

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Ancestor Day ..... 1, 5
- Pet Matters ..... 2
- Aldine Library ..... 2
- Community Watch ..... 2
- AISD News ..... 3
- Family Engagement ..... 3
- OP-ED Don't Mail Checks .. 4
- Hurricane Forecast ..... 4
- Spanish Page ..... 5
- Kickball Tournament ..... 8
- Free Infant Formula ..... 8

# NORTHEAST NEWS

**Community Run**



Keith-Wiess Park Community Event  
Monday, April 22 & 29, 5 to 6 pm. See Info Below

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VOL. 48, NO. 15 TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

## A Day to Remember: Ancestor Day

Workshop at East Aldine teaches Self-Help Family History methods

**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.

**East Aldine's 1st Annual Kickball Tournament Saturday April 27**

East Aldine District and Precinct 2 invite you to their 1st Annual Kickball Tournament. All East Aldine Residents ages 14 and Up are invite to participate. **Saturday, April 27 from 9:30am to 11:30am at James Driver Park**, 10918 Bentley Street, Houston 77093 at the Ballfield. Info call Carmen Aguilar 713-274-2097. See page 8 for registration.

**East Aldine's Community Run April 22 and 29**

East Aldine District's Reach Committee (Revitalizing East Aldine Community Health) invites everyone to join a 2-Mile Walk and Jog around Keith-Wiess Park. **Monday April 22 and April 29 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.** Meet at 12300 Aldine Westfield Road, Houston 77093.

EAST ALDINE – Alma DeAlejandro, the Community Engagement and Events Manager of the East Aldine District, presented a workshop program on methods of chronicling family history, to an interested group of local residents. There were about 30 people in attendance. The group spent two hours discussing the following: Journaling, Family Traditions, and Genealogy. A lot of people shared their stories in connection with these topics.

Those in the community also learned to tie quilts, and they will continue quilting sessions next month. High Meadows Library, Baker Ripley and Pilgrim Place will each have a quilt. Pilgrim Place sessions are for residents only. Alma will have a schedule flyer out soon. The tie quilting activity creates a perfect opportunity for great conversations and getting to know the others in the group. The following is a review of the presentation,

hope that helps. Please let Alma know if you have any questions. Here is a summary of the main points that Alma made in her talk:  
**JOURNALING**  
It's hard to remember unless you write it down. --The different ways to journal... using paper, online, audio and visual methods.  
--Benefits of Journaling:  
--Personal experiences of an English teacher  
--Journal assignment

that captures one of the most important family memories. Start journaling, at first you are just venting or writing, but as you continue the process it becomes therapeutic.  
**FAMILY TRADITIONS**  
Connecting to those you love through activities that turn into meaningful memories and traditions. Creative ways to hold meaningful conversations. They shared certain

traditions that they kept and passed on.  
**GENEALOGY**  
The confidence it brings to you and your posterity when your family research reveals certain positive role models. We discussed the top genealogy websites and the nearest free family search centers. We discussed how much you can do with some of the genealogy websites, like building Continued. See Ancestor Day, Page 5



The Ancestor Day presentation was made by Alma DeAlejandro, at left, with help from published author Pat Lindsay Catalla-Buscaino, at right.



Some of the group that participated in Ancestor Day at East Aldine District. (All Photos courtesy EAMD/ev1Pro)

## Aldine Ed. Fdtn. awards 413 scholarships

Scholarship Awards Total \$467,000 this year



Campbell Center was the site of last week's Aldine Education Foundation Awards Ceremony



East Aldine District board member Flor Zarzoza presents MacArthur HS student Alejandro Garcia with one of the District's Scholarships.

## Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Supplies, April 27-29

(AUSTIN) — As we enter the severe weather season, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 29. "Fires, tornadoes and other severe weather conditions can strike at any time, so it is important that families, homes and

businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "There is no sense in waiting for disaster to strike. I'm encouraging Texans to take advantage of this tax holiday to save money while stocking up for emergency situations." The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save about \$2.1 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:  
• household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;  
• hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and  
• portable generators priced less than \$3,000. For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price.

If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax free during the holiday. For example, if you purchase an emergency ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the emergency ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on

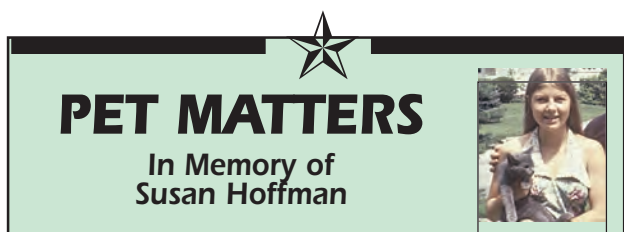
the \$309 sales price. Purchases that do not qualify include:  
• batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;  
• camping stoves and camping supplies;  
• chainsaws;  
• plywood;  
• extension ladders and stepladders; and  
• tents. A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

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

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Operations Manager: **Veronica Sanches**  
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## The Great Uniter: How Pets Foster Connections and Bring People Together

In the hearts and homes of nearly 70% of American households, pets hold a cherished place as integral family members. Dogs lead the pack, claiming the title of the most popular pet in the U.S., closely followed by cats and a diverse array of other animal companions. Beyond their roles as sources of joy, relaxation, and comfort, pets play a remarkable role as social catalysts, bringing people together in unexpected ways.

TripsWithPets.com recently conducted a survey that delved into the profound impact of pets on social connections. The survey, reaching pet parents across the United States, uncovered the invaluable role of pets in fostering not only companionship but also friendships and robust social networks.

### Pets as Protectors Against Social Isolation

The findings underscore that pets, beyond being lovable companions, act as protectors against social isolation. A significant 60% of pet owners, particularly those with dogs, displayed a higher likelihood of engaging with their neighbors who also have pets, dismantling potential social barriers.

Public spaces, such as breweries, parks, hiking trails, outdoor cafes, and neighborhood strolls, have become vibrant hubs of connection for pet parents. Dogs, with their friendly demeanor and approachability, emerged as effective social magnets, instrumental in initiating interactions and creating a shared ground for conversations to flourish.

### Beyond Physical Spaces: Pets and Digital Camaraderie

The survey expanded its scope beyond physical spaces, delving into the role of social media in connecting peo-

ple through their pets. Nearly 50% of participants noted that they've not only formed friendships but have also made notable connections with other pet parents via digital platforms due to their common love of pets.

Interestingly, almost 20% of these connections extended beyond the online realm, leading to in-person meetups for walks, play dates, travel, and more, fostering enduring bonds fueled by their shared affection for animals.

Kim Salerno, CEO of TripsWithPets, highlights the power of pets to forge connections: "We've witnessed pet parent followers who have met through our social platforms because of their pets. They've not only formed friendships but have also made plans to travel together with their pets, creating lasting memories ignited by their shared love for their pets."

