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NORTHEAST NEWS

Theater Award Winner



Alyssa Dorsey of Carver High School won vocal award

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 VOL. 48, NO. 12 TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Carver HS wins top Theater Awards

Awarded Tommy Tune and Jimmy Awards by Theatre Under the Stars

Ancestor Day Sat. April 13

East Aldine District will host an Ancestor Day event, Saturday April 13 from 1pm to 4pm at the Town Center Amphitheatre. Speaker will be Alma DeAlejandro.

Presentation:
 This event is for both young and old. The presenter, Alma DeAlejandro, will share ideas on how to create family traditions that are meaningful and foster memorable bonds. Also discussed will be genealogy and the knowledge that researching the history of your ancestors has bearing on who you are and what you can become. Lastly, she will discuss the many ways to journal and how that helps you cope with life's challenges and help you to achieve goals.

Activities:
 1) Show and Tell. Seniors and Youth will bring an item from an ancestor. These items usually tell a story of how they lived or a special memory.
 We will discuss special ways we can remember those who have passed.

2) Tie Quilting.
 Seniors and Youth will tie quilt and use this time to share stories with one another. All those who worked on a quilt are entered in the drawing to win the quilt that they worked on.
 Refreshments will be served.

HOUSTON — The 20th Tommy Tune Awards from Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) was a celebration to be remembered. The renowned theater group has announced that Aldine ISD's Carver High School theater program, and the students, have won the top two prizes in the annual Tommy Tune Awards.

"The incredible talent all of these students have and the community they build throughout this process is truly what it's been about since the beginning," said Jacob Shideler, TUTS Director of Education.



The cast of Carver High School's production THE BODYGUARD, performing in the TUTS competition.

The winners of the 2024 Tommy Tune Awards are:
 Outstanding Musical:
 Tier 1: G.W. Carver High School, *The Bodyguard*

Tier 2: The Kinkaid School, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*
 Jimmy Awards® Nominee Winner:

Alyssa Dorsey, G.W. Carver High School, *The Bodyguard*

Carver High School also won these additional awards:

Continued. See CARVER WINS THEATER AWARDS, Page 7

Children rob Wells Fargo bank; turned in to Sheriff by parents

NORTHEAST HOUSTON — Parents of young bank robbers dubbed as 'little rascals' turned them in, according to the Harris County Sheriff.

A group of kids ranging between 11, 12, and 16 years old were arrested after police said they robbed a bank in Greenspoint.

The three bank robbery suspects dubbed as the "little rascals" are now in custody, according to the FBI Houston.

The trio made headlines when authorities shared on social media that they were wanted for allegedly robbing a Wells Fargo bank on the North Freeway and West Road in the Greenspoint area.



Dubbed the "LITTLE RASCALS" by authorities, the three young bank robbers are seen in a bank lobby camera.



Wells Fargo bank that was robbed, on the North Freeway in the Greenspoint area.

Initially, a witness told officials the boys appeared to be between 14 and 18 years old. But, in the arrest update, the FBI said they are 16, 12, and 11 years old.

"The age of the younger

two, that's unusual for a bank robbery," Mike Schneider, a retired juvenile district court judge told media.

While FBI Houston released the surveillance photos, the case is a Har-

ris County Sheriff's Office investigation.

According to HCSO, the boys passed a threatening note to a teller. They were believed to be armed, though they did not present a weapon, and

they got away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Once the photos were released, HCSO started getting tips from the public. Parents of two of the boys came forward and identified them, the sheriff's office said. The third boy was handled by a law enforcement agency following a fight and recognized. The sheriff's office said authorities recovered a weapon and a distinctive item pictured in one of the photos.

The "little rascals" are charged with robbery by threat, a second-degree felony.

Continued. See CHILDREN ROB BANK, Page 2

Deputy Almendarez honored on 2nd anniversary of death

Alleged suspects due in court this month

EAST ALDINE — Last Sunday this community held a memorial to remember and honor the Deputy who served them for 23 years, and gave his life in that service. His widow and community members gathered at the Northeast community center named in his honor, and held the ceremony there.



Flor Zarzoza

It has been two years since Harris County Sheriff Deputy Darren Almendarez was shot and killed while off duty when officials say he was stopping three thieves from stealing his truck's catalytic converter.

Deputy Almendarez and his wife were leaving a grocery store when authorities say he saw three men stealing his truck's catalytic convert-

er. He told his wife to walk to safety and confronted the men, who officials say shot him multiple times.

His wife, Flor Zarzoza, had to watch it happen.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be by his side until his last breath. He died loving what he did, his job," Zarzoza said.



Flor Zarzoza and community members planting new flowers at the Almendarez Community Center in East Aldine.

Since his death, Senate Bill 224 was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott which imposes harsher penalties by making catalytic converter thefts a felony.

ABC13 reached out to the Sheriff's Office to find out how many have been charged since the law went into effect.

"It was very important to me because he worked in the auto theft division," Zarzoza said. "They were always investigating the catalytic converter thefts and to me, it was very important to keep on fighting and advocating for it to pass. Sadly, it took his life to make a change."

Back in 2022, author-



Suspects in the theft and killing of Almendarez are due in court this month

ities busted a massive catalytic converter ring.

Investigators believed the ring bought converters from the 3 suspects charged with murdering Almendarez.

As for where those cases stand today, Joshua Stewart, Fredarius Clark, and Fredrick Tardy are all charged with capital murder. All three have upcoming court dates in April.

Stewart and Clark are behind bars after they

were denied bond. Tardy, who was 17 years old at the time, was granted bond despite the capital murder charge. He posted that bond which was \$750,000.

The DA's office has said they will seek the death penalty for Stewart and Clark, but Tardy was too young.

