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# NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years  
VOL. 48, NO. 29 TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## NEWS NOTES

# East Aldine District finalizes TIRZ #1

Creates opportunities for additional upgrades to Infrastructure, Economic Development

### Back2School Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9 thru Aug. 11

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11. This will be the 25th year of Texas' oldest sales tax holiday.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

"For a quarter of a century, Texans have saved more than \$1.8 billion on everything from blue jeans to ballpoint pens in

Continued. See SALES TAX HOLIDAY, Page 2

EAST ALDINE – At their Board Meeting last Tuesday, July 23, the District's board took action to adopt and finalize the TIRZ #1. This economic development tool will mean additional progress for improvements in the District, as explained at the meeting by Naina Magon, a consultant with Hawes Hill. A summary of her presentation follows:



Naina Magon  
Hawes Hill Consultant

### East Aldine Receives the first TIRZ in Unincorporated Harris County

A new financing tool is coming to East Aldine that will pave the way for new improvements in the community. In December 2022 Harris County Precinct 2 spearheaded creation of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One, more commonly known as the "Aldine TIRZ". The TIRZ is the first of its kind in unincorporated Harris County and its presence means funding for important public improvements in the area that could include water and wastewater infrastructure,

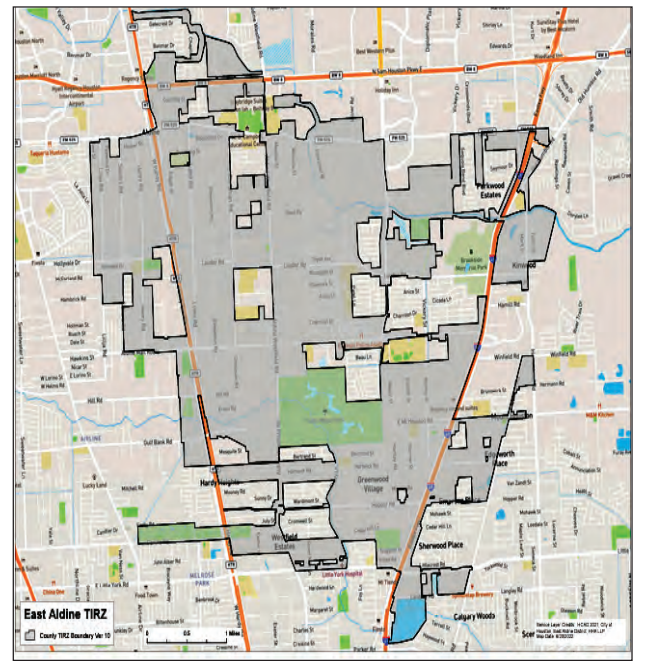
roadways, sidewalks, trails, parks and more.

A Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone is a special financing tool enabled by the State of Texas to fund public improvements that encourage new development or redevelopment and attract private investment to a designated area. Cities and counties can create a TIRZ where conditions exist that substantially hinder an area's sound growth and where development or redevelopment is not likely to occur without additional public improvements. The TIRZ takes advantage of increases in local property values to finance local

improvements. At creation the total appraised value of all real property within the boundaries of the Zone is established as the "base year value". As new development and redevelopment occur in the area the value of property increases. The taxes paid on that additional value is known as "tax increment". Rather than going into the general fund, the tax increment goes to the TIRZ to be used to fund needed local public improvements. Once all projects are completed or after a predefined period of time the TIRZ is dissolved.

The Aldine TIRZ consists of approximately 9,475 acres located almost entirely in unincorporated Harris County in the area generally known as East Aldine - an area east of the Hardy Toll Road, south of the Sam Houston Toll Road, west of US 69 and north of West Little York.

In recent decades the East Aldine Management District, Harris County



Map of East Aldine showing areas within the TIRZ. Omitted areas will not have their taxes included in the TIRZ income projections.

and other partners have made substantial improvements in this area to address flooding, water and sewer service, mobility, and recreation, but more remains to be done to successfully encourage development/redevelopment and provide for basic

infrastructure and quality of life amenities.

The Aldine TIRZ provides one more tool to meet those needs and support the various redevelopment and economic development efforts of the East Aldine Management District and Harris County.

## Sylvester Turner, others plan to run for 18th Congressional seat

HOUSTON – Today, former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced his intention to run for the Democratic party nomination for Congress, in the historic 18th Congressional District in Texas. The district has been represented for the past 30 years by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee,



Sylvester Turner  
Former Houston Mayor

who passed away on July 19, 2024.

The Democratic Party's nominee will be selected by the Democratic Executive Committee members serving the 18th Congressional District pursuant to Democratic party rules. The selection will be made in

Continued. See 18TH CONGRESSIONAL SEAT, Page 2

## Lone Star College adds nearly \$3 billion annually to the economy

HOUSTON – A study conducted by Lightcast reported Lone Star College has an annual economic influence of \$2.7 billion, emphasizing the important role the college plays in its region. Lightcast is a leading provider of economic impact studies and labor market data to educational institutions, workforce planners

and regional developers in the U.S. and internationally.

"Lone Star College always seeks to contribute to the community, especially helping students learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens," said Mario K. Castillo, J.D., LSC chancellor. "It is gratifying to know that Lone Star Col-

lege also has a positive influence on the regional economy and the benefits generated by the college for students, taxpayers and society."

The study showed:

For every dollar invested in LSC in FY 2022-23, Texas residents will receive \$14.30 in return, for

Continued. See LSC ADDS \$3 BILLION TO ECONOMY, Page 8

## Dignitaries, public attend final services for Sheila Jackson Lee

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Thursday, August 1, 2024 at the Fallbrook Church in North Houston over a thousand constituents, friends and congressional colleagues showed up to bid their farewell to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (S JL).

Sheila Jackson Lee was born January 12, 1950 and passed away on July 19, 2024 and was the U.S. representative for Texas's 18th congressional district in Houston, from 1995 until her death. The district includes most of central Houston. She was a member of the Democratic Party and served as an at-large member of the Houston



ABOVE: Dignitaries on stage at the Jackson Lee's funeral. L - R: Democrat's Congressional Progressive Caucus Chairwoman Pramila Jayapal, Civil Rights Leader Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Steven Horsford, 42nd President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton & 67th United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. (Allan Jamail photo)

AT RIGHT: Vice President Kamala Harris gives eulogy at Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's funeral. Flowers in front grace the casket of Sheila Jackson Lee. (Allan Jamail photo)



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**Northeast Campus** | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013  
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# High Meadows Branch Library

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Aug 5 - Aug 10

<b>5 Aug</b>	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN
	4 PM KIDS YOGA (NEW)
<b>7 Aug</b>	3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS
	5 PM READING WONDERLAND




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# Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preparation for the back-to-school bell," said Hegar of the sales tax holiday weekend, an annual event since 1999. "As the father of three, I know firsthand how these expenses add up over the years, and this weekend is the perfect time for folks to save some of their hard-earned cash on items they need."