### Multifaceted Connections: A Network of Support

The survey underscored the multifaceted nature of these connections, revealing that approximately 45% of participants received various forms of social support—be it emotional, informational, appraisal, or instrumental—through relationships formed because of their pets.

### The Takeaway

Pets go beyond being companions; they emerge as great unifiers, forging connections that enhance the lives of their human counterparts. From lively encounters in physical spaces to digital communities bonded by shared experiences, the influence of pets in fostering social connections is undeniable. As we celebrate the joy and companionship they bring, let's also acknowledge their role as the glue that binds us together, creating a network of support, friendship, and shared memories.

Article contributed by TripsWithPets

## Apartment Fire in the Greater Greenspoint Area; \$900,000 damage

Houston Fire Department reports an Apartment fire, April 2, 2024, at 5:05 a.m. at 13502 Northborough Dr. 77067.

There were No reported injuries. However, there was :\$900,000 in estimated damage. The cause is listed as Unintentional.

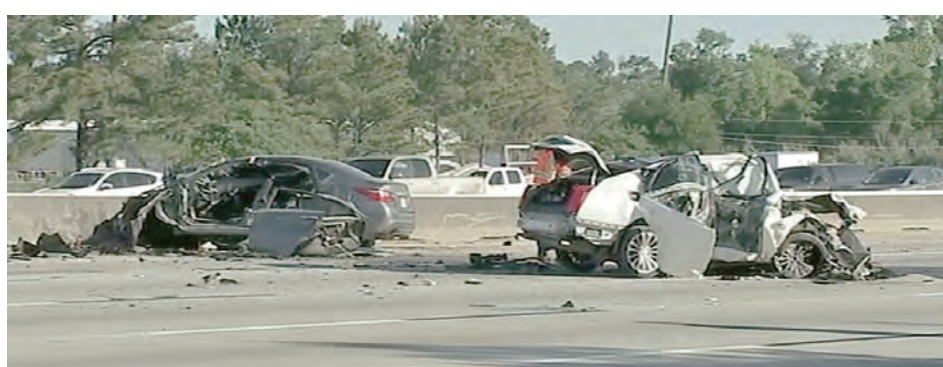
Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find heavy fire coming from an apartment building. They made a defensive attack on the fire side, an offensive attack on the unburned side and conducted a primary search.

Aerial operations were set up to control the fire from the exterior. The utilities were secured, and rehab was set up for the crews to rotate. The fire was controlled with crews preventing the spread of the fire, saving at least eight apartment units.

The American Red Cross was requested to assist the impacted families. HFD Arson investigators determined that a propane grill was being used as a charcoal grill and caused the fire.

47 personnel responded to this incident, including firefighters from Stations 84, 15, 31, 64, 58, 67, 74, 96, 30, Rehab 17 and the Aldine Fire Department.

## Two die in wrong-way crash on Eastex Freeway



NORTHEAST — A woman, who may have been driving while intoxicated, and another driver are dead after a wrong-way crash on the US-59 Eastex Freeway near George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Thursday morning, April 11. The crash occurred at 16900 Eastex Freeway.

Traffic was at a standstill in the area for most of the morning. All northbound lanes of the Eastex Freeway were closed near Rankin Road, just north of the Sam Houston Tollway. The freeway reopened shortly before 10 a.m.

The Houston Police Department police said the double-fatal crash happened just after 4 a.m. According to HPD, a woman driving southbound in the northbound lanes struck another car head-on in the far left lane. The female was driving a white Cadillac CTS southbound - wrong way - in the northbound lanes of the freeway. The Cadillac struck a gray Nissan Altima traveling northbound.

The wrong-way driver, who police described as a woman between 20 and 24 years old, was taken to the hospital, where she later died from her injuries. The other driver, a 22-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene.

An eye witness said "I watched it go by. It's a white Cadillac. I believe it's a CTS," Mark Brawn, who was driving home from work when he saw

the wrong-way driver, said. "That's not normal. So I immediately called 911." Brawn saw the woman driving the wrong way around the Kingwood exit, several miles north of the crash, closer to Will Clayton Parkway. That means the woman likely drove in the wrong direction for at least 10 minutes.

"I just saw a set of very bright headlights, and I'm thinking, 'Wow, that's in the fast lane.' Then I saw two other cars in front of me swerve, and that's when I realize there's a car driving south on the northbound side," Brawn said.

Surveillance video shows the white car crashing into the gray sedan and then a plume of smoke going up.

Police were able to start an investigation for intoxication manslaughter before the woman died at the hospital, HPD said. Sgt. Dionne Griffiths said signs of intoxication were found, and that was backed up by findings at the hospital.

"If people could just understand not to drink and drive, because that's probably exactly what happened here and possibly caused her to go the wrong way," Griffiths said. "Unfortunately, this situation was avoidable, and it's two young lives that are no longer here. I feel for the families that are involved and just everyone, because it's a sad situation."

—Courtesy KTRK

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**Eat, Play, Grow!**  
Harris Health is visiting the library!

They'll incorporate art-making, storytelling, music and movement activities into fun and hands-on educational lessons to teach young children and their adult caregivers about the importance of making positive choices in areas that most affect health. Monday, Apr. 22, 11am - 12pm.

**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. 23, 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, navegación por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes.  
**Importante:** \* Se determinará sus nivel de habilidades en uso de tecnología con una evaluación en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia.  
\* requerirá una cuenta

de gmail.com y outlook.com para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet.  
**Importante:** Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés

**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, Apr. 23, 6:30-7:30pm.**

**Teen Volunteer Orientation**  
Do you need volunteer hours for school or scholarships? Do you want to gain work experience, but aren't sure where to start? Volunteer at Aldine Branch Library and join us for one of our mandatory volunteer orientations. During this orientation, you'll learn the responsibilities of volunteers and how to work side by side with library staff to serve the Aldine community. **Wednesday, Apr. 24, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

**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

**Tween Spark: Blackout Poetry**  
Ever wanted to rip a few pages out of a book? Then join Ms. Gage to learn about blackout poetry: rip pages from books and make poems of your own by covering the page in Sharpie and decorating the margins! Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders. **Wednesday, Apr. 24, 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

**Teen Thursday** **Thursday, Apr. 25, 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, navegación por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes.  
**Importante:** \* Se determinará sus nivel de habilidades en uso de tecnología con una evaluación en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia.  
\* requerirá una cuenta de gmail.com y outlook.com para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet.  
**Importante:** Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés

**LEGO Night**  
LEGO building can be fun and creative! Children of all ages are welcome to join us. We'll provide the LEGOs and you can create whatever your imagination can come up with. We look forward to seeing you! **Happy Building! Thursday, Apr. 25, 5-6pm.**  
**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

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# SHABE Honors 3 Teachers, a Board Trustee, and 4 Students From Aldine ISD

The Suburban Houston Association for Bilingual Education recently held its annual banquet to honor educators



As organizations nationwide observe National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month in April, the Suburban Houston Association for Bilingual Education (SHABE) recently held its annual banquet. Several Aldine ISD teachers received honors as outstanding educators. Four high school senior students received SHABE Scholarships. Board Trustee Rose Avalos was also recognized for her continuous support of bilingual and ESL education.

