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NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 31 TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Small Business Free Seminar Luncheon Aug. 29

Thursday, August 29 from 12pm to 1:30pm at the East Aldine District Office, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.
 Topic: Doing Business with the County, presented by Harris County Dept. of Economic Equity & Opportunity.
 Register at AldineDistrict.org/RSVP

Aldine Tree Giveaway Sept. 7

Trees for Houston is giving away Free Trees on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8am to 11am at the M.O. Campbell Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Road.
 Available trees include Turks Cap, Crepe Myrtle, Common Persimmon, and Black Cherry.
 First come, First Serve. Drive Thru, stay in your vehicle and volunteers will load your trees.

BAA Constitution & Citizenship Day Sept. 14 Saturday

BAA invites you to celebrate on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10am to 1:30pm. Parade starts at 9am at MacArthur HS. Main event at Lone Star College Aldine campus. Voter Registration, music, car parade, vendors, more.

Harris County to hold annual Budget hearings in East Aldine

EAST ALDINE – Harris County will hold meetings for the public to be involved in the Budget planning process, at several locations throughout the county during the month of August.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia invites residents of Precinct 2 to attend a meeting and be part of the budget process. This Town Hall is an opportunity for residents to learn in person about the county budget, the process, and to provide input on what matters the most to the ar-



The Public is invited to a Budget Town Hall, to hear about the 2024 Harris County Budget, and to offer their comments and priorities for the 2025 Budget. The meeting will be at the East Aldine District building, seen above at a previous meeting.

ea's residents. Two meetings are scheduled in Precinct 2, on Tuesday August 30 at the Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo Street, Houston 77530 in Channelview, and Wednesday August 21 at the East Aldine Management District offices, at 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive, Houston 77039. The meetings are scheduled from 6:00pm to 8:00pm each evening. For more information, email questions to: openbudget@bmd.hctx.net.

North Houston District's Community Involvement Brings Community Together at "Spring Break Bash"

NORTH HOUSTON-North Houston District staff participated in Green House International Church's Spring Break Bash in March. Thank you to the fantastic petting zoo, Villa Serena Communities, Houston METRO, Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, and all the volunteers who showed up, rain or shine, for kiddos in our community. Spring Break Bash is held on the last Friday of Spring Break. It's free and open to local families.

Continued. See SPRING BREAK BASH, Page 7



Walle expands law practice to serve local client's legal needs

Armando Walle is a lifelong native of Aldine, and a graduate of local schools and the University of Houston. He is a practicing attorney, as well as a State Legislator in the Texas House since 2009.



ARMANDO WALLE

He is focused on serving the residents of Texas House District 140, as well as others in the Texas community. Armando has a well established law practice, with offices in Houston, Austin, and East Aldine. In an interview with the Northeast News he detailed the services his law firm offers:

"As a lifelong resident of Aldine, I have seen our community grow and change over the years. From my days at Mendal Elementary to Hambrick Middle School and entering MacArthur High School, I have grown to appreciate the sacrifices all the hardworking people that live and work in our community. As I com-

muted to classes at the University of Houston from Aldine, weaving through traffic, my community was always on my mind.

After working my way through UH and earning my degree, I grew more cognizant of the trials and tribulations of our people. Those experiences took me to public service but also inspired me to apply to law school so that I could better serve my community in a different capacity. Talking and listening to the people in the commu-

nity, I believe it was my destiny to chart a path towards the justice system. I earned my law degree and immediately opened my own law practice several years ago.

My law practice has grown steadily and I now want to be able to offer my services to the community. injustices happen on daily basis and you may need a lawyer to represent you. So do not hesitate to contact me. I am a general practice attorney that handles civil cases but have now partnered with trusted colleagues to accept personal injury, workplace accident cases, along with 18 wheeler trucking accident cases. If anyone in the community would like to discuss or hire my firm regarding these matters, know that you can trust we will work hard on your case. Se habla espanol."

FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW: Texas, OU move up in class as they enter SEC: Texans hope for 'Super' second season under Ryans

The 2024 college and pro football seasons are right around the corner, and the operative word for both is change.

In the college game, Texas and Oklahoma will begin their first seasons in the SEC after leaving the Big 12 for greener, and I mean greener as in a lot of money, pastures. UT's and OU's arrival brings the SEC to 16 teams. It will be interesting to see how the Longhorns and Sooners fare against the likes of perennial national powers Alabama and Georgia, along with solid programs such as LSU, Tennessee and an up and coming one in Missouri. UT's arrival to the SEC will bring back the annual Texas-Texas A&M rivalry, which is good for the state and good for college football. The last time the 'Horns and Aggies met on the gridiron was in 2011, when Jason Tucker's last-second field goal at Kyle Field produced a 27-25 Texas victory.

The two will meet on Nov. 30 in College Station.

While the SEC has expanded to 16 teams, the Big 12 will also feature a 16-team conference with the addition of Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah. The Big 10 will be the largest conference in the country with 18 teams as USC,



UCLA, Oregon and Washington join the likes of defending national champion Michigan and Ohio State that will form a league that will stretch from the West Coast, the Pacific Northwest to the Midwest and East. Talk about travel headaches!

And while the conference landscapes have taken on a drastic change in three of the four major conferences, so to has the College Football Playoffs. Starting this year, 12 teams will make up the CFP field, with the winners of the ACC, Big 12, Big 10 and SEC earning automatic bids, while the fifth bid will go to the highest ranked Power 5 conference winner. The remaining seven seeds will be determined by the CFP committee. Look for the SEC and Big 10 to have a chance to have as many as three teams make up this year's inaugural 12-team field.

The top four seeds will earn

first-round byes. The fifth seed will host the 12th seed on its home field, while the sixth seed hosts the 11th, the seventh seeds hosts the 10th and the eighth seeds hosts the ninth seed.

The first round will be played Dec 20-21. The quarterfinals will be the Fiesta Bowl (Dec. 31), the Peach Bowl (Jan. 1), the Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) and the Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1). The Orange Bowl (Jan. 9) and the Cotton Bowl (Jan. 10) will host the semifinals. The CPF National Title game will be on Monday, Jan. 20 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

While the new CFP format and the changes in three of the major conferences will be the big story this year, Alabama fans have a huge void to fill as legendary head coach Nick Saban announced his

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Fatal Crash at 8300 North Freeway

Houston police are investigating the fatal crash that occurred at 8300 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 4:45 a.m. (July 25).

The identity of the deceased male, 48, is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Ross and Officer T. Riley reported:

The drivers of a

white Dodge van, a silver Toyota Highlander, and a maroon Toyota Sequoia were stopped on the northbound lanes of the freeway after having been involved in a crash. The driver of a silver Ford Explorer, also traveling northbound on the freeway, then struck the rear of the Toyota Sequoia and pinned the victim between the Toyota Highlander and Toyota Sequoia. A silver Chevrolet Malibu then struck the side of the Toyota Sequoia and a

black Chevrolet Malibu. A Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck also struck the rear of the black Malibu.

