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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## East Aldine Storm Damage

Typical of many scenes of damage in the Aldine area, this tree toppled on a house on Bertrand Street. Many homes also lost power for days.  
-photo courtesy Abel Garza



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## Houston Area struggles to Recover from Storms, Floods

### 7 Dead, 900,000 without power

HARRIS COUNTY – An powerful storm, with high winds to 100 mph and heavy rain, struck the area Thursday night, catching many residents by surprise. Damage was widespread, including fallen trees, downed power lines, and snarled traffic.

Centerpoint Energy reported over 900,000 customers without power a few hours after the storm hit, but had reduced this number to about 700,000 by Friday. They cautioned that some customers might not get power restored until next week, due to broken main transmission lines and towers.

Deaths due to weather



County Judge Lina Hidalgo, and Houston Mayor John Whitmire make a joint announcement on Friday with information on the Storm Recovery. They also bickered, on a live mike, about who was in charge of the agenda and allocating time for speaking.

were initially reported at 4 persons, but by week's end this number had risen to at least 7. First responders cited traffic accidents and fallen trees as major causes of the deaths.

County Judge Hidalgo, and Houston Mayor Whitmire made a joint statement on Friday about the extent of damage, admonishing safety precautions for everyone, and calling



City wide destruction included fallen trees, flooded streets, downed power lines and transmission tower, and snarled traffic by accidents and traffic signals not working. This tree in the yard of a home in Garden Oaks is typical of hundreds throughout the city and the East Aldine District.

the next week a "Recovery" period and asking for patience from residents.

Judge Hidalgo said that she had requested disaster assistance from the federal government, citing the

unique situation of two disasters within a week of each other, the flooded rivers and now the windstorm. Authorities confirmed that two EF-1 tornadoes had struck in

Cypress and near Waller. Comments from the news conference:

Severe storms tore through the Houston area Thursday evening, causing widespread damage, killing at least four people and leaving nearly 900,000 CenterPoint Energy customers without power.

Fierce winds knocked over power lines, blew out windows and toppled trees. The National Weather Service said gusts of about 60 mph to 75 mph were measured, with the highest winds reported at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, William Hobby Airport, Cypress and east Harris County.

"We've had, unfortu-

Continued. See STORM DAMAGE, Page 7

## International Arts Festival set for May 25

### Celebrating the Diverse Cultures in East Aldine at Town Center

EAST ALDINE – The District will host an International Arts Festival on Saturday, May 25 from 11am to 2pm, at the Town Center. This will be a showcase for the Multi-cultural nature of the District, taking full advantage of the many ethnicities that live or work in the area. The Festival is free, and will have all types of art, from performing to dancing, to visual and participatory, and meditation and poetry.

Event Coordinator Alma DeAlejandro and marketing manager Monica Campos have planned a full day of art, dance, displays, classes, games, and more. The Astros Literacy Bus will be a special part of the event, they said and will include free books.

The event schedule starts with a jazz ensemble

at 11am from MacArthur High School. At 12pm look for the Soaring Phoenix CRCT Dragon & Lion Dances at Noon.

Then at 1pm the Polynesian Dancers from the Young Audiences of Houston will perform at the Town Center Amphitheatre stage.

There will be Live Mural Artists working all day, and will feature Joey Bedolla.

Local as well as city-wide groups will participate. There will be face painting, arts and crafts booths, train rides for the kids, and food trucks and more. There will be a giant Rubik's Cube, to challenge all those who want to put it together. And don't miss the giant piano and pinpress.

The High Meadows Public Library will be



Dragon Dance performance at last year's event.

present, with favorite activities such as Make-Make Piano, Power Tiles, Button Making, and Cosmo Robots. Also, ask them about their Mural Fest to be held at the Library June 1st.

A great Family Event, only in East Aldine District!

In commenting on the International Art Festival,

Monica Campos said "Join us for an extraordinary celebration of creativity and culture at our International Arts Festival on May 25th! We invite you to this vibrant event where we will kick off the festivities with an incredible lineup of performances and attractions.

Get ready to tap your feet to the rhythmic beats



West African Drumming at the Amphitheatre.

of the MacArthur High School Jazz Ensemble and be mesmerized by talented dance performers. Witness the talent and live artistry of P-Tech student Joey Bedolla as she brings a mural to life before your eyes. And don't miss the Astros Literacy Bus, where you can dive into the world of books and imagination.

It's a fun-filled day

packed with arts, culture, and community spirit. Come one, come all, and let the East Aldine District Town Center be your canvas for a day of pure artistic bliss. See you soon!"

Sponsors of the free event include the East Aldine District, Aldine ISD, Lone Star College, and the East Aldine Arts Council.

## Top Ten Scholars honored at Aldine ISD ceremony

By Mike Keeney

Aldine ISD held its fifth annual Superintendent's Top 10 Scholars Celebration this spring in the Foyer of the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

The event is held annually to recognize the Top 10 scholars at each of the district's 10 high schools.

The Top 10 Scholars were treated to ice cream and received medals to signify their standing as the top academic achievers at their respective high schools.

The students were also given the opportunity to share with the audience what college or university they will attend and what they plan to major in.

Chief of Staff Sheleah



A group of Aldine ISD Top 10 students were all smiles as they were honored at the fifth annual Superintendent's Top 10 Scholar Event, held earlier this May in the Foyer of the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

Reed delivered the welcome and congratulated the seniors for their hard work to reach Top 10 status in their respective classes.

"This is truly a special event, and I am so excited that we can gather to celebrate the academic accomplishments of our outstanding scholars," Reed said. "Graduation is right around the corner, and a new journey is about to begin. As you go along your new journey, please keep us informed of the amazing things you are doing in the future so we can brag on. You and share your successes with our students and community."

Reed then introduced Yvonne Lopez, a 2005 graduate of Carver High School who attended the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and is now pursuing a Master's of Education. She currently serves Aldine ISD as an elementary visual arts teacher and was named the 2020 Elementary Teacher of the Year and the 2021 Region 4 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Lopez shared with the current Top 10 students that she too was a Top 10 scholar

at Carver High School. She said she enjoyed competing with her peers academically and developed friendships that still remain today.

"The people we grow up with and compete with can become some of the most important people in our lives," Lopez said. "From my class Top 10, I'm still great friends with a few of them."

Lopez challenged this year's Top 10 students to work hard and do not be deterred if roadblocks occur along the way.

She had some ups and downs during her academic career, but she forged ahead thanks to her deter-

Continued. See TOP TEN SCHOLARS HONORED, Page 5

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## Social Security Delivers the Most Popular Baby Names in Texas for 2023

See the complete list at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

The Social Security Administration today announced the most popular baby names in Texas for 2023. Emma and Liam topped the list.

The top five boys' and girls' names for 2023 in Texas were:

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Boys:</b> | <b>Girls:</b> |
| 1) Liam      | 1) Emma       |
| 2) Noah      | 2) Olivia     |
| 3) Mateo     | 3) Camila     |
| 4) Santiago  | 4) Mia        |
| 5) Sebastian | 5) Isabella   |

The agency announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in

the U.S. How does Texas compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website — [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) — to see the top national baby names for 2023 and see where your name ranks now and over the past 100 years.