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$143.4 million in state and local sales tax during this year's sales tax holiday.


Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free are listed on the Comptroller's website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/tx-tax-holiday).

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free in person or by any other means including over the internet, by telephone, or by mail. Purchases are exempt when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or

— the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

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



# 18th Congressional District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mid-August. Mayor Turner also released a list of endorsements by prominent leaders, which can be found at the bottom of this release and at [www.SylvesterTurner.com](http://www.SylvesterTurner.com). Mayor Turner made the following statement: "The historic 18th Congressional District in the heart of Houston is without representation today. Upon the passing of my dear friend, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, we have a painful decision to make. We need to select who will fill her shoes, as we mourn her death.

"For more than 35 years, I've watched the Congresswoman serve our community with vigor and integrity. She followed in the footsteps of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Craig Washington with dignity and helped preserve the legacy of this historic seat. "Only Sheila's passing at this critical moment in the election cycle could bring me out of retirement. Given all the uncertainty at the national level, I believe the 18th District needs stability and continuity in leadership.

"We must keep federal resources flowing into the district to address challenges such as the cancer cluster in Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens, and continued funding for local organizations for health care, flood mitigation and education.

"Our next representative must also meet the high bar of compassion, caring, and humanity that was the hallmark of Sheila's leadership and public service. Comforting families who have lost loved ones, spending quality time with seniors while offering a helping hand – for me, these commitments de-

serve equal attention as the Washington duties of a member of Congress.

"I have worked closely with the Congresswoman, U.S. Presidents, and federal departments at the highest levels during my time as mayor and 27 years in the Texas House. I am best positioned to ensure the ball is not dropped on servicing the needs of the entire 18th Congressional District."

- Endorsements:**
- Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher
  - State Representative Senfronia Thompson
  - State Representative Harold Dutton
  - State Representative Garnet Coleman
  - State Representative Alma Allen
  - State Representative Ana Hernandez
  - State Representative Armando Walle
  - State Representative Ann Johnson
  - State Representative Jolanda Jones
  - County Judge Lina Hidalgo
  - County Attorney Christian Menefee
  - Commissioner Rodney Ellis
  - Controller Chris Hollins
  - Council Member Abbie Kamin
  - Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
  - Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas
  - Texas Democratic Party Treasurer Odus Evbagharu
  - Statewide Texas Coalition of Black Democrats Chair Dr. Candice Matthews
  - Pastor Darrell Broussard
  - Pastor Isaac Matthews
  - Pastor Ralph West
  - Gerald Womack
  - Tanya Dubose
  - Edna Griggs
  - Maxine Seals
  - SEIU-TX (partial list)

### 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](mailto:greenforestcc1983@gmail.com) or on our Facebook page: Green Forest Civic Club. We look forward to seeing you!

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## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**Movement Monday**  
Come out and move! Join us bi-weekly on Movement Monday and be ready to move to the music. Be prepared for Dancing, Stretching, and Lots of laughter. Best for kids for toddler/ preschool. No Registration required. Monday, Aug. 5, 11 - 11:30am

**Bilingual Storytime**  
You're invited to attend Story Time every Tuesday at 11 am. Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome! **Tuesday, Aug. 6, 11am - 12pm.**

**Tween Spark: Wordbuilding—Magic Systems**  
Magic, you know it, you love it, and know you can make the rules for it. Join Ms. Gage for the next installment of our Wordbuilding series to learn about creating magic systems and breaking your own rules for the fun of it! Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders. **Wednesday, Aug. 7, 4:30 - 5:30pm.**

**TAMU Office of Youth Engagement: Choose Your Own Adventure**  
Welcome, adventurers! Prepare for an engaging quest as we journey through the realms of colleges and universities to find your perfect match. Discover the magic of college "best fit" and identify your ideal academic

destination. Are you ready to embark on this epic adventure of self-discovery and higher education exploration? **Thursday, Aug. 8, 1-2pm.** Please fill out the following form if you're interested in attending: <https://docs.google.com/forms/...>

**Drop-In Help for Financial Aid**  
Are you a current or future college student still struggling with your 24-25 FAFSA or TASFA? Get help from a FutureU Advisor to: Submit FAFSA or TASFA Make corrections to FAFSA Complete verification steps Answer your questions! Please bring: 2022 Tax Information FAFSA or e-TASFA login This is on a drop-in basis, no appointment required! **Thursday, Aug. 8, 2:30pm - 4:30pm.**

**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, Aug. 8, 3:30pm - 5:30pm.**

**Renter's Rights in Texas with Lone Star Legal Aid**  
Join Lone Star Legal Aid's Medical Legal Partnership Staff Attorney Pete Makopoulos-Sentfleber in person or online for a conversation about renter's rights in Texas. Pete will provide an overview of legal information about evictions, repairs landlords should make and how tenants can request them, legal action tenants can take when landlords do not make certain repairs, disability accommodations for renters, discrimination protections for renters, and take questions relating to these topics. **Thursday, Aug. 8, 6-7pm.** This program will be in person and available for viewing online via Microsoft Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/onest-arataldine>

**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.hcpl.net/services/passport-services/> Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE



Nimitz Student Earns Top Award at the 2024 National History Day Contest



first-hand. "She is extremely intelligent and well-versed in many subjects. Despite her circumstances: rural town, segregated communities, and lack of job opportunities; she forged a path for herself and future Black Americans while pioneering a global technological system. Her story inspires me to exceed my limits and dream beyond the bounds of what I've experienced."

The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) proudly acknowledges the exceptional achievements of Texas students who took part in the National History Day (NHD) contest held at the University of Maryland from June 9-13, 2024. These outstanding young historians displayed their passion for history, demonstrated remarkable research and presentation skills, and represented Texas with distinction.

When asked what it means to place second in the competition and represent herself, the school district, and Nimitz, White responded, "Being in a competitive space with international scholars opened my mind to the fact that I, too, can achieve great things. When I began this journey six years ago, my name was Aldine or Texas, because I stood as a representative. In that role, I learned lessons of integrity and gratitude. I recognized that you shouldn't speak for praise, but for the ones that will listen. For me, the competition itself evolved into a culmination of everything I've worked hard for, and placing second officially stamped the name of Tori White on the map."

