay raises for teachers across the state."

However, Democratic and rural Republican legislators remain opposed to vouchers, maintaining vouchers would drain funding for public schools, the Texas Standard reported.

"Every dollar that we spend on a voucher is going to be a dollar that is taken away from being able to invest in public education," Rep. Stan Lambert, R-Abilene, said.

State Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, called Abbott's approach a "political threat." He said most constituents in his district would find it a hardship to send their children to private schools because of the distance and cost.

"Most of my constituents, even with an \$8,000 discount, the private school is probably so far away, they're going to have to travel 30 or 40 miles to get to a private school," Nichols said. "And they still won't be able to afford the balance of what's owed."

The Senate bill initially approved would give families who opt for private schools \$8,000 of public money each year.

### PATRICK: NO REASON TO RETURN PAC MONEY

Lt. Gov Dan Patrick says he has no intention of returning \$3 million in political contributions received from a political action committee whose leader met with an avowed Nazi sympathizer earlier this month, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Former state representative Jonathan Stickland, now head of the Defend Texas Liberty PAC, met with white supremacist Nick Fuentes for several hours, prompting a number of Republican lawmakers to donate money they received from the PAC to pro-



Israel charities at the urging of House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont.

Patrick and Phelan have been feuding for months, especially over the impeachment and ultimate acquittal of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Patrick called on Phelan to resign after the speaker demanded he return the \$3 million.

"I didn't think even Dade Phelan would stoop this low," Patrick said in a statement. "He has now absolutely hit rock bottom. His latest stunt is disgusting, despicable and disingenuous."

Phelan pushed back. "I didn't take \$3 million from a PAC that associates itself with Nazis and Nazi sympathizers. That's not my problem," he said.

### TWO TEXAS CONGRESSMEN OPPOSE BULLET TRAIN

Two Texas congressmen are trying to stop funding for a bullet train from Houston to Dallas, the Houston Chronicle reported. U.S. Reps. Jake Ellzey and Michael McCaul, both Republicans, have asked the federal Department of Transportation to deny federal funding for the project, announced recently as a collaboration between Amtrak and Texas Central Railroad.

The proposed route of 240 miles would have a travel time of 90 minutes – less than half the time it takes to travel by car.

"At its core, this project is intended to take land from American citizens and put it under the control of a Japanese company, which is itself subsidized using money from U.S. taxpayers," the two congressmen wrote in part.

A number of Texas landowners have expressed concern about the route cutting through their farmland.

"Landowners deserve to

have their land rights protected against the unrealistic and financially infeasible rail project proposed to be funded through these applications," McCaul and Ellzey said in their letter.

### ONLY TWO TEXAS UNIVERSITIES CRACK TOP 100

Only two Texas universities managed to crack the top 100 in the Wall Street Journal's annual ranking, the Houston Chronicle reported. Texas A&M was ranked 38th, while Rice University came in at 64th. The University of Texas came in at No. 118, according to the rankings.

"To generate the rankings, the Journal partnered with research groups College Pulse and Statista to analyze a mountain of data, measuring everything from expected student salaries and years needed to pay for attendance to the quality of the school's 'learning-related facilities' and on-campus diversity," the Chronicle reported.

Twenty Texas colleges and universities made the top 400. Princeton University was ranked No. 1 overall.

### MORE THAN 50,000 MIGRANTS BUSED ELSEWHERE

The state of Texas has bused more than 50,000 migrants to what Gov. Greg Abbott terms sanctuary cities since the launch of Operation Lone Star, his office announced. The migrants have been bused to Washington, D.C., New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver and Los Angeles since April 2022.

Enhancing border security is one of the items Abbott has called upon the Legislature to address in the special session now underway. He is proposing a law that allows all licensed law enforcement officers in Texas to arrest anyone who illegally enters Texas.

### INCREASED FOCUS ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY THIS MONTH

Last October marked the highest number of vehicle-pedestrian crashes, which is why the Texas Department of Transportation is pleading with drivers this month to be more aware of "our most vulnerable road users."

"As we shift to fewer hours of daylight, it's up to drivers and pedestrians to adapt and help keep our roads safe," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Motorists need to stay alert and look for people walking, and pedestrians can take measures to be seen by drivers who may be inattentive behind the wheel."