The driver of the Toyota Highlander was pronounced deceased at the scene by Houston Fire Department paramedics.

The drivers of all vehicles involved remained at the scene. They did not show signs of intoxication and were questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.

Murder charged against man who fatally struck woman at bus stop during police chase

HOUSTON – A wanted man accused of hitting and killing a woman waiting at a Houston bus stop while fleeing law enforcement Wednesday has now been charged with murder.

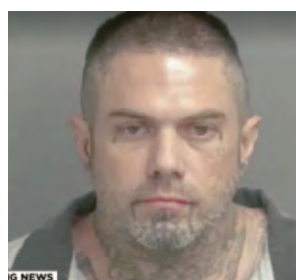
Joseph Jebbia, 43, is currently in the Harris County Jail. Court records show Jebbia is also charged with aggravated kidnapping in a June 22 case where he allegedly abducted a woman at gunpoint. He is also charged with unlawful possession of body armor by a felon as well as unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

The Houston Police Department says deputies with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office tried to conduct a traffic stop on Jebbia, who was driving a red Chevrolet Tahoe. They followed him to a gas station at Airline Drive and West Mount Houston Road. When they activated their emergency lights, Jebbia began to evade them, driving away at a high rate of speed.

Police say Jebbia ran



END OF THE POLICE CHASE, WHICH STARTED ON AIRLINE DRIVE AND ENDED IN WILLOWBROOK.



JOSEPH JEBBIA

a red light at the intersection of the North Freeway service road and West Road and struck a white Toyota Camry. The driver of the Camry was not hurt.

Jebbia then drove onto the curb and struck the woman waiting at the bus stop. The 61-year-old woman, identified by the Harris County Medical Examiner as Carrie Mae Mitchell, died at the scene.

Jebbia kept going after hitting the

woman, driving onto the North Freeway, going southbound in the northbound lanes and striking the vehicle of the pursuing Montgomery County Sheriff's Office deputy, who was not injured in the collision. The suspect was eventually stopped and apprehended by Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies in the Willowbrook area.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office says Jebbia had a loaded assault rifle, body armor, and a large amount of what appeared to be fentanyl in his vehicle when he was finally stopped.

In a court appearance Thursday night, Jebbia's bond was set at a combined \$350,000 for all of the charges against him.

Large Fire at Airline Drive Flea Market

HOUSTON — Three people, including two firefighters, were injured as crews battled a massive fire at a flea market in north Houston Friday morning.

Investigators with the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office are still working to determine what caused the fire at the Tia Pancha flea market on Airline Drive near West Road.

Both firefighters were treated at an area hospital and later released. One suffered heat exhaustion and the other had minor burns to his shoulders, according to Little York Fire Chief Sean Richardson.

A bystander also suffered smoke inhalation and was taken to the hospital, the chief said.

Views from Air 11 showed the length of the market torched as fire crews worked to contain the flames.

This happened in a storage building at the flea market. We are told several vendors were housed in the space which is now a complete loss.

Fire crews from



TIA PANCHA FLEA MARKET ON AIRLINE, ON FIRE



LITTLE YORK FIREMEN BATTLE BLAZE AT FLEA MARKET

several departments battled the blaze, including Houston, Aldine, and Little York. Hazmat crews were also called to the scene as a precaution since it was not clear what was being stored in the building.

The heat added to the challenge.

"It's already hot enough. But when you get us in temperatures above 90 degrees and a heat index of the high 90s, it definitely takes

a toll on the bodies," Richardson told us.

Vendors said there have been problems at the flea market since Sunday when the power went out for a few hours.

Angela Medina said she lost about \$35,000 in merchandise she just bought last week.

Mauricio Ramirez said he lost around \$30,000 in toys, tennis shoes and other items.

--KHOU

Counterfeiter sentenced to 63 months in Prison

HOUSTON – A 43-year-old man has been sentenced for possessing counterfeit or unauthorized access devices, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. Hamdani.

Wade Zollinger pleaded guilty Nov. 13, 2023.

U.S. District Judge George C. Hanks Jr. has now ordered Zollinger to serve 63 months in federal prison to be immediately followed by three years of supervised release. In handing down the sentence, the

court noted it had a duty to issue a fair sentence on behalf of Zollinger's victims.

At the time of the plea, Zollinger admitted to fleeing from law enforcement in a stolen vehicle. They apprehended him and located numerous counterfeit identification documents. These included credit and debit cards, personal checks belonging to others, counterfeit U.S. currency as well as counterfeit U.S. currency plates used for the manufacture of

currency. They also found multiple ledgers detailing the personal identifiable information of others.

Shortly thereafter, law enforcement executed a search warrant at Zollinger's residence and recovered additional evidence of the same type.

Secret Service conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Grace Murphy and James Hu prosecuted the case.

High Meadows Branch Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 19 - Aug 27

19 Aug	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL 4 PM KIDS YOGA (NEW) 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL
20 Aug	1 PM GAME CHANGERS 3 PM TEEN SOCIAL 12 PM COMPUTER BASICS
21 Aug	3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS 5 PM READING WONDERLAND 6 PM CRAFT & CHILL
22 Aug	11 AM CITIZENSHIP 4:30 PM CLASES DE COMPUTACION
26 Aug	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL 4 PM KIDS YOGA (NEW) 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL
27 Aug	1 PM JUST COLOR

COMING SOON...

- Capoeira Performance by the Brazilian Cultural Institute
- "I'M WITH THE BAND" BANNED BOOK WEEK MUSIC PERFORMANCE

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CRAFT & CHILL: GAME CHANGERS:
AN ADULT ADULT SOCIAL PROGRAM WHERE GATHERING WITH YOU CREATE GAMES ART/CRAFTS

CITIZENSHIP CLASS: AN ON GOING CLASS TO LEARN THE STEPS ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN.

KIDS YOGA: ENJOY A FREE KIDS' YOGA CLASS

KRAFTY KIDS: CRAFT PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!

TEEN SOCIAL: A PROGRAM POP UP FOR TEENS TO SOCIALIZE WITH GAMES AND ACTIVITIES.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Aldine Walk In Place (WIP)
It's too hot outside. Gyms are too expensive. I don't have time to workout. If these are things you have said to avoid exercising, we have a solution! Join us to ease into a low impact and fun fitness program! It's only 15 minutes, it's inside, and it's FREE (y tambien en español)! REGISTER on our Events page and let us know you're coming (not required but appreciated). Great for all ages! Children's Museum Passes will be available for participants (1 per family).

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
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Hosts Ninth Annual Back-To-School Expo

Despite the rain, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department hosted its annual Back-To-School Expo at the M. O. Campbell Educational Center on July 27. FACE staff members, district employees and volunteers distributed free backpacks and school supplies to families who attended the event.

