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NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 9 TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT District workshop looks to the Future

Wizard Fest March 9th

East Aldine District is hosting a WIZARD FESTIVAL on Saturday, March 9th from 1pm to 4pm at the Amphitheatre next to the East Aldine Building. This family-friendly event features Hogwart's Costume Contest, Crafts, Raffles, Prizes, Lawn Chess, Snakes & Reptiles, a Carousel (Merry-go-round) and a Scavenger Hunt. Also, featuring Professional Quidditch (Flying Broomstick Game). Everyone welcome for this free event. Come early to House Sort and register for Harry Potter Theater & Dance Classes.

Catalytic Converter Anti-Theft Event

Thieves love catalytic converters because they're easy to rip off cars. Call to schedule your FREE theft prevention install and ensure you don't get taken for a very expensive ride. FREE Painting & Etching on your converter. Wednesday, March 20th from 1pm to 5pm at the Walmart Service Bay, 9235 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E., Humble, TX. Call 713-595-1215 for your Appointment. ID and proof of East Aldine residency required.

Creation of TIRZ for East Aldine will fund additional projects

Board members and East Aldine staff participated in a day-long workshop last Friday, assessing the year's accomplishments and setting out plans for the next year. The district will have income totalling over \$15 million dollars, according to projections, and the workshop and subsequent budget workshop made plans for projects using the funds.

Consultant David Hawes informed the board that a new Aldine TIRZ#1 had been formed, to bring new revenue and mechanisms for additional projects in the district. TIRZ revenue is the incre-



East Aldine District Board members met last Friday, February 23 for an all-day workshop to discuss ideas for the future of the East Aldine District. ABOVE, board chair Carlos Silva outlines his ideas for future initiatives.

ment the county receives above current assessments, not an additional tax stream, he said.

The board heard from staff members about ac-

complishments to date. Scott Bean said the district had established 1400 new water and sewer connections, and finished about \$50 million in water and

sewer work.

In economic development, Lance Dean reported participation in our grant programs for business improvements and

demolition grants. He is pursuing new wholesale and retail businesses, including a major grocery store for the area.

Monaca Campos reported on continuing plans for marketing the District to the public, and to residents. The Shop Local program now has 200 participants.

Executive Director Richard Cantu reported on 59 new street signs, and 305 new LED streetlights. He also said that road projects are progressing, including extension of JFK, and W. Gulf Bank through Keith-Weiss Park.

Victor Besara reported that the Deputy contingent now stood at 21, and eventually we will add more to reach 25. The board has authorized more Flock li- Continued. See EAST ALDINE PLANNING WORKSHOP, Page 2

Chairman Silva's VISION for East Aldine

At the East Aldine Board Retreat, Chairman Carlos Silva presented a series of initiatives as his vision for the future of the District. The list is as follows:

- Cleaner, greener, safer cultural district
- Increase Sheriff's Contract deputies by 30% to 50% in next 5 years
- Become a beacon of opportunity, hardwork, and self-expression
- Become a Tourist destination and "Doorway to Houston"
- An arts powerhouse with both Visual and Performing arts center

- Network of art trails on our bayous
- Expansion of Town Center to Aldine-Westfield
- A nationally/internationally recognized Art Park at Keith-Weiss Park
- Have a collection of David Adickes heads in Keith-Weiss Park near Rec Center/Town Center.
- Add wayfinding signs to the District, tie in APP/QR codes with Visitor Center
- East Aldine Museum
- A list of all restaurants by category and review with a "food critic"
- Developing low cost/

- rent free boutique shops and studios as incubators for young business people
- Host the largest Dia de los Muertos parade and festival in the city
- Have a trail of lights type show at Christmas
- July 4th Holiday fireworks
- Have a Plaza Aldine at Town Center with shops, boutiques, food carts, grocery anchor
- More single family houses built
- Amenities such as frozen yogurt, small cinema, international brand taqueria, arcade

- More streetlights in neighborhoods and streets
- Walkway over Aldine Mail Route to MacArthur High School
- Build out South side of East Aldine or Central East Aldine with Farmers Market and small center and/or repository of resources
- Aldine-Westfield expansion
- Guinness Book of World record title holder for something in the District
- Scholarship grant for every graduate as "seed" money for their future
- Continued growth

- with the TIRZ to keep adding water/sewer infrastructure
- Network of art throughout the District that connects us as a people and also reflects our pride which in turn connects us with our visitors
- The East Aldine District is also interested in the public's thoughts and ideas on the future needs and goals within the District. You may forward your suggestions and comments to Carlos at csilva@aldinedistrict.org.

President's Day celebrated at JFK Statue

Commemorating President's Day

"Bonding Against Adversity celebrates it for the 2nd consecutive year"

As part of its "Beyond Citizenship" program, Bonding Against Adversity celebrated President's Day.

"Beyond Citizenship" program helps new citizens to get involved in civic and other community events after they become US citizens such as civic engagement round tables where they can learn about voter's registration and the process of elections in the USA. The main purpose is to keep these new citizens active and help them understand a democratic system different from their country.

For more information on all programs, you may visit www.baatexas.org



East Aldine Management District Chairman Carlos Silva talks to attendees at the ceremony on JFK Boulevard at the David Adickes sculpture of President John F. Kennedy. Photo by Sal Esparza

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE TWO
 STORY BY JULIETA PAITA



MacArthur student Alan Alvarez saying a speech during President's Day commemoration in Aldine. Students Jacquelyn Lozoya and Joscelin Lozoya also participated with a poem. Photo by Sal Esparza



Bonding Against Adversity Chief Operation Officer Mariana Sanchez directs some words to the audience. Photo by Sal Esparza

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Presidents' Day in East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Jazz music by Victor Raymond. Photo by Julieta Paita



Family members display their American flags.. Photos bueno Irma Rodriguez.



Some attendees show their patriotism. Photos bueno Irma Rodriguez.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Two dead in I-45 North wrong-way crash

Two people died in a crash involving a wrong-way driver in north Houston on Saturday, according to the Houston Police Department.

Officers were called to Interstate 45 near Tidwell Road at approximately 4:10 a.m. due to the crash.

One vehicle had been traveling north on the southbound lanes and crashed into a second vehicle that had been heading south.

A black sedan and an SUV were involved in the crash. Both drivers were pronounced dead at the scene.

All southbound lanes near the crash were also closed for several hours, but they have since been reopened.

Police said they don't suspect the drivers were intoxicated, but this case is still being investigated.

