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NORTHEAST NEWS

5th Gun BuyBack Event



Sheriff's Deputy Perez checks and disables one of the rifles turned in at the 5th Gun BuyBack event.

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 VOL. 47, NO. 44 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Early Voting starts Nov. 27 in Run-off Election

Voters Focused on Mayoral Race; Council At-Large #3 Race features Cantu

East Aldine Tree Lighting Friday, Dec. 8



The East Aldine District invited everyone to "Light Up the Season with Us" at the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and related events, on Friday evening, December 8th from 6pm to 9pm at the East Aldine Town Center, in front of the Amphitheatre. Enjoy free food, tamales, hot chocolate, pan dulce, Camel Rides, a Petting Zoo, and Aztec Dancers. Special Appearances by SANTA & MRS. CLAUS, and the Gingerbread Man. Sponsored by the East Aldine District, BakerRipley, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Lone Star College East Aldine, and P-Tech Avalos High School.

By David Taylor
 Managing Editor

With early voting beginning on Monday, November 27, 2023, the race is on for several city of Houston spots including the mayor's office.

Former State Representative John Whitmire led all voters in the mayoral election garnering 106,735 votes or 43.04 percent of the vote to runner-up Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee's 86,371 votes at 34.83 percent of the vote. The turnout was a disappointing 247,969 votes cast in the mayoral election.

The city of Houston has become accustomed to run-offs in their mayoral elec-



MAYORAL CANDIDATES JOHN WHITMIRE & SHEILA JACKSON LEE



tions. The 2023 election is no different becoming the third in a row dating back to 2015 when former State Representative Sylvester Turner won a runoff election against former Kemah

Mayor Bill King by one of the narrowest margins in Houston elections, a mere 678 votes or approximately 0.4 percent margin.

According to Texas Secretary of State Jane Nel-

son's website, the city boasts 2,568,463 registered voters with the largest turnout in three decades coming in the 2020 presidential election where 1,633,557 constituents cast their vote. The largest percentage vote came in the presidential election in 1992 that produced a 71.68 percent turnout.

The last Houston mayoral runoff, in 2019, Turner emerged the leader in a field of 12 and runner-up attorney Tony Buzbee followed closely behind. However, Buzbee was not able to turnout his voters in the

Continued. See RUN-OFF ELECTION, Page 2



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE RICHARD CANTU

East Aldine District's Executive Director is also running for an At-Large City Council position. Cantu has previously held positions in Houston City Government, HC Department of Education, Aldine Education Foundation, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Admin-

District's Explorer Team wins top prize in state

EAST ALDINE – In a program called Explorers, Harris County sheriff's deputies coach volunteers ages 14 to 21 on how to be law enforcement officers. It's a rigorous, hands-on experience funded by the East Aldine Management District.

Now, four Explorers are learning what it's like to be tops in Texas. Their team won "best overall" at a Nov. 11 statewide competition in Corpus Christi against 45 other teams from around the state.

Their names? Carlos Sanchez, Noah Gallo, Juliana Hinojosa and Timothy Hall.

The teams they bested came from agencies such as the U.S. Border Patrol, the Houston Police Depart-



Deputy Terry Garza, Left, and her prize winning team of Explorers at the Competition in Corpus Christi.

ment and the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Not bad for a program that had faded away. The Harris County Sheriff's Office oversaw several Explorers posts before the COVID and dozens of the former participants now work as sheriff's deputies here.

The only one that sprang back into action is East Aldine's, according to post supervisor, Sgt. Terry Garza.

But the East Aldine program only came alive in April, which makes its statewide honor more remarkable.

Garza trains Explorers

Continued. See EXPLORERS TOP TEXAS TEAM, Page 2

Fifth Gun Buyback event nets 500 guns

HOUSTON — More than 500 guns were collected at the City of Houston's fifth gun buyback event that was held Saturday at the METRO facility on Harwin. The gun buyback program is part of the One Safe Houston Initiative the city launched in 2021 to decrease violent crime.

City officials said 559 guns were handed over and \$77,850 in gift cards were distributed to attendees who turned in guns.

Like past gun buyback events, the city partnered with the Harris County Sheriff's Office to make it all happen. HCSO Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said it's an opportunity for law enforcement to serve the community in a different



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez speaks about the Gun Buyback program. Others include Mayor Sylvester Turner, Fire Chief Pena, Pct. 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, Police Chief Troy Finner, and Constable Al Rosen.

way.

"On a number of occasions, we've heard from individuals that said, 'My loved one passed away. They had weapons. I do not want them in the house and I did not have a safe way of disposing of them,'" the sheriff said. "This provides that option.

We want to make sure we're preventing those instances where maybe someone is perhaps breaking into a home and someone comes across those weapons and now it lands on the wrong hands."

Gun locks and gun safes were also distributed at the event.

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 14

Alabama, Georgia meet for SEC title: Texans host hot Broncos in rare 3 p.m. start

The first Saturday in December brings with it conference title games across the country. The only league title game that was set prior to press time was in the SEC where No. 8-ranked Alabama will try to end No. 1-ranked Georgia's 29-game winning streak and its stranglehold on the SEC and college football.

The Bulldogs have won two straight national titles and Nick Saban would like nothing more than to gum up Georgia's dreams of a third straight College Football Playoff (CFP) title.

Saban knows it won't be easy, but he has his team playing its best football of the season and the veteran head coach is one of the best in the history of game planning for an opponent. Georgia head coach Kirby Smart worked for Saban as his defensive coordinator, so Smart knows



Saban as well as anyone.

It's going to be an interesting afternoon in Atlanta on Saturday.

In the Big 12, Texas needed to win its season finale at home against Texas Tech to land a spot in the Big 12 title game this Saturday in Arlington. UT should land a spot after winning back-to-back road games in Weeks 10 and 11. The win over Iowa State gave Texas its first 10 win season since 2009. Tech would like nothing more than to spoil the 'Horns conference title changes, but something

tells me UT head coach Steve Sarkisian had his team ready for the Red Raiders last Friday.

The winner of the Ohio State-Michigan game will face an offensively-challenged Iowa team in the Big 10 title game with the winner earning a CFP spot.

While the college season winds down and teams wait for their bowl assignments, the NFL is heating up, especially the hometown Texans.

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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East Aldine Explorer's team wins top prize,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

along with Sgt. David Hernandez and deputies Tylere Jackson, Eduardo Gonzalez and Valerie Moreno. Gonzalez and Moreno are former Explorers. All are part of a Sheriff's Office force paid by the District to fight crime with East Aldine.

Of the 22 active Explorers in the group, nine competed in the state event.

Four were in Team A, which, along with "best overall," finished first, second or third in simulations of a DWI traffic stop, an active shooter scenario and a burglary in process.