"To me, for me, he's my hero. He saved my life," Zarzoza said while honoring her husband.

NORTHEAST NEWS - Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or nenewsroom@aol.com

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Children Rob Bank,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was thinking either this was very low in sophistication or maybe an adult had something to do with this. That is not uncommon. Because kids have a punishment that is less severe, it is not uncommon for adult offenders to get them to commit crimes," Schneider said.

Investigators will not say if anyone else is involved or whether any cash was recovered.

Because they are minors, the FBI said their names and additional details will not be released.

If the allegations are proven true, they could face probation until they turn 18 or juvenile prison until they turn 19, according to one criminal defense attorney. The 16-year-old

could also be certified as an adult, but it is not likely, he said.

The trio left the bank on foot.

The bank robbery comes as members of the juvenile division of the Harris County District Attorney's Office tell media the crime trends they're seeing among teenagers are concerning.

The DA's office say while homicides are reducing overall in the county, the juvenile offender homicide rate has increased by 76% since 2021.

"The numbers aren't lying on those. We are seeing an uptick in particularly very violent crimes," Harris County District Attorney's Office

314th District Court Chief Allen Otto said.

"Sometimes older kids or even young adults are using younger kids because they know the consequences of being charged as a juvenile are likely not to be as severe as if you're charged as an adult," Otto said.

"The law says that a judge has final say on whether a kid stays in juvenile court or whether it gets moved over to adult court," Otto said.

Otto says while the juvenile violent crime numbers are concerning, within recent years, they've expanded and had success with the diversionary programs they provide teens.

Girl in midst of fight at Nimitz HS

HOUSTON – A Nimitz High School student says she was jumped by seven girls, some who have been harassing her for months.

She also says that school staff have failed to take action to prevent it from happening.

15-year-old sophomore, Asia Clay, says she was at the center of the brawl last Tuesday. She says that it all started over minor beef between her and another student back in December.

"She made up this rumor about me being with this girl's boyfriend, and I told her it wasn't that," Asia said.

This week, she says things escalated. She says she tried to avoid fighting, but couldn't

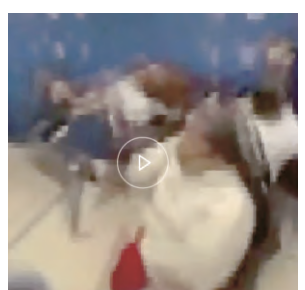
"And it just turned into a big brawl and so when all of that was going on I tried to move away from the crowd," Asia said.

"I went downstairs, and the girls is downstairs," Asia said.

Asia says the fighting continued. She, her mother, and aunt add that despite multiple concerns being raised to school staff about being harassed over the past several months, nothing was done, not even during



Nimitz HS student Asia Clay



Fight video posted on YouTube. (Purposely blurred).

the most recent altercation.

"Why wasn't something did before that?" asked Asia's mother, Kenitra Jones. "I know they have something like a restraining order in school for kids but they didn't even do that."

The family and activist, Candice Matthews, are calling out Aldine ISD.

"I believe Aldine ISD dropped the ball because when you're dealing with a child coming to tell you that you're being bullied, I felt that they kind of discounted it," Matthews said.

Asia says there is a disciplinary hearing scheduled for Monday morning with all parties involved. Her mother is hoping for an in-school restraining order against the girls she says jumped Asia, or for them to be expelled.

Aldine ISD sent the following statement:

"The safety and security of our students and staff are a priority for Aldine ISD. We can confirm that on Tuesday, March 26, there was a physical altercation involving several students at Nimitz high school. Out of an abundance of caution, the campus was briefly placed on secure as Aldine ISD police officers immediately responded to de-escalate the situation and begin an investigation. All other students remained safe, and learning continued as scheduled. Aldine ISD does not condone this type of behavior and those involved will face disciplinary action per the district's student code of conduct and, possibly, criminal charges."

COMMUNITY WATCH

Repeat Bigamist sentenced to prison for marrying 3 women at same time

HOUSTON – A Houston man who married three different women since 2019 was sentenced to three years in prison after committing bigamy again two months after being put on probation for bigamy, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

"At the heart of this repeat offender's schemes was a plan to defraud women and take advantage of them for financial gain," Ogg said. "This man used the church to camouflage his scams and hide from any accountability or responsibility."

Orlando Coleman, 51, was sentenced last week to three years in prison for marrying a third woman just two months after being put on probation for being married to two other women at the same time.

Coleman held himself out as a bishop who traveled to churches around the country, and prosecutors believe he married at least 10 women in different states.

Bigamy, being married to more than one person at a time, is a third-degree



ORLANDO COLEMAN

felony in Texas and carries a possible punishment of up to 10 years in prison.

Coleman married a Houston woman in 2021. Five months into their marriage, the new wife found out Coleman was receiving money from a woman in Virginia. The Houston woman contacted the other woman who said she and Coleman had been married since 2019.

The Houston woman contacted authorities. The Harris County Sheriff's Office investigated and filed bigamy charges.

Coleman pleaded guilty to bigamy in July 2023 in exchange for three years of deferred adjudication probation. Two months later, while still married to the

woman in Virginia, Coleman married a Kentucky woman, committing bigamy again.

After learning about the new marriage, prosecutors with the Harris County District Attorney's Office filed a motion to revoke probation. At a hearing on March 11, a judge sentenced Coleman to three years in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Vanessa Goussen, who prosecuted Coleman, noted that his victims said he was a con man who married them for room and board and whatever money they would give him.

"Run a background check, if possible, or try searching their name on the internet, look at their social media, and ask a lot of questions," Goussen said. "Unfortunately, many con artists hide behind important sounding titles, and it is easier than you think to get swept off your feet."

