

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Aldine Branch Library 2
- EAMD Open Rewards 2
- NHA Sign-up Baseball/Softball 2
- AISD Superintendent 3
- BOEING Troubles (TOON) 4
- SPANISH PAGE 5
- BAA Workshop Schedule . 5
- Valentine Greetings 5
- PET MATTERS 7
- LSC Next Start 8

NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 4 TUESDAY, JANUARY 23/30, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

East Aldine District to deploy 60 Flock Cameras

License Plate readers help Sheriff's deputies identify criminal activity



Send your Valentine a Special Message in our Feb. 13 issue. Details on Page 5.

Lone Star College "Next Start" classes now enrolling

LSC began its spring 2024 semester Jan. 16, but there's still time to enroll in a course through LSC Next Start. LSC Next Start classes range from five to 14 weeks. Available courses fit various academic and career goals to help students earn bachelors degrees, associate degrees, workforce and continuing education certificates or transfer credits to a four-year university.

LSC Next Start offerings are available in-person, online and hybrid with classes starting the week of Jan. 29.

- 14-Week: Jan. 29-May 12
- 12-Week: Feb. 2-May 12
- 12-Week: Feb. 12-May 12
- 9-Week: March 18-May 19
- 8-Week: March 18-May 12
- 8-Week: March 20-May 12
- 5-Week: Feb. 19-March 31
- 5-Week: April 1-May 5

Visit LoneStar.edu/NextStart for more information on Next Start classes at Lone Star College, or see the story and ad on Page 8 of this issue..

Next giant public safety step for East Aldine: 60 crime-busting cameras

HOUSTON — East Aldine will become one of the rare neighborhoods in the Harris County Sheriff's Office patrol region to deploy automated camera systems that alert investigators when vehicles linked to criminal suspects are detected in the area.

The East Aldine Management District board voted Thursday night (Jan. 18) to fund 60 Flock Safety cameras in the district's service area. Total cost: \$939,000 for five years.

Sheriff's Office deputies are the primary police force for the 2 million people who live in the unincorporated parts of



Flock Cameras are currently in use in the City of Houston, as shown here on Richmond Avenue. Cameras read license plates, and compare them with computerized data to identify criminal activity.

Harris County. Flock Safety cameras are already in use in the Cloverleaf and Cypress Station parts of the patrol area.

The camera systems capture license plate numbers and other vehicle identifiers and can alert area law enforcement agencies across the region, including the Houston Police Department, when the information is linked to a crime investigation.

Flock Safety cameras in the City of Houston have led to the arrest and conviction of high-profile, violent felons and other criminals.

Funding of the cameras is the latest leap in the management district's public safety initiatives, which include the instal-

lation of hundreds of streetlights, a force of 17 sheriff's patrol deputies assigned to concentrate on East Aldine, and the operation of a Sheriff's Office storefront open to the public at the East Aldine Town Center office building.

"The East Aldine Management District is pleased to be able to fund the Flock Safety camera system as the latest big step toward making our neighborhood safer for its hard-working, previously underserved population, as well as for people who come here to work, study, shop, dine or play," Board Chairman Carlos Silva said. "More safety also attracts more economic development, which is the essential task of any management district."

Save 10% Cash Back; Shop Local in East Aldine

NEW SHOP LOCAL REWARDS PROGRAM

The East Aldine District launches a new program, **Open Rewards**, to incentivize our community to support local businesses. Open Rewards allows customers to earn rewards on every purchase from businesses in the program.

HOW DOES OPEN REWARDS WORK?

- You earn cash back rewards whenever you shop at any business in the program
- You can redeem those rewards by making additional purchases at any

other businesses in the program.

- Supports all methods of payment you may use at the local businesses (cash, credit and debit cards)

• No action is required from businesses to give or redeem rewards, it's all done through the Open Rewards app.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BUSINESSES?

- The program is funded by the district, and there is no cost for businesses to join.
- Business will receive free promotional materials, including flyers, tent

cards, social media images and other limited time promotional materials.

NUEVO PROGRAMA DE RECOMPENSAS PARA COMPRAS LOCALES

El Distrito de Administración de East Aldine está encantado de lanzar Open Rewards, un programa nuevo para incentivar a nuestra comunidad para apoyar los negocios locales. Open

Rewards permite a los clientes ganar recompensas por cada compra de negocios en el programa.

¿CÓMO OPEN REWARDS FUNCIONA?

Acomulas tus recompensas de reembolso cuando compras en negocios del programa

Puedes redimir las recompensas haciendo compras adicionales en otros negocios del programa.

Admite todos los métodos de pago que puede utilizar en los negocios locales (tarjeta de crédito, tarjeta de débito y efectivo)

No se requiere ninguna acción por la parte de los negocios para dar o redimir las recompensas, todo se hace en la aplicación Open

¿QUÉ SIGNIFICA PARA LAS EMPRESAS?

• El programa está financiado por el distrito y no hay ningún costo para los negocios

Los negocios recibirán gratis.

• Los negocios recibirán Gratis materiales para promociones, incluidos folletos, tarjetas de campaña, imágenes para actividades de redes sociales y otros materiales de promoción.

See Page 2 for more details, and a QR code to scan with your phone.

Judge Hidalgo, VP Kamala Harris moderate panel in East Aldine

EAST ALDINE – In November, Judge Lina Hidalgo was honored to welcome Vice President Kamala Harris and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), who were visiting as part of the CHC's On The Road initiative.

The moderated panel took place at the Hardy Senior Center in East Aldine.

Judge Hidalgo had the opportunity to spotlight the work Harris County is doing to support Hispanic communities, with support from the Biden-Harris Administration and the American Rescue Plan. These investments in all communities, including our Hispanic community include:

- \$22 million for healthcare access investments, including \$6 million for targeted focus on prevention of chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease that disproportionately impact the Hispanic community.
- \$6.4 million for immigration legal services, to help immigrants access legal representation on matters ranging from naturalization to defense against eviction.
- \$114 million to make more single and multi-family affordable housing available, to help address our affordable housing crisis.
- \$40 million for wastewater investments in East Aldine, a majority-Hispanic community, in areas with high rates of septic system failure.
- \$8 million to address food insecurity, includ-



Judge Hidalgo introduces Vice President Kamala Harris during a moderated conversation with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in November.

ing creating new community assets to support the Finca Tres Robles urban farm in the East End.

- \$23 million for mental health investments, including

new capabilities like offering counseling through the new UH medical school in the East End.

- \$20 million for lead abatement and screening, which often impacts majority-Hispanic communities.
- \$141 million to make our community safer, including new initiatives like the Teledeputy initiative to reduce law enforcement response times.
- \$31.6 million total into apprenticeships and workforce development in fast-growing fields like construction and IT. The majority of the students who have participated in apprenticeship pilot programs so far are students of color.
- \$26 million in Early REACH dedicated to innovative child care programming, serving a majority of Hispanic/Latino families. For the first time ever, this investment removes immigration status-based barriers to accessing child care.
- And more!

A video of the discussion with the Vice President is available. Judge Hidalgo said that "In Harris County, and with the assistance of the Biden-Harris Administration, we will continue investing in our community."

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Fatal Shooting at Bus Stop on Imperial Valley Drive in Aldine

HARRIS COUNTY — 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 September 8th, 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).

COMMUNITY WATCH

Greenspoint Apartment fire displaces 18 families



GREENSPPOINT — Several families are looking for a place to stay after a fire ripped through an apartment complex last Sunday evening in north Houston, officials said.

Houston fire investigators say it happened around 5 p.m. at the Serena Village Apartments on Greens Road near Imperial Valley.

