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NORTHEAST NEWS



Complete Season's Schedule for All 5 Aldine Teams
Clip and Save on Page 5

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years
VOL. 48, NO. 32 TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 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 (Bonding Against Adversity) invites you to celebrate Constitution and Citizenship Day 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.

Football Season kicks off at new Thorne Stadium

Ribbon Cutting, First game at new stadium Thursday August 29th

By Mike Keeney

Labor Day Weekend brings with it the start of the high school season for Aldine ISD's five varsity football programs and while that's big news, the biggest news will be the opening of the new Thorne Stadium.

Aldine High School, the oldest high school in AISD, will have the honor of playing the first game in the new stadium when Ojeda Cirillo's Mustangs will face Kempner at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29.

After a two-year hiatus, AISD's five varsity programs will get to play "real" home games after playing at Spring ISD's George Stadium for the



Aldine ISD's five varsity football coaches (pictured) gathered for the Pigskin Preview on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The coaches gave a preview of their respective teams for the upcoming season. Pictured are, (l-r): Aldine High School Head Coach Cirilo Ojeda, MacArthur High School Head Coach Blake Ware, Eisenhower High School Head Coach Odell James, Nimitz High School Head Coach Cornelius Harmon and Davis High School Head Coach Kelvin Chatham. The 2024 season will begin on Thursday, Aug. 29 in the new Thorne Stadium when the Aldine Mustangs take on Kempner at 7 p.m. #AldineImpact SEE SEASON'S FULL SCHEDULE ON PAGE 5.

last two years.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 29 to officially open the new Thorne Stadium. The ribbon cutting ceremony will occur following Aldine ISD's State of the District Breakfast.

The Labor Day Weekend will be a busy one for the new stadium as Nimitz will host Morton Ranch on Friday and MacArthur will host Cy-Ridge on Saturday.

AISD's other two varsity teams will open the season on the road as Davis will face a very talented Willis team in Willis and Eisenhower will face Westbrook.

HARRIS COUNTY ATTEMPTS UPLIFT 2.0 PROGRAM

County passes Family Assistance program

1600 preselected Families will receive \$500 monthly; Court challenge expected

Harris County, TX, August 15, 2024, Today Harris County Commissioners Court approved a new family financial assistance program. Under the new program, the approximately 1,600 families who were selected for Uplift Harris back in March will receive \$500 monthly payments on a prepaid debit card that can only be used at certain vendors like grocery

stores or pharmacies. According to the plan, families can expect to receive the payments in about four months.

"Hundreds of Harris County families were counting on \$500 monthly payments back in April to help lift them out of poverty, and they were left in the lurch because of Texas state leaders' political posturing. While

launching this new program instead of a guaranteed income program isn't ideal, it's the best way we can try to keep our promise to these families. I would say to the families who have been waiting for this lifeline: We are trying, but don't get your hopes up just yet. We're moving ahead with cautious optimism to see if the State will object," said Judge Lina Hidalgo.

In January, Harris County created the Uplift Harris pilot program,

joining more than 80 cities and counties across the nation and other countries around the world that have seen success through similar programs. Uplift Harris was designed to provide monthly payments of \$500 to some of the lowest-income Harris County residents using federal funding from the American Rescue Plan. Over 82,000 people applied for Uplift Harris, demonstrating the huge need for anti-poverty programs in Harris County.

Participants were notified of their selection for Uplift Harris by March 22. On April 23, the day that these families were set to start receiving payments and after these families had been counting on receiving these \$500 payments for several weeks, the Texas Supreme Court blocked implementation of the Uplift Harris program. State Attorney General Ken Paxton challenged

Continued. See COUNTY PASSES FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN, Page 2

AISD Board Trustee Esparza selected to TASB Leadership Program

ALDINE – The Aldine Independent School District is pleased to announce that Board Trustee Conception 'Connie' Esparza has been accepted into the prestigious and respected Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Leadership program. The program is designed to help participants develop advanced skills to improve school district outcomes.



CONNIE ESPARZA

"I am deeply honored to be selected for the Leadership TASB Class of 2025," said Esparza. "My participation in Leadership TASB will result in the entire Aldine Board of Trustees earning the designation of Master Trustee status. This opportunity will allow me to enhance my leadership skills and bring new perspectives to our district. I look

forward to collaborating with fellow board members from across the state to continue advocating for the students, families, and educators of Aldine ISD. Our work as trustees is crucial in shaping the future of education, and I am committed to ensuring that every decision we make benefits our community and strengthens our

schools."

As a member of the Leadership TASB Class of 2025, Esparza will join an outstanding group of 35 school board leaders from across the state who share an interest in strengthening their governance and leadership.

Leadership TASB, developed in 1993, is a unique board development program for school board members in Texas. It aims to provide visionary leadership and advanced educational training. The program exposes experienced board members to various issues, people, activities, and locations, with nationally known speakers addressing themes like

Continued. See ESPARZA SELECTED TO TASB LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, Page 2

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 1: New Aldine Thorne Stadium opens to kickoff season; Labor Day Weekend loaded with key college matchups

While there is great excitement about the opening of the new Thorne Stadium, the holiday day weekend will also be the official start of the 2024 college football season. While a handful of games were played last Saturday, Week 1 offers a host of intriguing matchups for the first weekend of the season. The 2024 season will also usher in a new College Football Playoff (CFP) format as 12 teams will qualify for the post-season tournament (up from four). The season will culminate on Monday, Jan. 20 with the CFP National Championship game slated for Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

The top four seeded teams in the CFP poll will receive first-round byes, while the remaining eight teams will be seeded 5-12. The higher seeds will host first-round games the weekend of Dec. 2-21 at their home stadiums, or a designated stadium near their respective



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

campuses. The Quarterfinals will be held Dec. 31-Jan. 1 at the Fiesta Bowl (Dec. 31), the Peach Bowl (Jan. 1), the Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) and the Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1). The Semifinals will be held Jan. 9-10 at the Orange Bowl (Jan. 9) and the Cotton Bowl (Jan. 10).

The first round games will be held on ABC/ESPN and TNT Sports, while the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and National Championship games will be held on ESPN.

