East Aldine District holds Partner Awards gala

By Gilbert Hoffman

EAST ALDINE - The East Aldine Management District held its second annual Holiday Reception and Partner Awards ceremony last Thursday evening, Dec. 14 in their headquarters building at Town Center.

It was a festive and colorful occasion, with beautiful and colorful table decorations, and a view outside of the immense 30' high community lighted Christmas Tree.

Attending the Reception were several hundred guests from Partner organizations, and community representatives of educational and civic groups.

After welcoming remarks from District exec-



PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS were presented to the above recipients by the East Aldine District, at their Holiday Reception held last Thursday evening at the District Headquarters. ABOVE, recipients included David Hernandez, accepting for Ernesto Rivera, Public Safety Partner of the Year; Susan Santos, Publlic Health Partner for water and sewer work with Harris County; Priscilla Rios, Business Partner with Suvida Healthcare; Ricco Garcia accepting for State Senator Carol Alvarado, Governmental Service Partner; Ruben Salazar, Chairman's Award Partner, for Community Activist work; Coco Martinez, Board Choice Partner, for Community Service especially with Senior Citizens; Sandra Luna, Volunteer Partner for work with Zumba exercise classes for the community; Rosalva Rosie Hernandez, Community Partner for campus manager at BakerRipley; Connie Esparza, Education Partner for work on the Aldine ISD School Board; and congratulating them State Representative Armando Walle.

utive director Richard Cantu, board chair Carlos Silva made special opening remarks on behalf of the board of directors, and then introduced guests, board members, officials, and others present. Silva spoke about how the East Aldine District had helped create a sense of community to the area, and gave hope and direction to the residents.

Next on the program was a new video, showing recent projects of the District, community events held at the Town Center, and comments from citizens of the District about how the quality of life has changed and improved

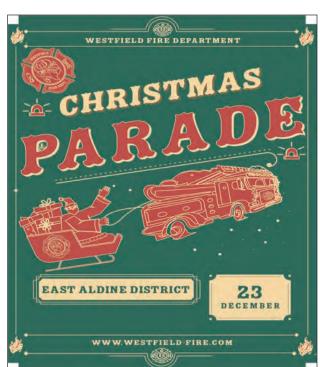
Continued. See PARTNER AWARDS, Page 8

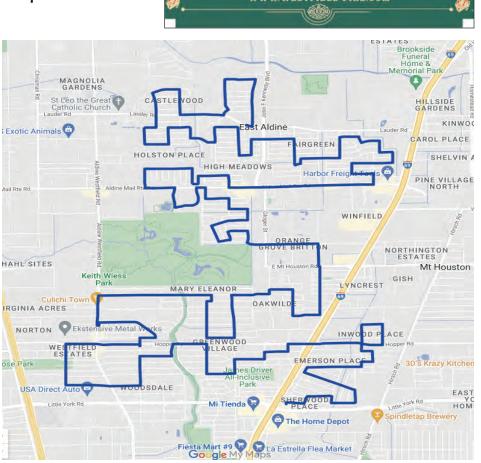
Westfield Fire Dept. plans Christmas Parade Dec. 23

Enjoy a neighborhood Christmas parade Dec. 23

The Westfield Fire **Department** presents its annual Westfield Christmas Parade starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23 in East Aldine. -Come have fun and thank the community's first responders!

Below is a map of the parade route.





Governor ends year with SkyDiving jump with veteran

Governor Abbott Skydives With 106-Year-Old WWII Veteran

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott this month skydived with 106-year-old World War II veteran Al Blaschke at Skydive Spaceland San Marcos to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. military veterans. The Governor and Mr. Blaschke were flown in

Continued. See ABBOTT SKYDIVES,



Governor Abbott in the Aircraft, preparing to skydive.

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 17

Texans, Browns meet in key game for both teams: Cowboys head to Miami to take on high-scoring Dolphins

of games to watch during Christmas weekend as the league has game scheduled for Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and a triple-header on Christmas Day.

Ah, nothing says the holidays like the NFL saturating the

The Texans host the Browns on Christmas Eve at NRG Stadium in an important game for both teams. The winner keeps their AFC Wild Card hopes alive, while the loser will need some help in the final two weeks of the season to earn a playoff spot.

But then again, if Jacksonville continues to struggle down the stretch (they entered last Sunday night's game against Baltimore riding a two-game losing streak) and the Texans win out, Houston has a chance to win the division.

Stranger things have happened in the NFL and when the season began, most experts figured a six-win season would be guite an accomplishment for firstyear head coach DeMeco Ryans. Well, the Texans had seven wins

MIKE KEENEY heading into last Sunday's game at Tennessee and they return home on Sunday to face a tough Browns team that is also in the

Two weeks ago, the Texans suffered a bad 30-6 loss to the lowly Jets as the weather and the New York defense never let C.J. Stroud and the Houston offense get going. The game was played in horrible conditions as wind and rain persisted throughout the contest. To make matters worse, Stroud sustained a concussion late in the game and was placed in the NFL concussion protocol. Ryans hopes Stroud was able to play against the Titans and if he missed that game, he should be cleared by Sunday when the

hunt in its division, the AFC North.

Texans face a solid Cleveland

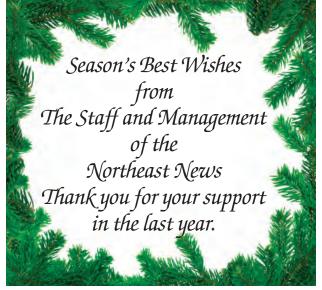
With just two weeks to go after this game, the Texans know they can't afford anymore slip ups if they hope to continue to be one of the good stories of the 2023 season.

While the Texans host the Browns, the Dallas Cowboys hit the road for the second straight week and face a second straight AFC East foe (Dallas played at Buffalo last Sunday) when they travel to Miami to take on the Dolphins and their high-scoring offense

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page5

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👺 Letters to Santa 👺

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me new Jurassic World brachiosaurus toy and game boy and PS five VR3 and fepet katana and jax plush ironman suit. Thank

Martin, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me new roller skates, a new Barbie stuff and dolls, and I campet, a new watch, an iPhone, I had with a outfit and boots, laptop, and thank you.