Team B placed first in a public disturbance scenario, second in an arrest/search/seizure and third in traffic accident investigation and crisis intervention. The team was Braeden Lopez, Kimberly Price, Carlos Cantu and Glenn Samuels. Cantu also took first place in physical agility.

Team A's best overall award equaled the East Aldine program's achievement in 2013.

Garza, the sergeant, said she was ec-

static about the team's performance this time.

"It's such a great accomplishment," she said. "These kids work hard and they are dedicated to the program."

East Aldine Management District Chairman Carlos Silva added to the praise.

"We are incredibly proud of what our young Explorers were able to achieve at the most recent statewide competition. Our entire community is inspired by the fact that the Explorers won 1st place by demonstrating their skills, aptitude, and dedication to the field of law enforcement," he said.

"Special thanks to all of our sheriff's deputies who also participate in the program and help teach and train," Silva added.

To find out about becoming an Explorer, contact Sgt. Terry Garza at

Terry.Garza@sheriff.hctx.net or 832.570.8891.

Lone Star College and Texas Workforce Commission offer training for small businesses

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – Lone Star College's partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) creates various opportunities to assist small businesses with their training needs.

The Skills for Small Business (SSB) program provides local employers with funding to pay their employees to take credit, continuing education, online and non-published courses offered at LSC. These offerings apply to business needs and operations.

"The Skills for Small Business Program allows Lone Star College to help you educate and train your workforce," said Linda Leto Head, LSC Senior Associate Vice Chancellor External and Employer Relations.

The Skills for Small Business will give approved businesses \$1,800 to cover tuition for each new employee and \$900 for each current employee in a 12-month period. Only full-time permanent employees can participate in the program. The employer and employees can select the training offered at LSC that benefits the business and the worker through an application with TWC. Once approved, they can use funds at LSC to enroll in courses relevant to their business.

"I encourage local small business owners to take a look at the training that is available through this worthwhile program," said Head.

The Lone Star College Skills for Small Business project is financed with \$15,000 (40.81% of the total costs) of federal money. 0% of the total costs of this project are financed by nongovernmental sources. For more information on the



Lone Star College partnered with the Texas Workforce Commission to offer the Skills for Small Business program that provides area employers with free training for their employees.

Skills for Small Business grant and assistance with identifying training at LSC, email Christina Boutte at Christina.D.Boutte@LoneStar.edu or call 832.813.6797.

Lone Star College has designated grants (federal, state and workforce) to help students pay for their college education. Visit LoneStar.edu/fa-grants for more information on those resources.

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. LSC is the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2022 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.

Run-Off Election,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

runoff and lost to Turner 113,262 to 88,844 or 56 to 44 percent.

Both Whitmire and Jackson have name recognition in the community and whoever is best organized to get voters to the polls a second time will have the advantage.

OTHER RACES

The mayor's race isn't the only one headed to a runoff. Four of the five At-Large positions on City Council and Houston City Council Districts D, G, and H all have runoffs. The Controller's office also has a runoff with former Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins facing off against former Harris County Treasurer Orlando Sanchez. Hollins won the field during the November election earning 95,382 votes or 44.84 percent of the vote to Sanchez 57,996 or 27.27 percent.

In the city council elections, in At-Large Position 1, Julian Ramirez will face off against Melanie Miles. A mere 1,697 votes separated them in the November election. In At-Large

Position 2, Willie Davis will battle Nick Hellyar after the two were the top vote-getters in the first election. Richard Cantu and Twila Carter will meet for the At-Large Position 3 runoff. Cantu captured 43,065 votes or 22.09 percent while Carter picked up 40,334 or 20.69 percent of the vote. Neither were able to win the majority in a field of nine candidates. The final city council position runoff is between Roy Morales and Letitia Plummer. Plummer almost secured the spot with 47.97 percent of the vote to Morales 33.23 percent.

For county residents, particularly in area municipalities, the city elections have meaning.

In one case, many are forced to purchase their water from the city of Houston.

Since Houston is the only owner of surface water in the area and their representatives also stack a majority of the positions on the subsidence district's board, it's difficult to out-vote them with a minority

vote from municipalities who want to keep rates for their customers low.

Most local cities like Galena Park, Jacinto City and Twila Carter will meet for the surface water from the city of Houston as part of a long-range mandate by the state legislature to convert from ground water to surface water avoiding a growing subsidence issue.

EARLY VOTING 11/27 THROUGH 12/5

On Monday, November 27, the Harris County County Clerk's office says 41 Early Vote Centers will open across the area from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., through December 5 from Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 7 p.m.

There will be 450 Vote Centers open on Election Day, Saturday, December 9, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can vote at any location.

The deadline to apply for a mail ballot is November 28.

To see a sample ballot for your area, please visit the County Clerk's website at harrisvotes.com.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Bicyclist riding on Eastex Freeway struck and killed

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 8700 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) about 6:45 p.m. on Monday (November 20).

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

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant S. Jewell and Officer S. Le reported:

The male was riding a bicycle on the south-bound lanes of the

Eastex Freeway near the Laura Koppe exit when he was struck by a black Volvo SUV. The Volvo then came to a stop on the eastside emergency lane.

Houston Fire department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced the victim deceased. The driver of the Volvo, who remained at the scene, was determined not to be impaired and was questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.

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JOINT RUNOFF ELECTION DATES

Visit the **Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department** at HarrisVotes.com or call 713.755.6965 for more information.

- In-Person Early Voting**
November 27 - December 5
- Last Day to Apply for a Mail Ballot**
November 28
- Election Day**
December 9

HarrisVotes.com

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

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, Nov. 27, 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 Esenciales- **Martes- 5:00 PM 6:45 PM:** Computer Essential Skills (Spanish computer class)
- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación

con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes

Kid's Game Night Thursday, Nov. 30, 5-6:45pm

Join us for fun board games. Bean bag toss. Video Games and more!

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Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>
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Nivel -1 Habilidades Esenciales- **Jueves - 5:00 a 6:45 PM:** Computer Essential Skills (Spanish computer class)
- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes.

Chill Vibes for Teens

Life is stressful, this program is not. *Chill Vibes for Teens* is for slowing down and decompressing from a stressful week. Relax with us and start your weekend off right. Every other week we'll have a different set of activities to unwind and unclutter your mind. Or, you can just veg out in one of our comfy chairs. **Friday, Dec. 1, 3:30pm - 5:30pm**

Para los Niños

Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week.
For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!). **Saturday, Dec. 2, 10-11:30am**

Coffee & Conversation

Are you learning to speak English as a second (or third or fourth, etc.) language and would

like to practice speaking English 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, Dec. 2 & 16, 2-3pm**

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 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 10 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 7 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>.
Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, photos, copies, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

Michelle Pichon
Library Program Specialist
Harris County Public Library
Aldine Branch Library
11331 Airline Dr.
Houston, TX 77037
832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

All 4 Incumbents Returned to AISD Board Seats



Voters in Aldine ISD went to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 7, and returned all four incumbents to their respective seats on the Aldine ISD Board of Education.