The Labor Day Weekend schedule is loaded as No. 1-ranked Georgia faces Clemson

in Atlanta (The Bulldogs would love to start and finish their season at Atlanta, and might very well do so). No. 8-ranked Penn State faces a tough road opener at West Virginia, while No. 4-ranked Texas opens the season in Austin against Colorado State, hoping to land a second straight CFP spot. Texas and Oklahoma are now members of the SEC and will learn that maybe, just maybe, the grass isn't greener away from the Big 12.

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Body of newborn baby found in ditch on Henry Road in Aldine by lawn crew

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas – Authorities are investigating after the body of a newborn baby was found in front of a concrete industrial plant in Harris County.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted on X that the infant was discovered in front of the plant in the 15000 block of Henry Road in the Aldine area.

Maj. John Nanny with the Harris County Sheriff's Office says they received the call about the

infant around 2 p.m.

Nanny said the infant was found in a ditch by a lawn crew working in the area.

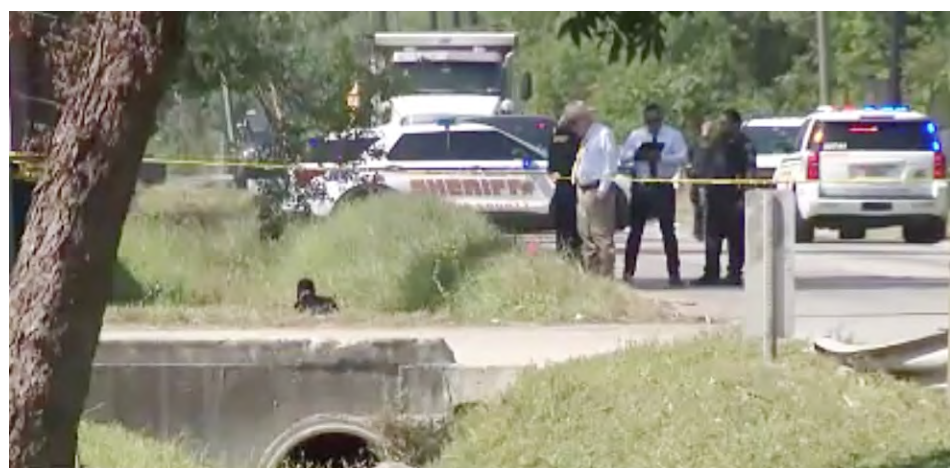
The infant was partially clothed and laying on a blanket in the ditch, according to Nanny.

Right now, Nanny says they don't have a lot of information to go off of. Authorities are waiting for the medical examiner to arrive so they can try and get more information about how the baby died.

Nanny also reminded people that there are options available should a parent be unable to care for a child.

"There has been a few of these happen recently so I would like to mention the (Baby) Moses Law," Nanny said.

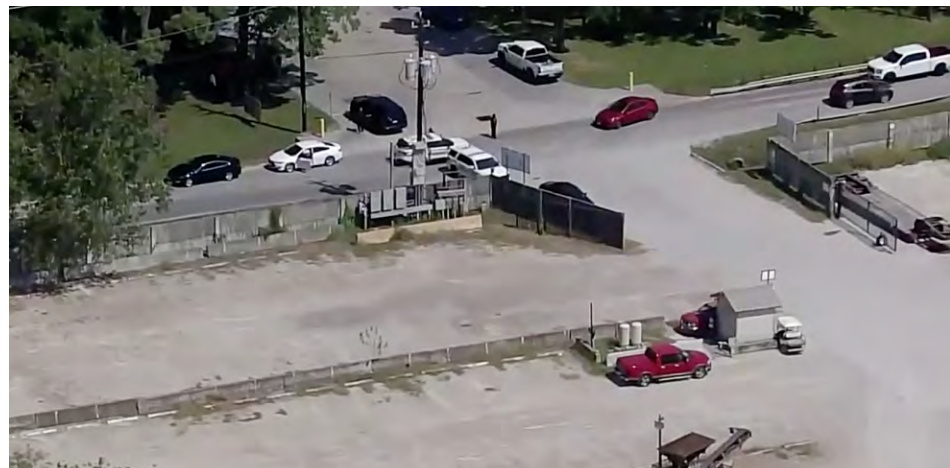
Anyone with any information is urged to call Crime Stoppers or the Harris County Sheriff's Office at 713-221-6000.



DEPUTIES SEARCH THE DITCH FOR CLUES TO THE BABY'S DEATH.



LAWN CREWS DISCOVERED THE BODY OF A NEWBORN BABY IN A DITCH ALONG HENRY ROAD.



HENRY ROAD IS BLOCKED OFF, AS DEPUTIES SEARCH FOR CLUES. AT TOP IS THE DITCH, AT THE BOTTOM OF PHOTO IS THE PARKING LOT OF THE CONCRETE PLANT.

Photos courtesy of KPRC.

Esparza selected to TASB Leadership Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Posing with Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney (center) are (l-r) Chief of Schools Dr. Javier Villarreal, Board Trustees Randy Bates Jr., Connie Esparza, and Rose Avalos at the 2022 Mexican American School Boards Association Conference accepting two awards for Aldine ISD. Also posing with them are MASBA Board President Ana Cortez from Manor ISD and MASBA Treasurer Mac Belmontes from Lake Worth ISD.

teamwork, trusteeship, equity, diversity, and visionary leadership. The program is selected for demonstrated leadership and diversity in Texas school districts. Class members are selected for demonstrated leadership in their local district and communities and for representing the diversity of Texas school districts.

Esparza was elected to Position 4 of the Board of Education seat in November 2017 after being ap-

pointed in February 2017.

Esparza, a retired educator, has been an integral part of the community since 1979. Her service as the Program Manager of Dual Credit at Houston Community College (HCC) Northeast and her involvement in various initiatives, including the Compensation and Academic Freedom/Professional Security/Professional Growth Committees, demonstrate her commitment to the district's success. She has also

volunteered at MacArthur High School, Bonding Against Adversity, and the Harris County Sheriff's DARE Program. Esparza's membership in several boards, including the Mexican American School Boards Association and the Aldine Education Foundation, further underscores her dedication to the community.

Esparza has strong roots in Aldine. Her daughter is a graduate of MacArthur High School.