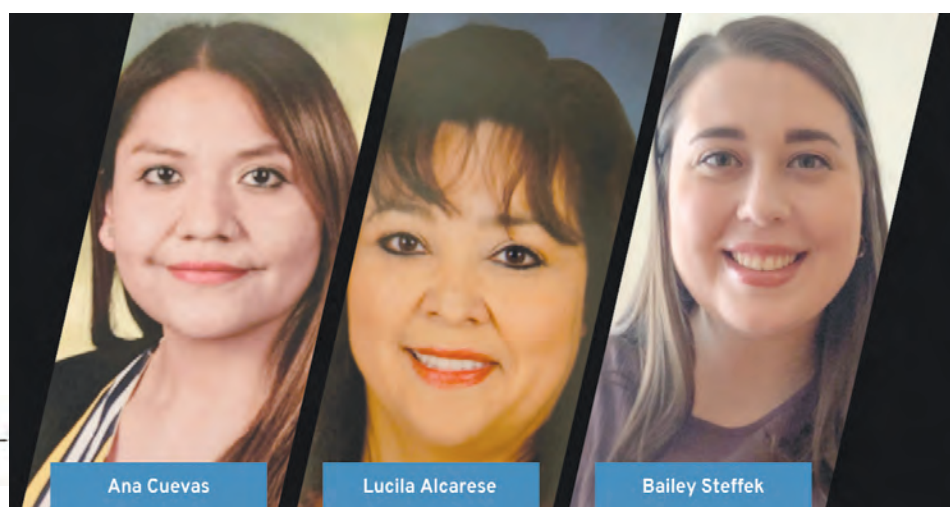
### SHABE Teachers of the Year

The Suburban Houston Association for Bilingual Education (SHABE) promotes educational opportunities for bilingual and ESL teachers. Every year, SHABE recognizes bilingual, ESL elementary, ESL secondary, and teachers of other languages; bilingual and ESL secondary teachers of the year may submit their portfolios to be considered for the TABE (Texas Association for Bilingual Education) teacher of the year. This year, the celebration banquet took place on April 5, 2024.

\*Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year: Ana Cuevas from Stehlik Elementary School

\*Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year: Lucila Alcarese from Ermel Elementary School

\*Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year: Bailey Steffek from La Promesa.



Cuevas, Alcarese, and Steffek will represent the SHABE district at the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) annual fall conference (October 17-20) in Round Rock, TX. The state winner automatically becomes the TABE nominee for the National Association for Bilingual Education Teacher of the Year competition.

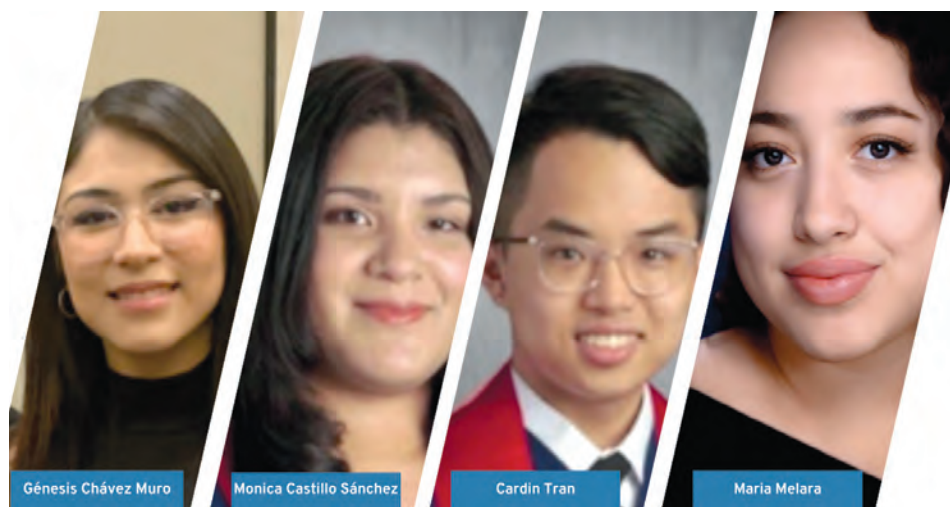
The J.C. Harville Scholarship is named after the leader who helped restart SHABE in 2000. He also retired from Aldine ISD. Harville is a former bilingual teacher, retired principal, and former bilingual director. The scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors and current paraprofessionals. Recipients must have been in a bilingual or ESL classroom or wish to become a teacher of Emergent Bilingual students.

### Scholarship Recipients

\*Avalos P-TECH: Génesis Chávez Muro

\*Davis High School: Monica Castillo Sánchez and Cardin Tran

\*Eisenhower High School: Maria Melara



### Diana Marion García Marion Award

Another grand evening highlight came when SHABE bestowed Aldine ISD Board Trustee Rose Avalos with the Diana García Marion Award. The Diana Marion García Marion Award recognizes a member of the educational community who has advocated for and demonstrated continued support for bilingual and ESL education.

For 22 years, SHABE has supported bilingual, ESL, and foreign language educators across the area. SHABE was founded to support teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators as they educate students whose native language is not English. The Association serves to review and disseminate the state of bilingual education in Texas. Additionally, SHABE members exchange data, studies, ideas, practices, and information with area school districts and educators



# Officer Ariel Holliday Bestowed With TPCA and HAPCA Officer of the Year Awards



Police Officer Ariel Holliday is the inaugural recipient of the Officer of the Year Award from the Houston Area Police Chiefs Association for her outstanding work as the community outreach officer for the Aldine ISD Police Department. Paint the Convert, Trunk-or-Treat, Donuts With a Cop, and Shop With a Cop are only a few examples of her work.

At the state level, Officer Holliday was honored with the Blauer Police Officer of the Year award at the 2024 Texas Police Chiefs Association Conference for her work with the Aldine ISD Police Department. The conference was recently held on Galveston Island, Texas.

Chief Paul Córdova (seen posing with Holliday to the far left above) said,

"We are so proud of her dedication and creativity in reaching our #MyAldine community."

Officer Holliday is the first officer in AISDPD's history to serve as a community outreach officer.

Do you have a community outreach idea for Officer Holliday? Contact her at (281) 924-6926 or email ajholliday@aldineisd.org.

