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NORTHEAST NEWS



Vice President Kamala Harris spoke at a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Forum at the Hardy Senior Center in Aldine.

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 VOL. 47, NO. 45 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Vice President Harris visits Aldine

Holds Forum discussion at Hardy Senior Center with Hispanic Caucus

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, BakerRiipley, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Lone Star College East Aldine, and P-Tech Avalos High School.

Kamala Harris touts White House record

ALDINE – Vice President Kamala Harris visited Houston on Monday, speaking at a Forum held at the Harris County Hardy Senior Center in Aldine. She pitched Latino Texans on the White House's record of advocacy for them, as President Joe Biden prepares to face voters again next year. Several hundred invited guests listened to the Forum speakers, which lasted for over 30 minutes before Harris left for a fund raiser in Houston. "We are living in a moment where there is a full-on attack on hard-won freedoms and rights," Harris said, addressing the challenges ahead. "In the next 11 months, we've got



Vice President Kamala Harris, at right, participates in Congressional Hispanic Caucus event at Hardy Senior Center in Aldine. At left, US Congresswomen Sylvia Garcia, and Nanette Barragan, chair. Also participating with opening remarks were Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

a lot of work to do to make true the promise of who we are as America." Harris spoke as part of a moderated conversation with U.S. Reps. Sylvia

Garcia, D-Houston, and Nanette Barragan, D-Calif., chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Harris attended a Biden campaign fundraiser after-

ward. Harris specifically touted the administration's efforts to help minority-owned businesses, saying she and Biden

"understand the history of disparity." She noted the White House has committed to a 50% increase in federal contracts for such businesses and has invested \$12 billion in community lenders to expand access to capital for entrepreneurs. But Harris also spoke more broadly about what she called an "intentional full-on attack" against people's rights, including the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade last year. She harshly criticized states like Texas that after the ruling instituted abortion bans without exceptions for rape victims. "The idea that after someone has survived a crime of violence to their body, a violation of their

Continued. See RUN-OFF ELECTION, Page 2

East Aldine holds Papel Picado workshop

Traditional Mexican art form will be used on Proposed Town Center Sculpture

EAST ALDINE – The EA District held a workshop last Saturday, November 18 at their offices, to learn about the traditional Mexican decorative craft known as Papel Picado (English: Confetti). About 25 participants under the direction of Houston artists Guadalupe Hernandez learned the history of the craft, and then took their turn at actually making the art forms on paper cut-outs. The resultant art piece resembles a paper doily, embellished with the images of the creative artist. These can be geometric shapes, or lifelike images, or whatever the artist chooses. The result is an embroidered lace-like surface. The participants also got a view of the new proposed Monument to be erected in the roundabout in front of the East Aldine offices. It is expected that the obelisk will be embellished with the same type of Papel Picado design.



Participants show their artwork. The paper cutouts are made with a hammer and punches, over a receiving block. MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 2



The workshop lasted several hours, and included the cultural history, art techniques and images, and finally a hands-on exercise ABOVE.

Centennial Parks Conservation Fund Passes With Overwhelming Support



Rep. Walle and son at Lake Livingston State Park last summer

Tuesday, Nov. 7 marked the 2023 Texas General Election. Of the 14 Constitutional Amendments offered on the ballot, several key proposals passed. **Rep. Walle** was the Texas House author on Proposition 14, which establishes the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state parks across the state. The proposition passed with overwhelming support. "The Centennial Parks Conservation Fund has passed into law," Rep. Walle said. "Texas voters overwhelmingly supported our effort to invest in the growth of state parks for generations to come. Thank you to all of our partners and supporters!" Additionally, Texas voters also approved propositions to increase the homestead exemption, provide retired teachers a cost-of-living adjustment and establish the Texas University Fund to invest in schools like the University of Houston. In Harris County, the bond election to fund a new hospital and improve health services also passed.

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 15

Texans look to remain in AFC Wild Card race against Jets: Cowboys host Eagles in key NFC East game in prime time

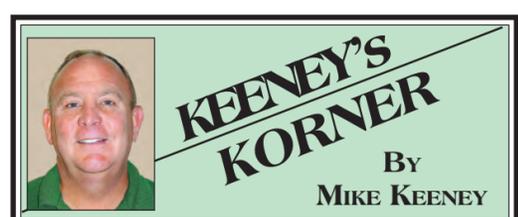
The 2023 NFL season is heading into the home stretch as the calendar has turned to December and a number of teams are still alive in the playoff hunt, just what the NFL wants.

One of those teams is the hometown Houston Texans who despite losing a tough 24-21 decision to Jacksonville two weeks ago at home, are very much alive in the AFC Wild Card race.

DeMeco Ryan's team can help their cause this Sunday with a win against a struggling New York Jets team at The Meadowlands.