In the Position 1 race, incumbent Randy Bates defeated Dr. Jill Metcalfe. Bates received 7,252 votes, and Metcalfe received 4,297 votes. There were 11,549 votes cast in the Position 1 race.

In the Position 2 race, incumbent Paul Shanklin defeated Zaheer Malik.

Shanklin received 5,716 votes, and Malik received 5,442 votes. There were 11,158 votes cast in the Position 2 race.

In the Position 6 race, incumbent Dr. Kimberley Booker defeated Araceli Ramos. Booker received 7,269 votes, and Ramos received 4,235 votes. There were 11,504 votes cast in the Position 6 race.

In the Position 7 race, incumbent Dr. Viola M. Garcia defeated Steven Moore, Mikela Levi, and

Belinda Valdivia. Garcia received 3,801 votes, Moore received 3,508, Levi received 2,822, and Valdivia received 1,384. There were 11,551 votes cast in the Position 7 race.

Aldine ISD's School Board election follows plurality rules, and the candidate with the most votes wins. The results will be official once the votes are canvassed on Nov. 20. All four will be sworn in at the Dec. 12 Board of Trustees meeting.

Aldine ISD to host Auxiliary Job Fair on Nov. 30



Aldine ISD will hold an Auxiliary Job Fair on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. until noon at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (1865 Aldine Bender Rd)

The Job Fair is being held to fill the following positions:

- Cafeteria specialists
 - Custodians
 - Ground crews
 - Bus drivers
 - Transportation mechanics
 - Painters
 - Roofers
 - Electricians
 - Carpenters
 - Plumbers
- To learn more or to apply Visit AldineISD.org/jobs
- Captions
Aldine ISD will hold an Auxiliary Job Fair on Thursday, Nov. 30.

Blanson CTE High School Named to Prestigious AP School Honor Roll for 2023



Bronze Distinction
Aldine ISD proudly announces that the College Board named Blanson Career and Technical Education High School to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP) School Honor Roll, earning Bronze distinction. The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

"We are immensely proud to receive the Bronze Distinction on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our students, teachers, and staff who continuously strive for excellence in education," said Principal Ben Ibarra. "Our commitment to fostering a college-going culture and providing equitable access to AP coursework remains unwavering. We firmly believe in every student's potential for success and are committed to helping them achieve it here in Blanson."

To qualify for the 2023 AP School Honor Roll, schools must meet or exceed the criteria for a given recognition level for all three metrics — College Culture, College Credit, and College Optimization. In College Culture, Blanson CTEHS scored

56% for a Silver score; in College Credit, 27% for a Bronze score; and in College Optimization, 5% for a Silver score, giving the school an overall Bronze Recognition status.

School Enrollment: The school's AP Coordinator submitted the school-level enrollment data in AP Registration and Ordering and checked against federal registrar data from the National Center for Education Statistics.

College Culture: Percent of students in the graduating class who took an AP exam at any point in high school, regardless of score. To avoid pressure on students to take large numbers of APs, only 1 AP exam per student contributes to this indicator.

College Credit: Percent of students in graduating class who scored 3+ on any AP exam in high school. To avoid pressure on students to take large numbers of APs, only 1 AP exam score of 3 or higher per student contributes to this indicator.

College Optimization: Percent of students in the graduating class who took 5 or more AP exams in high school, where at least 1 exam was taken in 9th or 10th grade. Because research finds that 6 or more APs do not improve college graduation rates beyond the optimal total of 5 such exams in high school, no exams beyond 5 per student contribute to this indicator. The Honor Roll also recognizes schools that encourage students earlier on their AP journey to

keep them from overloading them with AP courses during their junior and senior years.

AP Access Award: An additional recognition is given to schools when the percentage of underrepresented and/or low-income students accessing the school's AP Program is the same or greater than the percentage in the school's graduating class. School-level enrollment for this award is sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics using the most recent finalized data.

AP Access Award
In addition to achieving Bronze Distinction on the AP School Honor Roll, Blanson CTE High School received the 2023 AP Access Award. This award acknowledges the school's steadfast commitment to ensuring that AP coursework is accessible to all students, regardless of their backgrounds or circumstances. The school firmly believes every student deserves the opportunity to pursue advanced coursework and strives to make this vision a reality.

"Blanson CTE High School's honor of the Bronze Distinction is a remarkable achievement that reflects the exceptional education our students receive," said Ibarra. "We are proud of our steadfast commitment and academic excellence and equal access to educational opportunities."

Additional AP School Honor Roll information can be found on AP Central.

Students Step Into Spotlight at 8th Annual AISD Theatre Festival

More than 400 theater students from elementary to high school participated in theater workshops as well as performance and technical competitions. The 8th Annual Aldine ISD Theatre Festival was held at Carver High School, the district's Choice School for the visual and performing arts, in late October.

- Superior Ratings in Musical Performance**
- Carver HS**
Solo — Majesty Le'Det Group — Kennadie Amos, Tylan Brantley, Tyler Brantley, Brittany Cardona, Bailey Day, Lee Fransaw, Cora Frazier, Nazanine Graves, Jareyohn Griffin, Desmond Hampton, Tiana Jones, Curniya Nickerson, Christopher Pace, Morgan Potts & Amayah Watson
- Solo — Alyssa Davis Leonard
Duet — Devin Spearman & Krysta Thierry
- Drew Academy**
Group — Keneth & Company
Solo — Johnny Kelly
Duet — Allen Hampton & Roma Velado
Group — Chamayah Pearson & Co
- Hambrick Middle**
Solo — Esli Cano
- Eisenhower Ninth Grade**
P. Durán
M. Ramos
- Superior Ratings in Duet Acting**
- Carver HS**
Emani Caston & Trevon Green
Joseph Jack & Quinn Guillory
Tiana Jones & Tyler Brantley
Tiara Lawrence & Jalen Watson
Trinity Jones & Sannia Bell
- Davis HS**
Raven Washington & Brianna Emilien
- Hambrick MS**
Melanie Garcia & Miranda Garza
- Jones MS**
Miller & G
- Nimitz HS**
Ford & Johnson
- Plummer MS**
Lizama & Viser
Pace & Thomas
- Superior Ratings in**