Out of approximately 2,900 students from all 50 states, international schools, and U.S. territories, one Texan stood out. Nimitz High School senior Tori White finished 2nd in a 64-person competition for her performance titled "Red Light! Gladys West & the Global Positioning System" in the Senior Individual Performance category. Under the theme for this year's NHD, "Turning Points in History," students explored narratives that offered new perspectives, untold stories, and transformative ideas. Tori's performance was inspired by the life and work of Gladys Mae West, an African American mathematician renowned for her contributions to the mathematical modeling of the Earth's shape and the development of satellite geodesy models that were later incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS). With a meticulous blend of historical research and theatrical flair, Tori highlighted how her groundbreaking work transformed navigation and technology worldwide. Drawing from West's portrayal of the challenging yet transformative journey, White says "she's been greatly influenced by Gladys West's character and ambition, especially since I was able to speak with her

Tori's success at the National History Day contest not only brought honor to her school and community but also highlighted the enduring impact of Gladys West's work. Her performance was a testament to the power of history to educate, inspire, and drive change, and it underscored the importance of telling diverse and inclusive stories in our understanding of the past. The TSHA celebrates Tori White and all the Texas students who participated in the NHD contest. Their dedication, hard work, and passion for history are a source of pride for the entire state. By delving into the past and bringing forward stories that shape our present and future, these young historians are ensuring that the legacy of Texas and its people continues to be remembered and cherished for generations to come.

ALDINE Independent School District 2024-2025 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR. Includes monthly calendars for July through June, and sections for Student Holidays, Student Grading Periods, and Important Dates.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR. PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS COMPLETE THE ANNUAL UPDATE AldineISD.org/HAC. Includes Aldine Independent School District logo and decorative icons.

Back-to-School: Safety and Security Across Aldine ISD

Under the leadership of Aldine ISD Chief Paul Córdova, the Aldine Police Department, school administrators, and staff are unwavering in their commitment to enforcing existing safety measures and exploring additional ones. However, it's important to remember that safety is a collective responsibility. It takes a village, and each member of our community plays a crucial role in keeping our students and staff safe. "The most effective procedure we can all exercise is to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviors immediately to law enforcement," Córdova emphasized. "This community involvement is crucial for our safety. The additional layer of protection provided by these badges, which our board of trustees voted to have on our campuses, is only as effective as our collective vigilance." The AISDPD maintains several highly effective safety initiatives, helping create a safe learning environment, a goal that unites us all. These initiatives, include,

but are not limited to: Ongoing Officer Training Aldine ISD police officers undergo rigorous annual training for active shooters, bomb threats, and any other active threat against campuses. With its several certified trainers, the department ensures that officers are well-prepared to handle any situation. Regular training with other law enforcement agencies in our surrounding area further enhances their skills and readiness. Police Officers per Campus With 66 full-time officers, the Aldine ISD PD provides comprehensive coverage for our district. Each of our secondary schools (middle and high schools) has one or more officers assigned to them, and the department also operates roving patrol units covering the remainder of the schools. This ensures that any problem on a campus can be responded to in a timely manner. Perimeter Security All Aldine ISD police officers are issued patrol ve-

hicles, and part of their daily duties is patrolling outside the campus. Secondary students and all visitors may only enter the campuses through designated entrances, with metal detectors and a check-in desk. Securing Classrooms and Doors Aldine ISD's commitment to security is thorough and unwavering. Regular security audits, including one held in the fall of 2022, ensure all door locks function correctly, and any deficiencies are addressed immediately. If any issues are found, they are reported to the appropriate authorities and addressed promptly. Doors are not allowed to be propped open at non-designated entrances, and classroom doors are kept closed and locked. We also have a team of safety and security specialists who perform audits regularly, providing additional reassurance. The Aldine ISD Police Department has a 24-hour dispatch: (281) 442-4923. You can also visit the AISDPD website.

ALDINE Independent School District EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOL. Includes sections for HOLD, SECURE, LOCKDOWN, EVACUATE, and SHELTER, each with specific instructions and examples. Also includes a 'SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING' section and a 'THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP ALDINE SAFE!' message.

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
 HC Pct. 2 Commissioner  
**Adrian Garcia**




**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
 By  
**Carrie Classon**

## Raid of Bail Bond fraud; A Watershed Moment for Public Safety

Massive raid of bail bond bad actors nabs dozens; advocacy from Precinct 2 Commissioner shined light on issues with industry that harm public safety

Harris County, TX — The recent multi-jurisdictional raid and indictment alleging massive fraud exposed “an illicit revolving door within the bond system” according to FBI investigators.

Long before the “24 month long” investigation began, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia led efforts to start holding the bail industry accountable for their practices that were hurting public safety. In February of 2022 (28 months ago), Garcia proposed a Resolution at Commissioners Court to call for the Bail Bond Board to require 10% down payment for bonds of people accused of certain violent crimes.

Reacting to the news that a bail industry alleged bad actor is being held accountable by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District, Commissioner Adrian Garcia has issued the following statement:

“This is a watershed moment for public safety in Harris County. While many use the issue of a defendant’s constitutional right to pretrial release to score political points, my office focuses on action. Make no mistake, had it not been for my office’s work to expose unethical, and what turns out to be potentially illegal, activity by Bail Bond Companies, Wednesday’s arrests don’t happen. Over 2 years ago, after learning of what some of these companies were doing, I proposed a resolution to Harris County Commissioners Court to call for 10% minimum down payment for bonds for people accused of violent crime. The U.S. attorney and FBI say their investigation began 24 months ago. Do the math. I am grateful to all the law enforcement agencies and the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District for their work to put a stop to this public safety threat.”

Commissioner Garcia first became aware of possible issues within the bond industry after meeting with Paul Castro, whose son was murdered in a road rage incident following an Astros game. While awaiting trial, the perpetrator was able to secure release with bail offered by local bonding company AABLE Bonds, the same company who had bonded out a man accused of ambushing and killing an HPD officer while out on bond (also the same company that was raided on Wednesday). Once that connection was made, Garcia began working on finding ways to hold Bail Bond companies accountable. That included his advocacy for the Harris County Bail Bond Board to begin requiring 10% down for suspects accused of certain violent crimes.

In response to the news from Wednesday’s raid, Paul Castro issued the following statement of appreciation for Commissioner Garcia’s involvement in this latest action.