Goussen said it was important to the victims that Coleman go to prison because he took advantage of them and their churches by pretending to ascend to a position of trust and then abused that trust.

Fatal Crash of Golf Cart at 6415 Mesa Drive in North Forest

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 6415 Mesa Drive about 8:45 a.m. (March 8).

The identity of the deceased male, 21, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Ross and Officer R. Bymaster reported:

The male was driving a white golf cart northbound through a gravel parking lot at the above address, failed to control his speed and struck a parked tractor-trailer truck. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced the male deceased.

The investigation is continuing.

House Fire in the Northline Area on Julia Street

HOUSTON -- The Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on September 27, 2023, at 5:57 p.m.

The House was located at the 200 block of Julia St. 77022. Estimated damage was \$260,000. There were no reported injuries.

Cause of the fire is under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find fire

coming from a 1-story house and made an attack. They conducted a primary search, ventilated the home, and extinguished the fire. The utilities were secured and the HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. 49 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including crews from Stations 30, 39, 2, 15, 31, 34, 9, 67, 19 and 74.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

WE WILL CLOSE AT 5PM THURSDAY, MAR. 28. WE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, MAR. 29 AND SATURDAY, MAR. 30. WE WILL RE-OPEN MONDAY, APRIL 1 AT 11AM.

Collab-Lab's Mobile Classroom

This program is appropriate for children 3 - 5 years old. Younger siblings are welcome to attend.

Collab-Lab is a mobile classroom designed to be convenient for families, it connects parents and their youngest children with experts, educators, resources, and proven programs whose goal is to make sure that kids have the skills essential to learning from the moment they walk into kindergarten for the first time.

No registration is required. Experience it **Monday, Mar. 25, 11am - 12:15pm.**

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. 26, 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.

APRENDA COMPUTERS & JOB SKILLS

Sitio web de la clase
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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 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

ADULT ANIME & MANGA CLUB

Relax after work or school by hanging out and meeting new friends in the classroom area where we will watch an episode or two of Anime, do a craft, and talk about our

favorites! This is a **monthly** program! Registration not required, but it is appreciated for a head count :) **Tuesday, Mar. 26, 6:30 - 7:30pm.**

CLOUD COMPUTING - OFFICE 365 & GOOGLE APPS

This class is currently Offered in hybrid format through Google Meets/ In-person. Register here <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy> to get a link to connect to class, (please allow 2-3 business days to receive a link)

Wednesdays at 4:00-5:45 PM: Go beyond the basics with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint online. In addition, we will cover Google Workspace and Apps like Sheets, Docs, Slides, Forms, Keep, calendars, Sites (for designing websites) — Level: Basic to intermediate

*Note: This class is a series of sessions about applied technology and essential job skills skills.

Topics covered: Google Workspace and Apps, Office 365, plus other free online apps.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1.Ability to log in to Gmail account or Outlook account
- 2.Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>
- 3.Wait (up to three business days) for an invitation to join class

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Women of Aldine – Embracing Diversity: Celebrating Principal Ana Flores-Bolivar

March is Women’s History Month and Aldine ISD has the privilege of shining a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of women who have made significant contributions to the district. This March, the district proudly honors not only an esteemed principal but also a courageous immigrant whose journey embodies the spirit of resilience, perseverance, and achievement.

La Promesa Principal Flores-Bolivar hails from Mexico, and her story is a testament to the power of determination and hard work. Her father, a Mexican diplomat, relocated on many occasions because of his position. This journey allowed Flores-Bolivar to travel and experience life outside of the Mexican borders. From the vibrant streets of Peru to the tropical landscapes of Nicaragua, from the bustling metropolis of New York to the warm embrace of El Paso, each destination left an indelible mark on her young heart and mind. Growing up amidst such cultural richness instilled in her a deep appreciation for diversity and a curiosity to explore and understand different ways of life.

She started her teaching career as a bilingual teacher in Aldine ISD in 2006 before taking on leadership roles at the campus level. She began her leadership role in Aldine by serving as the principal at Orange Grove Elementary School. She holds a master’s degree in education from St. Thomas University, as well as a law degree from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico



Principal Ana Fernanda Flores-Bolivar

City. Her journey serves as a powerful reminder of the invaluable contributions immigrants make to our society. Her unique perspective, rich cultural heritage, and tireless work ethic enrich our school community and serve as a testament to the strength of diversity.

As a principal for Aldine’s first newcomer high school, she leads with compassion, empathy, and a deep commitment and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their background.

“She cares so deeply about the vision and mission at La Promesa because she knows that her multilingualism and multiculturalism has taken her places she never thought or dreamed of.” Said Ms. Aguilera, La Promesa Face Specialist

As you walk down the hallways of La Promesa, it

is easy to see how she is there blending in with the students, as if she were one of them. Laughing, hugging them and just being herself, celebrating their triumphs and encouraging them to go for future victories.

“I have decided to make teaching a priority in my life. Students and their needs are of the utmost importance for me. I have assumed my role as a teacher to imbue these students with both English and Spanish in a proficient way. This is the essential tool that will make the greatest impact in our students’ lives. Empowering our students to live with pride in both their language and their heritage” Bolivar said.

During Women’s History Month, Aldine ISD is proud to celebrate her extraordinary achievements and honors her as a leader, and a role model for future generations.



Hill Elementary 5th Grader Wins AISD Spelling Bee



The top two spellers will advance to the next level of the competition, the Scripps Houston Public Media Spelling Bee.

Forty students came together on February 21, 2024, to vie for the top spots in the District Spelling Bee. After a thrilling eight rounds of competition, Leonardo Escobar-Phan, a fifth-grader from Hill Elementary School, won the District Spelling Bee by spelling “criteria” correctly. Eduardo Soto, a fifth grader from Odom Elementary, secured a 2nd place finish.

