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# NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 7 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)

**NEWS NOTES**

**Walle to speak on SB4, and "Know Your Rights"**

In light of the impending implementation of Senate Bill 4 — which authorizes any peace officer to engage in federal immigration enforcement — Rep. Walle's is partnering with ACLU TX and F.I.E.L. to host a "Know Your Rights" presentation next week to help inform and prepare community members for the impacts of this new law. This will be an in-person only event.  
 Thursday, February 22nd 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
 East Aldine Town Center 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheatre Drive Houston, TX 77039  
 Please fill out this form to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/QmOZE1cXPNeJ26m88>. See additional information on Page 8.

**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 bachelor's 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](http://LoneStar.edu/NextStart) for more information .

## "Greetings from East Aldine" Mural dedicated

Latest example of Public Art to be displayed throughout the District

EAST ALDINE – As part of the Art for Aldine program, the Art Committee has commissioned a number of public art pieces throughout the community. The latest is a wall mural painted on the side of the ACE Dental offices of Dr. Gutierrez on Aldine Mail Route.

On Wednesday, January 31 the Art Committee and other supporters gathered for a dedication of the new mural.

The Project was done in collaboration with UP Art Studio who handled all aspects of the project design and execution. Artists were Cease Martinez (former resident and MacArthur alum) and Frank Nathen, under the direction of UP Art's Elia Quiles.

Carlos Silva, chairman of the East Aldine District board, and chairman of the Art Committee, had the following comments on the meaning of the artwork:

The East Aldine Arts



GREETINGS FROM EAST ALDINE Mural was dedicated on Wednesday, January 31. At the ceremony were members of the East Aldine District, Dr. Gutierrez, UP Art Studio, the artists, HCSO Deputies, and community members. (Photo Gerardo Hernandez).

Council is proud to have recently completed our very own "Greetings From East Aldine" mural to boldly welcome residents and guests alike into our community. The nature of the design incorporates various elements that repre-

sent East Aldine including: our youth, our parks and greenspaces, our Town Center, our JFK statue, student athletics and MacArthur pride, and also our active and engaged senior community. Not to mention we rounded out the

mural with both a bird of state and a bird of steel that you're likely to see just about anytime you look up in East Aldine. The mural was dedicated to the families and residents of our District.

The Mural is located at ACE DENTAL at 3420 Aldine Mail Route Rd.

There is a short video that EV1 Pro made after our dedication, about the mural: <https://vimeo.com/909280439>.

## Early voting in Primary starts Feb. 20

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth has announced the start of Early Voting for the March 5 Joint Primary Elections, and her staff demonstrated what voters can expect to see at the polls at a Press Conference last Monday, February 19.

Early Voting in person runs from February 20 to March 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Sunday, February 25, noon to 7 p.m.

Harris County has countywide polling, which means voters can go to any of the 79 early vote centers

across the county.

Voters will choose from either a Democrat or Republican ballot of their choosing. In a runoff, they must vote in the same party. Ballots will be lengthy, because they include Presidential candidates, Senators, Congressmen, Judges, local county and city officials, constables and sheriff, precinct chairs, and propositions on the Republican ballot.

Of special interest to Aldine area voters are their representatives. State Representative Armando Walle is running unop-

posed, as are Senfronia Thompson, Carol Alvarado, and Sylvia Garcia on the Democratic slate.

Richard Cantu is running to retain his seat on the Harris County Department of Education board, but has an opponent in Josh Wallenstein.

Other high profile races include the Harris County District Attorney, with incumbent Kim Ogg facing challenger Sean Teare. Also of interest is a race for Sheriff, with incumbent Ed Gonzalez facing 3 challengers. County Attorney Christian Menefee has an

opponent, Umeka Lewis.

For election information, visit [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) and connect on social media at @HarrisVotes for news and updates.

### Deadline to Apply for Voting by Mail is February 23rd

The Harris County Clerk's Office reminds eligible registered voters that February 23, 2024, is the last day to submit an application to vote by mail for

the upcoming Primary Elections. Qualified voters should be aware that to receive a mail ballot, they must request an application to vote by mail and submit it to the County Clerk's Elections Department. Applications and mail ballots are NOT sent automatically to voters.

"In even-numbered years, it is important to mark the primary and primary runoff election in which you want to participate," said Harris Coun-

Continued. See VOTE BY MAIL DEADLINE, Page 5

## UPLIFT proram success: 82,500 apply for payments

HOUSTON– The Uplift Harris Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, a transformative initiative offering \$500 monthly payments to eligible residents in need, closed its application process on Feb. 2, receiving an overwhelming response of over 82,500 applications.

Among these applications, 57,509 came from the 10 eligible ZIP codes designated for the program. Apart from that, 137 additional applications were received from ACCESS Harris County program participants, who will be considered under the ACCESS Harris County cohort of Uplift Harris.

**APPLICATIONS FROM ALDINE AREA:**  
 Zip 77093 = 7,401  
 Zip 77060 = 8,116  
**TOTAL = 15,517**

"The huge amount of interest shows how great the need is in Harris County for a program like Uplift Harris, especially among vulnerable communities," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Reducing poverty and helping families who are struggling to meet basic needs should not be a political debate. When our

community is experiencing poverty at rates higher than other communities in Texas and around the nation, we as county leaders have a duty to do everything we can to address it. We'll be looking into how we can fund this program long-term and hopefully help even more families in the future."

The Uplift Harris Pilot will ultimately select 1,928 eligible households with an income below 200% of the federal poverty level to receive \$500 monthly payments for 18 months. The

Continued. See UPLIFT PROGRAM SUCCESS, Page 2

## Trail Rides mark start of RodeoHouston

HOUSTON – A total of more than 2,000 cowboys and cowgirls are expected to participate in this year's 11 rodeo trail rides, some of which will travel 100-plus miles to Houston.

February marks the start of rodeo season in Houston, and as part of a beloved annual tradition later this month, thousands of cowboys and cowgirls will begin making their way to the city while riding horses and wagons in a scene straight out of the Old West.

Eleven trail rides associated with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will commence starting



NORTHEASTERN TRAIL RIDERS, Anthony Bruno Trail Boss, start from Cheeks, Texas and come through Northeast Houston on the way to Memorial Park and the Houston Rodeo Parade on Saturday, February 24th.