The drive-through expo utilized volunteers and donations from area business sponsors of the event. From 8-10 a.m., approximately 1,500 vehicles were assisted with nearly 4,500 backpacks and school supplies provided to families and students.

"We can't thank our many sponsors enough for their generous contributions and to the many volunteers who braved the weather to help us out this year," said Gina Foroi, FACE Executive Director.

FACE would like to thank sponsors and in-kind donations from: PYG Connect Church, Buckner Family Hope Center, Lone Star College-North, AAA,



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney joining the volunteers in handing out supplies.

BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, Equitable Financial, Aldine AFT, LadiesConnecting Inc., Centerpoint, Sam's Club, East Aldine Management District, Houston Community College Board of

Trustees, Aldine Government Relations & Constituent Services, and State Representatives Armondo Walle, Charlene Ward Johnson and Senfronia Thompson, for making this event possible.

AISD's Dream Team Attends Student Leadership Program at Texas A&M University



Forty-two Dream Team members attended the Prepare to Dream College Experience Program at Texas A&M University to better prepare them to be student mentors. The program included on-campus stays and activities to enhance their understanding of college admissions, traditions, and selecting a college major/s.

The CCMR (College, Career, and Military Readiness) Department hosts a Dream Team leadership conference every summer. Leadership-building exercises further empower the students as influential leaders. Students trained at the conference will form Dream Team peer mentoring groups at their respective high schools. Dream Team members will assist counselors and college advisors by promoting a college-going culture on campus and encouraging their 11th- and 12th-grade classmates to complete essential college admissions paperwork. This school year, there are 105 Dream Team student members.

"Leadership-building

exercises at the conference further empower the student-mentors as influential leaders," said Michael N. Minter, AISD director of college readiness. "The Dream Team student mentors, with their dedication and guidance, play a crucial role in fostering a supportive and aspirational environment. They are paving the way for future generations of college-bound students in Aldine ISD."

Since its establishment in 2009, the Dream Team has uniquely promoted a college-going culture across Aldine ISD high schools. Nominated by counselors and College and Career Coordinators, the student mentors not only guide peers on college admissions, Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA/TSI) readiness, and financial aid, but also serve as positive role models, helping students navigate the complexities of higher education preparation.

Dream Team peer mentors answer fundamental questions about college admissions, applications, fi-

ancial aid, and college entrance exams such as the SAT/ACT. They also help their peers navigate websites like Apply Texas, College for All Texans, The College Board, and the ACT. Other duties include:

- *Assist students in the high school College Center.

- *Assist counselors and college advisors when conducting hands-on financial aid and college application workshops with students and parents.

- *Help promote and disseminate important information about scholarships, college visits, summer programs, college nights, and workshops.

- *Encourage their peers to complete the college admissions and financial aid process promptly.

The Dream Team's influence extends beyond individual campuses, impacting the entire district. They actively participate in district events like the college fairs and the Annual Aldine Education Foundation Ceremony, demonstrating their commitment to leadership and community service.

Aldine Mustangs Usher in a New Era at WW Thorne Stadium



The Aldine High School football team is gearing up to kick off the 2024 season with a sense of pride and responsibility as they become the first team in Aldine ISD to play at the brand new WW Thorne Stadium. The highly anticipated opening of the stadium, which has been under construction since 2022, marks a significant moment for the district and the community. For the Mustangs, it's not just about playing football; it's about reclaiming their place at the heart of Aldine ISD. Head football coach and Aldine campus athletic coordinator, Coach Cirilo Ojeda, is keenly aware of the importance of this moment. As his team prepares to take on Kempner High School on August 29th at 7 p.m., Coach Ojeda spoke about the significance of being the first Aldine team to play in the new stadium. "It's a huge responsibility, and we don't leave an elephant in the room," he said when asked how this milestone is addressed in the locker room. "We are honored and humbled to have this opportunity. We're in year three of this program, and we're in the position to put the best product on the field that we have in the past three years. We know what it means to be there, we know who is going to be there, but the focus on the kids is going to be what happens in between those white lines."

This season represents a pivotal year in the program's rebuild for Coach Ojeda. Reflecting on his first year at Aldine, he recalled how the players were once scattered in the cafeteria during lunch, with little sense of unity. Now, the team has grown into a brotherhood, a transformation Coach Ojeda believes will translate into success on the field. He highlighted the leadership of seniors Samuel Saravia, Keishon Wisner, and Derion Williams, who have been instrumental in pushing the pace and setting the tone for the team.

"This season allows us to be a lot more seasoned than we've been in the past. This year is about our senior class. Changing the identity, when the kids start to take on that identity of the program and culture, where they see their coaches in the fieldhouse and putting in the time," Coach Ojeda explained.

The opening of WW Thorne Stadium is not just about a new venue; it repre-



21 WISER, KEISHON DL SR

sents new expectations for Aldine ISD football. Coach Ojeda's goal remains clear: to establish the Mustangs as a staple in the Houston area, a team that others do not want to face. With a rich history that includes national and state championships, the bar is set high, but the Mustangs are ready to meet it. The expectation is to win the district and make the playoffs, a goal that resonates deeply within the team.

The grandeur of the new stadium might bring distractions, but thanks to the foresight of District Athletic Director La'Kundre Thompson, the Mustangs will have the chance to get comfortable in their new home before game night. "Coach Dre Thompson's leadership as the AD sets the tone for a lot of things we do. We'll be in the stadium prior to the first game. This will help us be comfortable, and we'll worry about the rest of the stuff later," Coach Ojeda said.

As the Mustangs prepare to make history on August 29th, the excitement within the Aldine community is tangible. The new WW Thorne Stadium is more than just a venue; it's a symbol of renewal, pride, and the bright future that lies ahead for Aldine High School football.

Houston Symphony Features Stovall Middle School Students Engaging in Music

The Houston Symphony recently unveiled a captivating video spotlighting the Stovall Middle School band. The video revolves around the distinctive Middle School Concert, a one-of-a-kind event for area middle school band students, including those from the Aldine ISD campus. The students were treated to this exceptional concert late this past spring at the prestigious Jones Hall in downtown Houston.

"Our band students had an 'experience of a lifetime' that they will never forget," said Ware. "We are deeply grateful to Aldine leaders and our community for their strong support of the performing arts and the Houston Symphony for providing this incredible opportunity.