- Monologue**
- Aldine HS**
Emily Escalante Reyes
Daylijah Monroe
Reina Zamudio
- Carter Academy**
Juan Córdova
Jenesis Brown Lever
Zahniya Curtain
Jaime Figueroa
- Carver HS**
Hailey González
Kamilayah Washington
Niya Kelly
Quinn Guillory
Rhegan Thompson
Sannia Bell
Traylee Ashley
Trinity Jones
Regea Shelby
Teshea Curry
- Davis HS**
Karen Singleton
V. Harrison
- Davis Ninth Grade**
Priscilla Luna
- Drew Academy**
Allen Hampton
- Hambrick MS**
Abizael Robles
- Houston Academy**
Dellivon F.
Aylen N.
Arianna M.
Sky H
Ryder J.
Summer H
- Lewis Middle**
Dakarai Smith
- Nimitz HS**
T. Richardson
- Plummer MS**
Jeysin Núñez
A. Lizama
D. Williams
S. Harris
- Superior Ratings in Group Acting**
- Hambrick MS**
Esli Cano, Sofia Gonzales, Natalie Rodríguez & Valeria Soto
- Verónica Ariza, Jefferson Chávez, Shelby Rodríguez, Bernardo Torres & Daniel Venegas
- Superior Ratings in Technical Theater**
- Carver HS**
Aniya (Costume Con)
Nevaeh (Lighting D)
Oriana Willis
Tray'Lee Ashley
Zariah Tatum
Tatiana Smith (SM)
- Superior Ratings in Lip Sync/Pantomime**
- Drew Academy**
Solo — Jeremy Gregory (Lip Sync)
Duet — Johnny Kelly & Christopher Valdez (Pantomime)
- Houston Academy**
Houston Academy JHA

- Production (Lip Sync)
- Plummer MS**
Solo — Jenkins (Lip Sync)
- Callback Results (1st-3rd Place)**
- Monologue Middle School**
1st Place — Abizael Robles from Hambrick Middle
2nd Place — D. Smith from Lewis MS
3rd Place — Allen Hampton from Drew Academy
- Monologue Elementary School**
1st Place — Arianna M. from Houston Academy
2nd Place — Aylen N. from Houston Academy
3rd Place — Jenesis Brown Lever from Carter Academy
- Monologue High School**
1st Place — Kamilayah Washington from Carver HS
2nd Place — E. Escalante from Aldine HS
3rd Place — Hailey González from Carver HS
- Duet Acting High School**
1st Place — Raven Washington & Brianna Emilien from Davis HS
2nd Place — Trinity Jones & Sannia Bell from Carver HS
3rd Place — Tiana Jones & Tyler Brantley from Carver HS
- Musical High School**
1st Place — Pace & Co (Group) from Carver HS
2nd Place — P. Durán from Eisenhower Ninth Grade School
3rd Place — Majesty Le'Det from Carver HS
- Musical Middle School**
1st Place — Johnny Kelly (Solo) from Drew Academy
2nd Place — Chamayah Pearson & Co. (Group Musical) from Drew Academy
3rd Place — Allen Hampton & Roma Velado (Duet Musical) from Drew Academy
- Lip Sync/Pantomime Intermediate**
1st Place — Houston Academy JHA Production
- Lip Sync/Pantomime Middle School**
1st Place — Jenkins from Plummer MS

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

OPINION PAGE

STARLITE
By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

November is Native American Heritage Month

Lone Star College-Montgomery celebrates Native American Heritage Month with monument



Lone Star College-Montgomery will unveil its Land Acknowledgment Monument Nov. 29 at noon in the Garden Area. The event offers attendees a glimpse into the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe culture, who previously inhabited the land that now sits LSC-Montgomery.

HOUSTON (Nov. 24, 2023) – The United States of America recognizes November as Native American Heritage Month to honor the rich history and contributions of Native Americans.

“November heralds a season of celebration, recognition and the month when we honor Native American Heritage,” said Carlecia Wright, LSC chief culture and engagement officer. “Lone Star College delves into and values the deep-seated traditions and significant impacts of Native Americans on our community through various educational enrichment events.”

Lone Star College-Montgomery Office of Culture and Engagement will continue the celebration with its Monument Unveiling Ceremony and Reception on Nov. 29 at noon in the Garden Area between Buildings E and F.

“Lone Star College-Montgomery offers educational opportunities that teach, learn and celebrate diverse groups that reflect our growing community,” said De’ Reese Reid-Hart, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery president. “We invite everyone to join us as we recognize the rich history and traditions of Native Americans who paved the way for the college’s existence through reflection and celebration.”

The LSC-Montgomery Monument Ceremony and Unveiling Reception is part of the college’s Native American Heritage Month Series. “Our Stories. Our Nations.” The Land Acknowledgment Monument is a collaboration between the LSC-Montgomery Multidisciplinary Native American Employee Resource Group and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe in Livingston, Texas. The purpose is to honor all Native American people, particularly the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, who inhabited the land where LSC-Montgomery sits.

“We hope this event will mark the beginning of a long-lasting partnership with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe,” said Kerri Steen, LSC-Montgomery lead of the Native American Employee Resource Group. “Through this partnership, we hope to share knowledge, resources and experiences that will benefit both Lone Star College-Montgomery and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.”

LSC-Montgomery’s land monument is a native Texas Moss Rock boulder with a metal solar cross in a circle, which is one of the most sacred symbols of Native Americans that represents the sun, moon and fire. Robby Wood, LSC-Montgomery art professor, designed the cross and Anthony Bess, LSC-Montgomery welding professor, created it.

The college will host members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council and community who have been key in developing this significant project. After the unveiling ceremony, tribal members will provide a dance and drumming performance in the college’s Maverick Conference Center.

“The importance of honoring Native people runs deeper than this one month of celebration and reflection,” said Yolanda Lopez, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery culture impact manager. “We have been working on creating strong relationships across campus and with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe to ensure we foster spaces of open dialogue, understanding and collaboration that are sustainable, mutually beneficial and long-lasting.”

Visit LoneStar.edu/Culture-Montgomery for more information on LSC-Montgomery’s Monument Unveiling Ceremony and Reception or other Office of Culture and Engagement campus events. Learn more about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas at Alabama-Coushatta.com.

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.

Cutline:



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

A Thanksgiving Prayer

I have always liked Thanksgiving.

I know its origins are dubious. I cringe a little when I think about the construction paper American Indian costumes and the happy story I learned as a child about that first Thanksgiving. I cringe a little more when I read about people missing their holiday meal so they can work at retail jobs where customers trample one another at the store’s entrance to get in and buy things. I don’t understand this, I have to confess. I have never been in such a hurry to buy anything in my life.

But even if the mythology of Thanksgiving is a little suspect and the current traditions can be a little crass, I like Thanksgiving because I cannot dislike a day dedicated to feeling thankful.

My first Thanksgivings were spent at the farmhouse where my mother grew up. If I had to put my finger on the moment that made it Thanksgiving, I would say it happened in the stillness—after all the food had been piled onto the big dining room table, and grandma (for just a moment) had her apron off, and the cousins (for just a moment) had been herded together into some sort of group, and everyone (for the one and only time all day) had fallen more or less quiet. Then we would sing the blessing. My mother’s family had a lot of good singers in it, sisters who played the piano and sang harmony in church. And so someone, an aunt I am sure, would begin:

“Be present at our table, Lord.” We didn’t ask for help, or intercession or forgiveness. We just asked the God we believed in to be there with us.

