

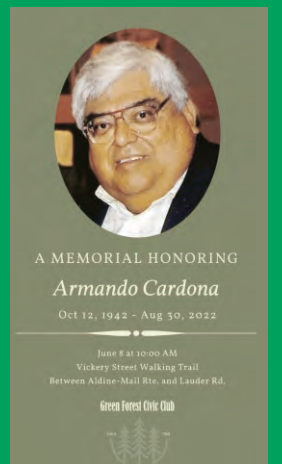
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NORTHEAST NEWS

Tribute to Armando Cardona

The Green Forest Civic Club pays tribute to a valued member Armando Cardona with a Memorial Bench and Plaque. See Pages 1 and 5.



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years
VOL. 48, NO. 23 TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Small Business Seminar & Lunch at East Aldine Thursday June 27

East Aldine District continues their Free Small Business Seminar Luncheon Series for all local businesses. Thursday, June 27 from 12noon to 1:30pm at the East Aldine offices, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive. Reservations appreciated, AldineDistrict.org/RSVP. Program will be on Insurance and Pensions, with representatives from WoodmenLife. Learn about benefits and options for affordable group or individual health options, self-funded pension plans, and more.

East Aldine MOVIE NIGHTS in July on the Green

Join the East Aldine community for Free Movies on the Green in July. Movies are on Fridays, and start at 7:30pm. Popcorn and Snowcones provided, just bring a blanket or chair and sit on the amphitheatre green for a great Hollywood movie. Movie Cosplayers (costumed) welcome and encouraged.
JULY 5
WONKA
JULY 12
A MILLION MILES AWAY
JULY 19
BARBIE
JULY 26
GHOSTBUSTERS - FROZEN EMPIRE
Come and have a good East Aldine time!

Aldine ISD approves \$723 million budget, pay raises

Reflects 10.73% decrease from last year; District remains fiscally sound

AISD Trustees approve 2024-25 budget, pay raises for all employees, increase in starting teacher salary

By Mike Keeney

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve a \$723,749,275 million budget for the 2024-2025 school year, a decrease of 10.73% from the previous year, during its June 11 Board of Education meeting. Included in the 2024-24 budget is a pay raise of 1.5% for all full-time Aldine ISD employees. In addition, Aldine ISD Trustees approved raising

the starting teacher salary for certified teachers from \$61,000 to \$64,000.

In addition to approving the 2024-25 budget, Trustees also approved the tax rate for the upcoming school year. Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne recommended the 2023-25 tax rate be set at \$1.0363 (.3025 cents for the Interest and Sinking fund and \$0.73380 cents for the Maintenance and Operation fund) per \$100 valuation. The 2024-25 tax rate is the same as the 2023-24 tax rate.

The 2024-25 new budget reflects challenges affecting many school districts,



such as a lack of state and federal funding, declining enrollment, and inflation. Despite these challenges, thanks to the entire Aldine team's continued foresight and planning, full-time employees and

incoming teachers will receive additional compensation for their continued commitment and dedication to ensuring that Aldine ISD students receive a dynamic and unparalleled education that guarantees

choices and opportunities not only today but in the future.

The 2024-2025 District budget also includes:

- an additional adjustment for certified teachers with seven to 27 years of experience
- salary adjustments across various employee groups, including principals, assistant principals, directors, and executive directors.

The increases reflect the Board's ongoing commitment to its employees. The salary adjustments ensure

Continued. See AISD BUDGET, Page 5

Pct. 2 celebrates widening of Aldine Mail Route completion

Road and Sidewalk Improvements

ALDINE – Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and the community celebrated the completion of the reconstruction of a portion of Aldine Mail Route. This section of Aldine Mail Route from Slater Lane to Aldine Westfield Road was part of the High Injury Network because of the prevalence of fatal and serious accidents in the area.

The improvements include the expansion of a two-lane to five-lane road, new sidewalks, and drainage upgrades to provide a safer commute for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.



ABOVE: Pct. 2 Commissioner Garcia cuts the ribbon to open the new roadway, as community members watch; BELOW, members of the East Aldine District board, and county staff watch a second ribbon cutting.



Before



After

Beat the Bite! HCPH Reminds Residents Mosquito Season is Here

Take simple steps to protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito-borne illness

HOUSTON – With temperatures rising, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) reminds residents that mosquito season is upon us. While mosquitoes are present year-round, their peak activity coincides with warmer weather, typically from May through October. This increases the chance of mosquito-borne disease transmission.

Out of the 56 mosquito species in Harris County, only a few can transmit viruses like West Nile, Saint Louis encephalitis, chikungunya, dengue, and Zika.

HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control Division (MVCD) is committed to safeguarding residents from mosquito-borne diseases throughout the year. They achieve this through:

- Countywide mosquito trapping
- Testing mosquito pools for viruses



• Treatment in neighborhoods where a virus is detected

Interactive maps detailing mosquito-borne disease activity, services, and proposed treatment locations are available at hcphtx.org/mc.

"While the past two years saw a

relatively low number of mosquito samples testing positive for diseases compared to previous years," said MVCD Director Maximeia "Max" Vig

Continued. See MOSQUITO SEASON, Page 3

Community honors Cardona with bench, plaque ceremony



On Saturday, June 8th East Aldine District and Green Forest Civic Club of East Aldine were joined by the family, friends and neighbors of our friend and East Aldine community advocate and volunteer, Armando Cardona. We braved the heat to pay homage to Armando by dedicating a plaque in his memory on the Vickers Street Walking Trail. Armando advocated for and served our community well over 40 years. His latest role as a volunteer and advocate were as a member of the GFCC in which he served as Treasurer. Community advocates are hard to find these days, but gratefully, some of the past advocates plant the seeds of advocacy in us. I think our GFCC President Selina Valdez said it best in her commemorative tribute to Armando: "It has been said that in life 'it doesn't matter the harvest you reap, but rather the seeds you've sown,' and that certainly describes the contributions Armando Cardona made to this East Aldine community." So, Armando, our friend: Rest in Peace. We will do our best to follow in your footsteps. (By Marina, Secretary/Treasurer, Green Forest Civic Club of East Aldine.)

See MORE photos and story on Page 5.

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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COMMUNITY WATCH

Food delivery driver robbed, shot on Imperial Valley; wife, child in car

HOUSTON — A man attempting to make a food delivery was shot during a robbery on the north side late Friday night, according to the Houston Police Department.

This happened around 10 p.m. on Imperial Valley just south of Beltway 8.

Houston police said the victim was delivering Uber Eats food and left his wife and child in the car waiting for him. When he returned to the car, the victim was approached by an unknown gunman who

shot him in the chest.

The gunman then ran off and then the victim got back into his car, police said. He was able to drive down the street. That is where the police responded and rendered first aid.

He was then taken to the hospital.

Police said they are investigating it as a possible robbery since the victim was still within the apartment complex when the robbery happened.

A description of the suspect was not released.

Life sentence for crime spree, murder

The first of two brothers accused of a days-long crime spree in 2021 that left one man dead and another injured was sentenced Thursday to life in prison, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

"Connecting online with strangers to buy and sell things at in-person meetups has become such an integral part of our culture that thieves and criminals are using the process to take advantage of innocent people," Ogg said. "We have to remember to stay vigilant and try to have safeguards in place, even for transactions that come together quickly or happen late at night."

Alexander Salvador Ordonez, 22, was sentenced to life in prison by a judge after a five-day trial in which a jury convicted him of murder for killing 19-year-old Cameron B. Stevens at a Cypress Station apartment complex on Feb. 6, 2021.