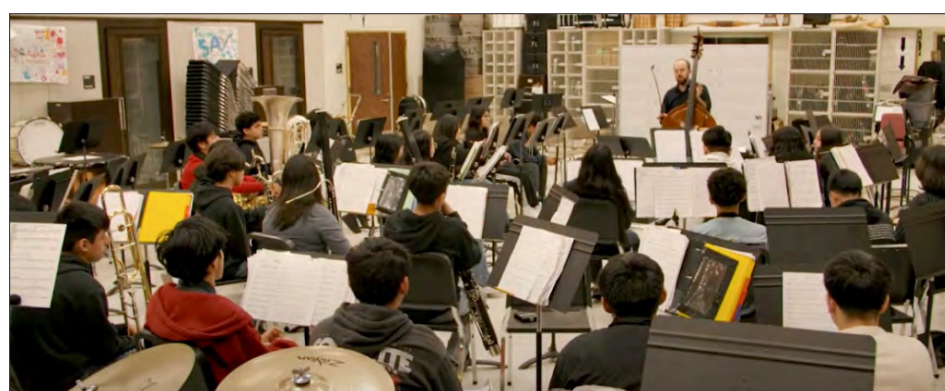


Gonzalo Farias, assistant conductor with the Houston Symphony, pauses from conducting to speak with students at the Middle School Concert.

Such opportunities inspire our students in their musical journey."

Before and after the Middle School Concert, students had the privilege of hearing, performing, and improvising with symphony members at Stovall Middle School in "a wonderful, interactive experience," stated John Ware, band director at Stovall Middle School. This

hands-on approach to learning kept the students fully engaged and excited about music. The initiative formed part of the Houston Symphony's Education and Community Engagement. David Conner, a double-bass player with the Houston Symphony and a community-embedded musician, visited the campus in the spring with band students.



David Conner, a double-bass player with the Houston Symphony and a community-embedded musician (at the front of the class), visits the Stovall Middle School band students.

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ALDINE



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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By DYLAN BADDOUR
Houston Landing

Hurricane Beryl was a Warning Shot for Houston

When Hurricane Beryl entered the Gulf of Mexico, the city of Houston had little reason to believe it was about to take its first direct hit from a tropical cyclone in decades.

Initial forecasts predicted the storm would make landfall in northern Mexico, hundreds of miles away. Instead it veered sharply north and hit an unfortunate bullseye.

The category 1 storm flooded hundreds of homes and knocked out power for millions of people in the muggy former swamplands of the nation's energy capital, throwing the city into days of chaos and highlighting the vulnerability of the fourth-largest U.S. city.

For Matt Lanza, a meteorologist and managing editor of Space City Weather, it raised a disturbing prospect: What if this mild hurricane had been stronger?

"It's really uncomfortable to think about," Lanza said. "That is a scenario that is extremely plausible; it's not far-fetched."

If a category 3 or 4 storm followed the same path as Beryl, Lanza said, it could drastically change the face of Houston. This week's experience suggests the city is ill-prepared to handle such a disaster.

"It could be like New Orleans after [Hurricane] Katrina, where much of the city is uninhabitable for a period of weeks to months," Lanza said. "So what is our plan for that? I don't know that we necessarily have one."

The last category 4 storm to hit Houston was Hurricane Carla in 1961, when less than a million people lived in the city and air conditioning was still novel. The last category 3 was Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Ike, a category 2, landed east of Houston in 2008, striking the city with its weaker western flank.

Most damage in recent memory has come from tropical storms bringing much more rain than wind, like Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Hurricane Harvey hit the middle Texas coast as a category 4 in August 2017 and reached Houston as a stagnant tropical storm with modest wind—but with the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in the United States, inundating the city with over 50 inches of precipitation.

When Beryl hit on Monday, it was wind, rather than rain, that wrecked the city's electrical infrastructure, apparently catching the local power company, CenterPoint Energy, off guard. Four days later, CenterPoint was still working to restore power to hundreds of thousands of customers.

"A cat 1 hurricane shouldn't knock out your power system," said Kerry Emanuel, a veteran hurricane researcher and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I think you've got a problem with the power company, frankly."

"A demonstrable greenhouse gas effect is the proportion of hurricanes that turn out cat 3 or 4," Emanuel said.

When Hurricane Beryl formed in the Atlantic in early July, hundreds of miles from the Texas coast, it reached category 4 status—the earliest category 4 storm on record. Record warm temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean this year have led to predictions of a highly active hurricane season.

Beryl was the second time this summer that storms caused widespread, prolonged power outages in Houston, after a rare inland windstorm in May blasted through the city, blowing out skyscraper windows. The last decade also saw severe, widespread flooding in Houston in 2015, 2016, and 2017, plus a crippling ice storm in 2021 and severe drought in 2023 that ravaged underground plumbing.

This year's hurricane season has only just begun. Atlantic storms typically grow more powerful through the summer, peaking in September.

"Houstonians are understandably exhausted from dealing with such events regularly, but it's crucial that we remain prepared for more," said state Senator Carol Alvarado, a Democrat who represents much of east Houston. "We must focus on increasing state aid for both preventative measures and reactive relief efforts."

These storms harm economic prosperity and social mobility, said Robert Bullard, a professor of urban planning and environmental policy at Texas Southern University in Houston and a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Less affluent communities typically bear the brunt of storm damage costs, Bullard said, because their infrastructure is lacking compared to wealthier neighborhoods. In the 20th century, he said, racial segregation forced Black families to live in low-lying areas that repeatedly flood.

In America, most middle-income family wealth is embedded in home ownership, Bullard said. When stormwaters swamp a house, the financial damage can last for generations. "This repeated disaster impacts on the communities over decades, it creates a theft of wealth accumulation," said Bullard, who lost his car to Hurricane Alicia in Houston in 1983. "It's stealing their inheritance, and it means that the amount of equity funding for the next generation is diminished."

Houston is taking steps to harden its defenses.

Offshore, federal authorities are advancing plans to build an enormous, \$57 billion system of barriers and gates, which has been called the largest civil engineering project in U.S. history and is expected to take 20 years to construct.

That project is designed to prevent a worst-case scenario—a major hurricane shooting straight into Galveston Bay, sending a storm surge up the Houston Ship Channel and into the massive waterside complexes of refineries and petrochemical plants that constitute the heart of the U.S. energy sector.

In the city, authorities have recently spent hundreds of millions of dollars widening bayous, the natural waterways that flow across Houston, which nonetheless overflowed during Beryl. Authorities also bought out thousands of homes in the flood plains. But many thousands more remain.

Jim Blackburn, co-director of Rice University's Severe Storm Prediction, Education, & Evacuation from Disasters Center, said the city should fundamentally change its development pattern to mitigate recurring storm damage. "We ought to be very slow to rebuild in the same areas that flood over," Blackburn said. "That's not a popular position, but I think it's a very important one."

Blackburn, a veteran environmental lawyer, was surprised at the amount of damage done to Houston's power system by Beryl's 90 mile-per-hour winds and by the length of the ongoing effort to restore electricity. "I cannot imagine what 150 mile-per-hour winds might have done to this community; that's what I'm horrified of. What's a cat 4 or cat 5 going to do to us?" Blackburn said. "They will be coming."

But fundamentally reformatting Houston is easier said than done. It means backtracking, to some extent, on decades of booming development driven by the hubris of the energy age.