Social Security began compiling the baby names list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends. In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2023 and the fastest rising girls' and boys' names.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Fatal Crash at 10400 Hirsch Road

Houston police are investigating the fatal crash that occurred at 10400 Hirsch Road about 5:00 a.m. on Sunday (April 28).

The identities of the two deceased males is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division

Sergeant A. Patterson and Officer N. Kumar reported:

The driver of a silver Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck was traveling southbound on Hirsch Road when he failed to maintain a single lane and left the roadway. The truck struck the center median, rolled several times and came to rest east of railroad tracks.

The passenger was ejected and was pronounced deceased at the scene by responding Houston Fire Department paramedics. The driver was also pronounced deceased at the scene.

No other vehicles or persons were involved in this crash.

The investigation is continuing.

### House Fire in the East Little York / Homestead Area

Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on May 11, 2024, at 10:57 p.m. at the 6400 block of Micollet St. 77016.

There were No reported injuries.

There was \$75,900 in estimated property

saved, and \$75,800 in estimated damage.

The cause is under investigation.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find fire coming from a boarded-up house. They made entry and controlled the fire. A primary

search was completed, and the fire was fully extinguished. HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. 35 personnel responded to this incident, including crews from Stations 15, 34, 32, 43 and 56.

### Fatal Shooting at Beltway 8 hotel

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 6 North Sam Houston Parkway East service road (Beltway 8) about 9 p.m. on Thursday (May 16).

The identity of the victim, 24, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives L. Brooks and C. Davidson reported:

Officers responded to a shooting call outside a hotel at the above address

and discovered a man unresponsive in a room. He had suffered a gunshot wound and was pronounced deceased by paramedics.

Witnesses and evidence indicates a male suspect exchanged gunfire with an unknown male in the hotel courtyard on the north side of the property. The suspect ran south to the parking lot, where he then exchanged gunfire with the victim, resulting in the victim sustaining a gunshot wound. The victim

then went to the hotel room where he was discovered by a witness.

The suspect, described only as a black male in his 20s, left the scene in an unknown direction. The unknown male who the suspect originally exchanged gunfire with also fled the scene prior to officers arriving.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

### Wanted for Continuous 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, approximately 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.crimestoppers.org](http://www.crimestoppers.org) or through the Crime Stoppers mobile



Menfil Amilcar Lopez Vasquez

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## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**LIBRARY CLOSURES:** The library will close at 5pm Friday, May 24. The library will be CLOSED Saturday, May 25 and Monday May 27. The library will re-open, Tuesday, May 28 at 10am.

**Summer 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. Note: To volunteer in the summer, you must have availability for at least one of our pre-selected shifts. Please contact us for more information. **Monday, May 20, 3:30 - 5pm.**

**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, May 21, 11-12pm.**

**Aprenda Computers & Job Skills**

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy> luego presentarse a la clase para tomar evaluación de nivel.

**Martes - 5:00 pm a 6:45 PM:**

Habilidades Esenciales de computación (Computer Essential skills class) - Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, 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 su 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

**Container Gardening with Texas A&M Agrilife**

Join us for this series of programs to learn about growing food on your own, even if you live in an apartment! Get all the

lessons and supplies for container gardening thanks to Texas A&M Agrilife. Texas A&M Agrilife is uniquely positioned to improve lives, environments and the Texas economy through education, research, extension and service. **Tuesdays at 5pm, May 7 - June 25.**

**Asia Society Presents: Origami Making @ Adult Anime Club**

Join us at this very special edition of Anime Club to make Origami with the Asia Society of Houston!!! Registration is required, as it is appreciated for a head count :) **Tuesday, May 21, 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Summer 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. Note: To volunteer in the summer, you must have availability for at least one of our pre-selected shifts. Please contact us for more information. **Wednesday, May 22, 3:30 - 5pm.**

**Tween Spark: Battle Jackets - Patches**

Welcome to the world of battle jackets, the ultimate form of self-expression! We'll be making patches together to sew onto your armor of choice (jacket, vest, shirt, whatever you'd like) in July. Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders. **Wednesday, May 22, 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

**Teen Thursday**

**Thursday, May 23, 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!

**Family Movie Night**

Join us for a family friendly movie Night! Families and friends, join us as we watch Kung Fu Panda 3. **Thursday, May 23, 5:00pm - 6:45pm**

**Aprenda Computers & Job Skills**

Limited space/ Espacio limitado Pre-regístrate aquí: <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 su nivel de habilidades en uso de tecnología con una evaluación en la computadora durante su primer día de su asistencia.

\* requerirá una cuenta de gmail.com y outlook.com para acceder a las aplicaciones y programas gratuitos de la internet.

**Importante:** Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Windows, Office 365, Google apps) son todas en Inglés

**Cloud Computing - Office 365 & Google Apps**

This class is currently Offered in a hybrid format through Google Meets/in-person. Register <https://forms.office.com/r/TQyUGd1Yy> to get a link to connect to class or come in-person (please allow 2-3 business days to receive a link). Level: Basic to Intermediate.

**Saturdays at 2:30-4:00 PM.** Go beyond the basics with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint online. In addition, we will cover Google web-based programs like Google Workspace, Sheets, Docs, Slides, Forms, Google sites (for designing free websites), and more!

\*Note: This class is a series of sessions about applied technology for job skills and personal enjoyment.

**Requirements:**

1. A laptop/ Chromebook (for online participants)
2. A link to Google Meet/ Teams to connect to class
3. Ability to log in to Gmail account or Outlook account
4. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>
5. Wait (up to three business days) for an invitation to join class <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>

**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**  
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# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## District Expands Dual Credit Access to High School Sophomores in '23-'24 School Year



Aldine High and Davis High School students are pictured on the first day of Accelerated College Academy classes with Lone Star College-Houston North President Dr. Quentin Wright.

### Accelerated College Academy

Rising 10th-graders considering college should consider dual credit (DC) courses. Aldine ISD and its partner Lone Star College expanded access to high school sophomores this school year via the Accelerated College Academy (ACA); students at all comprehensive high schools have access to it. That is a year earlier than previously offered. In its inaugural year, 51 sophomores are currently participating, with an average success rate of 92% in earning college credit.

Start Dual Enrollment Classes Now. Finish College Early.

Your freshman year at Lone Star College or any Texas college or university could start as early as your sophomore year of high school. The dual enrollment program gives you the chance to earn university credits in courses like math and English while completing your sophomore, junior, and senior years of high school. That means you can shorten the time it takes to get your degree and learn what college is like before you graduate high school.

How does the Accelerated College Academy dual credit enrollment program work?

When you enroll in the Accelerated College Academy, affiliated with Lone Star College, you'll choose from a wide range of courses to simultaneously receive high school and college credit. These courses can satisfy Lone Star College's general educa-

tion requirements and are designed to transfer to any college or university in Texas. You can complete classes online or on campus, making it easier to fit into your class schedule.

Students can choose four (4) program options: liberal arts, business, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and health science. These program options are aligned with high school endorsements and are distinguished from one another in the mathematics and science courses specific to that program plan.