Stevens did not know Ordonez or his younger brother, Kevin Ordonez, but was trying to buy a handgun from them, and agreed to meet them late at night at the well-lit apartment complex.

When the deal fell through, Stevens started walking away from the Ordonez brothers, who were in a white 2012 Chevy Malibu. The brothers slowly rolled up to Stevens, who was unarmed as he walked back to his apartment, fired at him and hit him once in the head, killing him.

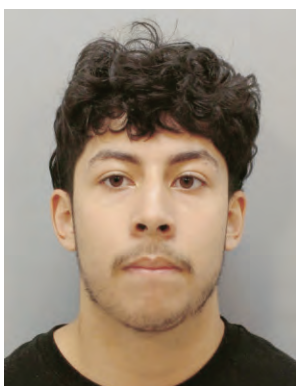
Deputies with the Harris County Sheriff's Office responded to the murder and began investigating, including pulling surveillance video from several area cameras.

Video showed the license plate on the car, which was later connected to an armed robbery the day before. In that crime, a man and woman were robbed of their money, marijuana and vehicle by the Ordonez brothers as they posed as marijuana buyers. The man was shot in the leg after handing over his property. He survived the shooting.

Investigators with the Sheriff's Office later learned that a day after the murder, the brothers were involved in another armed robbery outside an auto-parts store.

The charges against Alexander Ordonez for those two aggravated robberies were dismissed after he was convicted of murder. However, the facts in those cases were presented in open court during Ordonez's punishment phase to give the judge a complete picture of the scope of the crime spree.

Assistant District Attorneys Gilbert Sawtelle, who is a chief in the Trial Bureau, and Sean Kozar-King



Alexander Salvador Ordonez, 22,

prosecuted Ordonez.

"These two brothers were working together in this scheme to set up innocent people who thought they were going to be buying something or selling something and ended up being robbed at gunpoint," Sawtelle said. "It's a scary thing for any citizen of Harris County because these kinds of meetups, whether it's Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist, happen all the time, and the last thing that anybody wants is to be robbed or shot."

He noted that there was no reason for anyone to get shot in either of the two shootings.

"These shootings were pointless," he said. "They got what they wanted, and there was no need to shoot anyone."

Sawtelle advised that buyers and sellers scheduling meetups should take someone with them, meet during the day in a public area and stay vigilant. Many police stations and other law enforcement agencies provide an area for strangers to meet for simple transactions.

Several charges, including murder, are pending against 20-year-old Kevin Ordonez for his role in the crime spree. He is scheduled for trial in October.

Mosquito Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ilant, "we must remember that sudden surges in mosquito-borne viruses can still occur and pose a threat to vulnerable populations, especially young children, older adults, and people who are immunocompromised."

In 2023, Harris County, including the City of Houston, reported 38 human cases of mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, and West Nile virus. Thirty-six of the total cases were travel-related (34 malaria and 2 dengue). The two West Nile virus cases were local.

Thankfully, Harris County had no confirmed deaths linked to mosquito-borne illnesses last year. However, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reported six human deaths in the state due to mosquito-borne disease (specifically West Nile virus).

"Our surveillance and testing haven't detected any positive mosquito samples so far in 2024," Dr. Vigilant said. "However, that's likely to change as we enter peak mosquito breeding season. We urge everyone to take simple steps to protect themselves and their loved ones from mosquito bites. This includes eliminating stagnant water around your home and using EPA-registered mosquito repellents according to the instructions."

KNOW THE 3 Ts: TIP, TOSS, TAKE ACTION

As temperatures rise, so do mosquito populations. HCPH wants residents to remember the 3 Ts to mosquito control - "Tip, Toss, Take Action."

Heavy rains during the summer months in the Houston region can create a "perfect storm" for mosquitoes to breed. Follow these simple tips to prevent mosquito breeding sites around your home, especially right after a weather event:

- Tip or empty standing water from pet bowls, flowerpots, tires, buckets, and other containers.
•If you have a birdbath, change its water every three to five days.

Toss Mosquitoes can also breed in small spots where stagnant water might be hidden from the human eye. Practice the following tips to reduce

mosquito breeding in those covered spots:

- Toss out debris, trash, and other unwanted items around your home.
•Clean out clogged rain gutters.
•Keep outdoor trash bins closed and avoid overflowing them.
•Do not sweep lawn clippings, leaves, or litter into storm drains, as this will prevent water from flowing, creating ideal mosquito-breeding sites.

Minimize opportunities for standing water to accumulate by emptying stagnant water from flower pots, buckets, tires, or other water-collecting objects.

Take action

There are also several ways to take action and reduce mosquito populations.

- When using mosquito repellent, keep these points in mind:
•Use as directed by the label instructions on the product.
•Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months.
•Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children younger than 3 years of age.
•Apply an EPA-registered repellent on yourself and your loved ones when outdoors.

When possible, wear long sleeves, pants, and socks.

Treat standing water with larvicides in areas where water cannot be covered, emptied, or removed and will not be used for drinking. Larvicides are a type of pesticide that kills mosquitoes in their early stages of development (larvae) before they become biting adults. They are sold as liquid, tablets, pellets, granules, or briquettes and are available in most hardware stores. Larvicides are safe to use for the environment. Follow the instructions of the particular larvicide product you are using.

- Make sure to completely turn off outdoor faucets to prevent leaks; fix any faucets that are constantly leaking.
•Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.

For other mosquito prevention tips and resources, visit hcphtx.org/mc.



FEMA & SBA ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE

FEMA and SBA are working to support recovery-impacted individuals with new benefits and streamlined assistance. Read below to learn more about some of the assistance available.

- Quick help when you need it:
• Get \$750 For essentials things you need right away.
• Stay Housed: Get money upfront for a place to stay.

SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS Get Money: Fix your tools and equipment MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

- Fix Your Home: Make it clean and safe.
• Improve Accessibility: to support those with disabilities.

ASSISTANCE FOR EVERYONE

- No Discrimination: FEMA is committed to helping everyone, no matter what.
• Need Help?: Call toll-free: 833-285-7448

HOW TO GET HELP

- IMPORTANT: Must apply during the first 30 days after a disaster is declared.
• Online: DisasterAssistance.gov
• Phone: Call 800-621-3362 (6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT)

HOW TO GET HELP

- Visit fema.gov/disaster/4781 for more.
• Follow us: @FEMARegion6 on Twitter
• Facebook.com/FEMARegion6.

FEMA y SBA están trabajando para apoyar a las personas afectadas por la recuperación con nuevos beneficios y asistencia simplificada. Lea a continuación para obtener más información sobre algunas de las asistencias disponibles.

Ayuda rápida cuando la necesite:

- Obtenga \$750 para lo esencial que necesita de inmediato.
• Quédate alojado: obtenga dinero por adelantado para un lugar donde quedarse.

APOYANDO A LOS EMPRENDEDORES

- Obtenga dinero: arregle sus herramientas y equipos
HAGA SU HOGAR MÁS SEGURO

- Repare su hogar: hágalo limpio y seguro.
• Mejorar la accesibilidad: para apoyar a las personas con discapacidad.

