

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Aldine Branch Library 2
- Campus Teachers of Year . 3
- New Laws in Texas 4
- Texas Renaissance Festival Photobook 5
- North West Rubber Hiring 6
- Celebrity Extra 7
- Entertainment Page 7
- HCC Innovation 8
- HCC Skills Into A Career/ Register Now 8

NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 2 TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

LSC-NH hosts Super Registrations Jan 6 & 13

NORTH HARRIS – Is 2024 going to be a new year, new you kind of year? If so, Lone Star College-North Harris is ready to help you! Registration is underway for spring semester classes which begin Jan. 16, and the Student Services team is ready to help with the admissions and enrollment process on campus at Super Saturday.

There will be two Super Saturday Registration Rally events, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, where students can get help with admissions, NSO, financial aid resources, and more. Campus tours will also be available.

“Our team is here and ready to help students however we can,” said LSC-North Harris Interim Vice President of Student Success Magdalena Mendoza-Stark, “so join us and start your future now.” Students are encouraged to take advantage of the full-service event to get the help they need.

Super Saturday Registration Rallies Saturday, Jan. 6 & 7 Student Services Building 2700 W.W. Thorne Blvd. Houston, TX 77073 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For additional spring registration information, go to LoneStar.edu/LearnMore

Ford-Fisher named new HCC Chancellor

Visionary and Nationally Recognized Leader Named Sole Finalist

HOUSTON (Dec. 29, 2023) – The Houston Community College (HCC) Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to name Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D., as sole finalist to serve as the institution's next Chancellor. Dr. Ford Fisher has served as HCC's Interim Chancellor since Sept. 1, 2023.

Dr. Cynthia Lenton-Gary, the Board Chair, lauded the Board's decision, stating, “Dr. Ford Fisher's deep institutional knowledge, coupled with her forward-looking vision and nationally recognized leadership, makes her the ideal leader to navigate HCC towards a future rich in educational excellence and innovation.”



MARGARET FORD FISHER

The Board of Trustees will hold a subsequent meeting to act on the final appointment of Dr. Ford Fisher as Chancellor, no less than 21 days following her selection as sole finalist, per state law.

Dr. Ford Fisher has dedicated nearly four decades to serving HCC in various capacities, more recently as the founding president of Houston Community College Online, established in February 2018. Her tenure at the HCC Online College has been marked by exceptional growth and modernization, earning it the honor of being “One of America's Best Online Colleges” by Newsweek for two consecutive years, 2022 and 2023.

Under her leadership, the HCC Online College launched over 60 fully online degree programs and 70 hybrid courses, significantly enhancing educational accessibility, and registering an enrollment of more than 62,000 students. Prior to this role, she served 20 years as HCC Northeast College president. There she led two successful capital campaigns and garnered community support for an HCC annexation initiative, resulting in greater educational services and in demand programs.

Dr. Ford Fisher holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master's degree in the Teaching of English from Wichita State University, and a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston.

Board Chair Lenton-Gary further said, “The governing board's decision underscores Dr. Ford Fisher's unique positioning as a visionary leader, deeply rooted in HCC's culture and history, and ripely equipped to advance the college through fundamental changes occurring in our sector.”

“I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead HCC and thank the Board for the confidence it has placed in me,” Dr. Ford Fisher said. “I am committed to a vision of providing a real-world education and look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, and our extraordinary faculty and staff to foster a talent-strong Houston, enriching the lives of all of our students, while elevating our community.”

WHITMIRE INAUGURATED AS HOUSTON'S 63RD MAYOR

A Personal Account of the Event By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ January 2, 2024 ~ At 9:30 am in the Gus S. Wortham Theater Center/Alice and George Brown Theater, North Channel Star writer Allan Jamail lined up next to the media representatives of all the major news organization to bring the NC Star readers his photos along with his account of his friend Houston's Mayor John Whitmire's Inauguration.

The program partici- Continued. See WHITMIRE , Page 5



John Harris Whitmire, Houston's 63rd Mayor gives his Inaugural Address at the Wortham Center. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mayor Whitmire takes the Oath of Office with his hand resting on two Bibles held by his daughters Whitney Whitmire Jenkins (left) and Sarah Whitmire. The oath was given by Judge Victor Trevino III. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Fundraising Continues for Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway Fund

Rep. Walle is working with Sen. Carol Alvarado and Harris County Deputies Organization FOP Lodge 39 to raise the required \$40,000 to build signs to mark the Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway. Harris County Deputy Sheriff Almendarez was a constituent of House District 140 who was shot and killed in 2022. Last Session, Rep. Walle worked with Sen. Alvarado to pass House Bill 2205, which renames a portion of US Highway 59 in Harris County in Almendarez honor.

Anyone may donate by visiting the HCDO fundraising website - <https://www.hcdoadf.com>.



Rep. Walle Files for Re-Election

On Nov. 11, filling for the 2024 primary election opened statewide. Rep. Walle visited the Harris County Democratic Party headquarters with his family to sign the paperwork to get on the ballot. Rep. Walle looks forward to the opportunity to again serve the people of House District 140.



KEENEY'S KORNER - Offensive Player of the Year

Sky is the limit for Nimitz Quarterback Albert Brown

By Mike Keeney Contributing Writer

Nimitz High School head football coach Cornelius Harmon knew he had something special in his young quarterback Albert Brown. And he was right.

The 6-foot, 210-pound Brown earned the starting job as the Cougars starting quarterback during spring training and Harmon and the team never looked back, or regretted handing the most important position on the team to such a young player.

Brown rewarded Harmon's faith in his by passing for 2,303 yards, 20 touchdowns, 437 rushing yards and 11 more TDs on the ground. Not too bad for a first-year starter on a Class 6A football team.

Brown also helped lead the Cougars to eight wins and a second straight berth playoff berth.

Brown's all-around solid season earned him the Northeast News' Offensive Player of the Year Award.

Harmon said it didn't take him long to realize he had a keeper in Brown.