Chloe Mercado, 7 years old Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, I having nice this year, please for Christmas bring me a PC and a gaming set up and funko pops and V buks lard and an iphone 15. Thank you, Santa. Ethan Martinez, 7 years

Orange Grove elementary

I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me a super art set, and American doll pizza place, 9,999 dollars, Elsa set, a dobi, a cat, macar toy pizza. Thank you. Elena Hernandez, 7 years Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me a football and a bike, and an Xbox please thank

Joshua Martinez, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

ear Santa, Rollers rabs, drum set, mini crafts, couper star play, air force charms, Jordan robocob. Constanza, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have nice. For Christmas please bring me a PS5, TV and thank you. Oscar Garza, 7 years Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice. For Christmas. Please bring me slime. Barbeers. Big reesis peeses, big tetty bear hamster, cat. Thank

Jiselle Gonzales Orange Grave Elementar

Dear Santa, This year are having nice. For Christmas please bring me have a Lego set, spirman and I want a PS5 please because Lego set. Thank you. Ismael Ramirez, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I want for Christmas a robot dog and a robot was cat and art supplies and for posters and a new game set. Saui, 8 years old Orange Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me a puppy that I can feed him and brush him and pet him and a horse that I can ride on it. Play pockets and gummy bear. Thank

Kelly, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year please for Christmas bring me PS6, Xbox, iPhone, promax 14 Pro Max. Thank you. Julian Torres, 7 years Orange Grove Elementary

Season's Greetings







Helping Others Help Themselves

😂 Letters to Santa 😂

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. Please for Christmas bring me drone and some cars and alarm clock and yoyo and a reindeer. Thank you.

Marcelo Silvo, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me FIFA game pc and funko pops but Marvel and headset, gaming set up and a mic and bugat fast car not the Orange Grove Ele

Dear Santa, I have been nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me a kit of race of papa posip pilrare and an iPhone acar for my mom. Thank

Karden, 7 years old Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, I have been nice this year, please for Christmas bring me toy and an iPad and toy bacere. Thank you. Andrea Tejada', 8 years

Dear Santa, This year I have been nice please for Christmas. I want a PS5, new two plasny, Xbox, Nitels plushy, bumbsor plushy, eve plushy, nuny clos. Thank you. Alexander Becerra, 8 years old Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a Wednesday outfit and a nice teacher for third grade. I want my first grade teacher to come back and I really want a pool and a new house. Please help my mom and me. I need a new car, my car is not working. I have a nice thank you so much. Sophia Rivas, 7 years

Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have been nice this year. Please for Christmas bring me face masks, shoes, and a make up kit, at target gift card and hello Kitty stuff and an iPhone 15 Pro and I want it black. Ababella Z, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year I want an

> oculus deserve it because I help people and I am nice. Bryantley Gibson, years old Orange Grove Elementary



Merry Christmas From the members

of The Aldine Optimist Club
Supporting the
youth of Aldine



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Happy Holidays



Armando and Debbie Walle & Family

Thank you for giving me the honor of epresenting you at the Texas House of Representatives.

Merry Christmas

from

STEVE MEAD

Aldine School Board & Optimist Club President

Component Sales & Service 281-442-8127

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO THE EAST ALDINE COMMUNITY

HAWES HILL & ASSOCIATE



Best Wishes to Everyone in our Community For a Happy New Year



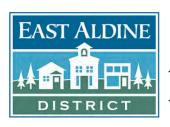
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We thank you for another Year of Support for your Community Newspaper

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

NORTHEAST/BELTWAY 8



Happy Holidays

Best Wishes to all the residents of Aldine and Northeast Houston Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

713-595-1232

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday



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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

AISD Trustees Reorganize During Dec. 12 Board Meeting

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees approved a new slate of officers during its Dec. 12 Board meeting. The Board's Nominating Committee, consisting of Chair Rose Avalos, and members Dr. Kimberley Booker and Steve Mead, recommended that Dr. Booker serve as president, Paul Shanklin serve as vice-president, Connie Esparza serve as secretary and Ms. Avalos serve as assistant secretary. Dr. Viola M. García, Steve Mead and Randy Bates will serve as members.

Mr. Randy Bates, the outgoing President, handed the gavel to incoming President Dr. Booker.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to pass the gavel to you," Mr. Bates said.

Earlier in the Board meeting, Trustees Mr. Bates, Mr. Shanklin, Dr. Booker and Dr. Garcia were sworn in to serve four-year terms after being reelected to their respective seats during the Nov. 7 school board election. General Counsel Kave DeWalt swore in Mr. Bates, Mr. Shanklin and Dr. García, while Dr. Booker was sworn in by family friend La-Neatra Foster.

Staff Assignments An-

During the Dec. 12 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced three staff assignments.

*Scott Dubberke was named School Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Team 1 after serving as Director of Human Re-

*Scott Corrick was named Executive Director of Talent Acquisition in Human Resources after serving as Director of Human Resources.

*Pamela Widmier was named Director of Budget after serving as Bond Project Accountant with Humble ISD

Aldine ISD earns the state's highest fiscal accountability rating for the 20th straight year

For the 20th consecutive year, Aldine ISD received a rating of "Superior" under Texas' School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) accountability rating system. The "Superior" rating is the state's highest rating, demonstrating Aldine ISD's quality of financial management and reporting system. Aldine ISD received a score of 986 out of a possible 100 points.

The primary goal of the School FIRST system is to ensure that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices. The School FIRST system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources better and provide a maximum allocation for direct instructional purposes.

The School FIRST system has 15 indicators that are evaluated. The first five indicators are critical and must be met to avoid failure. The other 10 indicators evaluate financial solvency and financial competency.

According to Chief Finan-Officer Stan Osborne, Aldine met the five critical indicators' requirements. Those indicators are:

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Outgoing Board President Randy Bates handed the gavel to incoming Board President Dr. Kimberley N. Booker during the Dec. 12 Board of Trustees meeting.

filing of the district's annual financial report within a month, the district's annual financial report was free of any instances of material weaknesses, the district complied with the payment terms of all debt agreements at the end of the district's fiscal year, the district made timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the IRS and other governmental agencies, and the district's total unrestricted net asset balance in the Statement of Net Position/Assets was greater than zero.

Indicators 6-10 evaluated the financial solvency of the district. Those indicators analyzed the amount of cash on hand needed to cover operating expenditures, the ratio of current assets to current liabilities, the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets, total revenue compared to expenditures, and whether the district had sufficient funds to cover its debt. Aldine met the requirements for each of those indicators.

Indicators 11-15 evaluated the district's financial competency. Those indicators assessed the district's administrative costs ratio, student enrollment compared to the number of staff, the accuracy of its PEIMS reporting, compliance with guidelines, and revenue forecasting. Aldine met the requirements for those five indicators as well.

Athletic Department recognizes home grown coaches

During the Dec. 12 Board meeting, Executive Director of Athletics Dre Thompson recognized 70 Aldine ISD high school and middle school coaches who are graduates of Aldine ISD.