HFDD says the fire impacted 18 units; six burned, and the other 12 sustained smoke and water damage.

Luckily, no one was injured, investigators said.

Residents escaped out into the street feeling helpless as they watched their homes burn.

"I looked up and saw so much smoke and fire coming from the roof, so I started yelling and telling my family to get out," displaced resident Laura Sandoval said.

Sandoval has yet to learn what condition her apartment is in now or if she can ever return.

"We don't know what to do because we don't have a place to stay or water or food," she said.

Destiny Godfrey is feeling the same panic as a mother and a provider.

"I lost everything. My kids lost everything. I have two boys, a five and a seven-year-old," Godfrey said.

The Houston Fire Department said multiple people called 911 when the fire started. They did have water supply is-



sues initially but were able to get the fire under control.

"People were home. We had bystanders everywhere, so once we kind of got everything situated, everything set up, we were able to get everything knocked down pretty quick," district chief Matthew Corso said.

Investigators said they are still trying to figure out what caused the fire.

They said the Red Cross will help those who are displaced.

"It is mind-blowing. I have never been in this type of situation, so I am a little shaken," Godfrey said.

Sandoval did start a GoFundMe so her family can begin to rebuild their lives.

A GoFundMe has also been set up for Godfrey to help her family rebuild.

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OPEN REWARDS **NEW SHOP LOCAL APP!**

NUEVA APLICACIÓN PARA COMPRAS LOCALES EN EAST ALDINE

NEW SHOP LOCAL REWARDS PROGRAM

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- Supports all methods of payment you may use at the local businesses (cash, credit and debit cards)
- No action is required from businesses to give or redeem rewards, it's all done through the Open Rewards app

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BUSINESSES?

- The program is funded by the district, and there is no cost for businesses to join
- Business will receive free promotional materials, including flyers, tent cards, social media images and other limited time promotional materials

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¿CÓMO OPEN REWARDS FUNCIONA?

- Acumulas tus recompensas de reembolso cuando compras en negocios del programa
- Puedes redimir las recompensas haciendo compras adicionales en otros negocios del programa
- Admite todos los métodos de pago que puede utilizar en los negocios locales (tarjeta de crédito, tarjeta de débito y efectivo)
- No se requiere ninguna acción por la parte de los negocios para dar o redimir las recompensas, todo se hace en la aplicación Open Rewards

¿QUÉ SIGNIFICA PARA LAS EMPRESAS?

- El programa está financiado por el distrito y no hay ningún costo para los negocios
- Los negocios recibirán gratis materiales para promociones, incluidos folletos, tarjetas de campaña, imágenes para actividades de redes sociales y otros materiales de promoción

DOWNLOAD OPEN REWARDS. SHOP LOCAL. EARN 10% CASH BACK.

Descarga Open Rewards. Compra Localmente. Gana 10% de recompensas.

BE TRUE TO EAST ALDINE
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE. SUPPORT LOCAL.
AMA EL LUGAR DONDE VIVES. APOYA NEGOCIOS LOCALES.

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

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! **Tuesday, Jan. 30, 11-12pm**

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.
Are Books Good?
Help us decide once and for all whether books are good. Ms. Gage and Ms. Nicole will read stories out loud, provide snacks, and vote on how good the stories actually are. For this series, we'll be reading fairy tales, myths, and modern retellings to see which ones are best! **Tuesday, Jan. 30, 5-6pm.** This program is best for ages 10 - 18.

Aprenda Computers & Job Skills
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 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.

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 & Job Skills
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

Financial Literacy Workshop with TAMU
Kids & Tweens, Come and join us for an awesome lesson on Financial Literacy! Students will explore how income is affected by degree level, while understanding the value of post-second pathways. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a knowledge gauging warm up and a scenario-based activity where they will put their newfound knowledge to the test! **Thursday, Feb. 1, 6-7pm.**

Coffee & Conversation
Are you learning to speak English as a second (or third or fourth, etc.) language and would like to practice speaking English in a casual, low-stress environment? Join us for Coffee & Conversation where you can have conversations with native English speakers as we do fun activities. **Feb. 3 & Feb. 17 at 2pm.**

Books & Boba
Join us **Saturday, Feb. 3 at 5pm** for a monthly hangout after work where we talk about books, shows, or life on the **first Saturday of the month at Fullspoon of Boba,** just down the street

from the library! Address: 11818 Airline Dr ste 1, Houston, TX 77037.

Blind Date with a Book
Join us **every day of February** at the Aldine library where you can grab an unknown wrapped-up book with a description on the front to check-out and read!

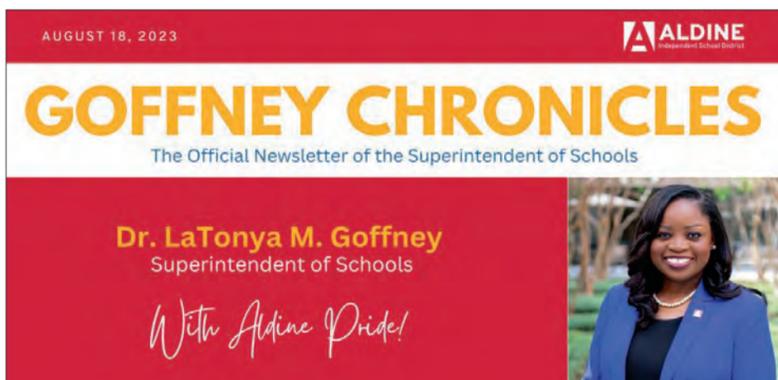
Citizenship Preparation Class
Gain all the necessary information required to apply for US citizenship and take the citizenship test with confidence! This class will be taught in English. This session will be on **Thursday evenings starting Feb. 15 from 6-8pm. Register online (<https://tiny.cc/aldinecitizenship>) or in person to save your place.** Instructor: Marta Cuadrado.

Adult Volunteers
Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? We are looking for adult volunteers to help with tasks and programs at the library as well as volunteers to teach English language classes, citizenship classes, or computer classes in person and virtually. Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library, call 832-927-5410, or click here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qSzMSpiaTL>.

Passport Services
Do you 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 6-8 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>.
Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, photos, copies, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE



Message From the Superintendent, January 26, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

Since joining Aldine ISD, one of my priorities has been ensuring we create exciting learning opportunities for our students. Since then, we have added PreK for three-year-olds, a dual language program, opened two Accelerated Campus Excellence schools, increased our College, Career, and Military Readiness opportunities, launched Additional Days School Year campuses, opened two single-gender schools, opened La Promesa, Avalos P-TECH School, revamped several academic frameworks to improve teaching and learning, and so much more. We have also increased career, technology, and education (CTE) opportunities. It's with pride that I share that we are adding a new, exciting program in partnership with Memorial Hermann — the Health Education And Learning (HEAL) Program.

The HEAL Program will open in the fall of 2024 and will be housed at Nimitz Ninth Grade School. The program will be phased in over four school years. Supported by an initial \$31 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies — the largest private foundation grant in our school district's history — Aldine ISD and Memorial Hermann will co-develop the curriculum, which will offer specialized healthcare classes, work-based learning, the opportunity to earn industry-valued credentials and certifications, and more. These are exciting times in Aldine!

In my last message, I shared that it is School Board Appreciation Month. This week at our Board Meeting, the community thanked our Board of Trustees for all they do for students and staff. There is another group I would like to recognize — our maintenance workers. January 18 was Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day. Thank you for being so dedicated and doing your part to ensure our students have the best facilities and learning environments.

This week was Choice Schools Week. Our Choice Schools offer many different opportunities for our students and #MyAldine. Visit our Choice Schools webpage to learn more.