The students that advanced to the district level had advanced from their campus spelling bees. They represented 38 elementary and two middle schools, with grade levels ranging from Grades 2-8.

Leonardo and Eduardo, as the top two AISD spellers, will advance to the Scripps Houston Public Media Spelling Bee, which will be held at a date determined in late March 2024. The Houston area bee winner will attend Washington, DC, to compete for the national championship.

Women of Aldine – Susan D’Amico’s Journey Learning, Growing, and Giving Back.



Aldine ISD’s Child Nutrition Services Executive Director Susan D’Amico’s story is one of determination, passion, and the belief that it’s never too late to learn. She learned this lesson early on in her life and work, realizing that education and perseverance are the keys to success. Despite feeling like she missed out on completing her education in her early 20s, Susan didn’t let that stop her. She seized the opportunity when she heard about evening classes at the University of Texas to become a certified Ophthalmic Medical Assistant. This marked the beginning of a fulfilling ten-year career in the medical field, where she cared for patients and embraced new techniques and approaches.

Despite the challenges of raising two children, she returned to college, initially majoring in Business before following her passion for Nutrition and Dietetics. In 1996, she graduated at the top of her class, supported by her cheering children.

Her career in public schools reflects her commitment to finding her passion and making a difference. Starting as a Registered Dietitian and Bookkeeper, Susan found joy in teaching nutrition to students.



Susan D’Amico

Over 28 years, she took on leadership roles, broadened her knowledge, and earned high honors. Her journey eventually led her to serve as the Director of Child Nutrition, where she continued to inspire and support her team.

Susan believes in the importance of continuous learning and being open to new opportunities. Actively involved in professional associations, she teaches classes and serves on committees to provide educational opportunities for her colleagues. She also embraces the “leave it better than you found it” rule, lifting up and supporting others along the way. In her role at Aldine ISD, Susan

remains dedicated to putting kids first every day. She strives to create a healthier future for the next generation through initiatives promoting nutrition education and physical health. Her commitment to excellence has earned her department recognition and awards, but Susan remains humble, always focused on making a positive impact.

As part of Women’s Month celebration, Susan hopes to inspire other women to chase their dreams and make a difference. Her story exemplifies the power of education, perseverance, and the belief that it’s never too late to learn and succeed.

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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

Response to SB 4 Anti-Immigration Law

Harris County, TX, March 20, 2024, Judge Lina Hidalgo issued the following statement today about SB 4: "I'm an immigrant myself and I lead a massive county where almost 25 percent of the population are immigrants. Under SB 4, it's conceivable that an anti-immigrant officer could arrest someone for little more than them "looking like an immigrant." That possibility alone makes our community nervous, and with good reason.

I'll be the first to say that our immigration system and border security have major challenges. There is an opportunity to fix these with the bipartisan bill President Biden, Leader McConnell and senior Republican leaders moved forward until Trump demanded that Republicans continue politicizing immigration rather than solving it.

Fundamentally SB 4, which purports to give states the authority to - like sovereign nations - make their own immigration laws, shows disheartening disrespect for the United States constitution and for the rule of 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.

LETTERS To The Editor

Candidate Lewis defends her record

My name is Umeka UA Lewis. I am a constitutional/civil rights attorney one of the few who practices in the area full time and recognized by the courts for doing so.

The snippet about me and my candidacy may be attributed to insufficient research or perhaps your personal knowledge of my arrest in 2015 that led to your recognition of my name on the ballot; regardless, there is significantly more to my advocacy and background as a Black Female Constitutional Civil Rights Attorney, than an arrest nearly a decade ago.

https://www.starcouriernews.com/2024/03/primary-election-ogg-out-teare-lee-cantu-in

I am disappointed that of all the work I have done to fight for the constitutional and many rights of others, my legacy in 2024, according to you, boils down to a 2015 wrongful arrest.

I have had a fantastic rapport with many journalists due to my high-profile cases. You can find me on the news more than your average attorney due to the nature of my cases.

--My first media case involved a child who was released to a convicted kidnapper by Delta Airline after her father allowed her to fly under the unaccompanied minor program.

--In 2015, Jesse Jacobs, a 32-year-old gay white male, was allowed to die in the Galveston Jail after he was deprived of his physician-prescribed medications. I secured the highest civil rights settlement at that time on behalf of his family due to his preventable death.

--In 2016, I was one of six other volunteer lawyers who spent 100s of hours fighting the Harris County Attorney's office over their unconstitutional injunction that labeled 92 Black men as gang members without due process and attempted to bar their very presence in the neighborhoods they lived in Third Ward/Sunnyside area, most without their knowledge.

--I represented Pride Houston in their efforts to regain control from a rouge past-president.

--I represented The Houston (Black) Lawyer's Association in litigation to stop an organization from attempting to use the name Houston Black Lawyer's Association to dilute and confuse the names of the organizations.

--I have been invited to argue before the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals 9 times, fighting for the constitutional rights of others when it is not usual to be invited at all. John Allen v Justin Hayes resulted in a significant change in the law that now requires officers who shot individuals and caused an injury to provide medical care as opposed to handcuffing and waiting for EMS.

--I have been recognized by the State Bar of Texas and granted the Steve Condos Award for the most continuing education hours. I was also recognized by the Houston Volunteer Lawyers for my pro bono work in fighting the evictions of dozens of tenants. Houston Trial Lawyers as Director of the Year in 2019.

Well, if I may, allow me to introduce myself to you and your readers properly.