If you meet the prerequisite requirements, you can take any 1,000-level or 2,000-level course in the dual credit program.

Who is the Ideal Student Candidate for the Accelerated College Academy?

ACA is open to any student with the drive and desire to take college courses in high school. ACA students demonstrate a strong work ethic, are self-motivated, are goal-oriented, and exhibit effective time management. Parents and students who are interested should communicate with their high school counselor. Students must demonstrate they are college-ready by taking and earning "Met" target scores on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment or TSIA2 exam. The met scores are:

Mathematics: a score in the range of 350-390 in the multiple-choice section.

Reading: a score of 351-390 in the multiple-choice

section.

Writing: Two ways — (1) a score of 340-390 in the multiple-choice section and a score of 4 on the essay, OR (2) a score of 310-339 in the multiple-choice section and a score of 4, 5, or 6 on the ABE Diagnostic section, and an essay score of 5 (you must meet all three).

Students can begin ACA with courses that don't require a TSIA "Met" score as they work toward mastery on the TSIA exam. AISD has programs to assist students in preparing for the TSIA exam.

### What is the program's cost?

LSC dual credit tuition rates are \$43/semester hour, so a 3-hour course costs \$129. However, the Texas State Legislature established the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer or FAST Program in 2023. It is designed to eliminate financial barriers preventing some students from enrolling in dual credit courses.

Process to Participate in Aldine's Accelerated College Academy

1. Apply to Lone Star College through [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org),
2. Meet bacterial meningitis vaccination requirements for the college,
3. Complete and submit the Course Approval and FERPA Forms to your high school counselor,
4. Attend the Accelerated College Academy's Student Development Day (details to come)
5. Complete Pre-Program Advising to determine your pathway

## Lane School's Transition Service Center Hosts Largest Spring Resources and Job Fair to Date



The Transition Service Center at Lane School hosted its Annual Spring Resources and Job Fair on May 3, 2024, aiming to provide clients, their families, and the community with valuable information, resources, and opportunities. This year's event was the third of its kind and proved to be the biggest and most successful yet, thanks to the commitment and effort of the dedicated team at Lane School.

With a focus on health services, job training, and employment opportunities, the job fair brought together an impressive array of agencies and programs designed to support clients in achieving their post-secondary goals. In addition to the familiar faces from previous events, Lane School attracted a number of new agencies, giving attendees access to a broad range of resources.

Some of the new agen-

cies featured at this year's fair included Draylon Healthcare Services, Autism International, the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas, and The Village Centers. Additionally, re-MIND Depression and Bipolar Support, UH-PEP Families CAN program, Got Advocacy, the League of Women Voters of Houston, Admore Behavioral Therapy, Noah's House, Dapa Programs, and Mystros Barber Academy were also in attendance. These organizations provided information and guidance on topics ranging from healthcare to legal advocacy to vocational training.

This year, the event offered a greater variety of resources for clients and families seeking information and support. Whether attendees were interested in exploring health-related services, job training programs, or ad-

vocacy, there was something for everyone. The job fair aimed to connect individuals with agencies and programs that could make a significant difference in their lives.

The Transition Service Center at Lane School continues to demonstrate its commitment to supporting its clients in transitioning to post-secondary success. By hosting this annual event, they ensure that families and individuals have the tools and information necessary to navigate their unique paths. The positive response from attendees and agencies alike underscores the importance of these events in fostering a strong, resource-rich community. With the success of this year's event, there's no doubt that Lane School will continue to expand and enrich this valuable resource fair in the years to come.

## Texas School Business Features Aldine ISD's, Houston METRO's Art That Moves People



The story behind the Art That Moves People, an initiative by Aldine ISD in collaboration with Houston METRO, has been included in the May/June 2024 edition of Texas School Business.

Art That Moves People engages students in designing bus shelter artworks that embody their school pride and lay the foundation for a future rich in artistic endeavors. This contest prompts students to think critically about how their artwork can impact their community, creating a public product that ties their work to the campus. The winning designs, displayed in local METRO bus shelters, become a permanent fixture in their community, serving as a source of pride for the

school and, most importantly, fostering a supportive environment that nurtures future artistic talents, inspiring and exciting the community.

The contest involves students designing bus shelter artwork that is installed on their local METRO bus shelter, focusing on the diverse audience that will engage with their art daily.

The competition is based on a rubric. The project's primary goal is to portray the school culture, showcasing core values and strengths to the community.

A key component of METRO's and AISD's initiative, The Art That Moves People Art Design Contest, is to bring public art to stakehold-

ers and is a testament to the Aldine community's rich diversity. This community-driven initiative encourages students to create art installations that authentically reflect their cultural backgrounds and personal experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

"The contest validates students' artistic abilities, fosters an arts community, and provides a platform for students to express their cultural identity, making them feel empowered and respected," said Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD director of visual arts. "The contest also promotes inclusivity and diversity, allowing students to contribute to the community's mosaic of stories."

### Is it still possible to register for ACA for fall 2024?

There is still time to register for fall 2024. Lone Star College will host application workshops in June and July. LSC will be on hand at the following dates and times to assist with the Apply Texas application and answer any questions you may have:

#### Details About Lone Star College Application Workshops

- June 18, June 20, and July 11
- 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center (9999 Veterans Memorial)
- Lone Star College will provide English and Spanish support.
- Please bring your social security card or know your social security number.



### Class of 2024 Graduation Schedule

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL
May 29	5 p.m.	Avalos High School
May 29	7:30 p.m.	Nimitz HS
May 30	5 p.m.	Blanson HS
May 30	7:30 p.m.	Aldine HS
May 31	9 a.m.	MacArthur HS
May 31	11:30 a.m.	Hall Success Academy
May 31	2 p.m.	Eisenhower HS
May 31	5 p.m.	Carver HS
June 1	9 a.m.	Davis HS
June 1	11:30 a.m.	Victory HS


All graduations to take place at: M.O. Campbell Educational Center  
1865 Aldine Bender Rd, 77032





OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
Governor Greg Abbott



## Abbott calls out Texas House Democrats for voting against his Education Package

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today called out 39 Texas House Democrats for voting against Representative Brad Buckley’s comprehensive education package that would have provided \$6 billion for additional public school funding, teacher pay raises, and school safety measures. The bill also included a provision that expands school choice for every Texas family.

“As you surely recall, I worked with Representative Brad Buckley during Special Sessions #3 and #4 last year to design a school choice and public school funding package that would have achieved exactly what you seek,” reads the letter. “It was a bill that added \$6 billion in school funding, including teacher pay raises and additional funding for school safety. All of the representatives who signed this letter voted to kill that package. The makeup of the Texas House of Representatives has not changed since you rejected that proposal, which means there is no possibility for it to pass during another special session unless you are willing to change your position to support the Buckley bill.

To be clear, there are several reasons why some public schools are facing budget shortfalls. One is public schools received extraordinary funding from the federal government for COVID recovery, and that federal funding is no longer available. This means those schools that used this funding for ongoing expenses are facing a shortfall. Also, to be clear, you make reference to the basic allotment. That is simply misleading. While the basic allotment is \$6,160, the average funding per student actually exceeds \$12,000.

