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NORTHEAST NEWS

East Aldine Public Art



This Mini-Mural is part of the East Aldine Arts Council's program to add Public Art. See at Little York & Hirsch. Artist: Vincent Fink, UP Art Studio.

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 VOL. 48, NO. 16 TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

AEF awards 413 Scholarships for \$467,000

Aldine Education Foundation Celebrates with Historic Scholarship Ceremony

By Mike Keeney

ALDINE – In a landmark event, the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) hosted its annual scholarship ceremony during school hours for the first time, ensuring all students could participate, given the many who work after school. Despite initial concerns, the ceremony saw an impressive turnout, with over 200 families and loved ones in attendance at M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The event was also broadcast live online, garnering more than 500 views.

The ceremony commenced with a private Meet and Greet in the M.O. Campbell foyer, where scholarship recip-

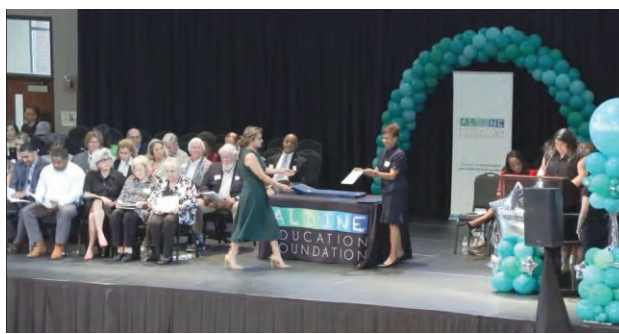
ients and donors mingled. A highlight of the evening was a heartwarming surprise from our partner, Whataburger—a commemorative table tent proudly declaring ‘Graduate 2024’ for each student.

Linda Flores Olson, Director of Aldine Education Foundation, welcomed attendees, remarking on the significance of this momentous occasion: “There are few things as exciting as new beginnings, and starting college is definitely one of the biggest new beginnings for graduating seniors. Congratulations!”

The event featured a patriotic Colors presentation by Aldine HS JROTC and a pledge led by Aurelio Manriques from Ava-



Aldine ISD Trustee Rose Avalos, and AEF Board member Rose Avalos presents Aldine ISD student Diana Serrano with her AEF scholarship. BELOW: East Aldine Board member Flor Zarzoza presents an East Aldine Scholarship.



los PTECH. Dr. LaTonya Goffney, Superintendent of Aldine ISD, extended a warm welcome, followed by greetings from President Elect Dr. Charlotte Davis on behalf of the AEF board, acknowledging elected officials and trustees for their support.

Dr. Davis shared the remarkable growth of AEF, highlighting that from sending 35 Aldine ISD graduates to college with \$47,000 in awards in 2012, the foundation now awards scholarships totaling over \$467,000 to 413 students—a testament to our community’s dedication to educational excellence.

Former scholarship recipient Ashleeya Ashley, now at Prairie View A&M, shared her inspir-

ing journey, emphasizing resilience and the importance of support. Superintendent Goffney encouraged the young leaders with inspiring words, recognizing parents and loved ones for their pivotal role.

Mr. Michael Rogers and Adriana Gonzalez Garcia presented awards to students as they crossed the stage, followed by a heartfelt display of gratitude with recipients holding up cards thanking everyone who contributed to their success.

In closing, President-elect Davis urged continued support for students: “Education is the passport to the future, for to-

Continued. See AEF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, Page 2

Lone Star College East Aldine Campus holds Open House May 8

EAST ALDINE – Lone Star College will hold an Open House at their East Aldine Center campus next to Town Center, on Wednesday, May 8 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Dean Reyna Tippetts invites all prospective students and their friends and family to come to learn more about opportunities at this community college campus so close to your Aldine home.

Attendees will be eligible to win a Smart TV during the Open House. (You

must be present to win). College counselors and staff will be present to greet returning, new and current students, and to answer questions about enrolling at LSC--EAC.

Attendees can expect a tour of the facilities, including classrooms, labs, lounges, and study spaces, as well as a tour of the extensive grounds including the beautiful lake and walking trails.

Also available will be resources about admissions, advisors, informa-



The Lone Star College - East Aldine Center is housed in a new building as part of the Town Center on Aldine Mail Route. Enrolled students take advantage of the classrooms, labs, technology workshops, and study areas as part of their learning environment. There is also ample parking in front of the building, and METRO bus service of the 59 line. See Page 8 for QR code and info.

tion about financial aid, available academic degrees, Workforce training and degrees and certificates, continuing education for students, adults, and seniors, methods for paying for college, including available scholarships and grants, student resources, testing services and locations, and technology services.

The East Aldine Center campus is located at 2430 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston 77039. This is next to BakerRipley on AL-

dine Mail Route Road, and part of the East Aldine District Town Center, which includes a public park, beautiful lake, walking trails, and an entry point to Keith-Wiess Park. Rose Avalos P-Tech High School is next door, and part of the Lone Star College campus.

Also adjacent is the East Aldine District office headquarters building, and an amphitheater with outdoor performing arts stage.

Attendees should take time to be familiar with all these amenities.

Annual Reenactment of San Jacinto Battle

Historic Event recalls critical battle leading to Independence of Texas from Mexico

Texans celebrate independence at San Jacinto Monument

By David Taylor
 Managing Editor

For 20 years, Mark Hegman has been dressing up as a member of the Texian Army and fighting the Battle of San Jacinto every April out at the site of the San Jacinto Monument and battlefield in LaPorte, Texas. The former Channelview resident almost didn’t get to participate this year fighting off pneumonia, but even that and his wife’s knee surgery didn’t keep either of them from being a part of the great history of Texas and her independence.

“Linda has been joining me for the last 15 years,” he said.



Mark Hegman, former Channelview resident, is fully dressed in military attire as Gen. Sam Houston, as the crowd watches with interest.

Hegman got swept into the re-enactment culture after obliging his son-in-law wearing a period costume for him at an event at Sam Houston State University.

His son-in-law, Mike Sproat, is the curator of collections at the Sam Houston Memorial in Huntsville, Texas and was already enthralled in the re-enactment culture

when Hegman joined. Now it’s a family affair, and from Opah (Hegman) down to his grandchildren, all pitch a tent and camp at the San Jacinto Monument site during the weekend



Hegman, who played the role of Gen. Sam Houston, lies up against a tree on the battlefield after being shot in the ankle and wounded. Despite his wounds, Houston was later elected as the president of The Republic of Texas.

celebration of the battle.

The Hegmans, as reenactors, interact with the public as they show them living history from the early days by cooking food, checking weapons, and the

simple life of daily routines during the days leading up to the battle.