Greater Houston started out as a smattering of settlements between swamps and bayous on the edge of a prairie. Until the mid-20th century, there was "more appreciation for the vulnerability of the city" and "greater recognition of the city's ecological and environmental infrastructure," said Jonathan Levy, a professor of U.S. history at the University of Chicago who grew up in Houston's flood-prone Meyerland neighborhood.

But that changed after World War II, when a period of rapid expansion brought an "increasing ignorance of these realities," said Levy, who has written about Houston's environmental struggle. The oil and gas industry was revolutionizing the world, headquartered largely in Houston, where it powered the massive expansion of concrete freeways, whole landscapes of suburban sprawl, and an enormous, low-density city premised on private automobiles. At the same time, the growing global oil industry was increasing the greenhouse gas emissions that intensify tropical storms.

"When it comes to the politics of climate change, if you don't have a plan for Houston, you don't really have a plan," Levy said. "It's hard to imagine an energy transition occurring without the energy industry in Houston participating."

As for the city, the transformation would entail making space for the water, pulling back from the edges of the bayous to create a giant network of wide greenways through the metro area.

"Limiting building, condemning property and compensating homeowners to bring the logic of that ecological infrastructure back to life," Levy said. "If you can't do that, I don't really see there being any answer."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Blessed with Cousins



I have been blessed with many cousins.

My two cousins closest in age were both boys, Brian and Dane. We went camping and hiking together and stayed in the cabin up north. We all remember the day we made tea from red sumac berries, and—after we'd drunk about a gallon each—my Uncle Mike told us, "You know that stuff is a laxative, don't you?" (For the record, it is not.)

We are still close, although I marvel at how similar we seemed when we were young, and how serious and reliable they now seem compared to me.

My mother had 10 siblings, and she was the third from the youngest, so most of my cousins are older than me. I remember my older cousins listening to the Beatles behind closed bedroom doors. I stood in the hallway and listened to the music seeping out from under the door and knew I could never be that cool.

I remember my cousin, Jill, ironing her Gunne Sax dress on grandma's ironing board. Jill was beautiful, and she dyed her hair black. She had a marvelous loud laugh and was the only person I knew with long fingernails. I felt lucky to be around her. Then, just to make the whole thing more amazing, Jill's handsome boyfriend (who was a musician, naturally!) would drive up to the farmhouse in his VW Bug. I knew my older cousins were all smarter and funnier and much more sophisticated than I could ever be.

I still feel that way. I just spent a long weekend up in rural Ontario with a number of my first cousins and a few of their children thrown in for good measure. It was a wonderful time, and I was reminded again of how blessed I am with cousins.

Most of the time was spent just sitting and admiring the beautiful scenery and telling stories—lots and lots of stories. And I was amazed how few of these stories I remembered.

I didn't know what my uncles did for a living or who my aunts dated when they were young. I didn't know how late it was when everyone in my family finally got indoor plumbing or how early my aunts were in studying things in college that women at the time rarely did.

I remembered the conservative pastor's wife who changed her name from Alice to Twyla when she discovered her birth mother. But I had no idea, after she became a widow, that she took to making corn wine or that she broke her arm when she fell off a table at the VFW.

I knew about grandpa's once-a-year fishing trip with his brother, Evald, but I didn't know where they stayed or how they drove to the Mille Lacs Reservation in northern Minnesota to buy the northerns they claimed to catch. I didn't remember much about my great-aunts and great-uncles and, honestly, I still don't. But I got a glimpse because of my cousins.

One of my cousins was recently diagnosed with ALS, and died. His sisters came to this cousins' reunion. It was a long trip for all of them. But I'm sure they felt—more acutely than I—how short this time is that we have with family, how precious the opportunities are to remember and share.

"She fell off the table?" one of my cousins said in disbelief. "What was Twyla doing on the table at the VFW?"

Nobody knew. But we all laughed until tears ran down our faces. And I now have something new to remember.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Pandemic Relief Funds for Schools About to End

Texas public schools received more than \$19 billion in pandemic relief funds over the last four years, but that pipeline of cash will largely end on Sept. 30, The Texas Tribune reported.

That means many Texas schools already struggling with budget deficits will begin the school year with even more serious deficits, especially since the Texas Legislature has not increased base per-student pay since 2019 — a year before the pandemic began.

Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief package in 2020 to help schools deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused enrollment declines, teachers exiting the profession and falling test scores. That funding is about to end, with essentially nothing to take its place for many school districts already at the maximum allowed property tax rate.

"It's not about making up ESSER, because we all know that that was one-time funding," said La Joya ISD Superintendent Marcey Sorensen. "I just would ask, without getting political whatsoever, that everybody just look in the mirror and say, OK, if we really haven't provided additional funding since 2019, maybe it's time that we just give school districts a little bit more of what they need, knowing that kids have different needs now."

A recent survey conducted by the Texas Association of School Business Officials concluded that out of 313 school districts across the state, nearly 80% reported deficit budgets or a lack of resources as one of their top challenges.

ABBOTT ORDERS HOSPITALS TO REPORT IMMIGRANT CARE DATA

All Texas hospitals enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program have been ordered by Gov. Greg Abbott to report costs incurred by treating undocumented immigrants, the Austin American-Statesman reported. In a news release outlining his executive order, Abbott blamed the Biden administration's border security policies for health care costs related to those immigrants.

"Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants," Abbott



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

said.

Some Democratic lawmakers criticized the order.

State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Austin, posted on X: "Texas has the HIGHEST uninsured healthcare in the nation. Texas has the WORST mental health care in the nation. Texas has one of the worst (mortality) and infant mortality rates in America. But these are the Republicans priorities."

FIVE MORE COUNTIES ADDED TO DISASTER LIST

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, five more Texas counties have been added to the federal disaster list, the governor's office announced.

The counties of Austin, Bowie, Shelby, Trinity and Waller have been added to the list, which already included Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Matagorda, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, Walker, San Jacinto and Wharton counties.

Texans can apply for FEMA disaster assistance at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS SPIKE IN WAKE OF STORM

Carbon monoxide poisonings rose dramatically in the wake of Hurricane Beryl, with about 400 people ending up in Texas emergency rooms since the storm struck on July 8, the Texas Standard reported. That is the highest number reported since the 2021 winter storm, the Texas Standard reported. Two people died of CO poisoning in Harris County.

CO poisonings caused by widespread power outages are growing more common as climate change causes more extreme weather events, according to scientists.

"Whether you want to

blame it on this, that or the other, I don't care. The world is changing. The climate is changing," said Dr. David Perisse, Houston's chief medical officer.

SCHOOL ABOUT TO START; WATCH FOR THE KIDDOES

With school about to start, drivers are urged to stay alert and exercise caution in school zones, the Texas Department of Public Transportation advised. School zones can be chaotic, and 748 crashes were reported inside them last year. In addition, 2,523 collisions involving school buses occurred in Texas last year, killing 11 people and injuring 63.