“I want to thank Commissioner Garcia for being the first local official to lead the charge for bail reform in Harris County. Not long after my son was killed, Commissioner Garcia asked what he could do to support me. When I shared with him what I learned about the inner working of the bail system in Harris County and how discount bail was being used for high-risk violent offenders, he was angry. He got to work to put a rule in front of the Bail Bond Board that would tighten regulations for violent offenders, then championed it from the floor. Though we lost the first round, through his work and the work of Representative Ann Johnson and then-State Senator John Whitmire, the measure passed. Our county is safer for this effort and I thank Commissioner Garcia for his leadership in making it happen.”

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Gary Borders



## Expanded Passenger Rail Again on the Table

A huge pot of federal rail funding and chronic highway congestion are prompting some Texas officials to again consider expanding passenger rail in Texas, according to The Texas Standard.

Congress set aside \$66 billion three years ago in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for rail projects across the country, sparking some interest in increasing passenger rail service between the state’s major cities.

“It’s like the perfect storm forming, because 20 years ago if we talked about passenger rail in Texas, it would fall on deaf ears,” said Peter LeCody of the Texas Rail Advocates.

The Texas population is projected to increase from 30 million now to 47 million by 2050, sparking concerns of increased dependence on cars and more road congestion.

A plan to build a high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston with speeds of more than 200 miles per hour is back on the drawing board after Amtrak shelved it due to difficulty acquiring land and leadership issues, The Tribune reported.

The Texas Central route has acquired about 30% of the land needed to build the Dallas-Houston line, which is expected to require more than \$30 billion in financing from governmental and private sources. A number of private landowners remain steadfastly opposed to giving up their land for the proposed line.

### UVALDE SCHOOL OFFICER PLEADS NOT GUILTY

A former Uvalde school police officer pleaded not guilty last week to charges of failing to protect children killed and wounded in the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Adrian Gonzales is one of two officers who have been indicted after the slow response to the shooter by nearly 400 law enforcement personnel, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Gonzales and former Uvalde schools police Chief Pete Arredondo were indicted by a Uvalde grand jury in June. Arredondo pleaded not guilty on July 10.

“Mr. Gonzales’ position is he did not violate school district policy or state law,” said Nico LaHood, the former district attorney for Bexar County. LaHood is representing Gonzales. The May 22, 2022, attack



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
 By Gary Borders

was one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history. Gonzales, one of the first officers to arrive, was indicted on 29 charges of not confronting the shooter, even after hearing gunshots while standing in a school hallway.

### INMATE PHONE FEES TO BE SLASHED ACROSS STATE

Fees that Texas inmates pay to make phone calls will be cut drastically under new federal regulations to take place next year, The Tribune reported.

The Federal Communications Commission voted last week to cap the price of inmate phone calls and video calls as low as 5 cents per minute. Right now, rates across Texas prisons and jails average 23 cents a minute.

Most of the revenue from these calls — 60% — goes to the contractor, with the rest going to the state.

“The FCC’s order is a massive victory for incarcerated people, their families, and their allies who have spent decades fighting the exploitative prison telecom industry,” the Prison Policy Initiative wrote in a statement.

### CENTERPOINT CEO APOLOGIZES FOR BERYL OUTAGES

The head of CenterPoint Energy publicly apologized for failing to quickly respond to massive outages caused by Hurricane Beryl, The News reported.

Jason Wells told the Public Utility Commission last week that he took “personal accountability” for the outages, which affected hundreds of thousands of customers throughout the coastal region.

At least 36 people died because of the hurricane. Many of the deaths were attributed to heat.

“While we cannot erase the frustrations or difficulties so

many of our customers endured, I, and my entire leadership team, will not make excuses,” Wells added. “We will improve and act with a sense of urgency.”

At its peak, about 2.26 million CenterPoint customers were without power. Damage from the storm is estimated at \$4.6 billion. The company is seeking permission to harden its wire system, with the costs to be passed along to its ratepayers.

### \$95 MILLION IN HOUSING CREDITS ANNOUNCED

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs has awarded more than \$95 million in housing tax credits to help finance the development or rehabilitation of more than 60 rental properties across the state. The awards will help developers build or repair more than 4,400 units offering affordable rents to qualified families.

“The Housing Tax Credit Program serves as a crucial factor in making affordable housing available to hard working families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities,” said TDHCA Executive Director Bobby Wilkinson.

A list of application awards can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4jztsjp3>.

### NATIVE BIGHORN SHEEP BEING RELEASED IN WEST TEXAS

Desert bighorn sheep are being reintroduced in Franklin Mountains State Park this fall by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in hopes of restoring a population that was once extinct in Texas. The Austin American-Statesman reported repopulation of the herd at the park will begin in October.

Currently, there are 11 free-ranging herds with approximately 1,500 desert bighorn sheep across Far West Texas, from Big Bend to El Paso. Overhunting and disease led to the sheep’s decline in the 1960s. Competition from the aoudad, an African species introduced in Texas in the 1950s by private ranchers, also contributed to the bighorn sheep’s decimation.

### TEXAS STILL LEADS NATION IN JOB CREATION

Texas continues to outpace the nation and lead all states for jobs added over the past 12 months, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state’s civilian workforce reached a new high of 15.311 million in June.

“Our civilian labor force of 15.3 million people in Texas continues to prosper and break records each month,” said TWC Commissioner Alberto Treviño III.

Construction jobs grew by 4.4% last year, far outpacing the national growth rate and leading the state’s job growth.

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

## Stone Soup



One of my favorite stories as a child was “Stone Soup.”

I don’t know if you know it or not. It’s an old European folktale, and there are a lot of variations, but in most of them two soldiers come into a town during a war. They ask for food, and everyone tells them they have nothing to eat. So the soldiers build a fire, and they ask an old woman if they can borrow a pot because they are going to make stone soup.

“Soup from a stone?” the old woman asks.

“Yes,” they say. “We are going to make stone soup!”

So the old woman loans them a pot, and they fill it with water, and they start cooking a stone. “Soup from a stone!” the old woman exclaims. “Imagine that!”

Pretty soon, a small crowd gathers. No one had ever heard of making soup from a stone.

“Stone soup is wonderful,” one soldier casually mentions. “But it’s even better with a little onion.”

“Oh! I have an onion,” someone offers, and throws it in the pot.

“Carrots are also nice,” the soldier adds. And, a few minutes later, someone throws some carrots in the pot.

Soon, a little beef is put in, and a few other ingredients are added as the crowd grows. Before long, there is a large pot of soup, and everyone in the village is fed, including the two soldiers. A village where everyone said they had no food eats a meal together—a meal that would not have existed if it were not for a stone.