The AFC South is probably out of reach for the Texans due to their loss to the Jags. That defeat left the Texans two games behind in the division with just five games left to play. The Jags are rolling and could cause trouble in the playoffs.

Although the Jets are having a rough season, especially on



offense, they are solid on defense and will be ready for rookie QB C.J. Stroud on Sunday. The NY offense could get a big boost if Aaron Rodgers, their big acquisition in the offseason, returns from the Achilles injury he suffered on his fourth play as a Jet. If I'm New York management, I would hold the future Hall of Famer out for the remainder of the season because the Jets aren't going to the playoffs and if Rodgers reinjures his Achilles, he might be gone for next season as well.

While the Texans hit the road to New Jersey, the Dallas Cowboys host the Philadelphia

Eagles in a key NFC East game on Sunday Night Football. Like the Texans, the Cowboys chances of winning the division are slim, but a win over their heated rivals would do a lot for their confidence down the stretch and could position them as the fifth seed in the NFC playoffs.

But it won't be easy. Two weeks ago, the Eagles overcame a 10-point halftime deficit (they trailed at KC 17-7 on Nov. 20 before rallying for a 21-17 win) to defeat a game

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page5

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

Executive Director: **Richard Cantu**
 713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

Operations Manager: **Veronica Sanches**
 713.595.1226 VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

AldineDistrict.org

LSC-EAC CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Let's donate to our Texas Children Hospital patients. Every student who donates a toy/book will get an entry to the LSC-EAC Christmas party. We will have tamales, cupcakes, drinks and crafts and a special guest coming from Whoville.

Drop-off location: Registration Desk Christmas Party: December 8th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

We will accept donations starting December 1st through December 7th

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VP Harris in Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

body, that they would be told, 'And you have no right to make a decision about what happens to your body next' — it's immoral," Harris said. "It's immoral."

The conversation was introduced by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, who spoke about her recent struggles with mental health and the stigma attached to it, especially in the Latino community. Hidalgo took a nine-week leave of absence earlier this year to check herself into an inpatient treatment center in Ohio.

"It's just something we

don't talk about in our culture, but that doesn't mean it's not happening," Hidalgo said.

Hidalgo said Harris contacted her while she was receiving treatment and was "such a source of support for me."

The event took place at Hardy Senior Center in Garcia's district, one of the most heavily Hispanic congressional districts in the country.

Harris headed to a private residence afterward for the fundraiser, which was also attended by her husband, Doug Emhoff, as well as Hidalgo and Hous-

ton Mayor Sylvester Turner. According to a pool report, Emhoff paid homage to famous Texas Democrats and alluded to the decades-long Republican control of the state.

"We will never give up on Texas," Emhoff said.

Harris' visit comes as the Biden campaign works to shore up Latino support ahead of a potential rematch against former President Donald Trump next year. In Texas, Republicans have been making an aggressive push to win over more Hispanic voters, particularly in South Texas.

East Aldine holds Papel Picado Workshop,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Workshop participants show their artwork. Patterns could be either traditional or personal by the artist.



East Aldine board chairman Carlos Silva holds a punch, while one of the boys hammers the top to make a hole in the paper.

Keep East Aldine COVID Safe

0 6

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The Papel Picado technique relies on simple tools: heavy paper, punches, and a hammer. The result is a very satisfying lace-like embroidered art piece.

JOINT RUNOFF ELECTION DATES

Visit the **Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department** at [HarrisVotes.com](https://www.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](https://www.harrisvotes.com)

COMMUNITY WATCH

Driver being chased by deputies crashes wrong-way on Hardy Toll Road

HARRIS COUNTY — A suspect who authorities said refused to stop and led law enforcement on a chase has crashed on the Hardy Toll Road in north Harris County. Two vehicles were mangled in the wrong-way chase crash on Friday.

According to the Harris County Pct. 4 Constable Mark Herman, the driver refused to stop when authorities tried to pull him over and led them on a chase. Authorities said the chase happened around the 1600 block of Louetta Road and made its way on to the Hardy Toll Road.

The constable's office said the suspect was driv-



The two vehicles on the Hardy Toll Road were totally mangled in this Wrong-Way chase.

ing the wrong way down the highway. He eventually lost control and crashed near E. Airtex Drive. The driver reportedly had a flat tire but still refused to stop before the crash near Rich-ey at about 3 p.m.

There is no word wheth-

er anyone was injured.

The constable's office said the northbound lanes of the Hardy Toll Road were shut down. Hardy Toll Road northbound reopened hours after chase crash.

High-speed chase involving several teens ends in crash; one dead

HOUSTON — One person was killed after a high-speed chase involving several teenagers ended in a crash in northwest Harris County on Saturday, December 2, according to police.

