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NORTHEAST NEWS

Storm Recovery Work

Linemen work on restoring wire connections in the Castledale neighborhood in East Aldine. See Information on Page 4 for tips on Recovery for those with storm damage or need for help.



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years
VOL. 48, NO. 21 TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

International Festival displays Diversity of EA District



The East Aldine District hosted an International Arts Festival last Saturday, with a variety of displays and performances that exhibited the rich diversity of the cultures and people that live and thrive in the East Aldine District.

Attendees at the Festival heard music from the MacArthur High School Jazz Ensemble to start the day, followed by a Dragon Dance and a Lion Dance by the Soaring Phoenix performers.

To finish off the live performances on the Amphitheatre stage, the Polynesian Dancers of the Young Audiences of Houston put on several dances.

The Astros Literacy Bus

was also on hand, to hand out free books and to conduct games and literacy exercises for all ages.

Also during the day, from opening at 11am until closing at 2pm, Live Mural Artists featuring P.Tech student Jocely Bedolla were working on their craft, and explaining and teaching techniques to would-be muralists in the crowd.

In their spare time, attendees could take a turn at solving the Giant Rubik's Cube puzzle, or play a piano or pinpress game.

Other booths and tables included Face Painting, Arts and Crafts activities, train rides for the kiddies, and of course there were

food trucks with various types of refreshments to emphasize the different cultures and their food tastes and menus.

This was the second annual International Festival put on by the East Aldine District, and organizers Alma DeAlejandro and Monica Campos indicated that this would repeat as an annual event.

Sponsors and participants included the Aldine ISD, the East Aldine District, Lone Star College East Aldine Campus, and the East Aldine Arts Council.

It was a fun-filled day packed with arts, culture, and community spirit.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5



AT LEFT, a Lion Dance (on those wobbly posts) by the Soaring Phoenix dance group; ABOVE, the Jazz Ensemble of MacArthur High School. See MORE PHOTOS on Page 5.

Pct. 2 Crowley Park gets a new advanced Drinking Fountain



ABOVE: Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and members of the East Aldine Civic Association at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly installed and donated drinking fountains at W.E. Bill Crowley park. Enhancing the quality of life for residents in the East Aldine District.

AT RIGHT: Marina Suggs and other friends try the new fountain. This advanced design has a bubbler for normal drinking, a compartment to refill a water bottle, and a lower level water dish for pets.



Westfield FD battles Fairgreen house blaze



Fire in the Attic of the Hernandez house in Fairgreen destroyed all but one room.

Westfield Engine Company 3, Ladder Company 8, and District Chief 25 along with mutual aid from surrounding fire departments responded to a residential fire in the Fairgreen Subdivision. Westfield pipemen encountered heavy fire conditions and immediately made entry for an offensive attack.

Marina Sugg, viewing the fire of her friend's house, commented "Memorial Day 2024 will be one I think I shall never forget. Sadly, I ended the day at the side of my dear friend and fellow Green Forest Civic Club board member Lucy Alvarez Hernandez watching firefighters entering and exiting the

smoldering remains of her home. But for the Grace of God, Lucy, her son, and friend escaped the fire with only what they were wearing."

Westfield Fire Dept. responded to the 911 call and were able to extinguish the flames before it caused

Continued. See ALDINE FIRE, Page 2

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

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

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

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

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Westfield FD battles Fairgreen house blaze,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

damage to neighboring homes. District Chief Pablo Hinojosa explains in his FaceBook post about this fire how fires starting in the attic can rapidly get out of control. Lucy faces unimaginable challenges in the weeks to come, but with the support and prayers of her family, friends, and neighbors, she will overcome.

Chief Hinojosa said "Attics are not commonly used as occupied spaces and, as a result, they usually do not have smoke alarms or heat sensors. When a fire occurs in an attic, it is common that it will go unnoticed until smoke or flames, escaping from the roof, are visible from the outside.

Because they can take longer to detect, attic fires are very dangerous for firefighters and residents alike. The delayed detection allows the fire to become larger in size, ultimately causing more damage. The attic provides the fire with an array of fuel sources like open wood support beams, storage items, and insulation."



THE FIRST FIRE ENGINE ARRIVES AT THE HOME ON FIRE.



NEIGHBORS MEET AND DISCUSS THE DAMAGE.



A VIEW OF THE ROOF AND HOUSE DAMAGE THE NEXT DAY.

COMMUNITY WATCH

5TH GRADE GRADUATION AT ORANGE GROVE ELEMENTARY



ABOVE: One of several 5th grade classes that had a graduation ceremony this month.

LEFT: Deputy Terry Garza receives a recognition certificate for her Pancakes with Police program she held at Orange Grove Elementary.

NOTE: Comm. Garcia has to reschedule visit to GFCC that was planned for May 30.

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Limited appointments available every month at rotating locations throughout the precinct to make access to healthcare easier.

GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS

Hello, East Aldine Residents. Please mark your calendar! Monthly meetings of the Green Forest Civic Club Last Thursday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Dr. 77039

At our meetings, you will receive in-person updates from elected officials, law enforcement officers, and service providers and organizations about issues, concerns, and events having to do with East Aldine. Also receive advice and assistance on any issue you may be having. Our meetings are open to the public. For additional information, contact Selina Valdez @ 832-416-0964 or at greenforestcc1983@gmail.com or on our Facebook page: Green Forest Civic Club. We look forward to seeing you!

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Movement Monday
 Children engage in physical activities paired with reading and singing. This program not only focuses on improving physical health but also enhances early literacy skills in a fun and interactive way. Recommended for children ages 2-5 years Program is in English and Spanish. Encouraged to bring your own water. **Monday, June 3, 11 - 11:30am.**

Family Trivia Night
 Join us for a family trivia night where you can win prizes! Join in teams of 2-6 people in the classroom area! **Monday, June 3, 4:30 - 5:30pm.** Register on our Events page: hctl.net/events

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. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome!

Estás invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

Three Little Pigs Remix
 Join us for a retelling of The Three Little Pigs by the talented Ensemble Theatre. This family-friendly extravaganza is a show you won't want to miss! *Early arrival is recommended.* **Tuesday, June 4, 1 - 2pm.**

Are Books Good?
 Help us decide once and for all whether books are good. Ms. Gage and Ms. Nicole will read adventure stories out loud, provide snacks, and vote on how good the stories really are. Attending this program will also earn you points towards your next Summer Reading Program prize! **Tuesday, June 4, 1-2pm.**

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 11.**

Aprovecha tu Chromebook (Taking new students)
Tuesday, June 4, 5 - 6:45pm
 Sitio web de la clase
 Limited space! Espacio limitado
 Sesión 1 Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Y1> luego presentarse a la clase.
 ¡Sacale provecho a tu Chromebook o tableta en solo 4 sesiones!
 ¡Aprenda a usar su Chromebook para el trabajo o uso personal en 4 sesiones!
 Áreas cubiertas:
 Sesión #1- Comandos del ratón/ almudilla táctil y el teclado, atajos, hardware specs.

Sesión #2- Navegando la interfaz de su Chromebook, personalizando el software y preferencias de accesibilidad.
 Sesión #3- "Usando su Correo para acceder a servicios de la nube (Google Apps y Office 365 free versiones)
 Sesión #4- "Vistazo general de manejo de archivos y lugares de almacenamiento (SD cards, USB flash drives, SSD/HDD drives)
 *Se necesita una cuenta de correo electrónico (Gmail/Outlook)
 **Debe poseer acceso a almacenamiento (SDcard, USB flash drive, discos externos)
Importante: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (Chromebook OS, Office 365, Google apps) son en Inglés
Important note: Instrucciones are in Spanish language. Software: Chrome OS, Office 365, and Google apps are all in English language.
Tween Spark: Zine Scene
 What's a zine you ask? It's a pocket-size booklet made from one (1) piece of paper. Your zine can be about anything you want: dinosaurs, things you'd name a cat, constellations, or anything else you can think of. Join Ms. Gage to learn how to make your own zine about anything your heart desires! Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders. **Wednesday, June 5, 4:30 - 5:30pm.**
ESL Summer Session
 English language learning classes on **Thursdays at 10:30am, from June 6 - Aug. 1, 2024, 10:30am - noon. Intro level.**
Registration required. Last day to register is Thursday, Jun 6 at 10:30am at the class.

Community Forum by HRI
Thursday, June 6, 10:30am - 12:30pm. The purpose of these community forums is to:
 - Learn about the latest developments in health challenges affecting the community.
 - Explore the challenges experienced when medical assistance is needed.
 - Work together to identify effective strategies for improving the quality and length of life.
 In addition, gain access to exclusive items such as **flash drives** to safeguard your job information, **UH swag items, and gift cards.**
 This program is sponsored by the University of Houston in partnership with Aldine Branch Library
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 6, 3:30-5:30pm.**

Family Movie Night
 Let's start off Summer Reading Program - Adventure Begins at your library with a family friendly movie!
 Families and friends, join us as we watch The Goonies. **Thursday, June 6, 5 - 6:30pm.**

Aprovecha tu Chromebook (Taking new students)
Thursday, June 6, 5 - 6:45pm
 Sitio web de la clase
 Limited space! Espacio limitado
 Pre-regístrate aquí: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Y1> luego presentarse a la clase.
 ¡Sacale provecho a tu Chromebook o tableta en solo 4 sesiones!
 ¡Aprenda a usar su Chromebook para el trabajo o uso personal en 4 sesiones!
 Áreas cubiertas:

Sesión #1- Comandos del ratón/ almudilla táctil y el teclado, atajos, hardware specs.
 Sesión #2- Comandos del ratón/ almudilla táctil y el teclado, atajos, hardware specs.
 Sesión #2- Navegando la interfaz de su Chromebook, personalizando el software y preferencias de accesibilidad.
 Sesión #3- "Usando su Correo para acceder a servicios de la nube (Google Apps y Office 365 free versiones)
 Sesión #4- "Vistazo general de manejo de archivos y lugares de almacenamiento (SD cards, USB flash drives, SSD/HDD drives)
 *Se necesita una cuenta de correo electrónico (Gmail/Outlook)
 **Debe poseer acceso a almacenamiento (SDcard, USB flash drive, discos externos)
Importante: Instrucciones son en Español y las aplicaciones (chromebook OS, Office 365, Google apps) son en Inglés
 ** Note- Instrucciones are in Spanish language. Software: Chrome OS, Office 365, and Google apps are all in English language.
Get the Most out of Your Chromebook or Tablet
Saturday, June 8, 2:30 - 4pm.
 This class is currently offered in a hybrid format through Google Meets and in-person. Register <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Y1> to get a link to connect to class or come in-person (please allow 2-3 business days to receive a link)
 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 free cloud services (Google Apps and Office 365 free ver.)
 Session #4- ** Overview of file management and storage options like SD cards, USB flash drives, SSD, HDD external drives.
 *Needs access to an email account (Gmail or/and Outlook)
 **Need access to storage devices (SD card, USB flash drive)
Passport Services
 Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! 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.hctl.net/services/passport-services>.
 Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

Michelle Pichon
 Library Program Specialist
Harris County Public Library
 Aldine Branch Library
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Child Nutrition Services Will Serve up Good Nutrition for Local Children This Summer



This summer, Aldine ISD will connect children 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old with healthy, no-cost summer meals. The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program administered in the Lone Star State by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). For the children who rely on school meals during the academic year, these meals offer a source of good nutrition when school is out for the long summer vacation.

“Aldine children need good nutrition year-round to learn, grow, and succeed in life,” said Susan D’Amico, Executive Director of Child Nutrition Ser-

VICES. “With nearly 2 million food insecure children living in Texas, these healthy meals are vital to nourishing young Texans during the summer vacation.”

You can visit our website <https://aldinecafe.org> for more details about participating campuses and meal service times.

Aldine ISD is one of the nonprofit organizations that is partnering with TDA to serve meals across Texas. Families are encouraged to use these three tools to find a meal site anywhere in the state:

- *Call 2-1-1 to speak to a live operator
- *Visit SummerFood.org for an interactive site locator map
- *Text FOOD or COMI-

DA to 304-304

Organizations partner with TDA to serve meals in areas where more than 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. Eligible sponsoring organizations include schools, faith-based groups, nonprofit summer camps, government agencies, and other tax-exempt organizations. An organization with a contract with TDA must sponsor all meal sites.

Summer meal sites help children succeed by providing the nourishment they need to return to school in the fall, ready to thrive.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Best-selling Author Matt de la Peña Meets With 2nd Grade Bilingual Students



Matt de la Peña, author of Last Stop on Market Street, visited with select Aldine ISD second-grade students at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center on Monday, May 13, for the release of his latest book, *The Perfect Place/El lugar perfecto*.

The AISD Multilingual Services Department sponsored the event with the district’s Media Services Department and Blue Willow Bookshop.

Selected second-grade bilingual students listened to De la Peña share about his life, like how his parents moved from Mexico to the U.S., where he was born. He grew up in a border city in Southern California. De la Peña engaged

students by asking them questions and relating them to shared experiences or memories from their families. He also talked about the variety of books he has written, earning sounds of recognition from the students. He shared images of his family and himself as a star high school basketball player who earned a full scholarship to college, becoming the first in his family to do so.

As his discussion moved toward his latest picture book, *The Perfect Place/El lugar perfecto*, he asked students if they knew the difference between a novel or short story and a picture book. Several students raised their

hands, eager to answer. While he didn’t read the new book to the students, he did go through several pages showing them how to read a picture book, such as seeing the details in the illustrations that add to the storytelling. De la Peña also revealed how his upbringing as a Mexican immigrant influences his stories and images.

After the presentation, De la Peña answered questions from students.

Before returning to their campuses, students, thanks to Blue Willow Bookshop, picked up a free, autographed book for their home library in the language of their choice — English or Spanish.

ReadyRosie Virtual Workshops for Families of Primary School ESL and Bilingual Students Start Thursday, June 6

The district is hosting several virtual workshops, the first being a Parent Information session on how ReadyRosie works and how to use it. The session will introduce ReadyRosie materials for families of primary school [early childhood (EC), prekindergarten (PreK), and kindergarten (K)] students in bilingual and ESL (English as a Second Language) education programs and explain how ReadyRosie works.

