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NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years
 VOL. 48, NO. 14 TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Art Car Parade



COLORFUL DREAM. See More Art Cars, Page 5

NEWS NOTES

County forms TIRZ District for East Aldine

Creates opportunities for additional upgrades to Infrastructure, Economic Development

By Anne Marie Kilday

EAST ALDINE – The newly created Harris County Tax Reinvestment Zone #1 is positioned to potentially spend millions of dollars on infrastructure improvements in East Aldine, setting the stage for increased economic development and property values.

Harris County Commissioners Court recently approved the birth of TIRZ #1 at the urging of Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

“We know East Aldine is in a prime spot for phenomenal growth in the next few years,” Garcia said. “I created the TIRZ



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

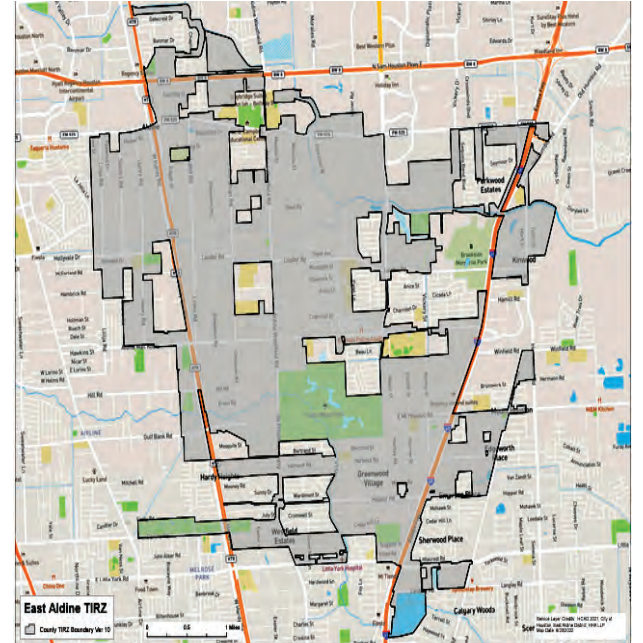
as a tool to foster that growth, and to do it in a way that most benefits the residents and people already living and working in East Aldine.”

“If any area is a prime candidate for new investment via a TIRZ, it is East Aldine,” the commissioner added. “Aldine

has been shortchanged for years, and it is long past time for focused improvements that will come via the new TIRZ.”

The East Aldine Management District worked with Garcia on his idea for the new TIRZ, developing a detailed 50-page report on the proposal. It calls for improvements to mobility (sidewalks, roads and trails, for example), drainage, parks, community facilities and much more.

“This will provide funding for infrastructure and other capital projects,” explained Richard Cantu, executive di-



Map of East Aldine showing areas within the TIRZ. Omitted areas will not have their taxes included in the TIRZ income projections.

Continued. See EAST ALDINE TIRZ #1, Page 2

East Aldine Small Business Seminar Thursday Apr. 25

East Aldine District invites you to a Free Small Business Seminar Luncheon on April 25, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at the EAD offices, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.

Subject: Getting Credit for Your Small Business, presented by Darrell Pevoteaux, VP of Frost Bank. See Page 8 to register.

This is the 2nd of a series for 2024. Watch for others, on the second Thursday every other month.

Unlimited Possibilities Event Saturday April 27

East Aldine District will hold an event for people “Where your Abilities and Disabilities become Possibilities!”

Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Center on Aldine Mail Route.

Events include: **9am Fun Run** for Runners, Wheelers, and Walkers. Register at AldineDistrict.org/race.

10am Basketball! Also at the Event will be Face Painting, Bubble Party, Music, Balloon Artists, Petting Zoo, Fire Truck on Display, and MORE...

See detailed information on Page 8.

Spring Fling at Avalos P-Tech HS Friday April 19

Third Annual Spring Fling, at P-Tech High School, 2430 Aldine Mail Route, Friday April 19 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Games, Food, Refreshments, Pie a Teacher in the Face.

See More details on Page 2.

Pct. 2 Seniors visit Brenham Fire Museum

Reported by Marina Flores Sugg

On Thursday, April 4 East Aldine residents went day-tripping to Brenham with seniors from the Leonel Castillo Community Center.

Our main destination was the Brenham Fire Museum. From there, we walked over to the Cannery where we enjoyed a delicious, yet very inexpensive lunch.

We worked off our meal with some second-hand store shopping at Higgins.

Coming and going, we made pit-stops at—where else? Buc-ee’s!



UPPER LEFT: The Brenham Fire Museum has several antique Fire Trucks on display. LEFT: Precinct 2 furnished a bus for the Seniors trip, with attendees from East Aldine and Leonel Castillo Community Center. ABOVE: One of the first fire engines was this horse drawn type. Photos by Marina Flores Sugg

County adds three new Health Pods to Homeless outreach

Harris Health Adds Three New Mobile Units to its Homeless Outreach Fleet

HOUSTON — Three new 35-foot mobile health units will soon roll out across Harris County streets as part of Harris Health System’s Health Care for the Homeless Program. The mobile units will allow Harris Health to visit more homeless individuals who gather in encampments and locations outside of Loop 610.

A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony was held Jan. 25 for new mo-

bile units adding to the existing four units that include a self-contained dental unit. The ceremony was attended by about 75 people that included city of Houston and Harris County elected officials, as well as staff and community supporters.

The homeless mobile fleet enables Harris Health to expand its homeless services and projected to provide up to 12,000 additional patient visits a year for homeless individuals. An initial focus for the team will be individuals living in the



County Commissioners join Harris Health President and CEO Esmail Porsa, MD, and Jennifer Small, AuD, executive vice president and administrator, Ambulatory Care Services, Harris Health, lead a group of staff, elected officials and supporters in cutting a ceremonial ribbon on Jan. 25 to dedicate three new mobile health units for Harris Health’s Health Care for the Homeless Program.

Greenspoint and FM 1960 areas, says Tracey Burdine, director, Health Care for the Homeless, Harris Health.