In 2022, 5,764 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred in Texas, resulting in 829 deaths and 1,526 serious injuries.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

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# SPORTS PAGE

## SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 8

### Penn State, Ohio State pits 2 Top 10 teams: Dolphins visit Eagles in stellar SNF tilt: Texas have Bye

In District 14-6A play, MacArthur visits district leader Westfield on Thursday night, while Eisenhower and Davis square off in a key game for both teams on Thursday night. On Friday evening, Nimitz, which suffered its first loss of the season two weeks ago against Westfield (42-28) takes on Aldine High.

Before we take a look at this week's games, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the record to 34-28 (55%).

#### HIGH SCHOOL

**MacArthur at Westfield** – Wayne Crawford's Generals take on District 14-6A leader Westfield on Thursday night at Planet Ford Stadium. Two weeks ago, the Generals fell to Eisenhower, while Westfield took down Nimitz, 42-28. The Generals will look for a solid game from QB Derrick McNeil (81 yards, 2 TDs). The MacArthur defense will be tested by Westfield QB Miles Dent (733 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Austin Abrams (19 receptions, 212 yards). My pick, Westfield 34, MacArthur 18

**Eisenhower vs. Davis:** Odell James' Eagles take on Kelvin Chatman's Falcons on Thursday night at George Stadium in an important league game for both squads. The winner remains alive for one of the district's four playoff berths, while the loser could be on the inside looking in. Two weeks ago, Ike defeated MacArthur 40-6, while Davis fell to Dekaney in a 49-42 shootout. Eisenhower is led by QB Jared Guter (559 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Ulysses Thibodeaux (13 receptions, 180 yards) while Davis is led by QB Kamryn Jackson (1,303 yards, 13 TDs/218 rushing yards), and wide receivers J Marcus Hopes (15 receptions, 282 yards) and Treveon Bossier (14 receptions, 203 yards). My pick, Davis 24, Eisenhower 22

**Aldine vs. Nimitz:** Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs take on Cornelius Harmon's Cougars on Friday night at George Stadium. Two weeks ago, Aldine fell to Spring, while Nimitz suffered its



**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

first loss of the year, 42-28 to Westfield. Look for Nimitz to rally behind QB Albert Brown (1,128 yards, 12 TDs), running back Brashard Miles (234 yards) and wide receivers Ke'lyn Washom (15 receptions, 190 yards), Malachi Augustus (16 receptions, 278 yards) and Kaden Phillips (10 receptions, 202 yards). Aldine will be led by running back Rory Hernandez (210 yards). My pick, Nimitz 34, Aldine 17

#### NCAA

**Duke at Florida State:** No. 17-ranked Duke travels to Tallahassee to take on No. 5-ranked Florida State in an ACC battle. The Blue Devils hope to have dual-threat quarterback Riley Leonard (912 passing yards, 3 TDs/326 rushing yards, 4 TDs) back for this one and they will need him against the high-scoring Seminoles. Leonard sustained an ankle injury in Duke's 21-14 loss to Notre Dame on Sept. 30. He missed last week's game against North Carolina State. If Leonard is out, that could limit big-play wide receiver Jordan Moore (24 receptions, 313 yards, 4 TDs). But it's the Duke defense that will have its hands full come Saturday with FSU QB Jordan Travis (1,198 yards, 12 TDs), running back Troy Benson (496 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers Johnny Williams (20 receptions, 357 yards, 2 TDs) and Keon Coleman (20 receptions, 278 yards, 6 TDs). The 'Noels not only want to win the ACC, but also have dreams of a berth in the College Football Playoff. Look for them to roll on Saturday. My pick, Florida State 36, Duke 13

**Penn State at Ohio State:** This is a huge one in the Big 10 for both teams as No. 6-ranked

Penn State visits No. 3-ranked Ohio State on Saturday. Both teams won their first five games with relative ease and this should be a competitive contest. The Nittany Lions have a balanced offense led by QB Drew Allar (1,092 yards, 9 TDs) and one of the most explosive running backs in the country in Keytron Allen (307 yards, 2 TDs). They also have a big-play wide receiver in KeAndre Lambert-Smith (25 receptions, 372 yards, 3 TDs). The Buckeyes have some weapons of their own in first-year starting QB Kyle McCord (1,375 yards, 8 TDs), veteran running back Tre'Veon Henderson (295 yards, 5 TDs) and perhaps the best wide receiver in the land in Marvin Harrison Jr. (25 receptions, 499 yards, 4 TDs). OSU proved it can win a tight game as evidenced by its road win at Notre Dame. Look for Henderson to the difference maker in this one as OSU sets it sites on No. 2-ranked Michigan in the final week of the season. My pick, Ohio State 26, Penn State 23