“There were crafts and

Continued. See SAN JACINTO BATTLE, Page 7

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**
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PET MATTERS

In Memory of Susan Hoffman



Volunteer to Save a Life: BARC launches new Tiered Program

HOUSTON – BARC, the City of Houston’s Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, invites you to volunteer to save a life in the new year and join the shelter’s Tiered Volunteer Program, launching in 2024. BARC’s new tiered system will offer animal lovers of all experience levels an opportunity to help through four new levels: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and a unique tier, the BARC Buddies, for volunteers who cannot or chose not to handle larger animals in the shelter but still want to assist in other areas.



involved. BARC’s Tiered Program is designed to factor in more than just time dedicated to the shelter. If you’re new to Houston or to BARC but have loads of critter know-how, then you will be placed in the appropriate tier that best represents your abilities. Sign up today at <https://houstontx.gov/barc/volunteer.html> or email BARCvolunteers@houstontx.gov to learn how you can support your local city animal shelter!

About BARC

BARC, the City of Houston’s Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, takes in more than 25,000 animals annually regardless of behavior, breed, or medical condition. BARC works each day to improve Houstonians and their pets’ health and safety by pioneering programs such as low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter services, mobile adoptions, transfer/rescue partnerships, and community outreach.

Visit www.houstonbarc.com or www.facebook.com/BARCHouston for more information.

“Our tiered program is here to help make it as easy as possible to jump right in to lend a paw at the shelter by organizing our new and existing volunteers into groups according to level of experience and time donated to the shelter,” said BARC’s Shelter Director Jarrad Mears. “If volunteering is on your New Year’s resolution list in 2024, we encourage you to consider helping out our shelter pets and joining this new program.”

Interested in volunteering but are either new or completely unfamiliar with animal handling? Under the tiered system, participants will learn as Beginners from BARC’s more experienced volunteers in the Advanced levels, some of whom have been volunteering with BARC for decades. BARC also offers regular training courses established to help participants learn more about our animals.

Experienced volunteers are also welcome and encouraged to get

Fatal Crash at 9900 Eastex Freeway

Houston police have learned a man critically injured in a crash at 9900 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) about 1:50 a.m. on Sunday (April 21) has died.

Doctors pronounced the man, 25, deceased at a hospital on Wednesday (April 24). His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant D. Rose and Officer T. Smith reported:

A black Ford F-250 pickup truck was traveling southbound on the

freeway at the above address in heavy rain when it rear-ended a red Hyundai Azera and then struck a barrier wall. Paramedics transported the Hyundai’s driver and passenger (victim) to an area hospital.

The Ford’s male driver, Horacio Cruz Vizarro, 46, showed signs of intoxication and was detained at the scene. He was transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center and subsequently charged with driving while intoxicated in Harris County Criminal Court #5.

The investigation is continuing into possibly upgrading charges in the crash.

Wanted for Sexual Abuse of a Child

Houston, TX - Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department Special Victims Division need the public’s assistance locating a fugitive (Menfil Amilcar Lopez Vasquez) who is wanted for Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child.

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, the Houston Police Department received a report of Sexual Abuse that occurred in the 4500 block of Aldine Mail Rt. in Houston, Texas. During the investigation, the child victim made an outcry of sexual abuse by the fugitive Menfil Amilcar Lopez Vasquez that occurred from October 2010 to October 2020.

Fugitive Menfil Amilcar Lopez Vasquez is a Hispanic male, 34 years old, ap-

proximately 5’6”, 180 lbs., with brown eyes, black hair.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.



AEF Scholarship Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

morrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Students, we are cheering for you, so go light up the world!”

As students exited, they enjoyed a Grab-n-Go Whataburger breakfast sandwich and a coupon—a fitting end to a memo-

orable celebration.

For more information about Aldine Education Foundation and its initiatives, please visit aldineducationfoundation.org or contact 281-985-6078.

The mission of Aldine Education Foundation is

to provide community-based support to the Aldine Independent School District in pursuit of excellence in teaching, innovation in the classroom, and superior learning opportunities for all students.

top ten

Female Dog Names

1. Bella
2. Lucy
3. Molly
4. Daisy
5. Maggie
6. Sophie
7. Sadie
8. Chloe
9. Bailey
10. Lola




Source: DogTime.com

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top ten

Male Dog Names

1. Bailey
2. Max
3. Charlie
4. Buddy
5. Rocky
6. Jake
7. Jack
8. Toby
9. Cody
10. Buster



Source: DogTime.com

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Immunization Event
Do you need your Flu or Covid Booster? Aldine Library and Harris County Public Health is hosting a FREE immunization event! Visit the library Meeting Room between 1 pm and 5pm on Monday, April 29th. Vaccines will be available for adults and children. Schedule an appointment by calling: 832-927-7350 or visit vacstrac.hctx.net to schedule a COVID immunization appointment. *Appointments are preferred, however walk-ins are welcome.

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. 30, 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 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

Retro Video Game Night
Join us from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Classroom area for a night of reminiscing on our favorite videogames! If you beat Librarian Nyla, you could win a free book! This is a teen and adult program.
Tuesday, Apr. 30, 6:30-7:30pm.

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: Temporary Tattoos
We’ll be learning how to make temporary tattoos using eyeliner, hairspray, pens, and simple printer paper! Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders.
Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 - 5:30pm.
Teen Thursday
Thursday, May 2, 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

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- 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

Kids Club - Perler Bead Magic
Drop by Kids Club to flex your creative muscles. Patterns will be provided!
Limit one per child.
Thursday, Thursday, May 2, 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.

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Aldine Branch Library
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Davis HS French Students Shine at State Competition; One Wins a Sweep of Medals and the Claude Boutin Award of Excellence

The Texas French Symposium is a competition for high school students of French (non-native French speakers). It is an annual event promoting French language learning for high school students. TFS is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Twenty-six (26) high schools and about 664 registered students from public and private schools across the state participated in the Texas French Symposium 2024 at the British International School of Houston in Katy, TX, this past weekend. The 2024 theme was Les Jeux Olympiques en France (The Olympic Games in France).

Davis High School, the only AISD campus to participate in the 2024 TFS, competed for the first time and placed 14th overall. Boyo Diop and Lynda Hecham are the school's French teachers.

Sweepstakes Winner and Claude Boutin Award of Excellence in French
The standout winner was Yoisel Rodríguez Toledo, who placed first, second, and third in seven events:

Sweepstakes Winner

- *1st place in Interpretive Reading: Level 3
- *1st place in Interpretive Listening: Level 3
- *1st place in Poetry: Level 3
- *1st Place in Sight Reading: Level 3
- *2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking: Level 3
- *2nd place in La Dictée (Dictation: write down words you hear): Level 3
- *3rd place in Prose: Level 3

As the top winner, Yoisel was named the scholarship winner to attend the French Language Camp from Concordia Language Villages this summer to practice his French skills and learn about different dialects.

Yoisel also received the Claude Boutin Award of Excellence in French. Earning distinction is not new to Yoisel. In 2022, he was named a Platinum winner in the 2022 National French Contest in Level/Division 2A. A Platinum winner is the highest award in the Le Grand Concours, including a Le Grand Concours Certificat d'honneur Lauréat National in French. Yoisel earned the top score in the nation in his level/division.

The overachieving senior was named a Questbridge National Match Scholar earlier this school year, earning a 4-year full-ride scholarship worth over \$348,000. Yoisel matched with Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

Other Awards

The Davis High School team had outstanding performances:

Bande Dessinée (comic strip): Level 35th Place: Gabriela Nieto and Yoisel Rodríguez Toledo

Bande Dessinée (comic strip): Level 15th Place: Elizabeth Garza

Semifinals in Poetry: Level 2Mellanie Henriquéz Benítez

Congratulations!