“The homeless population, not just here in Houston, is a very vulnerable population, and they have a host of needs and challenges,” she adds. “With our mobile health units, we’ll be able to not only assess them, screen them for diseases like diabetes or heart disease, but also provide them with medical care and treatment in one stop that has laboratory, medications and other social services.”

Each unit is equipped with either a one- or two-exam room configuration within a comfy 300-square-foot space. The units offer primary, pedi-

Continued. See NEW HEALTH PODS, Page 2

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

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

Executive Director: **Richard Cantu**
 713.595.1220 RCantu@AldineDistrict.org

Operations Manager: **Veronica Sanches**
 713.595.1226 VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

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East Aldine TIRZ #1,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rector of the management district. "In the first couple of years, we're looking at the potential for significant additional revenue for East Aldine up-grades."

As indicated by its name, the new TIRZ is the first in Harris County outside the city limits of Houston.

By state law, a tax increment reinvestment zone (TIRZ) can be used to pay for public improvements to encourage development and/or redevelopment of an area and attract private investment.

According to the report by the management district, "cities and counties may create a TIRZ where conditions exist that substantially impair an area's sound growth and where development or redevelopment is not likely to occur but for public infrastructure enhancements financed by a TIRZ."

Where will the money come from?

First, the total appraised value of real property located within its boundaries is established for the year of the TIRZ's creation. This is the "base value."

Second, as property values rise, the difference in dollars between the base level and the in-

creased level is the "increment." Property taxes from the increment are then used to fund further improvements within the zone.

It's a way for a community to ensure that at least some of its county property tax revenue will be used for improvements in the place the dollars came from — with no additional taxes needing to be paid.

According to the 50-page report, County TIRZ #1 could spend from \$126 million to \$264 million on projects — boosting the taxable value of property by \$1.8 billion — by the year 2052.

The East Aldine Management District board members will also serve as the County TIRZ 1 board.

Other highlights from the District's report:

— East Aldine has historically struggled with getting safe and well-connected series of roads, sidewalks, and trails.

TIRZ projects will "enhance connectivity and efficient, safe travel through and throughout the zone by multiple modes of travel including by car, bus, bike and by foot.

— The Aldine area was initially developed with-

out many of the major capital improvements needed to ensure public health and safety, instead depending upon water wells, septic systems, and a ditch system — all of which have largely failed. While improvements have been made, a substantial amount of the area still depends upon rural improvements to serve an increasingly dense area.

Needed improvements include extension of water and sewer service to additional residential, commercial and industrial areas; expansion and enhancement of the stormwater management system from stormwater detention to localized treatment; conversion of open ditches to curb and gutter service; productive use of flood reduction buyout property.

— A lack of investment in new housing in Aldine has resulted in few opportunities for the market to supply quality, affordable housing. The new zone could entice development of new housing and other improvements that would encourage local homeowners to renovate and maintain their properties.

— by Anne Marie Kil-day

County adds 3 Health Pods,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

atric and maternal health care and include child/adult immunizations, HIV/Hepatitis C testing, sexual trauma care, diabetes screening, mental health counseling and prenatal/postnatal maternal care.

"Our goal is to be wherever our patients are, either in person or virtually," says Jennifer Small, AuD, executive vice president and administrator, Ambulatory Care Services, Harris Health. "With the expansion of our program, we're enhancing the medical, dental and a host of wrap-around services for our homeless population. Now, we're able to reach these individuals across more areas of Harris County."

During the dedication, Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones praised Harris Health's effort to coordinate services for those in need with 'a sense of urgency' to support all patients including the homeless.

"You have made substantial progress in your work serving the homeless for the past 37 years, and it's been remarkable,

and I thank you," she told the crowd during the dedication ceremony. "But what I love about Harris Health is the constant hustle. The constant asking, 'Are we doing enough? Are we doing it as effectively as possible? What more can we be doing? And how can we leverage technology, new ideas, new outreach, to reach those who need us the most?'"

The mobile units cost \$1.2 million and are funded by Harris Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The units are expected to hit the roads in the next couple of weeks.

###

Harris Health System is the public healthcare safety-net provider established in 1966 to serve the residents of Harris County, Texas. As an essential healthcare system, Harris Health champions better health for the entire community, with a focus on low-income uninsured and underinsured patients,

through acute and primary care, wellness, disease management and population health services. Ben Taub Hospital (Level I Trauma Center) and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital (Level III Trauma Center) anchor Harris Health's robust network of 37 clinics, health centers, specialty locations and virtual (telemedicine) technology. Harris Health is among an elite list of health systems in the U.S. achieving Magnet® nursing excellence designation for its hospitals, the prestigious National Committee for Quality Assurance designation for its patient-centered clinics and health centers and its strong partnership with nationally recognized physician faculty, residents and researchers from Baylor College of Medicine; McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth); The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; and the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine at the University of Houston.

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

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Collab-Lab's Mobile Classroom
This program is appropriate for children 3 - 5 years old. Younger siblings are welcome to attend.
Monday, Apr. 15, 11am - 12pm. 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.

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, Apr. 16, 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
Limited space/ Espacio limitado
Pre-registrese aqui: <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

Cloud Computing Office365 + Google Apps
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)
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).
Level: Basic to intermediate
Teen Thursdays
Thursday, Apr, 18, 3:30 - 5:30pm. 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!

Aprenda Computers & Job Skills
Limited space/ Espacio limitado
Pre-registrese aqui: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy> luego presentarse a la clase para tomar evaluación de nivel.
Jueves - 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

Take & Make Planters
Come by the library and get a planter kit to get your own garden started! While supplies last. **Saturday, Apr. 20, 10am - 5pm.**
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 most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, 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

Avalos is proud to host our third annual **Spring Fling**

Admission:
3 and under FREE
General Admission - \$2

When and Where
April 19th
4 - 7 pm
Location: Avalos P-Tech
2430 Aldine Mail Rt. Houston, TX 77039

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

District to Host 3rd Annual 'Festival de Primavera' on Saturday, April 27

Join us to learn about all the choices and opportunities for students as young as 3 and in Grades PreK-12.