**Tennessee at Alabama:** The Vols visit the Tide on Saturday looking for a second straight win over Nick Saban's team. A year ago, the Vols won in Knoxville on a last-second field goal to finish off a wild 52-49 win. I don't think this will be the offensive shootout that it was a year ago, but Tennessee can put points on the board behind QB Joe Milton III (1,164 yards, 9 TDs), running back Jaylen Wright (435 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Squirrel White (26 receptions, 276 yards). After a Week 2 loss at home to Texas, 'Bama has reeled off four straight wins and QB Jalen Milroe (1,159 yards, 9 TDs) is improving as a passer week-by-week. Two weeks ago, in a 26-20 win at Texas A&M, Milroe hooked up with wide receiver Jermaine

Burton (17 receptions, 386 yards, 4 TDs) nine times for 197 yards and two TDs. Running back Jase McClellan (371 yards, 3 TDs) is also finding his groove, along with the Tide defense that allowed just three points to the Aggies in the second half. Look for a solid effort on both sides of the ball come Saturday as Alabama looks to keep hold of the top spot in the SEC West. My pick, Alabama 27, Tennessee 18

#### NFL

**Jacksonville at New Orleans:** Week 8 of the NFL season kicks off with Thursday Night Football as the Jaguars visit the Big Easy to take on the Saints in what should be a competitive contest. After losing two of their first three games, the Jags won two straight in London (over Atlanta and Buffalo) to move into first place in the AFC South, while the Saints also won three of their first five games. It looks like Jacksonville QB Trevor Lawrence (1,255 yards, 5 TDs) is finding his groove, along with running back Travis Etienne (396 yards, 3 TDs). Lawrence has two solid targets to throw to in wide receivers Christian Kirk (30 receptions, 335 yards, 1 TD) and Calvin Ridley (22 receptions, 333 yards, 2 TDs). The Saints have gotten decent play from QB Derek Carr (946 yards, 4 TDS) and wide receiver Chris Olave (25 receptions, 381 yards, 1 TD). Having running back Alvin Kamara (131 yards, 1 TD in 2 games) back has also been a boost to the NO offense. Look for the Saints defense to be the difference maker in this one as NO picks up the win on Thursday night. My pick, New Orleans 24, Jacksonville 20

**Detroit at Baltimore:** This will be a good road test for the Lions, who have been taken control of the NFC North thus far. Two weeks ago, Detroit blew out Carolina. QB Jared Goff (1,265 yards, 9 TDs) and running back David Montgomery (371 yards, 6 TDs) have the offense rolling. Goff has two big-play targets in wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (26 receptions, 331 yards, 2 TDs) and rookie tight end Sam LaPorta (25 receptions, 289 yards, 3 TDs). That offense will be tested by a solid Baltimore defense, but it's the Ravens offense that should have its fans concerned. QB Lamar Jackson (1,030 passing yards, 4 TDs/265 rushing

yards, 4 TDs) is pretty much a one-man offense. Baltimore is having trouble running the ball and Jackson has only one legitimate weapon in the passing game in tight end Mark Andrews (20 receptions, 225 yards, 3 TDs). The Lions defense is banged up, so look for Jackson to have a big day running and passing come Sunday. My pick, Baltimore 24, Detroit 20

**Cleveland at Indianapolis:** A key AFC game for both teams who so far are alive in their respective division races (Cleveland in the AFC North and Indy in the AFC South) and in the Wild Card race. The Browns had a bye week two weeks ago and should have QB Deshaun Watson (678 yards, 4 TDs) back after he missed his team's Oct. 1 home loss to Baltimore with a shoulder injury. If Watson is back, he will look to make plays down field to wide receiver Amari Cooper (18 receptions, 259 yards, 1 TD). The Colts could be without rookie QB Anthony Richardson who injured his shoulder two weeks ago in a win over Tennessee. Indy has a capable backup in Gardner Minshew (553 yards, 2 TDs). Indy also has star running back Jonathan Taylor back after he missed his team's first four games. His backup, Zac Moss (445 yards, 3 TDs) filled in well and the Colts should use both of them to pound the ball. My pick, Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 20

**Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City:** A big one in the AFC West pits the Chargers against the Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium. The Chargers are hoping to have versatile running back Austin Ekeler back for this one after missing three of the team's first four games with an ankle injury. If Ekeler is back, that should only help QB Justin Herbert (1,106 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (35 receptions, 434 yards, 3 TDs). The Chiefs will do what the Chiefs do, and that's to let QB Patrick Mahomes (1,287 yards, 10 TDs) make plays down field to tight end Travis Kelce (27 receptions, 222 yards, 3 TDs). KC also has found a running back behind second-year back Isiah Pacheco (325 yards, 3 TDs). The Chiefs own the Chargers, especially at home. Look for that trend to continue come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 33, Los Angeles Chargers 24

**Miami at Philadelphia:** The

best Sunday Night Football game so far this season pits the Dolphins against the Eagles in what should be an offensive shootout. Miami is led by QB Tua Tagovailoa (1,614 yards, 11 TDs), wide receiver Tyreek Hill (36 receptions, 651 yards, 5 TDs) and rookie sensation running back De'Von Achane (460 yards, 5 TDs). Achane and Hill are two of the fastest players in the NFL, and they should provide a stern test to a sturdy Philly defense come Sunday night. The Eagles have a few weapons of their own on offense with QB Jalen Hurts (1,262 yards, 6 TDs/206 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (424 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver A.J. Brown (35 receptions, 541 yards, 2 TDs) and Devonta Smith (23 receptions, 290 yards, 2 TDs). Miami struggled at Buffalo on Oct. 1 and was blown out, 48-20 by the Bills. I think head coach Mike McDaniels and his term learned a hard lesson in that one that should keep them focused on Sunday night, but winning at the Link is a tall order. Look for the Eagles to pick up the win in what should be a very entertaining game. My pick, Philadelphia 34, Miami 30

**San Francisco at Minnesota:** Week 8 concludes on Monday Night Football when the 49ers visit the Vikings. Two weeks ago, SF routed Dallas 42-10 on Sunday Night Football, while the Vikings lost at home to the Chiefs. SF looks like a total team on both sides of the ball. On offense, they have a young QB in Brock Purdy (1,271 yards, 9 TDs) who has yet to lose a regular season game in his first two years in the league. They have perhaps the best running back in the NFL in Christian McCaffrey (510 yards, 8 total TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Brandon Aiyuk (21 receptions, 378 yards, 2 TDs). They also have a ball hawking defense that can also pressure the QB. That's not good news for Kirk Cousins (1,498 yards, 13 TDs), who will be without star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (36 receptions, 571 yards, 3 TDs) who will miss at least four games with a hamstring injury after being placed on the injured reserve list. Looks like another win for the 49ers. My pick, San Francisco 31, Minnesota 18

## Aldine ISD candidates hold Public Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and taking politics out of the classroom. He feels his work experience would make him able to monitor expenditures related to the Bond issue. He is not in favor of use of Eminent Domain.

Candidate **Paul Shanklin** is an attorney and currently a board member, and has been for 10 years. He has taught at the University of Houston. His priorities are about the students, "we are here because we care about the children." He is also concerned about school safety, and advocates for public education, not vouchers. He is in favor of the Bond issue, "we must look ahead." He said the Eminent Domain issue has not been decided. He said a duty of a board member is to help select a superintendent.

Candidate **Araceli Ramos** is a resident of Aldine for 35 years, with children in AISD. Her priorities are safe schools and quality education. She will be involved in the schools, walking the classrooms. She will monitor the budget to control expenses. She is concerned that the district has lost 8500 students in the last 5 years, and suggested it is because the quality of education is not attractive.