One dead in crash Friday on Eastex

HOUSTON – Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez reports that All main lanes are closed on the Eastex Fwy Northbound after a person dies in a heavy truck crash.

A person has died after a heavy truck

accident on the Eastex Freeway Friday morning, August 23rd.

According to Houston TranStar, the collision took place around 5:14 a.m. on IH-69 Eastex Northbound just before FM-525/Aldine Bender.

At this time, officials say all main lanes are closed, including the left and right shoulder.

Authorities have not yet identified the driver who died in the crash.

County passes Family Assistance Plan,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the program in part because he argued that the "no-strings-attached" design of the original payments made Uplift Harris unconstitutional.

According to census data, roughly 1 in 6 people in Harris County live in poverty, more than the national average and more than all other large counties in Texas. Data

from the Kinder Institute shows that roughly 2 in 5 Houston residents say they would be unable to pay for a \$400 emergency.

###

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is Harris County's chief executive and Director of the Harris County Office of

Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Judge Hidalgo, alongside four county precinct commissioners, oversees a budget of approximately \$5 billion that funds services and institutions for the third-largest county in the nation, home to nearly 5 million people. For more information about Harris County and the Office of the County Judge, please visit: cjo.harriscountytx.gov.

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 ART/CRAFTS GAMES

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

THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE AT 5PM FRIDAY, AUG. 30 AND BE CLOSED SATURDAY, AUG. 31 AND MONDAY, SEPT. 2. WE WILL OPEN AGAIN TUESDAY, SEPT. 3 AT 10AM.

Retro Video Game Night
Join us to play games on the Wii, SNES, Game Cube, and MORE! **Teens and adults** welcome for some Old School meets New School action! **Tuesday, Aug. 27 6:30 - 7:30pm.**

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://](https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services)

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

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

District High School Theater Students Shine at National Thespian Festival and Jimmy Awards

Aldine ISD high school theater troupes recently returned from the International Thespian Festival, bringing home numerous awards. They also had the opportunity to participate in various workshops, build meaningful relationships with other theatre enthusiasts, and watch award-winning theater productions. One student also advanced to the national competition of The Jimmy Awards® in New York City and was chosen as a semi-finalist, placing in the top 40 out of 102 students.

“We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements at the International Thespian Festival,” said Refugio Rodriguez, Aldine ISD director of performing arts. Their unwavering dedication and hard work have truly paid off. On behalf of district leaders and their theater directors, we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and excel in their theatrical pursuits while they are in our schools and their future.”

The national competition occurred at the International Thespian Festival held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, June 23-28. Superior-rated students earned Thespian Society Gold Pins, and Superior-rated and Thespy winners received Thespian Society Medallions. These awards recognize exceptional talent and hard work. Each award-winning school theater troupe will receive an overall trophy from the competition, marking their outstanding performance at the festival.

Based on state event results, students advanced to the national competition. Aldine ISD had 50 students advance to the national competition. Carver High School, an Aldine ISD Choice School, had 27 students competing at nationals, followed by Davis HS with 11, Nimitz HS with six, Aldine HS with three, and Eisenhower HS and MacArthur HS with two, respectively.

RESULTS



Alyssa (center) poses with Carver HS Theater Department directors Roshunda Jones-Koumba and Jabari Raul Collins at The Jimmy Awards®.

Carver High School

Of the 27 Carver students who qualified, 15 competed at nationals, 13 received Superior ratings at the national competition, and two earned Excellent ratings.

Superior Ratings — Ivan Davidson and Aja White in Duet Acting

Superior Ratings — Aja White* in Monologue

Superior Ratings — Alyssa Dorsey and Tamera Swain in Duet Musical

Superior Ratings — Kennadie Amos, Tyler Brantley, Brittany Cardona-Baquedano, Bailey Day, Tiana Jones, Morgan Potts, Na'Leeyah Tatum, and Amayah Watson in Group Musical

Superior Ratings — Tatiana Smith in Stage Management

It's worth noting that on the Monday of Nationals, Carver HS student Alyssa Dorsey, a Tommy Tune Awards Jimmy Nominee, competed at The Jimmy Awards® in New York City. Click here to find Alyssa in The Jimmy Awards Playbill on Page 33). Her exceptional talent and hard work were recognized as she was chosen as a semi-finalist, placing in the top 40 out of 102 students.

As a semi-finalist, Alyssa and other semi-finalists were able to perform their character medley at the Jimmy Awards.

Davis High School

Davis thespians made history with their first national ranking and a Thespy win in group acting for To Be Young, Gifted and Black: A Portrait of Lorraine Hansberry in Her Own Words.

Superior Ratings —

Karen Singleton and De-shawn Young for Purlie by Ossie Davis

Superior and #1 National Ratings in Group Acting, and Thespy Winners — Brianna Emilien, Calen Johnson, Raven Washington, and Khalijah Williams for their performance in To Be Young, Gifted, and Black: A Portrait of Lorraine Hansberry in Her Own Words by Robert Nemiroff

Excellent Ratings — Joyous Feagins, Suyai Gallegos, Samatha Gilay, Haley Griffin, and Priscilla Lune for the reimagined play The Women of Troy.

Clifford Alexander, Head Theater Director

Eisenhower High School

*Superior Rating — Logan Daniel Rouse for his Solo Performance of “Not Today” from The Addams Family.

*Good Rating — Madalin Carillo Rodríguez for Hair and Makeup for Beetlejuice

Heidi Aaron Rouse Bryant, Head Theater Director

Nimitz High School

Of the six students who qualified, three competed in nationals, two received Superior Ratings, and one received Excellent Ratings.

Superior Ratings — Cherish Johnson and Moriah Ford for their Duet Scene of My Girlish Days by Karen L. B. Evans

Excellent Ratings — Mercedes Gutiérrez Díaz for her Monologue from Real Women Have Curves by Josefina López and Othello by William Shakespeare

Kimberly J. Ardison, Head Theater Director



Carver High School performing arts student Alyssa Dorsey (center) sings at The Jimmy Awards® 2024 in New York City. She was chosen as a semi-finalist, placing in the top 40 out of 102 students.



Davis HS' Brianna Emilien, Calen Johnson, and Raven Washington perform at the 2024 International Thespian Festival.