Aldine ISD will host its third annual 'Festival de Primavera' later this month. While most districtwide events have translators or interpreters available to translate from English to Spanish, this event is COMPLETAMENTE ... TODITITO ... TODO EN ESPAÑOL or entirely in Spanish.

FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA

Click the image to view/download the flyer in English and Spanish. Hagan clic en la imágén para ver/descargar el folleto en inglés y español.

Saturday, April 27, 2024 9 a.m.-12 p.m. M.O. Campbell Educational Center 1865 Aldine Bender Rd. Houston, TX 77032

What Families Can Expect

District and Campus Choices and Opportunities
ESL and GED Programs for Parents in Partnership With Lone Star College
Family and Community University

Choice School Options (Early Childhood to Grade 12)

Dual Language Experience Programs (English/Spanish)

Newcomer/dual language experience campus

One-gender schools

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Programs

International Baccalaureate Program

Early College High School/Middle School and High School College Prep

Non-Traditional High School

Non-Traditional High School

Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) Schools

Early childhood education programs [Head Start, Prekindergarten, Kindergarten]

Advanced Academic Programs Like Gifted and Talented & College Preparedness

Pre-register Your Child for the Two-Way Dual Language Program for the 2024-2025 School Year

Parent Leadership Academy

Job Opportunities: Human Resources, the Transportation Department, and Child Nutrition Services

will look for fantastic talent to work in AISD!

Community Organizations and Resources
Baker-Ripley
Texas Children's Hospital

Community Health Choice
Complete Dental Kids
And More!

Kid-and Family-Centered Activities

Click the image to view/download the flyer in English and Spanish. Hagan clic en la imágén para ver/descargar el folleto en inglés y español.

Free Books
Award-winning Author and Illustrator Marcelo Verdad

Young Audiences Arts for Learning Houston will sponsor:

Ana María Barceló Flamenco — Arena
Harris County Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser: A state-of-the-art mobile library

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Activities
Student Performances
Petting Zoo and Face Painting

Boys' and Girls' Soccer Clinic
Firetruck
Student-Run Food Concession Stands

Bonding Against Adversity — Path to Citizenship at 10:30 a.m., Teaching Theater

And So Much More!
Meet Author and Illustrator Marcelo Verdad, 9:30 a.m. — Arena

Marcelo Verdad is an author and illustrator from México and the creator of The Worst Teddy Ever/ El PEOR Teddy del mundo. The book received a Blue Ribbon from The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, was a 2022 Indigo Best Book of the Year, and was shortlisted for the Barnes and Noble Book Awards. He is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and was one of the recipients of the Mentorship Award at SCBWI's 2019 Summer Conference.

Verdad graduated from ArtCenter College of Design, where he fell in love with kids' books. He sees them as an excellent opportunity to share valuable tools to help tiny ones build a solid foundation to navigate this world with kindness, openness, and compassion. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

His newest project, The Dream Catcher, will be published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers in May 2024 and released simultaneously in Spanish as El atrapa-sueños.

Día Mundial del Libro
Although the festival is a week later after World Book Day/ Día Mundial del Libro (April 23), Aldine ISD will also have free books at booths to celebrate in honor of the literary observance day. Literacy and biliteracy are among the district's top priorities.

April is Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
April is perfect timing since it is Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month. Aldine ISD currently has over 27,640 students identified as emergent bilinguals, and over 34,400 families list Spanish on their home language survey.

Why We Host an All-Spanish Event Like Festival de Primavera
The Spanish-speaking community is the largest demographic in Aldine ISD. Festival de Primavera ensures vital messages and information reach Spanish-speaking families and students. According to Altigracia' Grace' Delgado, executive director of the Multilingual Department, face-to-face communication is the number one way to communicate with Hispanic families. Her department is sponsoring the event.

"We have so much fun hosting the event each year, and the family feedback is incredible. Festival de Primavera is an opportunity to share an español Aldine's story without a language barrier," said Delgado. "We want our Spanish-speaking families to know all the available programs, choices, resources, and opportunities. We have offerings and resources for parents and students. At Aldine, we work to help the whole family thrive and succeed."

"We are excited about the work happening with our families and look forward to having the opportunity to meet and charlar with our families face-to-face each year. This event is yet another way we are actively working to increase family engagement and build strong relationships with families. We plan to give a fun-filled event for the entire family."

MacArthur High School Champions at UIL Academic Bi-District Contest



This marks the second consecutive year that the MacArthur UIL Academic Team swept the Bi-District competition.

The MacArthur High School University Interscholastic League (UIL) Academic Team brought home the 6A-14 Bi-District Champion title during the contest held on April 6. The group placed first and second in 14 events. The students competed against 11 other high schools in the Houston area.

UIL 6A District 14 Academic Contest
Overall School Sweepstakes

MacArthur HS: 558 Points — Sweepstakes
Spring HS: 238
Nimitz HS: 158
Eisenhower HS: 141
Carver HS: 119
Davis HS: 98
Spring Westfield HS: 74
Spring Wunsche HS: 71
Spring Dekaney HS: 36
Avalos P-TECH School: 16
Aldine HS: 0

According to UIL, academic activities complement the academic curriculum designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge. In addition, they are created to challenge students to confront issues of importance and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. Students are challenged to think critically and creatively, exhibiting much more than knowledge and comprehension.

Thirty-four students who competed and placed first, second, and third individually, along with the overall team champion for each event at the Bi-District competition, will advance to compete at the UIL Regional Academic Contest at Baylor University on April 26-27.

The MacArthur High School speech and debate team won Overall Team Champion for the first five events below.