I invite you to go and see Carver High School's theater production of the musical *The Bodyguard*. I attended the rehearsal, and it was amazing! Read this issue for details!

Today is the last day of the district's FFA Livestock Show at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students either as a student project buyer or by buying breakfast and BBQ for lunch and dinner. All the proceeds go to student scholarships. The show ends with the Sale of Champions — we'll have a recap of the event next week.

As we navigate through flu season, I want to remind everyone about maintaining good hand hygiene. Practice regular hand washing; it is a simple yet powerful way to protect ourselves and others from the spread of illness, especially during these colder months.

Again, take a moment to read this issue — remember, there are hyperlinks to stories. Discover our 2024 Posse Scholars, read about Police Chief Paul Córdova being sworn in as the new president of HAPCA, and read about art student awardees. You'll also find information about the upcoming bilingual Bookworm Festival as well as the Aldine Police Department and the Multilingual Department's community meetings — a collaboration to reach more of our community members.

With Aldine Pride!

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendent of Schools, Aldine ISD

AISD Police Chief Paul Córdova to Serve as President of HAPCA

Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul Córdova was recently sworn in as president of the Houston Area Police Chief's Association (HAPCA) during a swearing-in ceremony at Crime Stoppers headquarters.

Chief Córdova will serve as HAPCA's president for one year.

"I am humbled and honored to be able to serve in the capacity of HAPCA president during 2024," Chief Córdova said. "I look forward to a hearty year of networking, information sharing, problem solving, and being a relevant voice in the local law enforcement community. Together, we are stronger, smarter, and more effective."

HAPCA is an organization of police chiefs from Houston-Harris County and surrounding jurisdictions. The membership consists primarily of chiefs of police and executive command staff police personnel such as assistant chiefs, commanders, and captains.

Members share crime trends, upcoming events requiring law enforcement action, and best practices for daily operations. HAPCA meets monthly and has guest speakers who add



Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul Córdova, left, was recently sworn in as president of the Houston Area Police Chief's Association (HAPCA).

value to the organization. HAPCA was formed in 1988.

Before Chief Córdova's swearing-in, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg addressed HAPCA members.

Chief Córdova has 42 years of experience in law enforcement. He has served with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Rice University Police Department, and the Houston ISD Police Department. He was named Chief of the Aldine ISD Police Department in May 2020.

He has lived and worked most of his adult life in the Aldine area. His two daughters graduated from Nimitz High School.

Chief Córdova holds a Master Peace Officer cer-

tification, Master Jailer certification, Crime Prevention certification, and a Police Instructor certification with TCOLE. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. Chief Cordova is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Leadership Command College of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. Chief Córdova is a member of the International Association of Police Chiefs, the FBI National Academy Association, the Texas Police Chief's Association, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. He is also a Life Member of the 100 Club of Houston.

Elected Officials Honor Aldine ISD Trustees at January Board Meeting



Aldine ISD Trustees and Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney pose in front of gift bags that were presented to them during the Jan. 23 Board meeting. The gift bags were presented to the Trustees in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

In recognition of School Board Recognition Month in Texas, a number of elected officials honored the Aldine ISD Board of Education for its leadership and commitment to the community during the Jan. 23 Board meeting. Elected officials' representatives who were present at the Jan. 23 Board meeting were José Medrano, who represented Pct. 2 County Commissioner Adrián García, Lanita Hale, who represented State Rep. Jarvis Johnson and Kent Clingerman, who represented Pct. 3 County Commissioner Tom Ramsey. All three presented the Board with resolutions. Other elected officials who provided resolutions or proclamations were U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia R. García, U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, State Senator Carol Alvarado, and State Reps Charles Cunningham, Armando Walle, Senfronia Thompson, Harold Dutton and Valoree Swanson. In addition to the elected officials, a video was shared with the audience and Board members of principals, teachers and students thanking Trustees for their hard work and dedication to the district. The video was produced by Bryant Stevens, the district's Multimedia Communications Specialist. Various schools across the district also provided Trustees with gifts, thank you cards and thank you signs. The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees consists of President Dr. Kimberly Booker, Vice President Paul Shanklin, Secretary Connie Esparza, Assistant Secretary Rose Avalos and Members Steve Mead, Dr. Viola M. García and Randy Bates.

Aldine ISD Trustees Approve Contract Extension for Superintendent Goffney

During the Jan. 23 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees unanimously approved a contract extension for Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. The contract extension is for one year and will run through 2028. Goffney was hired in May of 2018 and the Board approved a five-year contract at that time. Goffney has previously served as Superintendent of Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD and Lufkin ISD. Goffney began her tenure as Aldine ISD Superintendent on July 2, 2018.

FFA Art Students Recognized by Teaching, Learning And Learning Department.

Chief of Schools Dr. Javier Villarreal recognized a number of FFA art students who recently honored at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Reception. Aldine ISD had 630 artworks on display at the reception. A number of students were recognized as either gold medal best of show winners. In the Primary Category, Valentín Amador of Anderson Academy won a gold medal. His

teacher is Tony McMillian. Cristófer López of Anderson Academy won Best of Show (McMillian is his teacher), while Edward Conde of Cypresswood Elementary also earned Best of Show honors. His teacher is Yvonne López. In the Middle School Category, Kayleen Sosa-Puge of Hoffman Middle School earned a gold medal. Her teacher is Margie Ellis. Kolby Green of Teague Middle School earned Best of Show honors. His teacher is Kelly Hottle. In the High School Category, Jasmine Kesinger of Aldine High School earned a gold medal. Her teacher is Birgit Langhammer. Zachariah Downing of Nimitz High School also won a gold medal. His teacher is Jorge Vázquez. Jasmine Brown of Young Women's Leadership Academy earned Best of Show honors. Her teacher is Lizette Herrera. Also earning Best of Show honors was Briana Benavides of Davis High School. Her teacher is Martine Barrera. Martín Figueroa of MacArthur High School also earned Best of Show honors. His teacher is Hailey Williams. Dr. Villarreal also announced that the 65th annual FFA Livestock Show and Country Fair is scheduled for Jan. 24-26 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. On hand to promote the event at the Jan. 23 Board meeting was Brooke Martin, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, and FFA students Christian Moreno of Aldine High School, Sharon Aldana of Davis High School, Jaden Harris and Ethan Harris of Eisenhower High School, Daniel Cordington of MacArthur High School and Reagan Verhalen of Nimitz High School. All of the students present at the Jan. 23 Board meeting will compete at the Livestock Show.

Aldine ISD Employees Recognized

During the Jan. 23 Board meeting, two Aldine ISD employees were recognized for their leadership, connecting with their fellow employees and impacting student success.

*Aldine ISD Chief of Police Paul Cordova named Officer LeRoy Reed as the Police Department's Employee of the Month.

*Dr. Keena Bradley, Executive Director of Employee Services and Experience, named Norma Cisneros as the Human Resources Employee of the Quarter.