ASISTENCIA PARA TODOS

- Sin discriminación: FEMA se compromete a ayudar a todos, pase lo que pase.
• ¿Necesita ayuda?: Llame gratis: 833-285-7448

COMO AYUDAR

- IMPORTANTE: Debe aplicar durante los primeros 30 días después de la declaración de desastre.
• Online: DisasterAssistance.gov
• Telefono: Llame al 800-621-3362 (6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT)

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- Visite fema.gov/disaster/4781 para más información.
• Sigamos: @FEMARegion6 en Twitter,

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE EARLY AT 5PM ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18. WE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19 AND REOPEN THURSDAY, JUNE 20 AT 10AM

- Butterfly Ballet
Welcome DACAMERA as they introduce children to what a composer does. Children will be asked to listen to a performance of Jonathan Booker's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," moving like a caterpillar when they hear the motive. Following the listening activity, they share their knowledge about the butterfly lifecycle and apply what they know to a final activity called the "butterfly ballet."
Bilingual Storytime/Hora de cuentos Bilingüe
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.

Teen Thursdays 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! Thursday, June 20, 3:30-5:30pm.

Decoding Spirituals DAMAMERA will come in to discuss the Underground Railroad, Jim Crow laws, and the Civil Rights Movement. Spirituals are a unique American folksong tradition originating during the times of slavery as a means for slaves to express their deep sorrow and hope for freedom as well as a means to communicate through hidden messages.

Chromebooks - Aplicaciones gratuitas en línea (Taking new students) Thursday, June 13, 5 - 6:45pm

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Chromebooks - Aplicaciones gratuitas en línea (Taking new students) Tuesday, June 18, 5 - 6:45pm

Chromebooks - Aplicaciones gratuitas en línea (Taking new students) Tuesday, June 18, 5 - 6:45pm

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Chromebooks - Aplicaciones gratuitas en línea (Taking new students) Tuesday, June 18, 5 - 6:45pm

*Debe poseer acceso a almacenamiento (SDcard, USB flash drive, discos externos)

Important: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Chrome OS, Office 365, Google apps) son en Inglés

Important: Instrucciones are in Spanish language. Software: Chrome OS, Office 365, and Google apps are all in English language.

Chromebooks & Tablets Basics Saturday, June 22, 3 - 4:30pm. This class is currently offered in a hybrid format through Google Meets and in-person.

Level: Basic to Intermediate Get the most out of your Chromebook or tablet in just 4 sessions!

Covered areas: Session #1 - Mouse, touchpad, touch screen, and Keyboard commands (Hardware specs)

Session #2 - Navigating the interface and personalizing your Chromebook (software settings and accessibility)

Session #3 - Overview of using your Mail to access cloud services (Google Apps and Office 365)

Session #4 - Overview of file management and storage options like SD cards, USB flash drives, SSD, HDD external drives.

Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required.

Michelle Pichon Library Program Specialist Harris County Public Library Aldine Branch Library 11331 Airline Dr. Houston, TX 77037 832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine Applause 2024: Celebrating Stars in Education

The 2024 Aldine Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) event celebrated excellence in teaching and honored outstanding educators. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced that over \$290 million in TIA funds were awarded to nearly 25,000 designated Texas teachers during the 2023-24 school year. Approximately 590 Aldine educators, recognized as some of Texas' finest, were among the recipients, receiving \$6.3 million of the funding.

The TIA Program, open to all Texas teachers who meet certain criteria, aims to retain high-quality educators by providing pathways for them to earn up to six-figure salaries. A recent TEA study showed that designated teacher retention in the state exceeded the statewide average by eight percentage points during the 2023-24 school year. Aldine was accepted into the TIA program in 2021-2022 and started tracking data to see which teachers qualify to be accepted, and Aldine teachers were awarded for the time in Spring 2023.

Michael Irvin Jackson, an active designated TIA teacher from Anderson Academy, expressed his gratitude for the recognition he received, stating, "I'm proud to receive the recognition based on my



student growth and it is my highest recognition in my career." He further shared his plans for the funds awarded to him, emphasizing his commitment to his students' well-being and learning environment. "I will use the funds to buy school clothes and shoes for my students while making my classroom more student-friendly," Jackson added, highlighting his dedication to creating a supportive and

nurturing educational space. Participating school systems use data from classroom observations and student growth outcomes to determine teacher designations. Aldine ISD honored its TIA-recipient teachers for their achievement as exceptional educators with a small celebration to recognize their outstanding dedication and commitment to student learning.



Staff Assignments Announced at June 11 Board of Trustees Meeting

During the June 11 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced three staff assignments.

Joshua Van Donsel was named Principal of Blanson CTE High School after serving as an Assistant Principal at that same school.

Dr. Cedric Stewart was named Principal of Victory Early College High School after serving as Principal of Houston Academy.

Sheryl Duncan was named Principal of Calvert Elementary School after serving as an Assistant Principal at Greenspoint Elementary School.

Trustees Approve Action Items

During the June 11 Board of Education meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

Approved minutes from previous board meetings

Approved the TASB Board of Directors nomination for Region 4, Position A

Approved an interlocal agreement between Harris County and Aldine ISD for the Community Youth Services Program from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Approved a Master Affiliation Agreement between Sam Houston State University and Aldine ISD for the conduct of an on-site clinical Internships Education Program for Sam Houston State University students until May 31, 2027

Approved an interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education (high Point High School East) and Aldine ISD for Disciplinary Alternative Education Program for 2024-25

Approved an interlocal agreement for specialized services between Harris County Department of Education Fortis Academy (recovery high school) and Aldine ISD for the 2024-25 school year

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harris County Juvenile Board for the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for the 2024-25 school year

Approved the Career and Technical Education Instructional Materials for 7th-12th grade for the 2024-25 school year

Approved to submit a low attendance waiver to the TEA for Aldine ISD

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Aldine ISD and the University of Houston Downtown Reading Collaboration to support aspiring and bilingual teacher candidates for the 2024-25 school year

Approved a District Educational Professional Services Agreement between Aldine ISD and Teach for America, Inc. for the 2024-25 school year

Approved an interlocal agreement between Aldine ISD and the University of Houston-Downtown for Aldine ISD Grow Your Own Teacher Preparation Program effective June 2024 through June 2026

Approved an interlocal agreement between Aldine ISD and Texas Women's University of Aldine ISD's Grow Your Own Teacher Preparation Program effective June 2024 through June 2026

Approved the 2024-25 Compensation Manual

Approved a Resolution for staff pay during district closure on May 17, 2024 and May 20, 2024

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

Approved a Board Resolution of Commitment of Fund Balance for a Property Self-Insurance Program

Approved General Funds and Debt Service Funds final budget amendment for the 2023-24 school year

Approved Monthly Tax Office refunds

The July Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16 and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building.

HEAL Program Orientation at Nimitz HS Kicks off Memorial Hermann's Summer Infusion Experience for Students



Students and their families attended the orientation. They heard from several AISD and Memorial Hermann leaders, including Leanne Beaudet (center), director of professional excellence at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital.

Last week, Aldine ISD and Memorial Hermann marked the beginning of the four-week Summer Infusion experience, a crucial part of the preparation for rising ninth-grade students accepted into the Nimitz High School HEAL Program. This summer schedule is designed to excite the students pursuing a pathway in the medical field and provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge before the start of their first year this fall.

Summer Infusion Program

In addition to meeting teachers and program leaders, it is an opportunity to get exposure to the medical field. The students will begin their day at Nimitz HS before being transported to Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital. They'll gain a first-hand understanding of the culture and service standards, an overview of pathways and core skills needed to succeed (e.g., communication, professionalism), meet and hear from various teams that comprise the Memorial Hermann System essential to the care of patients, and more.