I told my friend, Wally, this was a favorite story of mine.

“I see men coercing others to get what they couldn’t get themselves!” Wally said. This astonished me.

“But everyone ate!” I told him. “No one even knew they had soup—and they didn’t—without first believing it was possible.”

Wally is not convinced that any good comes from telling a lie. But I never saw it as a lie. Because I believe in stone soup.

A couple of months ago, I went to a beautiful little theater in Mexico, in the town where I spend the winter, and I met with a producer there. Suddenly, I saw the possibility of doing a show in this space. The whole thing was completely real in my imagination before I’d written a word. So I worked on the script and I planned all the costumes and the music and everything needed for the show. The show became as real on the page as it was in my mind.

Yesterday, I learned it wouldn’t be possible to do my show in the theater as planned. I was very disappointed—for about 12 hours. And then I realized I had a pot of stone soup.

The theater and the producer had never made it a show. The show was made of all the things I’d put into that simmering pot. It was the belief that I could make a show—if I just added enough ideas, if I stirred those ideas long enough, if I kept the fire going.

The soup was never about the stone. The stone was the excuse to make the soup.

I have no idea where this show will be performed, but I am absolutely certain it will be, because this soup is filled with good things, put together in a way I believe people will enjoy. In the story, after everyone has eaten, the old woman shakes her head. “Soup from a stone,” she says. “Imagine that!”

Imagine that.

Till next time,  
 Carrie

**top ten**

**MOST FOLLOWED X (TWITTER) ACCOUNTS**

1. Elon Musk: 177.5M
2. Barack Obama: 132M
3. Justin Bieber: 111.2M
4. Cristiano Ronaldo: 110.8M
5. Rihanna: 108M
6. Katy Perry: 106.7M
7. Narendra Modi: 96.4M
8. Taylor Swift: 95.4M
9. Donald J. Trump: 87.4M
10. Lady Gaga: 83.5M

Source: [TweetBinder.Com](https://www.tweetbinder.com)

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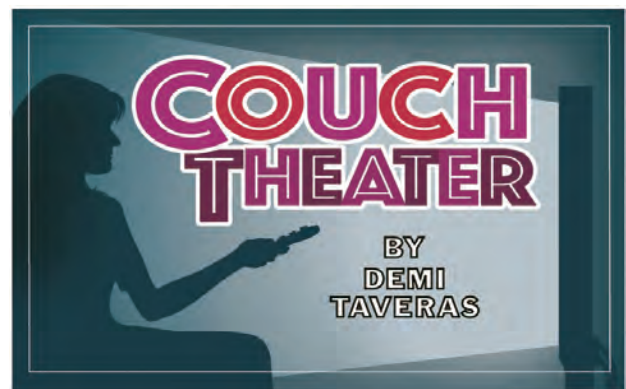
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From left, Anya Taylor-Joy, Tom Burke and Chris Hemsworth star in 'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga.'

'The Bikeriders'

'FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA' (R) — Moving on from a box-office success to a box-office bomb, this spin-off prequel to 'Mad Max: Fury Road' (2015) tells the origin story of Charlize Theron's original character, Imperator Furiosa. This time, she's played by Anya Taylor-Joy ('Amsterdam'), as the film is set 15-20 years before the events of 'Fury Road.' As a child, Furiosa is discovered by raiders and captured to be brought to their unhinged leader, Dementus of the Biker Horde (Chris Hemsworth). Choosing to adopt her, Dementus hopes that she will lead him from the radioactive wasteland to the Green Place, where there is fresh water and food. But if you know

Furiosa, you know that Dementus' dreams will be crushed in her mechanical fingers. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+) \*\*\* 'DESPICABLE ME 4' (PG) — Always a killer at the box office, the 'Despicable Me' franchise just had its fourth main installment become the third highest-grossing film this year behind 'Inside Out 2' and 'Dune: Part Two.' In this installment out to rent on Aug. 6., Gru's family has grown by one with the arrival of his son, Gru Jr. But when Gru's rival Maxime Le Mal (Will Ferrell) breaks out of prison, he and his family are forced into Witness Protection. As Maxime continues to target Gru during his

breakout, their family has no choice but to put this French supervillain back in his place — with the help of their minions, of course! Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig reprise their roles as Gru and Lucy, respectively, while Joey King ('A Family Affair') and Sofia Vergara ('Griselda') join the franchise. Get ready for a whole new era of Pharell and his 'Despicable Me' songs, as his new single 'Double Life' from the film is already going viral. (Amazon Prime Video) \*\*\*

'DOWNTOWN OWL' — Lily Rabe ('Presumed Innocent') leads this heartwarming comedy film out on Aug. 7. Set in the fictional town of Owl, North Dakota, in 1983, Rabe's character, Julia, decides to teach English at the local high school while her husband finishes graduate school. While teaching, she meets a variety of different characters in the town, including a hyperactive teen named Eli (Jack Dylan Grazer); a carefree, wild teacher named Naomi (Vanessa Hudgens); and an old man named Horace who loves to reminisce (Ed Harris). But it is former high school football star Vance (Henry Golding) who really piques her interest, leaving Julia to ponder her general direction in life. Is her marriage truly as stable as she advertises? Can this town and its people fix the demons that she harbors deep inside of her? Watch to find out! (Netflix) (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — I wonder what Clint Eastwood thinks of the upcoming remake of his perfect 1964 classic film 'A Fistful of Dollars,' in which he played 'the Man with No Name.' This launched his film career and gave birth to the 'spaghetti western' genre. When I ran into Clint in 1964 in NYC after he returned from Italy, where he was shooting that classic, he said, 'I'm really nervous because I didn't have a word of dialogue in that film.' I assured him that with his looks and charisma, it would be a cinch for the movie to hit it big, and it did! The remake's currently shooting in Italy. \*\*\*



Vanessa Williams (Upcoming in the musical 'The Devil Wears Prada')

Also headed for a remake is 'The Devil Wears Prada' (2006), which starred Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt and Anne Hathaway. It cost \$40 million and earned \$326.7 million for 20th Century Fox (now owned by Disney). Could they suddenly want to remake it because Vanessa Williams is about to star in a musical version of the show in London on Aug. 17? Oh, yes, and the score for her musical was written by Sir Elton John! Williams said of the character Miranda Priestly, 'I channel Miranda through the dialogue [from the film].' \*\*\*

Nicolas Cage's breakout film was 1983's 'Valley Girl,' followed by his starring in major roles in more than 120 films. He won an Oscar for 'Leaving Las Vegas' in 1997. This year, he starred in the post-apocalyptic, action-horror film 'Arcadian,' which was released in April. He also starred in the psychological thriller 'The Surfer,' which scored at the Cannes Film Festival in May, as well as the horror thriller 'Longlegs,' with Blair Underwood and Alicia Witt, which opened on July 12.