The AISD products are: Aldine High School - Johnny Toups, Jezer Urena, Noé Hernández, Mario Vásquez and Bryan Ramírez Davis High School - Darius Willis, Rod Davis, Joshua Huff, Miranda Grotenhuis, Charninta Williams and Kelvin Chatham. Eisenhower High School - Odell James, Jared Ellison, Rachelle Roberson, Nusheka Quarles and Marshalle Bradley. MacArthur High School - Lynda Eastland, Leslie Mike, Deron Treviño, Ariel Price, Patrick James, Chris Dykes, Aldric Reynolds, Zachry Lee, Leslie Reves. Salvador Fernández. Ernest Gonzales, Michael Peraza, Leisy Olivares and Twaneshia Hubbard. Nimitz High School - Kendra Venzant, D'Andre Wilson, Justin Foster and Adam Apodaca. Aldine Middle School - Dabria Lewis, Reginald Johnson and Charles Carter. Garciaí Middle School - Kevin Blachshire and Raynetta King. Grantham Middle School -Reginald Johnson, Nick Abrams-Jamilla and Eric López. Hambrick Middle School Jo'Neil Wright, Jocques Robinson, Jaylen Brooks. Marcos Sánchez, Derrick Williams and Miriam Hernández. Hoffman Middle School - Deralph Guy and Jonathan Clark. Jones Middle School -Alicia Domino, Darren McBride, Treyvon Thomas, Jacob Cervantes, Shaston Marks and Engra Bellvin. Lewis Middle School - Tradonna Jones. Mead Middle School - David Marshall, Abraham Martínez, Crystan

mon Madden. Stovall Middle School – Raquel Longoria and Paola Cancino. Teague Middle School - Terrell Green, Kelsey McNatty and Ofelia Arévalo. Teaching, Leading and

Norris Mathis, Arshadia

Henderson, Ronald Edwards

and Jateria Thomas. Plum-

mer Middle School - Emil

Clemons, Don Taylor and Ra-

art winners The Teaching, Learning and Leading Department recognized four Aldine ISD art students who were recently METRO Art Award recipients. Chief Transformation Officer Dr. Adrian Bustillos introduced Kaileigh Newman,

Learning highlights METRO

director of visual arts. She informed the audience that the four students were recognized for creating designs that visualize school pride at their respective high schools. Their artwork will be installed on five or more METRO bus shelters that will display their school pride. The artwork will be installed on bus shelters throughout Aldine ISD. The four winners were: Dorletz García of Nimitz High School, Gerardo José Ibarra of Davis High School, Jazlyn Otero of Victory Early College High School and José Fernando García of Hall Success Acade-

Employees recognized

During the Dec. 12 Board meeting, a number of Aldine ISD employees were recognized for their leadership, connecting with fellow employees and impacting student suc-

Chief Operations Officer Fred Washington named Bridgette Young as the Operations Employee of the Quarter. Young is a bus driver out of the Westside Transportation Department.Other employees who were nominated for Employee of the Quarter were: Terrence Harris of Central Receiving, Ángel Santos of the Maintenance Department, Brenda Phillips of the Child Nutrition Services Department and Judith Clotter of Buildings and Properties.

Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul Córdova named AISD Police Officer Perla Salinas as his department's Employee of the Mont

Trustees Approve Action Items

During the Dec. 12 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

*Approved a Memorandum

of Understanding between New Tech Network Inc. and Aldine ISD which will allow Aldine ISD to participate in the New Tech Network College Access Collaborative through June of 2025. *Approved a Memorandum

of Understanding between Aldine ISD and Tarleton State University regarding the Distinguished High School Partnership Program for the 2023-24 school year.

*Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Aldine ISD and Friends of the Children-Houston to provide mentorship for foster care students during the 2023-24 school year.

*Approved the monthly Tax Office refunds.

*Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Region 10 Education Service Center Certification Programs and Aldine ISD effective during the 2023-24 school

*Approved an Interlocal Agreement between Education Service Center Region 13 and Aldine ISD from September 1, 2023, to August 31,

*Approved single contracts and purchases of \$100,000 and greater.

*Approved an order authorizing the issuance of Aldine ISD unlimited tax school building bonds and AISD unlimited tax refunding bonds. each which may be issued in one or more series in accordance with specified parameters; levying an ad valorem tax and providing for the security and payment thereof: and enacting other provisions relating thereto.

The MacArthur High School Choir entertained the audience with two songs during the Dec. 12 Board meeting. Students from Carter Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Nimitz High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors. The January Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22. It will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

ALDINE AUGUST 18, 2023 The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools With Aldine Pride!

Message From the Superintendent, December 15, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

Before we wrap up the fall semester and head into our midwinter break, I have to shout out to all the student groups from schools across the district that have entertained us these last couple of weeks. You put us all in the holiday spirit at the district's administrative buildings.

Reflecting on the past semester and year, I cannot help but swell with pride. I love seeing how all students are growing and flourishing. I hope you reflect on our accomplishments and are proud of our district! We are showing what is possible! I am grateful to each team member for your hard work this year. We continue to move forward, meeting the goals and priorities in our strategic plan, which is in its final year, and we are listening to everyone as we work on our next strategic plan.

Please look within the following pages for a few moments that will hopefully fill you with pride as much as they do me. I could list many more examples, but it would be a long message!

Every year is full of highs and lows, and we have definitely had some highs. I presided over the TASA Conference in Dallas earlier this year as president. What I will remember the most was that our fine arts student performers were with me and put on a show that people are still discussing. I still get chills thinking about the performance. They were incredible! Then, more recently, I was sworn in as NABSE president, which is quite a humbling and exciting responsibility. I was so honored that Oprah Winfrey congratulated me and said my name. I am so excited to serve and advance public education! The biggest high was the gift of the bond passing.

The community spoke, and their support of #MyAldine leaves me speechless. I am even more excited about the future as we move into a new calendar year.

During the break, I hope everyone takes time to rest and recharge. Then, read, watch a movie, binge-watch your favorite show, enjoy your favorite hobby, and spend time with your loved ones!

A merry holiday season to all, and a happy New Year! With Aldine Pride!



Dr. LaTonya M. GoffneySuperintendent of SchoolsAldine ISD

Dubberke Named Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Team 1

Aldine ISD has named Scott A. Dubberke as the new assistant superintendent of elementary schools team one. Dubberke's extensive experience and dedication to education align with the district's strategic plan's goal of attracting, growing, and retaining top talent equipped and empowered to meet the needs of all stu-

As the assistant superintendent of elementary schools, Dubberke will play a vital role in shaping and implementing educational strategies that support student growth and success. He will provide instructional leadership to principals through coaching and support for student achievement and developing high academic standards. He will work with elementary school principals to maximize their capacity to im-



Scott A. Dubberke

prove teaching and learning by providing coaching and training.