ALDINE ISD BRINGS TECHNOLOGY TO GYM

With Aldine ISD starting a new school year, there comes with it new integrations. Over the summer, some Aldine ISD campuses were able to have a Lu Interactive Playground installed for their students. Ermel Elementary and Vines Primary are currently using these platforms to enhance their gym classes.

“The idea was to allow for an interactive learning environment,” said Executive Director of Security and A/V Services, Dwayne Muston, “while still having students learn through physical activity.”

Ermel was able to utilize a projector screen for additional instructional learning, while Vines had an Active Floor placed into their movement room. Not only have students been enjoying these upgrades, staff at both campuses have also expressed how the inclusion of this technology has enhanced their classrooms.

These improvements open up new opportunities for the classrooms to explore, and as the technology department rolls out technology upgrades, the goal is to implement them



into more campuses. The first two campuses to implement this new technology are ADSY (Additional Days School Year) schools. The district will collect feedback from both campuses and look to target additional schools for technology upgrades.

Aldine ISD is committed



Aldine ISD Launches New Strategic Plan



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney visits with students.

Accelerate, a five-year plan, continues AISD's current journey and builds on the strong foundations shared in 2019.

The Aldine Independent School District unveiled a new strategic plan during Convocation for staff before the start of the new school year. The plan will provide the foundation for the district's efforts over the next five years as it seeks to fulfill its new priorities.

“Accelerate, which spans between 2024 and 2029, will propel our work forward and further drive student success,” said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. “By amplifying what's effective, refining strategies, and swiftly addressing areas that require improvement, we will advance our work and increase student achievement for all Aldine ISD students.”

In 2019, the district unveiled the strategic plan A New Way Forward. The bold plan served as the framework to ensure all

students had access to high-quality schools and learning experiences that would prepare them for their future.

Accelerate continues AISD's current journey and builds on those strong foundations.

The plan is the result of many comprehensive listening and collaborative working sessions with AISD's valued stakeholders — the initiative involved more than 500 students, staff, district leaders, and business/community partners. This collective effort underscores the district's dedication to building a framework that will guide our shared hopes, dreams, and vision for each and every one of our students.

Through robust dialogue, comprehensive diagnostics, and stakeholder engagement, the district's strategic priorities for Accelerate emerged: Students First, Instructional Excellence, Thriving Teams, and Aligned Systems.

The commitments outlined in the Portrait of a Graduate, which is at the heart of the strategic plan, underline the priorities. The guiding model sets forth the qualities that every Aldine ISD student should embody before walking across the stage to accept their diploma.

Monitoring progress is critical as the district implements the new strategic plan. Using a guided and deliberate project plan that aligns with the Board of Trustees' goals, the district will track and share its mission measures to ensure AISD is on course.

“While we have a new set of priorities to guide our work, we will never lose sight of what we've promised in our mission: Aldine ISD will provide a rigorous and enriching educational experience that prepares every student for success in college, career, and life.

“Together, we will accelerate toward an empowered tomorrow for every Aldine ISD student.”

WEAR YOUR ID BADGE ON CAMPUS




OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By Brandon Herrera
U.S. Term Limits Organization

Why Not Congressional Term Limits Like Presidential limits?

Why Not Term Limits for Congress?

On February 27th, Americans across the nation celebrated National Term Limits Day. National Term Limits Day celebrates the ratification of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, setting a limit of two four-year terms for American presidents.

Until Franklin Roosevelt, no president had served more than two elected terms in office. It was a tradition established by George Washington. Two presidents prior to FDR had sought to do so - Ulysses S. Grant and Woodrow Wilson - and had failed in even securing their party's nomination.

After his presidency, there were widespread calls to establish a constitutional amendment to set term limits for the president. Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, who was an advocate of term limits for both the presidency and Congress, supported this initiative.

Harry Truman, who was president when the 22nd Amendment was ratified, believed two terms were enough for any occupant in the White House. Because he had served all but 82 days of two full terms, he opted not to run again in 1952.

Since then, terms limits has become the most popular, bipartisan issue in our country. A recent Pew Research poll showed 87% of Americans regardless of political affiliation support congressional term limits.

So, if Congress won't pass term limits what can be done? Just like presidential terms, the states can take the initiative - calling for a convention to adopt a congressional term limits amendment.

Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and West Virginia - have called for a limited convention to propose a congressional term limits amendment to the Constitution.

Term limits would return accountability to the people and take away the power of the special interests in Washington. It's time: we need term limits for Congress.

Brandon Herrera is the Texas State Chair for U.S. Term limits

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.

Americanisms
"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." - Frederick Douglass



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Wearing a Scarf



I've been waiting a long time for my book, "Loon Point," to sell.

If I'm honest, it hasn't been that long. It's been five months, and that seems like a long time.

I talk to my old friend, Andrew, all the time about trying to get this book sold. Andrew told me that, if he ever sold a book, he'd ride around New York City in a red convertible wearing a long white silk scarf.

"New York is not a great climate for convertibles," I pointed out. "And the subway is much faster."

"I don't care. That's what I'd do."

"Plus, I've never seen you wear a scarf."

Andrew insisted he would wear one, so I bought him a scarf for his birthday. It was not white or silk. It was a soft wool plaid and much more practical.

But last week, I got some good news. "Loon Point" has finally found a publisher. It's a nice, big publisher with plenty of resources, and I'm very happy.

"2026?" my husband, Peter, said. I could tell he was disappointed.

"Yup. Eighteen months. I think that's pretty standard."

Since I spent only 50 days writing the book, it does seem slow. But I know that good things are worth waiting for, and this process of finding an agent and then having my agent find a publisher has taught me a lot.

There were times when I thought nothing at all was going to happen. I thought this book would go nowhere and never be in readers' hands.

But these moods didn't last long because, even when no one seemed the least bit interested in my book, I was having a good time.

I was writing this column every week. I was writing more stories. And I was watching my old brain pick up new skills. I could look at something I'd written even six months earlier and see that I was better than I had been.

My new editor just sent me a long questionnaire to fill out. They want to know what I'd like the cover to look like, and whether there will be questions for the readers at the end, and what sorts of accents the person reading the audiobook should have.

As it is, I'm looking forward to learning how this whole thing works. I want to see how the sausage is made. I want to see how these editors and designers and directors and marketers do what they do so well.