The Houston Police Department said officers saw a vehicle full of teens driving recklessly and attempted to pull them over at about 12:43 a.m. near Rankin and Kuykendahl.

Investigators said the group refused to stop and initiated a high-speed chase reaching up to 80 mph. Chief Chandra Hatcher added that at some point, the suspects turned off their headlights in an attempt to escape officers.

About three minutes into



the chase, the driver went through the intersection of Veterans Memorial Drive near Bammel North Houston Road, hitting two other vehicles.

Three of the teenage suspects were taken to the hospital and are expected to be OK. One of the teenagers was trapped inside the vehicle and died at the scene, according to police.

Investigators believe all

of the people inside the suspects' vehicle were about 16 and 17 years old.

One innocent person involved in the wreck was taken to hospital in stable condition.

"It's holiday season, one suspect here who's deceased - prayers to family - we don't know what was going on, who was in the car just yet, or why they fled," Hatcher said.

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, Dec. 4, 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, 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 pricipiantes

Para los Ninos

Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-6:45pm
The Children's Museum of Houston has prepared workshops for your local library! 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!)

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- **Jueves - 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 pricipiantes

Teen Thursdays

Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! **Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

Para los Ninos

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**

Polling Location: Joint Runoff Location

The City of Houston, Texas, will conduct a Runoff Election (the "Election") on Saturday, December 9, 2023, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., at which there will be elected the following officers of the City of Houston:
Mayor/Council Member, District DCouncil Member, District GCouncil Member, District HCouncil Member, At-Large Position 1Council Member, At-Large Position 2Council Member, At-Large Position 3Council Member, At-Large Position 4City Controller
All Election Day Vote Centers

are open to all eligible voters in Harris County.

Election Day Vote Centers are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone: 713-755-6965 Fax: 713-755-4983 Email: voters@harrisvotes.com Current Election Day polling location information is available at: www.harrisvotes.com

Harris County: www.harrisvotes.com — Harris County voting centers — www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers

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/qSzMSpi-aTL>.

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

District Students Show Dramatic Flair at the 2023 Texas Thespians State Festival



50 AISD theater students will advance to the national competition in June 2024 in Bloomington, IN.

Aldine ISD theater students attended the Texas Thespians State Festival, which has grown so much in numbers that there were two festivals to accommodate everyone. Most of the AISD high schools that took part attended the festival held November 15-18, 2023, at the Gaylord Texan Resort Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. Eisenhower HS participated in the festival November 10-13 at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio. Each year, the Texas Thespians organization hosts a state-wide event, one of the largest annual thespian festivals, where students and their troupe directors celebrate theater everywhere. At this year's festival, over 10,000 theater students from across the state attended to compete in performance and technical divisions.

Opportunities for Students

The festival gives students opportunities to perform and earn recognition. Activities include:

Workshops
Main Stage performances

Play marathons
College auditions
Performance competitions

Technical competitions
Nationally acclaimed guest speakers

Opportunities to advance to the International Thespian Society National Festival

The sessions and workshops help young thespians develop their acting and technical theater skills.

Aldine ISD has 50 students advancing to the national competition. Carver High School, an Aldine ISD Choice School, led with 27 students headed to nationals, followed by Davis HS with 11, Nimitz HS with six, Aldine HS with three, MacArthur HS with two, and Eisenhower HS with one.

The International Thespian Festival (national event) is set for June 23-28, 2024, and will take place in Bloomington, IN.

A Mainstage Finalist means students received perfect scores, and their IE (individual event) was showcased for all thespians at the closing ceremonies. A Mainstage Callback means the scene received a perfect score from the judges. A College Callback means that the representative for the college's fine arts/theater program was impressed and

would like to see or hear more from the student to be considered for admission.

Over 400 troupes and 10,000 students were represented at the festival, and Carver High School was among the 39 honor troupes. Texas Thespians Honor Troupe distinction recognizes troupes for their tremendous work on and off stage in their school and communities.

Aldine ISD National Qualifiers — Superior Ratings

Aldine High School
Monologue — Emily Reyes
Monologue — Jesse Rivera

Solo Dance — Juliette Martínez

Carver High School
Monologue (Plays: The Colored Museum & Pipeline)— Kamiliyah Washington ... Mainstage Finalist*

Duet Acting (Play: Pipeline) — Ivan Davidson & Aja White
Group Musical (Musical: Hairspray) — 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, Na'Leeyah Tatum & Amayah Watson ... Mainstage Callback*

Duet Musical (Play: Head Over Heels)— Alyssa Dorsey & Takeria Swain ... Mainstage Callback*

Group Dance (Play: Footloose)— Faith Bumper, Shanya Howard & Camron Lettries ... Mainstage Callback*

Theatrical Marketing (Play — Summer: The Donna Summer Musical) — Tray'Lee Ashley

Lighting Design (Play — Summer: The Donna Summer Musical) — Nevaeh Law

Stage Management (Play — The Bluest Eye) — Tatiana Smith

Carver juniors Alyssa Dorsey and Ivan Davidson and seniors Nevaeh Law, Camron Lettries, Christopher Pace, Takeria Swain, and Kamiliyah Washington auditioned for college theater programs. They received a combined total of 80 College Callbacks.