U.A. "Umeka" Lewis Civil Rights/ Injury Attorney

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. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Texas Counties Among Nation's Fastest Growing

Recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that six of the 10 fastest-growing counties in the United States from 2022 to 2023 were in Texas. According to the Texas Tribune, Kaufman County, just east of Dallas, led the list with a 7.6% increase in new residents that brought its population to more than 185,000. Census data shows that Rockwall and Liberty counties closed out the top three, with growth rates of 6.5% and 5.7%, respectively.

Also in the top 10 with the largest residential growth rates are Chambers, Comal and Ellis counties. All 10 of the fastest-growing counties are in the South, Census officials said, and are due to people relocating from other parts of the country.

"Domestic migration patterns are changing, and the impact on counties is especially evident," said Lauren Bowers, chief of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Branch.

Texas also holds eight of the 10 counties that added the most residents from 2022 to 2023, with Harris, Collin and Montgomery counties leading nationwide. Harris County added 53,788 residents, more than any other county in the U.S.

MAJOR WILDFIRES NEARLY CONTAINED

The largest wildfire in Texas history is 89% contained as of Sunday, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service, after burning more than a million acres. The Smokehouse Creek fire in Hutchinson County is one of two active wildfires in the state. The other wildfire not contained is the Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County, 94% contained and consuming 144,045 acres.

There are currently 70 counties with burn bans in place.

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved Gov. Greg Abbott's disaster declaration request for the following Panhandle counties: Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman and Wheeler.

"These disaster declarations will help Texans in communities affected by the Smokehouse Creek and Windy Deuce wildfires receive



critical financial assistance they need as they continue to recover and rebuild," Abbott said.

Low-interest loans are available to homeowners, renters, and businesses affected by the wildfires. Applications can be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster.

TEXAS CHALLENGES FEDERAL METHANE RULE

The state is challenging a tougher methane emissions rule recently put in place by the Environmental Protection Agency through a lawsuit filed by the Texas attorney general's office last week. The regulations force oil and gas companies to reduce emissions in the next two years.

Texas oil and gas operators emit more methane than any other state, according to the EPA. A report in the Houston Chronicle said the program would reduce negative climate impacts and improve health, saving up to \$7.6 billion annually through 2038.

The Texas Railroad Commission claims the rule is detrimental to the oil and gas industry, and maintains the industry has made great strides to reduce emissions.

"Texas is taking action against the federal government's egregious overreach," said RRC Chairman Christi Craddick. "The latest attack on oil and gas is nothing more than an attempt to shut down the industry that creates hundreds of thousands of jobs, funds one-third of our state's economy, and produces clean and reliable energy for the world."

COURT: MINORS NEED PARENTAL CONSENT FOR CONTRACEPTIVES

A federal appellate court upheld a state law requiring parental consent for minor seeking access to birth control, the Austin American-

Statesman reported. The ruling partially upholds a late 2022 ruling that blocked federally funded clinics from providing contraceptives to teens without proof of parental consent.

Teens have the right to access confidential contraceptive services at Title X clinics under a program established in 1970. A lawsuit filed in 2022 challenged the Title X regulation, arguing it violates state law and infringes on parental rights.

"Minors have been unable to access confidential contraceptive care in our network of Title X clinics for more than a year," Stephanie LeBleu, a project director at Every Body, a nonprofit that administers federal funds to more than 150 Title X clinics across the state, said in a news release.

PAXTON, CORNYN STILL EXCHANGING BARBS

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is possibly considering a run against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn following a streak of successes in ousting Republican House incumbents in the March primary, The Dallas Morning News reported. Paxton has repeatedly attacked Cornyn, up for reelection in 2026, as being too moderate.

"Super Tuesday showed there is a large base of Paxton-friendly voters who not only admire him but want his kind of unapologetic aggressive conservatism in the United States Senate," said conservative radio talk show host Mark Davis.

The two have clashed several times on social media. When Cornyn announced he would run to replace Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, as the Republican leader in the Senate, Paxton posted on X, formerly Twitter, "Republicans deserve better in their next leader and Texans deserve another conservative senator."

Cornyn replied, "Hard to run from prison, Ken." Paxton faces a trial this spring for securities fraud and is under federal investigation for his ties to a since-indicted real estate investor.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION LONE STAR

Operation Lone Star, the state's border initiative, recently marked its third anniversary. According to Abbott's office, the multi-agency effort has led to apprehension of more than a half-million people believed to be here illegally. More than 36,100 felony charges have been filed and more than 100,000 migrants have been transported to other cities, the governor's office said.

In addition, more than 469 million doses of fentanyl have been seized during that three-year period.

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

Useful



I had a discouraging day yesterday.

I don't expect anyone to keep track—heck, I can't keep track half the time. But I got another rejection of my book from another editor with another publishing house.

I've read the stories of how long it has taken well-known authors to sell their first novel. A publisher has to put a lot of money into a new book, and the odds are slim that a writer's first book will ever earn that money back. Publishers know this and so they are understandably cautious.

You would think I would be used to rejection by now. Before I was even able to have my book read by publishers, I had to find an agent, and they are swamped with letters from writers who want the same thing I do—to see their book out in the world.

Now that I have my wonderful agent, Annie, she is putting a lot of time into editing and working to sell my book, and she makes no money at all until the book sells. It is a long process. Everything takes months and months, and in the meantime, I keep writing, because that is the only part of the process I have any control over at all.

So, when I got an "update" from Annie yesterday, I knew from the subject line of the email it would not be good news. The note read:

"Hi Annie, Thank you for the opportunity to read Carrie's work. She is a talented writer, and I love the premise for this, but I didn't connect with the characters quite as strongly as I'd hoped. It is with regret that I am a pass, but I hope you land the perfect home for this (or perhaps already have!)."