My agent told me I should get the final contract next week. I told Andrew we needed to celebrate. I might even wear a scarf.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Heat-related Deaths in Texas Likely Undercounted

As Texans endure the dog days of summer, experts say deaths related to heat in Texas and nationwide are likely undercounted, the Texas Standard reported.

With climate change causing warmer days and nights, last year was the hottest on record in Texas. Though this summer has not been quite as brutal, those working outside are still at considerable risk.

In 2023, 365 people in Texas died directly from heat, and heat was named a contributing factor in another 197 deaths. Accounting for heat's role in a death is challenging, however.

"The health impacts (of heat) are a little bit more subtle," said cardiologist Sameed Khatana, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. "They can be delayed. And trying to tease apart whether a death or an adverse health effect occurred due to the temperature is quite challenging."

Heat has been called "the most dangerous phenomenon that workers face," according to the Texas Standard story.



Officials advocate for increased jail space to ease the problem, civil rights advocates and defense attorneys say the state should invest more in mental health services and alternatives to jail.

"We are addicted to carceral solutions," Krish Gundu, co-founder of the Texas Jail Project, which advocates for people in Texas county jails, told The Tribune. "If we really cared about not having these people in jails, you'd look at why they are ending up in jail and solve the problem at the root."

OVERCROWDING, UNDERSTAFFING FORCE JAILS TO MOVE INMATES

Jails both large and small are struggling to properly house incarcerated people, and millions in tax dollars are being spent to transport inmates to other jails, sometimes in other states, The Texas Tribune reported.

The number of Texas inmates housed outside the county where they were arrested more than doubled from 2019 to 2024, from 2,078 to 4,358. In June 2024, 41% of Texas county jails housed inmates elsewhere, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

"Counties are having to think outside the box," said Ricky Armstrong, assistant director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. "We know there are some counties housing people out of state. It's not something we recommend or encourage, but we see that as a necessary evil."

Among the factors increasing the number of inmates held elsewhere: a law limiting who can be released from jail while awaiting trial; an overburdened mental health system; and a difficulty in finding jailers.

While law enforcement of-

PAXTON THREATENS TO SUE OVER STATE FAIR GUN POLICY

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says he will sue the City of Dallas if it does not change a new gun policy. The city plans to ban licensed gun holders from bringing weapons to the State Fair of Texas unless they are active police officers or qualified retired officers.

A letter from the AG's office to the city of Dallas said the new policy violates state law, which says cities and other entities cannot ban handguns on government property unless there is a legal exception, such as for schools.

More than 70 Texas lawmakers issued a letter last week urging the fair to rescind its new policy, saying "gun-free zones are a magnet for crime because they present less of a threat to those who seek to do evil," The News reported.

Meanwhile, the Houston Chronicle reported Paxton will work at a food bank as part of a plea deal he made in March with prosecutors to close the securities fraud case against him. He is required to complete 100 hours of community service and pay about

\$300,000 in restitution to the victims.

A COOLER AND WETTER JULY FOR MOST OF THE STATE

The drought situation in Texas continues to ease, thanks in part to a wetter and cooler July, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of July, 20% of the state was in drought, down five percentage points from the end of June.

"Precipitation varied considerably, with large areas of Central and East Texas getting twice their normal rainfall, while parts of West Texas and the Panhandle got less than 25 percent of normal," Wentzel wrote.

The return of the La Niña weather system is likely to bring warmer and drier temperatures to the state this winter, according to Wentzel. Much of the drought area that remains in Texas is in the Big Bend area, as well as in the Hill Country west of San Antonio.

TWDB ADOPTS THE FIRST STATE FLOOD PLAN

The state now has its first comprehensive statewide assessment of flood risk after the water development board voted to adopt the 2024 State Flood Plan.

"Adopting the first-ever state flood plan is a monumental achievement for Texas," said TWDB Chairwoman Brooke Paup.

The plan presents about 4,600 plans and projects from 15 regional flood planning entities. Approximately one in every six people in Texas lives or works in known flood hazard areas.

TWDB will produce a new state flood plan every five years.

FRAUDULENT BANKING WEBSITE REPORTED

The Texas Department of Banking is warning consumers to be aware of a fraudulent banking website purporting to offer online and in-person banking services. A fake bank calling itself "All Finance Bank of Texas," claiming to be located in Houston, and a website, allfinanbnktxs, are not known to be associated with a known bank.

"No bank doing business under the name All Finance Bank of Texas has been authorized to provide banking services in Texas, nor is any bank by that name supervised by the Department of Banking, the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, or other U.S. regulatory authorities," TDB said in a news release.

Anyone with information or questions about the purported bank are urged to call TDB at 877-276-5554.

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 WEEK 1:
New Thorne Stadium opens to kickoff season;
Labor Day Weekend loaded with key college matchups

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Speaking of the Big 12, the Willie Fritz era begins at the University of Houston as the Cougars will host UNLV on Saturday.

Also in the Lone Star State on Saturday, No. 7-ranked Notre Dame pays a visit to College Station to take on No. 20-ranked Texas A&M and new head coach Mike Elko.

Other top matchups in Week 1 have Miami facing off against Florida in a battle of Sunshine State and the Labor Day Weekend concludes on Labor Day with No. 13-ranked LSU taking on No. 23-ranked USC in Las Vegas.

It should be a fun weekend of viewing.