Davis High School
Duet Acting (Musical: Purlie) — Karen Singleton & Deshaun Young

Group Acting (Play: To be Young, Gifted, and Black)— Brianna Emilien, Calen Johnson, Raven Washington & Khalijah Williams

Group Acting (Play: The Women of Troy) — Joyous Feagins, Suyai Gallegos, Samantha Gilay, Haley

Griffin & Priscilla Luna
Eisenhower High School

Hair & Makeup — Madalin Carillo
MacArthur High School

Monologue [Plays: Women of Lockerbie & The Monologue Show (From Hell)] — Brandon Hernández

Monologue (Plays: Trojan Women & Women of Lockerbie) — Jacquelyn Lozoya

Nimitz High School
Monologue — Mercedes Gutiérrez Díaz

Duet Acting — Moriah Ford & Cherish Johnson

Duet Acting — César Carreón & Chasin Cloud

Stage Management — Stephanie Romero
Excellent Ratings

Carver High School
Costume Construction (Play: Summer: The Donna Summer Musical) — Aniya Webster

Davis High School
Duet Acting (Play: To be Young, Gifted, and Black) — Jeremiah Bell & Jeneisis Younger

Eisenhower Ninth Grade College Prep
Solo Musical (Musical: Beetlejuice: Dead Mom) — Paola Durán

Costume Design (Musical: The Phantom of the Opera) — Stephanie Martínez

Duet Acting (Play: Gideon's Knot) — Jamesia Henderson & Patricia Martínez

MacArthur High School

Stage Management (Play: Chicago: The Musical) — Joscelyn Lozoya

Duet Acting (Play: Almost, Maine) — Ann Thompson & Alana Vaughn

Playwriting (Play: Criminality) — Génesis Rodríguez

Nimitz High School
Monologue (Plays: Rasheeda Speaking/ Madea) — Taysha Richardson

Monologue (Plays: What I Want to Say but Never Will/I Don't Want to Talk About It) — Reyleigh Freed

Monologue (Plays: The Insanity of Mary Girard/ Don't Want to Talk About It) — Catalina Watson

School Theater Directors

Aldine HS — Walter Lane & Maia Wiggin
Carver HS — Roshunda Jones-Koumba & Jabari Collins
Davis HS — Roenia Thompson & Cliff D. Alexander
Eisenhower Ninth Grade — Kristin Wilson
Eisenhower HS — Heidi Rouse Bryant & Aaron Rouse
MacArthur HS — Scott Reeves and Rob Connick
Nimitz HS — Kimberly J. Ardison & Jerra Gentry

Aldine ISD's Carter Academy Wins Best Visual and Performing Arts Award

On Thursday, Nov. 9, Aldine ISD's Carter Academy was awarded the Best Visual and Performing Arts Award presented by Magnet Schools of the Mid-South (MSMS) at the conference held in Garland.

The MSMS-held conference awarded various magnet schools in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, on their ability to implement programs into their curriculum, and were judged on student gain within said programs. In order to have the campus qualify for an award, the school had to have implemented the program being judged for at least one full academic year.

The awards competition was designed to recognize schools at the regional level that exhibit inclusion of diversity, program sustainability, thematic implementation, innovative activities, community engagement, effective marketing, and professional



development.

It is through these guidelines that Carter Academy was awarded the Best Visual and Performing Arts school amongst the other schools.

"The visual and performing arts are vital components of Carter Academy," said Carter Academy Principal Cindy Buentello. "They support the cognitive, emotional,

social, and physical development of our students during this foundational stage of their education."

Campus awards such as these are the types of high-lights Aldine looks to showcase. Preparing students for their futures, while also showing how important the arts are in curriculum, are both values held within Aldine ISD.

Aldine ISD Partners with Equality Health Foundation to Hand Out Turkeys and Resources for the Community

On Saturday, Nov. 18, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) and Health Departments, in collaboration with Equality Health Foundation and Community Health Choice, held the third annual Healthy Fall Festival and Turkey Giveaway from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the M.O. Campbell Center.

The Healthy Fall Festival was a festive kickoff to the holiday season, centered around gratitude and Thanksgiving. The event featured a range of health services, including free immunizations, vaccines, flu shots, informative health education sessions, health screenings and diabetes testing, as well as a wealth of community resources and information from more than 50 community partners.