“The moment I saw him on our campus (Brown attended Nimitz Ninth Grade



Nimitz High sophomore quarterback Albert "A.J." Brown has been named the Northeast News' Offensive Player of the Year.

School as a freshman), I knew he was going to be our starting quarterback. I knew that before he ever played a game.”

Harmon said Brown has a poise about him that most 14-year-olds don't have and that helped him earn the respect of his old-

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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Harris County Receives \$1.6 Million in Clean Energy Funding from the Biden-Harris Administration

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs has awarded \$1.6 million in clean energy funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to Harris County, one of the first 16 state, local, and Tribal government recipients. Harris County will carry out several activities with the funding, including conducting community engagement with disadvantaged communities for climate justice planning, performing site assessments for solar and storage on county properties in disadvantaged communities, conducting recycling pilots at county facilities, enhancing walking and bicycling to school as part of the Safe Routes to School plan, and deploying an off-grid, solar EV station on county property in a disadvantaged community in the greater-Houston area.

Harris County Public Health's New Hispanic Chronic Disease Cohort to Address Health Disparities Among Latinos

As we celebrated the numerous contributions our Latino population has made to our community during Hispanic Heritage Month, we also invested in solutions to the challenges of the community as well. One major challenge Latinos in Harris County face is chronic disease - the Hispanic population experiences higher rates of diabetes and obesity.

Harris County is addressing this pressing issue via Harris County Public Health's ACCESS program's new Hispanic Chronic Disease cohort, which launched on September 15th. This new program partners with bilingual and culturally competent healthcare partners to connect Latino residents with the resources they need to manage their health issues via nutrition and exercise. This pilot program will initially serve 200-300 people with a goal of expanding to serve even more people.

Harris County Accepts \$1.28 Million Grant to Fund Legal Services for Naturalization

In October, Harris County Commissioners Court approved a \$1.28 million grant from the Immigration and Naturalization Fund that will allocate funds to four organizations - BakerRipley, Galveston Houston Immigrant Representation Project, Justice for All Immigrants, and The Tahirih Justice Center. The funds would provide legal representation, wraparound services, and naturalization support for immigrants and immigrant families in Harris County. Helping eligible permanent residents obtain citizenship will make a huge difference in their lives, and can boost business and civic participation in Harris County as well.

There are approximately 424,000 residents designated as Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) in Harris County. These residents become eligible for citizenship 3 to 5 years after obtaining residency, yet may not have resources to go through the legal process to become naturalized citizens. As LPRs, residents can still be deported or lose status if they don't become citizens. Naturalization also offers more economic opportunities and the chance to participate in the democratic system by voting, running for office, or participating in jury duty.

Harris County Creates New Language Access Office, Offers Bilingual Pay For Employees

According to U.S. Census data, 44.7% of the population of Harris County speaks a language other than English at home, and yet not all County services are available in languages other than English. In October, Harris County Commissioners approved \$515,000 to establish the Language Access Office program to collect data on residents who speak a language other than English and what their needs are. This information will be used to decide how to best allocate resources and create programs to better serve these populations.

Harris County also recognizes the importance of having staff that can reach every Harris County resident, not just English-speakers. In October, Harris County Commissioners Court voted to approve the creation of incentive pay for bilingual employees and improve language access across all departments. In a County as large and diverse as ours, the more employees we have who can speak another language, the more residents we can serve effectively.

Fatal Crash at 6500 Airline Drive

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 6600 Airline Drive about 6:30 a.m. on Sunday (Dec. 10).

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

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant E. Alejandro and Officer J. Leon reported:

A white Ford F-150 pickup truck was traveling southbound at the above address when it struck a white Chevrolet Impala traveling eastbound on East Parker Road. The crash in the intersection

pushed the Impala into a black Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck stopped at a red light in the north-bound lanes of Airline Drive.

Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the driver of the Impala deceased at the scene.

The male driver, 33, and female passenger, 37, in the Silverado were not injured.

Brayan Barrera, 20, the male driver of the Ford, showed signs of impairment. He was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated in Harris County Criminal Court #4.

The investigation is ongoing.

Man fatally shot to death after fight between group of people at Aldine-area bus stop

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas (KTRK) — A man was shot and killed during a fight at a bus stop in the Aldine area, according to officials.

Harris County sheriff's deputies said the initial call came in around 9:35 p.m. Thursday about a male lying in the street.

When paramedics arrived, they discovered he had multiple gunshot wounds.

Investigators said the victim was at a bus stop with four to five other people in the 22700 block of Imperial Valley Drive near Highland Cross Drive.

A fight broke out and several shots were fired, deputies said. The man was shot multiple times and was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Deputies believe everyone involved was between 20 and 30 years old — possibly four men and at least one woman.

Investigators were looking for surveillance video and possible

witnesses in the area. Deputies said they found multiple weapons at the scene.

During the investigation, a man reportedly walked through the crime scene. He was ordered to stop, and when he didn't, a deputy used a Taser on him, HCSO said.

The man was treated by EMS at the scene and taken into custody. Deputies said he is not a suspect in the shooting.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the HCSO Homicide Unit at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING
Report Suspicious:
* Vehicles * Activities * Groups of * Persons * Locations * People

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

WE WILL CLOSE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, JAN. 12 AND BE CLOSED SATURDAY, JAN. 13 AND MONDAY, JAN. 15. WE WILL OPEN TUESDAY, JAN. 16 AT 10AM.

Movement Mondays
Come out and move! Join us bi-weekly on Movement Monday and be ready to move to the music. Be prepared for Dancing, Stretching, and Lots of laughter. Best for kids for toddler/ preschool. No Registration required. Monday, Jan. 8, 12:30pm - 1:30pm.

Bilingual Storytime
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!

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

Basic Computer Class Registration preferred!
*Important- Instructions are in English. Google account is required (Though we can help you make one if you don't have one already)
Class format: In-person, in the computer lab at the Aldine Library.
Aprenda Computers & Tech Sitio web de la clase
Limited space/ Espacio limitado
Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy> luego presentarse a la clase para tomar evaluación de nivel.