Using research-based learning strategies, ReadyRosie is an educational resource that shares engaging games and videos that support families and their children’s learning. Join us and discover how to make learning fun at home.

Morning sessions are available in English and Spanish on each workshop date.

HOW TO JOIN VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Link to Virtual Sessions: <https://shorturl.at/i1q3ZID> to Enter Virtual Sessions: 827 3659 6798 Password to Enter Virtual Sessions: DFG2qP

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Family Workshop 1: Introducing ReadyRosie

English Session: 9-10 a.m. Spanish Session: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Family Workshop 2: Words Matter

English Session: 9-10 a.m. Spanish Session: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Family Workshop 3: Math Matters

English Session: 9-10 a.m. Spanish Session: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Impact Leadership Academy Students Explore the Mathematical Beauty of Rice University



Dr. Anne Papakonstantinou (to the right), the Rice University School Mathematics Project (RUSMP) director, is pictured talking with the students from Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson.

Students from Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson recently visited Rice University to explore the geometric wonders of academic buildings and more on campus. They explored the campus under the guidance of Dr. Anne Papakonstantinou, the Rice University School Mathematics Project (RUSMP) director and staff.

The visit gave students the opportunity to investigate the mathematical intricacies and patterns of Rice University’s architecture while learning new math terminology.

The tour was not a passive experience for the students. It began at the Sallyport of Lovett Hall, the oldest building on campus, where they were encouraged to contribute to the learning process actively. They deciphered Roman numerals and used deductive reasoning to identify faces under the arch of the Sallyport. As they explored the area, they documented the geometric shapes they observed in

their sketch pads, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject.

At Herzstein Hall, the group was introduced to the whispering niches in the concave interiors flanking the main doors. This unique feature provided a hands-on experience of how these surfaces reflect sound from focal point to focal point like radio waves. They tested this by standing in the concave interiors and conversing from one person to the other without those standing between them hearing what was said, a unique and engaging learning experience that brought theoretical knowledge to life.

Once inside the building, the students marveled at the domed, vaulted ceiling. Standing directly under the center of the dome, they experienced the striking acoustics at play as they clapped or spoke.

The final stop on the tour was a visit to the James Turell Twilight Epiphany Skyspace. Before concluding the tour, the students had

the privilege of listening to Papakonstantinou, who encouraged them to prepare for college early and enlightened them about the myriad of academic paths that lay ahead, instilling a sense of hope and optimism in their hearts.

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Papakonstantinou for the invaluable opportunity to visit Rice University,” said Principal Jonathan Kegler. “This visit was a great opportunity for our students to expand their mathematical knowledge and broaden their horizons. College visits are a powerful tool to shape students’ attitudes and behaviors toward higher education. They can significantly influence students’ college decisions and preparation. At Impact Leadership Academy, we are committed to promoting college access for our students and fostering partnerships with universities interested in increasing their diversity or student population overall.”

Ready Rosie

FIRST TEACHER, BEST TEACHER

Words Matter! Building Biliteracy Skills at Home

Families with children in ESL/bilingual programs will learn how to use ReadyRosie activities, videos, and more to support their children’s language and biliteracy skills.

1

Link to virtual sessions: <https://shorturl.at/i1q3ZID>

2

ID to enter virtual sessions: 827 3659 6798

3

Password to sessions: DFG2qP

THURSDAY JUNE 6	THURSDAY JUNE 13	THURSDAY JUNE 20
Family Workshop 1 Introducing ReadyRosie	Family Workshop 2 Words Matter	Family Workshop 3 Math Matters
Sessions English: 9-10AM Spanish: 11AM-12PM	Sessions English: 9-10AM Spanish: 11AM-12PM	Sessions English: 9-10AM Spanish: 11AM-12PM

Developing Future-Ready Students

ALDINE
Independent School District

QUESTIONS

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Email: SGalvan@AldineISD.org

OPINION PAGE



Storm Recovery Update

In the aftermath of the severe storms, tornadoes, flooding, and straight-line winds that began on April 26, we want to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the necessary resources for recovery.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Harris County

FEMA is opened a Disaster Recovery Center to provide one-on-one help to Texans affected by the recent severe weather events. The center is located at: Leon Z Grayson Community Center 13828 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015

FEMA's QUICK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits that provide flexible funding directly to those affected by the storm.

Serious Needs Assistance - A \$750 payment for households for essential items will now be provided in all disasters receiving Individual Assistance to help people make ends meet.

Displacement Assistance - A new benefit that will provide people with up-front funds to assist with immediate housing options of their choice, to keep people housed.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

You do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to register for FEMA assistance. Homeowners and renters can apply in the following ways:

- Online: Visit DisasterAssistance.gov
Mobile App: Download the FEMA App for mobile devices
Phone: Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
In Person: Visit any Disaster Recovery Center.

To view an accessible video about how to apply, visit: Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube.