# Best-selling Author Angie Thomas meets with Hoffman MS students



Angie Thomas, the author of The Hate U Give, visited with select students at Hoffman Middle School on April 4 to promote her latest book, Nic Blake and the Remarkables, her middle-grade level debut title.

English Language Arts teachers selected 150 students to meet Thomas in a talk show-style presentation titled "Angie Thomas Live in Hornet Nation." Principal Jeana Adams and William Schaller, campus librarian, interviewed Angie about world-building, character develop-

ment, and the writing process.

After the presentation, students asked Thomas questions, ranging from advice to get over writer's block to the famous question: Is macaroni and cheese a side dish or main course?

Hornet VIP Readers then met in the library for a meet-and-greet and photo opportunity. They got their books personalized, asked one-on-one questions, and posed for a picture with Thomas.

Schaller shared that all students in attendance re-

ceived a signed copy of Nic Blake and the Remarkables to read and a stocking of the Little Free Library Outside for other Hornet Nation readers. He added that Thomas provided over 200 copies of her book, which was released in paperback on April 2.

Schaller thanked the six student Library Ambassadors who assisted with setting up the event, the signing line, decorating, and cleanup. He also thanked Marco Zannier Virginillo, program director of AISD Library Services, for attending the event.



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.



TAKE THE SURVEY  
ALDINEISD.ORG/FACESURVEY

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.



OPINION PAGE

OPINION By BILL KING



Do Not Mail Checks in Window Envelopes

A couple of months ago, I wrote a check for about \$200 to my pool company for the monthly maintenance. It was a computer-generated check that I mailed in a window envelope, which made it apparent that a check was enclosed. After about ten days, the check had still not cleared. I called the company and they said they had not received it. A couple of days later, the check cleared my bank twice, except the payee and the amount had been altered. Instead of being payable to my pool company for \$200, the check was shown to be payable to a company and a person I had never heard of and were for a total of over \$14,000.

Under the Uniform Commercial Code, the person that first accepts the forged signature must bear the loss. So, in my case, my bank had to replace the funds in my account and they, in turn, were made whole by the banks that originally accepted the forged checks.

But I still had to close the account and open a new account. That meant I had order to new checks and contact all of my auto payments and deposits. And because some of those do not act immediately, e.g., the Social Security Administration, I had to work with my bank to periodically transfer funds out of the closed account. In other words, it has been a royal pain in the you know what.

After doing some investigating, I discovered that what happened to me has become fairly common. The common element in many cases was that the checks had been sent in window envelopes. One law enforcement source I spoke to told me that they believe rouge postal workers are pocketing envelopes that are obviously checks and selling them to crime syndicates that are in the business of forging the checks. The Post Office maintains that most stolen checks are from thieves breaking into streetside mail drop-offs.

Checks being stolen from mailboxes has become so ubiquitous in some cities that police departments have begun posting warnings to the public like this X post by the Coral Spring PD.

The checks are being deposited remotely through a phone app or at an ATM. In my case, the same check was altered two more times after the first two (four in total) and deposited in various locations, all with a different payee and amount. One organization told me that their check was deposited by a person in Las Vegas. So, this seems to be a nationwide scam operation. There are numerous media accounts in various cities.

In fact, the problem has gotten so bad that last year, the Post Office advised against sending check in the mail at all. According to their statement at the time, over 680,000 checks were stolen from the mail in the previous year.

In talking to the fraud department at my bank and researching the issue, these are the steps that banks and other experts most advise:

Do as much banking online as possible. Use your bank's payment site or use the direct payment with your payee, if they are a reputable institution, such as a bank or utility provider. Zelle is another option to pay, which is easy to set up and convenient. However, there has been some fraud around Zelle. There is a well-documented Zelle scam frequently attempted on Facebook Marketplace. Only use Zelle with parties you know well.

Hand-written checks are harder to forge than computer-generated checks. Some believe that a line of pens known as checking-washing pens make altering the payee and amount more difficult, although some experts dispute their efficacy.

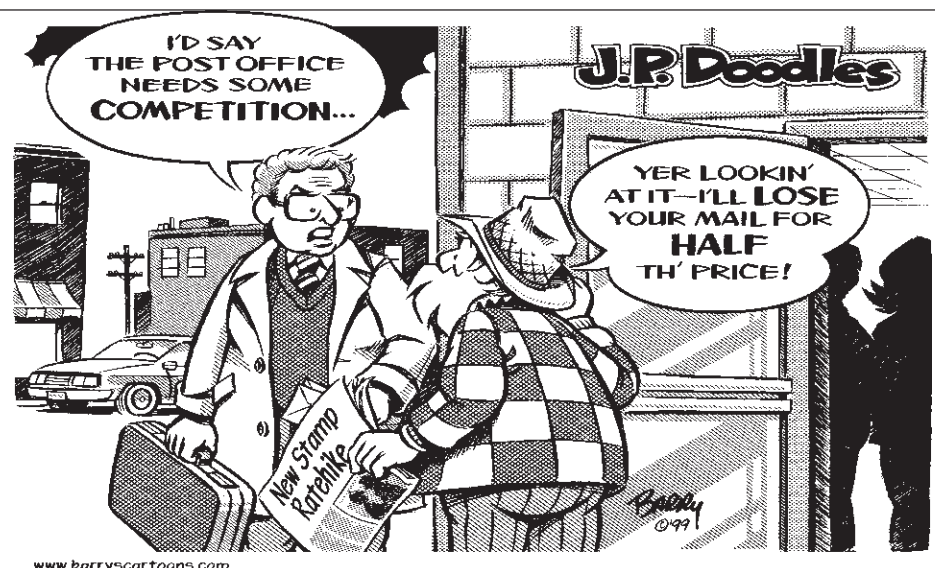
If you must mail a check, mail it in a regular envelope and wrap the check in a legal-size piece of paper to make it harder to hold up to the light and see what is inside. Throw away any window envelopes you have.

Do not mail any check in a streetside mailbox but go inside the post office instead.

I got several calls from financial institutions where my forged check had been deposited, to confirm that I had not written the check. Frankly, I was a little dismayed with their seemingly lackadaisical attitude. Each time, I offered some information based on the investigation I had done that I thought might help identify the perpetrators. But basically, I got the "not-my-job" response.

Certainly, there are things that we can do to protect ourselves, but this kind of fraud has societal costs that work their way into the cost of everything. And it seems highly likely that the ill-gotten proceeds are going to finance-organized crime operations. Hopefully, law enforcement and the financial industry will get more serious about catching some of these thieves.

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



Aggressive Hurricane Forecast for Gulf Coast

Colorado State University researchers are calling this year's hurricane season forecast "the most aggressive" ever, the Texas Standard reported. They say there is a 54% chance a hurricane will strike the Texas coast, and a 25% chance it will be major.