MacArthur High School UIL Academic Bi-District Contest Winners
Informative Speaking



3rd Place — Noé Carrillo
6th Place — Jorge Gámez-Mares
Sponsor: Ms. Debettignies

1st Place — Ashley Ramírez
2nd Place — Alan Álvarez
Sponsor: Ms. Debettignies

Persuasive Speaking
2nd Place — Carmen McCloud
3rd Place — Nataly Padilla
Sponsor: Ms. Debettignies

Poetry Interpretation
2nd Place — Joscelin Lozoya
Sponsor: Ms. Debettignies

Prose Interpretation
4th Place — Jacquelyn Lozoya
5th Place — Marry Castillo
Sponsor: Ms. Debettignies

Calculator Applications — Won the Overall Team Champion

1st Place — Michael García
2nd Place — Lisa Hernández
3rd Place — Alejandro García
4th Place — Shoniya Murphy
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

Computer Applications
1st Place — Edgar Ramos
Sponsor: Ms. Higgins

Copy Editing
1st Place — Katherine Luna
Sponsor: Ms. Cho

Current Events and Issues — MacArthur Won the Overall Team Champion

1st Place — Kealsy Rincón
2nd Place — Michael Guevara
3rd Place — Alan Martínez
4th Place — Jorge Gámez
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

Editorial
2nd Place — Jorge Gámez-Mares
3rd Place — Marry Castillo
Sponsor: Ms. Cho

Feature Writing
4th Place — Alina López
5th Place — Azhar Saf-

dar Sponsor: Ms. Cho
Headline Writing
2nd Place — Marry Castillo
5th Place — Josué Quezada
Sponsor: Ms. Cho

Literary Criticism — MacArthur Won the Overall Team Champion

1st Place — Estefani Orozco
2nd Place — Katherine Luna
3rd Place — Kenia Banda
6th Place — Alberto Ochoa
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

Mathematics — MacArthur Won the Overall Team Champion

1st Place — Juan González
3rd Place — Rafael Vázquez
4th Place — Nataly Padilla
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

News Writing
6th Place — Josué Quezada
Sponsor: Ms. Cho

Number Sense — Won the Overall Team Champion

2nd Place — Josué Reboloso
3rd Place — Rafael Vázquez
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

Science — MacArthur Won Overall Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) & Team Champion

1st Place — Noé Carrillo
2nd Place — Ximena Cruces Luna
3rd Place — Sophia Cruz
4th Place — Hugo Campa
5th Place — Moisés Flores
6th Place — Rafael Vázquez
Sponsor: Mr. Van & Ms. Zuma

Spelling and Vocabulary
2nd Place and Spelling Team Champion — Marlene Bermúdez Andrade
Spelling Team Champion — Jorge Gámez-Mares
Spelling Team Champion — Ángel Rodríguez
Sponsor: Ms. Cho

3rd ANNUAL FESTIVAL de PRIMAVERA
An event for Spanish-speaking families.

Come and discover programs, opportunities, and options for children ages 3 and pre-K through 12th graders!

Also, enjoy

- Free Books
- Mobile Zoo & Face Painting
- Fire Truck
- Boys & Girls Soccer Clinic
- STEAM activities for kids
- Student Presentations
- Bonding Against Adversity — Path to Citizenship, 10:30AM
- Community Services
- And much more!

Award-winning author-illustrator Marcelo Verdad 9:30AM

young audiences arts for learning HOUSTON

Ana María Barceló Flamenco

HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SATURDAY APRIL 27 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

M.O. Campbell Educational Center
1865 Aldine Bender Rd.

ALDINE
Independent School District

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Building trust and authentic partnerships with you is a priority for Aldine Independent School District and the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department. You have an important voice in our community, and we need your input and perspectives on how our schools can best engage with you.

The FACE Department was formed with a goal to strengthen and increase relationships with our families. They want to ensure you feel welcome in our schools and part of the Aldine ISD team.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

If you have students in more than one school, you can take this survey again for additional school(s) by clicking the link that will appear in the thank you message once you have submitted this response.

All responses are confidential. Survey findings will be reported on overall data, not individual responses. The survey is being administered by our independent research partner, K12 Insight. No one in the District will know if you participated unless you identify yourself in the open-ended comments.


Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Your input will help us ensure excellence for every student in AISD.

TAKE THE SURVEY
ALDINEISD.ORG/FACESURVEY

ALDINE
Independent School District

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
 Harris County Judge
 Lina Hidalgo



Response to Attorney General Paxton seeking to stop Harris County Uplift Program

Harris County, TX, April 9, 2024 – Today, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against Harris County’s federally funded guaranteed income pilot program. The lawsuit falsely claims that Harris County’s Uplift Harris program is illegal under Texas law and in practice, if he succeeds in getting an injunction, the lawsuit will take away \$500 a month from 1,928 low-income Harris County families who are already counting on those dollars to feed their household, pay the rent, and keep the lights on.

In January, Harris County created the “Uplift Harris” guaranteed income pilot program, joining more than 80 cities and counties across the nation and other countries around the world that have seen success through similar programs. In Texas, San Antonio and Austin ran similar programs starting in 2020 and 2022, respectively.

“I feel for these families whose plans and livelihoods are being caught up in political posturing by Trumpian leaders in Texas. Like with abortion rights and basic gun safety, Texas far-right leaders grab at any opportunity to proclaim their Trumpian rhetoric, and they do it with impunity because they know that the people they’re hurting are not their billionaire donors, but everyday people with limited political power. The filing reads like a Trumpian manifesto and its logic is nonsensical. Trump himself instituted and touted a program in 2020 that sent checks to individuals beneath a certain income level. Several Texas jurisdictions have carried out similar programs for years without issue,” said **Judge Lina Hidalgo**.

Guaranteed income is one of the oldest and most successful anti-poverty programs. Celebrated conservative economist Milton Friedman notably advocated for the idea of a universal basic income. In other jurisdictions, recent data shows that these programs have helped increase employment rates, strengthen families, and improve health outcomes and mental health (*Journal of Urban Health*, 2023).

Uplift Harris provides \$500 monthly cash payments to eligible families for 18 months beginning this month, using federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan. Recipients were notified beginning March 18th and have been counting on receiving these \$500 payments for several weeks. Recipients will have full discretion to spend the funds on whatever their family’s most urgent needs are. Uplift Harris recipients were randomly selected from the 10 most impoverished zip codes throughout the county, which make a median annual income of \$35,000. For example, a family of four would have to make less than \$60,000 annually and reside in a low-income community. While poverty reduction is one of the most stubborn policy goals, programs like this have proven uniquely successful at decreasing poverty and increasing employment rates in communities around the nation and globe.