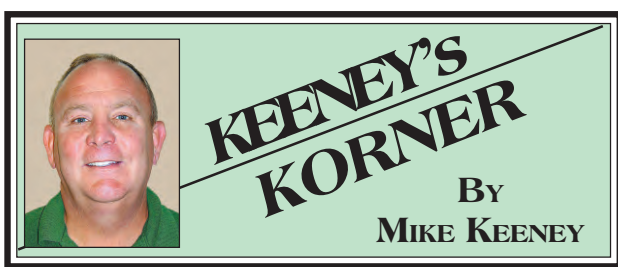
So, without further ado, let's take a look at this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL

Kempner at Aldine - Ojeda's Mustangs take on a Kempner team that finished 0-10 a year ago, while the Mustangs finished 2-8. Aldine returns five offensive and eight defensive starters as Ojeda begins his third year at AHS. He will be looking for contributions from tight end Samuel Saravia, defensive lineman Keishon Wiser (6-2, 285 pounds), linebacker Carlos Cruz and defensive back Jashyne Daniels. Kempner returns eight offensive and six defensive starters. The Mustangs hope to make the first game in the new Thorne Stadium a memorable one. My pick, Aldine 20, Kempner 17

Eisenhower at Westbrook - Odell James Eagles finished 3-7 a year ago and are looking to turn things around in 2024. The Eagles return five offensive and three defensive starters. Key performers should be wide receiver Jason Washington, quarterback Eugene Durst, defensive end Logan Draper (6-2, 235 pounds) and linebacker Reginald Clark. Class 5A Westbrook finished 0-10 a year ago and returns four offensive and four defensive starters. My pick, Eisenhower 31, Westbrook 18

Davis at Willis - Kelvin Chatham's Falcons finished 5-5 a year ago and return a solid nucleus with five offensive and seven defensive starters back in the fold. The Falcons will look



for big plays from running back Nicholas Tramble, offensive lineman Edward Lopez (6-4, 265 pounds), offensive lineman Nicolous Cheveverr (6-4, 265 pounds) and linebacker Kayden Gilbert. Willis finished 12-1 a year ago and returns star wide receiver Jermain Bishop (80 receptions, 1,931 yards, 21 TDs). The Falcons will need to contain Bishop if they hope to pick up the road win. My pick, Willis 24, Davis 21

Morton Ranch at Nimitz - Cornelius Harmon's Cougars finished 8-3 a year ago and made the playoffs. They return a strong nucleus with nine offensive and seven defensive starters, led by quarterback Albert Brown (the Northeast News' Offensive Player of the Year). Brown passed for 2,303 yards, 20 TDs and rushed for 437 yards and 11 scores. Other top hands returning are wide receivers Malachi Augustus and Ke'Lyn Washom and linebacker Javar Thomas (6-3, 205 pounds), who was named a Houston Touchdown Club Defensive Player of the Year candidate. My pick, Nimitz 34, Morton Ranch 13

Cy-Ridge at MacArthur - MacArthur welcomes a new head coach in Blake Ware, a proud MacArthur graduate who wants to turn the Generals fortunes around. Ware inherits seven offensive and six defensive starters in his first year on the job. He will be looking for strong play from safety Aijalek Silvers (four interceptions, 87 tackles), cornerback Corey Seymore, wide receiver/defensive back Senai Chatman, quarterback Lance Nero and running back Nick Macias. Cy-Ridge finished 2-8 a year ago and returns seven offensive and seven defensive starters. My pick, MacArthur 17, Cy-Ridge 13

NCAA

TCU at Stanford - The long Labor Day Weekend football fest kicks off on Friday night when the TCU Horned Frogs head west to take on Stanford. After finishing 13-2 and playing for

the national championship following the 2022 season, TCU fell off to a 5-7 record last year. Dykes has reshuffled his roster with a number of new players from the NCAA Portal and is hoping sophomore QB Josh Hoover (2,206 yards, 15 TDs) is ready for bigger and better things in 2024. Look for the Frogs to get off to a good start as they pick up a win against the a Cardinal team that finished 3-9 last year. My pick, TCU 33, Stanford 20

Clemson vs. Georgia - This should be a good one to start a long Saturday of quality games. This one starts at noon and features No. 1-ranked Georgia against a Clemson team that wants to get back in the CFP picture. Dabo Swiney's team finished a respectable 9-4 a year ago, but they haven't been in the CFP since 2019. That can't be sitting well with Tiger fans. This game features two of the country's top QBs in Clemson's Cade Klubnik (2,844 yards, 19 TDs/4 rushing TDs) and Heisman Trophy contender Carson Beck (3,941 yards, 24 TDs). I think Clemson hangs with the 'Dawgs, but look for Georgia's defense to be the difference maker late as Kirby Smart's team picks up a big season-opening win. My pick, Georgia 31, Clemson 16

Penn State at West Virginia - No. 8-ranked Penn State heads to the hills to face a dangerous West Virginia team that was the surprise of the Big 12 a year ago with its 9-4 finish. PSU has CFP hopes and has a veteran QB returning in Drew Allar (2,631 yards, 25 TDs) and a two-headed running game led by Kaytron Allen (902 yards, 7 TDs) and Nicholas Singleton (752 yards, 10 TDs). The Mountaineers also have a solid signal caller back in Garrett Green (2,406 yards, 16 TDs) and a solid back in C.J. Donaldson (798 yards, 11 TDs). If the Nittany Lions are going to be serious CFP contenders, winning a tough road game to start the season could be a huge for its momentum. My pick, Penn State 27, West Virginia 23

Colorado State at Texas - Steve Sarkisian begins his

fourth season at the 40 Acres and he and many Orange bloods believe this could be a special team. Texas is coming off a 12-2 season, a Big 12 title and a spot in the CFP. UT returns a solid nucleus on both sides of the football, led by QB Quin Ewers (3,479 yards, 22 TDs in 12 games), four of five offensive line starters and playmakers galore on the defense. UT suffered a big blow in pre-season camp when running back C.J. Baxter was lost for the season with a knee injury. Texas will pin its hopes on speedy sophomore Jadon Blue (398 yards, 4 total TDs and a Klein ISD product). Texas has a new set of receivers in Alabama transfer Isaiah Bond (48 receptions, 668 yards, 4 TDs) and UH transfer Matthew Golden. This will be a good test for the UT secondary as CSU QB Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi (3,460 yards, 22 TDs) can fling it all over the place. Look for the more physical 'Horns to wear down CSU in the Austin heat. My pick, Texas 41, Colorado State 20

Miami at Florida - This Battle for the Sunshine State pits two teams that are looking to rebound from subpar seasons. Miami finished 7-6 a year ago, while Florida finished 5-7. The heat is on for both teams' head

coaches. Miami will be led by Washington State transfer QB Cam Wards (3,736 yards, 25 TDs), while Florida will pin it hopes on Graham Mertz (2,903 yards, 20 TDs) and running back Montrell Johnson (817 yards, 6 TDs). Gator head coach Bill Napier knows he must win and win now, so look for the Gators to pick up a solid first win of the season. My pick, Florida 26, Miami 23