Trustees Approve Action Items

During the Jan. 23 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

*Approved the minutes from previous Board meetings

*Approved the Aldine ISD Early Head State Non-Competitive Baseline Grant

Application for Budget year 3/1/24 through 2/28/2025 and Project Period 3/1/24 through 2/28/29

*Approved Board Resolution regarding employing or accepting volunteer chaplains under Senate Bill 763

*Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Grow Your Own and Aldine ISD effective Jan. 25, 2024, through May 2024 to provide technical support services for the Aldine ISD Grow Your Own Program

*Approved a Resolution for staff pay during district closure on Jan. 16, 2024

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

*Approved RFP #24-004 Display Student Consulting Services for three Texas School Districts

*Approved mid-year budget amendment for the 2023-24 school year

*Approved Board Resolution to designate Investment Officers and Authorized Investment Institutions and Representatives for Compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act

*Approved the 2024-245 Academic Calendar and 2024-25 Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Academic Calendar

*Approved monthly Tax Office Refunds

Dr. Booker Announces Committee Appointments

During the Jan. 23 Trustees meeting, Board President Dr. Kimberly Booker announced the new members of the Board Standing Committees for 2024. In addition to the traditional Standing Committees, Booker announced the formation of a new Advocacy Committee which she will chair. Members will be Connie Esparza and Dr. Viola M. García. The Nominating Committee will consist of Chair Paul Shanklin and Members Connie Esparza and Steve Mead. The Board Policy Committee will consist of Chair Randy Bates and Members Rose Avalos and García. The Board Member Committee will consist of Chair Connie Esparza and Members Randy Bates and Paul Shanklin. The School Names Committee will consist of Chair Mead and Members Booker and García.

Prior to the start of the Jan. 23 Board meeting, Conley Elementary students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Colors were presented by the Aldine High School JROTC Color Guard. The February Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20. It will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Board Room at the Donaldson Administration Building

OPINION PAGE

STARLITE
By Gil Hoffman, Publisher

The Great Hot Dog Chili Taste-Off

It's the time of year when Chili tastes especially good. A warm, tangy bowl heats the body and warms the soul. Appropriately, the local Highlands Rotary Club holds a huge Chili Feast and feeds the whole town, and to top it off they hold a raffle and give away a new Car or Truck or SUV to some lucky sole.

But my interest in Chili goes way back, to the town I was raised in, New Castle, Pennsylvania. You see, we had a Chili tradition, and a leading restaurant was Coney Island, with their special recipe for chili on hot dogs. I grew up eating there, and when my daughters were old enough, they even worked as servers there.

The Chili was especially tangy and delicious, with a thick texture of sauce and meat. I thought it was unbeatable.

Until...



The Great Chili Taste-Off was held in Cincinnati in December, with Hot Dogs garnished with either Cincinnati Skyline Chili or New Castle M&P Coney Island Chili.

My son-in-law and youngest daughter now live in Cincinnati, where the local tradition is known as Skyline Chili. Andy, my son-in-law, swears the Chili is the best, and it is certainly has a long tradition. It's a thin, tomatoey base, and is not only used on hot dogs, but even on spaghetti. It's usually served with a heaping serving of shredded cheese on top.

So, I don't think it can compare or compete with my M&P Coney Island Chili from New Castle. This Christmas holiday, I suggested to Andy that we decide which Chili has the better taste. We would hold a "Taste-Off" and settle which one got the bragging rights.

So, we had M&P Chili flown in from New Castle, courtesy of my middle daughter who was also joining us for a family holiday get-together. Anyone can order the Chili from New Castle, carefully delivered by FedEx in insulated, dry-ice packed containers.

On judging night, we ordered a dozen plain hot dogs from Skyline, and heated up a pot of their Chili, and a pot of M&P Coney Island Chili. Everyone in the family was the judge. Each got a plain half hot dog, covered with Skyline Chili, and another with Coney Island Chili.

And we tasted them, carefully and fully. The family judges varied in age from 7 years old, to 84. We ate. And we voted, with Reed the 4 year old collecting the paper ballots which had been tendered in secret.

And then the count.



The Holiday Family Dinner table was the site of the Taste-Off Judging, with everyone participating from the youngest to the oldest family tasters.

Would it be close? Would everyone have made up their mind beforehand? Would their familiar favorite be the winner?

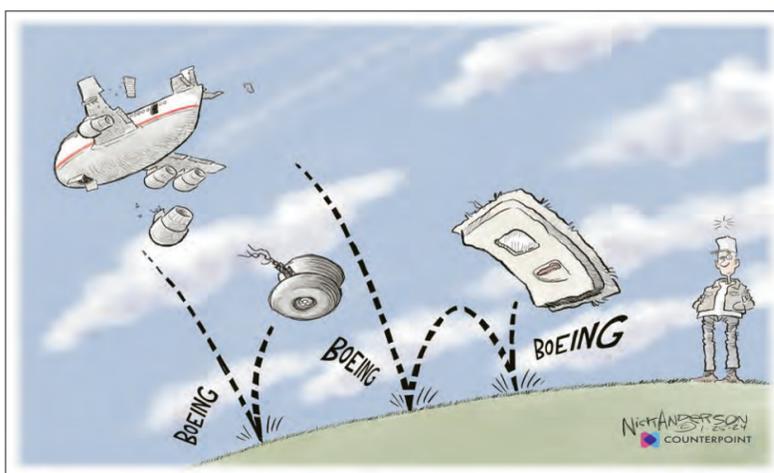
Reed oversaw the ballot count, and Iris made the announcement.

It was a unanimous vote, 7 to 0, in favor of the New Castle M&P Coney Island Chili. Best flavor, best texture, best color, best aftertaste, according to the discussion following the vote.

Andy led the hometown crowd in accepting a gracious loss.

And then later in the week, we celebrated the fun Taste-Off event with a victory dinner, at of all places the local Skyline Chili Restaurant!

At this point, you may well be asking, how do these Chilis compare with our local Highlands Rotary "Chester's Famous Recipe" Chili? We did not have any to compare or judge, but Rotary's Chili is meant more as a bowlful, not as a topping, and the texture is quite different. But maybe another day we will include it in the judging.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

DOJ issues Scathing Report on Response to Uvalde Shooting

The U.S. Justice Department issued a scathing report late last week on the May 4, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference in Uvalde that officials' response that day and afterward "was a failure that should not have happened."

The Justice Department's nearly 500-page report noted that it took 77 minutes before the shooter was killed, and that officials made the mistake of attempting to negotiate with the killer in the classroom where victims were trapped.

"This was the most significant failure," Garland said. "That failure meant that law enforcement officials prioritized a protracted evacuation of students and teachers in other classrooms, instead of immediately rescuing the victims trapped with the active shooter."

The Uvalde victims' families were first provided copies of the report ahead of its official release.

MEDICAL BOARD PETITIONED TO ISSUE ABORTION GUIDELINES

Two Austin attorneys are asking the Texas Medical Board to issue guidelines on abortion laws to clarify the medical exceptions allowed under the state's near total ban, the Statesman reported. Steve and Amy Bresnen, who are married, asked the board to devise rules to "ensure critical care to pregnant females and implement medical emergency exceptions to laws that otherwise punish those who perform abortions."

The medical board has 60 days to either initiate a rule making process or deny the request.

The Texas Supreme Court made a similar request in December after rejecting the bid of a Dallas mother with a fatal fetal diagnosis to have an abortion in Texas. Kate Cox ultimately traveled to New Mexico to have the pregnancy terminated.

5TH CIRCUIT THROWS OUT RECENTLY PASSED BOOK BAN

Citing free speech grounds, the conservative



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

5th Circuit Court of Appeals has halted a Texas law that bans school library books deemed "sexually explicit," The Dallas Morning News reported. Two Texas bookstores and national trade groups representing booksellers, authors and publishers had filed the suit to challenge a law passed in the last legislative session.

The law was to take effect Jan. 1, but a lower court blocked its implementation. It was unclear whether the state would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Texas leads the nation in book bans, according to The News. Approximately 800 books were removed from Texas school libraries from July 2021 to June 2022. The ruling let stand a portion of the new law that requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for Texas school libraries to follow, which it has done. However, without the ratings required by the new law, the statute will not operate as originally intended.