TxDOT has launched its "Be Safe. Drive Smart Back-to-School" campaign in hopes of reducing crashes. The most common causes of crashes are preventable, such as speeding, distracted driving and failure to yield the right of way. Among the tips offered by TxDOT:

- Be aware. Traffic patterns around schools may have changed since last school year.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Stop and yield the right of way to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or other vulnerable road user in a crosswalk. The Lisa Torry Smith Act of 2021 enhanced the penalties for failing to follow the law and protect people in crosswalks.
- Obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- Be on the lookout. Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

YUP, IT'S HOT IN TEXAS

Exactly how hot is it in the Lone Star State as a heat dome covers much of Texas during these dog days of August? According to the Statesman, our state has the fourth-highest average temperature so far this year, coming in at 65.8 degrees. That might not seem all that hot, but keep in mind it includes temps recorded in January averaged in with that summer heat.

Topping the list of hottest states is Florida, followed by Hawaii and Louisiana, according to data compiled by The Blogler. After Texas comes Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. Surprisingly, Arizona—even with triple-digit temperatures recorded regularly around Phoenix—is tied for ninth place.

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.

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FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW: Texas, OU move up in class as they enter SEC: Texans hope for 'Super' second season under Ryans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

retirement in January. Saban won six national titles as the Crimson Tide's head coach (he won seven overall by winning it all at LSU). Saban built an amazing program and former Washington head coach Kalen DeBoer has the unenviable task of filling Saban's shoes. DeBoer is a solid coach, as evidenced by the 25-3 record he amassed in two years as the Washington Huskies head coach. Last year, he led the Huskies to the CFP title game, where his team fell to Michigan. Saban left DeBoer plenty of talent, especially quarterback Jalen Milroe (2,834 passing yards, 23 TDs/531 rushing yards, 12 TDs).

Folks in Austin are excited about Steve Sarkisian's fourth year as the Longhorns head coach. Sark led UT to the Big 12 title a year ago, a 12-2 record and a spot in the CFP playoffs, where they fell to Washington. Texas returns eight offensive and five defensive line starters (four of the five offensive line starters return). UT will rely heavily on QB Quinn Ewers (3,479 yards, 22 TDs) and wide receivers Isaiah Bond (48 receptions, 668 yards, 4 TDs), a transfer from Alabama, and UH transfer Matthew Golden. The Texas offense suffered a big loss when running back C.J. Baxter sustained a season-ending knee injury in pre-season practice. But UT is high on backup RB Jayden Blue (398 yards, 4 total TDs) who has blazing speed.

Bama returns nine offensive and eight defensive starters, but will field an inexperienced secondary. Milroe will be called on to carry the offensive load while new faces on offense settle in.

Georgia, which enters the season as the No. 1-ranked team in the country, will be looking for its third national title in four years. The Bulldogs return 16 starters, most notably QB Carson Beck (3,931 yards, 24 TDs). Since 2021, head coach Kirby Smart has led the Dawgs to a 42-2 record and you had better believe his team will play with a huge chip on its shoulder after being snubbed for a CFP spot a year ago.

Texas A&M will welcome a new head coach in Mike Elko, who comes over from Duke where he forged a 16-9 record. Elko was former head coach Jimbo Fisher's defensive Coordinator in Aggie land and should be a big asset on that side of the ball. Aggies are hoping QB Conner Weigman stays healthy. The five-star recruit from Bridgeland played just four games a year ago after suffering an ankle injury against Auburn. If he remains healthy, the Ags could be a dark horse in the SEC.

In the Big 12, the University of Houston will welcome a new head coach in Willie Fritz, who comes over from Tulane where he resurrected that program. UH fans hope he will work his magic once again in Htown.

The Big 12 should be a three-



team race between Oklahoma State, Kansas State and newcomer Utah. Texas Tech returns a strong core, but must prove it can win on the road, which has been a problem for Joey McGuire's team.

OSU finished 10-4 a year ago and returns QB Alan Bowman (who is playing his seventh season of college football). Bowman passed for 3,460 yards and 15 TDs (with 14 interceptions), but the Cowboys bell cow is running back Ollie Gordon (1,732 yards, 21 TDs/39 receptions, 330 yards, 1 TD).

KSU hopes sophomore QB Avery Johnson (479 passing yards, 5 TDs/296 rushing yards, 7 TDs). Utah gets QB Cameron Rising back, which is bad news for the Big 12. In 2022, Rising passed for 3,034 yards and 26 TDs and ran for another 465 yards and 6 scores. He missed the entire 2023 season with a knee injury and he's back, he could be the best offensive player in his new conference.

The Big 10 should come down to Ohio State and Washington. Michigan lost a load of talent and its head coach Jim Harbaugh, who bolted Ann Arbor for the Los Angeles Chargers.

Look for Notre Dame to land a CFP spot. Third-year head coach Marcus Freeman led the Irish to a 10-3 record last year and welcomed in transfer QB Riley Leonard (1,102 passing yards, 3 TDs/352 rushing yards, 4 TDs in just seven games) from Duke. Freeman has stockpiled a lot of talent in South Bend and it could pay off big time in 2024.

In the NFL, Texans fans are excited for what head coach DeMeco Ryans can accomplish in his second year as the teams head coach. In year 1, Ryans led the Texans to the AFC South title, a Wild Card win over the Browns and an 11-8 record. The Texans went from a three-win team in 2022, to 11 wins a year ago thanks to Ryans and rookie QB sensation C.J. Stroud (4,109 yards, 23 TDs in 15 games). General Manager Nick Caserio brought in more weapons for Stroud by trading for former Cincinnati running back Joe Mixon (1,034 yards, 9 TDs/52 receptions, 376 yards, 3 TDs) and former Buffalo wide receiver Stefon Diggs (107 receptions, 1,183 yards, 8 TDs). The Texans could have the best three wideouts in the NFL with Diggs, Nico Collins (80 receptions, 1,297 yards, 8 TDs) and Tank Dell (47 receptions, 709 yards, 7 TDs in 11 games). Caserio also shored up the defense with the signing of former Minnesota defensive end Danielle Hunter (16.5 sacks). He and Will Anderson (7 sacks), the Defensive Rookie of the Year, should give the Texans' opponents fits off of the edge.

Jacksonville should contend with the Texans in the AFC South. QB Trevor Lawrence (4,016 yards, 21 TDs/14 interceptions) signed a huge contract in the offseason and now must live up to it. We shall see.

The road through the AFC, though, still goes through Kansas City, which won its second straight Super Bowl a year ago and has appeared in four of the last five big games. As long as Patrick Mahomes (4,183 yards, 27 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (93 receptions, 984 yards, 5 TDs) and head coach Andy Reid are around, the Chiefs are still the team to beat in the AFC.