Justin Ballard, the Houston Chronicle's newsroom meteorologist, told the Texas Standard that the last hurricane to make landfall was Nicholas in 2021. The last major hurricane to land was Harvey in 2017, which caused \$125 billion worth of damage.

Ballard is urging Texas residents, especially those new to the coast who have never experienced a hurricane, to consider gradually stocking up on nonperishable items such as water and canned goods, rather than waiting until a hurricane threatens the Gulf of Mexico.

TPWD SUED IN ATTEMPT TO BLOCK LAND SWAP WITH SPACE X

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is being sued in an attempt to block a land swap deal with SpaceX in South Texas, kut.org reported. TPWD in March approved pursuing an exchange of 43 acres of Boca Chica State Park to the company in exchange for nearly 500 acres of land that is now privately owned. SpaceX is negotiating to buy the land in order to make the swap with TPWD.

The South Texas Environmental Justice Network, the Carrizo/Comcruado Tribe of Texas and Save RGV filed the lawsuit in a Travis County district court in early April.

SpaceX wants the land swap in order to expand its launch facility near the state park. The suit alleges TPWD violated statutory requirements to ensure mitigating harm to the land and considering alternatives to giving up park land.



PATRICK LISTS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025 SESSION

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has a to-do list of 57 items for senators in the next legislative session, The Texas Tribune reported, including improving housing affordability, fighting antisemitism on college campuses, and examining charitable bail organizations.

"Come January 2025, the Senate will hit the ground running at the start of the 89th Legislative Session," Patrick said in a statement. "The priorities of the conservative majority of Texans will be accomplished, including school choice, continued property tax relief, and strengthening the power grid."

Patrick said he wants his chamber to recommend how to "reduce regulatory barriers" and "strengthen property rights," that could possibly reduce city land use and zoning rules.

He also wants the criminal justice committee to examine the practices of charitable bail organizations, which pay bonds to release defendants unable to do so on their own. Additionally, he wants senators to review university policies to ensure they prevent antisemitism while preserving free speech rights, The Tribune reported.

LAW REQUIRING VOTER REGISTRATION IN HIGH SCHOOLS IGNORED

Texas high schools are required to distribute voter registration forms to teens who turn 18 or are about to do so, but only about a fourth of schools are doing so, according to an estimate from the University of Houston's Election Lab.

NORTHEAST NEWS

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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Spring Cold



The fact is, I am spoiled. I never get sick. I've never spent a night in a hospital since I was born (and then, my mother stayed with me). I've never broken a bone. I've never had a major operation. I am absurdly healthy, and I can take no credit for any of this. So, naturally, when I get sick, I am insufferable.

It always starts in the same way. I get a sore throat. First, I ignore it. I have found this is the best way to deal with imminent disasters. When I used to drive old cars, I would turn up the radio when I heard an ominous noise. Loud music and deliberate ignorance can take you for many miles.

But then my throat gets worse. I feel my glands. They are a little swollen.

"But not enough to mean I'm sick!" I explain to myself. There has been a lot of pollen in the air. It is spring, after all. Or perhaps the air quality is poor. Or perhaps it is just dry, and I am not drinking enough water. I come up with a perfectly plausible list of reasons why I might have a sore throat other than the one I know is the truth.

I am getting sick. "Well!" I tell myself (and I swear, I believe myself every time), "I will not get very sick. I just have a sore throat, and I will feel much better tomorrow." I promise myself I will go to bed early. I get extra sleep. It does not help. By morning, my throat is still sore and now my nasal passages are filling, and my nose is running, and I know I have a fever—although I do not take my temperature because what good is that information going to do me?

But this will be a short cold, I insist. It will be a mild head cold and nothing more. I will not develop a cough. The fever will not get worse. I will not be using entire boxes of tissues to deal with my faucet of a nose.

None of this is true. I always get a bad cough. I spend the night unable to sleep, hacking away, blowing my nose, keeping my poor husband, Peter, awake, and still somehow imagining that, by morning, I will be well.

SENATE RACE WILL BE EXPENSIVE, REPORTS INDICATE

Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Democratic challenger U.S. Rep. Colin Allred each raised more than \$9 million in campaign contributions during the first quarter of 2024, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Cruz is seeking his third six-year term in the Senate, while Allred gave up a safe congressional seat to challenge him. He is in his third term in the House.

Both sides touted the fundraising results as proof of the strength of their respective campaigns. In 2018, Cruz raised about \$50 million while defeating his Democratic opponent, former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke of El Paso, who raised \$80 million.

"Is it possible to overdose on cough syrup?" I asked Peter last night.

"Probably not."

So I swallowed a lot of cough syrup and I slept through the night and, this morning, I can say—honestly, this time—that I am feeling better. I have no voice at all, but I am still able to type, fortunately. My fever has subsided. I will be well soon enough.

And now that I am feeling better, I am completely convinced that I will never be sick again.

Till next time, Carrie

# Ancestor Day in East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

your family tree, posting photos, jotting down memories, indexing etc.

We discussed how addictive the process is once you start.

Alma shared an old letter that was written from a son to his mother on his

last day before his hanging. We discussed that sometimes the things you discover are not all good.

**REMEMBERING LOVED ONES**

I shared the many

amazing ways in which we can remember our loved ones.

-By Alma DeAlejandro  
Community Engagement & Events Manager  
East Aldine District



Almost 30 persons attended the Ancestor Day event, learning about techniques, sharing experiences, and trying their hand at journaling in the workshop.



Learning to Tie for a Quilt was a group exercise to work together while sharing personal stories.



The Quilters will meet again, with the goal of creating 3 quilts for local residents to appreciate.

## Harris County Begins New “Hospital at Home” Service to Improve Patient Access, Comfort

HOUSTON — A new program, believed to be the first of its kind in greater Houston, gives patients needing hospital-level care the opportunity to receive it at home. Harris Health System launched its Hospital at Home service Feb. 26. It's a program the system hopes will help enhance access for all patients and improve the flow of patients through congested emergency departments.

Nationally, other health-care systems are providing similar hospital care at home. According to the National Institutes of Health, a recent report touts the success of this type of care as “compared with patients in a hospital setting, patients in hospital at home programs had better clinical outcomes and lower readmission rates.”

Harris Health hopes to achieve similar results. In simple terms, patients with non-life-threatening conditions like urinary tract infections, cellulitis and hypertensive urgency can receive hospital care at home and not be admitted into a hospital bed, which can then be used for more complicated patient cases. The program is optional for patients who meet certain requirements: agree to participate, have a house or apartment, electricity, running water and safe accommodations. Organizers estimate that even a 1-10% decrease in patients admitted into Harris Health's brick and mortar hospitals—Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson—could cut unnecessary use of resources and increase bed capacity.