“Be here and everywhere adored.” And not just with us. We asked for God’s presence to be everywhere it was welcomed.

“These mercies bless and grant that we...” We asked for all this abundance to be blessed—everything on our table and in our hearts, and everyone standing there beside us, singing in the farmhouse. Then, in my family, we concluded: “May strengthened for Thy service be.” I have since learned there are several ways to finish this prayer. The more common ending is: “May live in fellowship with Thee.” Some families sing, “May feast in Paradise with Thee.”

But my mother’s family was a Swedish farming family, and we asked for strength to keep on working. Feasting in Paradise might have been fine for some, but that was a little more than any of us could imagine. Asking for strength so we could keep on doing what we had been doing seemed like a pretty safe bet and, perhaps, not too much to ask.

Then we sang “Amen,” and we ate. There were many more people than chairs, so the cousins sat on the stairway, and the aunts squeezed side by side on the couch, and some uncles ate standing up—despite my grandmother’s repeated warnings that this would lead to fat feet. And the table would be filled with enough pies to nearly cover its surface, served with whipped cream and weak coffee. And a cold wind would rattle the last stubborn leaves hanging on the trees, reminding us that colder days were ahead.

And so, even though I am many miles away from my family and years away from that farmhouse, I am going to sing today.

“Be present at our table, Lord, Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we May strengthened for Thy service be.”

Because it’s a simple request, and a good one, Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Abbott: Battle Continues Over Vouchers

As time runs out next week on the fourth special session, Gov. Greg Abbott said he will continue to fight for school choice, despite the Texas House once again decisively rejecting it when 21 Republicans largely from rural districts joined Democrats in stripping it from a \$7.6 billion education bill. The Austin American-Statesman reported it is unclear what Abbott’s next move will be.

“I will continue advancing school choice in the Texas Legislature and at the ballot box and will maintain the fight for parent empowerment until all parents can choose the best education path for their child,” Abbott said. “I am in it to win it.”

However, Abbott has not said whether he will call a fifth special session. He has previously said that he would back primary opponents to those who rejected the voucher plan.

“I don’t know whether the Governor will call us back for a 5th special session or not,” state Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, said in a Facebook post Sunday. “Either way, I look forward to the next time I have the opportunity to provide much needed teacher pay raises, increased funding for our local schools, and parents with the opportunity to choose the system of education they believe is best for their child.”

The filing period for the March primary is underway and ends Dec. 11

WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES POSSIBLE THIS WINTER

The agency in charge of the state’s power grid is warning that Texas could face widespread power outages this winter if temperatures plunge below freezing for several days in a row, as occurred last year. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas raised the alarm after canceling a plan to ask power plant operators to reactivate some closed natural gas and coal plants. It received few offers to do so, The Dallas Morning News reported.

ERCOT is predicting a 14.4% chance of rolling blackouts if the state experiences a severe cold snap such as occurred just before last Christmas. Those



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

chances grow to 16.8% in January, according to the report.

“The resource mix that’s changing on the grid isn’t really helping to pick up the growing peaks in the winter,” ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas said in a recent interview. “That’s why there’s this growing risk profile that we need to deal with.”

Population and business growth are the main drivers of energy shortages on the ERCOT grid, The News reported.

After the February 2021 winter storm, the Legislature put in place weatherization standards for power plants and is conducting widespread inspections of power plants to make sure they are complying.

TEXAS STATE TO HOST FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

The first presidential debate for the 2024 general election will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos, the Statesman reported. The Sept. 16 debate will be the first of four to take place next year.

Kelly Damphousse, president of Texas State since July 2022, said he believes the university, with nearly 39,000 students, was chosen because of its legacy with former President Lyndon Johnson, who graduated from there, and its facilities.

“Texas State looks a lot like the state of Texas demographically. We are almost all Texas students here, more than 95%,” he told the Statesman. “And so I think in many ways we look like a great opportunity for them. Not just our facilities, not just our campus, but just the entire story must have looked attractive to them.”

The debate will be held

in the school’s event center, the Strand Arena. Hundreds of media outlets and attendees are expected, and Texas State has set aside \$5 million to prepare for and run the debate.

MORE THAN 800,000 TEXAS CHILDREN LOSE HEALTH CARE

Of the 1.4 million Texans who have lost health coverage through either Medicaid of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, 58% — or 812,000 — are children, The News reported. This follows the end of pandemic-era continuous Medicaid renewals.

“We knew we were going to have problems, to be candid. I’m sorry we’re seeing the kind of numbers that we’re seeing,” said Steve Love, president and CEO of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. “This is going to really exacerbate the problems we already have with the uninsured in Texas.”

Nearly 70% of people who lost Medicaid coverage in Texas were booted off for procedural reasons, such as failing to return renewal packet requests. The state has the highest rate of uninsured people in the country.

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN ANNUAL JOB GROWTH AGAIN

The state again reached a record high nationally with 14.536 million Texans at work, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state’s seasonally adjusted jobless rate held steady at 4.1%.

“The Texas economy continues to grow, and there are nearly 480,000 job listings for individuals with the right skills, which TWC can help provide,” TWC chairman Bryan Daniel said.

The latest report marks the 10th consecutive monthly increase in jobs, with the addition of 21,000 more Texans on payroll, TWC reported.

WE’RE NUMBER ONE! IN FERAL HOGS.

It likely comes as no surprise to rural residents, but even city dwellers are having their yards and gardens ravaged by feral hogs, which have been reported in 99.6% of Texas counties. The only exception thus far is El Paso County, according to new data from the University of Georgia.

Rounding out the top five in sightings of the invasive species are Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Oklahoma. Feral hogs have a high fertility rate and can eat nearly anything.

Texas A&M researchers have found a warfarin-based toxicant that is effective in reducing the feral pig population, but it is not yet being widely used. Hunting and trapping remain the most highly used methods of eradication, but so far the hogs are winning the battle.

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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 14

Alabama, Georgia meet for SEC title: Texans host hot Broncos in rare 3 p.m. start

Two weeks ago, rookie QB C.J. Stroud shook off a three-interception day to lead the Texans to a 21-16 home win over Arizona to improve to 6-4 on the season and remain one game behind Jacksonville in the AFC South race. On Sunday, the Texans host one of the hottest teams in the league when the Denver Broncos come calling.