Harris County is experiencing poverty at rates higher than other large counties in Texas state and the nation. According to census data, roughly 1 in 6 people in Harris County live in poverty, more than the national average and more than all other large counties in Texas. Data from the Kinder Institute shows that roughly 2 in 5 Houston residents say they would be unable to pay for a \$400 emergency.

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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.harriscountytx.gov.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to GrafikpressNewspapers, 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.



THE POSTSCRIPT
 By
 Carrie Classon

Bonanza!



My husband, Peter, and I spend the winters in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. The center of the town is a designated World Heritage Site, which means the facades of the buildings must remain as they were in the mid-1700s. The streets are made of round and sometimes slippery cobblestones. The doors are stout and covered with hundreds of coats of paint, and on the top of every building is a rooftop terrace where people can watch the fireworks that go off for no reason that anyone has ever been able to figure out. It is wonderful.

But there is another world, just outside our little town, where there are big-box stores and a couple of very large grocery stores with food courts and bakeries and all the brands we are used to buying in the United States.

Peter and I have never been there.

Instead, we go to the vegetable market that gets deliveries every hour, and the bakery where particular types of bread only appear at particular times of day. For everything else, we go to Bonanza.

When you see the outside of Bonanza, you could be forgiven for thinking their inventory might not be extensive. The store appears to be smaller than a two-chair hair salon. Immediately inside the door, a checkout counter occupies most of the space. Sitting at the counter is the same woman every day, engaged in animated conversation with someone new. The conversation always sounds interesting (and probably includes a lot of juicy gossip), but the Spanish is spoken at a velocity far too fast for my ears, so I just listen to the rapid-fire dialogue while the cashier pushes buttons and makes change with lightning speed, without ever taking a pause for breath.

Inside there is, quite literally, everything. Peter compares it to a “Harry Potter”-style store that somehow magically grows the farther in you venture. I like to think of Garrison Keillor’s monologues about the mythical Lake Wobegon, the home of Ralph’s Pretty Good Grocery.

“If you can’t get it at Frank’s,” Keillor would assure his listeners, “you can probably get along without it.” That is Bonanza exactly.

Every time I have bet against Bonanza, I have been wrong.

“They won’t have balsamic vinegar glaze,” I told Peter.

“I bet they will,” Peter said.

They had a dozen varieties, three different brands of the normal type and several flavors I had never heard of, all at half the price I would pay in the U.S.

Above the balsamic glaze is pie filling and next to it is shampoo and on the shelf you cannot reach are paper napkins of every imaginable variety. There is cat food by the pound and candles and spices and bulk flour and oats and chia and flax seeds, wheat germ and raisins, prunes, and too many kinds of beans and nuts to count.

There is cheese by the slice and wine and pickles and cookies and toothpicks. The only things they don’t sell at Bonanza are fresh breads, vegetables and meat—because you know you are supposed to go to the proper store to get those.

I love it. I love having one tiny store filled literally to the rafters. The staff keep a ready supply of stools and long sticks with hooks on the end to reach the half of the inventory that is far out of reach.

We still haven’t been to the fancy grocery stores outside of town with the wide aisles and the food courts. We’ve heard it’s great. Maybe we’ll go someday. But probably not.

Till next time,
 Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
 By Gary Borders



Agencies Blasted over Wildfire Oversight

State agencies and regulators were heavily criticized at a Texas legislative hearing for failing to communicate during the deadly Panhandle wildfires, the Texas Tribune reported.

The three-day hearing, held in Pampa, investigated the Smokehouse Creek fire and others that burned more than a million acres, destroyed hundreds of homes, killed up to 10,000 cattle and resulted in two deaths.

State Rep. Ben King, R-Canadian, chaired the committee and said the hearing was difficult but necessary.

“You may not like the line of questions or the tone of questions, but we are here for answers,” King told representatives of the state’s regulatory agencies last week. “It’s not a personal attack on you or your agencies, but it’s time for answers.”

Xcel Energy has acknowledged that a fallen power line ignited the Smokehouse Creek fire. The company hired by Xcel to perform safety inspections – Osmose Utilities Services – declined to participate in last week’s hearings.

Mike Hoke, with the Public Utilities Commission, said the agency doesn’t conduct inspections. Instead, it relies on the utility companies to hire its own inspectors. He said utility companies can hire whoever they wish to inspect utility poles with any oversight from the PUC.

The legislative committee is expected to publish its results and recommendations for any legislative changes by May 1.

FIRST HUMAN CASE OF BIRD FLU IN TEXAS DETECTED

The first human case of avian influenza in Texas was reported last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services. It came after contact with infected dairy cattle and is only the second case of a human being infected with bird flu in the United States.

“The risk to the general public is believed to be low; however, people with close contact with affected animals suspected of having avian influenza A(H5N1) have a higher risk of infection,” the alert from DSHS said.

Symptoms can include a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, fatigue, eye redness, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or seizures. The alert



urged health care providers who see someone who may have the virus to immediately contact their local health department.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the commercial milk supply is considered safe and that milk from infected cattle is being dumped.

STATE’S LAWYER SAYS IMMIGRATION LAW MAYBE ‘WENT TOO FAR’

An attorney defending a new state law allowing law enforcement officials to arrest people who cross the border illegally told a panel of federal judges the law possibly “went too far.” The Dallas Morning News reported. The 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals previously halted enforcement of the law and is now hearing arguments over its legality.

“What Texas has done here is they have looked at the Supreme Court’s precedent and they have tried to develop a statute that goes up to the line of Supreme Court precedent but no further,” Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson said. “Now to be fair, maybe Texas went too far, and that is the question this court is going to have to decide.”

The U.S. Justice Department is arguing that Texas is trying to usurp the federal government’s authority to enforce immigration laws, while the state says it wants to work with the federal government.