For the latest information, visit fema.gov/disaster/4781. Follow FEMA Region 6 on Twitter or Facebook.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

SBA disaster assistance is now available for small businesses affected by the recent storms. SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following centers to answer questions.

Business Recovery Centers:

- Harris County Business Recovery Center University of Houston-Downtown
Harris County Business Recovery Center Trini Mendenhall Community Center
Virtual Business Recovery Center Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

I encourage everyone affected to take advantage of these resources. My team will continue to work around the clock to help residents recover from the storm.

Sincerely, Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Additional Disaster Assistance Approved

Seven Texas counties have been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for grants for emergency work and replacement of disaster-damaged public infrastructure.

An additional 21 Texas counties remain on review for possible inclusion under the aid program. In addition, a number of counties have been approved for individual assistance funding.

Abbott also announced that the federal food program known as SNAP has approved allowing its recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food that was lost or destroyed in the recent storms.

Any Texan in need can apply for benefits at YourTexasBenefits.com.

FAMILIES OF UVALDE SHOOTING VICTIMS SUE DPS OFFICERS

Relatives of children killed and injured in the deadly school shooting in Uvalde in May 2023 are suing Texas Department of Public Safety officers who were among hundreds of law enforcement that waited well over an hour to confront the gunman at Robb Elementary.

Nearly 100 officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety have yet to face a shred of accountability for cowering in fear while my daughter and nephew bled to death in their classroom.



were killed, said in a statement to The Tribune. In addition, the city of Uvalde has agreed to pay those families \$2 million to avoid a lawsuit.

TEXAS RANCHERS PUSH FOR BALLOON RELEASE BAN

A Central Texas ranching family is pushing for a statewide ban on balloon releases after a string of balloons landed in a deer pen, spooking three young deer to thrash against the fence.

"Balloons don't go to heaven," David Meyer told The News on Wednesday. "What goes up must come down."

At least five states have banned or restricted balloon releases, but efforts to do so in Texas have fallen short.

\$17 MILLION GRANT FOR RURAL HOSPITALS

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will award \$17 million in grants for rural hospitals over the next two years.

"I thank Governor Abbott and state lawmakers for this important funding," said Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young.

The grant will provide qualifying hospitals \$100,000 to \$375,00 in grants over a two-year period. The money can be

used to supplement operational expenses, repay debt, make facility repairs and buy or rent equipment.

SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING CANNABIS HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

Nearly three-fourths of Texas adults recently surveyed support either full legalization or decriminalization of cannabis, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

"Texas' evolving attitude speaks to a nationwide shift in favor of decriminalizing and legalizing cannabis," Ty Schepis, a Texas State University professor of clinical psychology in substance use, said.

An analysis by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that from 1979 through 2022, self-reported daily cannabis use surpassed daily alcohol consumption in the United States.

FEDERAL FORECASTERS PREDICT RECORD STORM NUMBER

Wind changes caused by the prevalent La Niña weather pattern, along with warmer-than-average ocean temperatures are predicted by federal forecasters to result in an active hurricane season, which officially begins on June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

Forecasters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are predicting between 17 and 25 named storms this season, — the highest ever predicted.

NOAA defines an average Atlantic hurricane season as one with 14 named storms.

NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad told The Tribune that the "extraordinarily high, record-warm water temperatures" in the Atlantic are energizing the ocean, which can fuel storm development.

The Texas coast is particularly vulnerable to storm impact. Ken Graham, NOAA's weather service director, said possibly affected residents should plan an evacuation route, have a disaster supply kit on hand, and consider purchasing home and flood insurance.

"You can't wait 'til the storm surfaces because you may not have the time," he said. "Then you're competing to get water. You're getting in the long lines for evacuations, the traffic. So, the earlier you can prepare the better."

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.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Cats Games



"I don't even know what game we're supposed to be playing!" my husband, Peter, told me.

He and our cat, Felix, have been playing their nightly game of chase and tag. Peter always loses. This might be because Felix makes the rules—and is the referee.

"When is the game over?" I asked.

"Whenever Felix wins!"

Last night, I was already in bed while the game was wrapping up. Felix was nowhere to be seen. Peter was silently creeping around the bed and out the bedroom door. Suddenly, Felix tore out from under the chair in the bedroom, tagged Peter and zoomed on past.

"Score!" I hollered from the bed. "Felix one, Peter zero—and Felix has won the game!"

Then Felix knocked all the pillows off the sofa to celebrate and came to bed with us.

"It's nice having a cat, isn't it?" I said to Peter.

"Hmm," Peter said.

"You sometimes used to win games when you played with dogs. That's because you were sneaky, and dogs are not as sneaky."

"Dogs are not sneaky at all!" Peter agreed. Peter used to hide from my old dog, Milo, and surprise him. He'd call him from the other room and hide on one side of the door or the other. More than half the time, Milo guessed incorrectly. Then Peter jumped out and surprised him. It was a very satisfying game for everyone.