Feb. 16, the rodeo announced Thursday. A total of more than 2,000 trail riders are expected to par-

Continued. See TRAIL RIDES RODEOHOUSTON, Page 2

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# UPLIFT Program Success,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program uses a two-stage lottery system. In the first stage, approximately 6,000 qualified applicants will be randomly selected to advance to the second stage of the lottery system, which then chooses the final 1,928 participants who will receive the payments.

"The overwhelming response to the Uplift Harris guaranteed income program underscores the urgent and undeniable need in the state of Texas," said Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "In the wake of unchecked inequality and soaring costs, families are struggling no matter how hard they work or try to stretch every dollar. People want the government to do something about the economic divide, and that's what Harris County is doing. In a state with vast prosperity, we refuse to be bystanders as 750,000 Harris County residents endure a relentless cycle of poverty."

The first payments are expected to be distributed in early April. The program seeks to improve economic stability for low-income families, re-

duce poverty and its associated challenges, and enhance the overall well-being of participants.

"We are excited to move forward with the selection process and to see how this direct cash assistance will soon aid in making strides towards building a more equitable and prosperous future for all Harris County community members. We are thrilled by the overwhelming response as the outpour of interest in the Uplift Harris Guaranteed Income Pilot Program reaffirms the need to invest in communities experiencing high rates of deep poverty," said Harris County Public Health Executive Director Barbie L. Robinson. "We believe this program will increase housing stability and employment and address other social determinants of health outcomes. This type of support can give people a much-needed sense of financial security, empowering them to become more self-sufficient."

Below are the application totals per eligible ZIP code for the

**Uplift Harris Pilot. (The total excludes applications submitted outside the ten priority ZIP codes.)**

ZIP Code	Applications
77050	--1,115
77093	--7,401
77051	--7,026
77060	--8,116
77028	--6,144
77033	--8,463
77026	--6,483
77081	--5,446
77547	--1,019
77091	--6,296
<b>Total</b>	<b>--57,509</b>

Although the Uplift Harris Pilot application was online, onsite assistance was also offered at various locations throughout the application period.

The Uplift Harris Pilot is funded by a \$20.5 million federal grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. The program is managed by Harris County Public Health and administered by GiveDirectly, a non-profit organization with extensive experience implementing similar programs. For more information about the Uplift Harris Pilot, visit [Uplift.HarrisCountyTX.org](http://Uplift.HarrisCountyTX.org).

# Trail Riders RodeoHouston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ticipate, and they'll come from rural locations throughout the Southeast Texas region while making overnight stops and traveling more than 100 miles in some cases - with Goliad, the site of an 1836 battle between the Republic of Texas and Mexico, being

the most far-flung starting point.

This year's rodeo is scheduled for Feb. 27-March 17 at NRG Park. The trail riders will gather Feb. 23 at Memorial Park, where an awards ceremony will be held at 5

p.m.

The trail ride tradition dates to 1952, when four men traveled from Brenham on horseback to promote the Houston Rodeo, which first was held in 1931.

--HPM

# Trail Boss: Anthony Bruno

By Jonathan Bruce KTRK  
February 24, 2023

ABC13 caught up with trail boss Anthony Bruno live from the trail to talk about the journey and the significance of the historically Black trail ride.

HOUSTON, Texas — Fifty-five riders, 19 wagons, and 111 miles over six days make up the only historically Black trail ride of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

ABC13 caught up with Northeastern Trail Ride trail boss Anthony Bruno live on the trail as the caravan made its way to Memorial Park in Houston on Friday to commemorate the rodeo as part of the 71-year history of the famous trail rides.

"For us to be able to do this every year, it's an honor and a privilege. We live a millionaire's dream,"



Anthony Bruno  
Trail Boss Northeastern Trail Ride

Bruno said from inside a Northeastern wagon as the ride set out on its final stretch of a six-day journey.

Ten trail rides got underway on Sunday to participate in the event's signature annual tradition.

Bruno is making the journey with a bittersweet heart following the death of his father last year. Bruno's father, Joseph, co-

founded the historically Black Northeastern Trail Ride in 1982 and served as its inaugural trail boss for about 30 years before passing the reins to Anthony.

"This trail ride was founded to introduce people to Black cowboys and Black cowboy history because it hasn't been fairly documented," Bruno said. "We are keeping our culture and heritage alive."



# COMMUNITY WATCH

## Road Rage results in fatal shooting on Aldine Mail Route

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – The Harris County Sheriff's Office said a man was shot and killed in northeast Harris County Saturday.

The sheriff's office said it happened in the 5200 block of Aldine Mail Route, under the overpass at the Eastex Freeway around 6 p.m.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said it appears a man exited a Ford Explorer and approached a light colored sedan at the location.

"The person that would end up being the victim began, we're told, striking a male driver in the other vehicle. The other person retrieved a pistol and shot at the male, striking him there," Gonzalez said.

The man was taken to a hospital, but died from his injuries. The person in the other car fled the scene.

The man who died is ap-



Deputies investigate incident that escalated from argument to fatal shooting, at Aldine Mail Route under Eastex Expressway.

proximately 30-years-old. Gonzalez said a one-year-old child was also found in the backseat of the man's vehicle. The child was unharmed, but Gonzalez said a family member who came to the scene took the child to the hospital as a precaution.

Gonzalez said deputies are currently trying to gather more information and speak with potential witnesses.

"We don't know if there may have been a road rage situation that happened prior to this. We just know what happened here," he said.

Gonzalez said they are also seeking to talk to the other person involved.

"If that person's out there, we would like them to contact us at 713-221-6000 so we can get his side of the story as well," Gonzalez said.

## Hit & Run fatal to pedestrian crossing Parker Road

Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash at 400 Parker Road about 11:05 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 30).

The identity of the deceased male, 38, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division

Sergeant J. Richards and Officer J. Johnson reported:

The male was crossing the roadway - not in a crosswalk - at the above address when an unknown vehicle struck him. The driver did not stop to render aid and fled the scene.

Houston Fire Department paramedics

pronounced the male deceased at the scene.

Anyone with information in this case or on the identity of the driver and vehicle is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

# AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

### Blind Date with a Book - all of February

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

### 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, Feb. 19, 11-11:30am.**

### 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, Feb. 20, 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, Feb. 20, 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.