STATE ECONOMY AGAIN EXPANDS FASTER THAN NATION

The state’s economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates gross domestic product for Texas grew in 2023 at an annual rate of 5.7%, more than double the national average of 2.5%. The state also continues to lead the nation in job creation, adding almost 50,000

new jobs in February.

“Texas is again outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth thanks to the best business climate and the strongest workforce in America,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

While Texas outpaced the national average for GDP growth, a few states posted higher percentage increases – Nevada, Utah and Idaho.

DISTRACTED DRIVING IS DEADLY DRIVING, TXDOT REMINDS

Driving the vast highways of Texas can become a bit tiresome, often with hundreds of miles before reaching one’s destination. But the Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to resist the urge to check that ping of the phone to read a text message or watch the latest social media video a friend sent.

TxDOT reported nearly 400 people died on Texas roadways last year because of distracted driving, and nearly 2,800 suffered serious injuries.

“Any loss of life is tragic, but imagine killing or seriously injuring someone else because you thought you could text and drive at the same time,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “When you’re behind the wheel, you need to be focused on only one thing: driving. Looking at your phone, eating or adjusting your music can wait until you’re safely parked.”

Texting while driving is not only dangerous; it’s a crime to be caught reading, writing or sending a text while driving, and can cost a driver a \$200 fine. Many cities also outlaw the use of a handheld device while driving.

INTERNET SUBSIDY FUND IS GOING BROKE

A federal subsidy that provided \$30 monthly for internet service is about to run out of money, the Tribune reported. The subsidy was part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and helped 1.7 million Texas households save money on their internet bills. South Texas households had a higher-than-average rate of participation.

Th subsidy funding is scheduled to run out in May. Congress has failed to act despite calls for the program to receive additional funding.

Some broadband advocates worry terminating the program could jeopardize future broadband investments.

“If we build the infrastructure but then all these people lose internet access, we are going to be taking one step forward and two steps back,” Kelly Garbee, executive director of Texas Rural Funders, a nonprofit focused on rural philanthropy, told the Tribune. “It is important to take a long view.”

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.

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com
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From Fruitmobile to Phenomenon: Houston Art Car Parade 2024

THE ART CAR PARADE TODAY

Today, the Houston Art Car Parade is the highlight of a four-day celebration of the drive to create, Houston Art Car Parade Weekend. The parade attracts 250+ vehicles and other entries from 23 states and other countries from Canada and Mexico. A live audience of some 250,000+ spectators.

Parade entries include anything on wheels from bicycles and unicycles to lawnmowers to cars and go-carts.

Entries are likely to be made by members of the general public as by recognized artists.

Community groups, public and private schools, and professional organizations have become regular participants. Inspired by what they see, spectators create art cars of their own and often become future participants. And as the parade grows, attracting more and more participants, the complexity and quality of the entries increases.

ART CAR GRAND MARSHAL

2024 - BROCK WAGER, Founder & Brewer of Saint Arnold Brewing Company

HISTORY OF THE ART CARS:

In 1984, Kit and Carl Detering donated a 1967 Ford station wagon to The Orange Show Foundation to be auctioned at our annual Gala benefit. Houston artist Jackie Harris transformed the car into a mobile work of art with a budget of \$800 for paint and plastic fruit. The "Fruitmobile" was donated back to the foundation by the group of six who purchased it.

Also in 1984, Ann Harithas curated an exhibition called "Collision" at Lawndale Art Center that featured two art cars. All this activity resulted in a number of art cars seen on Houston streets.

In 1986, Rachel Hecker and Trish Herrera organized a New Music Parade in conjunction with the New Music America Festival. Some 20 artist floats and art cars paraded down Montrose Boulevard, ending at the dedication of the MFAH sculpture garden. A few months later, Susanne Demchak organized a "Road Show" at The Orange Show on June 29, 1986, 11 art cars were exhibited alongside the Fruitmobile at The Orange Show, with Lowrider demonstrations, and children's art bike workshops. 1,400 Houstonians came, along with WFAA-TV and National Public Radio.

In 1987, the Houston International Festival, the City's official celebration of the arts, asked the Orange Show to



organize a parade to build on the success of the New Music Parade. The Orange Show agreed to produce an event dedicated to art cars.

Roadside Attractions: The Art Car Parade was born in April, 1988 with a 40 car parade seen by an estimated 2,000. By the following year, the parade size doubled and the crowd swelled to tens of thousands.

Another important milestone came in 1989, when Harrod Blank came from California with his art car, "Oh My God." On a quest to document America's art cars that eventually led to his two books and two films on art cars, Harrod told artists all over the nation about the Houston Art Car Parade, and soon we began to see caravans of art cars travel thousands of miles to be in the parade.

Another major milestone was the entry of Rebecca Bass and Edison Middle School in 1990. "The Body Shop" went on to win major awards, and started educators across the city to see art car projects as tools to teach life skills and engage students with their schools and community.



SPANISH PAGE

Cortes y Conversaciones: Una Aventura Entre Estudiante y Maestro

En una historia que combina deportes, educación y emprendimiento, el viaje del ex mariscal de campo de Eisenhower High School y estudiante destacado, Zacchaeus Henry, da un giro notable. Formando equipo con Peter Smith, un respetado profesor de Física y Astronomía de Eisenhower, Henry se embarca en una inspiradora aventura que trasciende los caminos tradicionales de la relación alumno-maestro. Su asociación culminó con el establecimiento de una barbería única, Exclusive Fadez, ubicada en 4444 Cypress Creek Parkway. Su asociación no se trata solo de cuidar el cabello, sino de promover la comunidad y crear oportunidades.

El inspirador viaje del ex mariscal de campo de la Escuela Secundaria Eisenhower y estudiante destacado, Zacchaeus Henry, da un giro notable cuando une fuerzas con Peter Smith, un respetado profesor de Física y Astronomía en la misma escuela. Juntos, establecen una barbería única en 4444 Cypress Creek Parkway, no solo para arreglar el cabello, sino también para fomentar la comunidad y crear oportunidades. Su asociación trasciende los caminos tradicionales de la relación estudiante-maestro, mostrando un compromiso inquebrantable para tener un impacto positivo.