The Memorial Hermann team has planned a variety of hands-on experiences and fun activities. These include team-building activities, simulations, virtual reality demos, an "Amazing Race-style" hospital tour, an interactive show-and-tell with equipment and devices, a stop-the-bleed hemorrhage control event, and if the weather permits, a chance to see in person a Memorial Hermann Life Flight helicopter. These engaging activities, led by experienced healthcare professionals, are designed to make the learning experience informative and enjoyable.



Students will also meet Memorial Hermann System leaders such as President & CEO Dr. David L. Callender, Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Executive Bryan Sisk, Associate Vice President of the Memorial Hermann Nursing Institute, Caitlin McVey, and other executive leaders.

About the HEAL Program at Nimitz High School
The HEAL Program, currently housed at the former Nimitz Ninth Grade campus site, is supported by a groundbreaking \$31 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies — the largest private foundation grant in our school district's history. This significant investment is a testament to the foundation's vision to connect health and education systems. The CTE (career and technical education) campus will help prepare students for well-paying careers in healthcare and address local education and healthcare talent needs.

Memorial Hermann and Aldine ISD will co-develop HEAL's curriculum at Nimitz HS. This collaboration will offer robust academic programming, specialized healthcare classes, work-based learning, and the opportunity to earn industry-valued credentials and certifications. The program will be phased in over four academic years to serve approximately 760 students at capacity. The initiative will provide students with direct work experience and access to rewarding jobs within Memorial Hermann immediately after graduation. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the partnership.


HEAL Program students will be able to choose one of five in-demand pathways at Nimitz HS:

Bloomberg Philanthropies' Investment to Connect Health and Education Systems
The national-level initiative is part of a \$250 million initiative led by Bloomberg Philanthropies that connects health and education systems to create new CTE high schools in 10 urban and rural communities across the country. The collaboration will advance economic stability and mobility within communities by expanding educational and career opportunities while addressing critical workforce shortages.

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

OPINION PAGE

COUNTY MATTERS
 Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Texas Supreme Court blocks Harris County Uplift Program

Judge Lina Hidalgo and County Attorney Christian Menefee's Statement on Texas Supreme Court's Ruling Blocking Uplift Harris Program

Harris County, TX, June 14, 2024, Today, the Texas Supreme Court issued an opinion further extending its initial pause of Harris County's Uplift Harris guaranteed income program. Uplift Harris is a pilot guaranteed income program in which around 1,900 low-income Harris County residents would receive \$500 a month for eighteen months. The program was inspired by other such initiatives around the country and the state, including in the City of Austin and Cook County, Illinois. Paxton sued Harris County in April to block Uplift Harris payments from going out, claiming that the program violated the Texas Constitution's ban on the gift of public funds and equal protection clause.

The trial court denied the State's proposed temporary injunction, and the Fourteenth Court of Appeals rejected the State's attempt to pause the program while its appeal was pending. The Court's ruling today blocks the program while it considers Attorney General Ken Paxton's petition for a writ of mandamus that would pause the program for the duration of the State's appeal. The Court claims the program's "no strings attached" nature means that the County doesn't retain controls sufficient to make the payments constitutional.

"I am extremely disappointed by the Texas Supreme Court's decision today," said Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee. "Uplift Harris is a poverty alleviation program modeled on other guaranteed income programs across the country. Local governments exist in part to help the less fortunate among us, and the Supreme Court's ruling effectively ends a program that has proven to be highly successful at allowing lower-income folks to lift themselves out of poverty."

"The ruling also sets a dangerous precedent—most state constitutions have bans on gifting public funds, but no other state court has barred guaranteed income programs on those grounds. And of course they haven't, because those bans are there to stop cronyism and gratuitous gifts of tax dollars. They aren't intended to stop governments from providing public benefits. This ruling creates a playbook for conservatives who want to stop government from fulfilling one of its core functions."

County Attorney Menefee will continue to litigate against Paxton's efforts to permanently block Uplift Harris, and will advise Commissioners Court on the potential implications of this ruling for the future of the program.

"The Texas Supreme Court's ruling today is especially cruel. For one, these programs have gone from start to finish in other Texas jurisdictions. Furthermore, one cannot help but imagine that politics played a role here. Three longtime Texas Court of Criminal Appeals judges were ousted this past March after the Attorney General targeted them. Republican elected officials know that the Attorney General can mobilize the Trump political machine to oust those he does not believe are far enough to the right.

While this decision is not a final ruling against Uplift Harris, the program is currently paused indefinitely, and the Texas Supreme Court strongly signaled that they will rule against Uplift Harris in the future. The Attorney General is not only attacking Harris County's right to local control; he's attacking the hardworking, everyday families living in poverty who were promised this money and who were counting on these payments to stay afloat."

I am also concerned about precedent. We've seen time and time again that each time Texas Republicans take a step, no matter how egregious, Republican leaders around the nation match it. This ruling is a loss not just for Harris County and Texas, but for jurisdictions across the nation that have found success with similar programs but live in Republican-led states," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Next Week, we will publish an OP-ED piece from State Senator Paul Bettencourt, opposing the implementation of the Uplift Program. You may also submit your Opinion in Letters to the Editor, for possible publication.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
 By Gary Borders



35 Texas Counties Eligible for Individual Disaster Aid

Residents in a total of 35 Texas counties now qualify for individual disaster assistance following a series of severe storms and flooding that began in late April, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"I thank our federal partners and emergency response personnel across our great state who are working tirelessly to protect and support their fellow Texans," Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday. "Texas will continue to provide every necessary resource to regions across the state who are recovering from these storms."

Under the individual assistance program, funding can be provided for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment assistance, and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, The News reported.

The following counties qualify for the federal assistance: Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller.

Homeowners and renters can apply for the aid at disasterassistance.gov or by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hotline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

MATH RESULTS STILL LAGGING, STAAR RESULTS INDICATE

Scores released from the state's standardized test indicate high school students are still struggling with algebra, with scores 17 percentage points below students' pre-pandemic scores in spring 2019. The Texas Tribune reported scores have remained essentially unchanged in Algebra 1, with 45% meeting grade levels.

"The data is clear; Texas students continue to struggle with math recovery," said Gabe Grantham, policy advisor at public policy think tank Texas 2036. "We run the risk of leaving students ill-equipped to enter the future workforce without the basic math skills needed to be successful."

On the bright side, the percentage of Texas students who met or mastered grade-level English has increased since 2017 from 45% to 57%, the Texas Education Agency reported.



Across the five subjects that are tested, low-income students graded lower than other students. For example, 35% of low-income students met grade level in Algebra I, compared to 61% of all other students.

PUC SEES STRONG INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO LOAN PROGRAM

The Public Utility Commission has received 125 notices of intent to apply for loans through the Texas Energy Fund Loan Program intended to boost power generation throughout the state. The requests for loans total \$38.9 billion for nearly 56,000 megawatts of proposed power generation projects for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

"To ensure reliable, affordable electricity for the growing number of homes and businesses in Texas, we need more on-demand, dispatchable power generation," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Seeing such a strong initial response from industry ... is an encouraging sign that the Texas Energy Fund will be an effective tool and incentivize the investment needed to bring more on-demand power to the state."

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing electric generating facilities and requires a minimum of 100 MW of new generation to the ERCOT grid.

STOCK EXCHANGE POSSIBLY COMING TO DALLAS

Efforts are underway to create a Texas-based stock exchange that backers believe could be a major boost to the Texas economy. The Texas Standard reported that financiers have raised \$120 million in capital to start a stock exchange in Dallas later this year. Backers include BlackRock, Citadel Securities and about two dozen other investors. The Texas Stock Exchange's backers are seeking registration with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to open later this year.

change Commission to open later this year.