Yoisel Rodríguez Toledo



Elizabeth Garza



Boonie Solís, Mellanie Henriquéz Benítez, Gabriella Nieto, Kimberly Henriquéz-Aragón, Rosy Chávez (l-r)

Nimitz Girls Finish First in 4+100 and 4+200-meter Relays at Area Meet of Champions

The Nimitz High School girls' relay teams picked up gold medals in the 4+100- and 4+200-meter relays at the Class 6A Area Meet of Champions, which qualified them for the Region II Meet, scheduled for Friday, April 19, at Waco Midway High School.

The relay teams include Jayla Cooper, Andrea Thomas, Kerryelle Carter, and Amaya Armstrong. Cooper also qualified for regions in the 100-meter hurdles. The team is coached by Jarryd Gray.

Davis High School will send two track athletes to the regional meet as Diamond Bossier competes in the long jump and 200-meter dash and Jamarion Hutchison in the 200-meter dash. Tramisha McGrew coaches them.

Eisenhower High School's Addison Rogers will compete in the 800-meter run at regionals. Krystal Washington coaches Rogers.

MacArthur High School will be sending two track athletes to the regional meet. Kayla Jones will compete in the triple jump, and Tavion Atkinson will compete in the discus. They are coached by Patrick James and Christopher Dykes.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS:

Aldine ISD's Financial Services Department Receives Top Financial Reporting Awards



Members of the district's Finance Department pose with the ASBO International Certificate of Excellence the department was recently awarded

During the April 16 Board meeting, it was announced that the District's Financial Services Department, received the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting. The award represents a significant achievement by the entity, according to information provided by ASBO International. In order to receive the Certificate of Excellence award, Aldine ISD had to meet or exceed the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

"For over half a century, ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting has been the gold standard in promoting and recognizing excellence in financial reporting," said ASBO International Director Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO. "Communicating the financial and economic state of a district is so important when engaging with the school community and. Building their trust. Districts like Aldine ISD that receive the COE Award have demonstrated their ability to do that at the highest level."

Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne said he was proud of his team. He stated the certificate is the highest form of recognition. It represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental agency and its management.

The finance team consists of Osborne, Alexia Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Firmino Mariano, Executive Director of Accounting and Finance, Pamela Widmier, Director of Budget, Ceci Romo, Budget Coordinator, Fernando Flores, Assistant Director of Accounting and Business Services, Veronika Norris, Assistant Director of Accounting and Business Services, Accountants Shantay Lee, Robin Armendariz, and LaTasha Rigmalden, Perla Davila, Executive Director of Grants, Dr. Dametra Skinner, Director of Federal and State Compliance, Stacey Smith, Director of Special Programs, Sarah Cisneros, Manager, Abigale Garcia, Executive Director of Business Services, Mineriva Alba, Accounts Payable Supervisor, Tony Silva, Payroll Manager, Takara Bell, Payroll Supervisor, and Yvette Sanchez, TRS Analyst.

AISD holds public hearing on the 2022-2023 APR at April 16 Board meeting

Aldine ISD held a public hearing for discussion of the 2022-2023 Annual Performance Report at the April 16 Board meeting. Dawn Ayers-Rodriguez, Chief of Accountability, Assessment and Analytics, led the hearing.

According to TEA guidelines:

"A hearing for public discussion of the annual report must be held within 90 calendar days from the district receiving Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPRs). Parents and property owners must be notified of the hearing."

Copies of the 2022-23 APR are available at the Donaldson Administration Building and all Aldine ISD campuses.

Aldine ISD Employees Recognized

During the April 16 Board meeting, one Aldine ISD employee was recognized for her leadership, connecting with their fellow employees and impacting student success.

Aldine ISD Police Commander Marc Harris named Aldine ISD Police Officer Alexis Johnson as his department's Employee of the Month.

Fred Washington, Chief Operations Officer, named Eisenhower High School custodian Simon Galvan as his department's Employee of the Quarter. Other operations employees who were nominated for the award were: Deanna Truvillion (Facilities, Planning and Construction), Katrina Jackson (Child Nutrition Services), Kevin Tran (Westside Transportation), Henry Reyes (Maintenance) and Ana Carlos (Central Receiving).

Staff Assignments Announced

During the April 16 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced three staff assignments.

Natalie Andrus was named Principal of Reece Academy after serving as Early Head Start Director at AISD's Child Development Center.

Tiffany Manwaring was named Director of Position Control after serving as Director of Budget with Cleveland ISD.

Dr. Kimberly Johnson was named Principal of Shotwell Middle School after serving with Fort Bend ISD.

SHABE Teachers, Students and Trustee Rose Avalos Recognized

During the April 16 Board meeting, Dawn Ayers, Chief of Accountability, Assessment and Analytics, announced the district's bilingual and ESL teachers and students who were recently honored by SHABE (Suburban Houston Association for Bilingual Education) at the group's annual banquet. Ana Cuevas of Stehlik Elementary School was named SHABE's Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year, while Lucila Alcares of Ermel Elementary was named SHABE's Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year and Bailey Steffek of La Promesa was named SHABE's Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year. Aldine

ISD students who received SHABE scholarships were: Genesis Chavez of Avalos P-Tech High School, Monica Sanchez of Davis High School, Cardin Tran of Davis High School and Maria Melara of Eisenhower High School.

Aldine ISD Trustee Rose Avalos was also honored at the SHABE banquet with the Diana Garcia Marion Award. The award recognizes a member of the educational community who has advocated for and demonstrated continued support for bilingual and ESL education.

Trustee Approve Action Items

During the April 16 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

Approved probationary contract renewals for the 2024-25 school year

Approved term contract renewals for the 2024-25 school year

Approved extensions to current contracts for the 2024-25 school year

Approved monthly Tax Office refunds

Approved a shared service agreement with Region 4 Regional Day School Program for the deaf for the 2024-25 school year

Approved the 2024-25 Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification

Approved the 2024-25 Science Instructional Materials for Kindergarten-12 grade

Approved Amendment Number Two to Service Agreement between the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Aldine ISD for the All of Them vaccination program aimed at increasing HPV vaccine initiation and completion through a three-tiered evidence-based approach

Approved single contracts and purchases of \$100,000 and greater

Approved a Resolution by the Board of Trustees authorizing and approving an Interlocal Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between New Caney ISD and Aldine ISD for Child Nutrition Products and Services

Approved the Interlocal Agreement for the Crossing Guard Grant with the City of Houston and Aldine ISD for the next five-year renewal period from 2024-28

Prior to the start of the April 16 Board meeting, students from Gray Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Flag. The colors were presented by the Aldine Middle School LOTC Color Guard.

The May Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Metro's proposed BRT would be biggest Taxpayer Boondoggle

Author's Note: Much of the information included in this post I have recently received directly from Metro. Under the new leadership team there has been an openness in terms of answering questions and providing documents to a degree I have never seen in my 20+ years of following Metro. It is a refreshing change and should be applauded.