“Any extended time a pa-

tient waits in the emergency center can be an ordeal,” says Dr. Shazia Sheikh, medical director, Harris Health Hospital at Home, and assistant professor, Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine. “The more people we're able to treat at home, the more our capacity increases at our hospitals. Who wants to wait in the emergency center for hours when they're in pain?”

Patients arriving at hospital emergency centers are screened. If they agree and qualify, the patient is transported home by Harris Health with a team of doctors or nurse practitioners who conduct an immediate visit. The team conducts up to two daily visits while the patient is in the program, and are responsive to patient calls 24/7.

“Hospital at Home and the

team provide the same comprehensive care the patient would receive at the hospital, all in the comfort of their home,” explains Rohan Dwivedi, director of operations, Harris Health Hospital at Home. “As a not-for-profit public safety-net healthcare system, every dollar Harris Health saves will get reinvested into other services and programs. So, if we can save 33% on care for each patient through this program, that's the same amount that we can dedicate back to care provided elsewhere in the system.”

Patients in the program receive a web-based tablet capable of connecting them to their doctor and nurse 24/7 to answer questions and concerns. If the patient requires a higher level of acute care, Harris Health picks up the patient

and takes him/her to the hospital. The initial goal of the program is to have four patients receiving hospital care at home at all times with the ability to scale up to 16 or more as the program grows and matures.

“I truly believe in the Hospital at Home Program and its potential,” says Amy Smith, senior vice president, Care Integration and Transition, Harris Health. “What Harris Health is doing is a ‘calling.’ We're bringing the hospital to the community and expanding our ability to serve more patients.”

Smith adds that the program is expected to improve patient satisfaction as it reduces hospital length of stay and lowers the readmittance rate. Additionally, in-home care is significantly more cost-

effective than critical care in a hospital setting.

Sheikh agrees. “Improving patients' lives is why I got into healthcare,” she adds. “What's so exciting about the program is our ability to build it from the ground up with that goal in mind.”

The future of the Hospital at Home Program is exciting. The team has built the program's infrastructure which includes information technology, pharmacy services and a larger Harris Health clinician team.

“I'm so proud of our team,” Sheikh adds. “Our hope is that Harris Health's Hospital at Home Program can become a model for improved emergency center and hospital care for others in the U.S.”

## SPANISH PAGE

26 DE ENERO DE 2024

**ALDINE**  
Independent School District

# CRÓNICAS DE GOFFNEY

El Boletín Oficial de la Superintendente de Escuelas

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

*Orgullosa de nuestro distrito!*

Estimada Comunidad de Aldine ISD:  
A medida que nos acercamos al final del año escolar, mi calendario se llena de eventos que he estado esperando todo el año. Desde la Expo de PreKinder, hasta el Día de Diversión en el Parque, el concierto anual de fin de año del Mariachi Acero y el Festival de Primavera, espero verlos este mes por todo AISD — encontrarán detalles sobre estos eventos en este boletín. También tenemos muchas actividades programadas para los alumnos en todo el distrito, desde jornadas de puertas abiertas de primavera, bailes de graduación, eventos de premiación y ceremonias de graduación. Por favor, manténganse atentos a los anuncios de actividades.

Todos están observando de cerca el clima. El pronóstico tiene nubes, pero con suerte se despejarán. Sé que muchos están ansiosos por presenciar el eclipse solar. Muchas escuelas en todo el distrito utilizarán el evento como una experiencia de aprendizaje única con actividades planificadas. El distrito ha asegurado visores para los alumnos y miembros del personal para un entorno de aprendizaje seguro y divertido.

Abril también es una temporada importante para nuestro personal, ya que trabajan para asegurar que nuestros alumnos alcancen sus metas académicas para el año escolar. Las pruebas STAAR comenzarán la próxima semana el 9 de abril. Las escuelas de sus hijos compartirán más información; pueden encontrar un calendario en este boletín. Hay mucho sucediendo, así que les animo a mantenerse actualizados con la comunicación de las escuelas y ayudarnos a priorizar la asistencia escolar de los alumnos.

Un distrito escolar sobresale en función de la calidad de su personal. Hay algunos miembros del personal que quiero reconocer. Esta semana fue la Semana de los Subdirectores Escolares. A mi me encantó servir como subdirectora de 2002 a 2004, junto de mis trabajos favoritos! El cargo ha evolucionado, al igual que mi aprecio por aquellos que sirven como subdirectores. Son indispensables para apoyar a los directores, maestros y alumnos.

En cualquier día escolar, hay muchos adultos trabajando para apoyar el aprendizaje de los alumnos, incluidos los paraprofesionales. Son miembros esenciales del personal de una escuela, brindando diferentes tipos de apoyo que ayudan a que las aulas sean más inclusivas. Gracias a nuestros ‘paras’ que ayudan a que nuestros alumnos crezcan y prosperen. ¡Son muy apreciados!

Los bibliotecarios desempeñan múltiples roles, pero su función se puede dividir en tres partes clave: defensores de la alfabetización, gestores de recursos y especialistas en investigación. Ayudan a alumnos y docentes a encontrar la información que necesitan para su trabajo académico.

Durante el Mes Nacional de Defensa del Aprendizaje Bilingüe Multilingüe, tómense un momento para visitar nuestro Departamento de Servicios Multilingües y los programas que ofrecemos. También visiten el sitio web de Académicos Avanzados para obtener más información sobre las ofertas para Dotados y Talentosos (GT), esta semana fue la Semana de Concienciación sobre GT.

Como en cada número de este boletín, está lleno de las últimas noticias e información. Las páginas tienen enlaces activos. Un último pensamiento: ¡Terminemos con fuerza!

Orgullosa de nuestro distrito,

Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendente Aldine ISD

her Nor ree

Somewhat Agree

Strongly Agree

Agree Completely

# ENCUESTA DE COMPROMISO FAMILIAR

Establecer una relación de confianza y auténtica colaboración con usted es una prioridad para el Distrito Escolar de Aldine y el Departamento de Relaciones con la Familia y la Comunidad (FACE, por sus siglas en inglés). Usted tiene una importante voz en nuestra comunidad y necesitamos su opinión y perspectivas sobre cómo nuestras escuelas pueden comprometerse mejor con usted.

El Departamento FACE se formó con el objetivo de fortalecer e incrementar las relaciones con nuestras familias. Su objetivo es asegurar que usted se sienta bienvenido en nuestras escuelas y parte del equipo de Aldine ISD.

**La encuesta tardará unos 10 minutos en completarse.**

Si tiene alumnos en más de una escuela, puede realizar esta encuesta de nuevo para la(s) escuela(s) adicional(es) haciendo clic en el enlace que aparecerá en el mensaje de agradecimiento una vez que haya enviado esta respuesta.