**Importante:** Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés

### Aprenda Computers & Job Skills

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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

### Adult Anime & Manga Club

Relax after work or school by hanging out and meeting new friends in the meeting room where we will watch an episode or two of Anime, do a craft, and talk about our favorites! This is a monthly program on the third Tuesday of the month for adults! **Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 - 7:30pm**

### College Essay Power Hour

Learn about the basic admissions essay outline, how to know what essay prompts are really asking for, and how to reuse one essay for multiple admissions

prompts. Snacks and drinks will be provided! **Wednesday, Feb. 21 3:30 - 4:30pm**

### 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. 22 from 6-8pm. Register online (<https://tiny.cc/aldinecitizenship>) or in person to save your place.** Instructor: Marta Cuadrado.

### Lectura en español

Comparte tu tema o libro de interés personal! Nos reunimos: Una vez por mes-último **sábado 24 de febrero a las 10:30 AM.**

### Adult Volunteers

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

### Passport Services

Do have plans to travel out of the country for the holidays? You need to get your passport in order NOW! Current routine processing is estimated at 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  
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6:00 - 8:00 PM

# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

AUGUST 18, 2023



## GOFFNEY CHRONICLES

The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools

**Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney**  
Superintendent of Schools

*With Aldine Pride!*



### Message From the Superintendent, February 14, 2023

Dear Aldine Community,

Each year, Black History Month is a time to honor and celebrate African Americans' significant contributions and achievements throughout history, recognizing their profound impact on our society and culture. This month is an opportunity to continue the march toward equality and justice while understanding and appreciating the rich diversity and resilience of the African American community. By dedicating this month to learning about and reflecting on our history and the role African Americans played in the growth of our country, we can foster a more inclusive and compassionate world. The theme for this year is "Art as a Platform for Social Justice." Through Black art, we can see the Black community's beauty, resilience, strength, and struggles they have faced and overcome. Celebrating through the arts is a powerful reminder that Black history is not just a series of events but a vibrant, ongoing story constantly being told and retold. Campuses across the district will be celebrating with planned events, and we also have our Annual AISD Student Oratory Contest. Staff at our administrative buildings will also have opportunities to join and connect with their colleagues in festivities from dress-up days to music, art, food connections, a panel discussion, and a book study.

Black History Month reminds us of giants who broke barriers for African Americans. John Lewis' quote has inspired me to lead with a higher power in mind and live the dream. As a Black woman of color, I owe a debt of gratitude to our ancestors who made sacrifices. I am driven to give all children the opportunity to succeed and provide them with the necessary skills. Our work in public education will leave an indelible mark on current and future generations — we must continue building a legacy of hope for all children.

I want to recognize a group of extraordinary individuals — school counselors. School counselors play a crucial role in removing barriers to learning and promoting student success. They address academic concerns, career options, and social-emotional skills, providing a valuable resource for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. As a student in school, I was blessed with the best counselor, Ms. Allen, who helped me in so many ways. Let's take a moment to thank our school counselors this week. I would love to see your posts, so use the hashtags #MyAldine and #SchoolCounselingWeek.

As with every issue of this newsletter, it is chock-full of the latest news and information. You'll find a link to a PDF with how staff at the administrative buildings are celebrating BHM, stories about student and staff achievements, a round-up of the FFA Livestock Show — to all who came out supporting our students, thank you — discover which schools were bestowed National Merit School Awards from Magnet Schools of America, cheer for our inaugural UIL inclusive basketball team that is now Area 2 Champions, and so much more!

With Aldine Pride!

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools Aldine ISD

### Aldine ISD to Host Free Virtual Literacy Matters Conference on Saturday, February 24



The event is for anyone interested in transforming reading and writing can join the event.

This is the fourth year Aldine ISD is hosting the conference. The conference continues to grow, drawing thousands of people in 2023 from Texas, the country, and worldwide. Experts in the science of reading, equity, literacy, curriculum, multilingual, early childhood, school reform, education research, and more are participating.

Literacy Matters Conference 2024 — Chapter 4: Literacy and Justice for All  
Saturday, February 24, 2024 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
CST Free Online Event: [LiteracyMatters24.sched.com](https://www.literacymatters24.com)  
Sessions and schedule

details will be emailed to registrants as presentations are finalized.

Breakout sessions will take place each hour and include topics geared toward administrators, elementary and secondary teachers of all subjects, multilingual teachers, special education teachers, literacy leaders, and anyone interested in learning about the science of reading and improving students' literacy skills.

Sessions and Panels With Experts, Keynote Speakers, Authors, and More!

There are over 65 sessions available, including author panels, keynote speeches, curriculum-specific sessions, and general sessions on instructional

strategies.

There is a more significant focus on equity and differentiation this year. Many sessions are focused on serving students from a variety of backgrounds. In addition, an authors' panel will speak on behalf of ensuring students have access to books that are culturally and linguistically diverse. AISD has added sessions for families and others focusing on social-emotional learning this year.

Literacy Matters Conference Schedule Website  
Check the Literacy Matters Conference schedule website regularly for updates. As of February 8, the following speakers have committed to taking part in the conference:

### Thank You for Joining Us at the 2024 Bookworm Festival



On February 3, the 2024 Bookworm Festival was held at Garcia Middle School. The free bilingual festival featured author and illustrator panels and book signings celebrating literature for young readers (Grades Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, 1, 2, and 3) in Spanish and English.

The 2024 all-star lineup included the following authors and illustrators:  
e.E. Charlton-Trujillo: Filmmaker, Youth Literacy Activist, and Award-winning Author

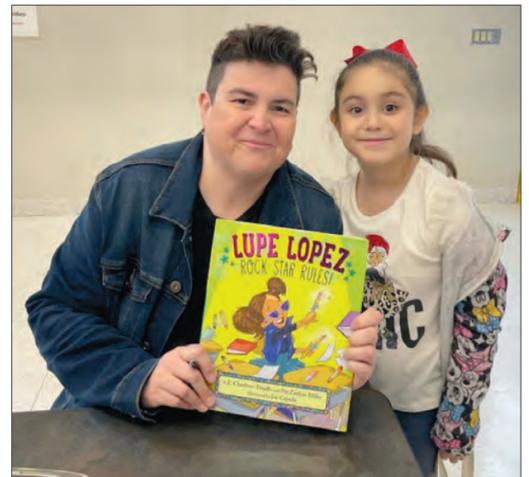
Antwan Eady: Award-winning Author

Joanna Ho: Bestselling and Award-winning Author

Liz Kleinrock: Award-winning Educator and Best-selling Author

Rhode Montijo: Author and Illustrator

Dashka Slater: Best-selling Author and



Award-winning Journalist

Young Vo: Award-winning Author and Illustrator

Families could purchase books at the event. After the panel sessions, young readers could take the books to the authors and illustrators to sign or take pictures. They could

also chat with the authors.