"Texas and the other states in the southeast quadrant have become economic powerhouses. Combined with the demand we are seeing from investors and corporations for expanded alternatives to trade and list equities, this is an opportune time to build a major, national stock exchange in Texas," said James Lee, founder and CEO of TXSE Group.

Stock exchanges allow stocks, bonds and other securities to be traded. If TXSE is cleared to trade, it would be the first stock exchange to open in the country in recent years.

The Dallas area is second only to New York in number of financial industry jobs, with about 400,000 employed — roughly half of the number working in finance in the Big Apple.

CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES IN PLACE AS SUMMER ARRIVES

The Public Utility Commission is reminding Texans of consumer protection rules that prohibit disconnecting an individual's electric service during extreme weather. Providers are required to offer deferred payment for bills incurred during extreme weather as the state again faces a long, brutal summer.

"Anyone who has experienced a summer in Texas knows that having reliable power to cool your home or business is a matter of health and safety," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Ensuring the power stays on for all consumers during extreme weather, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for the PUCT."

Gleeson added the PUC wants Texans to be aware of rules to protect them as temperatures begin to rise. Consumers are encouraged to first contact their electric provider to resolve any issues regarding ability to pay. If they are unable to reach a resolution, they can contact the Consumer Protection Division of the PUC at 888-782-8477 or by emailing consumer@puc.texas.gov.

STATE KILLS 249 DEER AFTER LONG COURT BATTLE

After a three-year court battle, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has killed 249 white-tailed deer at a Kaufman County ranch that had been exposed to chronic wasting disease. The owner of the ranch, who raised the deer for trophy hunts, went to court in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the state from killing the herd under a policy intended to stop the neurological disease from spreading.

A report by kut.org indicates conservation biologists consider CWD as the biggest threat to the nation's deer herds. The state's first case was discovered in West Texas in 2012. Nearly 800 deer have been found to have the disease, primarily in deer-breeding facilities, according to TPWD.

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, Nacogoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT
 By Carrie Classon

Asking for Help - Dad



My dad doesn't like asking for help.

He told me this recently when he asked if I could help him put out the dock. His knee was bothering him, and the dock was pulled up on shore at a steep incline. The dock frame was rolled into the water and then the boards of the dock were laid into place. It was a good job for two people and two sets of hands, especially since my dad's knee is bothering him and he's been legally blind for a number of years.

My dad doesn't like asking for help, he told me. But lately he needs more of it than he used to. I know this em-barrasses him. My dad is the kind of guy who can do a lot of things and solve a lot of problems. He built his house by himself—only getting assistance with the foundation and the roof. Everything in between, from the cabinets to the plumbing, he did himself. If I ask my dad how to solve a problem, he'll take a pause as he visualizes what will be needed. He may not get back to me for a day or two. But when he does, he's got it all worked out in his head. He must know that I have always admired him for the many things he can do and how well does them all.

But my dad turned 90 this year, and he's had some heart troubles. His eyes have been a problem for years, and now this knee is acting up. It takes a toll on him. I know he gets tired of it and worries he'll be able to do less and have to ask for more help.

"How does it feel, seeing your dad like this?" he asked me.

I didn't know how to answer, because it feels good to see my dad whenever I see him, and I am glad I can help. Usually, I don't feel I can do much to help my dad.

And I'm not sure he realizes he has been teaching me by his example all his life, and those lessons have not ended.

When I see him ask me for help—knowing it is hard for him, knowing he wishes he did not have to do it—he is teaching me another important lesson. It's a lesson I need today. It's a lesson I will need more in the years to come.

It is hard to ask for help, but it shows wisdom to ask when you need it. Asking in the way my father does makes it feel like a privilege to be helpful. I hope I can be as gracious when I need help—tomorrow, and for the rest of my life.

We put the dock together in no time. The perfectly spaced boards were easy to slide into place because my father had built them in his workshop, taking care they would not fit too tightly or have too much space between them. It felt good to stand on the newly assembled dock, ready for another summer of listening to loons, and keeping track of who is on their pontoon boat and watching the summer sun go down late at night, so far north.

I wish I'd had a better answer on the tip of my tongue when he asked me how it felt to see him asking for help. I wanted to say it made me admire him more. It made me hopeful that someday I might be as patient and dignified as my dad.

Happy Father's Day,
 Carrie

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Aldine ISD passes Budget,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the district has market-competitive salaries to recruit and retain the best teachers and staff for Aldine students.

“As a team, we are pleased we could reward our hard-working employees for their dedication to our students and the district,” said Aldine ISD Board President Dr. Kimberly Booker. “Thanks to Dr. Goffney and her leadership team, our district is in sound financial shape.”

Aldine ISD leaders have spent much time diligently examining district expenses and commitments to ensure that their resources are prioritized in ways that benefit its students. Budgeting is a collaborative effort, and every leader in the district has played a vital role in finding ways to optimize expenses. This process included thoroughly reviewing and auditing programs and software, evaluating travel and partnerships, rightsizing staffing and eliminating vacancies, closing three campuses, and adjusting boundaries.

These collective efforts have led to a roughly 10% decrease in department budgets and adjusted staffing across the district, which meant eliminating 80 teaching positions and 20 administrative positions. Each of these adjustments will ensure that resources are pointed in the right direction.

Aldine ISD has a history of being fiscally healthy and remains deeply committed to fiscal stewardship and instructional excellence. As A New Way Forward, the district’s five-year plan sunsets, and a

new plan is ushered in, our budget will continue to support resources needed to accelerate towards even greater achievements in student success.

“I want to thank our Trustees for their recognition of the hard work our staff puts in on a daily basis,” said Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. “A huge thanks also goes to all of the teams and leaders, who have reviewed where we’re at and where adjustments need to be made, enabling us to trim our budget strategically. Indeed, this year’s budgeting process was done with a scalpel rather than a hatchet. We know that while small, each of these adjustments will ensure the resources we do have are pointed in the right direction.”

The salary increases and adjustment do not include temporary employees, substitute teachers or contractors.

About Aldine ISD

Aldine Independent School District is one of the largest school districts in Texas, spanning 111 square miles in North Harris County. Approximately 9,000 employees serve nearly 60,000 students to provide a rigorous and enriching educational experience that prepares every student for success in college, career, and life.

Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.



A Tribute to Armando Cardona

June 8, 2024 Vickery Street, East Aldine



Cardona Family standing behind Armando Memorial Plaque. L-R, Ryan Myers, David Myers, Alyssa Mendoza, Jose Mendoza, Josephine Cardona, Lisa Myers, Grace Myers, Matthew Mendoza, Adrienne Mendoza.



Present at the ceremony were the Cardona Family; Connie Esparza of Castlewood; Patti Acosta (EAD board member) of Fairgreen 5; GFCC member Dwayne Sowell of Fairgreen 2; Coco Martinez (Events Coordinator at Pilgrim Place II) and husband, Ruben, of Fairgreen 2; Sandra Luna (area Zumba instructor) of Parkwood Estates; Ruben Salazar, president of East Aldine Civic Club; several resident of PPII that use the walking trail; other friends and neighbors of Armando’s that live in East Aldine; and, representatives from State Senator Alvarado and Commissioner Garcia’s offices.