House Fire in The Greater Greenspoint Area

Houston Fire Department reports a house fire on February 17th at 12:58am, in the 14900 block of Nickerson Lane, 77060.

There were no reported injuries. Property saved amounted to \$102,000, but estimated damages were \$80,000. The cause is under investigation, but appears to be accidental.

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find smoke coming from a 1-story house. They entered the home to extinguish the fire and conduct a primary search. The utilities were secured, and the structure was ventilated. A fire was found and extinguished in the attic and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. 33 personnel responded to this incident, including crews from Stations 84, 31, 64, 58, 67, 74 and 34.

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

East Aldine Planning Workshop,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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, Mar. 5, 11-12pm

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

Basic Computer Class
Registration preferred!
*Important- Instructions are in English. Google account is required (Though we can help you make one if you don't have one already)
Class format: In-person, in the computer lab at the Aldine Library.

Aprenda Computers & Job Skills
Sitio web de la clase
Limited space/ Espacio limitado

Pre-registrese 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, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes.

Importante: * Se determinará sus niveles 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.

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

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

Movie Night
Families and friends, join us as we watch this children's movie. It's the year of the Dragon! Take home crafts will be available. Thursday, Mar. 7, 5-6:30pm

Aprenda Computers & Job Skills
Sitio web de la clase
Limited space/ Espacio limitado
Pre-registrese 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 niveles 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

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 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/qSzMSpi-aTL>.

Passport Services
Do have plans to travel out of the country for the holidays? You need to get your passport in order NOW! Current routine processing is estimated at 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

cense plate reader cameras, up to 60, and more Zaladium area scan cameras. He reported that the Explorer group with the Sheriff's Office and the Westfield Fire Department have been successful in engaging our youth.

Alma Dejelandra reported on our successful schedule of special events throughout the year. We will continue many successful programs, including the "unlimited Possibilities" for special needs persons. The next event is a Wizard Festival. During the year, she has planned several events each month for families and residents. In July there will be 4 first-run theater type movies shown at the Amphitheater.

Susan Hill reported on our support of Community

projects including scholarships, grants, and youth programs. She pointed out the importance of the free car seat program, and solicited ideas for more projects.

David Hawes said that the creation of the Aldine TIRZ #1 will provide additional revenue, approximately \$4.5 million over the next 5 years. The TIRZ will be able to issue revenue bonds, leading to more improvements to the District.

Carlos Silva reported that the Arts Council continues to pursue civic art projects, and notes the value it adds in tourism dollars to the District. It also encourages young artists in the area, both in visual and performing arts.

The board also discussed the need for con-

tinuing support for the Westfield Fire Department, who are now manning the second station on Bentley. In the budget, \$150,000 was allocated for this department.

The District plans to acquire some property on Aldine-Westfield for a service yard.

Adding additional residences to the District was discussed, and ways to encourage this. 180 new units are planned now on a site on Aldine-Bender.

The District heard of the success of the Recycling Center, and plans to add a ramp to make disposal easier.

The District will encourage planners to design retention basins for dual use when possible, with walking trails or recreation.

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Wellness on Wheels
Mobile Health Event

Join us for affordable health services plus free entertainment for the whole family!
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Deputy Darren Almandarez
Community Center
10918 Bentley St., Houston, TX 77093

Services:
Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings
Free Vaccinations
Dental Screenings
Fluoride application for children
HIV and STI testing
Lead poisoning testing
Referrals to health services
Health education about health topics, gun violence prevention, chronic disease management, food and water safety

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

CTE Programs Spotlighted at Feb. 20 Board Meeting



Blake Ware, third from right, was introduced as the new Head Football Coach/Campus Athletic Coordinator at MacArthur High School during the Feb. 20 Board of Trustees meeting. He's pictured with members of his family and Executive Director of Athletics Dre Thompson, left.

Chief Transformation Officer Dr. Adrian Bustillos highlighted Aldine ISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program during the Teaching, Leading and Learning program at the Feb. 20 Board meeting. Dr. Bustillos shared with the audience that AISD's CTE Department serves 20,161 students from middle school through high school. The district's CTE programs cultivate a diverse array of talents, from advanced manufacturing to healthcare, from information technology to culinary arts. By offering hands-on, industry-aligned training, the initiatives empower Aldine ISD learners to explore their passions, develop critical thinking abilities and acquire technical proficiencies that are in high demand in the workplace. In addition, CTE bridges the gap between education and employment, fostering a seamless transition for students into meaningful careers or advanced academic pathways. Through partnerships with local industries, educational institutions and community organizations, CTE programs ensure relevance and currency, equipping individuals with the competencies needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. Dr. Bustillos highlighted one of those partnerships between Aldine ISD and Memorial Hermann. At the start of the 2024-25 school year, Aldine ISD and Memorial Hermann will partner on the HEAL program that will train students for careers in the medical field. Bryan Sisk and Donna Beecroft represented Memorial Hermann at the Feb. 20 Board meeting to provide insight on the program. Dr. Bustillos also presented a number of CTE students to the Board and audience. He also thanked

their teachers for their commitment and dedication to their students. CTE teachers and their field of expertise are:

ALDINE HIGH SCHOOL
 Advance Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics – Michael Skinner
 AG – Chad Reese
 AVALOS PTECH HIGH SCHOOL
 Cybersecurity – Louanne Harvey
 BLANSON CTE HIGH SCHOOL
 Hospitality and Tourism – Amie Francis
 Programming and Software Development – Frida Maldonado
 HVAC – Felix Jones
 EMT – Nefetari Alexander
 CARVER HIGH SCHOOL
 Mechnronics – Donald Prier
 Interior Design – Elizabeth Thompson
 DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL
 Cosmetology – Kavellia Goffney
 Fashion – Karen Paxton
 EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL
 Entrepreneurship – Chukuyem Mokobia
 Culinary Arts – Gloria Guest
 HALL SUCCESS ACADEMY
 Construction – Allan Moore
 LA PROMESA
 Education – Maria Zuniga
 NIMITZ HIGH SCHOOL
 Graphic Design and Multimedia Arts – Thao Huynh
 CAD – Taio Young
 Health Science – Andrea Smith
 Automotive – Albert Nicholas
 YWLA
 Engineering – Adolph Morris
 Biomedical Science – Vaishnavi Dusi
 VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
 Business – Stephanie Hall

JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL
 LOTC – MSgt. Ken Lane
 Staff Assignments Announced
 During the Feb. 20 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced two staff assignments.
 Lauren Jones was named Tax/Bankruptcy Attorney after serving as a Collections Attorney at Johnson Mark, LLC.
 Blake Ware was named Head Football Coach and Campus Athletic Coordinator at MacArthur High School after serving as Assistant Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Dayton High School.
 Board Approves Action Items
 During the Feb. 20 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:
 Approved a Board Resolution in support of a Fair and Transparent Accountability System.
 Approved an Affiliation Agreement between Prairie View A&M University and Aldine ISD regarding the Clinical Placement Program from March 1, 2024, through Feb. 28, 2029.
 Approved a Resolution regarding observation of Career and Technical Education Month.
 Approved single contracts and purchases of \$100,000 and greater.
 Approved the monthly Tax Office refunds.
 Prior to the start of the Feb. 20 Board meeting, students from Raymond Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. The colors were presented by the Jones LOTC Color Guard. The March Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

Aldine ISD Names 2024 District Teacher of the Year Finalists



The two top recipients — an Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year — will be announced on March 8.

After each school — 83 schools — selected their Campus Teacher of the Year, the pool of 83 was narrowed down to six finalists. Each finalist has been interviewed by the Teacher of the Year selection Committee, which will select the two top teachers. The Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year. They will represent Aldine ISD as the 2024 Aldine ISD Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year.

The district Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year will be announced during the annual Educators of the Year Breakfast on March 8, representing Aldine ISD in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year program.

Congratulations to the Top 6 Teacher of the Year Finalists!

Elementary Finalists

Carmichael Elementary School — Amanda Lee, Small Learning Community (SLC) Grades 1-3

“My journey to becoming a teacher began when I was 12, helping a neighbor with her 17-year-old son, Miles. He suffered from cerebral palsy and used a wheelchair. From the outside, Miles seemed low functioning, but the more time I spent with him, the more I realized that was not the case. As the story goes, the rest is history. Today, I teach in a SLC classroom, where I can teach my students for multiple years. One of my proudest moments regards one of my first students. This student came to me mid-year after being in general education. When he joined my classroom, he had no academic foundations and would often fight and scream when asked to complete any work. If you were to look into my classroom now, you would be unable to pick out which student he is. He is an entirely different child now. He speaks in complete sentences; he knows all his letters and is currently working on reading. When I need something, he is my go-to ‘teacher’s helper.’ Being able to give this student structure and believing that he could grow allowed him to absolutely flourish. My greatest accomplishment is looking at where he started and where he is now and knowing that I was the guiding force behind his change.”

— Amanda Lee

Impact Leadership Academy, Wilhemina McCraw, Grade 3 English Language Arts/Social Studies

“I took the long route, so to speak, to be a teacher. My biggest inspiration was another teacher, Mrs. Forest, who was there when I needed someone in my corner; she loved me like a daughter. I think of her often and credit her for saving me. I’ve been recognized for getting results and closing gaps, but what is more critical to getting those results is connecting with my students. From small things like a unique handshake to greet each student to talking about feelings and offering quiet places in the classroom. It is also essential to make students realize what could be in the future and that learning can be fun. While learning the human body, we went all in. From applying to medical schools (with medical school acceptance letters — students screamed with joy to the matches), badges as “doctors in training” to white coats, it paved the way for students the entire lesson. My young

‘doctors’ even “read like professors. I had parents call to thank me for speaking life into their child and one grandmother who went ‘viral’ for posting her grandson’s doctor badge on Facebook. We never got out of character, and it was one of our most successful units and one of the best memories I have in my life.”

— Wilhemina McCraw

Johnson Elementary School — Beverly Berryman, Grade 4 Special Education Inclusion – All Subjects

“I have had the privilege of working with diverse groups of children, each with their unique challenges and aspirations. I believe in the potential of every child and the importance of providing them with the support and encouragement they need to thrive. Reflecting on my past and the obstacles I have overcome, I am reminded of the significance of resilience and determination. I have a deep empathy and understanding, which has fueled my commitment to empowering and uplifting children facing similar struggles. My journey from a challenging upbringing to a fulfilling career has underscored the transformative power of perseverance and the profound impact one can have on others. I love encouraging students to express their creativity through writing, fostering a deeper understanding of their lives and world, and empowering them to find their voices and share their stories. It includes ensuring that education transcends the classroom to foster well-rounded and engaged students. Additionally, by involving parents in social-emotional learning activities, we aimed to create a supportive environment for students and their families, fostering emotional well-being and effective communication within the community. I am grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to pursue my calling and make a positive difference in the lives of children.”

— Beverly Berryman

Secondary Finalists

Davis High School — Leticia Vargas, Grades 9-12, Spanish 1, Spanish for Spanish Speaker 3 & 4, Spanish 4 AP

“Growing up, my family and I endured some struggles, but my biggest supporters were my family, especially my mom. One of the biggest influences on my life was my high school teacher, Mr. Reed. With his guidance and words of wisdom, I probably would have given up on attending school. I want to do the same for students going through similar hardships, and I know firsthand how important it is to build a rapport with students beyond the classroom. Being involved and supportive like Mr. Reed made me feel seen and cared for. Several of our students need similar supporting role models that believe in and encourage them to excel. I always tell my students they will always be my kids, and I will always care and believe in them. My greatest accomplishment has been helping my students further their education at a four-year institution or trade school — several continue to keep in touch. One of my former students returned to Davis this year as a Spanish teacher. It’s an amazing feeling to have inspired a student. I feel honored to mentor her and contribute to helping her flourish now as a first-year teacher and educator. My heart fills with joy knowing that I inspired her to teach the way Mr. Reed one day inspired me.”

— Leticia Vargas

Eisenhower High School — Óscar Medina, Visual Arts Photography

“Education and the arts are integral to my family’s legacy, with several uncles who are respected, esteemed retired educators in Mexico. As a passionate art educator, I must nurture talented students, ensuring they surpass me and achieve heights I may not have reached, fostering their growth and maturity. Reflecting on my time as a student at Aldine ISD, art consistently emerged as my favorite subject. Former teachers and leaders like Mary (Taylor) DeChambres, Ron Venable, and Michaelann Kelley played a pivotal role in my life. Their guidance and the collaborative environment within the Fine Arts Department deepened my passion for the visual arts and forged enduring relationships with fellow students. Witnessing their transformative impact inside and outside the classroom serves to this day as a guiding principle. I aspire to emulate their example, instilling confidence and expressive creativity in all my students. Beyond imparting artistic skills to my students, I want to create an educational journey characterized by inspiration and personal growth. Creating an empathetic, positive environment where every student’s voice is valued reinforces the belief that small acts of kindness can wield significant influence. Each student in my classroom carries a unique narrative, facing challenges linked to social status, gender, or cultural background. Despite these obstacles, they demonstrate resilience, surmounting hurdles to achieve success.”