Look for Cincinnati and QB Joe Burrow (2,309 yards, 15 TDs in 10 games) and wide receiver Ja'Mar Chase (100 receptions, 1,216 yards, 7 TDs) and Baltimore to duke it out in the AFC North, which might be the toughest division in the NFL. Cleveland and Pittsburgh will also be in the hunt. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (3,678 passing yards, 24 TDs/821 rushing yards, 5 TDs) must prove he can get his team to the big game, and the addition of running back Derek Henry from Tennessee (1,167 yards, 12 TDs) should be a big boon to the Jackson and the offense.

The AFC East should be interesting. Buffalo lost its two wide receivers in Diggs and Gabe Davis, but returns star QB Josh Allen (4,306 passing yards, 29 TDs/524 rushing yards, 15 TDs), while the Dolphins should have one of the top offenses in the league led by QB Tua Tagovailoa (4,624 yards, 29 TDs), running back Raheem Mostert (1,012 yards, 21 total TDs) and big-play wide receivers Tyreek Hill (119 receptions, 1,799 yards, 13 TDs) and Jalen Waddle (72 receptions, 1,014 yards, 4 TDs).

The AFC East will look much different now that New England head coach Bill Belichick has parted ways with the Pats. Belichick won six Super Bowls as he teamed with Tom Brady and won 333 games. Maybe he sits out a year and returns, say in Dallas in 2025?

In the NFL, the 49ers are the reigning conference champs and look loaded once again led by QB Brock Purdy (4,280 yards, 31 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (1,459 rushing yards, 14 TDs/67 receptions, 564 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (65 receptions, 1,020 yards, 6 TDs). If disgruntled wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (75 receptions, 1,342 yards, 7 TDs) remains with the team (he's asked for a trade), SF should be the team to beat once again the NFC.

Dallas finished 12-5 a year ago, but were embarrassed at home in the first round of the playoffs by Green Bay. QB Dak Prescott (4,516

yards, 36 TDs) had one of his best seasons, but Dallas lost starting running back Tony Pollard to Tennessee and star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (135 receptions, 1,749 yards, 12 TDs) wants a new contract and held out of training camp. Cowboy fans hope owner Jerry Jones comes to his senses and pays him what he's worth.

The Eagles lost six of their last seven games a year ago, but shored up the running game with the signing of former Giants running back Saquon Barkley (962 yards, 10 total TDs). He should make a nice one-two punch with QB Jalen Hurts (3,858 yards, 23 TDs/605 rushing yards, 12 TDs), along with big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (106 receptions, 1,456 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (81 receptions, 1,006 yards, 7 TDs).

Look for Detroit and Green Bay to battle it out for the NFC North title. The Lions finished 12-5 a year ago and are loaded on offense led by QB Jared Goff (4,575 yards, 30 TDs), running backs David Montgomery (1,015 yards, 13 TDs) and Jahmyr Gibbs (945 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (119 yards, 1,515 yards, 10 TDs). The Packers rallied in the second half of the season to earn a playoff spot thanks to QB Jordan Love (4,159 yards, 32 TDs) and improved on offense by signing running back Josh Jacobs (805 yards, 6 TDs).

The AFC South should be interesting. Atlanta improved by signing former Vikings QB Kirk Cousins and they are hoping second-year running back Bijan Robinson (976 rushing yards, 4 TDs/58 receptions, 487 yards, 4

TDs) has a breakout season. TB won the division a year ago behind QB Baker Mayfield (4,044 yards, 28 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Mike Evans (79 receptions, 1,255 yards, 13 TDs).

The 2024 season will feature seven new head coaches as Harbaugh takes over the Chargers, Raheem Morris takes over the Falcons, Dave Canales is the new head coach in Carolina, Jerod Mayo replaces Belichick in New England, Mike McDonald is the new head man in Seattle, Brian Callahan is in charge in Tennessee and Dan Quinn is the new head coach in Washington.

Super Bowl 59 will be played on Sunday, Feb. 9 in New Orleans at the Caesar's Superdome.

So, here is one man's picks for the upcoming college and pro seasons:

COLLEGE

BIG 12
OKLAHOMA STATE OVER UTAH

BIG 10
OHIO STATE OVER WASHINGTON

ACC
CLEMSON OVER SMU

SEC
GEORGIA OVER ALABAMA

CFP PLAYOFF TEAMS
GEORGIA, ALABAMA, NOTRE DAME, CLEMSON, OKLAHOMA STATE, OHIO STATE, LSU, TEXAS, MISSOURI, WASHINGTON, MISSISSIPPI AND PENN STATE

CFP TITLE GAME
GEORGIA OVER NOTRE DAME

NFL

AFC SOUTH
HOUSTON

AFC NORTH
CINCINNATI

AFC EAST
MIAMI

AFC WEST
KANSAS CITY

AFC WILD CARD TEAMS
JACKSONVILLE, BALTIMORE, AND NEW YORK JETS

AFC TITLE GAME
KANSAS CITY OVER HOUSTON

NFC EAST
PHILADELPHIA

NFC SOUTH
ATLANTA

NFC NORTH
GREEN BAY

NFC WEST
SAN FRANCISCO

NFC WILD CARD TEAMS
DALLAS, LOS ANGELES RAMS AND DETROIT

NFC TITLE GAME
GREEN BAY OVER SAN FRANCISCO

SUPER BOWL 58
KANSAS CITY OVER GREEN BAY

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Hosea (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 16, what had Samson been to God from his mother's womb? Nazarite, Philistine, Reubenite, Protestant
3. In Exodus 4, who had a staff or rod that turned into a snake? Noah, Aaron, Adam, Moses
4. How many books of the Bible are named for a


- woman? 0, 1, 2, 3
5. What biblical name means "peace"? Salome, Jacob, Abraham, Adam
6. Which of these died on Mount Hor? Paul, Noah, Aaron, Solomon

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Nazarite, 3) Moses, 4) Two (Ruth, Esther), 5) Salome, 6) Aaron
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

PSALM 107: 23-25



DETAIL OF "AMERICAN BATTLESHIP 1916" BY MARTIN LEWIS

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Martin Lawrence, left, and Will Smith star in "Bad Boys: Ride or Die."