"Cats are too sneaky," Peter said. "I don't stand a chance."

Felix was a street cat in Mexico before we adopted him and brought him home with us. He does not seem to be pining for life on the street. He has no desire to go outside and is quite content to watch birds through the window. He likes his food and water in their matching little blue-and-white bowls, and he likes to have a treat at precisely 8:30 every evening. He spends much of the day luxuriating on my office chair in the sunshine, although he takes breaks to be brushed twice a day—always on the ottoman in the living room. Felix has things just the way he likes them. And every night, he plays the cat-and-mouse game with Peter—and Peter is always the mouse.

"Where is my aspirin bottle?" Peter complained last night, after the game was over.

"Where was it?"

"On top of my dresser."

"I'm guessing Felix knocked it off."

"From the top of the highboy?" Peter has still not absorbed the fact that there is no surface upon which it is safe to set any small object. Like living on a boat or in a spacecraft, we must attach everything to something or put it inside something else. Yesterday, I found Felix rolling the pepper shaker across the floor.

And, of course, our life is so much better this way.

For several years, we had no pet, and we would regularly assure ourselves that life was simpler and, with our trips back and forth to Mexico, we were doing the sensible thing—for ourselves and for our imaginary pet.

But pets are not imaginary, once you have one.

While I cannot know with complete certainty what anyone (much less a cat) is thinking at any particular moment, I am sure Felix is a happy cat. He likes his new home in our condo. He likes his cat games and his many places to nap and his regular treats. I think he even likes us.

"You are a very good cat," I tell Felix every night before I fall asleep. Felix purrs and agrees.

Till next time, Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS contact information, address, phone, fax, email, website, and staff list.

International Festival displays Diversity of EA District

Continued from Page 1



OUR EAST ALDINE BOARD MEMBERS FLOR ZARZOZA AND PATTI ACOSTA COULDN'T RESIST POSING WITH THE STILTWALKER.



THE SOARING PHEINIX DANCE TROUPE PUT ON DRAGON AND LION DANCES FOR THE AUDIENCE.



THE STILTWALKER AND THE "GRANDMA" LIFE-SIZE PUPPET WERE PART OF THE HILARIOUS HIJINKS THAT EVERYONE ENJOYED.



"GRANNY" ENTERTAINED THE FOLKS AT THE EAST ALDINE BUILDING. (NOTE THE PUPPETEER IN BLACK BEHIND GRANDMA).



POLYNESIAN DANCE NUMBERS WERE PERFORMED BY THE YOUNG AUDIENCES OF HOUSONG.

SPANISH PAGE

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aldine anuncia a los Estudiantes con las Mejores Calificaciones y Saludadores de la Clase 2024

ALDINE HS Steven Tran Kamila Pichardo	AVALOS P-TECH Elaine Amaly Villeda Cirilo Rey Cancino	BLANSON CTE Cristina Juárez Kaiden Francesca Johnnie	CARVER HS Juniper Boehler Itzel Fernández
DAVIS HS Cardin Tran Francis Dinh	EISENHOWER HS Mai Phuong Le Minh Phuong Le	HALL SUCCESS ACADEMY Morgan Starks Betsayda Barradas	Class of 2024 Valedictorians & Salutatorians ALDINE Independent School District
MACARTHUR HS Rafael Guadalupe Vázquez Aritzi Martínez	NIMITZ HS Monique Shae Thompson Sebastián Soto	VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE Karol García Verónica Sofía Hernández	

#AldineISDClas-Of2024 cuéntanos hacia dónde te diriges! Comparte en las redes sociales dónde irás a la universidad, a la escuela de oficios, o al servicio militar y en qué aspiras a especializarte o hacer en tu futuro.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Aldine se enorgullece de anunciar a sus estudiantes con las mejores calificaciones y saludadores de sus 10 escuelas secundarias. Felicitaciones a todos los

estudiantes de alto rendimiento y a todos los miembros de la Clase de 2024 que han enorgullecido a todos.

Como comunidad, celebramos el éxito de la Clase de 2024. Cerca de 3,680 estudiantes se graduarán este semestre de primavera, habiendo recibido aproximadamente \$38,241,502 (al 21 de mayo de 2024) en becas. Esta cantidad seguirá aumentando durante el verano a medida que más estudiantes

reciban y acepten becas. Valedictorians y Salutatorians Escuela Secundaria Aldine Steven Tran, Valedictorian Kamila Pichardo, Salutatorian Elaine Amaly Villeda, Valedictorian Cirilo Rey Cancino, Salutatorian Blanson CTE High-school Cristina Juárez, Valedictorian Kaiden Francesca Johnnie, Sa-