PAXTON: AGENCY WON'T FIGHT WHISTLEBLOWER SUIT

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced last week his agency will no longer fight a whistleblower suit filed by four former top attorneys who were fired in 2020 after accusing their boss of corruption, The News reported. Previously the Texas Supreme Court ruled that Paxton and his aides must testify under oath about what led to the firings. Paxton announced he will accept a trial court judge's final ruling on the lawsuit.

Paxton again criticized the whistleblowers, whom he previously referred to as "rogue employees."

"I will not allow my office to be distracted by these dis-

gruntled former employees and their self-serving side-show," he said.

The four former employees and their legal team are evaluating their next steps in the case. A settlement was reached last year for \$3.3 million but the Legislature refused to fund it, sparking the embattled attorney general's impeachment in the House and acquittal in the Senate. Joe Knight, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, said Paxton's argument against the validity of the case has already been rejected by four previous courts.

Meanwhile, Paxton paid the attorneys who successfully defended him in the Senate impeachment trial \$2.3 million, the Texas Tribune reported. The money came out of his campaign funds, which is legal under state law.

The trial centered on allegations from the whistleblowers that Paxton abused his office to help a major donor, Nate Paul, who has since been indicted on loan fraud charges.

CHIP POSTPARTUM COVERAGE EXTENDED TO 12 MONTHS

A law that takes effect March 1 extends Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage from two months to 12 months, the Texas Health and Human Services commission announced.

As a result, anyone enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP who is pregnant or becomes pregnant is automatically enrolled for 12 months of postpartum coverage.

"I thank Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature for standing by our families," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "Twelve months of postpartum coverage will help mothers across this state gain access to high-quality healthcare."

The state projects that about 137,000 women will benefit from the extended coverage in fiscal year 2025.

STATE HAS TRANSPORTED MORE THAN 100,000 MIGRANTS TO OTHER CITIES

Since April 2022, the state of Texas has sent more than 100,000 migrants to major cities in other states, the governor's office has said.

The largest number - 37,100 - have been sent to New York City, followed closely by 30,800 sent to Chicago. Other cities receiving migrants include Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Denver; and Los Angeles.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has sued the bus companies paid by Texas to shuttle the migrants to his city.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Still Singing

My dad turned 90 this weekend, and we were all set to drive up north to celebrate his birthday.

He's a hard one to buy a present for. My dad does not need more things. He likes using the things he has until they are completely worn out. He already has a line of slippers on his top shelf, queued up for when the pair he's wearing is threadbare. He wore his last pair of hiking boots until his socks showed through. Besides, he said "No presents!" in a very persistent way.

So my sister and I decided to give him music. Barbershop music was her idea.

My sister and I went over to my parents' next-door neighbors to talk to Rod about barbershop quartets. "You won't find any," Rod told us. "Barbershop is dead."

Rod is a guy who would know. He's been involved in community groups of all kinds, and he keeps track of these things. We were trying to come up with some other kind of music when our party plans hit another snag.

My brother-in-law, Pepe, recently received a call to work as a pastor. Pepe entered the seminary at 60 years old, deciding—no matter how late it might be—this was the thing he was meant to do. The ordination was a celebration of his new life, and no one wanted to miss it. But it fell on the morning after my dad's birthday. Since both were once-in-a-lifetime events, we had to move the birthday party to my condo in the city so everyone could make it to the ordination the next morning.

"Maybe barbershop is not quite as dead in the city," I suggested to my sister, and I got online to see.

The first group I called would have loved to sing, but their bass was in for a cardiac procedure and was not supposed to exert himself for 24 hours. "It's nothing serious!" said the tenor who took my call. (But you'd expect a tenor to say that.)

The second group answered my call from Florida, where two of the members were, while the remaining members were in the Midwest. "Too bad!" the leader said, "but I've got another name for you!"

The third group said they would love to come and sing. And I was over the moon.

When they arrived, I understood why barbershop music was on the decline. One member was four years older than my dad. But they drove through a snowstorm to make it to the party and, when they came in, my dad was very surprised.

They sang for about half an hour and, at the end, they invited my dad to come up and sing bass in "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." And he did. I watched my dad singing and was so happy we were able to do this—to celebrate with our dad on the day of his birthday, to hear barbershop music while there were folks still singing.

I escorted the quartet down to the elevator afterward and thanked them again for coming out on such a snowy night.

"I think we should do one more," the bass suggested.

And, right outside the elevator doors, they started singing the Frank Sinatra tune "Don't Blame Me." The setting might not have been the most romantic, but the acoustics were perfect. Those barbershop singers brought tears to my eyes.

I thought of how wonderful it was to spend this time with people we care about and to remember how fortunate we all are—at least for this day—to still be singing.

Till next time,
Carrie

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SPANISH PAGE

AUGUST 18, 2023

ALDINE
Independent School District

GOFFNEY CHRONICLES
The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent of Schools

With Aldine Pride!



Boletín Oficial de la Superintendente del Distrito de Aldine ISD Enero 26, 2023

Estimada Comunidad de Aldine ISD: Desde que me uní a Aldine ISD, una de mis prioridades ha sido garantizar que creemos oportunidades de aprendizaje interesantes para nuestros alumnos. Desde entonces, hemos agregado prekínder para niños de tres años, un programa de lenguaje dual, abrimos dos Escuelas de Excelencia Acelerada, aumentamos nuestras oportunidades de preparación universitaria, profesional y militar, lanzamos colegios con el calendario escolar con días adicionales, abrimos dos escuelas de un solo género, inauguramos La Promesa, Avalos P-TECH School, renovamos varios marcos académicos para mejorar la enseñanza y el aprendizaje, y mucho más. También hemos aumentado las oportunidades profesionales, tecnológicas y educativas (CTE, por sus siglas en inglés). Es un orgullo compartirles que estamos agregando un programa nuevo e interesante en asociación con Memorial Hermann: el Programa de Educación y Aprendizaje Sobre la Salud (HEAL, por sus siglas en inglés).

El programa HEAL se inaugurará en el otoño de 2024 y se ubicará en la escuela Nimitz Ninth Grade School. El programa se implementará gradualmente a lo largo de cuatro años escolares. Con el respaldo de una inversión inicial de \$31 millones de Bloomberg Philanthropies, la subvención de fundación privada más grande en la historia del distrito, Aldine ISD y Memorial Hermann desarrollarán conjuntamente el plan de estudios, que ofrecerá clases especializadas en atención médica, aprendizaje basado en el trabajo y la oportunidad de ganar dinero. credenciales y certificaciones valoradas en la industria, y más. ¡Estos son tiempos emocionantes en Aldine!

En mi último mensaje, compartí que es el Mes de Agradecimiento a la Junta Escolar. Esta semana la comunidad agradeció a nuestra reunión de la Junta Directiva por todo lo que hacen por los alumnos y el personal. Hay otro grupo al que me gustaría reconocer: nuestros trabajadores de mantenimiento. El 18 de enero fue el Día de Agradecimiento a los Trabajadores de Mantenimiento. Gracias por ser tan dedicado y hacer su parte para garantizar que nuestros alumnos tengan las mejores instalaciones y entornos de aprendizaje.

Esta semana fue la Semana de Escuelas Opción. Nuestras escuelas de opción ofrecen muchas oportunidades. Visiten nuestra página web de Choice Schools para obtener más información.

Los invito a ir a ver la producción teatral del musical The Bodyguard (El guardaespaldas) de Carver High School. Asistí al ensayo de la escuela de opción y ¡fue increíble! ¡Lean este boletín para más detalles!