— Óscar Medina

Victory Early College High School — Sokhna Kabore, Algebra 1 Grade 9, Algebra 2 Grades 9, 10, and 11, Geometry Grades 10 and 11

“I arrived at teaching when I had my ‘aha’ moment in college — I discovered a deep joy in tutoring my peers while pursuing petroleum engineering. I shifted from engineering to education because I wanted to directly impact individuals’ lives. Seeing the transformative power of education firsthand, I realized that my true passion lies in guiding and empowering others to reach their full potential. My most significant accomplishment in my teaching journey is fostering a love for learning. These moments have been gratifying, whether creating engaging lesson plans tailored to diverse learning styles, mentoring students beyond academics, or instilling confidence in those who doubted their abilities. Knowing that I’ve played a part in someone’s educational journey and helped them discover their strengths is incredibly fulfilling. I don’t just impart knowledge but also ignite curiosity and critical thinking. Drawing from my diverse background — I grew up in Senegal, West Africa — I strive to create a classroom atmosphere that celebrates different perspectives and encourages students to embrace their uniqueness while understanding the importance of teamwork and collaboration. I am a teacher because I believe in the transformative power of education. I am driven by a desire to inspire and empower future generations to reach their full potential.”

— Sokhna Kabore

Aldine ISD Announces Black History Month Oratory Winners

Students from Aldine ISD, grades 3-12, delivered outstanding speeches during the district’s 4th annual Black History Oratory Competition. This event gathered some of the most skilled speakers to demonstrate their abilities and honor the enduring spirit of African Americans throughout history, reflecting through art as a powerful reminder that Black history is not just a series of events, but a vibrant, ongoing story that is constantly being told and retold.

The competition was intense, with each contestant presenting a compelling speech that illuminated both the challenges and the triumphs experienced by African Americans. Despite the fierce competition, only a select few emerged as winners.

After determining winners at the campus level, district judges identified first, second, and third place winners from each grade category. These winners will be awarded trophies and celebrated at the March School Board meeting.

The winners are:
 Elementary School Category



1st Madison Pete – Houston Academy (pictured bottom left)
 2nd Daniel Asoro – Anderson Academy
 3rd Madison Proshee –

Stehlik Elementary Middle School Category

1st Kennedy Ceasar – YWLA (pictured bottom middle)

2nd Annie Washington – Grantham Academy

3rd Valentina DeLeon – Garcia Middle School

High School Category

1st Ashari Nelms – Hall Success Academy (pictured bottom right)

2nd Brenda Brooks – Victory EC

3rd Sade Jackson – Nimitz 9th

The 4th iteration of the Black History Oratory Competition underscored the resilience and fortitude of the African American community. Through their eloquence and fervor, participants demonstrated that the legacy of African Americans will continue to inspire future generations.

“Congratulations to all the school oratory winners during Black History Month,” said LaTashia Abrams, Aldine ISD FACE Director. “Your eloquence, passion and dedication in celebrating the rich tapestry of Black history, inspires us to embrace diversity, amplify voices and strive for a more inclusive future.”

OPINION PAGE

COUNTY MATTERS
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Happy Rodeo Season, Harris County



the Joker 360 with Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and Rodeo Chairman Pat Mann Phillips, pictured above

Happy rodeo season, Harris County! We've officially kicked off the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, which is our community's biggest event of the year.

In recognition of the special relationship between Harris County and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, I was so excited to kick off a new tradition for rodeo season, which is something we're going to do every year starting this year.

The rodeo and the County have always had such a strong partnership. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a co-tenant in the 1.9 million-square-foot NRG Stadium, the largest and most expensive rodeo and football facility ever built.

All of us know that the rodeo is special, but it's been such a fixture of living in our community that I think sometimes we forget just how special it is.

Have a fun and safe rodeo season, Harris County!
Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo

COUNTY NEWS
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Delivering Valentine's meals in Harris County

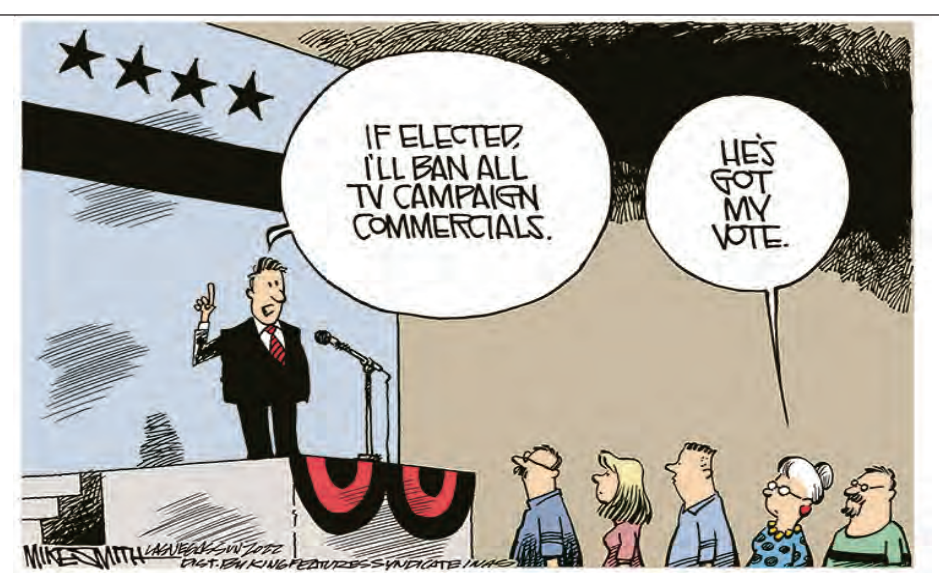


Judge Hidalgo Shows Love to Harris County on Valentine's Day by Delivering Meals to Seniors and Pets in Need

Judge Lina Hidalgo showed love to the Harris County community by delivering meals to homebound seniors and their pets this Valentine's Day through Interfaith Ministries' Meals on Wheels program.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to continue their important mission of feeding some of the most vulnerable in the Harris County community. To learn more or sign up to volunteer for Meals on Wheels, please visit www.imgh.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Early Voting Ends Friday

Early voting in the March 5 primary election ends Friday with a host of candidates on the ballot in both parties, including president, U.S. Senate, all 38 Texas U.S. representatives, all 150 Texas House representatives, and down to local races for district attorney, sheriff and other positions.