Thank you to Blue Willow Books, Aldine ISD Library Services, the Multilingual Department, Garcia Middle School, authors, and all the volunteers who made the event possible for kids.

### Nimitz Cougars UIL Inclusive Basketball Team are Area 4 Champions



Congrats to our Nimitz Cougars UIL inclusive basketball team on becoming Area 4 champions! Regionals up next. Huge thanks to everyone who came out to support the student-athletes. Aldine ISD was well represented! Nimitz's Kendra Venzant coaches the team.

According to Julie Grutzmacher, the Adapted Physical Education Department lead and one of the event organizers, the Unified Champion Basketball games promote inclusion, teamwork, and sportsmanship by bringing together students with and without disabilities to compete on the same team.

Grutzmacher said the games promote the following goals:

**Inclusion:** By creating an inclusive environment where all students can participate in a competitive sport together, regardless of their abilities.

**Promotes Friendship:** Fostering friendships and understanding between students with and with-

out disabilities benefits both groups.

**Sportsmanship:** Students are taught values such as fair play, respect, and teamwork. Skill Development: The games provide all participants with skill development and physical activity.

**Breaking Stereotypes:** Challenging and promoting awareness of the abilities and potential of individuals with disabilities.

**School Spirit:** The games enhance school spirit and a sense of belonging among all students.

**Giving All Students an Opportunity**

"Unified Champion Sports benefits special education and general education students by reducing the assumption that disabled students cannot compete in sports," Grutzmacher said. "Unified Champion Sports fosters friendships, understanding, skill development, and physical activity. It's an opportunity for our students with disabilities to

shine and have the spotlight while working alongside general education students as actual teammates. It also engages the school community, parents, and local community in supporting inclusive sports."

The Nimitz High team is coached by Grutzmacher, Kendra Venzant, and Ben Wells and supported by the structured learning teachers and Principal Walter Stewart.

Other support for the program has come from Dr. Tracey Bailey, executive director of special education; Tommie Elmore, program manager of related services and the manager of the Mendel Heritage Museum; and Kenneth Hernández, coordinator of health and physical education. AJ Edenzon, executive director of United Champion Schools, and Holly Chandler, the USC specialist for Special Olympics for East Region Ares 5 and 6, have also come to support.

*You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)*

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
 Harris County Judge  
 Lina Hidalgo



### Stricter Gun Control Regulations needed

Judge Lina Hidalgo Calls for Stricter Gun Safety Regulations in Wake of Lakewood Church Shooting

Harris County, TX, February 16, 2024, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued the following statement in response to the shooting at Lakewood Church on Sunday:

"All of us in Harris County are hurting from the shooting at Lakewood Church. Part of our response to what is now just the latest tragedy like this, which is not unique, is looking at how we can prevent an unstable person from accessing a gun. The majority of guns used to commit crimes in Texas are purchased legally. The Lakewood shooter used an AR-15 that she was able to purchase legally, despite her criminal record and a history of violent behavior.

Texas has a history of responding to mass shootings by loosening gun laws rather than strengthening them. This is demonstrably not the way to reduce gun violence. With state laws tying our hands, we can only do so much at the local level. I am calling on our state leaders to do what is beyond obvious and pass stricter regulations on purchasing guns in Texas, including a red flag law," said Judge Lina Hidalgo.

###  
 Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is Harris County's chief executive and Director of the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Judge Hidalgo, alongside four county precinct commissioners, oversees a budget of approximately \$5 billion that funds services and institutions for the third-largest county in the nation, home to nearly 5 million people. For more information about Harris County and the Office of the County Judge, please visit: [cjo.harriscountytexas.gov](http://cjo.harriscountytexas.gov).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to [Grafikpress Newspapers](mailto:GrafikpressNewspapers), 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to [GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com](mailto:GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com). Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



Home Country  
 with Slim Randles

### Morning exercise. The easy way

Doc was just getting up to leave the philosophy counter as Herb walked in. Herb was grinning and flexing muscles and had the look of eagles in his eyes. We stared.

"Herb," said Doc. "You know, you can overdo a good thing."

"Why Doc ... whatever do you mean?"

"I realize that getting more exercise is your resolution for the new year, but a man your age ... you need to pace yourself a little, that's all. Don't try to get in shape all at once."

"Why Doc, I've never felt better in my life. Hey, you were so right to get me on this exercise kick. I've been meaning to thank you. It's just what I've been needing. What would you think about my playing some football in the spring? I mean, it's just touch football, but I miss the ol' razz-matazz, you know?"

Doc shook his head sadly and walked out. Herb started laughing and sat down with us and flipped his cup over for his morning eye opener.

"What was that all about, Herb?" Dud asked.

"A little joke I'm playing on Doc, that's all," Herb said. "You remember how Doc has been on my case to get more exercise and slim down some? Well, there was only one way to shut him up, so I started running. I bought a sweat suit and started running. I run past his house each morning. Then, about an hour later, I run past his house the other direction, huffing and puffing and looking at my watch."

"An hour? You run for an hour each morning?"

"Of course not," Herb said, laughing. "I run past Doc's house then walk the block to the library. An hour later, I run past Doc's house and then walk two blocks home."

We stared at him.

"What?" he said. "You know Doc's going to worry about me one way or the other. I just thought I'd change it up a bit."

Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy Guide to Writing by Slim Randles. Now available as a Kindle book on Amazon.com.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Gary Borders



### Pitch Made for New Power Plants

Lt. Gov Dan Patrick joined with the world's largest investment firm to pitch investors on building natural gas power plants in Texas at a summit held last week in Houston.