MEMORIAL HONORING

ARMANDO CARDONA
(10/12/1942 – 08/30/2022)

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

HOSTED BY GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB,
AND EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

PROGRAM

Welcome – Richard Cantu

Introductions – Marina Flores Sugg

Tribute by Carmen Aguilar on behalf of Commissioner Garcia

Cello Performance by Matthew Mendoza, Armando’s grandson. Matthew currently attends the U of H, and performs with the U of H orchestra

Memorial to Armando Cardona by Selina Valdez, President, GFCC, read by Marina Flores Sugg, Secretary/Treasurer, GFCC

Invite guests to share a thought or memory about Armando – Marina

Closing – Marina

SPANISH PAGE

Los Miembros de la Junta Directiva de AISD aprueban aumentos Salariales para todos los empleados

Esta semana, la Junta Directiva de Aldine ISD votó para aprobar un presupuesto de \$723,749,275 millones para el curso escolar 2024-2025, una disminución del 10.73% con respecto al año anterior. Este nuevo presupuesto refleja los desafíos que afectan a muchos distritos escolares, como la falta de fondos estatales y federales, la disminución de la matrícula y la inflación. A pesar de estos desafíos, gracias a la continua previsión y planificación de todo el equipo de Aldine, los empleados de tiempo completo y los maestros entrantes recibirán una compensación adicional por su continuo compromiso y dedicación para garantizar que los estudiantes de Aldine ISD reciban una educación dinámica e incomparable, que garantice opciones



y oportunidades no solo hoy, sino también en el futuro.

El presupuesto del Distrito para 2024-2025 incluye:

- un aumento del 1.5% para todos los empleados de tiempo completo* en el punto medio de la tabla de compensación 24-25;
- un aumento del salario inicial de los profesores titulados de 61.000 a 64.000 dólares**;
- un ajuste adicional para los maestros certificados con siete a 27 años de experiencia y ajustes salariales en varios grupos de empleados, incluidos directores, subdirectores, directivos y directores ejecutivos.

Los líderes de Aldine ISD han pasado mucho tiempo examinando diligentemente los gastos y compromisos del distrito para asegurar que sus recursos sean priorizados de manera que beneficien a sus estudiantes. El presupuesto es un esfuerzo de colaboración, y cada líder en el distrito ha desempeñado un papel vital en la búsqueda de formas de optimizar los gastos. Este proceso incluyó la revisión y auditoría exhaustivas de programas y software, la evaluación de viajes y asociaciones, la redistribución del personal y la eliminación de vacantes, el cierre de tres escuelas y el ajuste de los límites escolares.

«Como equipo, nos complace poder recompensar a nuestros empleados por su dedicación a nuestros estudiantes y al distrito», dijo la presidenta de la Junta de Aldine ISD, la Dra. Kimberly Booker. «Gracias a la Dra. Goffney y su equipo de liderazgo, nuestro distrito está en buena forma financiera».

Estos esfuerzos colectivos han dado lugar a una disminución de aproximadamente el 10% en los presupuestos de los departamentos y a un ajuste de la plantilla en todo el distrito, lo que ha supuesto la eliminación de 80 puestos

docentes y 20 administrativos. Cada uno de estos ajustes garantizará que los recursos se orienten en la dirección correcta.

Aldine ISD tiene una historia de ser fiscalmente saludable y sigue profundamente comprometido con la administración fiscal y la excelencia educativa. A medida que el plan de cinco años del distrito, «A New Way Forward», llega a su fin y se inicia un nuevo plan, nuestro presupuesto seguirá apoyando los recursos necesarios para avanzar hacia logros aún mayores en el éxito de los estudiantes.

«Quiero dar las gracias a nuestros miembros de la Junta por reconocer el duro trabajo que nuestro personal realiza a diario», dijo la Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendente de Aldine ISD.

«Un enorme agradecimiento también a todos los equipos y líderes, quienes han revisado dónde estamos y dónde hay que hacer ajustes, lo que nos permite recortar nuestro presupuesto estratégicamente. De hecho, el proceso presupuestario de este año se ha hecho con bisturí y no con hacha de guerra. Sabemos que, aunque pequeños, cada uno de estos ajustes garantizará que los recursos de que disponemos apunten en la dirección correcta.»

* Los aumentos y ajustes salariales no incluyen a los empleados temporales, sustitutos o contratistas,** con la excepción de los Profesores Asociados. Los profesores contratados sin certificación se mantendrán en 61.000 dólares.

La Dra. Faviola Cantú, Jefa Académica del Distrito, nombrada para el Programa de Liderazgo para Futuros Jefes

La Jefa de la Oficina Académica de Aldine ISD, Dra. Faviola Cantú, es una de las 10 personas seleccionadas en todo el país para la octava cohorte del programa de desarrollo de liderazgo Jefes para el Cambio, Futuros Jefes. Según la organización, Future Chiefs constituye una cantera de líderes con talento, diversos, audaces e innovadores que ayudan a transformar las escuelas de nuestro país y se preparan para dirigir los principales sistemas escolares. Como participantes en el programa de 18 meses de duración, los futuros Jefes participarán en un aprendizaje colectivo sobre cuestiones fundamentales para un liderazgo eficaz y recibirán orientación y tutoría de los miembros de la red nacional de Jefes para el Cambio.



«Me siento muy honrada de haber sido seleccionada para el programa de desarrollo del liderazgo de futuros jefes de Chiefs for Change. Esta oportunidad de colaborar y aprender de algunos de los líderes educativos más innovadores y dedicados del país

proporcionará supervisión directa al personal del currículo y guiará el desarrollo de la instrucción. Supervisa varios departamentos/oficinas: Educación Especial, Multilingüe, Enseñanza y Aprendizaje, Servicios de Biblioteca Multimedia, Aprendizaje Profesional e Integración Tecnológica, Innovación e Iniciativas Tecnológicas y Escuelas de Elección.

Cantú tiene 20 años de experiencia en educación. Antes de su cargo actual, Cantú ocupó el puesto de Superintendente Auxiliar de Escuelas Primarias (SAS). Como SAS, apoyó a los directores para asegurarse de que llegaran a los estudiantes donde estaban mientras los desafiaba. Antes de unirse a Aldine ISD en junio de 2019, Cantú se desempeñó como Directora de Programas Multilingües para Sheldon ISD, donde fue responsable de implementar el currículo y desarrollar y liderar las iniciativas del distrito, incluido un programa de lenguaje dual que comienza en prekindergarten

ten y se extiende hasta séptimo grado. Cantú también se ha desempeñado como subdirectora y directora.

Este programa altamente competitivo ofrece a líderes emergentes como la Dra. Cantú la oportunidad de participar en experiencias de aprendizaje colaborativo, dotándoles de las habilidades y herramientas necesarias para un liderazgo impactante. Con el apoyo y la tutoría de miembros titulares de la red de Jefes para el Cambio, el programa está diseñado para preparar a los participantes para desempeñar funciones de liderazgo como superintendentes en grandes distritos o sistemas educativos estatales.

«Creamos el programa Futuros Jefes para cultivar un grupo de líderes sólidos preparados para servir y afrontar con valentía los retos que afectan al panorama educativo actual. Como superintendentes y partes interesadas en la educación, somos responsables de apoyar a la próxima

generación de líderes compartiendo nuestros aprendizajes y experiencia», dijo Robert Runcie, CEO de Chiefs for Change. «Los participantes en nuestra última cohorte de Jefes del Futuro desempeñarán un papel fundamental en la remodelación de la educación pública a medida que los sistemas avanzan hacia esta próxima fase de recuperación pospandémica. Nuestra red apoyará su viaje y mantendrá su compromiso de luchar por la equidad y la excelencia educativa para todos los estudiantes.»