"Scott's extensive background in education, coupled with his unwavering dedication to student achievement, makes him the ideal candidate for this position. With his leadership, we are confident that our elementary schools team one will continue to thrive and provide our students the highest quality learning experiences," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Dubberke began his caer in education in 1999 as a third-grade teacher at Black Elementary School in Aldine ISD. Dubberke went on to serve as the fourthgrade lead teacher and the curriculum specialist at the same campus. In 2006, Dubberke joined Gray Elementary School as an assistant principal, a position he held until 2014 before being named campus principal. Dubberke was named the AISD 2018 Elementary/Intermediate Principal of the Year. He moved into a district administrative role in 2021 as a human resources director.

Dubberke received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his master's from Sam Houston State University in admin-

Davis HS Student Named Questbridge National Match Scholar



Davis HS senior Yoisel Rodríguez, center, poses with family and Davis administrators after he was named a Questbridge National Match Scholar.

Davis High School Senior Yoisel Rodríguez Toledo was recently named a Questbridge National Match Scholar.

Out of 20,800 applicants, only 2,242 were chosen as scholarship recipients. Yoisel matched with Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

He was awarded a 4-year full-ride scholarship, which amounts to more than \$348,000.

Yoisel and his family are originally from Cuba and have now been living in the United States for seven years. He is a first-generation college student, and thanks to the Questbridge program, attending a top university in the United States can be affordable for him and his family.

OPINION PAGE *

The Christmas Story Luke 2:1-20, King James Version

1: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,

unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being

6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the

days were accomplished that she should be 7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the

8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock

9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a

13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and

14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning

18: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Property Tax Cuts go into Effect

A total of \$18 billion in property tax cuts were approved by more than 80% of voters in the November general election and should be reflected in property tax bills that are due by Jan. 31. The cuts come in the form of increased home exemptions, lower school district rates, and limiting the amount property appraisals can rise.

Many taxing districts sent out bills before the election that factored in the decrease, anticipating voter approval. For example, in Gregg County in Northeast Texas, the tax bill noted on the back sheet that the lower amount was contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendments. If the amendments had not passed, taxpayers would be billed for the difference.

According to the state comptroller's office, a typical homestead valued at \$350,000 will see a tax savings of about \$1,000. Prior to the approval of the tax cuts, Texas ranked sixth highest in the nation in property tax rates, partly because the state does not have a state income tax.

PAXTON IMPEACHMENT COST TAXPAYERS \$4.3 MILLION

The Dallas Morning News reported last week that the taxpayer cost of impeaching Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was more than \$4.3 million. More than two dozen lawvers worked to prosecute Paxton leading up to and during his two-week trial in the Senate. That chamber acquitted him of all 20 charges after the House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton, who is under indictment for securities fraud and was accused of abuse of office.

Lawyers billed more than 7,800 hours related to Paxton's impeachment, The News reported after seeking copies of all invoices and related documents. Co-counsel Dick DeGuerin defended the amount of

work done by attorneys. "Everything we did was justified, and I won't retreat from that statement ever," DeGuerin said. "We presented strong evidence that Paxton just surrendered the power of his office in a corrupt way. It's

Jamail, Kristan Hoffman



iust that his financial supporters threatened retaliaagainst Republicans that would have voted for conviction."

Paxton has vowed to campaign in the Republican primary against House members who voted for his impeachment, especially House Speaker Dade Phelan.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Paxton said in a statement released by his campaign. "Whether it's the House costs, Senate costs, or the overall impeachment session costs, many millions more were incurred on Dade Phelan's sham and needless impeachment."

Phelan said Paxton's refusal to testify before the House on a proposed \$3.3 million settlement of a whistleblower lawsuit prompted the investigation that led to the impeachment.

"The investigation, impeachment, and trial of Ken Paxton shed a clear, unflinching light on who Paxton is and the lengths to which he will go to stay in power," Phelan said in a statement.

TEXAS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FACE SPARSE ELECTION OPPOSITION

Texas has 38 seats in the U.S. House, and 35 incumbents are seeking re-election, the Texas Standard reported. Of that number, 16 do not have a primary challenger, while five will face no opposition in the general election as well.

Of the remaining three seats — all in North Texas two members are retiring, while U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, opted to run against U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz next November.

"It is not at all uncom-

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Mei-Ing Hoffman......Associate Publisher

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......Assignment Editor

mon for incumbents to pretty much coast to reelection, even if they are challenged in the primary or the general election. Incumbents have an enormous advantage in name I.D. and abilto fundraise, connections and networks within the district," Todd Gillman of The News said.

BOARD SIGNS OFF ON SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOK RULES

The State Board of Education approved guidelines for Texas school libraries to use in implementing policies to ban the possession or purchase of books considered "sexually explicit." The guidelines follow passage of a bill in the last regular session requiring book vendors to supply ratings for titles that contain sexual content. The law is being challenged in court by a coalition of book vendors and associations.

"It was a work of deep value and importance to bring the library standards to fruition. In Texas, parents have been identifying this issue to schools without the necessary support of law," said SBOE member Audrey Young, R-Trinity.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission must also adopt the standards. Each of the state's 1,000-plus school districts must approve a policy that explains how school libraries acquire books and other materials.

JUDGE UPHOLDS BAN OF TIKTOK ON STATE-ISSUED DEVICES

An Austin federal judge last week upheld the state's ban of TikTok on government-issued devices such as phones, laptops or tablets, kut.org reported. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman upheld the policy that was challenged by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, which claimed the ban was unconstitutional.

"Texas's TikTok ban is limiting the use of an app on state-provided devices and networks, which is not a blanket prohibition," Pitman wrote. The ban followed concerns that the Chinese company that owns TikTok — a social media platform - could provide sensitive data to the Chinese government.'

TikTok spent about \$1.5 billion on an initiative called Project Texas to address national security concerns. The Biden administration has called for the company to sell Tik-Tok or face a national ban. A bill passed by Congress bans its use on federal government devices.

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. m a gborders@texaspress.com.

THE **POSTSCRIPT** Carrie Classon

Dressing up for Christmas

I tend to be a Christmas maximalist; at least if you ask my husband, Peter, that's what he would say.

Peter would dispense with the tree, the presents and most of the outings. He'd hang a few ornaments on a houseplant, have a nice meal and go to bed early. But Peter cares for me a lot, and he knows how much I love Christmas.