Patrick and Black-Rock CEO Larry Fink shared the stage as they attempted to persuade investors to take advantage of \$10 billion in incentives and bonuses provided by the state after voters approved a constitutional amendment last November, [kut.org](http://kut.org) reported.

"We estimate in this room there's \$2.2 trillion," Fink told the crowd. "We only have to put \$10 billion to work, so can we get it done? Can we start raising hands?"

While Patrick remained optimistic the plan would attract investors interested in building new power plants, others aren't so sure.

Ed Hirs, an energy economist at the University of Houston, told [kut.org](http://kut.org) that the way the Texas power market is structured won't necessarily provide a steady return to power plant operators.

"If you've got \$2 trillion worth of investors and they're looking for a deal ... they wouldn't have had this summit; there would already be power plants being built," he said. "All of these guys are sharks. They're not going to miss an opportunity to make a profit."

### New law increases sentences for human smugglers

A state law that increases the minimum sentence from two years to 10 years for people convicted of smuggling immigrants or harboring them illegally went into effect last week.

The Texas



Tribune reported SB4 was one of three immigration-related bills signed into law late last year. Other measures provide state money for construction of barriers along the Texas-Mexico border and make it a state crime to illegally cross the border from Mexico.

The latter measure is being challenged in court by the U.S. Department of Justice, El Paso County and immigrant rights groups.

"This increase in policing and increased criminalization is going to further exacerbate the overcrowding of our jails," said David Stout, an El Paso County commissioner.

### Ten counties exceed tougher soot standards

Tougher rules aimed at reducing particulate matter in the air went into effect last week, reducing the amount of what is commonly called soot permitted in the air from 12 to 9 micrograms per cubic meter annually.

It is the first change in the limits since 2012. The soot can cause lung and throat irritation, aggravate asthma and cause other ailments, the Tribune reported.

According to data from the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 Texas counties have particulate matter levels that exceed the new standard - Dallas,

Harris, Tarrant, Travis, El Paso, Webb, Hidalgo, Cameron, Kleberg and Bowie.

The EPA will take about two years to officially declare which regions meet the new standards and which don't. States will then have at least three years to create a plan to come into compliance.

"This final air quality standard will save lives and make all people healthier, especially within America's most vulnerable and overburdened communities," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a press release. Industry groups and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have criticized the new rule.

### Paxton attorneys seek dismissal of securities fraud mostly booked for a year.

While the city doesn't expect to make a profit, given what it is spending on health, safety and infrastructure, local businesses stand to profit. Greenville, Ennis, Canton and other small North Texas cities are also making plans to take advantage of visitors coming to view the eclipse.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)



1. Argyle (PG-13) Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard
  2. Lisa Frankenstein (PG-13) Kathryn Newton, Liza Soberano
  3. The Beekeeper (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman
  4. Wonka (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die
  5. Migration (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks
  6. The Chosen: \$4.E1 (NR) Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel
  7. Anyone But You (R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell
  8. Mean Girls (PG-13) Angourie Rice, Renee Rapp
  9. American Fiction (R) Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross
  10. Poor Things (R) Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo
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**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
 By Carrie Classon

### Donuts in the Middle of the Day



While a person may buy a cake here in Mexico seven days a week from early morning to late at night, getting any other kind of dessert is more challenging.

There is a bakery I walk by every day. Everything is fresh and in bins. Customers pick up a metal tray and tongs and select what they want, then bring it up to the counter. The tray is returned to the pile. The tongs are hung neatly with the other tongs. It is a great system, except that the tray holds a lot of baked goods—probably more than I should eat on any given day.

But a problem has occurred.

I meet with a wonderful group of writers on a rooftop, and they have been kind enough to agree to read the first half of my new book. The first half (slightly more than half, actually) is 149 pages, so this is a generous thing for them to do. I want to bring treats, naturally. I thought apple empanadas would be best, as they are my favorite. But the meeting is at 2 in the afternoon, and the empanadas only appear at 2, promptly at 2, and never one minute before.

"I don't suppose I could pick any up at 1?" I asked the nice girl at the counter.

She shook her head sadly. No. They were only available at 2.

"What do you have that I could buy at 1?" I inquired.

She pointed to the bread. Somehow, showing up at the meeting with a bag of dinner rolls was not what I was imagining. "What about donuts?" I asked. The girl's eyes widened as if I was really asking far too many questions, and she referred me to a baker standing in the back.

I explained to the baker (to the best of my ability) that I had a meeting at 2 and I would love to bring "sweets" to the meeting. The meeting, I added, was with Americans. (There will also be several Canadians, but I decided not to complicate things.) I could tell he sensed the problem. This man looked as if he'd been baking things long enough to have heard of the eccentricities of Americans.

"So, no empanadas before 2?" I wanted to confirm.

No, he shook his head sadly. That could not be done.

"Cookies?"

They come out later yet.

"Donuts?" He seemed to find this amusing. Donuts are never available before 5.

"Maybe you could buy empanadas the day before?" he suggested.

"Would they still be hard?" I asked (because I couldn't remember how to say "soft")

"They would be soft by the next day," he admitted. I was stymied.

I asked Pepe at my hotel, "Why do you eat donuts at night?" "Oh! They are good with hot chocolate or coffee after dinner. When do you eat them?"

"Usually in the morning," I told him, feeling a little foolish as I admitted it.

"In the morning?"

"Yes."

I could tell Pepe was filing this away as yet another inexplicable thing he had learned about gringos while working at the hotel.

The meeting is next week, and I still do not have a good solution. I will probably take the baker's advice and buy empanadas a day early. They will be a little "suave," as he said, but they will still be delicious. And, as long as I'm buying things a day ahead, I may throw in some donuts.

We'll sit there on the roof, a bunch of happy idiots, eating donuts in the middle of the day.

Till next time,  
 Carrie

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SPANISH PAGE

# Gracias por acompañarnos en el Festival Bookworm 2024



El pasado 3 de febrero se llevó a cabo el Festival del Ratón de Biblioteca 2024 en la Escuela Secundaria García. El festival bilingüe gratuito contó con paneles de autores e ilustradores y firmas de libros que celebran la literatura para lectores jóvenes (Grados prekínder, kínder, 1, 2 y 3) en español e inglés.