Know this, my commitment to improving public schools is just as resolute as yours. To achieve our shared goal, however, it is incumbent upon you to work with your fellow Texas House members to muster the votes to get it passed—something you were unwilling to do last year.”

**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.



## A-mox-a-silly-un

Feel that warmth? Right there on the back of your neck? Yep. That’s the one. Around here that means only one thing: time to cruise down to the Mule Barn coffee shop and get something hot to drink.

Of course, that’s what we do regardless of any vagaries of the weather, but that spring sunshine makes it more pleasant. Gives a guy the impetus to be an impetuous, I’m thinking.

“I believe,” said our mustached cowboy, Steve, after his first cup, “that it is the duty of ever-dang one of us to improve the lives of others while we’re here, and I’ve found my own way.”

“And that is?” asked Doc.

“Well, Doc, you’re the reason I decided on this here. You know them medicines you prescribe for me? Can’t read ‘em. Know why? They’re in a different language and we’re Americans ‘round here.”

“Like which ones, Steve?”

Steve pulled a pill bottle out of his shirt pocket and looked at it. “A-mox-a-silly-un, for one.”

“It’s for killing germs.”

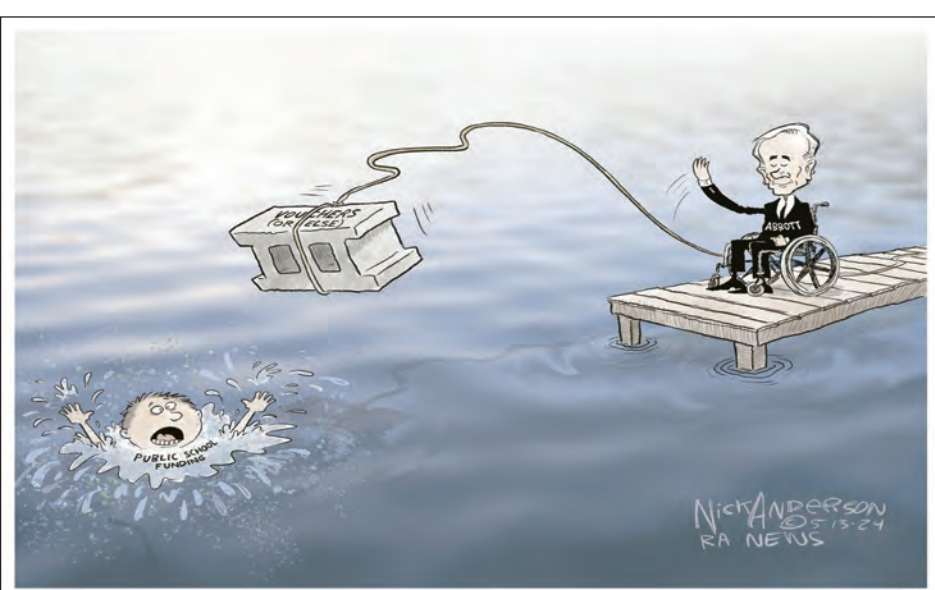
“Well, so is that Lysol stuff, but I think drinking it would make a guy sick.”

“So?”

“I’m going to rename all them hard-named medicine so folks can pronounce them and know what they do. Take that A-mox stuff. Change that puppy to ‘germ slayer.’ Easier to say and tells you what to do. I figure by the time I get through with all that stuff in a drugstore, the world will be an easier place for doctors AND their patients.”

“That’s sure interesting,” said Herb. “And someday someone will come up with a pill that prevents coffee drinkers from talking foolishness, too. Probably call it ‘Steve-a-cillin.’”

Coffee does that to some folks, you know, but it’s still good for thinking.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



## Flood Victims Urge Caution Upon Returning Home

As East Texas residents return to clean up their homes and businesses after extensive flooding earlier this month, the Texas Department of State Health Services urged residents and business owners to exercise caution. Among the recommendations:

- Never use gasoline-powered generators or charcoal grills indoors. Keep them outside, at least 20 feet from homes to avoid possible carbon monoxide poisoning. Direct generator engine exhaust away from windows and doors
- Never mix bleach with products that contain ammonia. Toxic fumes could be created.
- Disinfect household surfaces, woodwork and toys in homes that have flooded, using a solution of one cup bleach to five gallons of water.
- Wash hands often during property cleanup to avoid contaminating areas that have already been cleaned.

A large swath of East Texas recorded very heavy rainfall between April 28 and May 7. More than 25 inches fell in parts of San Jacinto, Walker, Polk, and Trinity counties. Downtown Livingston flooded. Excess water in Lake Livingston, fed by the Trinity River, exceeded amounts recorded during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

### PHELAN ISSUES PRIORITIES FOR NEXT SESSION — IF HE IS SPEAKER

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, has issued his legislative priorities for the next legislative session in January, while facing a tough re-election battle and an impending May 28 runoff election.

Phelan directed his committee leaders to take a look at the use of school vouchers in other states and also consider new ways to further reduce property tax bills for homeowners, The Texas Tribune reported.

Attempts to pass a voucher program backed by Gov. Greg Abbott failed several times in past legislative sessions, leading to largely successful attempts to defeat voucher opponents in the March Republican primary. Phelan faces challenger David Covey, backed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and other of his political foes, in the runoff.

As is customary with House speakers, Phelan did not cast a vote either way for the various voucher proposals but later said he would have supported a scaled-down version of vouchers.

During the last sessions, Phelan and his House allies backed a proposal to cut the cap on annual property taxes from



10% to 5%, which was opposed by Patrick. The lieutenant governor favored an increase in the homestead exemption instead and ultimately prevailed.

Moving forward, Phelan has directed the House Ways & Means Committee to explore “whether to further reduce the limit on appraised value of homesteads.”

### BOARD APPROVES NEW TEACHER RESIDENCY CERTIFICATE

The State Board of Education recently approved a new certificate — the enhanced standard certificate — for aspiring teachers who complete a residency on their way to earning a teaching license in Texas, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The board hopes such yearlong programs will create better trained first-year teachers and improve teacher retention — a major issue for Texas public schools.

“The residency prep route creates a path to the classroom that’s akin to the medical model for preparing doctors,” said Emily Garcia, associate commissioner for educator certification and enforcement at the Texas Education Agency.

Student teaching is common among college-based teaching programs, but the residency is longer and more intensive, Garcia said. The residency has a 750-hour minimum requirement, while a typical student teaching program usually involves a minimum of 490 hours in the classroom.

One out of eight Texas public school teachers left their jobs during the last school year, according to TEA, while just 58% of entry-level teachers hired in Texas as five years ago are still working in public education.

### BILL WOULD REIMBURSE RANCHERS FOR UNBORN CALVES KILLED IN DISASTERS

Two Texas GOP lawmakers are proposing legislation to com-

pensate ranchers who lose unborn calves during a disaster, such as the recent Panhandle wildfires, the Texas Standard reported. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson — both Republicans — are sponsoring the legislation.

Approximately 15,000 cattle, including pregnant cows, died during the Panhandle wildfires.