Todas las respuestas son confidenciales. Los resultados de la encuesta se comunicarán sobre los datos globales, no sobre las respuestas individuales. La encuesta está siendo administrada por nuestro socio de investigación independiente, K12 Insight. Nadie en el distrito sabrá si usted participó a menos que se identifique en los comentarios abiertos.

Gracias por tomarse el tiempo de compartir sus opiniones. Su aportación nos ayudará a asegurar la excelencia para cada estudiante en AISD.



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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Kings (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 6, which one of the seven "deacons" did great wonders and miracles among the people? Nicanor, Philip, Timon, Stephen
3. What apostle was a disciple of John the Baptist when Jesus recruited him? Andrew, Simon Peter, Thomas, James
4. From Revelation 6, what color was the sun when it

became like a sackcloth of hair? Red, Black, White, Green  
 5. Who was Saul of Tarsus waiting for while he fasted three days in Damascus? Darius, Zenas, Ananias, Apollo  
 6. From Isaiah 63:2, what color garments does the Lord wear? Purple, Red, White, Gold

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Stephen, 3) Andrew, 4) Black, 5) Ananias, 6) Red  
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God...*

JOB 8:11-13

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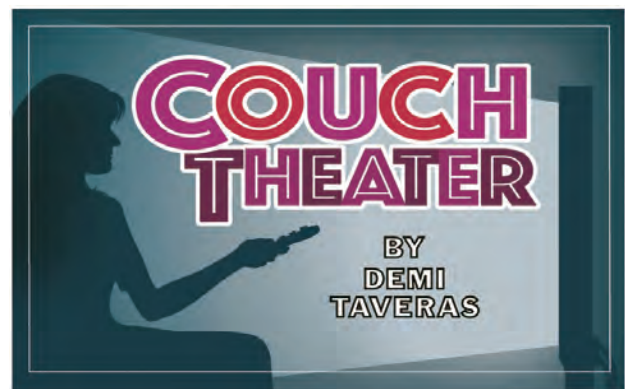
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"Thank You, Goodnight: The Bon Jovi Story" is a docuseries about one of the biggest rock bands of the past 40 years.

"Thank You, Goodnight: The Bon Jovi Story"

"THANK YOU, GOODNIGHT: THE BON JOVI STORY" (TV-MA) — This four-part docuseries tells the story of one of the biggest rock-and-roll bands, Bon Jovi. Featuring personal videos, unreleased demos and rare photos that have never been seen, the series spans across 40 years, culminating at the point where front-man Jon Bon Jovi had to receive vocal cord surgery. It dives into the start of Bon Jovi as just a few kids in New Jersey and leads into their eventual skyrocket rise into global fame. Of course, interviews with the current and former members of the band are included, such as David Bryan, Tico Torres, Phil X, Hugh McDonald and Richie Sambora. But keep an eye out for another New Jersey local, Bruce Springsteen. Premieres April 26. (Hulu)

"MIGRATION" (PG) — From the animation studio Illumination, who brought us movies like the "Despicable Me" franchise and "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," comes a new animated experience about a family of ducks! Mack Mallard (Kumail Nanjiani) is an anxious father whose greatest fear is putting his family in harm's way, but his wife, Pam (Elizabeth Banks), is desperate to see the world with their kids, Dax and Gwen. After much convincing and meeting another flock of ducks who are heading to Jamaica, Mack decides that it's time for the family to leave their pond for a much-needed adventurous voyage! Danny DeVito, Keegan-Michael Key and Awkwafina are just some of the actors who lend their voices to this amusing film fit for the whole family. Out now. (Peacock)

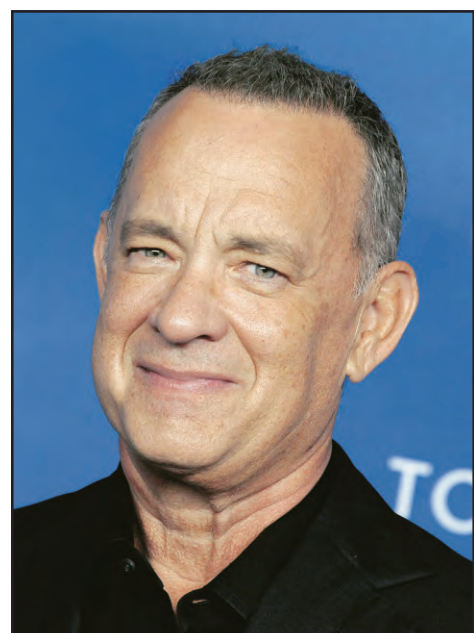
"TIGER" (PG) — The latest DisneyNature film is out now, and its focus is the ferocious, fast and majestic animal tiger. Taking place in the vast jungles of India, the documentary follows a young tigress named Ambar as she raises her family of cubs. Viewers can follow along this tiger family's journey toward survival in a challenging environment that is chock-full of "mysteries, surprises and dangers." Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas lends her soothing voice to serve as the narrator for "Tiger." The film is out now for all animal admirers to enjoy! (Disney+)

"BRANDY HELLVILLE & THE CULT OF FASHION" (TV-MA) — It's quite the week for documentaries! The final selection for this week is an eye-opening, original documentary from HBO that explores the fast-fashion brand Brandy Melville. The clothing company took off thanks to the help of social media sites like Instagram and Tumblr, where thousands of teens would post pictures in Brandy Melville's clothes and instantly garner lots of attention from other teens worldwide. However, the company's practices are put under the microscope in this doc, due to allegations of discrimination and inappropriate behavior with minors that track back to the brand's founder and CEO Stephan Marsan. Out now. (Max)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — The super-busy Tom Hanks has finally picked his next project. He'll reteam with Robert Zemeckis, the director of "Forrest Gump" (for which they both won Oscars), to work on a film called "Here." It follows the events and inhabitants of a single room, spanning from the past into the future. Robin Wright (who saved "House of Cards"), Paul Bettany and "Downton Abbey's" Michelle Dockery co-star.



Tom Hanks (Upcoming in "Here")

"Maestro" Oscar nominee Carey Mulligan currently stars in the Adam Sandler film "Spaceman," which dropped on Netflix in February. Her upcoming film is "The Ballad of Wallis Island" with Tom Basden, where they'll play a Sony-and-Cher-like duo. She also has the animated film "Wildwood" with Jacob Tremblay.

Meanwhile, "Maestro" director Bradley Cooper is one of the producers of "Joker: Folie à Deux," starring Joaquin Phoenix, Lady Gaga and Brendan Gleeson. Phoenix is currently shooting "Edgington," an American contemporary western black comedy, which co-stars Pedro Pascal, this year's Best Actress Oscar winner Emma Stone, Luke Grimes and Austin Butler. Phoenix plays a small-town New Mexico sheriff who has higher aspirations brewing.