In addition to the health resources, families took part in a Healthy Bag Giveaway, raffles and a variety of fresh fruits and produce each accompanied by a frozen turkey (while supplies lasted). A total of 1,000 turkeys were distributed, and more than 2,500 families attended the event.



The event was a success thanks to the work of Aldine ISD's FACE and Health departments, sponsors, community partners, volunteers, including State Reps Charles Cunningham and Armando Walle, Aldine ISD Trustees and staff members.

To round out the event, entertainment was provided

by student performances from Reece Academy Strings and Carver High School Orchestra Ensemble.

Events such as these are one of several ways FACE looks to empower and assist the Aldine communities. To keep track of upcoming FACE events,



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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By BILL KING



A House Divided

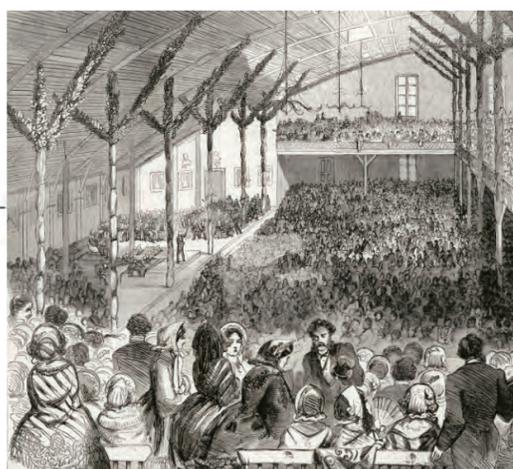
“Our politicians draw their strength from the division between us. They take the 10%-20% disagreement between us and turn it into the main thing, because that’s what gives them a mandate to ‘represent’ us, to fight in our name. They do it at the expense of our security, our welfare, our taxes, and our freedom.”

When you read this quote, I am guessing that you expected I was going to tell you it was from a contemporary commentator on the state of American politics. Rather, it is a quote from an Israeli tank commander currently in combat against Hamas, writing about his concerns over the divisions in his country.

Israel has a storied military and intelligence history. Its agencies have executed spectacular operations, such as the stunning 1976 rescue of over 100 hostages at Entebbe Airport in Uganda after their plane had been hijacked by Palestinian terrorists. The contrast of that vaunted history with the utter failure to detect or counter Hamas’ attack on Oct. 7 could not be more stark.

While we do not know the details of the intelligence and military response failure that led to the Oct. 7 massacre, the letter from the tank command clearly attributes the deep divisions within Israel as part of the reason for the failure. His words are a cautionary tale for America.

Our country faces unparalleled challenges. These challenges mostly arise from truly epic demographic and technological changes that are spreading across the world. However, our dysfunctional political system, based on an anachronistic two-party system, is utterly impotent to marshal a fact-based, logical approach to addressing those challenges. Instead, we have devolved into a bizarre world of conspiracy theories and petty, partisan blame-gaming.



At the Republican convention in 1858, Abraham Lincoln told the conventioners that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” The issue upon which our country was so divided at that time was slavery. Lincoln predicted that “I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided.” His prediction was proved by history although it took a bloody civil war to do so.

Today, we do not face an issue with the moral imperative of the abolition of slavery. But we do face demographic and technological changes that will upend existing social and economic norms that in some ways will be at least, if not more, disruptive. Americans can embrace those changes and lead the world through them, or we can continue our inane partisan bickering and suffer the consequences.

Lincoln ended his speech with a political call to arms. “To meet and overthrow the power of that dynasty is the work now before all those who would prevent the consummation [of the abolition of slavery]. This is what we must do.” The “dynasty” to which Lincoln referred was the corrupt, morally bankrupt Whigs and Democratic parties of his day. It took the nascent Republican Party to disrupt that dynasty by electing Lincoln as president just two years later and eventually making the abolition of slavery a reality.

Does America still have the character and fortitude to throw off the current corrupt and intellectually bankrupt two-party dynasty that refuses to address the challenges of the 21st century? That is the task I believe Lincoln would be laying before us today.

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.



Letters to Santa will appear in our next two issues. Your child can write a Letter and send it to SANTA, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 for possible publication. See Form in this issue, or use your own format.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Texas Supreme Court Hears Abortion Ban Challenge

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case that could decide whether medical exceptions to the state’s abortion ban are written clearly enough to protect pregnant women who face serious health risks, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The 22 plaintiffs include women who contracted sepsis while waiting to terminate a nonviable pregnancy, and women who traveled hundreds of miles for abortions of a nonviable twin in order to protect the healthy fetus. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued the vague language in the law has left doctors unable or unwilling to perform abortions.