Check with your local elections office for more information or go to votetexas.gov.

A record number of Texans are registered to vote ahead of the primary election, according to Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson. More than 17.9 million people are registered to vote in Texas, which is one million more than were registered ahead of the March 2020 primaries.

The increase is being attributed to population growth and does not necessarily mean a higher voter turnout. Brandon Rottinghaus, a University of Houston political science professor, said most people "register to vote out of reflex," the San Antonio Express-News reported.

"Just because a person's registered doesn't mean they're going to vote," Rottinghaus said. "They may be registered for all kinds of reasons that are dissociated from their desire to actually go vote."

IT MAY BE TIME TO SAY ADIOS TO EL NIÑO

El Niño, the weather pattern that has brought wetter and cooler weather to the state over the past several months, appears to be weakening, giving its counterpart, La Niña, a 55% chance of returning soon, according to the Houston Chronicle. The result could be a drier, hotter summer, if February's weather is any indication.

All across the state, temperatures in February are the warmest they have been since 2017, the Express-News reported. That might mean the state will have a hotter summer than usual, but not necessarily, according to meteorologists. Out of the past 25 years with a warm February, above-average temperatures were recorded in 18 of the following summers.

Meteorologist Anthony Franze says the state probably will not experience record temperatures like Texans endured last summer, but it isn't likely we will get a break this summer from intense heat.



WILDFIRE SEASON JUST AROUND THE BEND

The Texas A&M Forest Service on Friday responded to seven new requests for assistance on wildfires, with last week being the warmest and driest of the dormant winter season. However, as of Sunday there were no active wildfires burning as the spring wildfire season approaches.

East Texas is experiencing some of the most significant drying as it has already been more than 10 days since the last significant rainfall, the forest service said. The highest danger for wildfires is in South Texas and along the I-35 corridor. Red flag warnings are in effect for Rocksprings, Del Rio and Eagle Pass, as well as counties along the Rio Grande. Burn bans are in place for 60 of the state's 254 counties.

A dry cold front swept across the state late last week, bringing temperatures down but also providing high, gusty winds and dry air. South, Central and far West Texas remain in severe or extreme drought, according to the National Weather Service.

STATE HAS SPENT \$148 MILLION BUSING MIGRANTS

Texas has spent \$148 million since April 2022 busing migrants to other states, according to kut.org. As of Jan. 24, more than 102,000 migrants have been transported to New York, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

"It certainly is a great deal of money to be spent," Ray Perryman, the president of the Waco-based economic research company The Perryman Group, said.

The busing program is part of Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star border security initiative, which thus far has cost the state \$10 billion – more than the operating budgets of Delaware and Vermont, according to the report.

Abbott has said he intends to keep busing migrants to other states.

TEXAS OPTS OUT OF SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The state has opted not to participate in a federal program to help low-income parents buy groceries for their children in the summer, when free school meals are unavailable, the Texas Tribune reported.

Qualifying families would have received \$120 per child through a pre-loaded card, with the state receiving \$450 million in federal tax dollars for 3.8 million children eligible for the program.

The reason for not participating is a lack of time to coordinate and direct distribution of the preloaded cards, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Texas is one of 15 states not participating in the program, which was announced in late December.

NATURAL GAS PRICES ARE PLUNGING

Natural gas prices have fallen more than 50% since January, reaching their lowest levels since mid-2020 during the height of the pandemic, the Texas Standard reported. Matt Smith, an energy analyst for Kpler, said a combination of factors have resulted in much lower prices for natural gas, including weaker demand because of warmer weather, resulting in higher supplies.

Natural gas storage levels are 11% above last year and about 16% above the five-year average, Smith said. Another factor is oil production in the Permian Basin that produces an abundance of natural gas as a byproduct.

"As long as [natural gas prices are] above zero, then they're making money on it," he said.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS AFFECTS 14,510 TEXANS

President Joe Biden's latest round of student loan forgiveness includes 14,510 Texans, according to The Dallas Morning News. That wipes out almost \$117 million in debt under the SAVE plan, which is intended to make it easier to repay student loans while offering debt forgiveness for longtime borrowers.

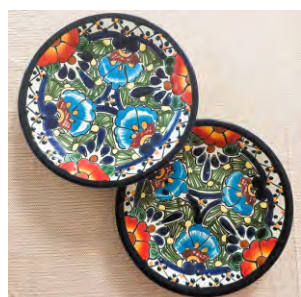
"The SAVE plan reflects our unapologetic commitment to deliver as much relief as possible to as many borrowers as possible as quickly as possible," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said.

Borrowers who didn't receive an email can log into student.aid.gov to check their loan status.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

A Borrowed Plate



My husband, Peter, and I were surprised that two plates were missing.

We stay in our little apartment in Mexico and, while we're gone, all our dishes and glasses remain in the cupboards. We pack away most of our spices, but we leave the vegetable steamer and the pressure cooker and all the art on the walls. We leave it all in the apartment which, we assume, is rented out to other people while we are gone, although it is hard to know for sure because everything is always right where we left it. But this time, two plates were missing. And I knew where they were.

Shortly before we left last year, a few weeks before Christmas, our wonderful landlord Jorge was chatting well into the evening with a woman about his age at a table in the courtyard. The woman looked a lot like him, and the way they were talking and laughing together led me to believe this was probably one of Jorge's 12 siblings. "Would you like a piece of cake?" I asked them on the way to my apartment. I had just bought a cake, a chocolate one. (If it sounds as if I do nothing but eat cake and donuts and apple empanadas in Mexico, that would not be far from the truth.)

"Oh, no!" Jorge said, smiling. "I don't need any cake." But I could tell he wanted some.

"Oh, yes!" the woman, who was probably his sister, said. "I would love a piece of cake!"

So I brought two pieces of cake down on two small hand-painted plates I had bought at the market. A few days later, we returned to the U.S. for Christmas, and when we came back this winter, the two little plates were still missing.

I should note that this did not bother me at all. We still had two small plates, and Peter thought those plates were too small for cake anyway. He bought four more that were just as pretty and a little bigger, and that was the last I thought about our plates. Until last night.

Last night, Jorge knocked on our apartment door.

We are on the third story and Jorge is usually behind the front desk, or supervising the small kitchen downstairs, or spending a night in the little apartment on the ground floor, waiting for late arriving guests. But there he was at our door, holding our two plates.