The proposal expands a program that is part of the farm bill called the Livestock Indemnity Program, according to David Anderson, a professor and extension specialist in livestock and food product marketing at Texas A&M. As now structured, the program is not set up to compensate ranchers for the loss of unborn calves, he said.

“We have record high cattle prices right now,” he said. “So, you got some help on the value of the cow, but not on this calf that you were going to sell in the fall for a record high amount of money.”

### BORDER LANDOWNERS CAN BE COMPENSATED FOR MIGRANT DAMAGES

Landowners along the Texas-Mexico border are now eligible for compensation for damage to their land and property caused by migrants, smugglers and drug traffickers, The Tribune reported.

The Legislature during the last session approved \$18 million for the compensation fund, administered by the Texas attorney general’s office. Landowners have up to 90 days after an incident to file a claim and must have a written police report documenting the damage. The state will compensate up to \$75,000 for damage to property such as a barn or a fence, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office said.

The damage must have occurred after Sept. 1, 2023, The Tribune reported. That is when the law took effect.

### GOVERNORS OPPOSE TRANSFERRING GUARD MEMBERS TO SPACE FORCE

All 50 governors have joined 140 House lawmakers, U.S. senators and five U.S. territories in opposing a proposal to move several hundred members of the Air Force Guard to the federal Space Force, where they would be full-time enlisted personnel.

Rose Thayer, an Austin-based reporter for Stars and Stripes told the Texas Standard that part of the reason for creating the Space Force nearly five years ago was to “take all of the military’s space assets and units that exist in all the service branches and co-locate them under the Space Force.”

Thayer said the biggest objection is that members of the National Guard have a “dual-hatted role” in that they serve the federal U.S. military but also serve their states, particularly in times of natural disaster or civil unrest. “And this proposal from the Air Force is asking to move these units without asking permission of the governors,” she said.

The House Armed Services Committee will have the final say over the proposal, according to Thayer.

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

## Making Pickles



My Aunt Ruthie used to make the best pickles ever.

Ruthie was my mom’s sister, and she died a few years back in a car accident that left us all sad and shaken and filled with memories. I remember her dry humor and her sharp intellect and her voracious reading habits. I remember her never-ending kindness and resilience. And I remember her pickles.

Ruthie always gave me a jar of pickles whenever she made them. They were a treasure. One year, the glass Mason jar filled with pickles broke in my purse, and having a vinegar-soaked purse was inconsequential compared to the fear I might waste Aunt Ruthie’s pickles. (I did not.)

I remember when I was young, my cousin was reading something I thought was stupid. (I had a lot of opinions back then about what was stupid.) I remember what Ruthie said to me.

“It doesn’t matter what she’s reading,” Ruthie said. “What’s important is that she’s reading something.” I felt a little ashamed, I remember, and I knew Ruthie was right.

And this was rare, a reprimand coming from Ruthie, which is why I remember the next one she gave me 30 years later.

I saw her, and she had not made pickles. Maybe the cucumbers had not cooperated. Maybe Ruthie was working on other things. Maybe she just lost interest in supplying every relative in her large family with pickles. A person does not need a reason not to make pickles, and yet I felt Aunt Ruthie owed me an explanation.

“Someone as good at making pickles as you should make pickles!” I told her.

“Someone as good at performing as you should perform,” she answered, without missing a beat.

This took me aback for a few reasons. The first, as I mentioned, was that Ruthie was always generous with her praise and sparing with her criticism. The second was that I had been a performer for years and was now working in business, which everyone seemed to think was a lot more practical.

And the last reason was that I honestly never thought I had a gift for performing. I enjoyed it. I became comfortable doing it. I worked hard at it so I could keep up with those better than me. But I never thought I was anything special.

This was a long time ago. I eventually left business and started writing. Writing gives me an enormous amount of joy. Like the performing I did earlier, it’s a way to connect with other people and, also like performing, I know I am not nearly as good as so many other writers.

But recently I got to thinking about performing again.

At first, I dismissed the idea. I was too busy writing. I had tried once before, right before the pandemic, and nobody got to see anyone perform for a long time. And finally, who wants to see a 60-something-year-old woman on stage? Performing is work best left to the young, I told myself.

But the idea grew as I waited for weeks that turned into months for a book to be sold. I thought what a wonderful feeling it would be to perform again, to do something I had some control over, to do something fun.

My performances will never rival Ruthie’s pickles. She really had a gift. But I have an opportunity to do a show this fall, and I am going to take it. I am always telling people to do what they love, after all. I figure if you get a chance to make pickles, you should.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# Top Ten Scholars honored at event,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mination to succeed and because of her supportive parents.

“The most important lesson I’ve learned from my supportive parents is that failure is OK,” she said. “I felt the pressure from my family to work hard, do the best, and be the best. When I got to college, everyone in my class was the best. We continued to work hard but not all of us made our dream happen. After a few years of part-time jobs at ad agencies, freelance art work, and retail life, my sister said I needed to stop living the starving artist life and come home. I moved back to Houston and began to substitute teach in Aldine and fell in love with teaching.

“Just remember to always be yourself. Be true to you. Be you. Do you. Do not let others dull your shine as you take on the world. Learn how to grow to become your authentic self. Do not be afraid to let others see you and hear you.”

Following Lopez’s remarks, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney addressed the Top 10 Scholars and shared with them the importance of the medals they received at the event.

“The medal you are wearing now symbolizes your hard work and dedication,” Dr. Goffney said. “It reminds me of a quote that I go back to often that has served me well when I need a bit of motivation or just a push in the right direction: ‘Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do.’”

“You all understand this because you’ve sacrificed many nights doing what you had to do – like all-night study sessions to pass a test or finish a

project – to be where you are today. You understand that reaching a goal requires hard work and dedication – and that it isn’t always fun or easy. I’ve been there. I understand. Like you, I was an earnest and hard-working student. My grandparents, Big Mamma and Papa, encouraged education and wanted me to work hard so I could go somewhere and do something with my life and I wanted to make them proud. In fact, I kept the middle initial ‘M’ for my maiden name, McGowen, as a reminder of the sacrifices and support they gave me as I grew up. As a first-generation college student, I was all business, all work, all the time. And thanks to that work ethic, I graduated from Cold-spring-Oakhurst at the top of my class.”

While Dr. Goffney challenged the Top 10 Scholars to work hard, she also encouraged them to enjoy their journey.

“Make memories. Take advantage of every opportunity to be involved – student government, choir, sports, etc. Try it all! And most importantly, finish! Live your best life and have fun. Congratulations on a job well done on behalf of myself, our Board of Trustees, and the administration team.”