Notre Dame at Texas A&M - A good one for Saturday evening as the No. 7-ranked Fighting Irish head into College Station to take on No. 20-ranked A&M and new head coach Mike Elko. This should be a defensive battle as ND (10-3 a year ago) returns nine defensive starters and the Aggies have one of the best defensive lines in the country. ND will be led by QB Riley Leonard (1,102 yards, 3 TDs/352 rushing yards, 4 TDs in seven games). Riley played for Elko last year at Duke, so you can be sure the new Aggie head man knows a thing or two about the new Irish QB. A&M is hoping for a big year from their QB, Conner Weigman (979 yards, 8 TDs in just 4 games), who missed much of the 2023 season with a foot injury. The Aggies also suffered a loss at running back when starter Amari Daniels suffered a

season-ending injury in camp. Rueben Owens (385 yards, 3 TDs) and LeVeon Moss (484 yards, 5 TDs) will be called on to pick up the slack in the running game. Weigman has a solid go-to guy in wide receiver Moose Muhammad II (27 receptions, 345 yards, 2 TDs). This should be a low-scoring game and I'm going with the better of the two defenses in this one, which means a big season-opening road win for Notre Dame. My pick, Notre Dame 20, Texas A&M 17

USC vs. LSU - This is a good one to finish off the Labor Day Weekend Football Fest. This should be a high-scoring game as the Trojans will start Miller Moss at QB (681 yards, 7 TDs). Moss stepped in for Caleb Williams in the Holiday Bowl and tossed six TD passes to earn MVP game honors. The Tigers are also starting over at QB as Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels has moved on to the NFL. Head coach Brian Kelly (10-3 a year ago) will put his faith in backup Garrett Nussmeier (591 yards, 4 TDs). Look for running back Logan Diggs (653 yards, 7 TDs) to have a coming out season, while on defense linebacker Harold Perkins (5.5 sacks) will look to hound Miller all night long. My pick, LSU 30, USC 26

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Table with 5 columns: Date, Opponent, Stadium, Home/Away, Time. Rows include games from Aug 30 to Nov 7.

Eisenhower High School

Table with 5 columns: Date, Opponent, Stadium, Home/Away, Time. Rows include games from Aug 29 to Nov 8.

MacArthur High School

Table with 5 columns: Date, Opponent, Stadium, Home/Away, Time. Rows include games from Aug 31 to Nov 7.

Nimitz High School

Table with 5 columns: Date, Opponent, Stadium, Home/Away, Time. Rows include games from Aug 30 to Nov 7.



(HC) Homecoming
(SN) Senior Night

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 6, on the seventh day, how many times did the men of war march around Jericho? 1, 3, 5, 7
3. In His first recorded miracle, what did Jesus turn into wine? Goat's milk, Grape juice, Fig cider, Water

4. From 1 Chronicles, what king was buried with his sons under an oak tree? Neco, Jehoash, Saul, Rezin
5. In the story of creation, what did God call the darkness? Blackness, Night, Fourscore, Trinity
6. In Exodus 17:15, who built an altar and called it Jehovah-Nissi? Moses, Abraham, Jacob, Aaron

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Seven, 3) Water, 4) Saul, 5) Night, 6) Moses
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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...The lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

PROVERBS 5: 3-6

"Head of a Girl" by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1915)

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PET MATTERS
In Memory of Susan Hoffman



Summer Pet Care; Beat the Heat



Chief Richard Wagner, Galena Park Chief of Police with the Department's Mascot "Lena" short for Galena. He's warning against animal cruelty. Photo by Allan Jamail



Dog or cats suffering from a heat stroke will pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. Read treatment below.

Texas passed the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act which establishes new rules around tying and chaining dogs outdoors. The main changes include:

All dogs must be kept on a leash or have a physical barrier separating them from the public when outside of their owner's property.

Dogs cannot be tied unattended outdoors with a restraint less than 10 feet long.

The leash must be attached to a proper collar or harness, not directly around the dog's neck. Tied up dogs must have access to drinkable water and adequate shelter from the sun, heat or freezing temperatures.

Under the new law owners are now barred from tying up their dogs outside with chains or weighed-down restraints. The length of an outdoor restraint must be 10 feet long or five times the dog's length from nose to tail.

Tying up a dog outside is prohibited when a heat advisory or hurricane, tropical storm, or severe thunderstorm warning has been issued. Tying dogs outdoors is banned when the temperature drops below 32°F for more than 4 consecutive hours.

These new rules aim to prevent inhumane treatment and dangerous conditions for outdoor dogs in Texas. Violations are punishable under the state's animal cruelty laws.

CITIES & COUNTIES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENFORCE

The new dog and cat laws in Texas will be enforced by local governments and law enforcement agencies and their officers. Cities and counties may appoint animal control officers to enforce animal-related laws and respond to complaints from the public. Law enforcement agencies can enforce laws relating to dangerous dogs and dog attacks.

Penalties for violating the new dog and cat laws include fines, seizure of the animal and even criminal charges and someone found guilty of animal cruelty could face jail time.

I dedicate this article to Susan Lynn Hoffman, the daughter of the North Channel Star Editor and Publisher Gilbert Hoffman. She died unexpectedly last year at the age of 64, from Cardiac Arrest suffered during a scheduled heart procedure.

Susan's interests included taking care for every conceivable stray animal she encountered.

She cared for many stray animals, including cats, dogs, and birds. She kept some, but found

foster homes when possible. She supported animal shelters and encouraged others to

do the same. She and I both love dogs and cats, we both have this in common.

As a patrolman before I became chief of police-city marshal I had the city's first official K-9 dog that was used on patrol in a police unit. My German Shepherd's name was Susan but called Susie for short. Susie helped me one night apprehend a criminal who broke into the office of the Houston Wiper & Mill Supply Co. When out at night patrolling Susie always gave me a sense of security, I kept her window down, when stopping a vehicle as I talked to a driver she would bark loud and the driver knew my K-9 was watching and nearby.

The public plays a role too by reporting violations. Call your local law enforcement agency any time you suspect an animal's basic needs are not being met. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any crime: Houston Police - 713-884-3131, Harris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police - 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police - 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-274-2500.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ August 20, 2024 at the Galena Park police station Chief Richard Wagner said with the August heat wave and the heat-index soaring into triple digits pet owners must take extra precautions with their pets.