An attorney for the state argued the law is clear and that doctors are responsible for denying abortions allowed during medical emergencies.

“Some of these women appear to have fallen within the exception but their doctors still said no. That’s not the fault of the law, that’s a decision of the doctor,” Beth Klusmann, assistant solicitor general, said.

An opinion in the case is likely to take several months.

BORDER CAR CHASES LED TO 74 DEATHS IN TWO YEARS

At least 74 people have been killed and 189 injured during high-speed car chases near the U.S.-Mexico border since Gov. Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, a multi-billion dollar border security initiative, according to a report published by Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit agency.

The group analyzed data obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety from March 2021, when Operation Lone Star began, through July 2023. It indicates more than two-thirds of vehicle pursuits conducted in the state during that period occurred in the 60 counties involved in Operation Lone Star.

“Operation Lone Star puts undue pressure on law enforcement to chase cars, sometimes with very little basis, resulting in deaths of drivers, passengers, and even bystanders,” said Norma Herrera, a Texas-based consultant to Human Rights Watch. “Our review of the cases over 29 months identified at least 7 bystanders killed in these car crashes, including a 7-year-old girl out to get ice cream with her grandmother.”



Col. Steve McCraw, DPS director, in an interview with The New York Times, said the department relies on its own troopers to decide when it is appropriate to give chase, and that a trooper who did not use appropriate caution would be held accountable.

FOOD BANKS UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are “food insecure,” meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food – the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the Texas Tribune reported.

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.

Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

“The rising cost of housing is the problem,” said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distributes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the Statesman. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed

to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREES BOOST STATE ECONOMY

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state’s economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

“The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state,” Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

FIRST-EVER SIGHTING IN TEXAS OF RARE BIRD

Bird watchers recently flocked to a state park in hopes of seeing a little bird only rarely seen in the United States and for the first time in Texas. The gray-collared becard is a tropical bird that lives in Central America. Texas State Parks posted a “Rare Bird Alert” that alerted bird watchers of the sighting at Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville, The News reported.

The bird has only been seen in the United States twice before, both times in Arizona.

MEANWHILE, SCORPIONS ARE IN STRONG SUPPLY

Texans are reporting an invasion of scorpions in their homes, according to numerous online reports. Wizzie Brown with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service told the Houston Chronicle that these distant cousins to spiders often move indoors with changing weather conditions, such as rainfall or dropping temperatures.

The striped bark scorpion is the most common and one of the most venomous in Texas. They measure about 3/8 inches in length and are yellowish tan in color. While venomous, scorpions found in Texas are not considered lethal.

Brown advises sealing cracks and crevices on the outside of homes, not stacking firewood or other items against the house, and trimming trees and shrubs so they don’t touch or hang over the roofline.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

A Few Words

We had dinner with friends last night.

There is nothing unusual about that, except these were all people I did not know; people my husband, Peter, had met while taking his daily hike in Mexico.

This was not the first gathering of Peter’s friends we’ve had. My self-professed introvert of a husband has become something of a social butterfly outside of the U.S. He goes to the same botanical nature reserve to hike every day and he meets new people and forms new friendships. Peter still professes to be a shy person. He is not.

But last night was particularly special because these were not visiting Americans or Canadians or even Norwegians—all of whom Peter has met and introduced me to. These friends were the Mexican employees of the nature reserve.

We invited them over to our hotel, which usually serves only breakfast and lunch. But our kind host, Jorge, insisted they would love to serve dinner to us, and they put together a feast. The temperature was cool, but everyone brought a coat (they know the climate, after all). There was a tasty appetizer and fish tacos and a chocolate mousse for dessert, and it was a perfect night—in spite of the fact that Peter really speaks no Spanish at all, I only speak a little, and three of our four guests spoke either very little English or none at all.

It helped that there was one truly bilingual person. Emiliano is only 18, but he speaks excellent English, and when conversation got completely gummed up, he would sort things out. But it was astonishing how few words we needed to have a good conversation.

I am all about words. Words are what I do, so I am used to thinking that having precisely the right word is important. And sometimes it is. But there are many ways to say the same thing, and a few hand gestures, a facial expression, maybe a moment of pantomime, and the missing word can be guessed, and the conversation can continue. Most of the time, Emiliano didn’t have to bail us out at all.

What did we talk about for this two-hour dinner? We talked about our families, of course. We talked about what Emiliano was going to study at college (he still doesn’t know). We talked about this town and the celebrations that had just passed and the celebrations that were about to begin. Peter asked if anyone had pets, and Marcela laughed and said she had 11 dogs.

“You have 11 dogs?” I asked Marcela in Spanish, sure I must have misunderstood.

She nodded and laughed again. “And three cats! All from the streets.”