El elenco estelar de 2024 incluyó a los siguientes autores e ilustradores:

- e.E. Charlton-Trujillo: Cineasta, activista por la alfabetización juvenil y autora galardonada
- Antwan Eady: Autor galardonado
- Joanna Ho: Autora más vendido y galardonada
- Liz Kleinrock: Educadora galardonada y autora de best-sellers



- Rhode Montijo: Autor e Ilustrador**
- Dashka Slater: Autora de best-sellers y periodista galardonada
- Young Vo: Autor e ilustrador galardonado
- Las familias pudieron comprar libros en el evento. Después de las sesiones de paneles, los jóvenes lectores llevaron los libros a los autores e ilustradores

para que los firmaran o tomaran fotografías. También pudieron charlar con los autores. Gracias a Blue Willow Books, a los Servicios Bibliotecarios de Aldine ISD, al Departamento Multilingüe, a la Escuela Intermedia García, a los autores y a todos los voluntarios que hicieron posible el evento para los niños.

26 DE ENERO DE 2024

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Independent School District

## CRÓNICAS DE GOFFNEY

El Boletín Oficial de la Superintendente de Escuelas

**Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney**  
Superintendente de Escuelas

*Orgullosa de nuestro distrito!*

**Estimada Comunidad de Aldine ISD:**

Cada año, el Mes de la Historia Negra es un momento para honrar y celebrar las importantes contribuciones y logros de los afroamericanos a lo largo de la historia, reconociendo su profundo impacto en nuestra sociedad y cultura. Este mes es una oportunidad para continuar la marcha hacia la igualdad y la justicia mientras comprendemos y apreciamos la rica diversidad y resiliencia de la comunidad afroamericana. Al dedicar este mes a aprender y reflexionar sobre nuestra historia y el papel que desempeñaron los afroamericanos en el crecimiento de nuestro país, podemos fomentar un mundo más inclusivo y compasivo. El tema de este año es «El arte como plataforma para la justicia social». A través del arte negro, podemos ver la belleza, la resiliencia, la fuerza y las luchas de la comunidad negra que han enfrentado y superado. Celebrar a través de las artes es un poderoso recordatorio de que el Mes de la Historia Negra no es sólo una serie de acontecimientos, sino una historia vibrante y continua que se cuenta y vuelve a contar constantemente. Las escuelas de todo el distrito celebrarán con eventos planificados y también tendremos nuestro Concurso Distrital de Oratoria Estudiantil. Miembros del personal de nuestros edificios administrativos también tendrán oportunidades de unirse y conectarse con sus colegas en festividades, desde días de disfraces hasta música, arte, conexiones gastronómicas, un panel de discusión y más.

El Mes de la Historia Negra nos recuerda a los gigantes que rompieron barreras para los afroamericanos. La cita de John Lewis me ha inspirado a liderar con un poder superior en mente. Como mujer negra de color, tengo una deuda de gratitud con nuestros antepasados que hicieron sacrificios. Mi objetivo es brindarles a todos los niños la oportunidad de triunfar y las habilidades necesarias para ello. Nuestro trabajo dejará una marca indeleble en las generaciones actuales y futuras: debemos seguir construyendo un legado de esperanza para todos los niños.

Quiero reconocer a un grupo de personas extraordinarias: los consejeros escolares. Los consejeros desempeñan un papel crucial en la eliminación de barreras al aprendizaje y la promoción del éxito de los alumnos. Como estudiante en la escuela, fui bendecida con lo mejor, la consejera, la Sra. Allen, quien me ayudó de muchas maneras. Tomémonos un momento para agradecer a nuestros consejeros esta semana. Me encantaría ver tus publicaciones, así que usa el hashtag #MiAldine.

Como ocurre con cada número de este boletín, está repleto de las últimas noticias e información. Encontrará un enlace a un PDF sobre cómo el personal de los edificios administrativos celebra el Mes de la Historia Negra, historias sobre los logros estudiantiles y del personal, un resumen de la Exhibición de Ganado — a todos los que vinieron apoyando a nuestros alumnos, gracias — descubran qué escuelas recibieron Premios Escolares al Mérito a Nivel Nacional de las Escuelas Magnet de América, animan a nuestro equipo inaugural de baloncesto inclusivo de la UIL que ahora es campeón del Área 2, ¡y mucho más!

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

## Vote by Mail Deadline Feb. 23,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ty Clerk **Teneshia Hudspeth, the county's chief elections official.** “It is also important that the voter completes the entire application correctly and selects the appropriate qualifying option.” Registered voters are eligible to vote by mail if they are:

- 65 years of age or older
- Sick or disabled (as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a))
- Out of the county on Election Day and during early voting hours
- Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
- Confined in jail or in-

voluntary civil commitment but eligible to vote

Registered voters who are 65 years of age and older or disabled have the option of marking “annual” on the application to ensure they automatically receive a postal ballot for all of the 2024 elections that take place in the political jurisdictions where they reside. The “annual” application to vote by mail expires at the end of the year, or when the voter cancels the application, voter registration is canceled, or when the voter registers in a new county.

“Voters who are qualified to vote by mail but choose not to exercise the

option may vote in person during the Early Voting Period or on Election Day,” concluded Clerk Hudspeth.

Early voting for the Primary Elections will take place from Tuesday, February 20 to Friday, March 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sunday, February 25, from noon to 7 p.m. Vote centers will be open on Election Day, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**V i s i t** [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) for additional information or to review a sample ballot. For news and updates, voters may follow the County Clerk’s Office on social media at [@HarrisVotes](https://twitter.com/HarrisVotes).

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

February 23, 2024 | 23 de Febrero  
5PM - 7PM

Join the celebration of Black History Month at BakerRipley East Aldine Campus! Take part in Zydeco dance lessons, crafts, and savor some Cajun food from a local food truck.

¡Únase a la celebración del Mes de la Historia Afroamericana en BakerRipley East Aldine Campus! Participe en lecciones de baile y manualidades de Zydeco y saboree la comida cajún de un camión de comida local.