lutatorian Carver High School Juniper Boehler, Valedictorian Itzel Fernández, Salutatorian Escuela Secundaria Davis Cardin Tran, Valedictorian Francis Dinh, Salutatorian Escuela Secundaria Eisenhower Minh Phuong Le, Valedictorian Morgan Starks, Valedictorian Betsayda Barradas, Salutatorian MacArthur Rafael Guadalupe Vázquez, Valedictorian Aritzi Martínez, Salutatorian Nimitz Monique Shae Thompson, Valedictorian Sebastián Soto, Salutador Victory Early College Karol García, Valedictorian Verónica Sofía Hernández, Salutadora

radas, Salutatorian Escuela Secundaria MacArthur Rafael Guadalupe Vázquez, Valedictorian Aritzi Martínez, Salutatorian Escuela Secundaria Nimitz Monique Shae Thompson, Valedictorian Sebastián Soto, Salutador Victory Early College High School Karol García, Valedictorian Verónica Sofía Hernández, Salutadora

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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. What did Jesus and Peter pay for with a coin found

5. From Proverbs 11, what word did Solomon use to describe soul winners? Warm, Wise, Wealthy, Wonderful
6. What 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
 Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...If you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. 1 KINGS 9:6,7

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

Q: Now that "NCIS: Hawaii" has been canceled, are there going to be any other "NCIS" shows in the works? — K.S.

A: Yes! "NCIS" has been a very successful franchise for CBS ever since it premiered on the network back in 2003. Starring Mark Harmon, the series has spawned four spin-offs ("Los Angeles," "New Orleans," "Hawaii" and "Sydney") with two more planned.

"NCIS: Origins" will focus on Harmon's character at the beginning of his career in the 1990s, with Austin Stowell ("Three Women") stepping into his shoes. The series will air on CBS on Monday nights beginning this fall, and Harmon is listed as the narrator.

The other new spin-off, "NCIS: Tony & Ziva," will air on the streamer Paramount+ and will star fan-favorites Michael Weatherly and Cote de Pablo, who reprise their "NCIS" roles. You may remember that de Pablo's Ziva was presumed dead when the actress left "NCIS," but later, it was learned that she was alive and went on to live happily ever after with Tony and their baby in France. The new series picks up with the family on the run in Europe.

"I expect intrigue, romance, the background of Europe, impossible situations that will make our life complicated, but somehow a little something about love," explained de Pablo on a recent announcement via Zoom. Paramount+ has ordered 10 episodes, with shooting to begin shortly in Budapest.

Q: Is it true that Susan Lucci is going to be the "Golden Bachelorette"? Will the show air soon? — J.K.

A: ABC decided to give audiences what they've been requesting for decades — a "Bachelor" for Boomers. Gerry Turner, a 72-year-old retired restaurateur and widower, became "The Golden Bachelor," marrying, and alas divorcing, Theresa Nist, a financial securities specialist from Manhattan.

Despite the disappointing conclusion to that romance, the season itself was a hit with many questioning who would be the first Golden Bachelorette. There was a recent report that "All My Children" star Susan Lucci was asked to be the chooser, but a spokesperson from ABC has denied it.



Michael Weatherly and Cote de Pablo to star in "Tony & Ziva"

According to TVLine, they eventually found their "The Golden Bachelorette" star in 61-year-old Joan Vassos, a school administrator who had to leave the "Golden Bachelor" season early to be by her daughter's side for a medical crisis. She'll make her debut this fall when "The Golden Bachelorette" premieres, with episodes being expanded to 90 minutes long.

Q: Is the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow" still making new episodes? I see reruns all the time where they give updates on what an item would be appraised at in 2024, but they're still reruns. — V.O.

A: Yes, "Antiques Roadshow" is currently filming its upcoming 29th season with a five-city tour. The new season will premiere sometime in 2025, with episodes filmed from their stops this summer in Las Vegas; Baltimore; Bentonville, Arkansas; Urbandale, Iowa; and Littleton, Colorado.

For more information about the show and future tours, visit PBS.org/wgbh/roadshow.

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

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HOLLYWOOD — It was a stretch to believe Lindsay Lohan as the legendary beauty Elizabeth Taylor in "Liz & Dick" (2012), but she was a good enough actress to pull it off. The many times I saw and shot Elizabeth, I was stunned by her beauty and piercing blue eyes!

Now Lohan will become Ann-Margret in a biopic of the sex symbol who held her own opposite Elvis Presley in "Viva Las Vegas." I was 17 when I first met Ann-Margret in New York City. She was sweet, wholesome and, yes, very sexy. I took photos of her every time she came to NYC to publicize her new films. I was in heaven when CBS hired me to shoot her in Vegas, along with Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, Tom Jones and Sammy Davis Jr., for their special "Cinderella at the Palace" (1978). My photos were used for all the ads and in TV Guide.

Don't know if Lohan's acting can turn her into the sex symbol Ann-Margret became! (Makeup!)