Hoy es el último día de la Feria Ganadera FFA (Futuros Agricultores de América) del distrito en el M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Gracias a todos los que vinieron a apoyar a nuestros alumnos, ya sea como compradores de proyectos estudiantiles o comprando desayuno y barbacoa para el almuerzo y la cena. Todos los ingresos se destinan a becas para alumnos. El espectáculo finaliza con la Venta de Campeones — tendremos un resumen del evento la próxima semana.

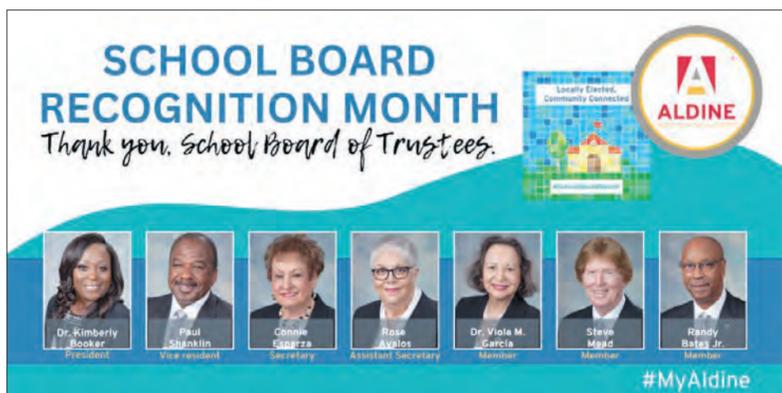
Mientras atravesamos la temporada de gripe, quiero recordarles a todos que deben mantener una buena higiene de manos. Practiquen el lavado de manos con regularidad; Es una forma sencilla pero poderosa de protegernos a nosotros mismos y a los demás de la propagación de enfermedades, especialmente durante estos meses más fríos.

Una vez más, tómense un momento para leer este número. Descubran a nuestros becarios Posse 2024, lean sobre la juramentación del jefe de policía Paul Córdova como nuevo presidente de HAPCA y lea sobre los alumnos de arte galardonados. También encontrarán información sobre el próximo Festival de Bookworm bilingüe, así como sobre las reuniones comunitarias del Departamento de Policía de Aldine y el Departamento Multilingüe, una colaboración para llegar a más miembros de nuestra comunidad.

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,
Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendente Aldine ISD

Enero: Celebre a los miembros de la Junta Escolar

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH
Thank you, School Board of Trustees.



#MyAldine

Enero es el Mes de Reconocimiento de la Junta Escolar. El Distrito Escolar de Aldine está celebrando la dedicación y el compromiso de sus directivos con el distrito y sus estudiantes.

El tema del Mes de Reconocimiento de la Junta Escolar de este año es «Eligidos localmente, conectados con la comunidad», destacando la conexión entre los fideicomisarios escolares y sus comunidades. Los miembros de la junta escolar son el grupo más grande del estado de funcionarios electos a nivel local.

«Los miembros de nuestra junta directiva escolar son voluntarios desinteresados que pasan largas horas trabajando para garantizar que todos nuestros estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de aprender y crecer. Juntos, nos mantenemos firmes en la construcción de la propiedad comunitaria de nuestro futuro colectivo en AISD. Verdaderamente, estoy agradecida con cada fideicomisario por su incansable devoción a nuestros estudiantes, maestros, personal y comunidad», dijo la superintendente Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney. «Celebrar el Mes de Reconocimiento de la Junta Escolar es una forma de agradecer

todo lo que hacen».

Las escuelas determinarán sus celebraciones y honores específicos para cada campus; sin embargo, las escuelas y el público podrán reconocer y agradecer a los miembros de la junta en la reunión de la Junta Directiva de enero que se celebrará en la Sala de Juntas, el martes 23 de enero, en el Edificio Administrativo Donaldson. Todas las reuniones de la junta directiva comienzan a las 7 p.m.

Dan Troxell, director ejecutivo de la Asociación de Juntas Escolares de Texas, aplaudió los esfuerzos de los fideicomisarios voluntarios para proporcionar liderazgo y buen gobierno para que los distritos escolares puedan enfocarse en educar a los 5.4 millones de niños de escuelas públicas bajo su cuidado.

«Las juntas escolares de Texas son muy importantes porque aportan a su función un profundo conocimiento de las necesidades y aspiraciones de sus comunidades locales», afirmó Troxell. «Las juntas dirigen sus distritos mediante la supervisión, el establecimiento de objetivos, la supervisión del presupuesto y la selección y evaluación del superintendente. Estos voluntarios sirven

para mejorar sus comunidades»

La Junta Directiva de Aldine ISD apoya constantemente los programas estudiantiles, la capacitación del personal y la participación de la comunidad y recientemente pidió un bono escolar de \$1.8 billones, que los votantes aprobaron en las elecciones de noviembre.

Tómese un momento para reconocer a nuestros miembros de la Junta Escolar de Aldine ISD: la Dra. Kimberley Booker, Paul Shanklin, Conception 'Connie' Esparza, Rose Avalos, la Dra. Viola M. García, Steve Mead y Randy Bates Jr. — y honre su trabajo para ayudar a sus estudiantes a navegar hacia el futuro. Agradézcales por su trabajo en nombre de nuestros estudiantes y la comunidad.

Únase a nosotros para celebrar el Mes de Agradecimiento a la Junta Escolar durante todo enero. Si comparte su gratitud en las redes sociales, utilice los hashtags #SchoolBoardMonth y #MyAldine en inglés o #MesDeLaJuntaEscolar y #MiAldine en español.

Obtenga más información sobre el servicio de la junta escolar en tasb.org. Para una versión en español.

GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS

Hello, East Aldine Residents. Please mark your calendar! Monthly meetings of the Green Forest Civic Club Last Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Dr. 77039 At our meetings, you will receive in-person updates from elected officials, law enforcement officers, and service providers and organizations about issues, concerns, and events having to do with East Aldine. Also receive advice and assistance on any issue you may be having. Our meetings are open to the public. For additional information, contact Selina Valdez @ 832-416-0964 or at greenforestc1983@gmail.com or on our FaceBook page: Green Forest Civic Club. We look forward to seeing you!

Send your Love a Special Message in our Valentine Issue



Send your favorite Valentine a Greeting in our VALENTINE ISSUE, Feb. 13th. Send a photo and greeting to NENEWSROOM@AOL.COM. Only \$20, include credit card info with email. or call 713-266-3444 for more info.

Valentine's DAY

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS 2024 (FOROS DE CIUDADANIA 2024)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH 901 ROSELANE ST. HOUSTON, TX. 77037	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH 16526 ELLA BLVD. HOUSTON, TX. 77090	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM LONE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER 2430 ALDINE MAIL RTE RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77039
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM LA PROMESA SCHOOL 11101 ALDINE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77037	SATURDAY, MARCH 2 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3320 CYPRESS CREEK PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX. 77068	SATURDAY, APRIL 20 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM LONE STAR COLLEGE KINGWOOD CENTER 20000 KINGWOOD DR. KINGWOOD, TX. 77338
THURSDAY, APRIL 25 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00 PM LONE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH 250 N. SAN HOUSTON PARKWAY E. HOUSTON, TX. 77060	SATURDAY, MAY 4 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH 501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77022	SATURDAY, MAY 18 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH 2131 LAUDER RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77039
SATURDAY, MAY 25 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH 19222 TOMBALL PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX. 77070	SATURDAY, JUNE 1 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH 18511 KLEN CHURCH RD. SPRING, TX. 77379	SATURDAY, JUNE 15 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CATHOLIC CHURCH 7810 CYPRESSWOOD DR. SPRING, TX. 77379
SATURDAY, JUNE 22 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH 5356 11th ST. KATY, TX. 77493	PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: PLEASE SEND EMAIL TO WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG PARA SU CONVENIENCIA, BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY ESTA DISPONIBLE EN TRES OFICINAS FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 281-799-9076 OR TEXT 832-906-4214 PARA MAS INFORMACION, POR FAVOR LLAMAR AL 281-799-9076 O ENVIAR TEXTO AL 832-906-4214	