Martes- 5:00 pm a 6:45 PM: Habilidades Esenciales de computación (Computer Essential skills class)- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegación por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros

temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes.
Importante: * Se determinará sus nivel de habilidades en uso de tecnología durante su primer día de su asistencia.
* requerirá una cuenta de gmail.com y outlook.com para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet.
Importante: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés
Aprenda Computers & Tech Sitio web de la clase
Limited space/ Espacio limitado
Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy> luego presentarse a la clase para tomar evaluación de nivel.

Nivel 2- Intermedio-Jueves- 5:00 pm a 6:45 PM: Cloud Computing-Google workspace + Office 365 (Spanish computer class) Computación en la nube: Aprenderá sobre los servicios y como usar Google (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms). Como usar: Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Además, cubriremos otras aplicaciones como: Canva, Box y otras apps gratuitas. El enfoque general de de las practicas de computación serán para uso en empleos y de uso personal.

Importante: * Se determinará sus nivel de habilidades en uso de tecnología con una evaluación en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia.
* requerirá una cuenta de gmail.com y outlook.com para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet.
Importante: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés
ESL Spring Registration
Aldine library is registering ESL/ELL (English language learning) students for the Spring semester (January - March & possibly longer). On the registration days, students will fill out registration forms, take an assessment, and be assigned to a class session. Be prepared to stay about 30 minutes.
Students must appear in person on one of the following registration dates to attend class: **Registration Dates - Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6 - 7:00 pm OR Thursday, January**

11, 2024, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Lego Night
Thursday, Jan. 11, 5 - 6:30pm. LEGO building can be fun and creative! Children of all ages are welcome to join us.. We'll provide the LEGOs and you can create whatever your imagination can come up with. We look forward to seeing you! Happy Building!

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/qzMSpi-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
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Introducing the 2023-2024 Campus Teachers of the Year



The district Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year will be named in March.

Each Aldine ISD school chooses a Campus Teacher of the Year before the end of the first semester. A committee will name six District Finalists in February based on their written applications. The six finalists are invited to interview with the district coordinating committee.

Every Campus Teacher will be honored at the Educators of the Year Breakfast in March. The district Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year will be named during the event.

The Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year will represent Aldine ISD in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year contest during the summer.

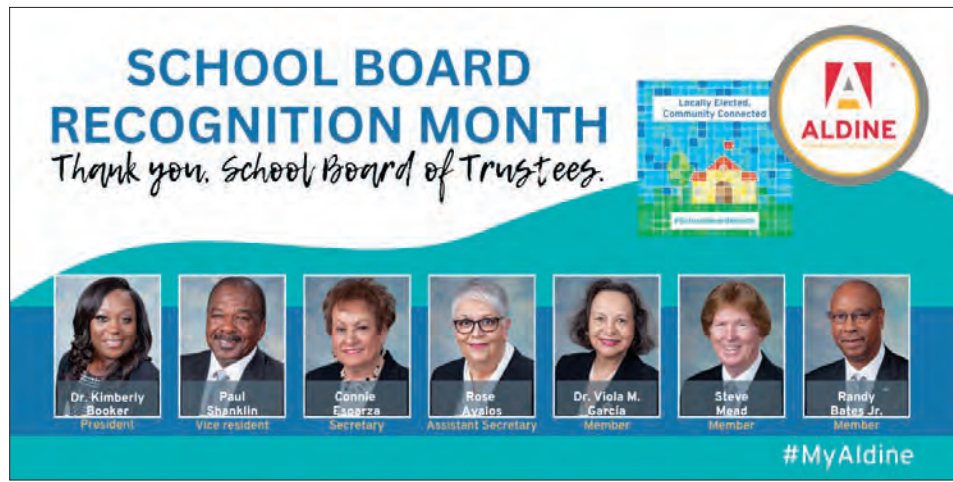
Congratulations to the '23-'24 Campus Teachers of the Year!

Aldine High School: Leonard Toups
Aldine Middle School: Saria Nixon
Aldine Ninth Grade School: Nikitaleeyoka Perkins
Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy: Maria Gemela Lim
Anderson Academy: Shanikkaw Raven
Avalos P-TECH School: Cassandra Neace
Black Elementary School: Claudia González
Alcort-Blanson CTE High School: Savannah Callies
Bussey Elementary School: Lupita Negrete
Calvert Elementary School: Valeria Saucedo
Caraway Elementary School: Sarah Prather
Carmichael Elementary School: Amanda Lee
Carroll Elementary School: Anayeli Albiter
Vázquez-Carter Academy: Minnie Malone
Carver High School: Ross Rowney
Con-

ley Elementary School: Rhonda Moore
Cypresswood Elementary School: Lisa Harris
Davis High School: Leticia Vargas
Davis Ninth Grade School: Rosslon Clayton
De Santiago EC/PreK/K School: Erika Roa
Drew Academy: Mireya Mosqueda
Dunn Elementary School: JoAnn Bonin
Eckert Elementary School: R'Keyah Grace
Eisenhower HS College Prep: Óscar Medina
Eisenhower Ninth Grade College Prep: Krystle Dawson
Ermel Elementary School: Charlis Paige
Escamilla Elementary School: Myriam Gómez
Francis Elementary School: Anita Palmer
García Middle School: Yvonne Ealy
García-Leza EC/PreK/K School: Benenice Ruiz
Goodman Elementary School (ACE): Melisa González
Grantham Academy: Eric López
Gray Elementary School: Minnie Malone
Greenspoint Elementary School: Rebecca Munguía
Griggs EC/PreK/K School: Jeannette Román
Harris Elementary School: Claudia Robles
Hall Success Academy: Briana Huynh
Hambrick Middle School: Darnisia Wallace
Hill Elementary School: Austin Henderson
Hinojosa EC/PreK/K School: Reagan Burns
Hoffman Middle School: Margie Ellis
Houston Academy: Brian Curtis
Impact Leadership Academy: Wilhemina McCraw
Johnson Elementary School: Beverly Berryman
Jones EC/PreK/K School: Mary Rosas
Jones Elementary School: Breanna Calloway
Jones Middle School: Engra Bellvin
Keeble EC/PreK/K School: Janice Brock
Knippel Education Center: Sylethia Jones
Alexander
Kujawa EC/PreK/