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### CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS 2024

(FOROS DE CIUDADANIA 2024)

<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 27</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 901 ROSELANE ST. HOUSTON, TX. 77037	<b>SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 16526 ELLA BLVD. HOUSTON, TX. 77090	<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>LONE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER</b> 2430 ALDINE MAIL RTE RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77039
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>LA PROMESA SCHOOL</b> 11101 ALDINE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77037	<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 2</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 3320 CYPRESS CREEK PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX. 77068	<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 20</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>LONE STAR COLLEGE KINGWOOD CENTER</b> 20000 KINGWOOD DR. KINGWOOD, TX. 77338
<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 25</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00 PM  <b>LONE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH</b> 250 N. SAN HOUSTON PARKWAY E. HOUSTON, TX. 77060	<b>SATURDAY, MAY 4</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77022	<b>SATURDAY, MAY 18</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 2131 LAUDER RD. HOUSTON, TX. 77039
<b>SATURDAY, MAY 25</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 19222 TOMBALL PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX. 77070	<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 1</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 18511 KLEIN CHURCH RD. SPRING, TX. 77379	<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 15</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 7810 CYPRESSWOOD DR. SPRING, TX. 77379
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 22</b> REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM  <b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 5356 11 <sup>TH</sup> ST. KATY, TX. 77493		

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 1 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was a god of the Philistines that had a man's face and hands, but the body and tail of a fish? Bullock, Elohim, Dagon, Baal-gad
3. Who slew a giant that had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot when he defied Israel? Sibbechai, Cyrus, Silas, Jonathan

4. From Proverbs 22, what is a good name better than? Great riches, Scorn, Its own reward, Lust
5. What town was home to Jesse's boys? Gilgal, Jericho, Hebron, Bethlehem
6. On which day of creation did dry ground appear? Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Dagon, 3) Jonathan, 4) Great riches, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Third  
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

— MATTHEW 6:34 —

"Self-Portrait With Hand On Brow" by Kathe Kolbitz (1910)

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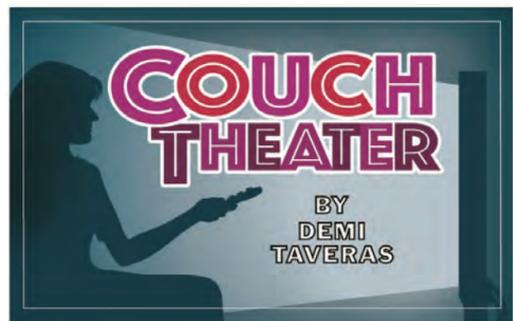
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JUSTIN HARTLEY STARS IN "TRACKER."

"Tracker"

"TRACKER" (TV-14) — Justin Hartley ("This Is Us") leads this new CBS action-drama series based on the novel "The Never Game" by Jeffery Deaver. Hartley plays — cue the burliest name you can think of — Colter Shaw, a "lone-wolf survivalist" with excellent tracking skills. Colter travels around the country to help citizens and law enforcement solve the mind-boggling mysteries and tragedies that have affected their town. In the first episode, Colter heads to Klamath Falls, Oregon, to dig deeper into the disappearance of a 14-year-old boy. Hartley also serves as an executive producer for the series, so here's hoping this network show will be gripping enough to pull in viewers and get picked up for another season. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent ep-

isodes premiering every Sunday. (Paramount+)

"FERRARI" (R) — From director Michael Mann ("Collateral"), this biopic follows Enzo Ferrari, owner of the car manufacturer Ferrari, during the summer of 1957 as the racing division of his company prepares for the Mille Miglia race. Portrayed by Adam Driver ("House of Gucci"), Enzo is in a state of chaos due to his company facing extreme financial losses and his deteriorating relationship with his wife, Laura (Penelope Cruz). On top of this, kept hidden away from his wife in the countryside of Modena, Italy, is Enzo's son, Piero, with mistress Lina (Shailene Woodley), who longs to be a true family. But even with the pressure rising from all aspects of his life, Enzo is determined to

keep his company out of hot water and pull off the win at the Mille Miglia. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"THE GREATEST NIGHT IN POP" (PG-13) — This documentary film casts a spotlight on a magical evening in 1985 when some of the most famous musicians in the world at the time were brought together to record a memorable pop anthem called "We Are the World." With incredible insider footage of the night, viewers feel like flies on the wall watching legends like Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Cyndi Lauper and Bob Dylan attempt to find their footing amid an elite group of their peers. The footage is interspersed with new interviews featuring some of the musicians as they recount the long hours they put in that night and how beautifully the song came together in the end. Out now! (Netflix)

"CONSTELLATION" (TV-MA) — This psychological-thriller series centers on Jo (Noomi Rapace), an astronaut who barely survives a mission gone wrong in space. Upon returning to Earth, Jo starts to notice some eerie differences in her life back home, like a piano suddenly placed in her living room even though she doesn't play. She also experiences intense hallucinations, and as time goes on, her relationship with her daughter becomes estranged. Despite getting therapy and speaking with other astronauts about her situation, Jo inches closer to the brink of madness and is left to wonder if this terrifying phenomenon will ever cease. The first two episodes premiere on Feb. 21. (Apple TV+) (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: I remember when singer Usher used to be on the soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful." Has he done any acting since? — S.L.

A: Born Usher Raymond IV, superstar Usher was born in Dallas and sang in the church choir that was directed by his mother. The family later moved to Atlanta and then Los Angeles, where Usher released his first album in 1994 at the age of 16 and also hit it big with his second album, "My Way," in 1997. He flexed his talents even more by branching out into acting — first in the sitcom "The Parent 'Hood" on The WB network, then in recurring roles on "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "Moesha."

More recently, he's just played himself in several TV shows like "Dave" and The Lonely Island movie "Popstar." However, being selected to headline the Super Bowl halftime show is a high honor for a recording artist, so I doubt he has any regrets about not having a hit acting career. He also just released his ninth album, "Coming Home," so perhaps he'll be adding his ninth Grammy to his mantle during the next award season.

Q: When is "Young Sheldon" coming back with new episodes? Is it true that this will be the final season? — A.M.

A: By the time you're reading this, you might have noticed that "Young Sheldon" returned to CBS with all new episodes on Feb. 15. Delayed by the writers' and actors' strikes, the seventh and final season will only consist of 14 episodes, with its hour-long series finale airing on May 16. It was inevitable that the show would end, since the title character was getting closer to the age of his future self in "The Big Bang Theory," the hit sitcom that preceded "Young Sheldon."