Week 13 kicks off on Thursday Night Football with the Cowboys hosting Seattle. Other key games this weekend have the Dolphins visiting Washington, San Francisco visiting Philadelphia in a rematch of last year's NFC title game, Kansas City visits Green Bay on Sunday Night Football and a Joe Burrow-less Bengals team plays at Jacksonville on Monday Night Football.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week upped the season record to 82-40, 67%.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

SEC title game, Alabama vs. Georgia: This game pits the two best teams in the SEC and it should be a fun game to watch. The Crimson Tide have a dual-threat QB in Katy Tompkin product Jalen Milroe (2,267 passing yards, 19 TDs/332 rushing yards, 12 TDs). He will get a stern test from a Georgia defense that is one of the best in the county and does an excellent job of taking away opposing team's best offensive weapon. Saban knows this and might feature running back Jace McClellan



(737 yards, 6 TDs) to keep the 'Dawgs defense on its heels. Georgia is a special team led by sophomore QB Carson Beck (3,320 yards, 21 TDs). He has his top weapon back in tight end Brock Bowers (51 receptions, 660 yards, 6 TDs) and a solid runner in Daijun Edwards (725 yards, 10 TDs). Georgia rises to the occasion and while I think 'Bama will be in the game until late, look for the Bulldogs to come up with key defensive stop to win their 30th game in a row. My pick, Georgia 26, Alabama 24

NFL

Seattle at Dallas: Both teams will have three extra days of rest having played on Thanksgiving Day, as Dallas hosted Washington and Seattle hosted San Francisco. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys dominated Carolina on both sides of the ball and left Charlotte with a convincing 33-10 win, while Seattle lost late against the Rams, 17-16. Dallas QB Dak Prescott (2,604 yards, 19 TDs) is having one of the best years of his career, as is wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (74 receptions, 1,013 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Dallas defense to force Seattle QB Geno Smith (2,404 yards, 12 TDs/7 interceptions) into some mistakes as the Cowboys win at home and set their sights on their rematch against Philly the following week. My pick, Dallas 27, Seattle 18

Los Angeles Chargers at New England: Two of the league's most disappointing teams meet in Foxborough on Sunday. It's gotten so bad in New England, that head coach Bill Belichick's job could very well be in jeopardy. Think about that, if one of the greatest head coaches in NFL history's job is on the line, what does that say for LA head coach Brandon Staley whose team continues to underachieve. LA has too many good players to have a losing record. Look for QB Justin Herbert (2,609, 9 TDs), running back Austin Ekeler (396 rushing yards, 4 TDs/24 receptions, 254 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (83 receptions, 1,011 yards, 7 TDs) to take their frustrations out on Belichick's team on Sunday. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 31, New England 16

Denver at Houston: Two of the hottest teams in the NFL meet on Sunday in a rare 3 p.m. home start for the Texans. Two weeks ago, Houston held on for a 21-16 win over Arizona despite Stroud's (2,962 yards, 17 TDs) three interceptions. Denver won its fourth straight with a 21-20 win over Minnesota as QB Russell Wilson threw the game-winning touchdown with 63 seconds left in the game. The Houston defense needs to corral Wilson, who is having a pretty good season under first-year head coach Sean Payton. Stroud will look to make more plays in the passing game to Nico Collins (43 receptions,

696 yards, 4 TDs) and rookie Tank Dell (42 receptions, 659 yards, 6 TDs). The running game has improved behind Devin Singletary (471 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Texans to pick up another home win as they look to remain in the AFC South race and the AFC Wild Card race. My pick, Houston 23, Denver 20

Miami at Washington: The Dolphins and their high-powered offense visit a Washington team that lost at home two weeks ago to a two-win Giants team. Things won't get any easier on Sunday when Tua Tagavailoa (2,934 yards, 21 TDs), Raheem Mostert (691 yards, 11 TDs) and Tyreek Hill (79 receptions, 1,222 yards, 9 TDs) come calling. Washington has one of the top passers in the NFL in Sam Howell (3,038 yards, 18 TDs), but not much else. Look for the Dolphins to roll come Sunday. My pick, Miami 33, Washington 16

San Francisco at Philadelphia: The 49ers return to Lincoln Field where their season ended a year ago at the hands of the Eagles in the NFC title game. The 49ers lost the game and QB Brock Purdy (2,662 yards, 18 TDs) to an elbow injury. Purdy is back, as is running back Christian McCaffrey (825 rushing yards, 9 TDs/43 receptions, 364 yards, 5 TDs), wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (43 receptions, 831 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (43 receptions, 648 yards, 5 TDs). SF will be out for revenge, but they will face a tall task when they face Jalen Hurts (2,497 passing yards, 15 TDs/345 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (690 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (68 receptions, 1,013 yards, 6 TDs) and Devonta Smith (48 receptions, 632 yards, 4 TDs). The one thing that might work in the 49ers favor is the fact Philly is coming off a game at KC, and plays at Dallas in a week. Look for the 49ers to help out the

Cowboys in the NFC East race as they pull off the upset. My pick, San Francisco 26, Philadelphia 24

Kansas City at Green Bay: The Chiefs visit Green Bay on Sunday Night Football looking to get into their annual late-season roll. These two teams met in the first Super Bowl, with the Packers winning in a 35-10 rout against the lesser AFL. KC has come a long way since that game in 1967 and has won two Super Bowls in the last four years behind star QB Patrick Mahomes (2,619 yards, 19 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (64 receptions, 641 yards, 5 TDs). GB first-year starting QB Jordan Love (2,331 yards, 16 TDs/10 interceptions) has struggled at times this year, but did lead the Packers to a 23-20 win over the Chargers two weeks ago. The Chiefs are a lot better than the Chargers and will make that point painfully apparent come Sunday night. My pick, Kansas City 34, Green Bay 20

Cincinnati at Jacksonville: Week 13 concludes on Monday Night Football with the beat up Bengals visiting the Jaguars. Cinci will be without starting QB Joe Burrow, who sustained a ligament injury to his throwing hand two weeks ago in his team's loss at Baltimore. Jake Browning is now the new starting QB for the Bengals and he has some weapons to help him out in running back Joe Mixon (605 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (71 receptions, 833 yards, 6 TDs). The Jags have a healthy QB in Trevor Lawrence (2,382 yards, 11 TDs), a solid running back in Travis Etienne (670 yards, 7 TDs) and a solid receiver in Christian Kirk (52 receptions, 672 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Jags defense to force a turnover or two from Browning as Jacksonville continues the Bengals woeful season. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Cincinnati 17



FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

Football Playoffs

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

6A D1 PLAYOFFS North Shore 45, Cy-Fair 9

6A D2 PLAYOFFS

Fort Bend Hightower 31, C. E. King 28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

6A D1 PLAYOFFS North Shore (13-0) vs. Atascocita (11-2), Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m., Pasadena Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena, Texas. Call the GPISD Athletics Office for more information at 832-386-4330.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Revelation (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What method of death was for a man who blasphemed the Lord's name with a curse? Hanging, Stoning, Starvation, Beaten
3. Who used handkerchiefs and aprons to heal the sick and drive out demons? Jesus, Paul, Mark, Jeremiah

4. From John 6, what substance did Jesus miraculously walk upon? Sea, Fire, Clouds, Broken bones
5. What did God call the firmament? Rapture, Armageddon, Passover, Heaven
6. From Romans 6, what are the wages of sin? Riches, Eternal life, Death, Freedom

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stoning, 3) Paul, 4) Sea, 5) Heaven, 5) Death
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

LUKE 5:4-6

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Plump and perfect, our fresh and juicy oranges are the perfect way to get your "C" on! Twelve plump, delicious oranges in 4 favorite varieties, handpicked to order, shipped straight to you.