Already in the can is 'The Gunslingers,' co-starring Heather Graham and Stephen Dorff. It's about a reformed gunslinger and a mad genius in a town named Redemption. Cage is currently

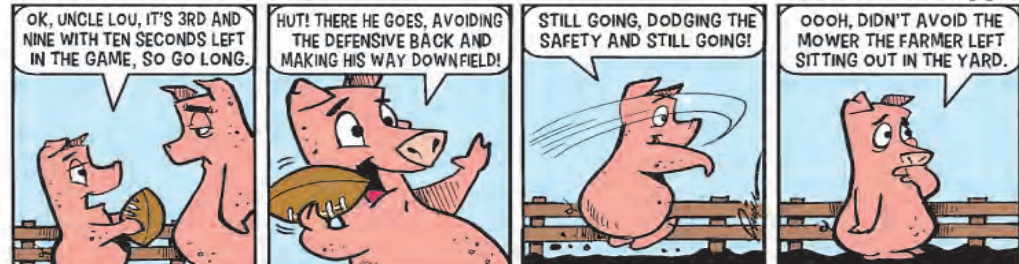
preparing for 'The Prince,' with Giancarlo Esposito and Andy Garcia. It was inspired by second son Hunter Biden, with a screenplay by acclaimed writer David Mamet.

Despite all this, Cage, at 60, is talking about retiring from acting in films. He stated, 'I may have three or four more movies left in me. ... I do feel I've said what I've had to say with cinema.' He admitted that one of his favorite films was 2021's 'Pig,' in which he played an Oregon truffle-hunter whose pig is kidnapped. It cost a mere \$3 million and only grossed \$3.9 million.

Cage was then relegated to a voice role in 'Spider-man: Beyond the Spider-Verse,' which co-stars Hailee Steinfeld, Brian Tyree Henry, Jake Johnson, Oscar Isaac, Jason Schwartzman, Issa Rae, John Mulaney, and Mahershala Ali. Is this a fitting exit film and the best way to end an impressive Oscar-winning acting career? If he planned to go out on top, this is not the one to go out with; it will leave his fans totally Cage-free! (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 7, 3, 8, 9, 5, 8, 6, 4, 1, 2, 3, 8, 5, 9, 1, 5, 2, 3, 8, 5, 9, 2, 7, 4, 3, 7, 4, 6, 7.

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

August 5, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 "Bow-wow!", 4 Dol. fractions, 7 Ornamental jug, 8 Ballet bends, 10 Resident of Tabriz, 11 Limber, 13 Goes on, 16 Sault — Marie, 17 Quarterback Tom, 18 La-la lead-in, 19 Cat call, 20 Antelope's playmate, 21 Map feature, 23 Goethe play, 25 Thor's father, 26 Sax range, 27 Consumer protection agcy., 28 Ryan's daughter, 30 Ninny, 33 Refuses to answer, 36 Italian ice cream, 37 Paris school, 38 Turkish coins, 39 Modern money, 40 Lith., once. DOWN: 1 Not dozing, 2 Actress Russo, 3 Thrown beach toy, 4 Tipped off, with "in", 5 In one's cups, 6 Aug. follower, 7 Part of Q.E.D., 8 "Hogwash!", 9 Schedules, 10 "— a deal!", 12 Heron's kin, 14 Jog, 15 Listener, 19 ISP choice, 20 Pair with an air, 21 Luggage attachment, 22 Jefferson's coin, 23 Chimney part, 24 Withdrawal charges, 25 Frequently, 26 A Musketeer, 28 Despots, 29 Perfume ingredient, 30 Earlier, in verse, 31 Normandy battle site, 32 "Thar — blows!", 34 Yale students, 35 Hosp. areas.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. MUSIC: Which folk-rock group produced many of the songs in the movie 'The Graduate'? 2. GEOGRAPHY: Which European capital is known as 'The Eternal City'? 3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix 'acri-' mean in English? 4. TELEVISION: Lenny and Squiggy are the annoying neighbors in which TV comedy? 5. MONEY: What is the basic currency in Guatemala? 6. CARS: What animal is found on the Porsche car logo? 7. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the soup dish pho? 8. LITERATURE: In which U.S. state is the novel 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' set? 9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods called? 10. AD SLOGANS: What product is advertised with the slogan, 'You're not you when you're hungry'?

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Philemon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Luke 22, what "Mount of" did Jesus go to that His disciples also followed? Carmel, Zion, Olives, Pisgah
3. What future Israelite leader as a baby was described as "exceedingly fair"? Solomon, David, Herod, Moses

4. From Judges 16, how many times did Delilah say Samson mocked her? 2, 3, 7, 10
5. According to Ecclesiastes 6, what has already been named? Everything, Stars, Fishes, Great Sea
6. The name Lucifer means what kind of "bearer" in Latin? Gifts, False, Light, Demonic

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Olives, 3) Moses, 4) Three, 5) Everything, 6) Light Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).  
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*So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." GENESIS 1: 21,22*

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# Dignitaries, public attend final services for Sheila Jackson Lee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City Council before being elected to the House. She was also co-dean of Texas's congressional delegation.

Sheila was born in Queens, New York, her father, Ezra Clyde Jackson, who was born in Brooklyn, was a comic book artist and the son of Jamaican immigrants. Her mother, Ivalita Bennett Jackson, was a nurse, and came to New York at an early age from her birthplace of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Jackson Lee graduated from Jamaica High School in Queens. She earned a scholarship for Black students at New York University before transferring to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Yale University in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1975. In 1987, after she had moved to Houston, she was appointed as a municipal judge for the city by Kathy Whitmire. In 1989, Jackson Lee was elected to the Houston City Council. She served in the office until 1994 when she began a campaign for a seat in the U.S. Congress. In the Democratic primary, she defeated incumbent Craig Washington and went on to easily win the general election.

Because Kamala Harris the Vice President of the United States would be attending the Secret Service required a pre-registration application in order to be vetted so they'd know whose attending and who'll be inside the building.

Attendees had to undergo being checked by SS bomb sniffing dogs and metal detection walk-thru portals plus then another SS agent performed a more sensitive full body scan to detect small metal objects on a person.