I added this rejection to a file I keep with the previous rejection letters. Sometimes I read the comments later and, generally, I don't get too discouraged. But yesterday I did.

I was grumpy, and I felt more than a little sorry for myself. So I took a day off. Instead of writing, I went for a long walk.

And, as I was walking, I suddenly thought of my best friend who died seven years ago. She was only 50 years old when she died, and I never met a person who was more alive. I thought of how she would chew me out for wasting even part of one day feeling sorry for myself.

"Take a teaspoon of cement, Princess, and harden up!" she would have said.

She was very good about saying things like that, whenever I complained that what I was doing was too difficult. I missed her no-nonsense advice, her never-ending encouragement.

"I sure could use you now," I thought.

And at that moment, I realized I had lost sight of a really important thing. Of course, I write because it makes me happy. But the reason writing makes me happy is because I think the stuff I write might be useful.

Maybe my writing will make somebody smile. Maybe someone will feel less alone. Maybe it will be used to line the bottom of a birdcage. But whatever happens, I'm hoping it will be useful in some small way.

It's not really about me. Or, as my beloved friend would say when I got too full of myself, "Buy some lumber, build a bridge, and get over yourself!"

She was good at that, as I mentioned. She was good at reminding me of what matters and, seven years later, she is still so very useful.

Till next time, Carrie

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Houston Police Department Mounted Patrol holds successful Week-long Open House

Reported by Marina Flores Sugg



HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MOUNTED PATROL VISIT BY MARINA FLORES SUGG Friday, 3/15/24 - I live so close to this place and never knew they hold a week-long Open House every year. Today was their last day for this year's Open House. I had more fun than I thought I was going to have. I'll be going back

This pretty lady was so sweet and gentle. I got to feed all of the horses. All of them grabbed the nugget from my open palm excitedly, but not Janie. She was so gentle.

Story and Photos by Marina Flores Sugg



Officer Franklin and I had a long chat about horses I confessed I really had never ridden a horse. Oh, I've been on a horse a bunch of times, but I really don't know how to manage them. They pretty much do what they want to do when I'm on their back, just like "Diablo" did when he took off in a full gallop down the center of a railroad track in the middle of Mexico's Copper Canyon.



This lovely family is holding the latest edition of the Northeast News.



He's the largest horse at the stable. He measures 19.2. So, who knows what they use to measure a horses height?

SPANISH PAGE

2 estudiantes recaudan un total de \$57,000 en la subasta de arte de la Escuela de Rodeo de Houston

HOUSTON RODEO 2024 SCHOOL ART AUCTION

Cristofer López, Anderson Academy

Dos estudiantes de Aldine ISD tuvieron una destacada participación en el Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Scholastic Art Auction celebrada el 10 de marzo. Cristofer López, de Anderson Academy, y Martín Figueroa, de MacArthur High School, fueron seleccionados para este prestigioso evento. La obra de arte de Cristofer alcanzó la impresionante cifra de 47.000 dólares en la subasta,

mostrando tanto su talento como el reconocimiento que merece. Este logro refleja la dedicación y destreza artística de Cristofer y dice mucho sobre la guía y el apoyo de su educador de arte, Tony McMillan. Del mismo modo, la obra de arte de Martín Figueroa, que representa a MacArthur High School, se vendió por \$10,000. El éxito de Martín subraya la profundidad del talento dentro de nuestro cuerpo estudiantil.

Destaca el inestimable papel de su educadora artística, Hailey Williams, en el fomento de su crecimiento artístico. «Estos logros son un testimonio de la excepcional calidad de la educación artística en Aldine ISD y la dedicación de nuestros educadores para fomentar la creatividad y la excelencia entre nuestros estudiantes», dijo Kaileigh Newman, directora de artes visuales de AISD.

El distrito organizará una jornada inaugural de diversión en el parque para familias de alumnos con autismo

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ALDINE

¡Marquen sus calendarios para el 20 de abril! El evento lleno de diversión ofrecerá recursos para ayudar a apoyar y empoderar a las familias. Aldine ISD está organizando su primer Día de Diversión en el Parque a finales de este mes. El distrito invita a la comunidad a unirse a nosotros en el evento. Las familias de estudiantes con autismo en los grados PreK-12 disfrutarán de actividades divertidas y recibirán información empoderadora. Se recomienda a los padres/tutores legales que se registren si planean asistir. Día de diversión en el parque Sábado 20 de abril 10 a.m. a 1 p.m. Enlace de registro: <https://tinyurl.com/bde932z6> Parque del Distrito de East Aldine 2800 Aldine Mail Rt. ¿Qué esperar? Únase a nosotros para un día de comida, actividades sensoriales y recursos para ayudar a apoyar y empoderar a las familias con autismo. Tenemos una variedad de actividades planificadas, que incluyen actividades sensoriales prácticas, juegos y manualidades para todas las edades. Preguntas El Departamento de Educación Especial de Aldine ISD ha organizado el evento. Envíe un correo electrónico a adwebb@aldineisd.org si tiene alguna pregunta. Así que, por favor, marque su calendario, reúna a su familia y únase a nosotros para disfrutar de un atractivo día en el parque. ¡No podemos esperar a verte allí!