Metro's previous leadership proposed the construction of two bus rapid transit ("BRT") lines. At an estimated cost of over \$3 billion, these two projects, if constructed, would be the most colossal waste of taxpayers' money in the history of the City.

If you are not familiar with the term "bus rapid transit", it is the construction of dedicated lanes for buses. The only example we have in Houston is the disastrous Silver Line in Uptown. After spending about \$200 million to construct the project, and who knows how much to operate, it is attracting about 800 riders per day, just over 5% of the 14,000 Metro had projected. The ridership is so bad that Metro recently announced it intends to reduce the service. Based on this rousing success, Metro has proposed to build these two additional BRT lines.

The "**University Line**" would begin at the Westchase Transit Center and travel along Westpark to Edloe, then turn north to Richmond. It would then run east along Richmond to the Wheeler Transit Center. From there it follows a circuitous route through midtown to intersect with Lockwood and then follows Lockwood north to the Tidwell Transit Center. **The estimated cost is \$2.43 billion.**

The "**Inner Katy Line**" would begin at the Northwest Transit Center where it would connect to the Uptown Line and travel along the south side of Katy Freeway to downtown and make a loop using Capitol and Rusk to EADO. **The estimated cost is \$735 million.**

The Ridership Projections

Metro originally did preliminary **ridership projections** for about 130 potential projects in 2019, as part of their planning for the MetroNext program. Both the University and Inner Katy Lines were included. This report estimated that the University Line would add about 30,000 new daily riders and that the Inner Katy line would add about 8,200 new riders by 2040. These projections are for ridership increases across the entire Metro system assuming the construction of these projects.¹

However, in July, 2022, Metro in a **filing** with FTA lowered its ridership projection to 15,000 on completion and 19,400 by 2040. Then last August, Metro updated the projections for the University Line again. That **projection** (p.26) is that the line would increase systemwide ridership on completion by **7,536 by 8,248 by 2040!**

Let me pause for a moment to comment on ridership projections. Generally speaking, transit ridership projections are almost always too high. But Metro has been in a category of its own when it comes to overestimating projected ridership. This **2020 FTA study**, comparing projected costs and ridership to actual results on about 20 projects around the country, found Metro's ridership projection for the Purple Line to be, by far, the worst of any project they studied. The Purple and Green light rail lines are carrying about 25-30% of their projected ridership. And, as I mentioned earlier, the Silver is running a little over 5% of its projections today. So, we certainly have every reason to be skeptical of any ridership projection just based on Metro's history.

When you look at the assumptions in the projections, there is even more reason to be skeptical. First, the projections are based on HGAC's outdated population projections for the region.² Metro also used 2019 as the base case for actual ridership. Of course, 2019 was the last year before transit ridership collapsed due to the pandemic. The implication is that projection is assuming that ridership will quickly return to pre-pandemic levels, **an assumption that many question**. In 2023, Metro's ridership was 86% of the 2019 ridership.

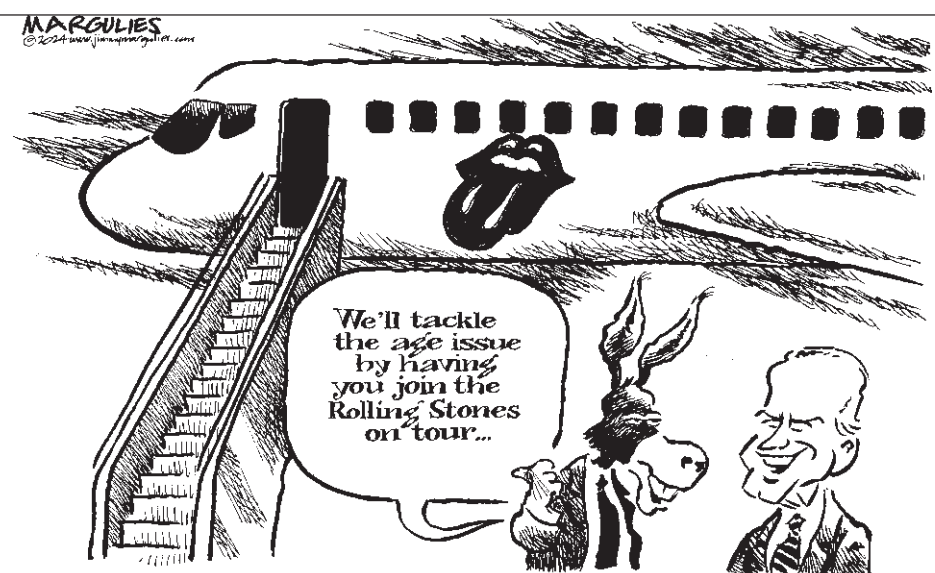
But there are other weird anomalies as well. For example, the Inner Katy projection shows that the base case, which is supposed to be the actual ridership in 2019, for the Silver Line to be 1,800 per day. Last year, the number was half that.

For the balance of this article, I am going to use Metro's ridership projection to analyze these two projects, but keep in mind that it is quite likely they may turn out to be too high. I am particularly skeptical of the Inner Katy projections.

University BRT	
Cost	2,460,000,000
Ridership	8,546
Cost per new rider	287,854
Inner Katy BRT	
Cost	735,000,000
Ridership	8,000
Cost per new rider	91,875

PART 1. SEE PART 2 NEXT WEEK

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**



Early Voting Underway in Local Elections

Early voting began Monday, April 22 for municipal, school board and various bond elections. It ends on April 30 with Saturday, May 4 being election day. What is on the ballot depends on where you live.

There are various ways to learn what is on the local ballot. One way is by going to the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/nhbyhnyu>. This takes you to the Texas Tribune's election center, where voters can type in their address to find out what is on their ballot.

In addition, most local newspapers and county election websites post notices of local elections.

BOOK-BANNING LAW GUTTED BY APPEALS COURT

The key provisions of a law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott requiring booksellers to rate books for sexual content were gutted after the full 17-member court 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to reconsider an earlier decision, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The vote was 9-8 to let the earlier decision stand.

A group of independent booksellers joined with book associations to challenge the law, passed in the 2023 regular legislative session. The booksellers contended the law violated the First Amendment and would cause considerable harm to their operations. One owner said the law already has caused a chilling effect and resulted in lost orders.

"The damage to us is mitigated by the fact we don't have to review every book and rate every book that we've sold to the school library," Valerie Koehler, owner of Houston's Blue Willow Bookshop and a lead plaintiff, said of the court's decision. "But the damage has been done in terms of the libraries across the entire state have changed their policies in a way that makes it hard for new books to get in."

State Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, sponsored the bill and disagreed with the court's decision.

"It's incredibly disappointing that a majority of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with book vendors who push pornography on unsuspecting children in our public schools," he wrote in a statement posted on social media.