And all the while, I wished I had a few more words. I wished I could understand just a bit better. I no longer care if I use the wrong form of a verb, or forget a word, or say something embarrassing. It makes no difference at all. What I care about, more than ever, is being able to understand these people—my new friends.

We said goodnight. Marcela gave me a headband and a pair of fingerless gloves she knit herself. Peter said he would see them all the next morning at the nature reserve. Jorge was pleased that the dinner went well, and took some pictures of the beautiful meal to put on his website.

It was a wonderful night and, for a person who is always trying to find the best words, a reminder of how much can be said using very few words at all.

Till next time, Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Corinthians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. For not believing his wife would conceive, who was struck mute, not being able to speak? Gabriel, Zachariah, Joash, Meshah
3. The Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and the Golden Rule are found in what sermon? Lamb blood, Agnus,

- On the mount, Dry bones
4. According to David, what does God's spiritual cleansing make us whiter than? Light, Clouds, Wool, Snow
 5. How many times is the name "Lucifer" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 1, 7, 9, 13
 6. From Psalm 19, what do the heavens declare? Holiness, Glory of God, Creation, Mighty wind

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Zachariah, 3) On the mount, 4) Snow, 5) 1 (Isaiah 14:12), 6) Glory of God Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. LUKE 2: 6,7

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OH SURE. WHEN BUYING FOR YOUR MOTHER, SHE ALREADY WONDERS WHAT I WAS THINKING.

by Dave T. Phipps

OFF THE BEP! STRIPE!

NO, MOM DOESN'T WANT YOU UPON MY BEP!

BEGGING WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!

LIE DOWN, YOU'RE NOT GETTING UP HERE!

STOP WHINING!

The Spats

by Bud Blake

ALEXA!

...TURN ON THE LIGHTS.

SHE'S IN ONE OF HER MOODS AGAIN.

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Chair is missing; 2. Pillow is smaller; 3. Lamp shade is different; 4. Box is missing; 5. TV controls are missing; 6. Antenna is missing; 7. Lamp shade is different; 8. Internal organs of a young animal; 9. Late 14th century; 10. Copernicus.

December 4, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- "Kapow!"
 - British ref. work
 - Holler
 - Director Spike
 - Chemical suffix
 - Fall sign
 - Nest egg acronym
 - Large, luxurious car
 - Brooch
 - Range
 - Collections
 - tear (ragging)
 - First lady of scat
 - Earth Day mo.
 - Transparent
 - Dolphins' home
 - Traces of smoke
 - Agile
 - Obtained
 - Bygone Peruvian
 - Flamenco cheer
 - Vacillate
 - Quick trip
 - Shoe width
 - Pungent cheese
 - Aachen article
- DOWN**
- Radar dots
 - High nest
 - Signified
 - Fixes a squeak
 - Newspaper chief
 - Fiend
 - Pivot
 - That guy's
 - Samovar sash
 - Samovar
 - kwon do
 - Ellipse
 - Ballroom dance
 - Radiates
 - Vinyl records
 - Back talk
 - Billboards
 - Picnic dessert
 - Jima
 - Roman 1051
 - "There's no — team!"
 - "Better Call Saul" network
 - Bellow
 - Swiss metropolis
 - Stedded in the Winter Olympics
 - Like a neglected garden
 - Vowel group
 - Streisand title role
 - Equitable
 - Streetcar
 - Leary's drug
 - Jurist Lance
 - Fortify
 - A/C meas.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13			14					
15			16			17					
18			19								
20			21		22			23	24	25	26
			27		28		29	30			
31	32	33						34			
35				36		37					
38				39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47	
48	49	50	51							52	
53						54				55	
56						57				58	

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Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which Disney animated movie features the song "Whistle While You Work"?
 - GEOGRAPHY: Which two oceans are on Russia's shores?
 - PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called euphoria?
 - TELEVISION: What is "The Simpsons" home address?
 - GAMES: How many dimples are on a golf ball?
 - ASTRONOMY: Earth's place in the solar system is how many planets from the Sun?
 - LANGUAGE: What is the only country in South America whose official language is Dutch?
 - FOOD & DRINK: What is a sweetbread?
 - LITERATURE: In which century was "The Canterbury Tales" written?
 - SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of modern astronomy?
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Answers

King Crossword

1. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"; 2. Arctic and Pacific; 3. Fear of good news; 4. 742 Evergreen Terrace; 5. Generally between 300-500; 6. Third; 7. Sunname; 8. Internal organs of a young animal; 9. Late 14th century; 10. Copernicus.

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Lone Star College expands educational opportunities in electrical industry; and EV vehicle support

HOUSTON – Lone Star College is answering the call for more educational opportunities in underserved areas and a trained workforce for the electrical and automotive industries.