I want a live tree. If I can't chop it down myself, I'll haul it home from the hardware store. I want lights on the balcony and a little present for everyone. I want fancy new wrapping paper and pretty, old ornaments and a holiday setting on the table. I want to light too many candles, bake too many cookies and end up with a floor covered with ribbon and powdered sugar at the end of the night. Peter is very patient.

And I want to get dressed

Some of my best memories of Christmas involve my Auntie Jo. She and her family would drive up north to my grandparents on Christmas Eve with a car packed with presents and cousins and a mischievous dog. Thinking back on it now, I'm sure it was stressful for my Auntie Jo. But my memory is of the car pulling in, and Auntie Jo hugging everyone, her arms full of bags of unwrapped gifts and luggage. And this was, for me, the official start of Christmas.

Auntie Jo would head downstairs to wrap presents and, at some point, their dog, Twinkie, would make a mad dash out the door. We'd all scour the neighborhood until we found Twinkie. Then Auntie Jo would go to change her clothes and emerge more resplendent than the Christmas tree.

It was always a treat, as a child, to see what my Auntie Jo would wear at Christmas. I knew there would be glitter or sequins, and probably both. It would be the sort of outfit a person would wear only for a very special day, and seeing Auntie Jo dressed up made it a special day for me.

I understand getting dressed up is not for everyone. A tree is a lot of work. And I don't think holiday preparations should be a burden—something on the must-do list when there are more important things to do.

But every year, I think back on my Auntie Jo, who had such a long drive and so much to do (and such a naughty dog!), and how she would step into the living room, reflecting the Christmas lights. I received a lot of nice presents, and we had a wonderful meal, but seeing my Auntie Jo dressed in her Christmas finery was always a highlight for me.

I am still lucky enough to see my Auntie Jo at Christmas. And, although I will never wear sequins as well as she did, I do my best.

Because dressing up is part of how I participate in Christmas. It helps to make this time of year memorable. When I light the candles on my mantle and string lights outside, it's a recognition that the darkness of winter will pass. Like my Auntie Jo, I want to mark this passage of time; I want to make this day different from other days. Dressing up for Christmas reminds me that we need some extra sparkle in this darkest time of year.

And so (while I try to take it easy on Peter) I am decorating the house, and I'm lighting too many candles. And I already have a dress picked out for Christmas.

> Till next time, Carrie



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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 17 - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Texans, Browns meet in key game for both teams: Cowboys head to Miami to take on high-scoring Dolphins

Two weeks ago, the Cowboys dominated the Eagles 33-13 at Jerry World to move to 10-3 on the season and move into a tie with Philly atop the NFC East. Dallas has a tough final three weeks. After the trip to Miami, Dallas returns home to face NFC North leader Detroit then closes out the season with a road game at Washington.

The Eagles, on the other hand, face the woeful Giants twice and three-win Arizona in the final three weeks of the season. The Eagles are probably the favorites to win the division, and relegate Dallas to a Wild Card team.

Other key games this holiday weekend has New Orleans visiting the Rams on Thursday Night Football, Cincinnati visiting Pittsburgh and Buffalo visiting the Los Angeles Chargers. Both of those games will be played on Saturday.

Detroit will look to wrap up the NFC North on Sunday with a win at Minnesota, while Jacksonville visits Tampa Bay. On Christmas Day, we get a triple header leading off with Las Vegas at Kansas City, followed by New York at Philadelphia and the nightcap is a good one as Baltimore visits San Francisco.

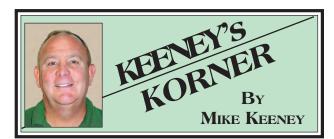
Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 4-4 week brought the season record to 101-49 (67%)

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This has been a tough year for me and my family, but thanks to all of the love and support we have received, it's made a very difficult year a bit more bearable.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NFL

New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams: Week 16 kicks off with the Saints visiting the Rams on Thursday Night Football in a game both teams need to win to remain in the NFC Wild Card hunt. The Rams have been playing well as of late thanks to the play of QB Matthew Stafford (3,062 yards, 19 TDs), and wide receivers Puka



Nacua (82 receptions, 1,113 yards, 4 TDs) and Cooper Kupp (41 receptions, 547 yards, 3 TDs). They also have a strong running game led by Kryen Williams (801 yards, 7 TDs). The Saints have struggled on offense due to inconsistent play from quarterback Derek Carr (2,880 yards, 13 TDs). Carr should rely on running back Alvin Kamara (564 rushing yards, 5 TDs/63 receptions, 402 vards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Chris Olave (72 receptions, 918 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Rams defense to force a turnover or two from Carr as the Rams get the win on Thursday night. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 26, New Orleans

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh: The first of two Saturday games is a key AFC North contest between the Bengals and Steelers. Despite losing starting QB Joe Burrow to a season-ending wrist injury, the Bengals are still in the AFC Wild Card race. Backup QB Jake Browning (649 yards in three games, 3 TDs) has done an admirable job of running the offense. It helps that running back Joe Mixon (689 yards, 6 TDs) has been playing well in recent weeks. Browning still has star wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (86 receptions, 1,063 yards, 7 TDs) to throw to. The Steelers just aren't very good on offense and if starting QB Kenny Pickett misses another game with an ankle injury, the Steeler faithful could be in a foul mood at the end of the day. It won't be a Merry Christmas in the Steel City. My pick, Cincinnati 23, Pittsburgh 16

Buffalo at Los Angeles Chargers: The Bills head west to take on a beat-up Chargers team that is simply playing out the string, which could cost head coach Brandon Staley his job. Two weeks ago, Buffalo may have saved its season, and its head coach Sean McDermott's job, with a 20-17 win at Kansas City. That win gave the Bills new life. Look for QB Josh Allen (3,447 passing vards, 25 TDs/374 rushing yards, 10 TDs) to carve up the Chargers defense. Buffalo finally has a running game led by James Cook (789 yards, 4 total TDs) and Allen will look to Cook to soften up the LA defense and then make plays down field to wideout Stefon Diggs (87 receptions, 993 yards, 8 TDs). LA should be without starting QB Justin Herbert, who fractured the index finger on his passing hand two weeks ago in a loss to Denver. Backup Easton Stick just doesn't have what it takes to win at the NFL level, even with a strong running back in Austin Ekeler (497 rushing yards, 5 TDS/36 receptions, 344 yards, 1 TD) and steady wide receiver Keenan Allen (108 receptions, 1,243 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Bills to get another road win on Saturday in LA. My pick, Buffalo 31, Los Angeles Chargers 23

Detroit at Minnesota: The Lions take on the Vikings in a key NFC North contest on Sunday in Minnesota. A win by the Lions should secure a playoff spot and quite possibly the NFC North title. But they will have to do it on the road, which has not been kind to the Lions this year. Two weeks ago, Detroit lost at Chicago 28-13. QB Jared Goff (3,449 yards, 21 TDs) needs a big day, and he has plenty of weapons to help him get the job done with running backs David Montgomery (770 yards, 10 TDs), Jahmyr Gibbs (692 yards, 6 TDs), wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (87 receptions, 1,063 yards, 6 TDs) and rookie tight end Sam LaPorta (66 receptions, 702 yards, 6 TDs). The Vikings struggle on offense (they scored a whopping whole 3 points two weeks ago in a 3-0 win at Las Vegas) due to the inconsistent play of QB Joshua Dobbs (895 yards, 5 TDs/5 interceptions).