TAX-FREE HOLIDAY FOR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES COMING UP

A wide range of emergency preparation supplies will be exempt from sales tax April 27-29, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The total cost of the items must be less than \$75 for most items on the list, such as batteries, first aid kits, flashlights, tarps, and fire extinguishers. Higher amounts are allowed for portable generators (less than \$3,000) and emergency ladders and hurricane shutters (less than \$300).

Supplies that do not qualify for tax exemption include face masks, cleaning supplies, gloves, toilet paper and tents.

For a complete list of what qualifies for tax exemption and what doesn't, go to the state comptroller's website: <https://tinyurl.com/2c6fn4kp>.

\$100K DAILY FINE FOR STATE TEMPORARILY HALTED

A \$100,000 daily fine levied against the state for failing to implement fixes to the state's foster care system ordered by a federal judge was temporarily halted by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Statesman reported.

U.S. District Judge Janis Jack levied the fines last Monday after finding the state Health and Human Services Commission repeatedly failed to fully investigate abuse allegations in the foster care system.

Jack issued a 427-page ruling that listed dozens of cases where mistakes or delays in investigations resulted in children going without treatment for physical and sexual abuse.

Houston attorney Paul Yetter, who has represented the plaintiffs since the case was filed in 2011, condemned the state's appeal.

"Rather than certify safe,

timely investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect, the state seems determined to avoid responsibility," Yetter wrote to the Statesman in an email Tuesday. "This appeal sends a terrible message to Texas children that state leadership just doesn't care about their safety."

The stay means the fines will not be levied until the 5th Circuit Court considers the merits of the state's appeal.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AWARDS SAMSUNG \$6.4 BILLION FOR TEXAS CHIP FACTORIES

The Biden-Harris administration announced last week that it would grant \$6.4 billion in direct funding for Samsung Electronics to expand its computer chip manufacturing and research cluster in Texas, the Associated Press reported. The money comes from the CHIPS and Science Act signed by President Joe Biden into law in 2022.

"The proposed project will propel Texas into a state-of-the-art semiconductor ecosystem," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a call with reporters. She predicted the project in Taylor will create at least 17,000 construction jobs and more than 4,500 manufacturing jobs.

The funding will also expand an existing Samsung facility in Austin. The two factories being built in Taylor, about 45 miles northeast of Austin, are expected to become operational in 2026 and 2027.

Senator John Cornyn commended the measure in a statement Monday.

"By investing in leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing, we are helping secure this vulnerable supply chain, boosting our national security and global competitiveness, and creating new jobs for Texans," Cornyn said.

AUTO INSURANCE CONTINUES TO SPIKE IN TEXAS

Auto insurance rates in Texas rose an average 25.53% in 2023, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. It's largest annual increase in at least a decade and more than double average increases across the country, according to the Express-News.

Among the factors driving the increase are increased prices for new and used vehicles; increased costs of labor and parts; and the volume of accidents in Texas. The number of serious injury crashes in 2022 was up 18.5% from 2019, while the number of vehicle traffic fatalities increased 23.6%.

Ware Wendell, executive director of the consumer advocacy group Texas Watch, recommended that customers go to the Office of Public Insurance Counsel's website to compare policies from different companies. That website is opic.texas.gov.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

Waiting for Estefan



I ordered the sofa cover as soon as we adopted our new cat, Felix.

The sofa in the little apartment my husband, Peter, and I rent in Mexico has seen better days, but we didn't want to be responsible for ushering it into an early retirement due to cat scratches. So I bought a beautiful turquoise handloomed bedspread from a woman across the street to use as a throw. And the job would have been done right then and there if I'd kept my mouth shut.

Instead, I asked the woman if she knew anyone who could hem the cover to the appropriate size, and she said she had just the man for me. Her husband told me to follow him down the street, and we stopped at a tiny grocery store and met Estefan.

Estefan is an older gentleman with a broad smile, and he was sitting at a sewing machine in a tiny spot behind the beverage cooler. Estefan said he would be delighted to sew a sofa cover for us. He came to look at the sofa. He borrowed a tape measure from Peter, and he wrote a lot of numbers down on a pad of paper. Then he left with Peter's pen in his pocket.

A couple of days later, Estefan returned. He needed more measurements. And he returned Peter's pen. At this point, the fabric had some cuts in it, but he measured some more and left. We didn't see him for a week.

"How is the sofa cover coming?" I asked one day as he was minding the store.

"I need more measurements," he told me in Spanish. I would have liked more details, but Estefan does not speak a word of English, and I know very few sewing terms in Spanish.

When Estefan returned, he brought two pin cushions and the cover, which now had some stitching on it. Then he began to pull out stitches and pin pieces together. I honestly could not tell what he was doing, but there were obviously some problems. Then he was gone for a long time.

"Is the sofa cover ready?" I asked.

"It is a very big job," he told me.

Two weeks went by, and I saw him on the street.

"How is the sofa cover?" I asked.

"Oh, good, good!"

In the meantime, we learned that Felix had no interest in scratching the sofa and, more surprisingly, he didn't mind having his nails trimmed with the fancy clipper I had ordered while we were waiting for Estefan.

A month passed. "How's the sofa cover?" I asked every time I came into his store.

"It will be ready soon!"

More weeks passed, and Estefan came a couple more times. Each time, he brought the fabric and took more measurements.

"We will never see that sofa cover," Peter predicted.

Then I got sick. One day, I felt so bad I stayed in bed, and I heard Peter talking to someone at the door. When I got up, I saw we had the sofa cover—almost two months exactly from when we ordered it. Estefan had run out of fabric for the back and sewed on some gray-and-red plaid, which showed a little. It is quirky, like the rest of the apartment, and I love it.

"You were sick!" Estefan said when I was well enough to make it back to his store. He sounded very concerned.

"I am better now," I told him. "And the sofa cover is fabulous!" Estefan smiled. It was worth waiting for.

Till next time,
Carrie

To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

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5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
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email: nenewsroom@aol.com
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Commissioner Garcia: Who We Are in Pct. 2

Letter From Commissioner Garcia

Every day, I wake up excited to continue our transformation across Precinct 2.

Together, we have accomplished a lot these past five years. As a lifelong public servant, I enjoy hearing from the community I serve. When a Precinct 2 resident shares how they've been asking for community improvements for years or even decades, I get to work.

Like Linda from Denver Harbor, who used a wheelchair and shared how she wished for a sidewalk to access a Metro stop in her neighborhood, my team and I got to work. We were able to apply for a grant to install a sidewalk. Linda told me how "free and normal" she felt because of the new sidewalk, now easily accessing the Metro stop.

In the Castlewood subdivision in Aldine, residents needed an updated drainage system after storms flooded homes. After two years of construction and a \$15 million investment, in October 2022, we unveiled a transformed neighborhood with a robust underground drainage system, new sidewalks, and street lights.

Another project I often think about is James Driver Inclusive Park—an award-winning, nationally renowned space where everyone, regardless of ability, can play. This \$8 million investment was a labor of love. More people come to enjoy the park than ever before, and it's even drawn visitors from around the world to East Aldine.

During the spike in violent crime during the pandemic, I created the Violent Persons (VIPER) taskforce – a unique law enforcement collaboration to immediately bring to justice those charged with serious and violent crimes in Harris County. With \$6 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the taskforce cleared 2,248 warrants in 2023.