"Downton Abbey" fans ... your wait is over! The third "Downton Abbey" film is in the works. Oscar nominee Paul Giamatti, Joely Richardson and Alessandro Nivola will join the regular cast, while Dominic West will reprise his role from the second film. It hits screens in 2025. The first "Downton Abbey" grossed \$194.7 million, and "Downton Abbey: A New Era" grossed \$92.7 million.

So, what took so long? Julian Fellowes, screenwriter of the series and films, took time off to write 17 episodes of HBO's "The Gilded Age," which was renewed for a third season.

"Superman Returns" Brandon Routh joins Faye Dunaway, Harvey Keitel, Andrew McCarthy, Mena Suvari and Cheech Marin in "Fate The Movie." Brandon plays a firefighter. I met him when he was a waiter at Lucky Strike, a bowling alley at the Dolby Theatre. He quit to become Seth Anderson in "One Life to Live" (2001-02).



Actress Lindsay Lohan ("Irish Wish")

Andrew McCarthy — who starred in classics such as "St. Elmo's Fire" (1985), "Pretty in Pink" (1986), "Mannequin" (1987), "Weekend At Bernie's" (1989) and "The Joy Luck Club" (1993) — has written and directed the full-length documentary "Brats," which takes a look at iconic films of the 1980s. The "Brat Pack" consisted of actors like Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Ally Sheedy, Timothy Hutton, Emilio Estevez, Jon Cryer and Lea Thompson. The documentary drops on Hulu on June 13.

You've probably seen those TV ads asking for people who used Roundup weed killer and were subsequently diagnosed with cancer. Well, Glen Powell, Anthony Mackie and Oscar winner Laura Dern are shooting "Monsanto," in which Powell is an untried attorney who sues Monsanto (acquired by Bayer in 2018) over Roundup possibly causing non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other cancers. At least Bayer has an endless supply of aspirin for this ginormous headache!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword June 3, 2024 Posting Date. Includes crossword grid and word lists for ACROSS and DOWN.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on Television, Geography, Music, Literature, History, Movies, Astronomy, U.S. States, Food & Drink, and Science.

HCC wins prized FAA aviation workforce grant

Planned program to train skilled technicians for high-paying jobs

HOUSTON (April 4, 2024) – Houston Community College (HCC) has won a \$430,000 Aviation Workforce Development Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The grant will allow the college to establish a comprehensive aviation maintenance technician program that addresses the growing demand for skilled aviation technicians in the region.

“Aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians play a vital role in repairing and performing scheduled maintenance on aircraft,” said Dr. Michael Webster, HCC associate vice chancellor of Workforce Instruction. “When it is in place, students in our new program will receive hands-on training and theoretical knowledge to become proficient in aircraft maintenance and repairs.”

By partnering with industry experts and utilizing state-of-the-art facilities, HCC will create a robust curriculum that prepares students for FAA certification and successful careers in the aviation maintenance field.

The aviation industry offers promising opportunities for skilled technicians. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the median annual wage for aircraft mechanics and service technicians as of May 2022 just over \$70,000. Overall employment is forecast to grow four percent from 2022 to 2032 with almost 13,000 annual openings for aircraft mechanics and avionics technicians.

The FAA grant is part of \$13.5 million distributed to institutions across the nation to encourage people to become technicians and aviators.



HCC Chancellor Margaret Ford-Fisher

“HCC is honored to be among the recipients, and we are committed to creating a state-of-the-art program to serve our region,” said Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D. “We’re excited about this new endeavor that will provide the real-world education and practical skills that technicians in this important industry must obtain to succeed.”

HCC will release additional information about the program as it becomes a reality.

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

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Lone Star College partners with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to support non-traditional students



Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has awarded \$45,000 to Lone Star College in support of the Vocational Scholarship Program which offers financial assistance to students interested in earning a degree or certification in Commercial Truck Driving, Industrial Diesel Technology, Physical Therapy Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant.

HOUSTON (May 14, 2024) – Lone Star College has hitched up with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ (HSLRTM) to create the Vocational Scholarship Program that supports non-traditional students pursuing an associate degree or certificate in an approved technical field. The HSLRTM has committed \$45,000 in scholarship funding.

“We are thankful to partner with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for helping Lone Star College students be successful through the Vocational Scholarship Program,” said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, LSC Foundation executive director. “With the support of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, our students will have a key barrier removed and find encouragement to continue

their education.”

The Vocational Scholarship Program will offer financial assistance to students interested in earning a degree or certification in Commercial Truck Driving, Industrial Diesel Technology, Physical Therapy Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant.

“We have appreciated our partnership with Lone Star College,” said Jamie Voskamp, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo senior manager, Scholarships Programs in an email. “It is our intention to provide financial support that will cover most of the total program costs, thus allowing student to maintain focus on their degree attainment.”

HLSRTM will invite all scholarship students enrolled in the fall 2024 semester to attend the

Vocational Program Reception to meet the donors who made their scholarship funding possible.

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