K School: Thelma Jelks
Kujawa Elementary School: Chansinique Thomas
La Promesa High School: Christopher Martínez
Lane School: Clarence Cruse
Lewis Middle School: Zandra Faust
MacArthur High School: Eva Lanczos
MacArthur Ninth Grade School: Patrick James
Magrill EC/PreK/K School: Pamela Busch
Marcella Elementary School: Jason Ester
Mead Middle School: Angélica Oidor
Nimitz High School: Alex Fuentes
Nimitz Ninth Grade School: Dominilish McCray
Odom Elementary School: Carina Galindo
Ogden Elementary School: Serina Lazo
Oleson Elementary School: Ashley Parker
Orange Grove Elementary School: Reyna Villarreal
Plummer Middle School: Joseph Stewart
Raymond Elementary School: Mario Zamora
Reece Academy: Ameshia Flowers
Reed Academy: Amber Renè
Gardiner-Sammons Elementary School: Maritza Canavati
Shotwell Middle School: Ikeeya Hunt
Smith Elementary School: Monica Humphery
Spence Elementary School: Teria Lavergne
Stehlik Elementary School: Kimberly Davis
Stephens Elementary School: Arleni Deleon
Stovall EC/PreK/K School: Suzette Jones
Stovall Middle School: Constance Dunn
Teague Middle School: LaNetta Callicuti
Thompson Elementary School: Latoya Calhoun
Vardeman EC/PreK/K School: Robbie Kaerwer
Victory Early College High School: Sokhna Kabore
Vines EC/PreK/K School: Ceydy Turcios
Worsham Elementary School (ACE): Lizeth Mendoza

January: Celebrate School Board Trustees



January is School Board Recognition Month. Aldine ISD is celebrating its trustees' dedication and commitment to the district and its students.

This year's School Board Recognition Month theme is "Locally Elected, Community Connected," highlighting the connection between school trustees and their communities. School board members are the state's largest group of locally elected officials.

"Our school board members are selfless volunteers who spend long hours working to ensure all our students have the opportunity to learn and grow. Together, we are steadfast in building community ownership of our collective future at AISD. Truly, I am grateful to each Trustee for their tireless devotion to our students, teachers, staff, and community," Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. "Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do."

Schools will determine their campus-specific celebrations and honors; however, schools and the public will be able to recognize and thank Board members at the January school board meeting held in the Boardroom on Tuesday, January 23, at the Donaldson Administrative Building. All school board meetings start at 7 p.m.

Dan Troxell, executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards, applauded the efforts of volunteer trustees in providing leadership and good governance so that school districts can focus on educating the 5.4 million public schoolchildren in their care.

"Texas school boards are so important because they bring a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of their local communities to their role," Troxell said. "Boards lead their districts by providing oversight, setting goals, overseeing the budget, and selecting and evaluating the superintendent. These volun-

teers serve for the betterment of their communities."

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees consistently supports student programs, staff training, and community engagement and recently called for a \$1.8 billion school bond, which voters approved in the November election.

Please take a moment to recognize our Aldine ISD School Board Trustees — Dr. Kimberley Booker, Paul Shanklin, Conception 'Connie' Esparza, Rose Avalos, Dr. Viola M. García, Steve Mead, and Randy Bates Jr. — and honor their work to help your students sail into the future. Thank them for their work on behalf of our students and community.

Join us in celebrating School Board Appreciation Month throughout January. If you share your gratitude on social media, please use the hashtags #SchoolBoardMonth and #MyAldine in English or #MesDeLaJuntaEscolar and #MiAldine in Spanish.

Program Teaches Carver High School Students About Urban Farming, Nutrition



Students and staff at the garden across the street from Carver High School at The Bethune Empowerment Center

The 11-week program aims to engage students in the various aspects of hydroponic gardening and lessons on food insecurity, nutrition, urban farming, community development, and entrepreneurship.

Every Monday during Carver High School's B Week at 1 p.m., students are in a class session for 90 minutes, learning about hydroponics and more, thanks to a one-of-a-kind initiative, The Young Agri-business Leaders of Houston (YALH) Education Program.

The (YALH) Education Program is funded by an African American Mayors Association (AAMA) and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABFHA) through their Nutrition Access, Affordability, and Education Grant Program, launched at Carver High School in late October. Students are currently in the fifth week.

"We hope students' graduate' from the program inspired and empowered to use their creativity and knowledge to make positive changes in their communities, address food disparities, and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals in need," said Esther Bonojo, a public health administrative specialist with the Mayor's Office of Complete Communities.

So far, students have learned about urban agriculture, healthy eating, and hydroponics and explored community gardens and

farmers' markets. In the weeks ahead, they will dive deeper into entrepreneurship, market presentation, community engagement, and food pantries. They will implement a garden-to-market program at Carver HS. The culminating projects include teams of students developing a plan for a program to present. Projects must address food insecurity in their community. They'll give a "Shark Tank-style" presentation to a panel of judges, including program guest speakers.

"We knew we wanted to give students a real-world experience," said Assistant Principal Eboni Taylor. "Students aren't just listening to someone talking. Our students engage in hands-on activities, field trips, group discussions that include experts, and project learning. The curriculum has created an impactful learning experience for our students. We aim for students to take the practical experiences and real-world applications in their own lives and families."

The goal is to encourage students to think about their role in promoting urban agriculture and healthy eating beyond the program. Taylor and master teacher Monica Caldwell worked closely with Bonojo in developing and implementing the program at Carver High School. The Mayor's Office of Complete Communities provided all the necessary resources, materials, and

training to everyone involved in the program.

"We want our students to become much more aware of what they consume and their ability to make healthier choices," said Caldwell. "If those choices are not there for them, they're going to find a way to make them available."