"We have a tradition in Mexico," he told us, in English. "When you are given a plate with food, you must return it with a gift. This is what we do with our family and our friends."

On the plates were what appeared to be two enormous biscuits.

"These are... I'm not sure what the word is in English," he confessed. "But they are the best."

Jorge handed us the two plates. We thanked him, and he left. Then we immediately put honey on the large, tasty whole wheat biscuits and ate them up. Jorge was right. They were the best ever.

As I washed up our two missing plates, I thought what a wonderful idea it was to return a borrowed plate with a gift. And I thought of what an honor it was to be considered Jorge's friend. And I decided I needed to loan out more plates in the future—plates filled with whatever I have to offer, whatever I can give—knowing that, one way or another, the borrowed plate will be returned in some fashion, filled with something better than I could ever imagine.

Till next time,
Carrie

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email: nenewsroom@aol.com
website: www.nenewsroom.com

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SPANISH PAGE

57 educadores del distrito nombrados Maestros Sobresalientes del Año 2024 de HAABSE; Stewart Nombrado Director del Año

La Alianza de Educadores de Escuelas Negras del Área de Houston (HAABSE), por sus siglas en inglés) celebró recientemente su 37ª Ceremonia Anual de Premios y Reconocimiento a Maestros Sobresalientes el 8 de febrero de 2024.

La Ceremonia de Premios y Reconocimiento al Maestro Sobresaliente celebra a los maestros de Houston que continúan haciendo todo lo posible para servir a sus estudiantes y a la comunidad del campus. Los nominados de cada escuela participante serán reconocidos y honrados durante el evento.

Cada año, el Comité del Maestro del Año de la HAABSE examina las candidaturas y entrevista a los candidatos propuestos por los directores de sus centros escolares. Los finalistas del Profesor del Año de HAABSE serán seleccionados una vez que se reciban todas las solicitudes.

Director del Año de HAABSE

Dr. Cedric Stewart
El Dr. Cedric Stewart fue nombrado Director del Año de HAABSE 2024 y es el Director de Secundaria del Año 2024 de Aldine ISD. Stewart se ha desempeñado como director de Houston Academy desde 2020. Antes de unirse a Houston Academy, Stewart se desempeñó como subdirector en Hoffmann Middle School, cargo que ocupó desde 2018.

Veterano de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, Stewart tiene más de 30 años de experiencia en educación. Stewart comenzó su carrera como profesor en 1992 en Welch



Dr. Cedric Stewart

Middle School en Houston ISD como profesor de educación especial. Tres años más tarde, Stewart pasó a Aldine ISD. Durante más de 25 años, Stewart ha ocupado varios puestos en AISD, incluyendo maestro, especialista en intervención conductual, especialista en intervención receptiva y especialista en evaluación de datos en Reed Academy.

En diciembre de 2023, la Alianza Nacional de Educadores de Escuelas Negras (NABSE, por sus siglas en inglés) nombró a Houston Academy Escuela Nacional de Demostración. La opción de Escuela Magnet Choice STEAM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Arte y Matemáticas) para los estudiantes de Aldine ISD ha ganado numerosos honores de Magnet Schools of America, incluidos los Premios a la Escuela de Distinción (2006, 2009 y 2015) y los Premios a la Escuela de Excelencia (2007 y 2022).

Maestros del Año del Campus de HAABSE

Los siguientes maestros y otros del área de Houston fueron homenajeados en la gala de la organiza-



ción, donde ellos y los ganadores de los premios de toda la ciudad fueron honrados:

- Aldine High School: Craig Stowers
- Aldine Middle School: Marie Santiago
- Aldine Ninth Grade School: Jennifer Christine Everson
- Academia Anderson para Montessori y Bellas Artes: Jasha Ford
- Blanson Career & Technology Education High School: Angel Giddens
- Bussey Elementary School: Lupita Negrete
- Caraway Elementary School: Ashton Wise
- Calvert Elementary School: Valeria Saucedo
- Academia Carter de Artes Escénicas y Visuales: LaShondria Robins
- Conley Elementary School: April Philips
- Davis High School: Leticia Vargas
- De Santiago EC/PK/K School: Emica Fields
- Academia Drew de Matemáticas, Ciencias,

- Tecnología y Bellas Artes: John Waldon
- Escuela Primaria Eckert: Gabriela Evans
- Eisenhower Ninth College Prep: José Muñiz
- Escuela Primaria Ermel: Venetra Sykes
- Escuela Primaria Escamilla: Jessica Jacobo Celis
- Escuela Intermedia García: Gail Jackson
- Escuela Primaria Goodman: Christine Johnson
- López
- Academia Grantham de Ingeniería: Eric King
- Escuela Primaria Greenspoint: Columbia Williams
- Escuela Griggs EC/PK/K: Althea Hart
- Hall Success Academy: Ketsia Hamilton
- Escuela Primaria Hill: Sabrina Goston
- Hinojosa EC/PK/K School: Reagan Burns
- Escuela Intermedia Hoffman: Jonathan Clark
- Academia Houston de Matemáticas, Ciencias y Bellas Artes: Adrienne Black

- Impact Leadership Academy: Katrina Dewes
- Escuela Primaria Johnson: Fatimata Lam
- Escuela Jones EC/PreK/K: Fizza Butt
- Escuela Primaria Jones: Bria Bryant
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- Escuela Primaria Kujawa — Primaria del IB@: Jacqueline Taylor
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- Escuela Primaria Smith: Cheryl Simmons
- Escuela Primaria Stehlik: Connie Holland
- Escuela Stovall EC/PK/K: Erin Green
- Escuela Secundaria Teague: Kelsey McNatty
- Escuela Secundaria Victory Early College: Sokhna Kabore
- Escuela Primaria Worsham: Rosetta Simpson
- Young Women's Leadership: Elizabeth Flores

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SABADO, FEBRERO 24 REGISTRACION A LAS 8:00AM LA PROMESA SCHOOL 11101 AIRLINE DRIVE. HOUSTON, TX 77037	SABADO, MARZO 2 REGISTRACION A LAS 8:00AM NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3320 CYPRESS CREEK PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX 77068	SABADO, ABRIL 20 REGISTRACION A LAS 8:00AM LONE STAR COLLEGE KINGWOOD 20000 KINGWOOD DR. KINGWOOD, TX 77339
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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 3 Kings (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who said, "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit"? Matthew, Mark, John the Baptist, Luke
3. From Leviticus 14, how long was a "clean" person required to remain outside his tent? One night, Two nights, Four days, Seven days

4. What town or city was Saul of Tarsus near when he converted to Christianity? Damascus, Assos, Corinth, Gaza
5. Jesus says that you have to do what to see the kingdom of God? Love one another, Be born again, Do what's right, Tithe
6. Which apostle's mother-in-law is mentioned in the Bible? Peter, Judas, James, Andrew

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) John the Baptist, 3) Seven days, 4) Damacus, 5) Be born again, 6) Peter
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

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JOB 22: 21-23

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Kate Winslet and Matthias Schoenaerts star in "The Regime."