Candidate **Kimberly Booker** is a professional educator and published author, and a current member of the school board. She has been an 8th grade principal. Her priorities for the students are safety, and academic success. She is concerned about the culture of AISD. She says a board member must know current school policy, help develop a good budget, and work closely with the Superintendent. On the Bond issue, she not-

ed that the public has indicated they want to proceed with the funding, and she is concerned we will lose students if AISD does not have good facilities. On Eminent Domain, she said the whole story will be told at the next board meeting, but seemed to indicate she was in favor of its use when necessary.

Candidate **Steve Moore** is a local businessman and apartment developer, with a large number of housing units and employees in the Aldine area. He is concerned that Aldine ISD has slipped to the bottom 10% of the area in quality education. He said the classroom environment is not good, according to his personal observations. He wants the budget to move more dollars into classroom instruction. He is in favor of a safe, productive environment. He wants to see more trade classes taught and preparation for life skills, not just academics. He thinks the public should be heard at the start of each board meeting, not at the end. On the Bond issue, he is in favor because we need more resources to cope. On Eminent Domain, he wants to leave the Upchurch property alone, acquiring it at a later date if necessary.

Candidate **Viola Garcia** is a professional educator, teacher and principal. She is an incumbent on the board since 1993. Her 3 daughters graduated from Eisenhower HS. She holds positions on Texas and National school boards in addition to Aldine. She is in favor of public education, and her priorities are safety and quality education for the students. She is concerned about the loss of students in recent years. She believes the duties of a board member are to hire

and evaluate a Superintendent, help set a budget, and be a trustworthy member of the board. On Eminent Domain, she said she did vote in favor of using it, but believes the circumstances have changed and the vote in October will be different for all.

Candidate **Belinda Valdivia** was not present for the Forum, without explanation.

Candidate **Mikela Levi** grew up in Acres Homes, and is a graduate of Carver High School. She is 27 years old, and believes her youth brings a better view of conditions. "I am your change agent" she said. She said she has a passion for advocacy and accountability. She is in favor of the school bond, saying we need the creative environment that will result. Her priorities are better pay for employees, and getting students career ready. She believes the duties of board members are to set policy, and accountability. On Eminent Domain, she is opposed to its use, saying we don't need it.

The meeting ended with each candidate giving a summary of the reasons to vote for them. About 75 persons attended the meeting, which was also hosted by the East Aldine District. Green Forest Civic Club president Selinz Valdez thanked all the attendees for their interest and civility in the event.

Valdez reminded all that Early Voting was from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3, with Election Day Nov. 7 from 7am to 7pm.

Registered voters can vote at any polling place in Harris County. Polling locations are listed on the HarrisVotes.com website.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Gomorrah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my \_\_\_ shall not." Life, Children, Love, Words
3. To what type person did Saul seek relief when an evil spirit tormented him? Harpist, Sorceress, Madman,

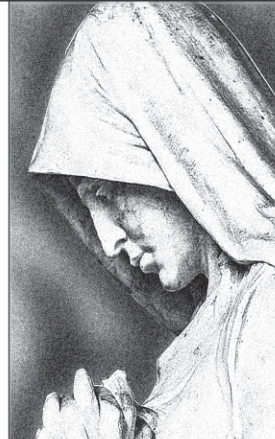
- Soldier
4. What two weapons did David use to kill Goliath? Spear/Rock, Sword/Mallet, Sling/Stone, Ax/Knife
  5. The grain of what seed did Jesus liken to the kingdom of heaven? Mustard, Barley, Apple, Corn
  6. What daughter of Leah was defiled by Shechem? Bathsheba, Dinah, Elisabeth, Anna

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Words, 3) Harpist, 4) Sling/Stone, 5) Mustard, 6) Dinah  
 Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

ROMANS 12:1



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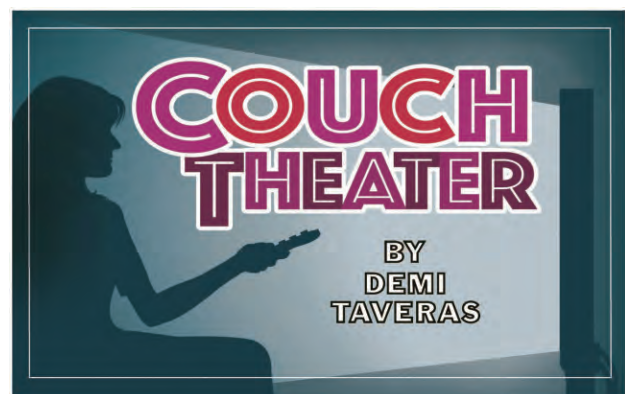
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Brie Larson stars in "Lessons in Chemistry."