Los participantes en el programa Futuros Jefes reciben formación y ventajitas, como gestión de sistemas, diversas sesiones virtuales y presenciales dirigidas por expertos, observación de jefes actuales, entrenamiento individualizado, preparación para los medios de comunicación y relaciones con la Junta Directiva, y acceso a apoyo intensivo para la búsqueda de empleo y la colocación. El programa combina el

apoyo de los compañeros de cohorte con una tutoría muy personalizada por parte de antiguos superintendentes que actúan como jefes en residencia, líderes de sistemas actuales y otros expertos.

La diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión son fundamentales para el programa Futuros Jefes: El 80% de los participantes en la Cohorte 8 son líderes de color y el 50% son mujeres. El grupo también es política y geográficamente diverso.

El programa Futuros Jefes tiene un historial de éxito probado. De los 58 líderes que participaron en las siete primeras cohortes, un impresionante 55% se han convertido en superintendentes o jefes estatales. Esta estadística demuestra la eficacia del programa en la formación de líderes educativos de impacto.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa Futuros Jefes, visite la página web de Desarrollo del Liderazgo de Jefes para el Cambio.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Bethel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Moses and Aaron were instructed to sacrifice what color of heifer without blemish? Red, White, Gold, Green
3. Which book begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God"? Mark, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians


4. What Old Testament woman was buried in a cave in the field of Machpelah? Eve, Ruth, Sarah, Esther
5. How many righteous people did Sodom need to keep God from destroying the city? 1, 2, 10, 20
6. From 2 Kings 17, who was the god of the men of Cuth? Succothbenoth, Nergal, Hamath, Ashima

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Red, 3) Ephesians, 4) Sarah, 5) 10, 6) Nergal
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

GENESIS 7: 11,12



Detail of "The Flood" by Clare Leighton (1952)

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PET MATTERS
In Memory of Susan Hoffman



Name Your Adoption Fee!

Harris County Pets is Overcapacity! Adopt, don't shop!

HOUSTON – Summer has arrived, bringing a surplus of unadopted puppies and kittens. Many of these animals are being brought to Harris County Pets (HCP), which is already overcrowded with homeless dogs and cats, surpassing its capacity. To encourage community members to adopt, HCP has initiated a promotion called "Name Your Adoption Fee!" until the end of June 2024. This allows adopters to choose their price when adopting a new four-legged family member. All adopted animals from HCP are spayed or neutered, receive age-appropriate vaccinations (including rabies), are micro-chipped, and receive a one-year Harris County pet license. It's a great deal!



investment of time and money, so when adopting a pet, please consider:

- Selecting a pet that is suited to your home and lifestyle. Do you have time to walk your dog? Would an older pet be more suitable than an active kitten or puppy?
- Avoiding impulsive decisions when selecting a family pet.
- Owning only the number of pets that you can provide for appropriately.
- Ensuring that the pet is properly vaccinated, identified, and registration is up to date.

HCP, located at 612 Canino Road in Houston, has many animals ready for a loving home. Stop by and choose yours! Visit countypets.com for photos and bios of all adoptable pets at HCP. If you cannot adopt a pet, consider volunteering at our shelter. Volunteers are needed to facilitate adoptions, socialize, and foster animals. For more information, email volunteer@countypets.com or call (281) 999-3191.

HCP currently houses almost 700 animals, and over 175 are available for immediate adoption (already spayed/neutered). Around 40% of the animals brought to the shelter are surrendered by their owners for various reasons. While not all animals at the shelter are adoptable due to factors such as age, being feral, illness, aggression, or injury, many of them would be wonderful pets for individuals and families.

Pets are great companions to humans. Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.

However, owning a pet is a commitment that requires an

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Julia Louis-Dreyfus has recovered from cancer and is back in front of the cameras to shoot "Thunderbolts" for Disney and Marvel. She holds the record for winning 11 Emmy Awards (the most for any performer) — nine for "Veep," one for "Seinfeld," and one for "The New Adventures of Old Christine." She's also won nine awards from the Screen Actors Guild, two from the Critics' Choice Awards, and a Golden Globe Award.



Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Upcoming in "Thunderbolts")

In "Thunderbolts," arriving May 2025, she co-stars with David Harbour ("Stranger Things") and Harrison Ford. Ford also has "Captain America: Brave New World" due in February, and both of his TV series "1923" and "Shrinking" are returning for their second seasons.

On a chat show, Chris Pratt recently confessed that he blew the first \$75,000 he earned, which was for a TV movie. "That was just a crazy amount of money to me," he said. "I never could have possibly imagined making that amount of money, and it went very quickly." But given that his net worth today is estimated to be \$100 million, he must have learned his lesson.

He's still making more money from two upcoming sci-fi films: Amazon's "Mercy," with Rebecca Ferguson, and Netflix's "The Electric State," with Millie Bobby Brown, Ke Huy Quan, Stanley Tucci, Jason Alexander, Brian Cox, Anthony Mackie and Billy Bob Thornton.

Hats off to the legendary Joan Collins, who turned 91 on May 23 and is still working in two films and a TV series. In 1989, I was hired by Sarah Coventry Costume Jewelry (still thriving today) to shoot Joan for their in-house magazine. She was to be gifted with 10 pieces of jewelry for the shoot. When we finished, she couldn't decide between 12 pieces of jewelry, so we just gave them to her. Two weeks later, she

became Alexis Morell Carrington Colby in "Dynasty," which, of course, meant she wouldn't be caught dead in costume jewelry!

Another time, at an award show rehearsal, Joan went to use a phone. (We didn't have cellphones then.) After a long time, she came back and told us, "I called my answering service, and imagine ... they put me on hold!" We asked, "What did you do?" "Well," she replied, "I fired them, of course!"

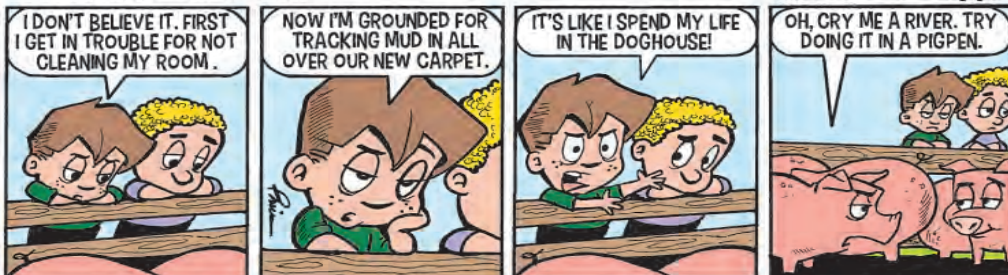
In her next two films, she stars as Wallis Simpson in "In Bed with the Duchess" and as Francesca Carlyle in "Murder Between Friends." She'll also star as Adelaide of Maurienne in 10 episodes of the Agatha-Christie-like series "Glow of Darkness," opposite Jane Seymour and Denise Richards. They're currently filming in Spain, Morocco and Egypt, and it's based on the life of Francis of Assisi. The series has been dubbed as "Game of Thrones" on a "Xena: Warrior Princess" budget.

At 91, where does she get her get-up-and-go? I'll have what she's having!