However, there is a bit of good news on the horizon. According to The Hollywood Reporter, CBS is "reteaming with exec producers Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland and Steve Molaro to develop a spinoff of their prequel series 'Young Sheldon.'" Although nothing official has been announced, word is that the new show will focus on Sheldon's brother, Georgie (Montana Jordan), and his fiancée, Mandy (Emily Osment).



Musician Usher

It will debut as early as the 2024-25 television season. Hopefully, Iain Armitage will pop in occasionally as Sheldon.

Q: Is it true that Jon Bon Jovi lost his voice? Will he still be able to sing? — I.S.

A: Singer Jon Bon Jovi is recovering from surgery to mend a vocal cord injury, but his career is far from over. According to Entertainment Weekly, the lead singer of the popular rock band Bon Jovi had undergone surgery 19 months ago with a specialist in Philadelphia who used a plastic implant to fix an atrophied vocal cord.

While promoting "Thank You, Goodnight: The Bon Jovi Story," an upcoming docuseries on Hulu about him and his bandmates, Bon Jovi said that their new record has been completed and that he recently performed live for the first time since his surgery. He's also about to become Millie Bobby Brown's ("Stranger Things") father-in-law, as his son, Jake, proposed to the actress last year.

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 indicators.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a man in a room and a list of differences.

February 19, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes a list of 10 trivia questions and answers.

King Crossword — Answers Solution time: 22 mins. © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

✉ UPDATES FROM ✉

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EAST ALDINE TOWN CENTER  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

### “Know Your Rights” Event in House District 140

In light of the impending implementation of Senate Bill 4 — which authorizes any peace officer to engage in federal immigration enforcement — Rep. Walle’s office is partnering with ACLU TX and F.I.E.L. to host a “Know Your Rights” presentation next week to help inform and prepare community members for the impacts of this new law. This will be an in-person only event.

“Know Your Rights” Presentation

Thursday, February 22nd

6:00 - 8:00 PM

East Aldine Town Center

2909 E. Aldine Amphitheatre Drive

Houston, TX 77039

Please fill out this form to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/QmQZE1cXPNeJ26m88>.

### 2024 Primary Elections

Early voting for the 2024 Primary Elections begins on Tuesday, Feb. 20th. For information on voting locations and what’s on the ballot, visit [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

**Early Voting:** Feb. 20 - Mar. 1

**Mail Ballot App. Deadline:** Feb. 23

**Election Day:** Mar. 5



## IN THE DISTRICT

### Rep. Walle Visits Lake Houston Wilderness Park

This month, the City of Houston invited Rep. Walle to tour Lake Houston Wilderness Park and learn about the amenities offered on the 5,000 acre property. Rep. Walle is working with the Houston Parks Department and the East Aldine Management District to make improvements to Keith Weiss Park in House District 140.



## IN THE NEWS

### How flood mitigation projects are finally reaching some neighborhoods in Aldine

(Rep.) Armando Walle is the state representative for the Aldine area in the Texas House. He credits recent work with both the Commissioner’s Court and the Texas Water Development Board that changed how funding was allocated in Harris County. This is because what the government used to allocate funding for flood mitigation, known offhand as the cost-benefit ratio analysis, unequally distributed funds to more affluent neighborhoods.

“The zip code you live in shouldn’t dictate where the dollars are being spent,” Walle said. “Our people deserve just as much protection as other communities, and I’m not saying that other communities don’t deserve it as well. We just felt over the years, we’ve been left out.”

## Lone Star College Honors College graduate ‘dreams big’ at Rice University

HARRIS COUNTY – The Honors College at Lone Star College offers students like Alejandra Rodriguez a rigorous academic experience that prepares them to attend top four-year institutions. Rodriguez currently attends Rice University.

“I credit the Lone Star College Honors College with developing my academic and research skills that are instrumental in my educational and professional success,” said Rodriguez. “The Honors College is a tight-knit group that has deepened my desire to help others and give back to the community.”

Rodriguez, who grew up in Colombia and immigrated to the United States when she was 14, was raised in a family that valued higher education. She took her first step toward college when she applied for the LSC Honors College as a senior at The Woodlands High School. Rodriguez was accepted through the LSC Chancellor’s Fellow Scholarship, which offered full tuition and stipends.

“I chose Lone Star College and the Honors College because I wanted to be challenged academically and stay close to my family,” she said. “I also wanted to participate in high-level research projects and develop a sense of community, which, thanks to the Honors College, led to my acceptance into Rice University.”

Rodriguez used her newfound skills in re-



Alejandra Rodriguez credits her experience with The Honors College at Lone Star College for her success at Rice University.

search, mentoring and cultural competency to analyze and present findings on numerous topics like medical treatments for postpartum depression and legislation for undocumented students at LSC Undergraduate Research Days. She also took part in a month-long, virtual (due to COVID) international internship through the Study Abroad Association. Rodriguez worked with an engineering company in Spain to explore sustainable ways to extract different types of sweeteners and used the research to create a business model.

“Along with developing academic and research skills, the Honors College at Lone Star College taught me the importance of community, giving back and serving as mentors and support for my classmates,” Rodriguez said. “The Honors College wanted to see me succeed and they motivated me to pursue higher things, dream bigger and explore more.”

The LSC Honors College offers applicants from various backgrounds an opportunity to take their college education to the next level. Students travel and participate in educational and cultural events, service learning projects, conferences and special seminars.

“The Honors College at Lone Star College offers innovative and quality programming that sets high-achieving students up for success to compete globally,” said Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., LSC Associate Vice Chancellor Honors and International Education.

As for Rodriguez, she is a research assistant through the Humanities Research Center Undergraduate Summer Fellowship at Rice University for a professor studying non-binary ideas in theater and Spanish literature. She will graduate from Rice in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science with a concentration in psychology and a minor in Spanish and Portuguese studies. Rodriguez plans to become a psychologist and later earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.

“There is a huge need for mental health right now, especially in the Hispanic community,” she said. “There are not that many therapists who speak Spanish, so I hope to fill in that gap.”

You can read more about Rodriguez’s experience at [LoneStar.edu/News/68288.htm](http://LoneStar.edu/News/68288.htm).

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