As a kid from the near Northside of Houston, I never imagined having the opportunity to create so many impactful projects. I am proud of our progress. However, this is just the beginning. Real change that improves lives for generations takes community engagement, careful planning, and meticulous execution. We are building on our momentum. We are ready to get more work done in 2024 and beyond.



WHO WE ARE

Precinct 2 is home to the following:

- NASA
- Houston Spaceport
- San Jacinto Battleground Monument
- Houston Ship Channel

451 SQUARE MILES including 6,641 acres of greenspace

The median age is 32.9 years

71.6 % are high school graduates

16.1 % have Bachelor's degree

Population of 1.2 million

San Jacinto Battle Reenactment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

daily life that included cartridge box making, Yellow Rose, Quill and Ink that showed how letters and orders were written, bullet making, battlefield medicine, and battle beats which was the music that inspired and lifted the spirits of the soldiers," said Andy Smith, site manager for the historic battleground site.

Smith estimated the crowd for the day's activities reached more than 5,000.

This year, the battle with reenactors happened twice, once at 11 a.m. and again at 3 p.m.

"Everything went off safely and exciting," he said, "and just a spoiler alert, Texas won again both times."

The smell of gunfire from period muskets and the cannons revved up the crowd. More than 100 reenactors participated.

"We also had our school day on Friday, which we added a few years back just to spread it out and we had over 800 students come out," he said.

The official ceremony on Sunday boasted more than 400 in attendance.

This year was also the first annual lecture series, four talks held throughout the day in the theater.

"Those were supported by the Humanity's Texas grant that allowed us to pay speakers to come and be a part of the program. It was an exciting addition and we hosted over 400 for those talks," he said. It's something they'll revisit for next year's event.

Scattered throughout the battlefield was the living history zones, the Mexican camp, the Texian camp, runaway scrape camp and groups from the Alamo, Washington on the Brazos, the Barrington Plantation, San Felipe, and others out here to tell the story lead-

ing up to San Jacinto," he said.

Visitors walk through the encampments and then head out to the battlefield to see the Battle of San Jacinto.

The drama is split into four scenes: the runaway scrape, the skirmish on April 20, the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, and it ends with the capture of General Santa Ana on April 22.

On Friday, they hosted another first—representatives from the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribe including their chief.

After all the volleys of gunfire have ended and the tourists have all left for the day, nightfall comes, and Hegman says that's his favorite time out on the battlefield.

"You get chills when you're out there on the battlefield doing the reenactment. You know you are a part of history," he said. He ascended the ranks and played the part of General Sam Houston and counted that a big privilege and honor.

But for Hegman, it's the quiet time in the dark that holds special meaning.

"You look across the battlefield and you see the campfires glowing, the chatter of people preparing for bed or having fun, and then you look up and see that monument that's lit up. It does give you chills remembering history and then being a part of it," he said.

On Monday, after the crowds were gone and the celebrations over, Smith said he and the staff were finalizing the numbers and had one final thing to say, "Book it for next year!" he smiled. They will host the school day again on Friday, April 18, 2025, and the battle reenactment on Saturday, April 19, 2025.

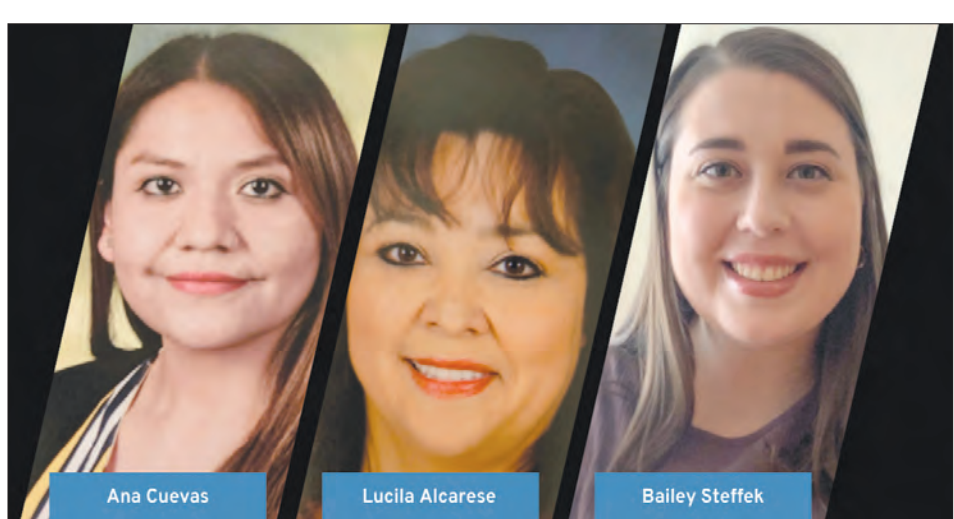
SPANISH PAGE

SHABE Honra a 3 Maestros, un Miembro de la Junta Directiva y 4 Estudiantes de Aldine ISD

La Asociación para la Educación Bilingüe de los Suburbios de Houston celebró recientemente su banquete anual para honrar a los educadores.



Mientras las organizaciones de todo el país celebran el Mes Nacional de la Defensa de los Estudiantes Bilingües/Multilingües en abril, la Asociación Suburbana de Houston para la Educación Bilingüe (SHABE, por sus siglas en inglés) celebró recientemente su banquete anual. Varios maestros de Aldine ISD recibieron honores como educadores sobresalientes. Cuatro estudiantes de último año de secundaria recibieron becas SHABE. La miembro de la junta Rose Avalos, también fue reconocida por su continuo apoyo a la educación bilingüe y de ESL.



La Asociación para la Educación Bilingüe de los Suburbios de Houston (SHABE, por sus siglas en inglés) promueve oportunidades educativas para maestros bilingües y de ESL. Cada año, SHABE reconoce a los maestros bilingües, de ESL de primaria, de ESL de secundaria y de otros idiomas; Los maestros de secundaria bilingüe y ESL del año pueden presentar sus portafolios para ser considerados para el maestro del año de TABE (Asociación de Educación Bilingüe de Texas). Este año, el banquete de celebración tuvo lugar el 5 de abril de 2024.

Maestra Bilingüe de Primaria del Año: Ana Cuevas de la Escuela Primaria StehlikMaestra del Año de ESL de Primaria: Lucila Alcarese de la Escuela Pri-

maria ErmelMaestro de ESL del Año de Secundaria: Bailey Steffek de La Promesa

Cuevas, Alcarese y Steffek representarán al distrito SHABE en la conferencia anual de otoño de la Asociación de Texas para la Educación Bilingüe (TABE, por sus siglas en inglés) (del 17 al 20 de octubre) en Round Rock, TX. El ganador estatal se convierte automáticamente en el nominado de TABE para la competencia de Maestros del Año de la Asociación Nacional de Educación Bilingüe.