LONE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH 250 N. SAN HOUSTON PARKWAY E. HOUSTON, TX. 77060
LONE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER 2430 ALDINE MAIL RTE RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77039
LONE STAR COLLEGE KINGWOOD CENTER 20000 KINGWOOD DR. KINGWOOD, TX. 77338

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Haggai (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What does Paul urge Christians to be of God, as found in Ephesians 5:17 Lovers, Believers, Followers, Worshipers
3. From Proverbs 3, we are not to lean on our own ...? Riches, Understanding, Friends, Pity

4. In 2 Chronicles, what godly priest had a wife named Jehosheba? Jehoiada, Felix, Demetrius, Jeremiah
5. What is the middle chapter of the Old Testament (KJV)? 2 Chronicles 3, Job 29, Psalms 34, Isaiah 41
6. On which day did God make Adam and Eve? Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Followers, 3) Understanding, 4) Jehoiada, 5) Job 29, 6) Sixth
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

PSALM 146: 5-7



Detail of "Nervous People at Dinner" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1916)

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PET MATTERS
In Memory of Susan Hoffman



Barking in the New Year: Pet Parents' Pawsome Resolutions

As we leap into a new year, pet parents across the U.S. are setting their sights on pawsome resolutions to ensure their furry companions lead happy, healthy, and tail-wagging lives. TripsWithPets.com surveyed dedicated pet moms and dads to discover their top resolutions for 2024, and the results are in! From health and wellness check-ups to socialization adventures, here's a glimpse into what the pet-loving community has in store for their four-legged family members.

1. Health and Wellness Check-ups (22%)

The leading resolution for 22% of respondents is prioritizing their furry companions' health. Regular veterinary check-ups, a balanced diet, and tailored exercise routines top the list. It's a resounding commitment to ensuring their pets live their best, healthiest lives.

2. Socialization Adventures (20%)

Coming in close behind, at 20%, is the resolution to embark on socialization adventures. Dog parents in particular are recognizing the importance of positive interactions with other pups and humans. From group walks or hikes to meet-ups with other dogs and their people, these adventures are geared toward fostering a sense of community for both dogs and their devoted owners.

3. Plan a Pet-Friendly Road Trip/Explore New Destinations (19%)

Pet-friendly road trips and exploring new destinations secured the third spot, with 19% of respondents eager to hit the open road with their four-legged copilots. From charming countryside retreats to beachfront getaways, pet parents are seeking out new experiences that cater to their furry friends.

4. Bonding and Quality Time (16%)

In the fourth position, 16% of respondents are resolved to deepen the bond with their furry family members through dedicated quality time. Whether it's trying out new activities together,

creating a cozy corner at home, or simply enjoying some quiet cuddles, pet parents are making a conscious effort to strengthen their connection with their pets.

5. Mental Stimulation and Enrichment (9%)

Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, 9% of respondents are focusing on mental stimulation and enrichment for their pets. New toys, puzzles, and interactive activities are on the agenda, ensuring their pets stay mentally sharp and engaged in the coming year.

Honorable Mentions:

While the top five resolutions took center stage, other noteworthy resolutions mentioned by the respondents include:

--Grooming & Hygiene: A commitment to regular grooming routines, including brushing, bathing, and overall hygiene.

--Obedience Training: A dedication to reinforcing basic commands and behaviors, fostering a harmonious relationship between pet and owner.

--Update Safety Measures: An emphasis on safety measures, including checking microchips, updating ID tags, installing in-home cameras, and ensuring outdoor spaces are secure.

As we embark on this pawsome journey into 2024, it's heartening to see the unwavering dedication of pet parents to the well-being and happiness of their beloved fur babies. Each resolution is a testament to the strong bond and commitment shared between humans and their furry companions. Here's to a year filled with wagging tails, wet noses, and endless adventures with our four-legged family members!

Article Attribution:
Title: Barking in the New Year: Pet Parents' Pawsome Resolutions
Author: Kim Salerno, CEO/Founder TripsWithPets, Inc.
Source: TripsWithPets

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount Pictures has lost its biggest star now that Tom Cruise is moving his production company to Warner Bros. after 30 years. Cruise has been making pictures with Paramount since 1992, and his last release will be the upcoming eighth film in the "Mission Impossible" franchise. The seventh film, "Dead Reckoning Part One," grossed \$567.5 million. It will be a sad day for Paramount when the 61-year-old superstar moves to Warner Bros.

"Wonka," starring Timothee Chalamet, is impressive in an "Oliver Twist" kind of way. He sings, dances and acts great, but while it had some magic, it didn't have the appeal of the first two films with Gene Wilder and Johnny Depp. Still, you can't argue with half a billion in its first three weeks.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" was a disappointment at the box office — and at the Golden Globes when Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese didn't score any wins. But Lily Gladstone won for Best Actress in a Motion Picture. Scorsese says that his next project will be an 80-minute film called "A Life of Jesus."

Six-time Tony winner, two-time Grammy winner, and Emmy winner Audra McDonald, recently seen in season two of Max's "The Gilded Age" (which was renewed for season three), will take on Mama Rose in a revival of "Gypsy" on Broadway. It's the first time a woman of color is taking the role on.

Oscar-winning director Guillermo Del Toro has picked his next project. He's developing a new Frankenstein film starring "Priscilla's" Elvis Presley, Jacob Elordi. Oscar Isaac will play Dr. Frankenstein, and two-time Oscar winner Christoph Waltz will be backing them up. At least Elordi won't have to learn any dialogue!

What we need even less than another



Audra McDonald ("The Gilded Age")

er Frankenstein film is another "King Kong" film (or another edition of "Mean Girls"). Still, "Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire" opens on March 29.

Linda Ronstadt, who was misdiagnosed with Parkinson's disease, has been re-diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy, leaving her unable to sing anymore. A biopic will be made about Ronstadt's life, starring "Only Murders in the Building's" Selena Gomez.

Josh Hutcherson (of "The Hunger Games" franchise) scored big with "Five Nights at Freddy's," which cost \$20 million and grossed \$294.6 million. A sequel is in the works. Meanwhile, he currently has "The Beekeeper" out in theaters, with Jason Statham, Jeremy Irons and Minnie Driver.

Paramount's revving up their "Star Trek" franchise, but probably won't have Chris Pine playing Capt. James T. Kirk. Pine played Kirk in 2009, 2013 and 2016; however, this one's a prequel, so Pine is probably too old to take us into the final frontier! Imagine being too old at 43! Stay tuned

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is missing. 4. File cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is shorter.