As a member of the News Media Pool photographers each of us had our entire camera bags checked and even the photo lens were taken out of their protective cases and examined to make sure they hadn't been altered into a weapon. We were then given a special identification badge, and then escorted by a SS agent to a reserved area for the media only.

The media location was about 400 feet from the podium and only photographers who had strong enough telephoto lenses could photograph the stage participants. There was over 50 media representatives, I was there representing the North Channel Star and their other news affiliates (Crosby Star Courier / North East News).

## US VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS EULOGY:

Vice President Harris received a standing ovation upon entering the stage. And while delivering the eulogy, said, "She had such an impact on me and my life," Harris said. "To know Sheila, she could be tough, but, oh my goodness, she was so loving and so encouraging. She always encouraged me, so I called shortly before she passed away to thank her for that."

"Jackson Lee was a change maker. She worked with all her heart to lift up the people of her city, of her state, and of our nation.

Harris, who also worked with Jackson Lee while a member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), described the Texas congresswoman as a "force of nature."

She was "one of the smartest and most strategic legislators in Washington, D.C.," said Harris, the former California senator. "She was also one of the most unrelenting never yielding legislators while seeking her goals."

Harris said, to know her was to know a true champion, a fierce champion for justice," Harris said. "Sheila Jackson Lee was a woman of deep faith and deep compassion. She was a beloved member of our Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and she was a dear, dear friend to my husband Doug and me."

"When it came to crafting policy, there was no detail too minor, or point of order too obscure," Harris said. "If it needed to be understood, the congresswoman would make sure everyone understood it and understood it well, and used it to the benefit of the



Program Cover - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, January 12, 1950 - July 19, 2024



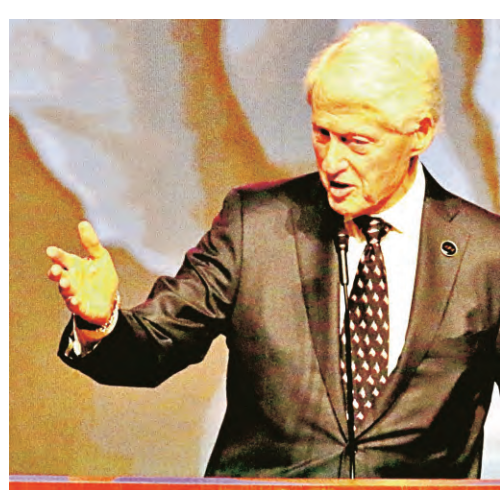
United States Armed Forces takes Congresswoman Lee's casket to hearse for cemetery and burial services. (Allan Jamail photo)



Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the Eulogy. (Contributed Photo)



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledges the long standing ovation received and asks to help elect VP Kamala Harris as the nation's first female president. (Allan Jamail photo)



Former President Bill Clinton praises the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and thanked her husband Dr. Elwyn Lee, Erica Lee Carter, daughter and Jason Lee, son for their sharing Sheila to do her congressional duties to make a better fairer nation. (Allan Jamail photo)



Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the Eulogy for Sheila Jackson Lee, whose casket covered with flowers is at right in photo. At left, Jesse Jackson, and former President Bill Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Clinton. (Contributed Photo).

people she served."

Harris drew laughs from the audience when she admitted "There were times ... if I saw her walking down the hall, I would almost want to hide." "Because I knew," she continued, "whatever else may be on my mind, Sheila Jackson Lee would require a very serious and specific conversation with you about what she had on her mind."

Harris said Jackson Lee wasn't afraid to do what she needed for residents in Houston.

"Sheila Jackson Lee would always find a way to help, even if she needed to get a little creative. As some of you may remember, a number of years ago, the city of Houston faced a budget shortfall, and to save money, decided to close a number of public pools," Harris said. "Well, Sheila Jackson Lee wasn't having that. And so she called around, as the story goes, to business leaders across Houston and convinced them to donate more than \$350,000. And those pools then stayed open all summer long."

## FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON:

Former President Bill Clinton recalled adding Jackson Lee to his "just say yes list" during her first term in the House. The list normally was reserved for more senior members of Congress, but Jackson Lee's persistence on her priorities made her the most junior addition to the "short list," he said.

"I knew, whatever she wanted, it was good," Clinton said. "It was good for somebody; it was trying to help

somebody."

Clinton said Sheila led several presidents into doing the correct thing to make justice fairer to everyone. Emphasizing, "We are the longest lasting democracy in human history because we had enough people like Sheila Jackson Lee."

## FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON:

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when going to the podium received a long standing ovation. She chose Jackson Lee to be a co-chair of her 2008 campaign for president, said the greatest way the attendees could honor her would be by organizing to help VP Kamala Harris win the presidential election in November.

"Come next January, when our first woman president takes the oath of office, I'll be thinking of Sheila, wondering what up in heaven she's wearing, what magnificent long scarf she has wrapped around herself, what hairdo she has managed to achieve for this special occasion," Clinton said. "I'll be thinking of her ... and all the generations of women who helped to make that day possible because they never stopped believing."

## FORMER MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER:

Former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner recalled her many small acts of service to the city while in office, including paying for the restoration of a church in Acres Home. And her efforts just this past May distributing food and water aid while she was battling cancer.

"Sheila, I want to thank you on behalf of the local community for bringing the world to the 18th Congressional District," Turner said. Sheila is credited with bringing billions of grant dollars to Houston and Harris County to improve living conditions.

## YUROBA HARRIS, CHIEF DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

The Congresswoman was more than a boss to me. She was my mentor and a close family friend. I've known her all my life from when she worked with my mother on political and community matters.

When the opportunity arose and she asked me to join her staff she told me "we are finally together." It was a privilege and an honor to work with her to provide services to the citizens and communities of the 18th Congressional district. I thank God for the wonderful precious moments. Her legacy lives on and we will truly miss her. Forever our Champion for the people. Much love and respect to my "Madam Queen Congresswoman"

Some who are called to service to our nation must accept the responsibility of sustained excellence. This is what Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee required. The Congresswoman was not only a representative of the 18th Congressional District, she considered herself the congresswoman for all Texas.

As a member of her staff, I was required to believe that through strategic strategy and God's will, all things were

possible. What people didn't understand about her was her commitment to the people and those less fortunate. That commitment was shared by both of us. Yes, I was under pressure weekly to perform at the highest level. However, I accepted the task. Anyone on her staff who was not willing to work and put in long hours never lasted long.