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Iscariot (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
3. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers

4. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
5. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days
6. According to the apostle Paul, more than what number of people saw the risen Christ at one time? 100, 300, 500, 1,000

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) An angel, 3) Disciples, 3) Thomas (called Didymus), 4) 40 days (Acts 1:3), 5) 500 (1 Cor 15:3-8)

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

JAMES 1: 5,6

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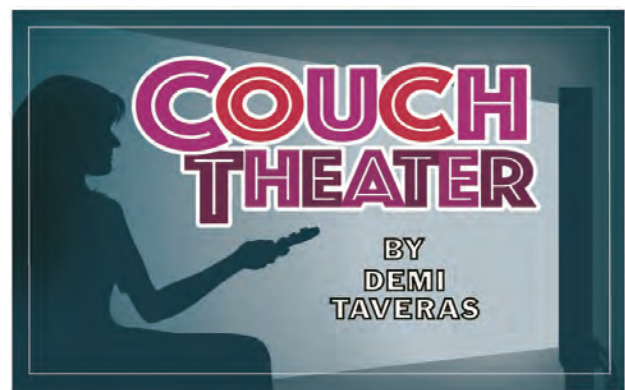
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Carver wins Theater Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Outstanding Choreography:

Tier 1: Brianna McCray Holmes, Denzel Taylor, Kyndal Hutto and Faith Bumper, G.W. Carver High School, *The Bodyguard*

Outstanding Dancer: Giovanni Gonzales, G.W. Carver High School, "Principal Dancer," *The Bodyguard*

The power of education, artistry and community has come together at the Tommy Tune Awards where passionate young adults have had the opportunity to take the stage together and share their creative accomplishments with their greater-Houston community for more than 20 years.

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, adjudicators evaluated every participating school's show, focusing on each element of the production. The adjudicators are made up of a group of Houston-based theatre professionals who have backgrounds as performers, designers, directors, choreographers, and musicians; and who have years of experience working in arts education and administration.

The Tommy Tune Awards are named for Broadway legend, Houston native and Lamar High School alumnus Tommy Tune. A performer, director and choreographer with more than 50 years of stage experience, Tune received 10 Tony Awards for his work in the following productions: *Seesaw*, *My One and Only*, *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*, *Nine*, *Grand Hotel* and *The Will Rogers Follies*. He was also awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2003 by President Bush.

Jimmy Awards Of the 28 Tommy Tune



Alyssa Dorsey performs with the Cast of THE BODYGUARD, Carver HS's award winning musical.



TUTS Jimmy Award Winners Alyssa Dorsey, Carver HS; and Eiliran Masti, Kinder HSPVA.

Award nominees for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role, two were selected via a rigorous audition process adjudicated by a panel of industry professionals ultimately winning an opportunity to represent Houston and TUTS at the Jimmy Awards®. The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (the Jimmy Awards®) are a national celebration of out-

standing student achievement, recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance and elevating the importance of theatre arts education in schools. The Jimmy Awards are presented by The Broadway League Foundation.

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Joey King, left, and Logan Lerman star in "We Were the Lucky Ones."

"We Were the Lucky Ones"

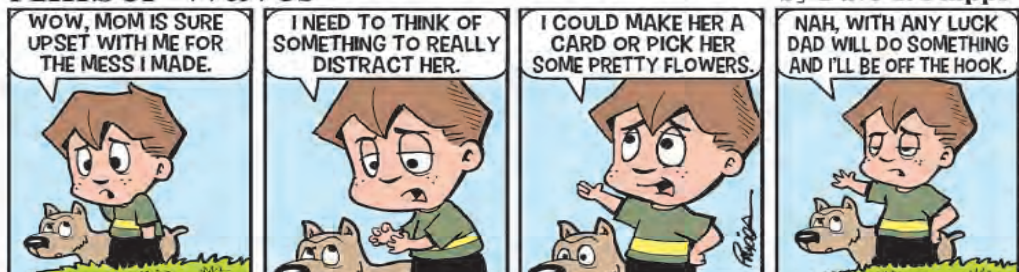
"WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES" (TV-MA) — After starring in the 2022 film "Bullet Train" together, Joey King and Logan Lerman reunite to lead this new eight-episode series based on the historical novel written by Georgia Hunter. King and Lerman respectively portray Halina and Addy Kurc, two siblings in a Jewish family of seven who live in Poland at the start of World War II. The large family inevitably gets separated as the war carries on, taking them far away from home and spreading them across continents. Amid the tragic circumstances they're forced to endure, the Kurc family is determined to keep their resilience and reunite with each other once the war ends. The first three episodes premiere March 28. (Hulu)

(PG-13) — Is it the end of Jason Momoa's "Aquaman"? In December 2023, Momoa told "Entertainment Tonight" that if the audience loves the sequel, "there's a possibility" of a third film getting greenlit. But after negative reviews and the film only making \$434 million against a budget of \$215 million, it doesn't look too good. In the sequel, Momoa stars as Arthur Curry four years after the events of the first movie. Now a married family man, Arthur splits his life between the land and sea, while Black Manta still seeks revenge in the shadows. When he learns of Manta's plans, Arthur breaks Orm, his half-brother, out of prison to join him in the fight against Manta. Amber Heard, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Nicole Kidman reprise their roles from the first film. Out now. (Max)

"AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM"

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Arm is moved. 2. Neck opening of undershirt is lower. 3. Pocket is different. 4. Cabinet door is wider. 5. Bottle on counter is moved. 6. Which is added.