Dobbs has some weapons in rookie wide receiver Jordan Addison (56 receptions, 713 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end T.J. Hockenson (85 receptions, 839 yards, 5 TDs), but they don't have much of a running game. Look for the Lions defense to get after Dobbs early and often and force a key turnover or two as the Lions give their fans an early Christmas present by clinching a playoff berth on Christmas Eve. My pick, Detroit 26, Minnesota 15

Cleveland at Houston: A key game for both teams as both the Texans and Browns hope to keep their playoff hopes alive on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Cleveland has remained in the playoff hunt thanks to veteran QB Joe Flacco (565 yards, 5 TDs in his first two games after signing with the Browns in early December). Two weeks ago, Flacco led the Browns to a 31-27 win over Jacksonville as he hooked up with tight end David Njoku (59 receptions, 600 yards, 4 TDs) for two TDs. The Houston defense will need to first stop running back Jerome Ford (698 yards, 3 TDs) and then set their sights on the immobile Flacco. The Texans hope to have starting QB C.J. Stroud (3,631 yards, 20 TDs) back for this game. Stroud sustained a concussion two weeks ago in Houston's 30-6 loss to the Jets and Stroud had his worst day as a pro throwing for only 91 yards. The Texans could also be without wide receiver Nico Collins (60 receptions, 1,004 yards, 6 TDs) who suffered a calf injury in the New York game. If Collins is out again, that could make things dicey in the passing game. Someone else needs to step up, but that's been the case all season long for this team. Look for the Texans defense to rise to the occasion as they lead the hometown team to a huge win on Sunday. It won't be pretty, but a win is a win at this point in the season. My pick, Houston 16,

Cleveland 13

Jacksonville at Tampa Bay:
The Jags visit the Bucs on
Sunday with both teams needing
a win to remain in the playoff hunt.
Two weeks ago, the Jags dropped
their second straight game losing
at Cleveland, while TB took over
the top spot in the weak NFC
South with a road win at Atlanta.
The Jags will need a big day from
QB Trevor Lawrence (3,261
yards, 17 TDs), running back
Travis Etienne (806 yards, 9 TDS)
and wide receiver Calvin Ridley

(55 receptions, 742 yards, 5 TDs). Tampa Bay will be led by QB Baker Mayfield (2,934 yards, 20 TDs), running back Rachaad White (745 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Mike Evans (62 receptions, 1,002 yards, 10 TDs). Look for Lawrence to step up and lead the Jags to a much-needed win on Sunday. My pick, Jacksonville 26, Tampa Bay 23

Dallas at Miami: The Cowboys head to South Beach to face a Dolphins team that lost at home to a four-win Tennessee team two weeks ago. Not only did Miami lose the game, but star wide receiver Tyreek Hill (97 receptions, 1,542 yards, 12 TDs) suffered an ankle injury. Hill returned to the game but was limited. If that injury lingers, that will be a huge blow to Tua Tagovailoa (3,697 yards, 24 TDs) and the rest of the Miami offense. Hill is definitely the star of this offense, but Miami has other weapons in running backs Raheem Mostert (924 yards, 16 total TDs), and De'Von Achne (581 yards, 7 TDs) and fellow wideout Jaylen Waddle (63 receptions, 822 yards, 3 TDs). Miami will face a Dallas defense that is playing as well as any unit in the NFL. Two weeks ago, they did not allow a touchdown to the high-powered Philly offense and forced three turnovers in the 33-13 win. The Dallas offense is also rolling behind QB Dak Prescott (3,505 yards, 28 TDs). Prescott is firmly in contention to be the league MVP and a big game on another national stage could go a long way in securing that honor. But Dallas is not a one-man offense. Running back Tony Pollard (796 yards, 5 TDs) has been playing well lately and wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (96 receptions, 1,253 yards, 8 TDS) is having an All-Pro year. Secondyear tight end Jake Ferguson (51 receptions, 570 yards, 5 TDs) is becoming a clutch receiver as well. This should be a highscoring game but look for the Dallas defense to make a play or two down the stretch to hand the Cowboys a huge road win on Sunday. My pick, Dallas 33, Miami 26

Las Vegas at Kansas City:
The Raiders and Chiefs meet on
Christmas Day as these two
renew one of the NFL's most
storied rivalries. To say the
Raiders have struggled on
offense would be an understatement. Two weeks ago, Vegas only
mustered 196 total yards of

offense in a 3-0 home loss to Minnesota. That's inexcusable in today's NFL. Rookie QB Aiden O'Connell (1,365 yards, 4 TDs) just doesn't seem to have what it takes to be an NFL QB. Vegas will need a big day from running back Josh Jacobs (805 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (76 receptions, 805 yards, 6 TDs) if they hope to pull off the upset. The Chiefs haven't exactly been lighting things up on offense, which is strange with a QB of Pat Mahomes (3,398 yards, 23 TDs) ability. The problem is, Mahomes has only one dependable receiver to throw to in tight end Travis Kelce (80 receptions, 896 yards, 5 TDs). The wideouts are suspect. The offense should get a boost with the return of running back Isiah Pacheco (779 yards, 7 total TDs) who missed KC's 20-17 loss two weeks ago against Buffalo with a shoulder injury. Look for the Chiefs to roll on Christmas Day. My pick, Kansas City 34, Las

Baltimore at San Francisco: The NFL is providing a nice Christmas night present when the Ravens and 49ers meet in prime time on ABC and ESPN. This could very well be a Super Bowl preview as both teams are the best in their respective conferences at this point of the season. Two weeks ago, the Ravens got a 76yard punt return for a touchdown in overtime to upend the Rams, 37-31, while the 49ers rolled to a 28-16 win over Seattle at home. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (2,934 passing yards, 16 TDS/644 rushing yards, 5 TDs) will test a SF defense that has not been its dominant self this season. The Ravens also have a capable runner in Gus Edwards (605 yards, 10 TDs) and a big-play rookie wide receiver in Zay Flowers (64 receptions, 673 yards, 3 TDs). The 49ers are loaded on offense led by QB Brock Purdy (3,553 yards, 25 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (1,177 rushing yards, 12 TDs/52 receptions, 437 yards, 5 TDs), wide receivers Deebo Samuel (45 receptions, 739 yards, 9 TDs) and Brandon Aiyuk (56 receptions, 1,053 yards) and tight end George Kittle (53 receptions, 811 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the 49ers to send a message to the rest of the league that they are serious about winning it all this season. My pick, San Francisco 31, Baltimore 23



Abbott SkyDives with 106 Year old WWII Veteran,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE



Governor Abbott and WWII Veteran Al Blaschke skydive in sky above San Marcos.