La Beca J.C. Harville lleva el nombre del líder que ayudó a reiniciar SHABE en el año 2000. También se retiró del Distrito Escolar de Aldine. Harville es una ex maestra bilingüe, directora jubilada y ex directora bilingüe. Las becas se otorgan anualmente a los estudiantes de último año que se gradúan y a los paraprofesionales actuales. Los beneficiarios deben haber estado en un aula bilingüe o de ESL o desear convertirse en maestros de estudiantes bilingües emergentes.

Becarios
Avalos P-TECH: Génesis Chávez MuroEscuela Secundaria Davis: Mónica Castillo Sánchez y CardinTranEscuela Secundaria Eisenhower: María Melara



Premio Diana Marion García Marion

Otro gran momento de la noche se produjo cuando SHABE otorgó a la fideicomisaria de la Junta Directiva de Aldine ISD, Rose Avalos, el Premio Diana García Marion. El Premio Diana Marion García Marion reconoce a un miembro de la comunidad educativa que ha defendido y demostrado un apoyo continuo a la educación bilingüe y ESL.

Durante 22 años, SHABE ha apoyado a educadores bilingües, ESL y de lenguas extranjeras en toda el área. SHABE fue fundada para apoyar a maestros, paraprofesionales y administradores mientras educan a estudiantes cuyo idioma nativo no es el inglés. La Asociación sirve para revisar y difundir el estado de la educación bilingüe en Texas. Además, los miembros de SHABE intercambian datos, estudios, ideas, prácticas e información con los distritos escolares y educadores del área.



CHURCH PAGE

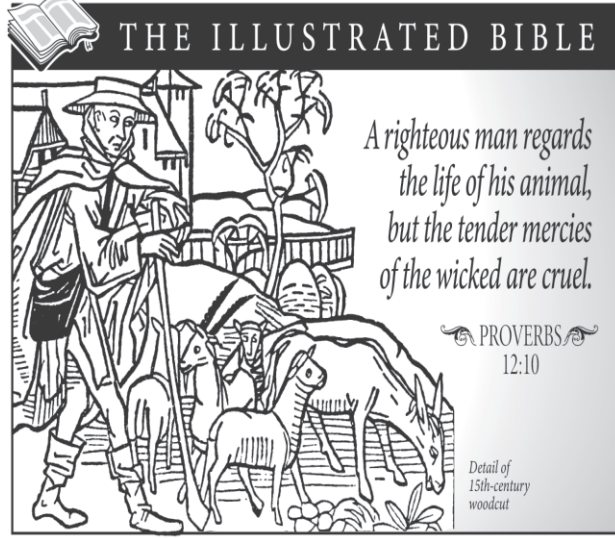
BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. How many chosen men of Israel did Saul take with him to the wilderness of Ziph to search for David? 12, 100, 200, 3000
3. From 1 Samuel 3, whose voice did Samuel think it was when he first heard God calling him? Jonathan, Saul, Ahiah, Eli

4. The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any ...? Tongue, Knife, Two-edged sword, Wit
5. In Genesis 26, where did Isaac stay when there was a famine in the land? Gerar, Endor, Sychar, Lydda
6. What insect was a plague on the Egyptians? Wasp, Locust, Flea, Cockroach

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 3000, 3) Eli, 4) Two-edged sword, 5) Gerar, 6) Locust
 Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!
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Detail of 15th-century woodcut. © 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

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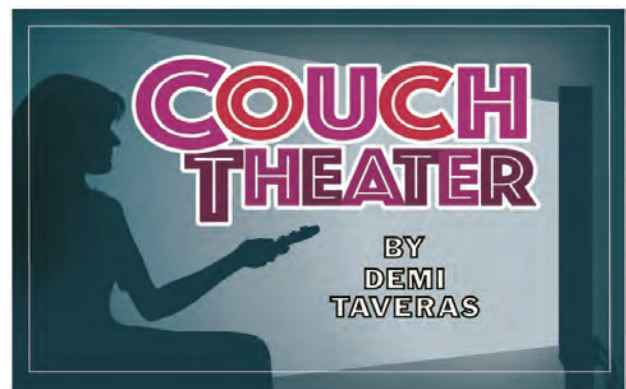
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Cillian Murphy stars in the 2005 comedy-drama film "Breakfast on Pluto."

"Breakfast on Pluto"

"BREAKFAST ON PLUTO" (R) — Before Cillian Murphy ever donned a brimmed hat to play J. Robert Oppenheimer and win an Oscar, he once played Patricia "Kitten" Braden in this peculiar comedy-drama film from 2005. Born Patrick, Patricia lives in the fictional Irish town of Tyrellin during the 1970s and causes havoc because of her choice to come out as transgender. After years of getting in trouble at school and never feeling like she belonged, Patricia decides to run away from Tyrellin and see where the world takes her.

As she tries to find her footing in the dodgiest of places, she meets an unusual array of individuals, like Billy Hatchet and the Mohawks, magician Bertie Vaughan, and the singing/dancing Wombles, who all eventu-

ally push her closer to realizing and accepting her truth. This film will leave you astounded with Murphy's range as an actor. Out now. (Amazon Prime Video)

"DUNE: PART TWO" (PG-13) — The sequel to the 2021 sci-fi film "Dune" is officially out now to rent after garnering more than \$685 million worldwide in its box-office release. Starring our modern-day movie stars Timothee Chalamet ("Wonka") and Zendaya ("Euphoria"), "Part Two" picks up right after the events of the first film that left Paul Atreides (Chalamet) and his mother, Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), in the hands of the Fremen troops on the planet Arrakis. Paul and Lady Jessica begin learning the ways of the Fremen, while Baron Vladimir

Harkonnen remains relentless in his plans to take over the desert planet. The Baron recruits his bloodthirsty nephew, Feyd-Rautha (Austin Butler), to assist him in conquering Arrakis. With much more action, an excellent ensemble cast, and visuals that will give you goosebumps, this incredible film will make you want to stay in the worlds of "Dune" forever. (Apple TV+)

"QUIET ON SET: THE DARK SIDE OF KIDS TV" (TV-14) — This five-part docu-series isn't an easy watch, whether you grew up watching Nickelodeon's shows or not, but it's monumental for shedding light on the brutal behind-the-scenes world child actors deal with. Featuring interviews from child actors who worked for shows like "All That," "Zoey 101," "The Amanda Show" and more, the first four episodes detail the horrific work environment they had to endure at the mercy of producers like Brian Peck and Dan Schneider. Drake Bell ("Drake & Josh") explains the crimes that were committed to him by Peck, a sex offender who continued to work in Hollywood following his conviction. The series also highlights the subtly inappropriate jokes that Schneider would slide in for unknown young actors like Ariana Grande and Jamie Lynn Spears. The fifth and final episode includes extra, in-depth interviews led by journalist Soledad O'Brien. (Max)

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Q: How is Celine Dion doing since she was diagnosed with a neurological disorder? Will she ever sing in front of an audience again? — N.G.

A: Two years ago, Celine Dion was diagnosed with stiff-person syndrome, a neurological disorder with an unknown cause and an uncertain prognosis. In an interview with Vogue France, she said that she undergoes physical and vocal therapy five days a week and hopes to sing again.