"Lessons in Chemistry"

"LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY" (TV-MA) — "Captain Marvel's" Brie Larson leads this new drama miniseries based on the novel by Bonnie Garmus. Larson portrays Elizabeth Zott, a female scientist during the 1960s who suddenly gets fired from her position at a laboratory. Having spent her free time cooking up delicacies, Elizabeth gets an offer to host her own cooking show, called "Supper at Six." As she molds herself to become a poised and characterized version of herself on the show, Elizabeth also utilizes this opportunity to educate her viewers, young and old, on current events and scientific topics. Through her honest perspective of what it's like to be a housewife in the 1960s, she provides a

beacon of hope to women everywhere. The first two episodes are out now, with the subsequent six episodes releasing every Friday. (Apple TV+) \*\*\* "COBWEB" (R) — In this horror thriller produced by Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen, Woody Norman ("C'mon C'mon") plays 8-year-old Peter, a young boy who lives a solemn life with his emotionally distant parents, Carol and Mark. After they won't let him go trick-or-treating on Halloween, Peter begins hearing a tapping on the walls of his home and encounters a voice named Sarah. While his parents dismiss these claims as delusion, Peter's connection with Sarah only grows, and so do the eerie circumstances at home. Lizzy Caplan ("Fa-

tal Attraction") and Antony Starr ("The Boys") co-star in "Cobweb," out now. (Hulu) \*\*\*

"NEON" (TV-MA) — Santi, Ness and Felix are three kids from a small town desperate to make it big in the reggaeton music scene in Miami. With Ness as his manager and Felix behind the camera as a budding music video director, along with A&R rep Mia, Santi attempts to get his star on the rise to eventually become the biggest reggaeton artist yet. This eight-episode comedy series executive produced by reggaeton legend Daddy Yankee follows the trio through their highs and lows of being a growing artist in Miami's music industry. Expect cameos from artist such as Jowell, Ken-Y, LYANNO and more. All episodes release on Oct. 19. (Netflix) \*\*\*

"THE BURIAL" (R) — In this legal drama loosely inspired by a true story, Jerry O'Keefe (Tommy Lee Jones) is a funeral home owner with massive financial troubles that could put him out of business. So, he attempts to sue a larger funeral home corporation called the Loewen Group due to a contractual dispute and hires the eccentric lawyer Willie E. Gary (Jamie Foxx) to help him win his case. With Willie asking for \$100 million for his client and Mame "The Python" Downes (Jurnee Smollett) representing the defendant, the stakes are stacked up high against Jerry. But Willie remains undeterred that his unusual lawyering will prevail. Out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — It's finally official! Vanna White will continue flipping letters on "Wheel of Fortune" when Ryan Seacrest becomes the new host starting next season. The producers would only give her a two-year contract, but you know she will be flipping those letters even if she needs to use a walker to get to them! \*\*\*

In 1980, Byron Allen was a successful stand-up comic. I used to chat with him between sets at the Improv, a popular comedy club, and he was always friendly and easy to talk to. He soon signed on to host NBC's primetime show "Real People" and eventually became founder and CEO of Allen Media Group. Also known as Entertainment Studios, Inc., the company produced shows such as "Comics Unleashed" and owns the Weather Channel, as well as several regional sports networks and TV stations.

In 2020, Byron tried to buy the Denver Broncos and lost to a higher bidder. But you can't keep a good man down ... he's now offered the Walt Disney Company \$10 billion to buy ABC, FX and National Geographic. Disney's financial problems might make his offer irresistible. \*\*\*

In case you've wondered why writers and actors are so worried about AI (artificial intelligence), here's a case in point: Highly respected British actor Stephen Fry (who scored as Oscar Wilde in "Wilde," and also starred in "V for Vendetta," "Gosford Park" and "The Hobbit" trilogy, to name a few of his credits) discovered that an AI system mimicked his very recognizable voice for a narration of a historical documentary.