- **3 Grove Navels** Juicy, tangy-sweet, and seedless: the world's #1 orange!
- **3 Honey-Sweet Tangerines** Heavenly sweet and easy to peel. Kids love them!
- **3 Petite Golden Navels** Snack-sized versions of the beloved classic.
- **3 Petite Red Navels** Gorgeous red flesh with berry undertones.

Call 1-855-626-1978 to order item 492X or Visit HaleGroves.com/H4YN18

Order Item #492X, mention Code H4YN18 for your \$14 savings.

Only \$23.99* (reg. \$37.99), plus \$7.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 17, 2023 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 14, 2023.

Hale GROVES

Since 1947
Hale Groves, Venet Beach, FL 33566

Call now and SAVE 37%!*

*Plus \$7.99 handling per pack to the 48 contiguous states. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

IC: H4YN18

PERFECTION IS EFFORTLESS

Omaha Steaks are hand-selected for unmatched quality, naturally aged for maximum tenderness, and flash-frozen to lock in that unforgettable flavor. All you have to do is thaw, cook, and Mmmmm.

Omaha Steaks are hand-selected for unmatched quality, naturally aged for maximum tenderness, and flash-frozen to lock in that unforgettable flavor. All you have to do is thaw, cook, and Mmmmm.

Butcher's Deluxe Package

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

74222VSZ separately \$624.94 **\$99.99**
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Limited Time: Get 8 FREE Burgers

Order Now!
OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8207 | 1.844.380.9586
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 74222VSZ

100% GUARANTEE Always

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER
OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2, 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74222. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. All products, prices, and sales are subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use. OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use/OSI. Expires 12/31/23. 23M4658 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

Winter Favorites Assortment

NOW ONLY \$19.99
plus \$5.99 shipping
SAVE 39%
Reg. Price \$32.99

4 Varieties, Perfect for Sharing!
Full of Vitamins C & A

Brighten Someone's Winter!
4 Petite Varieties • Big Flavor

Proof that good things can come in small packages, these petite fruits hold big flavor! Made for snacking, this mix of mini citrus and orchard fruit is handpicked and rushed right to your door.

- **2 Rio Ruby™ Red Grapefruit** Fragrant, juicy & flavor packed.
- **2 Navel Oranges** Seedless with bright, sparkling flavor.
- **2 King Comice Pears** Juicy, sweet pears with creamy, velvety texture.
- **2 Fuji Apples** Crisp, juicy and extra-sweet.

1-833-435-1661
Visit PittmanDavis.com/P4YH22

Order Item #PGR23, mention Code P4YH22

Only \$19.99 (reg. \$32.99), plus \$5.99 shipping. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. Order by December 15, 2023 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery.

Call Now or go Online and SAVE 39%
Limited quantities, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

Pittman & Davis
1700 N. 1st St.
Madison, WI 53702

IC: P4YH22

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, HONEY, GO AHEAD AND TELL SANTA WHAT YOU WANT.
LET HIM KNOW IF YOU'VE BEEN GOOD.
WELL, LITTLE BOY... HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD ALL YEAR LONG?
THAT'S A STRETCH, HOW ABOUT WE STICK TO THE LAST 2 HOURS.

TIGER
by BUD BLAKE

YARD SALE
YARD SALE
YARD SALE
YARD SALE

The Spats
by Jeff Pickering

I AM NOBODY.
NOBODY IS PERFECT.
...THEREFORE I AM PERFECT!

November 27, 2023 Posting Date
King Crossword

ACROSS

- Microwave
- Jubilation
- Scuff
- "— Believer"
- Give temporarily
- Big-screen format
- Layered desserts
- Refer to
- Irate
- Breaks away
- Stockholm's land
- JFK's veep
- Fleur-de—
- Cutting tool
- Parlor pieces
- Now, on a memo
- Luau bowlful
- Karate level
- Prison-related
- Atty.'s title
- Mauna —
- Soda
- Steering device on a ship
- Leaping antelopes
- Hosp. hook-ups
- Donald Duck's nephew
- Like a good golf score
- Greek mountain
- Cannes milk
- Blackbird
- Favorites head
- PC programs
- Ewe's mate
- '50s Ford
- "Great work!"
- During
- Top of the head
- Former mates
- Passing craze
- "Survivor" ailer
- High-five sound
- Sagacious
- Snooze
- Misery
- Crystalline mineral
- Skin soother
- Twinkler in the sky
- Tropical fruits
- Leb. neighbor
- Texter's chuckle
- Calms
- "Straight Up" singer Abdul
- TIVO, for example
- Denny's rival
- Inspiration
- Nuisance
- Break suddenly
- Chips go-with
- Santa — winds
- Crater part

DOWN

- Energy
- Docs' bloc
- Italian cheese
- Forest clearings
- Tiki bar necklace
- Tolkien creatures
- 7
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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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		2			1			5
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	9	8		3				4
	7				8	2	9	
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		7	2			9		
4				5				1

Place a number in each empty box in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

1	L	7	8	3	5	6	9	2	4
9	5	6	4	1	4	2	7	8	3
2	2	4	9	7	8	5	1	6	
3	6	2	8	9	1	4	7	5	
4	1	9	7	3	5	8	6	2	
7	8	6	2	4	1	9			
5	9	3	1	6	7	2	2	4	8
8	2	7	5	4	5	6	9	1	6
6	2	1	4	8	2	1	4	6	7

Trivia test
by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the captain in "The Love Boat"?
- MOVIES: What is E.T.'s favorite candy in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is Hungary's national spice?
- ADVERTISING: Which company's mascot is Elsie the Cow?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called plutophobia?
- GAMES: How many pawns are on a chessboard?
- SCIENCE: What is the name of the giant land mass that is believed to have existed on Earth 200 million years ago?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes is southernmost?
- LANGUAGE: What is an octothorpe?
- LITERATURE: Where are the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" set?

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1. Cap. Merrill Stubing; 2. Reese's Pieces; 3. Paprika; 4. Borden Dairy Company; 5. Fear of wealth; 6. 16; 7. eight pawns for each player; 8. Lake Erie; 9. A hashtag or pound sign; 10. Missouri.