The Top 10 Scholars from each Aldine ISD high school are:

### ALDINE HIGH SCHOOL

- Steven Tran
- Kamila Pichardo
- Leyla Arriaga
- Brandon Tran
- Olexzondra Upshaw
- Destiny Ipina
- Jameleth Palma
- Isabel Denova
- Izelliah Sanchez
- Ariel Navia

### AVALOS P-TECH HIGH SCHOOL

- Elaine Amaly Villeda
- Cirilo Cancino
- Briseida Sanchez
- Cecilia Rivera
- Sebastian Rodriguez
- Giselle Campa
- Celeste Rivera
- Aaron Cebrero
- Miguel Cuevas
- Berenise Salinas

### BLANSON CTE HIGH SCHOOL

- Cristina Juarez
- Kaiden Johnnie
- Colin Li Ming Bouake-ovilay
- Dominique Morillo
- Juan David Victorino-Beltran
- Monica Diaz
- Dawn Abigail Bas Cabalquinto
- Renee Valdez Rinos
- Yahaira Marcela Hernandez

### CARVER HIGH SCHOOL

- Juniper Boehler
- Itzel Fernandez
- Sydney Page
- Takeria Swain
- Alexandra Martinez
- Jade Jimenez
- Tatiana Smith
- Gabriela Pacheco-Pena
- Taniah Corbin
- Justin Tobias, Jr.

### DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

- Cardin Tran
- Francis Dinh
- Alice Conghuyen
- Elaine Phan
- Luniqua Louis
- Carolina Guajardo
- Phong Tchi
- Johan Fuentes
- Jessica Sorn
- Maria Velasquez Iguaran

### EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

- Mai Phuong Le
- Minh Phuong Le

- Christian Gabriel Acosta Zuniga
- Jeriah Garcia
- William Villanueva
- Gabriel Villafana
- Veronica Macias
- Paul Okunuga
- Jorge Lara
- Melissa Mora

### HALL SUCCESS ACADEMY

- Morgan Starks
- Betsayda Barradas
- J’Don Melendez
- Asia Criswell
- Ashari Nelms
- Erick Gomez
- Pedro Savala
- Madison Evans
- Ann Calderon
- Yamileth Castro

### MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL

- Rafael Vazquez
- Aritzi Martinez
- Michael Guevara
- Shoniya Murphy
- Noe Carrillo
- Khalil Chambers
- Marlene Andrade
- Lisa Hernandez
- Estefani Orozco
- Josue Reboloso

### NIMITZ HIGH SCHOOL

- Monique Thompson
- Sebastian Soto
- Kevin Valenzuela
- Aseel Elmansori
- Darren Muise
- Musa Kpinkpin
- Toan Nguyen
- Ethan Sims
- Valerie Vega
- Tori Desana-Calhoun White

### VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

- Karol Garcia
- Veronica Hernandez
- Aby Cortez
- Jayla Palmer
- Ana Estrada
- Karolynn Figueroa
- Kiandra Neal
- Edgar Morales
- Chelsea Mathis
- Amy Balderas

# International Arts Festival set for May 25 at Town Center

Below, some events at last year’s International Arts Festival



Lion Dance



Chalk Artists



Aztec Ceremony blessing the Land

## SPANISH PAGE

# El Equipo de Ajedrez de Impact Leadership Academy se dirige a la Competencia Nacional

El Campeonato Nacional de Escuelas Intermedias (K-8) 2024 se llevará a cabo en Atlanta, GA, del 10 al 12 de mayo de 2024. Impact Leadership Academy es el único equipo de Aldine ISD que competirá en la competencia nacional contra más de 1,200 de los mejores jugadores de la nación de más de 35 estados diferentes.

En medio del animado ambiente de Impact Leadership Academy, una iniciativa única echó raíces en el otoño de 2022. Dirigido por el apasionado Toby McCraw, el programa de ajedrez de la academia surgió como una joya escondida. Sin que muchos lo supieran, este programa estaba a punto de embarcarse en un viaje que lo llevaría de los torneos locales, donde perfeccionaron sus habilidades, al reconocimiento mundial, diferenciándolo de otros programas de ajedrez.

Al frente del programa de ajedrez con la visión de una experiencia educativa única está el director Jonathan Kegler. Su inquebrantable creencia en el poder educativo del ajedrez encontró un fuerte aliado en McCraw. A medida que se difundió la noticia, el equipo de ajedrez se convirtió en un centro de pensadores estratégicos, atrayendo a estudiantes de varios grados. El espíritu competitivo del equipo se encendió y un pequeño grupo de siete estudiantes se abrió camino hacia el éxito.

El equipo de ajedrez de la academia hizo un debut impresionante, ganando el campeonato del distrito de escuelas intermedias y ganando un lugar en la competencia estatal en su inauguración. Había mucho en



juego, los competidores tenían experiencia, pero el equipo de Impact Leadership mostró su temple, terminando cuarto entre las escuelas intermedias de Texas, un logro notable para los principiantes.

A pesar de su clasificación para los campeonatos nacionales, los problemas logísticos impidieron su participación ese año. Sin embargo, este revés no hizo más que alimentar su determinación. Bajo la dirección de McCraw, junto con Brione Stephenson y Dominique Wiley, el equipo refinó sus habilidades a través de un régimen único de postura, actividad física y meditación. Este enfoque innovador no solo agudizó sus tácticas de ajedrez, sino que también los preparó para enfrentar los desafíos más amplios de la vida con aplomo y resiliencia, un testimonio de su espíritu inquebrantable. Esta resiliencia es una fuente de inspiración y motivación tanto para los estudiantes como para los entusiastas del ajedrez.

Este año escolar fue nada menos que espectacular. Impact Leadership Academy organizó su propio torneo, salió victorioso en el Torneo de Ajedrez Mandarín y rompió récords en el Torneo de Ajedrez

Klein. Su innovadora actuación de 111,5 victorias no solo dominó la escena ajedrecística local, sino que también le valió una invitación para jugar en Italia, un testimonio de su creciente influencia y destreza.

El equipo de ajedrez, que ahora cuenta con 70 jugadores, es una mezcla de mentes jóvenes y entusiastas de diferentes grados, todos unidos por un objetivo común: la excelencia. Los jóvenes ajedrecistas se han convertido en símbolos de la ambición y la tenacidad juveniles.

Con base en su desempeño en el evento estatal, 15 estudiantes de la Academia de Liderazgo de Impacto se dirigen al Campeonato Nacional de Escuelas Intermedias (K-8) 2024, que se llevará a cabo en Atlanta, Georgia, del 10 al 12 de mayo. Impact Leadership Academy es el único equipo de Aldine ISD que competirá en la competencia nacional contra más de 1,200 de los mejores jugadores de la nación de más de 35 estados diferentes.

Los estudiantes de la Academia de Liderazgo de Impacto se dirigen a los Campeonatos Nacionales de Escuelas Intermedias (K-8) 2024

Dylan Estrada Anthony Flores Leonardo Gerardo

Brander Fuentes Bryce Moore Kristopher García Emmanuel Asuquo Alexandre Gómez Diego Baires Armando Hernández Joaquín Cantú Javier Martínez Daniel Chinchilla Jaime Medina Celso Vicente

También se unen al equipo en los nacionales los gerentes de noticias y equipos de GOAT, Kevion Gray y Anthony Raudales.

La historia de éxito del equipo tuvo un eco más allá del tablero de ajedrez; Era un testimonio de la filosofía educativa que valoraba la fortaleza mental tanto como el rendimiento académico. El ajedrez en Impact Leadership Academy era más que un juego: era una herramienta estratégica que fomentaba el pensamiento crítico, la resiliencia y la gracia para manejar tanto las victorias como las derrotas. Los estudiantes, que antes no estaban seguros, ahora se mantienen erguidos, y su crecimiento personal es una fuente de inmenso orgullo para la academia y sus familias, inculcando un sentido de logro e inversión en el éxito del programa de ajedrez.