Abbott and Blaschke congratulate each other after the jump.

a de Havilland DHC-6-200-Twin Otter aircraft and jumped at 8,500 feet. This was Governor Abbott's first skydiving jump.

"Texans and Americans owe so much to the brave men and women who serve our nation and protect the freedoms that we enjoy each and every day," said Governor Abbott. "I am proud to share my first skydiving jump with Al Blaschke to honor veterans, like him, who helped safeguard the freedoms and

promise of our country for generations of Americans."

The Governor and Mr. Blaschke were joined for the jump by Texas National Guard soldiers, veteran advocate and Georgetown community leader Betty Schleder, and Skydive Spaceland professionals.

Spaceland professionals.

Mr. Blaschke of Georgetown, a World War II aircraft engineer, first made headlines skydiving for the first time on his 100th birthday in 2017. In 2020, Mr. Blaschke broke the

Guinness World Record for the world's oldest tandem parachute jump alongside his twin grandsons and longtime friend, Ms. Schleder, in 2020, and he again set the world record during today's jump with Governor Abbott. In addition to skydiving and being active in her community, Ms. Schleder is a small business owner in Texas and former finalist on "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" television shows.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

We will close early at 5pm on Dec. 22. We will be CLOSED Dec. 23 - 26

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aquí: https:// forms.office.com/r/ rTQyUGd1Yy * Important- Instructions

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

Nivel -1 Habilidades

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

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Teen Thursdays at
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fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! <u>Thursday, Dec. 21</u>

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- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para pricipiantes

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Friday, Dec. 15 - Dec. 22,
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HCPL Connected Mifi and Chromebook Service ends Dec 31st!

Don't lose internet access sign up for the Affordable Connectivity Program! Harris County Digital Navigators will be at Aldine library to help eligible persons sign up.

Every Tuesday and Thursday 12 pm - 4 pm. To get more info or to make an appointment, contact the Digital Navigators: Call 713-755-5000 OR Visit broadband.harriscountytx.gov/acp

Please note: Even though the service is ending, the MiFi Hotspot you received from HCPL or one of its partners is yours to keep and can be used with any Affordable Connectivity Program internet service provider. If you no longer want the T-Mobile MiFi Hotspot, you can return it to any HCPL Branch Location.

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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 trav

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

iPhone, a big squish malo, make me an elf, bring me a new hat girl baby, bring me a lot of clothes, bring me 1,000, iPhone 15. Kyla Jimenez, 7 years

Orange Grove Elementary

old

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year, please for Christmas bring me monsters, side, and gaming set up for PC and cv buks and a new TV and new phone and new iPad, new clothes. Thank you. Josesem, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year, please, for Christmas, bring me a VR and an iPhone, and a baby boy and any hero erasers and for pool gift card and helime because my dad did. Thank you. Michael, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary



Dear Santa, I have a nice this year please for Christmas brina me monopoly shopsy barbees horm, barbees lego, airpods, iphone 15 pro max and varshen. Alexa Mejia, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, Can you get me a line and red ciencs, mini soccer ball and soccer gloves please? Gabriel, 9 years old, Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa, I have a nice this year, please for good Christmas bring me a VF3, PS5, spider-Man 2, Xbox, iPhone 15 Pro Max, katana Neff game 1,000 bullets for nerf game, markers. Thank

Angel Cordero, 7 years Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa. This year, I want to go to Guyana with my cousins. I also want my aunt not to work so hard. I deserve this because this year I listened and not give my dad any trouble this is why I deserve these gifts. Étina Jordan, 8 years

old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, I have been nice this year, please for Christmas bring me toy and an iPad and toy bacere. Thank you. Andrea Tejada, 8 years Orange Grove Elem

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is Pokemon Nerfeltra card, weapons, and fortnite V-Bucks, I want this because I help people in school and nice to others.

Ethan N Quezada, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Orange

Elementary

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a camera that I can film with in a pet dog because I have been good all year. I get A's on my report car and progress report. I also want monopoly chace, twister air and a mini kitchen or something like that. I have been good all year. Adrian Diaz, 8 years old

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a computer because I have been good and I need a working computer that I can do my school work at Maddie Gonzales, 9

years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, Can you make my dad come early. And can you make my mom not busy. And can you help my little sister be good at home. I deserve it because I'm good. Ariel Galarza, 8 years Orange Elementary

Grove

Dear Santa, Hello Santa I want an art set. I want books. I want a cat. Stitch toy. Thank you.

Love, Ariana Q., 8 years old Orange Grove

Elementary

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

Therefore the Lord Himself

will give you a sign:

Behold, the virgin shall

conceive and bear a Son,

and shall call His name

Immanuel. ISAIAH 7:14 26

"Heilige Nacht" (15th-century woodcut)

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel,

3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ... Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers

4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance

5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron

6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3) Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Does not

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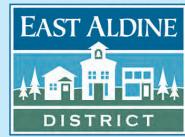


Our 22nd Year serving the Aldine Community

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

EAST ALDINE

DISTRICT



East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Honoring Military Veterans Connects to District's Root



MacArthur High School on Aldine Mail Route Road in East Aldine opened in 1965 and was named in memory of Douglas MacArthur, the U.S. Army General who died a year earlier.

Post 548 of the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, sits on the same street. And typical of working-class neighborhoods across the nation, East Aldine has a significant share of residents who served in the U.S. military.

So it was fitting that an annual honoring of veterans also took place recently on Aldine Mail

Route Road at the East Aldine Town Center.

A highlight of the Veterans Day celebration was the unfurling of a giant American flag on the concert lawn as a drone was used to capture photos of volunteers who held on tight to make it wave.