In February of this year, Dion presented a Grammy Award to Taylor Swift. She looked happy and radiant, leaving her fans hopeful that they'll hear her angelic voice on stage again someday.

Q: Is it true that Garcelle Beauvais is leaving "Real Housewives" because her acting career has taken off? She's the only levelheaded one in the bunch, so I wouldn't blame her if she quit. — T.S.

A: There have been several firings and voluntary exits among Bravo's "Real Housewives" lately, but Garcelle Beauvais is not one of them — at least not yet. The popular cast member of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" began her career in front of the cameras as a model for the Ford agency before getting bit by the acting bug. She appeared in the Eddie Murphy film "Coming to America" and its sequel, as well as "The Jamie Foxx Show" and the short-lived Aaron Spelling primetime soap "Models Inc."

After her career lagged a bit, she joined "Real Housewives" in 2020. While most actors look at reality television as a step down, this had the opposite effect on Beauvais' career. Viewers were charmed by her wit, levelheadedness and beauty, and her career in Hollywood was reborn.

In 2023, Beauvais produced and starred in a hit movie for the Lifetime network called "Black Girl Missing." She recently inked a deal to produce two more telefilms under this franchise, which will "continue the imperative conversations about systemic inequalities where missing girls and women of color are ignored."

She'll also star in another Lifetime movie, the first of what hopes to be many with the introductory title "Terry McMillan Presents." If that name sounds fa-



Singer Celine Dion

miliar, McMillan is the novelist behind some bestselling books that were adapted into hit movies, like "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Waiting to Exhale."

With all this success, don't be surprised if Beauvais does leave the bickering "Housewives" behind her, but as of now, she's expected to return next season.

Q: Is "Russian Doll" ever coming back to Netflix, or has it been canceled? — K.S.

A: According to TVLine, the Netflix drama "Russian Doll" was originally intended to take three seasons to tell its story. However, it's been two years since the second chapter ended, but the writers' and actors' strikes last year played a role in its delay.

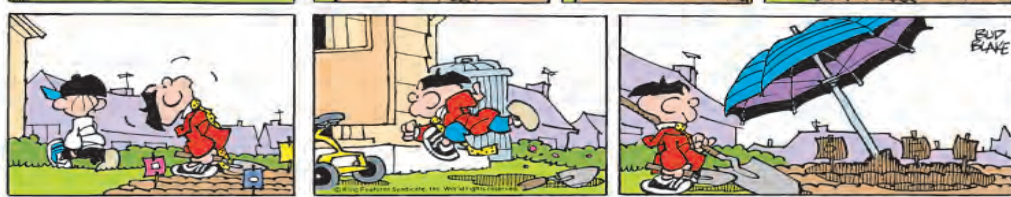
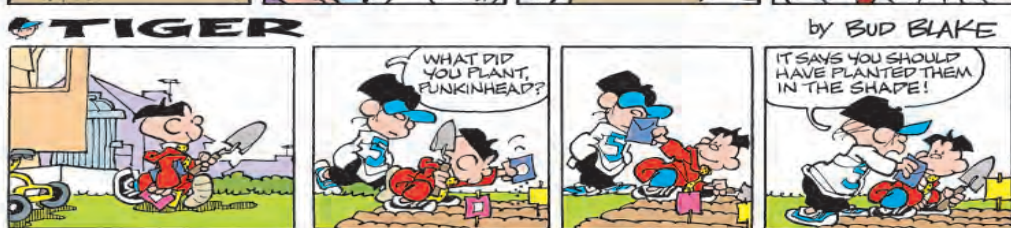
In the meantime, the show's star Natasha Lyonne found herself with a new hit show on her hands, "Poker Face," which streams on Peacock. Will she have time to star in both shows? According to Lyonne, there are "potentially more adventures" for "Russian Doll's" Nadia, but "it's gonna take some time."

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 1-9. Includes difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man painting a fence. Includes a list of differences to find.

April 29, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a list of 55 clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on Geography, Television, Anatomy, Games, Animal Kingdom, Science, Literature, Movies, Theater, and Music.

King Crossword Answers. Solution time: 26 mins.

Lone Star College students shine at National Model United Nations conference

HOUSTON – Students from The Honors College at Lone Star College once again received top honors at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference recently held in New York. NMUN, the world's largest and oldest ongoing university-level Model U.N., annually draws participants from more than 130 U.N. Member States to address current global issues.

"This achievement is a testament to the hard work these students and their professors do to achieve this level of success," said Dwight L. Smith, III, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor, Academic and Workforce Success. "These opportunities allow Lone Star College students to have a much stronger voice in international affairs."

LSC students received two Outstanding Delegation Awards, representing the Philippines and Survival International. NMUN established Awards Criteria to evaluate delegate performance based on active engagement in committee, professionalism and diplomatic values and proper use of the Rules of Procedure.

In addition to receiving two Outstanding Delegations, LSC Honors College students were also recognized as Outstanding Delegates in the following committees...

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

Gwendolyn Crain, LSC-Tomball

Bryant Hernandez, LSC-North Harris



Lone Star College Honors College students took top honors once again at the recent National Model United Nations conference. Pictured (left to right) are Gwendolyn Crain, LSC-Tomball; Tung (TJ) Vo, LSC-Houston North; Nate Victoriano, LSC-University Park and Bryant Hernandez, LSC-North Harris.

Nathaniel Victoriano, LSC-University Park
Tung (TJ) Vo, LSC-Houston North
Peacebuilding Committee:

Maris Bouch, LSC-Montgomery
Alexis Lopez, LSC-Tomball

Commission on the Status of Women:

Danna Munguia Ayarzagoitia, LSC-Tomball

Yaritzha Veloz Botello, LSC-Tomball

Outstanding Position Paper in Committee:

Dia Arakkal, LSC-Montgomery
Mia Pierson, LSC-Montgomery

The theme for this year's conference was "Global Solutions Through Diplomacy." Students were challenged to incorporate it into their solutions for the future and showcase what they can do. NMUN participants take on new roles and work across and be-

tween cultures to understand other viewpoints, even those with which they may personally disagree.

"Thank you for taking part in the Model United Nations and for believing in the power of global cooperation to solve global problems," said Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General in a prepared statement. "Our world needs your engagement and ideas more than ever."

Other colleges attending the conference included Florida Atlantic University, the Universit du Quebec Montral, Loyola University, Rutgers University, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Texas Christian University and West Virginia University.

"The Honors College at Lone Star College is designed for high-achieving students seeking to improve their college transcripts and transferability

with challenging coursework," said Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., LSC associate vice chancellor, Honors and International Education. "Lone Star College is proud to provide these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for our students."

Visit LoneStar.edu/HonorsCollege to learn more about the opportunities to travel, attend off-campus educational and cultural events, perform service-learning opportunities and participate in conferences and special seminars.

The National Model United Nations advances understanding of the U.N. and contemporary international issues and has positively impacted the lives of thousands of student delegates. The Outstanding Delegation award is based on the delegation's ability to represent the positions of their assigned country, participate actively in committees and follow the proper rules of procedure for diplomatic exchange.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

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