A medida que el equipo se prepara para los Campeonatos Nacionales de Escuelas Intermedias (K-8), su viaje refleja una narrativa más amplia sobre la integración de la excelencia extracurricular en los marcos educativos. A través de cada jaque mate y maniobra estratégica, los estudiantes de la Academia de Liderazgo de Impacto no solo estaban jugando un juego; Estaban aprendiendo a navegar por el complejo tablero de ajedrez de la vida.

# Se Reorganiza el Dep. de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje



Los cambios incluyen la ampliación del Departamento de Aprendizaje Profesional y la reorganización de la Oficina de Escuelas y el Departamento de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje.

El distrito ampliará el Departamento de Aprendizaje Profesional para traer sinergia al trabajo que cada departamento de Aldine ISD está haciendo.

AISD reforzará el Departamento de Aprendizaje Profesional trasladando a todos los empleados que imparten formación de coaching y liderazgo a un área, asegurando que todos los recursos estén sincronizados y coordinados.

La Dra. Rachel Alex asumirá el título de Directora Ejecutiva de Aprendizaje Profesional y Desarrollo de Liderazgo. Su trabajo con aspirantes a líderes y subdirectores y directores de primer año continuará. También se enfocará en cómo se desarrollan y fortalecen los líderes escolares como líderes de instrucción, mientras se enfoca en los planes de desarrollo profesional de todo el distrito.

Christopher Walker, quien se unirá al departamento como Director de Desarrollo de Liderazgo, proporcionará desarrollo de liderazgo continuo para los entrenadores de instrucción, así como para los líderes del campus y la oficina central.

La Directora de Aprendizaje Profesional de Primaria (pendiente de una subvención de la Fundación Schusterman) y la Directora de Aprendizaje Profesional de Secundaria, Anetta Modest, supervisarán y apoyarán a los entrenadores del área de contenido del distrito. Además de proporcionar retroalimentación y apoyo, brindará

entrenamiento y capacitación en tiempo real sobre el arte del coaching.

Suzanna’ Suzy’ García continuará sirviendo como Directora de Apoyo a Nuevos Maestros. Ella y su equipo son responsables de SHINE (Apoyar, Honrar e Inspirar a los Educadores Novatos) y otras iniciativas que ofrecen apoyo continuo a los nuevos maestros de Aldine ISD. La Directora del Programa de Apoyo a Nuevos Maestros, Gwendolyn Lockett, ahora se desempeñará como Directora del Programa de Aprendizaje Profesional.

La Superintendente Adjunta de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje, la Dra. Lindsey Wise, ha estado trabajando directamente para fortalecer los recursos, la capacitación y el apoyo en torno al desarrollo profesional. Ella estará al frente de este proceso de expansión y realineamiento. Su supervisión oficial incluye el desarrollo profesional, los servicios de medios bibliotecarios y la Respuesta a la Intervención (RtI). También es responsable de garantizar la coherencia entre la enseñanza y el aprendizaje.

En las próximas semanas, Cantu agregó que el personal verá mejoras y cambios significativos diseñados para implementar una visión y un sistema para proporcionar un desarrollo profesional que equilibre el liderazgo educativo y administrativo centrado en prácticas de instrucción eficaces, instrucción basada en datos y cultura escolar. Los cambios se implementarán en fases, con cronogramas específicos y planes de comunicación para garantizar una transición sin problemas y una interrupción mínima de nuestras operaciones.



# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Deuteronomy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 20, by what other name was the apostle Thomas known? Caleb, Naaman, Omri, Didymus
3. Which book begins, "And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness?" Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Joel
4. For what did Jesus and Peter pay for with a coin

5. From Proverbs 11, what word did Solomon use to describe soul winners? Warm, Wise, Wealthy, Wonderful
6. Which prophet was saved from death by a talking donkey? Balaam, Ezekiel, Joel, Samuel

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Didymus, 3) Numbers, 4) Tax, 5) Wise, 6) Balaam  
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.  
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**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

JOHN 19:26, 27

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# Area recovers from Storms, Floods,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nately, four fatalities," Mayor John Whitmire said at a news briefing. "We're still in recovery mode." Whitmire said winds reached as high as 100 mph in some places.

With much of the city without power, Houston ISD canceled class for Friday after coordinating with city officials. Aldine, Cy-Fair, Goose Creek and Spring Branch school districts also canceled Friday classes.

"Downtown is a mess," said Whitmire, who encouraged the business community to allow employees to work from home while city crews cleaned up debris and broken glass on streets and sidewalks.

"We're in recovery mode," Whitmire said, adding it would take 24 hours to get things cleared and running in some areas, 48 hours in others.

Firefighters were taking live wires off highways, the mayor said, urging people to stay away from downtown because of the glass and debris.

"It's all hands on deck tonight," Whitmire said. "Downtown is a mess," he said, "stay at home tonight, stay at home tomorrow."

The number of outages overwhelmed CenterPoint Energy, which warned customers their outage updates "as well as our ability to provide estimated restoration times may be delayed or unavailable," asking for patience.

The storm halted the Astros game and forced ground stops at both airports.

An army of tow truck drivers was out pulling cars off streets where drivers were no match for flash flooding.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, who was in

Washington when the storm struck, said multiple transmission towers had collapsed in the western portion of the county, and it was unclear how long it will take to clean up roadways and restore power.

"What we know so far is that at least four people are reported dead, there are widespread power outages and infrastructure damage to the power grid, as well as significant prop-

erty damage." Hidalgo said in a statement Thursday night.

While the worst of the storm is over, Houston Office of Emergency Management spokesperson Brent Taylor warned that Houstonians should stay home for the night.

"Stay off the roads. Don't go out. The storm itself has passed but that does not necessarily mean it is safe to drive," Taylor

said. "Right now, unless you are absolutely critical or a first responder, you need to stay home or stay where you are."

Taylor said officials will start looking into the "recovery process" once debris and damages are cleared. In the meantime, Whitmire also urged residents to avoid all unnecessary travel.

As of 8:30 p.m. Thursday evening, more than

896,500 customers were impacted by widespread power outages, according to CenterPoint's outage tracker. That's more than 40 percent of the utility's nearly 2 million customers.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo's spokesperson for emergency management said they are trying to respond as quickly as they can to people that need help.

"Everybody's moving as

fast as we can," Spokesperson Angelica Luna Kaufman said. "Obviously, we've been getting a lot of reports of damage, but people are still coming out of their homes, seeing what damage is going on."

Residents should call 311 to report downed power lines or other damages that impact safety. Only call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.



Neighbors gather to help clear a tree blocking a street on the near Northside.



Transmission towers toppled by heavy winds, perhaps an EF-1 tornado, on the west side near Highway 99 and I-10.



A pickup truck destroyed by a huge fallen tree. No injuries were reported.



A tree uprooted from a backyard location, crushes the roof of a house in Houston.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Crutch is shorter; 2. Leg is different; 3. Cast is smaller; 4. Hat is larger; 5. Sign in window is different; 6. Pole is thinner.