FREE EVENT
EVENTO GRATIS

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

light up the season with us
ILUMINA LA TEMPORADA CON NOSOTROS

Dec 8
6PM-9PM
EAST ALDINE TOWN CENTER
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.
FRIDAY | VIERNES

with special appearances by
Santa & Mrs. Claus
Gingerbread Man

Con apariciones especiales del
Hombre jengibre,
papa Noel y la señora Claus

TAMALES
HOT CHOCOLATE
PAN DULCE

CAMEL RIDES
PETTING ZOO
AZTEC DANCERS

PASEOS EN CAMELLO
ZOOLOGICO
BAILARINES AZTECAS

BakerRipley | HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE | AldineDistrict.org

✉ UPDATES FROM ✉
WALLE WORLD

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Fourth Special Session Begins

The Fourth-Called Special Session of the Texas Legislature began on Nov. 7 and must end on or before Dec. 7.

State leaders were unable to pass their stated priorities during the Third-Called Special Session, causing the governor to call yet another session. The agenda for the Fourth Special Session is nearly identical to the previous one, including GOP priorities of passing anti-immigration laws and instituting a voucher system that would undermine our neighborhood schools.

Rep Walle remains firm in his opposition to any voucher scam proposals, and to any bills that raise questions about state government overreach into federal jurisdiction, as well as irresponsible spending of taxpayer dollars and violations of civil rights.

IN THE NEWS

One Texas democratic lawmaker's harsh words for his state's new hardline immigration legislation | MSNBC

The Texas state government is on the verge of passing legislation that makes it a crime for undocumented migrants to enter the state. It would be punishable by up to six months in prison. Immigration advocates say that the law would lead to racial profiling and discrimination against migrants. Texas **State Representative Armando Walle** was not afraid to call out his Republican colleagues over the unjust nature of the legislation. He joins American Voices host Alicia Menendez to discuss.

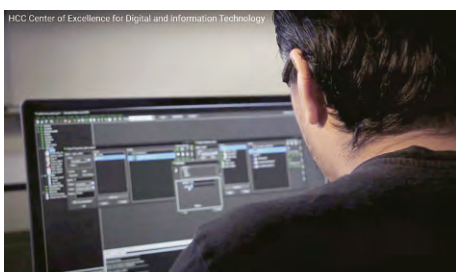
'I would do it all over again:' State Rep. Armando Walle of Houston defends profanity-laced tirade about proposed immigration laws | Houston NPR

Walle said motions made to end debates about proposed laws, like the one Harris made regarding House Bill 4 after nearly 50 proposed amendments had been submitted, are rare at the state capitol.

"We use the process and the rules and parliamentary procedures to represent our communities," **(Rep. Armando Walle)** said. "When you limit debate, I think the vast majority of people, whether they're Democrats or Republicans or independents, they believe that would be un-American. I was upset at the process."

HCC designated as National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense

HOUSTON (Sept. 7, 2023) – Houston Community College (HCC) has been designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CE) by the National Security Agency (NSA).



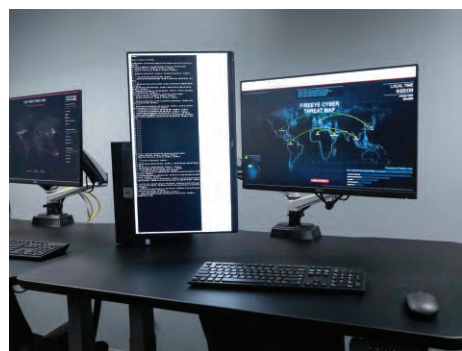
The designation through the 2028 academic year means that HCC is a trusted institution for cybersecurity education and can help meet the increasing demands for highly trained people who can contribute to the protection of the national information infrastructure. This is the second five-year period that HCC has held the prestigious designation.

community involvement," said Samir Saber, dean of the Digital and Information Technology Center of Excellence.

More than 600 students are currently enrolled in HCC's cybersecurity programs, said Dr. Fidelis Ngang, faculty division chair. About 450 are pursuing associate degrees and around 200 are working toward certificates, he said.

"A highly skilled cybersecurity workforce is a strategic national security advantage," said Renae Weathers, the NSA's National CAE program manager. "The U.S. government will continue to invest in and enhance programs that build the domestic talent pipeline, from primary through postsecondary education."

HCC's Security Operations Center at the West Loop campus includes a simulated training lab where students study using state-of-the-art equipment, learning how to detect and defend against simulated cyberattacks within a controlled environment. Scenarios are replayed and analyzed afterward as concepts are taught.



"We will continue to invest in state-of-the-art technology and laboratories such as the Security Operations Center," said Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, vice chancellor of Workforce Instruction and president of HCC's Southwest College. "This will ensure HCC remains at the forefront as a leader in cybersecurity education and is developing the talent pipeline so critical to our country."

"This redesignation is significant in that it underscores the college's commitment to provide our students with the high-level skills and knowledge needed to succeed in fields like cybersecurity," said Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, HCC interim chancellor. "As the demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to grow, HCC is positioned perfectly to help both government and industry protect our nation's cyber infrastructure."

According to Cyberseek, a cyber career information organization, there are over 660,000 current cybersecurity job openings in the U.S., and employers are struggling to find qualified workers.

"Students who complete an associate degree or certificate in cybersecurity at HCC are landing high-paying jobs right out of the gate," Dr. Ngang said.

"Achieving and maintaining the prestigious CAE-CD designation is highly demanding due to its stringent requirements around academic rigor, institutional support, faculty and staff credentials, student engagement, and

For more information about HCC's cybersecurity program, please visit <https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/science-technology-engineering-math/cyber-center>.

TURN YOUR DREAMS INTO REALITY

FREE HSE/GED/ESL CLASSES

SIGN UP Saturday, December 9 9 a.m.

HCC Acres Homes Campus
630 W. Little York Rd.
(Orientation, HCC Registration assistance, Program Information, & HCC swag)

HCC Real World Education

ADULT EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE NORTHEAST REGION ORIENTATION | 9 A.M. SAT. | DECEMBER 9

Let us help you prepare for the high school equivalency/GED test, enhance your language skills with English as a Second Language (ESL), or gain new workforce skills.

Sign up for Adult Education programs starting January 2024:

- High School Equivalency (HSE)/GED
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- TSI Prep
- Career4U - Workforce training program
- Scholarships

Enroll in Acres Homes Campus academic and workforce programs:

- Academic & University Transfer courses
- Community Learning classes
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
- Digital Communications/Apple Lab
- 911 Dispatcher/Telecommunicator



Sign up for student orientation.

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING 2024
CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 16

Acres Homes Campus

630 W. Little York Road
Houston, TX 77091

713.718.6900
hccs.edu/spring24



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