“Lone Star College understands the need to offer innovative programming that prepares students to be successful in new fields that are rapidly growing,” said Dwight Smith, Ed.D., LSC Vice Chancellor Academic and Workforce Success.

LSC will offer the Electrical Technology Certificate Level I at the LSC-Houston North Victory this fall. Students will learn residential and commercial wiring, electrical drafting plans, national electrical code and safety essentials. The college will provide needed equipment for hands-on learning.

“The Electrical Technology Certificate will educate students on the foundational knowledge they need to be successful in the electrical field,” said John Maynard, Ed.D., LSC-Houston North Instructional Vice President. “The program will make students more attractive to potential employers, which should assist them in obtaining gainful employment.”

The level I certificate will feed into LSC’s Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation and Maintenance Technician Certificate II program that starts in spring 2024 at the Bethune Empowerment Center in Acres Homes. This initiative is in partnership with the city of Houston, advocating for more electric vehicles on the road by 2030.



Lone Star College will offer the Electrical Technology Certificate Level I at the LSC-Houston North Victory this fall. Pictured are wooden structures that students will use to gain hands-on instruction in wiring residential and commercial properties.

“The Bethune Empowerment Center represents so much more than brick and mortar,” said Sylvester Turner, city of Houston Mayor, in a statement. “It is a testament to what collaboration, support, commitment, dedication, resiliency, and public, private and community partnerships can achieve.”

The Bethune Empowerment Center will have a lab with wall-mounted (homes and residential buildings) and pedestal (commercial properties) charging stations to train LSC students on installing, wiring and troubleshooting these charging stations. As more electric cars hit the roads, the demand for accessible and reliable charging stations and more trained technicians will increase.

“As the community sees more electric vehicles on the road, they may not know the wiring or the im-

portance of effective electrical vehicle charging, but our students will,” said Sheremetria Davis, LSC-Houston North Workforce Associate Dean. “Additionally, our students will have the training to properly install, repair and maintain charging stations to support the increase of electric vehicles we will start to see on the roads of Houston.”

The Electrical Technology Certificate Level I and Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation and Maintenance Technician Certificate Level II are part of LSC’s Electrical Technology program offered at LSC-Houston North. The Electrical Technology AAS Degree program is available at LSC-North Harris, LSC-Tomball and LSC-Creekside Center. For more information, visit LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Electrical-Technology.

HCC student team wins national community college Innovation Challenge

Team’s plan for device would help firefighters “see through smoke”

HOUSTON – A Houston Community College (HCC) team has won the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Community College Innovation Challenge.

The HCC team was pitted against community colleges from across the nation, competing to develop ideas for useful and innovative devices using science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The students – Kaitlin Asch, Nyah Lovick and Neeko Phelps – presented their idea known as “Project Eagle Rescue,” a hands-free sensor array that might be attached to gear carried by firefighters to allow better visibility and safety. As envisioned, their hands-free device would allow firefighters to “see through” smoke and haze to observe structural hazards or obstacles that might be a danger to themselves or others.

Each individual team member received a \$3,500 prize in the contest that was held in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

“I think the greatest thing about being a part of this team is affirmation for me about going a non-traditional route: staying home and studying at a community college presents great opportunities,” Lovick said. “I loved my HCC experience and the support of my fellow students and HCC’s great faculty. It was a perfect choice for me.”

Lovick studied in HCC’s Honors College and graduated with high-



The students – Kaitlin Asch, Nyah Lovick and Neeko Phelps – presented their idea known as “Project Eagle Rescue”

est honors in May with an associate degree in chemistry and will move to the University of Texas at San Antonio this fall to study chemical engineering. Asch is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in computer science and applied physics and plans to go on to obtain a doctorate. Phelps graduated in May with an associate degree in mechanical engineering and will enter Minnesota State University to study mechanical engineering in the fall.

“These are extraordinary students, and we are extremely proud of their work on this project,” said Ravi Brahmabhatt, HCC director of Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship, who served as the team’s mentor. “They showed that developing a STEM-based solution can help to solve a real-world problem in a truly meaningful way.”

The HCC team was among a dozen community college finalists to present their ideas in Washington D.C. There, they attended an Innovation Boot Camp where they learned from entrepreneurs and experts, STEM leaders and congressional stakeholders. The team presented a

five-minute presentation to a panel of industry and entrepreneurial professionals who then named HCC the winning team.

“These project ideas showcase the outstanding educational opportunities provided at our nation’s community colleges,” said Walter Bumphus, president and CEO of the association. “On behalf of AACC, congratulations to the team from Houston Community College... the innovation and creativity shown by these students clearly indicates that our future is in good hands.”

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ABOUT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Houston Community College is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities.




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