El viaje de Henry para abrir su barbería va mucho más allá de la ambición personal; nace de un profundo deseo de influir positivamente en su comunidad. Más allá de simplemente perseguir objetivos personales y forjar una trayectoria profesional, la visión de Henry abarca una misión más amplia: inspirar y elevar a los jóvenes mientras apoyaba a los empresarios locales. Ve su barbería no solo como un lugar para cortarse el pelo, sino como un centro para promover una mentalidad positiva y lograr un cambio significativo dentro de la comu-



Zacchaeus, dirigiéndose a la entusiasta multitud del club de chicos y chicas sobre la fijación de objetivos, les inspiró con su sabiduría y luego repartió generosamente 50 cortes de pelo gratuitos a quienes se sintieron motivados para perseguir sus sueños.

nidad. Henry tiene como objetivo crear un espacio donde «personas de todos los ámbitos de la vida puedan reunirse, compartir sus historias y luchar colectivamente por el progreso al proporcionar una plataforma para el diálogo y la conexión». Como ex mariscal de campo destacado, Henry entiende la importancia de los espacios comunitarios para cerrar las divisiones y fomentar el entendimiento. Ve la barbería como una vía única para la divulgación, donde las personas, desde oficiales de policía hasta atletas, pueden entablar conversaciones sinceras sobre los desafíos y triunfos de la vida.

Para Henry, la barbería representa algo más que un negocio: «Es una puerta de entrada para construir relaciones, fomentar la empatía y obtener información sobre las diversas experiencias de quienes lo rodean».

El camino de Henry hacia la iniciativa empresarial está profundamente entrelazado con el apoyo y la orientación que recibió, tanto de su padre como de su socio, Mr. Peter Smith. Reflexionando sobre su educación,

Henry le da crédito a su padre por inculcarle no solo las habilidades de la barbería, sino también los valores del trabajo duro. Su colaboración con el Sr. Smith se ha convertido en una asociación dinámica basada en el respeto mutuo y los objetivos compartidos. Henry se rió cuando le preguntaron por su relación con Smith: «El Sr. Smith es mi amigo». El Sr. Smith estaba de pie en el fondo, sonriendo mientras asentía con la cabeza. Juntos, conciben la barbería como algo más que un negocio, como un vehículo para lograr un cambio significativo en la vida de las personas a las que sirven. Con el compromiso de construir una comunidad en su núcleo, la ambición última de Henry es hacer evolucionar el modelo de barbería, ampliando su alcance e impacto para capacitar a más personas en sus trayectorias personales y profesionales.

El Sr. Peter Smith, veterano educador de la Eisenhower High School y fontanero, electricista, ebanista y acabador de paredes, se ha convertido en una figura fundamental en la visión de Zach Henry de abrir

una barbería, encarnando la esencia de la tutoría y la orientación práctica. Todo comenzó cuando Zach compartió su sueño de obtener una licencia de barbero y fundar su propio establecimiento durante una de las clases de astronomía del Sr. Smith. Reconociendo el potencial del sueño de Zach, el Sr. Smith se embarcó en un viaje de capacitación de la comunidad, impartiendo conocimientos empresariales esenciales y habilidades prácticas para hacer realidad la visión de Zach. Desde la conceptualización del diseño hasta el recableado de toda la suite, el Sr. Smith ha sido fundamental en la transformación de un antiguo espacio en una nueva y vibrante barbería llamada Exclusive Fadez.

Para el Sr. Smith, cuya permanencia docente abarca más de tres décadas, la promoción de oportunidades empresariales para sus estudiantes tiene un profundo significado. Destaca la importancia de dotar a las mentes jóvenes de los conocimientos y herramientas necesarios para navegar por las complejidades del espíritu em-



Zacchaeus Henry y un grupo de estudiantes trabajando en el proceso de remodelación de la barbería.

presarial. Al reflexionar sobre su motivación, el Sr. Smith subraya la urgente necesidad de salvar la distancia entre la educación en las aulas y la aplicación en el mundo real, especialmente para las comunidades desfavorecidas a las que sirve como maestro. Destaca el potencial transformador del aprendizaje práctico, imaginando un futuro en el que los estudiantes construyan negocios y revitalicen sus comunidades a través de nuevas habilidades y conocimientos.

A lo largo de su viaje, Smith ha sido testigo de la transformación de Zach de un principiante a un comerciante competente y aspirante a empresario. A pesar de los desafíos iniciales, la ambición y la receptividad de Zach a la orientación impulsaron. Como una figura mentora similar a una figura paterna, Smith se enorgullece del crecimiento de Zach, recordando la gratificación de presenciar su desarrollo a lo largo del tiempo. Más allá del objetivo inmediato de lanzar Exclusive Fadez, Smith enfatiza la misión más amplia de preparar a los estudiantes



Zacchaeus Henry y Peter Smith sonreían satisfechos, con los rostros radiantes, mientras, uno al lado del otro, arreglaban la barbería a la perfección.

para las complejidades de la vida más allá de la academia. «No se trata solo de pasarlos por la escuela», afirma, «sino de tener un impacto tangible en nuestra comunidad y en las vidas de nuestros jóvenes». A través de sus esfuerzos de colaboración, Smith y Zach están sembrando semillas de empoderamiento y autosuficiencia, nutriendo a una generación de personas preparadas para prosperar en un mundo en constante cambio, un martillo, una instalación, una cita y un corte de pelo a la vez.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jeremiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. The villains Sanballat and Geshem are only mentioned in which book? 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
3. From Ephesians 5, what did Paul recommend as a substitute for wine? Water, Laughter, Love, Holy Spirit
4. Who condemns drinkers who start early in the

morning? Job, Isaiah, Ezra, Esther
 5. Which king had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen? David, Jehoash, Solomon, Neco
 6. Who wrote the book of Revelation? John, Jude, Matthew, Peter


ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Nehemiah, 3) Holy Spirit, 4) Isaiah, 5) Solomon, 6) John (the Revelator)
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