Most had no idea the drive and determination Congresswoman Lee possessed. I accepted the challenge day in and day out with the complete understanding that we were making a difference in people's lives. Together, we initiated service that literally saved lives. There are too many instances where I felt overwhelmed, but at the end of it all, this past week, it really hit me, with the outpouring of love and gratitude from so many people, I know we made a difference. I am so honored and blessed to have worked for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the citizens of our great city, a city that we both loved passionately, Houston Texas. She would say I am about the people of the United States of America and the people of Houston, Texas. I loved her as a friend and considered her family. In my heart, she is simply irreplaceable.

In closing, I will share a quote she shared with me "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." Shirley Chisholm

## SHEILA'S DAUGHTER ERICA & SON JASON COMMENTS:

Erica Lee Carter, Sheila's daughter said, who wore pieces of her mother's famed outfits to the service. "Today I wore her cape, I wore her cloth, but I will never wear her crown,"

Jason Lee "Her son said that despite her legacy as a public official, her first priority was to her family. He recalled her passing at the hospital in Houston, where he told Jackson Lee "you were a good mom" right before she died.

"Her greatness, for everything else that it was, it was in her love for her family," Lee said. "Hearing she had completed that mission, she knew she could go."

## NC STAR WRITER ALLAN JAMAIL:

"As I write this article as a reporter I'd like to also say from a personal observation from working with her on several news stories that I think SJL was always burning her candle from both ends. She was like a candle in the wind, that blew out way too soon."

Many praise her as a great leader; I say no, she was a great leader of leaders.

She was so goal orientated she never took the time to take care of her own health. She cared so much about others health and well being she neglected her own. Sheila had so much life left in her before she died. She was 74 when she died on July 19 after being treated for pancreatic cancer."

There's been many times she said I wasn't a friend but I was a family member to her.

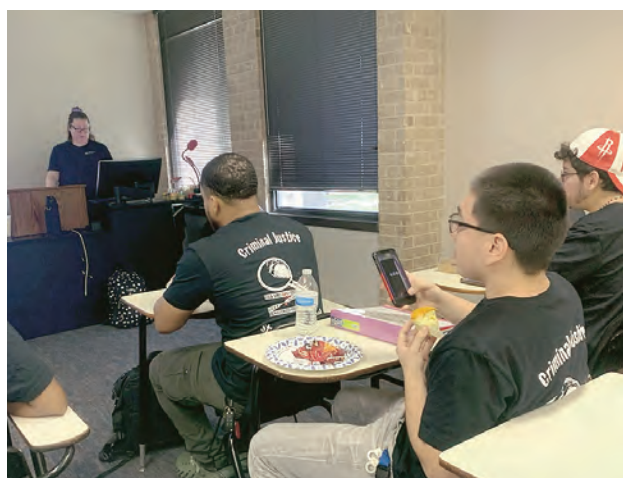
# Lone Star College students get a closer look into law enforcement

HOUSTON – Lone Star College partners with internal and external stakeholders, giving them a firsthand account of this important community resource. The LSC Police Department and LSC-North Harris have partnered to provide criminal justice students with real-life experiences of police officers, law enforcement agencies and police practices.

“The Lone Star College Police Department considers our students the future of law enforcement and the criminal justice profession,” said Paul Willingham, LSC senior associate vice chancellor, Public Safety and chief of police. “We are proud of what we do for the college community. Our goal is to provide a close look into our style of policing, which focuses on guardianship and service.”

Willingham spoke at an LSC-North Harris Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA) meeting in fall 2023, leading to the partnership between the LSC Police Department and LSC-North Harris criminal justice students. By spring, students began shadowing LSC police officers at LSC-CyFair, LSC-Kingwood and LSC-North Harris doing standard patrols, community interactions and investigations. This collaboration will continue in the 2024-2025 academic year.

“This police program provided a unique opportunity for our criminal justice students to shadow Lone Star College officers and learn more about the complex and diverse practices in the law enforcement industry beyond what they read in a textbook,” said Traquina Emeka, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris criminal justice professor. “We greatly appreciate Chief Willingham and the Lone



The Lone Star Police Department program gave LSC-North Harris criminal justice students a firsthand look into the law enforcement industry. Pictured are LSC students engaged in a police department presentation at LSC-University Park.

Star College Police Department for their efforts in making this program a success.”

The criminal justice students submitted to background checks, which involved their social media profiles, teaching them the importance of maintaining integrity and high moral values online. Along with shadowing LSC officers, students learned about law enforcement topics, including emergency management, special teams and the police ride-along programs. They also engaged in tabletop activities, specialty topic demonstrations, protection and programming at LSC-University Park.

“I participated in the Lone Star College Police Department program because I wanted to see if policing is my future,” said Fatima Vazquez, LSC-North Harris criminal justice student. “This experience has opened my mind to different career paths I never considered, such as education, bike patrol and honor guard. I also enjoyed learning about K-9 Tater Tot, the Lone Star College Police Department’s emotional support

Mini Labradoodle.”

The Lone Star College Criminal Justice program prepares students to transfer to a four-year university toward a bachelor’s degree or work in different sectors of law enforcement, including police officer, dispatch, private security or investigator, fire inspectors and investigators and crime scene technician. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Programs-of-Study/Associate-of-Arts-Criminal-Justice](http://LoneStar.edu/Programs-of-Study/Associate-of-Arts-Criminal-Justice).

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](http://LoneStar.edu).

# Lone Star College adds \$3 billion to the economy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as long as LSC’s FY 2022-23 students remain active in the state workforce.

Students receive a cumulative present value of \$1.9 billion in increased earnings over their working lives in return for their investment. This translates to a return of \$6 in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students’ average annual rate of return is 19.9%.

“The report showed the average Lone Star College associate degree graduate will see an increase in earnings of \$10,700 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Texas,” said Castillo. “That’s why it is so important for us to

make sure our students complete their education.”

In addition to providing world-class education, LSC is committed to ensuring students have the necessary resources to help them graduate including programs such as LSC TechConnect, which provides digital resources such as laptops and iPads for long-term checkout complete with software.

An economic impact study measures how an event or institution affects the local economy. The Lightcast report noted LSC provides an economic boost similar to hosting the Super Bowl six times. Visit [LoneStar.edu/About-Us-Institutional-Research](http://LoneStar.edu/About-Us-Institutional-Research) to

view the full report.

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](http://LoneStar.edu).



Cutline: Lone Star College is reported to have an annual economic influence of \$2.7 billion to foster job growth and help influence its community.

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**FALL 2024**

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