"Bad Boys: Ride or Die"

"BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE" (R) — The fourth installment of the "Bad Boys" franchise is out now to rent on streaming, following its \$398 million gross at the box office, and it seems that Will Smith gets to put an ugly chapter of his career behind him, thanks to the success of the film! Of course, Smith couldn't stage his comeback as Detective Mike Lowrey without Martin Lawrence, who reprises his role as his partner Detective Marcus Burnett. Alexander Ludwig ("The Hunger Games"), Paola Nunez ("Resident Evil"), and Vanessa Hudgens ("Downtown Owl") round out the rest of the cast, whose characters' quips are the strongest elements in a film severely lacking in story and sense. Don't think too hard with this one; just enjoy the ride. (Amazon Prime Video)

"ABIGAIL" (R) — Mexican actress Melissa Barrera ("Scream VI") is an established "scream queen," even with her being fired from the "Scream" franchise due to her pro-Palestinian views on the Israel-Hamas war. So, Barrera clearly was the perfect candidate to lead this horror comedy, which also co-stars Dan Stevens ("Beauty and the Beast"), Kathryn Newton ("Lisa Frankenstein"), and the late Angus Cloud ("Euphoria"). In the film, six criminals are tasked with kidnapping a 12-year-old girl named Abigail in exchange for a \$50 million ransom from her father. To a bunch of seasoned criminals, their mission seems easy enough, but when they suddenly start dropping like flies in the most brutal ways, they're forced to ask the question: "Who did we really kidnap?" The film received mostly positive reviews

from critics, who deemed it one of the best horror movies of the year. Out now. (Peacock)

"BAD MONKEY" (TV-MA) — Based on the novel of the same name by Carl Hiaasen, this drama series stars the smart-mouthed Vince Vaughn ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") as former police detective Andrew Yancy. Due to his "reckless, inappropriate and glib" nature, Andrew was moved from detective work to restaurant inspections, but he still desires more out of his work life. So, when his police detective buddy, Rogelio, offers him a chance to drive a deceased man's arm to Miami, Andrew gladly obliges. But upon delivering the arm to the deceased man's widow, Andrew has a hunch that the widow isn't exactly grieving as much as she portrays. As every good detective knows, you have to follow the trail while it's hot. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

"IMMACULATE" (R) — Sydney Sweeney ("Anyone but You") leads this terrifying horror film available now on streaming. Sweeney plays Sister Cecilia, a young novice who survived a drowning after being pronounced dead. Believing that God saved her to serve a future purpose, she decides to take up an invitation to join a convent in Italy that tends to dying nuns. While she's there, Cecilia takes her final vows to become a nun but is shocked to find out shortly afterward that she is pregnant as a result of an immaculate conception. As those in the convent start treating her like the new Virgin Mary, abnormal occurrences begin to take place. Could this blessing really be a curse in disguise? (Hulu)

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North Houston District Brings Community Together at "Spring Break Bash"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 (Photos Courtesy of the North Houston District)





**Take Pride in our Community
Keep it Clean**

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Apron from dish is missing. 2. Faucet is different. 3. Water drop from bowl is moved. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Doormat is moved. 6. Glove is longer.

August 19, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Apt. coolers
- 4 Fishing rod
- 8 Choir voice
- 12 New Deal agcy.
- 13 "Zounds!"
- 14 Chiefs coach Andy
- 15 Boring types
- 17 Tear
- 18 Bad habit
- 19 Woodland walks
- 20 Computer problem
- 22 Swedish auto
- 24 Spartan queen
- 25 Dijon products
- 29 Tokyo's historic name
- 30 Quick looks
- 31 Hasten
- 32 Sends on, as an email
- 34 Kick back
- 35 Bee's home
- 36 Comic Hedberg
- 37 Suitor
- 40 Shakespeare villain
- 41 Reedy
- 42 Birds of prey
- 46 Queue
- 47 Yankee nickname
- 48 Debtor's letters

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

DOWN

- 1 Moreover
- 2 French vineyard
- 3 Surrealist Dali
- 4 Fuzzy fruit
- 5 Shrek, for one
- 6 Young fellow
- 7 Sheeran and Harris
- 8 Mexican shout of joy
- 9 Onion relative
- 10 Fork part
- 11 Probability
- 16 Kudrow of "Friends"
- 19 Millinery
- 20 Staff symbol
- 21 Decorate anew
- 22 Soft leather
- 23 Requests
- 25 TV mogul
- 26 Art of speaking
- 27 Platter
- 28 Third son
- 30 Ache
- 33 Bellyaches
- 34 Latvia's capital
- 36 Tribute maker
- 37 Normandy battle site
- 38 Use an egg-beater
- 39 "— She Sweet"
- 40 Sport shirt brand
- 42 Cote cry
- 43 Internet address
- 44 Scooby- —
- 45 Heat source

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

1. Athens, Greece; 2. Dungeons & Dragons; 3. Sidney Pottier; "Lilies of the Field"; 4. Rapid transportation; 5. Boston; 6. Uber; 7. Vincent van Gogh; 8. Irving Berlin; 9. Andrew Johnson; 10. Hippopotamus.

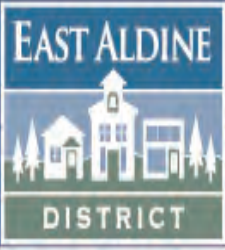
Trivia Test
by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Parthenon located?
2. TELEVISION: What game are the younger characters in "Stranger Things" playing at the start of the series?
3. MOVIES: Who was the first African American actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?
4. LITERATURE: What is floo powder used for in the "Harry Potter" book series?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which U.S. city's nickname is Beantown?
6. AD SLOGANS: Which ride-share company's slogan is "Move the way you want"?
7. ART: Which artist painted a work titled "The Potato Eaters"?
8. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "God Bless America"?
9. HISTORY: Who became U.S. president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal can hold its breath for up to five minutes underwater?

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Small BUSINESS

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Sr. Program Manager, Business Development and Outreach

Melissa McCord
Director of Sourcing & Contract Management

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Sr. Program Manager, Vendor Diversity

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LSC Leadership High School prepares tomorrow's leaders



Lone Star College Leadership High School is currently accepting applications for the 2024-25 year. Pictured are students from last year's class.

HOUSTON (July 24, 2024) – Lone Star College Leadership High School (LHS) is currently accepting applications for the 2024-25 academic year. LHS is a leadership development, community awareness and civic engagement program for sophomore and junior high school students who attend a public school within the LSC in-district service area.

“Participating in Leadership High School can help boost a student’s college application to display work outside the conventional classroom,” said Kay Fitzsimons, LSC executive director, Leadership and Economic Development. “It also provides them the opportunity to meet other like-minded students interested in developing leadership skills.”

LHS, offered by Lone Star College, is a program of study that allows students to develop the confidence, personal leadership skills and problem-solving abilities essential to realizing leadership potential. The program is free and the deadline to apply is Sept. 23. Students and parents can visit

LoneStar.edu/Leadership-HighSchool to learn more and apply.

“Students learn important leadership skills which they can use for the rest of their lives,” said Fitzsimons.

LHS is scheduled to begin in October with an orientation followed by a series of engaging monthly sessions and concluding with a Certificate Ceremony at the Lone Star Community Building April 12. These sessions offer students the opportunity to interact with community leaders from various backgrounds and industries.

“We want them to understand the need for positive student leaders in the community,” said Fitzsimons. “The goal is to provide a platform to explore best leadership practices and engage in dialogue to better understand the role leaders have in initiating positive change in the community.”

The program also emphasizes peer-to-peer learning and skills to work effectively in a team environment during a community service project.




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