The YALH Education Program is a collaboration between Mayor Sylvester Turner's Office of Complete Communities, the Houston Health Department, Prairie View A&M University, Dawn Health, the Houston Food Bank, the Acres Home Chamber of Commerce, Communities for Better Health, MD Anderson's Be Well Acres Home, hydroponics experts, local farmers' market organizers, and more.

The focus is to close the gap in disparities in nutrition access, affordability, and education. Based on the results and student interest, there could be a discussion about expanding the YALH program.

Bonojo lauded the school's kick-off of the program, "The students' engagement and enjoyment during the first session were evident. Your passion for teaching and nurturing their interest in the environment and aquaponic systems is invaluable to our mission. Thank you for your incredible support and for being a driving force behind the program and its future success."

Local Umpires Team up to Donate Bicycles to 30 Bussey Elementary Students



Pictured are all the umpires who participated in the project, including Bussey Elementary School Principal Kathy Scott (far right) in her umpire uniform. A close-up of a few students with their bikes includes (l-r) students Robin López and Levin Carranza with Lupita Negrete (center), a fifth-grade bilingual teacher.

During the softball season, Bussey Elementary School Principal Kathleen 'Kathy' Scott serves as a softball umpire on weekends at Dyess Park. The tight-knit community of umpires teamed up to pay it forward by surprising several Bussey students with bicycles on December 9.

It is the second year the umpires have shared a little joy with the Bussey Elementary students. The effort is led by Mike Flores, the Umpire In Charge (UIC) of the select fastpitch softball tournaments at Dyess Park. Flores wanted to do something for kids around the holiday season. Knowing that Scott was a principal at a Title 1 school,

he decided to adopt the campus. When he brought up the bike giveaway again this year, the umpires working with him all donated one bicycle each. This year, they are donating 30 bicycles for 30 students.

Scott had each of her teachers submit one student from their class who would benefit from receiving a bike. Flores then assigns umpires with students and their bike sizes.

Scott has a school bus take the students, parents, and additional staff members as chaperones to Dyess Park. According to Scott, the students know they are getting bikes. It also turns into a

learning experience for some. While at the park, the students will learn about what an umpire does. She added that her students got a kick from seeing her in her umpire gear when they got to the park last year.

"It is an awesome experience for the students," Scott said. "Mike has Santa and softball players bring the bikes to one field where each umpire meets their student and presents them with their bicycle. The kids feel like stars on the field. I am grateful to Mike, the umpires, and everyone who made a difference in our students' lives this holiday season."

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Seeking a Better Life is Not a Crime

On December 18th, Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill (SB) 4 into law. SB 4 makes unauthorized entry into Texas a state crime and authorizes state and local law enforcement officials to arrest individuals deemed to be in violation of the law.

Our community – and our nation – needs immigrants. In Texas, we have 1.6 million undocumented immigrants who have built lives here in the U.S., have families here, and pay \$2.6 billion in federal taxes every year.

SB 4 will make our communities less safe. Once the law goes into effect on March 5, immigrants who are victims of crime will feel like they can't call the police because the police are now in charge of enforcing immigration law.

Not to mention that our jail system is already at the breaking point. Even if only 1% of Harris County's current undocumented population were to be detained in the county jail system, it would cost the County \$500,000 a day.

Earlier this month, I led other Texan County Judges in writing a letter to the Biden Administration requesting that the federal government take action to prevent this law from taking effect.

We will continue to push back against the damage this will do to our security, our economy, and all of the undocumented residents of Harris County that are here to build a life.

Playing with people's lives just to make a political point is very cynical and it shows what our state leaders are really interested in with this law.

Sincerely, Lina Hidalgo

Sylvia R. Garcia CONGRESSWOMAN | TX-29

Reflecting on January 6th: A message from Congresswoman Garcia

Today we mark the somber anniversary of January 6th, a trying day for our democracy that will be forever etched in history.

This day serves as a reminder of the challenges we face as a nation in preserving the principles that define us.

On January 6th, 2021, we faced a grave threat that shook our nation to its core. I find myself reflecting as not only a member of Congress but as someone who experienced these events firsthand.

On this solemn occasion, let us remember the strength that we have gained from our shared commitment to the values of unity, resilience, and a firm belief in a better future.

May this day serve as a reminder that despite differences, we are all bound by our allegiance to our great country.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Spate of New Laws Effective Jan. 1

After the Texas Legislature spent much of 2023 in session, a bevy of new laws go into effect on New Year's Day, though some have been delayed by lawsuits challenging their constitutionality.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on SB 17, a new law that institutes a ban on programs and policies "designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity" at Texas public universities or colleges.

Another law taking effect in 2024 doubles the state franchise tax exemption, with up to \$2.47 million of a company's annual taxable revenue being exempt.

Another measure that passed with bipartisan support creates a diversion program for juveniles accused of low-level offenses.

HB 4758 makes it a crime for companies to target minors with advertising for e-cigarettes, the use of which by teens has increased markedly in the past decade.

Not all laws passed by lawmakers will take effect on Jan. 1 because of lawsuits filed after their passage.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner ruled the ban violated performers' free speech rights under the First Amendment. That decision is being appealed.

Another law that would regulate what books children can read in schools is still in effect.



The Texas Medical Board remains silent on how to interpret the state's abortion laws, The Texas Tribune reported, despite a call from the Texas Supreme Court to offer more guidance to doctors on how to interpret the laws.

MEDICAL BOARD SILENT ON ABORTION LAWS

This came after the high court rejected a Texas woman's bid to terminate a nonviable pregnancy that she maintained threatened both her health and ability to have future children.

"While the judiciary cannot compel executive branch entities to do their part, it is obvious that the legal process works more smoothly when they do," the justices wrote.

"It wouldn't be appropriate for us to start making any kind of movement or decisions while all that is out there still being adjudicated," Zaafran told the Tribune.

A state district judge ruled last week that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton must testify in a whistleblower case that led to his impeachment and subsequent acquittal.

PAXTON MUST TESTIFY IN WHISTLEBLOWER TRIAL

Texas has almost \$9 billion in "unclaimed property," according to kut.org. This includes funds from paychecks, refunds, deposits and dormant bank accounts.