"I said not one word of that," Fry confessed. "It was a machine. Yes, it shocked me. They used my reading of the seven volumes of the 'Harry Potter' books, and from that dataset, an AI of my voice was created, and it made that new narration. What you



Vanna White (Wheel of Fortune)

heard was not the result of a mash-up. ... The words are modulated to fit the meaning of each sentence ... all without my knowledge and without my permission." \*\*\*

Mark Wahlberg is only 52, but the father of four is already beginning to question how much longer he can stand in front of movie cameras. He recently revealed, "Well, I'm certainly working harder now than ever. ... But I don't think I'll be acting that much longer at the pace I am now."

Before the strike, he completed "Arthur the King," "The Union" for Netflix, with Halle Berry and J.K. Simmons; and the Apple TV+ comedy "The Family Plan," with Michelle Monaghan. He wants to devote more time to his two boys and two girls who are currently 13, 15, 17 and 20, as well as his family business "Wahlburgers," which has grown to 90 sites within the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. \*\*\*

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ENTERTAINMENT

October 16, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

King Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Answers for the crossword puzzle: 1. Apple tablet, 5. Dispensed candy, 8. 1980s, Chrysler line, 12. bene, 13. King, in Cannes, 14. British noble, 15. Diner employee, 16. Gerund ending, 17. Pub potables, 18. Candy bar nut, 20. Stoic philosopher, 22. Baseball film starring Robert Redford, 26. Kathmandu's land, 29. Census stat, 30. Chemical suffix, 31. Exploits, 32. LPs' successors, 33. Air outlet, 34. de mer, 35. Before, 36. Rodeo rope, 37. Baseball film starring Kevin Costner, 40. Hawaiian island, 41. Phase, 45. Quick look, 47. Extended, lunch?, "Doing my best", Vogue rival, Brit. record label, April forecast, D.C. insiders, Squealer, North Sea feeder, Reeves of "Speed", Dieters count them, "Right you —!", "Kidnapped" monogram, Stanley Cup org., Paris summer, Consumer crusader, Ralph Curry and Landers, Jared of "Panic Room", A deadly sin, Feeling no pain, Birthright bar-terer, Helter-skelter, Dracula, for one, College URL ender, Vegas lead-in, Minnesota's 10,000+, Custom List-ending abbr., First bed, Emmy-winning Daly, Zing, "Xanadu" band, Ms. Thurman

Amber Waves

Amber Waves comic strip panels by Dave T. Phipps.

TIGER

TIGER comic strip panels by Bud Blake.

The Spats

The Spats comic strip panels by Jeff Pickering.

Weekly SUDOKU puzzle by Linda Thistle with difficulty level and instructions.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff with instructions to find differences between panels.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with questions about U.S. history and geography.

Answers for the Trivia test and King Crossword.



FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

THIS WEEK'S SCORES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 Spring Westfield 28, Eisenhower 0 Kingwood Park 21, Baytown Lee 20 Spring 51, MacArthur 0

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 Aldine Nimitz 42, Aldine Davis 28 C. E. King 58, Beaumont United 14 Crosby 15, Baytown Sterling 7 Huffman Hargrave 51, Splendora 22 North Shore 62, Bmt. Westbrook 14 Port Arthur Memorial 57, Goose Creek Memorial 0 Port Neches-Groves 41, Dayton 14 Santa Fe 50, Galena Park 23 Spring Dekaney 72, Aldine 0

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 Pasadena Dobie 41, Channelview 40

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 Eisenhower at Davis, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring Humble at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston MacArthur at Westfield, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 Barbers Hill at Kingwood Park, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble Crosby, bye Deer Park at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium in Channelview Goose Creek Memorial at Porter, 7 p.m., Randall Reed Stadium in Porter Huffman Hargrave at Lumberton, 7:30 p.m., Raider Stadium in Lumberton LaPorte at Baytown Sterling, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown Nederland at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston Nimitz at Aldine, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring Port Arthur Memorial at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown Texas City at Dayton, 7 p.m., Bronco Stadium in Dayton

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 C. E. King at Atascocita, 6 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble

1. Georgia; 2. "Triassic"; 3. Michelangelo; 4. Gene Cernan; 5. Canberra; 6. 1945; 7. One — Dwight Eisenhower; 8. "The Catcher in the Rye"; 9. "Living Single"; 10. The whale shark

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