"The Regime"

"The Regime" (TV-MA) — Elena Vernham (Kate Winslet) is the chancellor of an autocracy in a fictionalized version of Europe, and she realizes that her authoritarian regime is starting to crumble around her. At the same time, Elena meets an unstable soldier named Herbert Zubak, who pledges his undying allegiance to her. They become close confidants, and Herbert's ruthlessness begins to rub off on Elena, prompting her to switch up the way she approaches her political duties. Unable to stand even a single word of criticism by her cabinet or her opponents, Elena slowly but surely starts evolving into a dictator. She's ready to see the world burn if it means she gets to obtain more power. The first episode is out now, and the remaining five episodes will be released every Sunday. (Max)

"Spaceman" (R) — Based on the 2017 novel "Spaceman of Bohemia," this sci-fi drama stars Adam Sandler as Jakub Prochazka, an astronaut who embarks on an isolating solo journey into space. Six months into his journey, his mental state begins to deteriorate as he misses his life on Earth, and he unexpectedly encounters a large extraterrestrial spider on his ship that appears to come in peace. The spider, who goes by Hanus, tells Jakub that he's there to assist him with his emotional distress. Even though Jakub is unsure of whether Hanus is imaginary or real, he begins to dig deep into his subconscious to persist through his journey and make it home to his wife. Sandler excels in this dramatic role, while Paul Dano lends his mystifying voice to Hanus. Carey Mulligan co-stars. Out now!

(Netflix) ***
 "Ricky Stanicky" (R) — Dean, Wes and JT are a trio of friends who have hatched the ultimate scheme to get away from boring commitments: a nonexistent friend named Ricky Stanicky, who always seems to need them at the most inopportune times. But when JT misses the birth of his child because he was "taking care of Ricky," people start to become suspicious of whether Ricky actually exists. So, the men come up with another brilliant scheme to hire an X-rated rock-and-roll impersonator named Rod to portray Ricky in front of their partners, family members and friends. What could possibly go wrong? Director Peter Farrelly ("Green Book") takes on this comedy film out March 7, starring Zac Efron, John Cena and William H. Macy. (Amazon Prime Video)

 "The Marsh King's Daughter" (R) — Daisy Ridley (of the "Stars Wars" sequel trilogy) leads this psychological thriller that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat! Adapted from the bestselling novel by Karen Dionne, this film follows a woman named Helena (Ridley) who receives news that her father, the Marsh King, has escaped from prison. As Helena unpacks what this could mean for her and her own daughter now that her father is on the run, memories from her traumatic childhood spent in captivity resurface. She realizes the only way she can keep herself and her family safe from the Marsh King is if she takes all that he taught her and beats him at his own game. Out on March 5. (Hulu)

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Q: Is it true that next season's mystery on "Only Murders in the Building" will be set in Los Angeles instead of New York? I love the old apartment building they live in on the show. It won't be the same if it's in California. — D.D.

A: I agree, but apparently only part of the season will be filmed in LA. According to TVLine, Craig Erwich, who oversees Hulu, loves the Big Apple but doesn't want the show to become too insular. However, he assures fans that the Arconia apartment building will always be part of the show.

Season three ended with Oliver's (Martin Short) girlfriend, Loretta (Meryl Streep), moving back to LA, and it's been confirmed that Streep will return for the new season. Joining them will be Charles (Steve Martin) and Mabel (Selena Gomez), who I'm assuming will tag along to LA to escape the seemingly cursed Arconia after last season ended with a cliff-hanging murder. Jane Lynch is also expected to return in some capacity as Charles' stunt double.

The announcement of two more big names joining the cast should help alleviate the disappointment of those who aren't pleased with the change of scenery. Molly Shannon ("The Other Two") will play a high-powered businesswoman, and Eva Longoria ("Desperate Housewives") will also recur. No details have been given yet about her character.

 Q: When is "Yellowstone" returning with new episodes? Is it true that Kevin Costner has left the show? — K.S.

A: The wildly successful series "Yellowstone" will return with six final episodes, beginning this November, but it probably will not include Costner. The Dutton family story will continue with the focus remaining on Rip (Cole Hauser) and Beth (Kelly Reilly). Costner parted ways with the show and its creator Taylor Sheridan when a contract couldn't be agreed upon. Sheridan has a spin-off in the works titled "2024," but no further details have been announced (including whether it will star Matthew McConaughey, as rumored).

As for Costner, he recently released the trailer for his upcoming Civil War-era films, titled "Horizon: An American Saga,"



Meryl Streep in "Only Murders in the Building"

which will be released in two parts this June and August. Costner not only directs but stars in "Horizon," along with Sienna Miller and Sam Worthington. He said that he hasn't "felt this way about a movie since ... making 'Dances with Wolves,'" which was the Oscar-winning film he also pulled double duty with back in 1990.

 Q: What happened to the boxer on the new season of "The Traitors"? I don't recall him being voted out, and now he's gone. — A.M.

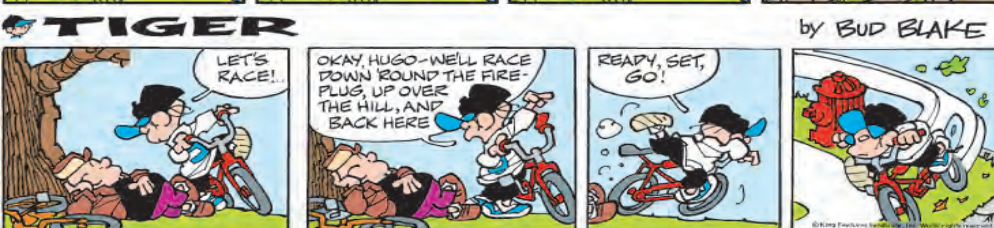
A: Former World Boxing heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder was one of only two contestants on Peacock's "The Traitors" who didn't have reality show experience. He told the press that he chose to leave after three episodes because the show was bringing up emotional trauma from his childhood that caught him off-guard. The final straw was when he accused another innocent contestant of traitorous behavior. Wilder exited with his conscience intact.