UNCLAIMED POT OF MONEY GROWS TO \$9 BILLION

The amount that gets returned to the rightful owner is only a fraction of the amount sent to the office.

Folks can find out whether the state is holding money that belongs to them by going to ClaimItTexas.gov.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Year End Ambitions

It's the time of year when I look back and see where I've been and wonder where I'm going.

On the shortest days of the year, I like to do a little recalibration. I take a look at what I had hoped to do and ways in which I want to change my thinking.

This year is somewhere between the two.

Part of becoming older and a bit more at peace with myself is looking at the new year a little differently. Instead of a series of challenges to overcome and changes to enact, I look at the new year with a renewed sense of wonder.

"I'm changing lipsticks," I tell my friend, Cheri. She does not seem to register that this is a major life event.

"I only do this once every 10 years or so," I add, so she understands the enormity of the choice.

I got the sense Cheri did not think this end-of-year ambition was worthy of her attention.

But I have a few other ideas for the new year as well. I just got word that an old friend of mine has a ruthless form of cancer.

And so, the biggest change I would like to make in the new year is to stop behaving as if I have all the time in the world.

Today would be a good day to write to my old friend and tell him I have nothing but wonderful memories of him.

On the shortest days of the year, it's good to be reminded that my time is short as well. It's a good time to do the things that matter and the things that bring me joy.

Till next time, Carrie

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Whitmire Mayoral Inaugural,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mayor John Whitmire with his daughters on each side of him listening to the song You'll Never Walk Alone at his Inauguration Ceremony. L - R: Sarah Whitmire, Mayor Whitmire, Whitney Whitmire Jenkins and Judge Victor Trevino III. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

pants were: Khambrel Marshall, The Master of Ceremonies (Channel two retired), The Houston Symphony (Conductor Gonzalo Farias, Houston Police and Fire Department Joint Honor Guard, Presentation of Colors, Dylan Zhong (Pledge of Allegiance), Ailyn Perez (Principal Artist), Houston Grand Opera, the National Anthem, Reverend Michael Gott, Inaugural Blessing, Kenneth Gayle, Tenor and Reverend Michael Gott, Soloist, You'll Never Walk Alone (song), Mary Griffin and Shaun Smith, Soloists, Up Where We Belong (song) and Finale Song, La Charreada, Eduardo Trevino and Mariachi Nueco Imperio.

The Honorable Victor Trevino III, Harris County Precinct 6, Place 1 gave Mayor Whitmire and City Controller Christopher George Hollins their Oath of Office. Mayor Whitmire then gave the Oath of Office to the City Council.

I want to begin by giving a big shout out to Sue Davis, Whitmire's Communication Director. Davis kept Jamail and all the other media photographers and writers well informed for the past thirteen months of all of Whitmire's campaign activities including election results and up to today's inauguration. She's been an asset to the NC Star and others in the news media. Sue played a major role with her skills in the communications field to help then Senator John Whitmire go to now Mayor John Whitmire.

The NC Star and I covered all of Whitmire's mayoral candidacy events, his announcement on November 29, 2022, and then his winning as top vote getter in Houston's mayoral election first contest on November 7, 2023 which put him in a runoff against second place finisher Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. And then his being elected as Houston's 63rd mayor on December 9, 2023 and now today's inauguration. JW as his friends call him is 74 and the oldest person to be elected mayor in at least 100 years.

Whitmire was actually officially sworn in as mayor in a private ceremony in the mayor's office at 12:01 a.m. Monday, on New Year's Day as required by the city's charter. Immediately afterwards Houston Police Chief Troy Finner took him on a ride in the city so he could see first-hand some of the issues officers face. Today's swearing in ceremony is for the public to be able to witness it.

Today after the inauguration Mayor Whitmire had his first City Council meeting at 11 a.m. At 2 p.m., Whitmire met and greeted Houstonians in the first-floor rotunda at City Hall, which is something he announced he'd do after he won the runoff election. He said, "As your mayor I'll have an open-door policy so citizens can come visit me and let me hear their concerns. My first day as their Mayor I'll personally open the door for citizens to come into their city hall."

Mayor Whitmire praised the city's public work's personnel, police and firemen and others. He was critical of some conditions in the city; he said he'll give more attention to them than some other administrations have in order for citizens to be able to see a cleaner healthier city. He said you can walk outside the building here and see homeless

people and he wants to correct this situation as much as possible.

Public safety again he stated was his top priority. He said we can make improvements in all areas of the city but if the public is not safe then all other improvements don't mean anything. His tough stance on crime comes from when he was much younger when his wife, kids and himself was robbed at gunpoint after they pulled into their home's driveway one night. He said he thought the gunman was going to murder him. "At the time all I could think of was how could I protect and save my wife and kids."

"We've got some serious issues with public safety. We need additional officers," Whitmire said. He went on to speak about his commitment to holding violent offenders accountable, saying he'll push for new laws if that's what it takes.

As a senator, Whitmire stopped those on death row from getting anything they wanted as their last meal. He was angered by convicted murderer Lawrence Russell Brewer's refusal to eat the expensive last meal he ordered prior to his September 21, 2011, execution. Whitmire said that this was Brewer's attempt to "make a mockery out of the process." The senator contacted the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and asked the agency to end the practice of last meal requests or he would get the State Legislature to pass a bill doing so. The agency replied that last meal requests were accommodated "within reason" from food available in the prison kitchen, but it agreed to end the practice immediately at Whitmire's insistence.

His position on air conditioning in prisons is tough. In 2021, Whitmire stirred controversy by responding to questions about the lack of air conditioning in prisons by saying: "You know, we can talk about this all day, it's not gonna change. The prisons are hot. They're uncomfortable. And the real solution is, don't commit a crime and you stay at home and be cool. We're not gonna air condition them. One, we don't want to. Number two, we couldn't afford it if we wanted to."