May 20, 2024 Posting Date

### King Crossword

ACROSS

- Make over
- Lucy of "Kill Bill"
- Sch. for tots
- Flair
- Leb. neighbor
- Bart's sister
- Suffix for million
- Kipling poem
- "Even Now" singer
- "Old MacDonald" refrain
- French article
- PC linkup
- Type of wheat
- Prayerful chants
- Commotion
- Do sums
- "As I see it," to a texter
- "How-to" books
- Dull
- Boy king
- Mandible
- Gold mold
- Capital of Nicaragua
- Work force
- Reddish brown
- Jai —
- Flamenco cheer
- Pedestal part
- Hari

DOWN

- 500 sheets
- Director
- Kazan
- Mend a sock
- "Anna Christie" playwright
- Very long time
- Long rides?
- Caesar's "vidi"
- Coffee vessel
- Lament
- Anger
- Actor Morales
- Deck in the ring
- Campus bigwig
- Permit
- Young fellow
- "Cheers" bartender
- Hi-tech organizer
- Very long time
- Rx writers
- Shred
- dream- ing?"
- Turf
- Flight stat
- Perfect place
- Car
- Mover's vehicle
- Prizes
- Hollywood's Leto
- Mosque VIP
- "The Lion King" lioness
- Bitty biter
- Blend
- Avocado dip, for short
- Fed. food inspector
- Physics bit
- Romance

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: What does the human vestibular sense do?
- MOVIES: The phrase "As you wish" is key to which 1987 movie?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest island in the Caribbean?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are Chinese astronauts called sometimes in the West?
- TELEVISION: Which sitcom features a character named Phoebe Buffay?
- MEASUREMENTS: What is the square footage of an acre?
- SCIENCE: What are the four states of matter?
- HISTORY: Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote?
- LITERATURE: Which 19th-century novel contains the line, "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship"?
- MONEY: In the old British monetary system, how many pennies were equal to a pound?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. It is the sense that deals with movement, gravity and balance; 2. "The Princess Bride"; 3. Cuba; 4. Takonants; 5. "Friends"; 6. 43,560 square feet; 7. Solid, liquid, gas and plasma; 8. 19th; 9. "Little Women"; 10. 240.



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## Former HCC student now working toward bioengineering doctorate at MIT

HOUSTON— When Riyam Al Msari was studying at Houston Community College (HCC) a few years ago, she could have never imagined where she would be today.

She is now on the cusp of a very bright future as she works toward a Ph.D. in biological engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). What's more, she recently won a \$90,000 fellowship to help fund her degree.

It was not an easy journey for Al Msari. She grew up in war-torn Iraq during the early 2000's and, at eight years old, faced displacement when her family's home was destroyed during a shelling attack on her neighborhood. Her family found themselves relocated to Iraq's Kurdistan Province where she encountered discrimination based on her ethnicity and gender.

Al Msari's father sought and was granted political asylum in the United States in 2016. Shortly after, his departure her mother was diagnosed with cancer, and Al Msari – then just 18 – became her mom's caregiver.

When the family reunited two years later, she settled in Houston. Al Msari enrolled at HCC, hoping to begin studies toward becoming a dentist. Along the way, she met with her academic advisor, David Franklin, and the two discussed Al Msari's overwhelming desire to contribute to the fight against cancer – in large part from witnessing her mother's ordeal.

"When I told Mr. Franklin my story about wanting to do something related to cancer, he mentioned other career routes I might take," Al Msari said. "That led to where I am now. I see that I can contribute to making



Riyam Al Msari on the grounds of MIT.

a change with what I am learning."

At HCC, Al Msari's excelled in her courses while still acclimating to her new American lifestyle. She found support by joining The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), a program that encourages critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. It also helped her make friends in a new country, she said, as she and other students worked on projects, explored problems and sharing ideas.

Al Msari moved on to a four-year degree after applying to and being accepted by the highly ranked University of California San Diego (UCSD). She excelled in her studies there and was accepted at MIT, a university thought by many to be among the world's greatest.

Her challenging doctoral work is focused on changing the standard of care for cancer treatment through protein engineering that improves immune system responses. The idea is to better target and treat cancers, she said.

Al Msari has been rewarded for her ideas and

hard work. She recently received a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. It provides \$90,000 in support over the next two years. About 30 fellows are chosen from thousands of applicants for their exemplary academic performance and potential to make meaningful contributions to the United States.

Besides her studies, Al Msari is active in MIT student organizations and serves as diversity chair in the biological engineering program board.

In her down time, she sometimes reflects on how she and other students gathered atop an HCC campus parking garage to watch sunsets and talk about their classes, adventures and futures. "Those are great memories for me," she said.

She credits her time at HCC for playing a big part in allowing doors to open and a future that is bright.

"It helped me navigate difficult questions, think critically about solutions and overcome challenges," she said. "I value that greatly, and I carry it with me."

## After the Storm Clean-up and Health-Safety Tips

Hidden dangers include safety hazards and bacteria that may cause diseases

HOUSTON—Last night's sudden storm was devastating for many Harris County residents. As people move into recovery mode, please remember to take precautionary measures to stay healthy and avoid injury and illness. Be aware of things that can pose health and safety risks.

- Protect your health during clean up.
- Dress for safety: Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, eye/ear protection, boots, and insect repellent to avoid mosquito bites.

### If you lost power:

- Identify and throw away food that may not be safe to eat.
- Throw away food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- Throw away any food that has been at room temperature for more than two hours.
- Throw away food that has been in a non-running refrigerator for four hours or more.
- Thawed food that contains ice crystals or is 40 degrees F or below can be refrozen or cooked. Refreezing these foods will be a quality (not safety) issue.
- Throw away canned foods that are bulging, opened, or damaged.
- Do not feed spoiled food to your pets since they may get sick just like people do.

### If you are using a generator:

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Place generators more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

### Heat safety

Despite the storm, hot weather continues to affect our community and can cause heat-related illness. Cool spaces and staying hydrated are the main defense from extreme heat.

- If air conditioning is not available, pull the shades over windows, close the blinds, and use fans to cool rooms.
- Drink a lot of water (even when you are not thirsty). By the time you realize you are thirsty, your body's water supply is already lower than it should be.
- Do not drink alcohol and avoid drinks with caffeine.
- If your heart begins to pound, if you become lightheaded, confused, weak or faint, stop all activity and seek immediate medical assistance.
- Pets can also suffer from excessive heat. Ensure your pets have adequate drinking water and a shady resting place.
- Never leave children, older adults, or pets unattended in a vehicle, even if the windows are cracked open.

### Additional health safety tips

- Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and clean, warm water for 20 seconds (sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice). If not possible, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Empty any containers that may hold stagnant water to avoid mosquito breeding.
- Pace yourself during clean up. Decide which tasks are most important so you do not become overwhelmed.
- Check your GPS for any road closures due to fallen trees or debris due to the storm.
- Be careful around loose or lost pets. Frightened animals are more likely to bite if approached or handled.

For additional information, visit our website at [hccptx.org/PrepareforEmergencies](https://hccptx.org/PrepareforEmergencies).

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