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

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

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. Car door is different. 2. Rear tire is moved. 3. Side mirror is added to car. 4. Teddy bear is missing. 5. Naming is moved. 6. License plate is missing.

March 4, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Annex
- 8 Trig function
- 12 Within (Pref.)
- 13 "Ben- —"
- 14 Toledo's lake
- 15 "Sure, of course"
- 17 Bakery buy
- 18 "Yippee!"
- 19 Apple music service
- 21 Pride parade initials
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 Valley in California
- 28 Indy event
- 30 Wall climber
- 33 Rocker Rose
- 34 Plains grazers
- 35 Formerly known as
- 36 Earth (Pref.)
- 37 Stink
- 38 "It's — real!"
- 39 Texter's "Enough!"
- 41 Bring up
- 43 Tell
- 46 Pink hue
- 50 Lena of "The Reader"
- 51 Sake, e.g.
- 54 Curse
- 55 Greek mountain
- 8 Blood part
- 9 Ore source
- 10 Aswan's river
- 11 Congers
- 16 Sailing hazard
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Party cheese
- 23 Stunning gun
- 25 Pester
- 26 Chopper
- 27 Story thread
- 29 Pepsi rival
- 31 Victory sign
- 32 Longing
- 34 Telly watcher
- 38 Cleveland squad
- 40 Like lions
- 42 Expert
- 43 Filches
- 44 Israeli carrier
- 45 Guitarist
- 46 Clapton
- 47 Funny person
- 48 Visitor to Siam
- 49 Ogler's look
- 52 Altar affirmative
- 53 Jazz lover

DOWN

- 1 Calico's call
- 2 "My Way" writer
- 3 Beehive State
- 4 Jesuit university
- 5 Sushi fish
- 6 Press for payment
- 7 Zwei follower

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Trivia Test Answers
 1. Portland, Oregon; 2. "Mean Girls"; 3. Reykjavik, Iceland; 4. "Modern Family"; 5. Two; 6. Volcanic eruption; 7. Six; 8. Nirvana; 9. A congregation; 10. Rabbit.

King Crossword
 Solution time: 24 mins.
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Lone Star College says “Avoid the Summer Melt”

HOUSTON (Feb. 26, 2024) – The United States Department of Education estimates that 44% of low-income, college-eligible high school graduates in Texas will not attend college in the fall, but instead “melt” away during the summer. Lone Star College wants to change the “Summer Melt” experience by offering affordable and high-quality educational programs.



Lone Star College summer registration begins March 4 for the May Mini-term, Summer I and Summer II sessions.

“Lone Star College has numerous resources (academic, financial and student support) to help you make a sustainable plan toward earning a college degree, transferring to a four-year institution or entering the workforce,” said Jamie Posey, LSC associate vice chancellor, Student Success and Completion. “Lone Star College aims to train future leaders through top-level academic and workforce programs.”

The LSC summer registration period opens March 4 for anyone interested in starting, continuing or completing their college education at an accelerated pace. May Mini-Term begins May 13 and ends June 9; Summer I runs June 3-July 9 and Summer II starts July 11 and ends Aug. 19.

“The opportunity I’m receiving at Lone Star Col-

lege is far more valuable than any stereotypical TV college experience,” said Elizabeth Maupin, LSC-Montgomery student. “I feel more confident in my skills as a student and more prepared for my future because of my time at Lone Star College.”

LSC offers over 200 program options, including four bachelor’s degrees, for students to complete a degree, transfer to a four-year institution or enter the workforce. Courses are available in face-to-face, online or hybrid formats. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/Registration.

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 goes beyond the classroom to assist students

NORTHEAST HARRIS (Feb. 7, 2024) – The Lone Star College mission of student success is more than just academic achievement; it’s ensuring students’ needs are met so they can focus on earning a college education.

“Lone Star College is committed to offering programs and services that help our students focus on their education, understanding the need to balance education commitments with other responsibilities outside of school,” said Gerald F. Napoles, Ph.D., LSC vice chancellor, Student Success. “We want our students to know there are resources available to help them persevere toward achieving their goals.”

The LSC Police Department recently started its first Therapy Dog program as a proactive resource for mental health, crisis intervention and victim assistance. Officer Emily Tait and K-9 Tater Tot, an eight-month-old Mini-Labradoodle, have begun visiting various LSC locations to improve mental and emotional health, foster connections and provide support during challenging times.

“With his friendly appearance and demeanor, the Lone Star College Police Department hopes the inaugural K-9 is approachable, particularly for people uneasy around dogs,” said Tait. “We wanted to be considerate to all.”



Lone Star College Police Department recently started its first Therapy Dog Program as a proactive resource for mental health. Pictured are LSC Police Officer Emily Tait and K-9 Tater Tot.

During campus visits, Tater Tot and handler Tait engage students and employees in a relaxed manner, aiming for meaningful interactions while keeping things lighthearted and enjoyable.

“I want people to bond with him and get to know his personality; he’s an amazing dog,” said Tait. “I tell people he is ‘everyone’s dog’ because I want them to understand he is here for everyone to enjoy and benefit from his visit.”

The LSC Police is committed to seamlessly integrating the Therapy Dog Program into the college atmosphere. Tater Tot was selected based on his health, temperament, hypoallergenic coat and suitability for therapy work. Follow LSC’s first K-9 via Instagram @LSC-tatertot.

LSC offers various programs to help students achieve their goals, CARE for Completion

and counseling services, including Communities in Schools (CIS) Houston.

“Lone Star College not only has affordable and quality educational opportunities, but we also have resources to help students who are struggling with tough choices between paying their rent and electric bills or keeping consistent meals on the table,” said Ashlie Resendez, LSC associate vice chancellor, Student Engagement.

The LSC CARE for Completion program provides comprehensive support to help students meet their basic needs. They can receive assistance with food, clothing, employment, mental health, housing, child care and academic support. These resources give students access to affordable and reliable options to help them thrive personally and academically. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/CARE.

Communities in Schools is another community-based program that partners with LSC to help address low completion rates nationwide. CIS is a dropout prevention program that provides various services like supportive guidance and counseling, health and human services, family involvement, cultural enrichment, college readiness and career development. The goal is to support struggling LSC students by empowering them to stay in school. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/CIS.

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