Whitmire was born August 13, 1949 in Hillsboro, Texas, north of Waco, to James Madison Whitmire, the Hill County clerk, and the former Ruth Marie Harris, a nurse. His parents divorced when he was seven years old, and the family moved several times, facing difficult financial circumstances.

In his early teenage years, he moved to North Houston and attended Waltrip High School. Whitmire attended college at the University of Houston to study political science while paying for his education by working for the Texas State Welfare Department, where he interviewed food stamp recipients for compliance.

Whitmire is a member of the Democratic Party, and he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in January of 1973 and served until January 1983. In 1983, he won the Senate District 15 seat, and recently resigned effectively December 31, 2023 after his election as Mayor of Houston.

A GOOD TIME AT THE Texas Renaissance Festival

PHOTO ALBUM BY MARINA SUGG

Friday, 11/24/2023, the day after Thanksgiving, spent the day with Kenneth and Mija, Denise Castillo Rath, at the RenFest. It had been 36 years since my first and only visit there. This was Kenneth's first time to experience it. Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with this day, and the weather couldn't have been more perfect. I pray I will remember this day for a long time to come. And, thank you to Gil Hoffman of the Northeast News

for the tickets. I entered one of his weekly contests for free tickets and I won. On the way there and back home, we ate at the Magnolia Diner. We gave it a 5 Star review! At the fest, Kenneth had to have a pickle (\$4), a bottle of Mead, a type of wine (\$34), and a small bowl of crawfish etouffee over rice (\$12). Mija and I split a sausage on a stick (\$10) and a 16oz Dos Equis (\$12).





KEENEY'S KORNER

BY
MIKE KEENEY

KEENEY'S KORNER - Offensive Player of the Year

Sky is the limit for Nimitz QB Albert Brown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

er teammates.

"Albert is a tremendous leader," Harmon said. "He's eager to want to be a good player and prove everybody wrong. He plays at a very high level and he led by his actions. He proved he had the overall ability to play well at the 6A level."

Harmon said he expect Brown to work hard in the offseason to be an even better signal caller when the 2024 season starts.

"He just needs to get better at the QB position," Harmon said. "He has all the intangibles that a you have to have to play the position. He has arm strength and mobility. And he's a sneaky runner. We found that out as the season progressed."

Harmon said he's excited to see what Brown can do in his next two years as

his starting quarterback.

When asked if he was worried that Brown would rest on his laurels, Harmon said that not in Brown's makeup.

"No, not at all," Harmon said. "You have to remember he's still a baby. There's no doubt in my mind that he's only going to get better as he grows and matures. Albert is a tremendous person. We never have to worry about his grades. He's a well-rounded kid. He plays drums at his church and when he graduates in two years, he will be in the top 10 of his class. He's a real leader."

The likable Brown said he thought he had a "pretty good" season and that he's ready to work hard in the offseason and spring training to get become an even better quarterback. "I need to work on my speed, my deep ball and my over-

all ability," Brown said. "I plan on working hard this offseason."

And he has set a lofty goal for himself and his teammates heading into the next two years. "I want to win a state championship," Brown said. "If you aren't playing for a state title, you shouldn't be playing football. I want to come home with a ring before I leave here."

Brown, who said his favorite NFL QBs are Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts and Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, said he knew he had to earn the respect of his teammates when he was named the Cougars' starting quarterback.

"Everybody was older than me, so I had to earn the older guys respect. As time went on, I think I earned their respect," he said.

Indeed.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

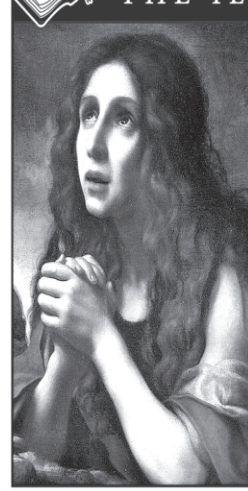
By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Song of Solomon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who did Zachariah not believe on telling him his wife would conceive? Jesus, Luke, Gabriel, Mark
3. From Numbers 27, who became Moses' successor as leader of Israel? Aaron, Abraham, Elisha, Joshua
4. How many times is the phrase "holy ground" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 2, 24, 37, 64

5. From Mark 11, who did Jesus cast out of the Temple? Armies of Satan, Harlots, Money changers, Lepers
6. What king saw the "handwriting on the wall"? Darius, Belshazzar, Daniel, Solomon

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Gabriel, 3) Joshua, 4) 2 (Ex 3:5, Acts 7:3), 5) Money changers, 6) Belshazzar
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*If we confess our sins,
 He is faithful and just
 to forgive us our sins
 and to cleanse us from all
 unrighteousness.*

1 JOHN 1:9

Detail of "The Penitent Magdalen" by Carlo Dolci (1670)

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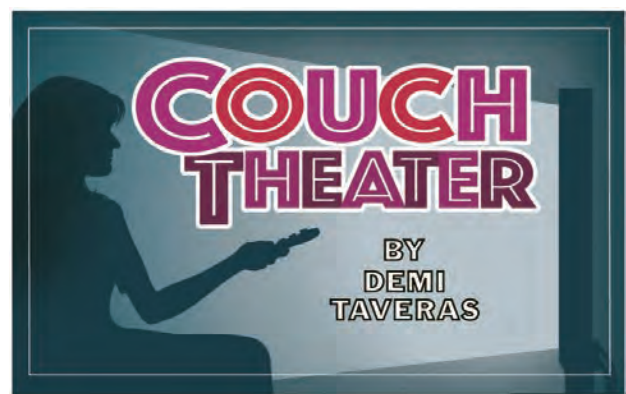
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Jake Johnson, left, and Anna Kendrick star in "Self Reliance."