Jacob Elordi is the new "it" guy. So far, he's played a sexy, roguish high schooler in the Netflix trilogy "The Kissing Booth," Elvis Presley in "Priscilla," and a wealthy college student in "Saltburn." His next roles are the title role of "Frankenstein" (the monster, not the doctor) and a young Richard Gere in "Oh, Canada." He will also play a young gambler working in a Las Vegas casino who has a romantic relationship with a male co-worker in the upcoming drama "On Swift Horses."

Last we forget Elordi's Australian dramatic miniseries "The Narrow Road to the Deep North," with "Belfast" Oscar nominee Ciara Hinds, and season three of "Euphoria."

I'm sad to report the passing of my longtime friend Jennifer Leak. In 1968,

I photographed her wedding to Tim Matheson at the Little Brown Church on Coldwater Canyon. They played sister and brother in the film "Yours, Mine and Ours," starring Lucille Ball, Henry Fonda and Van Johnson. They were just 19 years old when they married.

They also came to a New Year's Eve party I threw that year. I really connected with her when she played Gwen Sherman to Jeanne Cooper's Katherine Chancellor for three years in "The Young and the Restless." She left us on March 18 at the age of 76 in Jupiter, Florida, with her husband of 47 years, James D'Auria, at her side.

Are you ready for a reimagining of "The War of the Roses"? This one is dubbed in English, thanks to its two British stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman (who also produce the film).

The original 1989 film starred Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner and Danny DeVito (who directed the film as well). It cost \$26 million and grossed \$160 million. Cumberbatch and Colman will play the battling Roses this time around. Sounds like a thorny past that will lead to an even pricklier future!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man and woman at a desk. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

April 22, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 25 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on literature, U.S. states, movies, anatomy, geography, science, language, television, and music.

King Crossword — Solution time: 25 mins. Answers: 1. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy; 2. The 40-acre Desert of Maine; 3. "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies; 4. Tears; 5. Canada; 6. Smell; 7. "Toward better things"; 8. "Black-ish"; 9. Stephen Sondheim; 10. The Grateful Dead.

# HCC introduces daylong electric & hybrid vehicle safety training for technicians

HOUSTON – Autonomous, hybrid and electric vehicles are transforming the challenges faced by traditional mechanics and technicians and increasingly require updated skills.

To address the need, the HCC Transportation Center of Excellence (COE) recently introduced an eight-hour safety and fundamentals course that equips professionals with the knowledge required for diagnosing, repairing and maintaining these advanced vehicles.

Electric and hybrid vehicles and equipment are used to provide firsthand instruction so that technicians learn industry trends, vehicle types, charging technology and safety protocols.

“As more electric, hybrid, and autonomous vehicles are purchased for personal use and commercial use, our training helps existing and new automotive repair professionals safely maintain and repair these vehicles,” said David Vogel, dean of the Transportation COE. “Trained people are going to be more and more in demand at



local repair outlets, dealerships and shops that serve company fleets.” The training empha-

sizes the importance of using appropriate protective gear, insulated tools and testing meters, and

other safety procedures. An inaugural class of CarMax Inc. automotive technicians recently took advantage of the training at the HCC North Forest Campus – Automotive Training Center. Participants gained valuable insights into the precautions and potential risks associated with high-voltage components, organizers said.

For more information about training in transportation, call 713.718.8100 or visit [hccs.edu/transportation](http://hccs.edu/transportation).

ABOUT HOUSTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: HCC is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest single accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate and four-year degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities.

## EAST ALDINE'S 1ST ANNUAL KICKBALL TOURNAMENT



## EAST ADLINE INAGURA EL PRIMER TORNEO DE KICKBALL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 27th 2024  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Location:  
JAMES DRIVER ALL-INCLUSIVE PARK  
10918 BENTLEY ST, HOUSTON, TX 77093  
BALL FIELD

ATTENTION ALL EAST ALDINE RESIDENTS AGES 14 & UP. SIGN UP NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN EAST ALDINE'S INAUGURAL KICKBALL TOURNAMENT!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
CARMEN AGUILAR  
713-274-2097



ALDINEDISTRICT.ORG/REACH/

¡MARQUEN SUS CALENDARIOS!

ABRIL 27, 2024  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Lugar:  
JAMES DRIVER ALL-INCLUSIVE PARK  
10918 BENTLEY ST, HOUSTON, TX 77093  
EN LA CANCHA DE PELOTA

REGÍSTRESE PARA EL PRIMER TORNEO ANUAL DE KICKBALL EN EAST ALDINE, ABIERTO A PARTICIPANTES MAYORES DE 14 AÑOS.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:  
CARMEN AGUILAR  
713-274-2097



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## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### District Funds Infant Formula & Safety for Needy Families

My East Aldine

To provide safety and sustenance to East Aldine’s youngest and most vulnerable residents, the East Aldine Management District has approved a \$40,000 grant to pay for child safety seats and infant formula.

Library event hosted by deputies

The money will go to the Harris County Sheriff’s Office Benevolence Association for distribution of the items at the Sheriff’s Office storefront office at the East Aldine Town Center headquarters building, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

Storefront office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Call 281-449-6600 for information.

Under the direction of Sgt. Terry Garza, deputies employed by the District have been instructing area residents on the legal requirements and proper installation of car safety seats for children. Deputies also have been distributing infant formula to needy families, since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supplies of the product.

(The District funds an extensive program for extra patrols in East Aldine to complement the Sheriff’s Office patrol force that covers the entire unincorporated areas of the county).

Now the District is stepping in to make sure that families who might be unable to afford formula and safety seats can receive them without charge.

“There are still times when it’s hard to find infant formula, and sometimes it can cost as much as \$40,” said Garza. “We’ve been fortunate to work closely with Walmart to supply baby formula.”

Instructions on the proper use and installation of the safety seat are provided right outside the storefront office, under the shaded portico of the Town Center.

(Texas law requires that all children younger than eight years old, unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches, be secured in a child safety seat whenever they ride in a vehicle. Older children who have outgrown a booster seat must be buckled with a seat belt. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in a ticket of up to \$250).

While child safety seats are frequently found on sale at garage or yard sales, buying them is not recommended. Some seats may have been involved in vehicle crashes that render them unsafe, Garza said.

Garza and deputies recently hosted an event at the High Meadows Library to inform residents about the programs provided by the Sheriff’s Office Benevolence Program. They include free gun safety locks as well as the free etching of catalytic converters to deter thefts.

Another recent community event, at the Walmart at 9225 N. Sam Houston Parkway, attracted dozens of East Aldine area residents who had their vehicles’ catalytic converters painted and etched to deter thieves. Garza said that the program has “dramatically reduced” the thefts of catalytic converters in the area.

— by Anne Marie Kilday