January 29, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
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51					52		53			54
55									56	57
58										
59							60			61

ACROSS
1 TV schedule abbr.
4 Rotate
8 Exerciser's target
12 Slithery fish
13 Layered cookie
14 Greek vowel
15 Selflessness
17 Seize
18 Chapeau
19 Slogan
21 Garden figurines
24 Use henna
25 Post-op area
26 Apply cream
28 College study
32 Close by
34 "Gee, ya think?"
36 Golfer's cry
37 Campfire leftovers
39 Clothing protector
41 Sandwich meat
42 "— been real"
44 By and large
46 Opposite of candor
50 Egg quaff
51 Bern's river
52 Halite
56 Egyptian deity
57 Shrek, for one
58 Half of CIV
59 Society newbies

DOWN
1 Afternoon get-together
2 Ann Patchett's "— Canto"
3 However
4 Praised loudly
5 Mentalist Geller
6 Take it easy
7 Wanderer
8 Biblical cover-up?
9 Petty of "Tank Girl"

10 — impasse
11 Innocent one
16 Ewe's mate
20 Workout venue
21 Actress Gershon
22 Mark Harmon TV series
23 Melancholy
27 Fella
29 "Atlas Shrugged" hero
30 Exam format
31 "Ratatouille" rat
33 Patty Hearst, for one
35 "Tell —" (Streisand/Dion song)
38 Fr. holy woman
40 Monopoly job
43 Seafood selection
45 Cyclades island
46 Stated
47 Lighten
48 Baby's bed
49 Boo-Boo's buddy
53 — Magnon
54 Lucy of "Elementary"
55 Box office buys, slangily

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Trivia Test Answers
1. A lodge; 2. Oregon; 3. Bugs Bunny; 4. William Peter Blatty; 5. XC (90); 6. 33; 7. Iceland; 8. "The Man Who Knew Too Much"; 9. Pollination by the wind; 10. Cynidi Lauper

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a beaver's home called?
- U.S. STATES: In which state would you find Crater Lake?
- TELEVISION: Which animated cartoon character says, "What's up, Doc?"
- LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Exorcist"?
- MATH: In Roman numerals, what is XVIII times V?
- ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which nation is home to Europe's largest glacier?
- MOVIES: In which film does Doris Day sing "Que Sera, Sera"?
- SCIENCE: What is anemophily?
- MUSIC: Who sang the hit "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers
King Crossword

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NEXT START CLASSES

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**LONE STAR COLLEGE
NORTH HARRIS**

Lone Star College Next Start offers flexible course options this spring



It's not too late to enroll in a spring 2024 course at Lone Star College. LSC Next Start offers flexible options to help students meet their educational goals.

HOUSTON – Lone Star College is an open-enrollment institution geared toward helping students start, continue or complete their educational journey. LSC began its spring 2024 semester Jan. 16, but there's still time to enroll in a course through LSC Next Start.

"Lone Star College is definitely the way to go to either earn a degree or attain some college credit because courses are smaller, allowing you to receive more personalized resources and support to help you succeed," said Alma Gallardo, LSC-CyFair graduate.

LSC Next Start classes range from five to 14 weeks. Available courses fit various academic and career goals to help students earn bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, workforce and continuing education certificates or transfer credits to a four-year university.

"Lone Star College's Next Start allows you to earn a college degree on your own time," said Dwight L. Smith, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor, Academic and Workforce Success. "Next Start classes are offered throughout the semester, providing flexible options to ensure you meet your academic goals while balancing your personal and professional commitments."

LSC Next Start offerings are available in-person, online and hybrid with classes starting the week of Jan. 29.

- 14-Week: Jan. 29-May 12
- 12-Week: Feb. 2-May 12
- 12-Week: Feb. 12-May 12
- 9-Week: March 18-May 19
- 8-Week: March 18-May 12
- 8-Week: March 20-May 12
- 5-Week: Feb. 19-March 31
- 5-Week: April 1-May 5

Visit LoneStar.edu/NextStart for more information on Next Start classes at Lone Star College.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area. LSC has been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Texas™. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

Lone Star College employee retires after 50 years of service

HOUSTON (Jan. 24, 2024) – In 1973, Kathy Bible Winter, a 15-year-old Aldine High School student, accepted a job with North Harris County College (now Lone Star College-North Harris), leading to a five-decade career at LSC.



KATHY BIBLE WINTER

"My high school counselor, F.G. Bryant, asked if I would be interested in working at North Harris College as a General Educational Development (GED®) test proctor," said Bible Winter. "I was intrigued and immediately said yes. I've never regretted that choice."

Bible Winter started work as a part-time GED® test proctor when the program was at Aldine High School. When it moved to LSC-North Harris, she earned the necessary credentials through the Texas Education Agency to become a GED® test examiner, a part-time role she held until 1992. Bible Winter remained at LSC-North Harris and retired in December 2023 after 50 years of dedicated service.

"I truly enjoyed working with students, especially as a GED® examiner. It was a rewarding experience to watch students

achieve their goals. I loved seeing their smiles and receiving their hugs when they passed their exams."

After working part-time for 19 years with the GED® program, Bible Winter moved into her first LSC full-time position as a human resources and payroll coordinator in the Continuing Education (CE) Department, where she accomplished the difficult task of recouping overpaid funds to instructors in three months. Bible Winter worked for 20 years in that role before becoming the CE division operations specialist in 2012, a position she held until she retired.

"Lone Star College has grown so much since I

started in 1973, with many students excited about starting their college journey with us," she said. "I stayed with the college for 50 years because I loved my job and worked with some wonderful people who were more than co-workers; they became family."

Throughout her 50 years at LSC-North Harris, the retiree has experienced many positive outcomes but has also learned a valuable lesson, 'do not take everything so personally.'

"There will always be good and bad aspects of any situation, but if you stay positive and focused on your work, life will weed it out. Life will turn around for the better."

Bible Winter has a stepson with her husband, Bill, and they actively enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren. The couple looks forward to traveling and visiting family and friends during retirement. Bible Winter also plans to delve more into needlework (quilting and cross stitching) to finish a quilt she started a year ago.

Lone Star College changes lives through lifePATH® program

HOUSTON – The National Center for Education Statistics reported that less than 15% of neurodiverse students attend a college or university in Texas. The Lone Star College lifePATH® program aims to prepare students with cognitive disabilities for their next steps by providing them with practical life skills and a college education.

The LifePATH program is a robust, intentional educational pathway approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide this unique population of students with more alternatives and an opportunity to earn an Occupational Life Skills associate degree, which is only available at Lone Star College," said Lee Ann Nutt, Ed.D., LSC-Tomball President. Nutt was instrumental in the program's creation.

The LSC Board of Trustees recently voted to reduce tuition for lifePATH® Foundations, a new two-year noncredit program offering specific foundational skills. The cost is now \$8 per contact hour (previously \$16 per contact hour). The lifePATH® Foundations program is offered at



The Lone Star College Board of Trustees recently voted to reduce the tuition for the lifePATH® Foundations program. Pictured is Lauren Hatley, LSC lifePATH® student, showing her work at the lifePATH® Gallery Walk held at LSC-Tomball.

LSC-Tomball.

"The lifePATH® program at Lone Star College gives neurodiverse students the soft and hard skills necessary to enter the world and pursue gainful employment," said Anne Ginnett, LSC-Tomball lifePATH® Director. "lifePATH® is designed to enhance their academic, career, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills."

LSC lifePATH® is a post-secondary program assisting students to develop independence, exercise self-determination, practice necessary social expectations and engage in career exploration. In addition to lifePATH® Foundations, the program offers two other tracks.

Occupational and Life

Skills Associate Degree (OLSA) is a four-year (60 credit hours) associate degree program offered at LSC-Montgomery and LSC-Tomball. Students take six to 10 credit hours each semester and pay the same tuition rate as traditional LSC students.

Wraparound Supports provides case management services for lifePATH® students taking traditional credit courses outside of the OLSA program. It is free to lifePATH® students and is available at LSC-Montgomery and LSC-Tomball.

"Lone Star College lifePATH® offers students various internship programs with area businesses and organizations to help enrich their knowledge and skills needed to succeed in life and the workforce," said Montisha Hines Goosby, LSC-Montgomery lifePATH® Director. "These internships are perfect opportunities for our students to discover what they are passionate about and what it will take for them to thrive in their chosen paths."

Visit LoneStar.edu/life-PATH for more information on the Lone Star College lifePATH® program.