MATTHEW 22:18-21

One side of a denarius coin portraying Julius Caesar, dated 42 BCE



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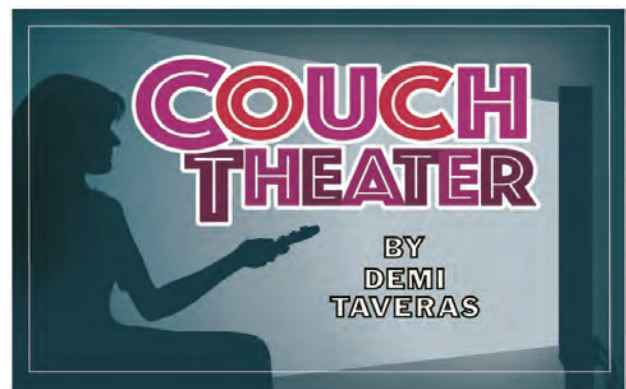
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Wyatt Russell, left, and Kerry Condon star in "Night Swim."

"Night Swim"

"NIGHT SWIM" (PG-13) — So far in 2024, it's been a quiet year for horror movies...

"UNDER THE BRIDGE" (TV-MA) — Another miniseries that releases on streaming this week is a true-crime drama...

"THE SYMPATHIZER" (TV-MA) — Based on the novel of the same name by Viet Thanh Nguyen...

"BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE" (PG-13) — Kingsley Ben-Adir takes on the role of reggae legend Bob Marley...

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

FHOLLYWOOD — A "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequel is in the works, according to producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

"We're gonna reboot 'Pirates' so that it's easier to put together because you don't have to wait for certain actors," Bruckheimer explained.

The 60-year-old Depp has now turned to producing and directing. He was originally set to star in "ModV," a biopic about Italian painter Amedeo Modigliani...



Actress Stephanie Courtney in "The Goldbergs" "The Next Chapter," along with Jason Clarke and Alan Ruck.

Will Smith's comeback film since his Oscar win and infamous Chris Rock slap is "Bad Boys: Ride or Die" with Martin Lawrence...

Scott Eastwood, son of Clint Eastwood, calls Hollywood filmmaking "a really weird business" and confesses, "I find a lot of creativity in real estate."

Yet still, Scott's got three upcoming films: "1992," which stars Tyrese Gibson and the late Ray Liotta...

It's official — Ken Jennings is the one and only host of everything "Jeopardy!" Viewers were torn between Jennings and Mayim Bialik...

Why would actress Stephanie Courtney, 54, almost totally give up acting in TV, having starred in series such as "Mad Men" and "The Goldbergs," as well as films like "Fred: The Movie," "Fred 2: Night of the Living Fred" and "The Heartbreak Kid," just to name a few?

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a boy and girl at a table with instructions to find differences.

April 15, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes clues like 'Siren', 'Cagers' gp.', 'Halt', etc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes 10 questions about movies, geography, language, U.S. states, literature, chemistry, television, music, science, and theater.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. "V for Vendetta" (2005); 2. The Philippines; 3. Antebellum; 4. California, with nine; 5. "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac; 6. Carbon dioxide; 7. "Everybody Loves Raymond"; 8. Rocket Baby Dolls; 9. Synapses; 10. Arthur Miller.



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The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy graduated 25 cadets from its spring 2023 cohort. Pictured are the new graduates and law enforcement guests who attended the graduation ceremony.

Lone Star College addresses police officer shortage

HOUSTON – Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed eight public safety bills into law following the 88th Regular Legislative session to ensure communities across the state have the resources needed to support law enforcement. The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) is also working to put more qualified officers on the streets to serve and protect communities.

“Qualified law enforcement officers are paramount to the success and safety of our communities,” said Seelpa Keshvala, Ph.D., LSC Executive Vice Chancellor, CEO LSC-Online, LSC-System Office University Park and LSC-University Park Acting President. “The Lone Star College Law Enforcement Academy offers academic, physical fitness and other training procedures to prepare students to become peace officers.”

The LSC LEA is also working to advance the 30x30 Initiative, a nationwide movement to increase the number of females in law enforcement from 12% to 30% by 2030. The college program has seen an increase in female students starting with zero in spring 2022 to six who graduated Aug. 10 from the spring 2023 cohort.

“Lone Star College’s Law Enforcement Academy understands the need to recruit more talented officers, including females, to help serve and protect our communities,” said Glenn Riddle, LSC Law Enforcement Academy Director. “Lone Star College hopes that our Law Enforcement Academy classes can assist with the 30x30 Initiative model by meeting this recruitment goal.”

Nicole Dickerson chose a law enforcement career because she wants to help people and be a positive role model. Dickerson graduated from the LSC LEA Academy Aug. 10 and plans to work patrol for Montgomery County Constable Precinct 4. Her goal is to become a detective and join the county’s Swift Water Rescue Team.

“I think it will benefit the community to have more females in law enforcement because most people view women as motherly and nurturing,” said Dickerson. “For example, some women and children may feel safer speaking to a female officer than a male, especially if it’s a domestic or family violence case.”

The six LSC female cadets joined their 19 male counterparts in the fall LSC Law Enforcement

Academy Graduation held Aug. 10. Joshua Farmer, LEA graduate, served four years in the United States Navy, occasionally working with the Military Police Department. He then became a first responder with the Houston Fire Department.

“Being a law enforcement officer will continue to help me do something more than myself,” said Farmer. “I’ve always wanted to give back, protect and serve the community.” Farmer will work full-time as a police officer with the Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable and remain a part-time firefighter with the Houston Fire Department.

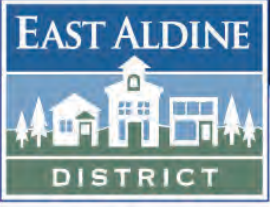
The Law Enforcement Academy began in 2021 at LSC-East Aldine Center. Cadets learn how to maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, state and federal laws for various law enforcement agencies, including educational institutions. The LSC Law Enforcement Academy meets Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) requirements.

Visit [LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Law-Enforcement-Academy](https://lonestar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Law-Enforcement-Academy) to learn more.

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