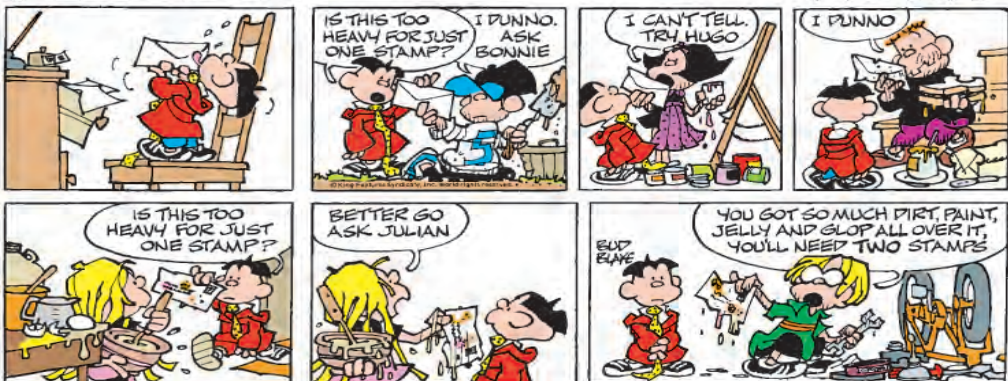
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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Door is larger. 2. Tatoo is larger. 3. Tatoo is smaller. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Main is taller. 6. Middle rope is missing.

June 17, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 — of Sandwich
5 Saigon soup
8 URL opener
12 Coagulate
13 Charged bit
14 Pitcher Hersher
15 Romantic appointments
17 Skater Lipinski
18 Like aspirin, briefly
19 Ozone, for one
20 Governing gp.
21 That chap's — -Magnon
23 "Evita" surname
26 Gym gear
30 — "Rhythm"
31 Chum
32 Cowgirl's footwear
33 Spider's traps
35 Baby collie
36 Owns
37 Prohibit
38 Sound of Washington
41 Flushed
42 Aunt, in Acapulco
45 Skin soother
46 Donna
48 Sagan or Sandburg

DOWN

1 Canyon sound
2 Oodles
3 Campus mil. group
4 Old Ford model
5 Pocket breads
6 Works the soil
7 Carry- (travel bags)

8 Frank holder
9 Streetcar
10 Actress Hatcher
11 Scheme
16 Opposite of "fer"
20 Onassis nickname
21 Toy car brand
22 Cartoon frame
23 Photo, for short
24 Conceit
25 Steal from
26 Existed
27 Jump
28 Pinnacle
29 Hog haven
31 "Nova" ailer

34 Nosh
35 Cushions
37 White of "The Golden Girls"
38 Designer Rabanne
39 — Bator
40 Slasher film fare
41 Capital of Italia
42 Ballet attire
43 "— first you ..."
44 Roundish do
46 Devilish laugh
47 Airport screening org.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which country's native name is Cymru?
- HISTORY:** Which country is the first to recognize same-sex marriage?
- MOVIES:** Who voices the character of Frozone in the animated movie "The Incredibles"?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary ingredient in baba ganoush?
- LITERATURE:** The movie "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is based on a short story written by which American author?
- MEASUREMENTS:** How many grams are in a pound?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What cultural phenomenon is celebrated on May 4?
- TELEVISION:** Rhoda Morgenstern is a sidekick in which 1970s TV sitcom?
- SCIENCE:** What is the process called when iron is coated with zinc?
- U.S. STATES:** What is the only vowel that is NOT the first letter of a state?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Wales; 2. The Netherlands; 3. Samuel L. Jackson; 4. Eggplant; 5. F. Scott Fitzgerald; 6. 454 grams; 7. "Star Wars" movies; 8. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"; 9. Galvanization; 10. E.

Promising Careers Are Waiting for You at Lone Star College-North Harris

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – Have you ever considered a career in robotics?

David White never imagined he would be pursuing a career in robotics. He knew that he always loved solving problems and knowing how everything works. After graduating from Oak Ridge High School in 2020, White originally wanted to pursue a career as an engineer. Once he enrolled at Lone Star College, he changed his mind and decided to change his major to Robotics-Automated Manufacturing Technology.

“Transitioning over to LSC-North Harris was smooth,” White said. “The schedule worked better for me, and I really enjoyed the small classes. The equipment here is newer and more up to date compared to other schools.” White completed his courses in August 2023, earning an Associate of Applied Science in Robotic-Automated Manufacturing Technology, and had a job offer within a month.

LSC-North Harris is the perfect place to explore your options with affordable classes and flexible schedules that work for you. Most courses are transferable if you decide to transfer



David White, at Lone Star College, never imagined he would be pursuing a career in robotics.

to a four-year university.

If you are interested in a career in robotics or any of our many workforce programs, be sure to visit LoneStar.edu/LearnMore and schedule an appointment with one of our advisors. Our next summer session begins July 11, and the fall semester begins Aug. 26. We can't wait to hear from you.

Lone Star College-North Harris

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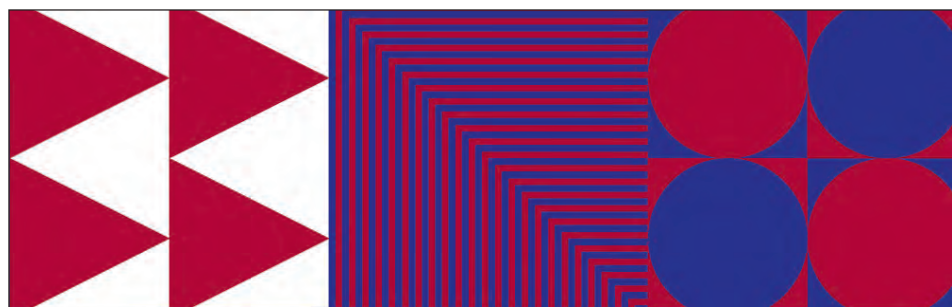
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###

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. LSC has been named a 2022 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Texas™. 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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JUNE 27

12PM-1:30PM THURSDAY

- Protect your future with small business owners and self-employed self-funded pension plans. ~ everyone looks back wishing they'd planned better ~
- Benefits and options for affordable group or individual supplemental health options for your employees. ~ affordability and tax benefits ~
- Why might I need Key Man insurance?
- Group vs Individual term insurance and benefits.



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FREE

JUST RSVP



Westfield FD fights car fire



Westfield Fire Department is at East Aldine District. Westfield Engine Company 3 responded to a vehicle fire in the parking lot of the Northeast Marketplace. Pipemen arrived diligently and quickly extinguished the fire preventing it from making it to the interior cabin or damaging any other vehicles parked next to it. No injuries were reported. This is Westfield Fire. The Pride of the Northside.

Westfield FD aids in Amputation emergency



Westfield Fire Department is at East Aldine District. Westfield Engine Company 7, Engine Company 3, Harris County Emergency Corps Medic 91 and District Supervisor 901 were called to the Primos Tire Shop on the 4000 block of Hopper Road to assist an individual who had his hand become entrapped in a tire tread cutter machine which resulted in amputation. Paramedics and firefighters successfully removed the victim and transported the patient to a trauma center for further care. Amputations are some of the most serious and debilitating workplace injuries. They are widespread and involve a variety of activities and equipment. Amputations occur most often when workers operate unguarded or inadequately safeguarded mechanical machines. Besides normal operation, the following activities involving stationary machines also expose workers to potential amputation hazards: setting up, threading, preparing, adjusting, cleaning, lubricating, and maintaining machines as well as clearing jams. Work practices, employee training, and administrative controls can help prevent and control amputation hazards. This is Westfield Fire. The Pride of the Northside.