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March 25, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

ACROSS

- Weighing device
- Sitar tunes
- Fearful
- Using the Internet
- Eagles' homes
- Julianne and Demi
- Away from SSW
- Auto style
- Wager
- Food regimen
- Cariou of Broadway
- Visibility hindrance
- Cancel
- Journeys
- Head of st.
- Animal doc
- "Lolita" author
- Summary
- Plow pullers
- Felon's flight
- Sitarist Shankar
- Soccer's Hamm
- Prom duds
- Heavy weight
- E-business
- Boring type
- New citizen, perhaps

DOWN

- Picturesque
- Life's work
- Onassis nickname
- Cask sediment
- '50s Ford
- Peter the Great, e.g.
- Shortly
- Day- — paint
- Car safety feature
- Allergy season sound
- Hourglass fillers
- "Melrose Place" actor
- Onassis nickname
- "Lion" star
- Patel
- Yank at
- Misanthrope
- choy
- outta here!
- Library array
- plume
- Wise sayings
- "Scram!"
- Preventive shot, in slang
- 40 winks
- Sidesteps
- Lipstick shades
- Repairs
- Rent
- Foolproof
- Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- Ruby or Sandra

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Where are the Seychelles islands located?
- TELEVISION:** In which sitcom is the catchphrase "Hello, Newman" used often?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is a cornichon?
- HISTORY:** According to a WWII government slogan, what should citizens do after they "Keep calm ..."?
- MOVIES:** What is the name of John Wayne's character in "True Grit"?
- LANGUAGE:** The Latin word "genu" refers to which part of the human body?
- U.S. STATES:** How many states begin with the letter "R"?
- MOVIES:** The first vaccine was created to protect against which disease?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the name of Helen Keller's teacher, who taught the blind and deaf girl how to communicate?
- ANATOMY:** What is the smallest organ in the human body?

Solution time: 21 mins.

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King Crossword

Answers

1. Scales 2. Sitar 3. Scared 4. Scars 5. Scars 6. Scars 7. Scars 8. Scars 9. Scars 10. Scars 11. Scars 12. Scars 13. Scars 14. Scars 15. Scars 16. Scars 17. Scars 18. Scars 19. Scars 20. Scars 21. Scars 22. Scars 23. Scars 24. Scars 25. Scars 26. Scars 27. Scars 28. Scars 29. Scars 30. Scars 31. Scars 32. Scars 33. Scars 34. Scars 35. Scars 36. Scars 37. Scars 38. Scars 39. Scars 40. Scars 41. Scars 42. Scars 43. Scars 44. Scars 45. Scars 46. Scars 47. Scars 48. Scars 49. Scars 50. Scars 51. Scars 52. Scars 53. Scars 54. Scars

1. Indian Ocean; 2. "Seinfeld"; 3. A small pickle; 4. "... and carry on"; 5. Rooster Cogburn; 6. The knee; 7. One: Rhode Island; 8. Smallpox; 9. Anne Sullivan; 10. Pineal gland.



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Lone Star College empowers leaders at Women's History luncheon



Lone Star College hosted a Women in Leadership Panel and Luncheon with top female leaders who shared their professional journeys. College administrators pictured (front row, left to right) are Lee Ann Nutt, Ed.D., LSC-Tomball president; Virginia Fraire, Ph.D., LSC-University Park president; Bridgett Johnson, LSC executive vice chancellor, Operations; De' Reese Reid-Hart, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery president; (back row, left to right) Kristy Vienne, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor, Finance and Administration; Valerie Jones, Ed.D., LSC-CyFair president; and Carlecia Wright, LSC chief culture and engagement officer.

HOUSTON (March 21, 2024) – Every March, the nation recognizes Women's History Month as a time to reflect and celebrate women's contributions in business, education, global affairs, technology and other fields. Lone Star College highlighted advancements made by women during the recent LSC Women in Leadership Panel and Luncheon.

"Lone Star College embraces the essence of Women's History Month as a time to pay tribute to the resilience, innovation and influence of women across generations," said Carlecia Wright, LSC chief culture and engagement officer. "The college values and respects the experience and journeys of all employees, providing students with expert role models to help train and guide them."

Lone Star College's top female leaders shared their professional journeys, filled with successes and setbacks, to encourage faculty, staff

and students to realize and achieve their goals. The panel also offered advice to empower future leaders to achieve their goals while mentoring others on their paths to success.

"Whether you are early, in the middle or late in your career, it is important to stay informed, continue to learn and take advantage of all the opportunities even if they seem scary," said Virginia Fraire, Ph.D., LSC-University Park president. "Find ways to connect what you're learning to the work that you're doing."

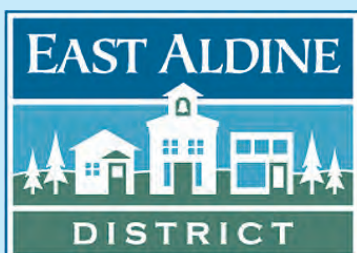
The LSC Women in Leadership Panel and Luncheon panelists included Bridgett Johnson, LSC executive vice chancellor, Operations; Kristy Vienne, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor, Finance and Administration; Virginia Fraire, Ph.D., LSC-University Park president; Valerie Jones, Ed.D., LSC-CyFair president; Lee Ann Nutt, Ed.D., LSC-Tomball president;

and De' Reese Reid-Hart, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery president.

"As you advance in your career, be honest, ask for and accept feedback and be the mentor to others that you needed when you first started," said Vienne. "Hard work, kindness, collaboration and growing your skills will help you personally and professionally."

LSC recognizes the significant historical contributions and achievements that Women have made in the United States and across the world. Visit LoneStar.edu/Women-sHistory to watch the event and see a list of upcoming LSC Women's History Month events.

Women's History Month began in California as Women's History Week in 1978. In 1987, the United States Congress designated March as Women's History Month. Learn more at WomensHistory.org.



East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Next Giant Public Safety Step for East Aldine: 60 crime-busting Cameras

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

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

Sheriff's Office deputies are the primary police force for the 2 million people who live in the unincorporated parts of Harris County. Flock Safety cameras are already in use in the Cloverleaf and Cypress Station parts of the patrol area.



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

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

Funding of the cameras is the latest leap in the management district's public safety initiatives, which include the installation of hundreds of streetlights, a force of 17 sheriff's patrol deputies assigned to concentrate on East Aldine, and the operation of a Sheriff's Office storefront open to the public at the East Aldine Town Center office building.

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