"Self Reliance"

"SELF RELIANCE" (R) — In his directorial debut, Jake Johnson ("New Girl") plays Tommy, a single network manager, who gets approached by Andy Samberg to star in a dark-web reality show with a prize of \$1 million. The premise of the show is simple: For 30 days, Tommy must avoid a group of hunters who will try to kill him. His only saving grace is that the hunters can only attack when he's alone. So, to survive, this lone wolf must find someone to shadow him. After a handful of people find excuses not to shadow him, Tommy finally encounters another player in the reality show, named Mad-dy (Anna Kendrick), and the two strangers team up to effectively avoid getting murdered. This comedy thriller releases Jan. 12 (Hulu)

"THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES" (PG-13) — In 2020, author Suzanne Collins released a prequel to her megahit series, "The Hunger Games," and it was quickly adapted to the big screen to join the other four films in the franchise. Starring Tom Blyth in his breakout role as a young Coriolanus Snow and Rachel Zegler ("West Side Story") as Lucy Gray Baird, the prequel is set 64 years before the events of "The Hunger Games." It focuses on Coriolanus' beginnings as an Academy student and how he was chosen to be Lucy Gray's mentor for the 10th Hunger Games. Clever and dangerously ambitious, Coriolanus knows that he can seize this opportunity to gain great power, but first, he needs to ensure that his songbird District 12 men-

tee gets out of the arena alive. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"TED" (TV-MA) — Based on the feature films created by Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy"), this prequel series takes viewers back to Massachusetts in 1993 to tell the origin story of the foul-mouthed teddy bear that everyone came to know and love in the first two films. In his early life, Ted lives with the family of his 16-year-old best friend, John (Max Burkholder), previously portrayed by Mark Wahlberg. After being pressured by the family to get an education along with John, Ted enters the terrifying realm of high school and attempts to find hilarity in all the awkward teenage milestones that come with it. The full series, consisting of eight episodes, premieres Jan. 11. (Peacock)

"LIFT" (PG-13) — A heist group consisting of six key players faces a choice between getting charged for identity fraud, money laundering and more or taking a deal offered by a government agent. This score would be their biggest yet — half a billion in gold — but the catch is that the gold is locked away in a safe on a plane. The only chance to stop the gold from reaching the terrorist who's desperate to get his hands on it is to steal it mid-flight. Kevin Hart leads this action-packed film, which also stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw ("Loki"), Jean Reno ("Leon: The Professional"), Sam Worthington ("Avatar") and more. Don't miss out on its premiere on Jan. 12. (Netflix) (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q:I was sorry to hear about the death of Ryan O'Neal. "Paper Moon" is one of my all-time favorite movies. How is his daughter Tatum doing? — H.G.

A:Tatum O'Neal wrote in her 2004 autobiography, "A Paper Life," that she and her father did not speak for two decades. According to Entertainment Weekly, they started to repair their relationship in the months before his long-time love, Farrah Fawcett, died after her cancer battle in 2009. The father and daughter duo, who starred in the classic film "Paper Moon," reunited on-screen in 2011 for their own reality show, "Ryan & Tatum: The O'Neals."

Their bond continued to grow until his passing on Dec. 8 at the age of 82. In a statement to People magazine, Tatum stated that her dad "meant the world to me. ... I'll miss him forever, and I feel very lucky that we ended on such good terms."



Ryan and Tatum O'Neal in "Paper Moon" (1973)

Q:I know most of the new shows are starting later this season, but when is my favorite, "Station 19," returning? — K.L.

A:"Station 19" is a spin-off of "Grey's Anatomy," one of the longest-lasting drama series ever, but unfortunately "Station's" time is coming to an end, as ABC recently announced that the upcoming seventh season will be its last. The show boasts six cast members who have been there since the beginning — Jaina Lee Ortiz (Andy), Jason George (Ben), Grey Damon (Jack), Barrett Doss (Vic), Jay Hayden (Travis) and Danielle Savre (Maya).

Due to the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood, which have fortunately ended, the fall TV season was pushed to 2024 and will air much fewer episodes. "Station 19" will premiere its final season on March 14 at 10 p.m. ET., the first of just 10 episodes.

Q:What happened to the show "Big Sky"? A friend told me it was canceled. This surprises me. I thought it was great and was looking forward to more. — B.F.

A:"Big Sky" was a very promising series created by David E. Kelley. If that name sounds familiar, it's because

Kelley has created and/or produced many highly successful shows like "L.A. Law," "Ally McBeal," "The Practice," "Big Little Lies" and "The Lincoln Lawyer." In between these notable hits have been some misses ("Big Shot" for one). "Big Sky," however, probably sits somewhere in the middle. It lasted only three seasons, but with its beautiful scenery (set in Montana) and compelling storyline, it seemed to have the makings of a hit.

It starred Katheryn Winnick ("Vikings"), Kylie Bunbury ("Pitch") and Dedee Pfeiffer ("Cybill"). Pfeiffer is actually the sister of Kelley's wife, actress Michelle Pfeiffer. When the show wasn't generating its desired ratings, the name of it was changed to "Big Sky: Deadly Trails," and two stars were added to the cast — Reba McEntire ("The Voice") and Jensen Ackles ("Supernatural"). Alas, it wasn't enough, and the series was canceled back in May.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a man and a child and a list of differences to find.

January 8, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes clues like 'Muscat's land', 'Droid', 'Romeo', 'Squid dish', etc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: The Darien Gap separates which two countries?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is Three Kings Day also known as?
3. MOVIES: What's the name of the supervillain character in the animated film "Despicable Me"?
4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Kite Runner"?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the motorcycle-riding greaser in the sitcom "Happy Days"?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which musical instrument does former President Bill Clinton play?
7. GAMES: In the game Battleship, how many ships does each player have at the beginning?
8. MUSIC: Which famous rock singer was born with the name Farokh Bulsara?
9. HISTORY: What was the name of the first U.S. Space Shuttle?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Mammoth cave system, believed to be the longest in the world?

Answers for King Crossword. Includes a grid with numbers and the word 'ANSWER'.

Answers for Trivia Test. Includes a grid with numbers and the word 'ANSWERS'.

1. Panama and Colombia; 2. Epiphany; 3. Gru; 4. Khaled Hosseini; 5. Fonzie; 6. Saxophone; 7. Five; 8. Freddie Mercury; 9. Columbia; 10. Kentucky.

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- Automotive Tech. Training Center** | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

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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 highest 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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