The veterans and dozens of their family members laughed with delight in the cool autumn breeze in a joyful celebration of patriotism and remembrance.

"Veterans' Day is special for veterans, but it is also a special day for veterans' families," said Robert Mora, commander of the American Legion post. "We have to give thanks to the families, because when a veteran comes home, they have to adapt and get used to living as a civilian again."

"Sometimes, it's kind of like a pro athlete. They play the game and when they stop, they have to try to come back to reality again," Mora said.

Dozens of vendors, from government agencies to veteran entrepreneurs, offered informative packets, tiny flags, red-white-and-blue trinkets and leftover Halloween candy. A brass band played as a touching slideshow displayed images of dozens of East Aldine area veterans from World War II to Vietnam.

Mora reminded the community of a famous quote from Gen. MacArthur:

"Douglas MacArthur once said the soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. Now, we do pray for

peace every day, but sometimes we have to face the fact that in this unstable world, there is war."

var."

Mora is an Air Force veteran and a graduate of MacArthur High School.

Post 548 hosted a special breakfast for veterans on Veterans' Day. The organization is active in holding charity fundraisers, but one of its most special roles is hosting funeral celebrations for the families of deceased area veterans, Mora said.

or the families of deceased area veterans, Mora said.

Many veterans in East Aldine are "a little bit older," said Mora, 62. "For some reason, the

younger veterans seem to be living a little bit further away." But still, he said, "we are a

very active post."

Many older veterans served during the Vietnam War, and they posed for a special group photograph before being awarded pins by state Sen.

Carol Alvarado.
Vietnam War veteran Dr.
Elias Sanchez Perez,used his role as keynote speaker to urge families to encourage their children to pursue careers in STEM — science, technology, engineering and math

engineering and math.

Sanchez Perez, president of A Gathering of Eagles, which represents a variety of veterans' organizations, worked as an engineer at NASA for several years. He now teaches at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

"At NASA, I learned technology, science and engineering are very important topics, especially for youth," he said. "You who have children growing up, you need to help me push science and technology into our youth. The jobs of tomorrow are in science, technology and engineering."

Sanchez Perez worked closely with six Latino astronauts, who decided to hold summer symposiums for youth to encourage them to pursue STEM careers.

He cited the example of retired NASA astronaut Jaime Hernandez, who applied a dozen times before being accepted into the astronaut corps. Sanchez Perez recalled that before pursuing his education, Hernandez was "a migrant fieldworker" with his family in California.

"I just want to emphasize to you how important it is to get education in those fields," Sanchez Perez said.

Other participants in the event included the Hambrick Middle School Boys' Choir. Melanie Garcia, a student at Hambrick, received an award for her poem about Veterans Day.

Participants in the Vet Fest included the Harris County Veterans Services Department, BakerRipley's Veterans Assistance office, the city of Houston, and Lone Star Legal Aid's Military and Veterans Unit.

Sen. Carol Alvarado, center, with veterans

— by Anne Marie Kilday







Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice for Christmas. Please bring me BreBol LOL popit, pers rtesiss, skirt, ps5. Thank

Daleysa Lopez, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have been nice. For Christmas please bring me. Rtesiss Barbe. Thank

Sophia Ibarra, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, this year, I have nice. For Christmas please bring me I want glow up shoes and shoes I want shoes that glow and scut. Thank you. Sophia Juliette, 8 years

Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice. For Christmas please bring me, I want two lamonrosesobletwl, erases, Lulululu. Thank you Mertin, 9 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Terry Garza.

HOLIDAY TRADITION:

Shop with a Cop

Dear Santa, This year I have been nice. For Christmas please bring me a PS5 and an Xbox and hyousme and a scapor and sculrrs and a cup and clothes and sweater and convers. David Romero, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice for Christmas. Please bring me a TV, puzzle. Alexander, 8 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice. For Christmas please bring me PS5, TV, noger. Jose, 7 years old Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa, This year are having nice. For Christmas. Please bring me PS5 and stich please Santa. And a phone and crayons, and a stitch hat. Thank you. Iliana Martinez, 8 years Orange Grove Elementary

HCSO East Aldine Deputies took needy families and children to a local Walmart, and helped them buy Christmas gifts for themselves and their family. Helping were Flor Zarzoza Almendarez, Patti Acosta, and Deputy

Dear Santa, This year I have been nice. For Christmas please bring me, please lerago and peachohifoz and Xbox please. Thank you.

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice. For Christmas please bring me Heze Ruiz, 8 years old

Orange Grove Elementary

Christopher, 7 years old

Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice for Christmas. Please bring me bebe lych. Thank you. Xiovana, 7 years old

Orange grass elementary

Dear Santa, This year I have a nice. For Christmas. Please bring me a mini brand and a phone and crayons and a baby mother and a drone and a gummy bear and a lot of toys. Love you. Thank you. Adriana, 7 years old Orange Grove elementary

East Aldine Partners Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- PHOTOS BY MARINA SUGG

over the 22 years of existence of the management district.

Guests then were treated to an excellent dinner catered by Cantu's Kitchen. The meal included a choice of Zucchini Pesto, Roscat Ribeye, Southwest Chicken, or Grilled Salmon.

Following dinner, executive director Richard Cantu made the announcements of Partner Awards in various categories, and with Leticia Rodriguez presented the awards.

The following Partners were thanked for their support through the year, and given Award recognition:

- Volunteer Award, to Sandra Luna;
- Community Partner Award, to Ros-
- Public Safety Partner Award, to Harris County Deputy Ernesto Rivera, Ex-
- plorer advisor; • Governmental Service Partner
- Award, to State Senator Carol Alvarado; Public Health Partner Award to Susan Santos, Harris County Engineering;
- Business Partner Award, to Priscilla Rios of Suvida Healthcare;
- Education Partner Award, to Connie Esparza of Aldine ISD School Board;
- Board Choice Award for Public Service to Coco Martinez of Pilgrim Place II
- Chairman's Award for Community Service to Ruben Salazar of East Aldine Civic Club.

Senior Center;

alva Rosie Hernandez, of BakerRipley; **PARTNER AWARDS:**



VOLUNTEER Sandra Luna



COMMUNITY Rosalva Rosie Hernandez



PUBLLIC SAFETY David Hernandez for Ernesto Rivera



GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE Ricco Garcia for Carol Alvarado



PUBLIC HEALTH Susan Santos



BUSINESS Priscilla Rios



EDUCATION Connie Esparza



BOARD CHOICE Coco Martinez



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD Ruben Salazar



living in East Aldine all his life, and what a good quality of life existed here.

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- 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.

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