Wager said, "Some people take good care of their pets while at home indoors but then without thinking they'll take their dogs out for a walk not realizing the hot pavement is well over 150 degrees on their paws. This is animal cruelty even though it's unintentional." Dog owners sometime fail to realize the pavement temperatures is as hot on the dog's paws exactly as it would be on their own bare feet. A good walking leash length in order to keep control of a dog is from four to six feet and not over ten feet.

HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT

Texas law requires fresh cool water be made available to outdoor pets to prevent them from overheating and having a heat stroke and providing for their pets some shaded shelter out of the blazing hot sun.

Dogs or cats suffering from a heat stroke may have some of these symptoms; they'll lie down, pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. **FIRST AID TREATMENT:** Immediately cool down the pet by wetting it with cool water but not ice water, put a fan on it and take it to a veterinarian.

Wagner said patrol officers are on watch for outside pets being placed on a short leash less than 10 feet long that the Texas Leash Law requires. Also for anything that appears to be inflicting the mistreatment of a dog or cat.

Recently the Texas Legislators amended existing laws and or created new laws.

ALL DOGS & CATS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED & LICENSED IN THEIR CITY EVERY 6 MONTHS

New Texas law related to the registration and licensing of dogs went into effect in Texas. According to the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 828, all dogs and cats must be registered with the local animal services agency by the time the animal is four months old.

Pet owners must now renew their pet's registration every six months rather than annually. This change aims to encourage more frequent veterinary visits and ensure vaccinations stay up-to-date. Failure to register or renew a pet's license may result in late fees or civil penalties. However, some municipalities are using positive reinforcement by offering registration discounts for micro chipped pets.

TEXAS LAW MANDATES ALL DOGS & CATS MUST BE VACCINATED

In Texas, all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies vaccine must be administered every 1 or 3 years depending on the type of vaccine used.

Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies may result in fines and owners can face criminal charges for allowing unvaccinated dogs to expose others to rabies. The city may also impose quarantines on dogs without proof of rabies vaccination.

TYING OUTDOOR DOGS / 10 FOOT RULE / DOG CHAINING IS ILLEGAL

Community meets with Centerpoint Energy

Ruben A. Salazar is with Esmeralda Cervantes and 2 others at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. a day ago · Houston · 🌐

Carpooled to today's CenterPoint Community Open House. Appreciate the chance to ask questions and learn more about the resources that are available to our community members, and learn of the improvements and enhancements Centerpoint is making in wake of Hurricane Beryl.

👤: Pearl Castañeda



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0300 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0300 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0283 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0298 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0353 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 10, 2024, AT 12:00 PM AT 14418 Beaumont Highway, Houston, TX 77049.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may not petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal:	President, Sonya Anderson	Vice President, Johnnie McClellan
	Secretary, Charles Anthony	Commissioner, Buster Gates
	Commissioner, Earl Skank	

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.


The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	increase of 0.0000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$196,111	\$211,596	increase of \$15,485 or 7.90%
Tax on average homestead	\$58.83	\$63.48	increase of \$4.65, or 7.90%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,974,325	\$2,148,692	increase of \$174,367, or 8.82%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

Small BUSINESS

FREE SEMINAR LUNCHEON SERIES



Unlimited Possibilities


2024

AUG 29

THURSDAY 12PM-1:30PM

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE

2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.



Doing Business with the County

PRESENTED BY Harris County Dept. of Economic Equity & Opportunity


Jessica Herrera
Sr. Program Manager, Business Development and Outreach

Melissa McCord
Director of Sourcing & Contract Management

Adrian Jackson-Bolden
Sr. Program Manager, Vendor Diversity

Join Us to learn about doing business with Harris County. We will discuss the vendor onboarding process, registration in Bonfire and insights into the MWBE program.

RSVP REQUIRED
SCAN OR VISIT



AldineDistrict.org/RSVP

OCTOBER 24 *Save the Date*
NEXT CLASS:

SEE WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

LDean@AldineDistrict.org
(512) 658-4985
AldineDistrict.org

Sheriff's Deputies hold "Ice Cream in the Park"

Photos from the HCSO Ice Cream in the Park event last month at James Driver Park, a collaboration between the East Aldine District and the Harris County Sheriff's Office Community Engagement Team. It was a great event, and we were so proud to play a part in making it happen! #EastAldineDistrict #community



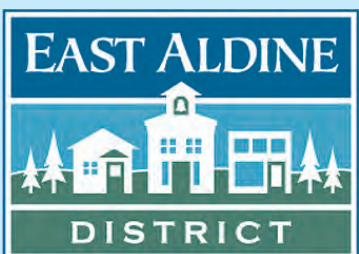
East Aldine's Flor Zarzoza help hand out ice cream bars to a long line of kids.



Deputies and East Aldine members enjoyed the treats, too.



Families enjoyed a day at James Driver Park, as well as an ice cream treat, offered by Flor Zarzoza.



East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

District Welcomes 23-year Veteran as New Lieutenant

My East Aldine

Lt. Johnny Reyes Sr., a 23-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, is taking over as supervisor of the 21 law enforcement officers assigned to the East Aldine Management District. Reyes succeeds Lt. Mike Santos, who was recently appointed a homicide detective for the Sheriff's Office.



Reyes, 46, is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq. He previously worked in the East Aldine area from 2019 to 2023 as a crime analyst in the Sheriff's Office Crime Reduction Unit. He holds an associate degree from Wharton County Junior College.

After his military service, Reyes said he was drawn to a career in law enforcement.

"My passion is looking for bad guys to make the community safer," Reyes said.

Reyes said the support of the community in East Aldine is essential to addressing crime problems in the area.

"I don't think there's anything going on that cannot be handled, we have all the right resources," Reyes said. "I've told the people at the Management District, and the citizens, that we need the support of the people that live in the district. If they see something, call it in. Let us know what's going on. Because, if we don't know about it, we're not going to be able to deal with it."

Reyes said the officers assigned to East Aldine are "already doing a great job," but he wants citizens to step up in their efforts to help eliminate crime.

Reyes added: "That doesn't mean we're going to send a car to your house, because sometimes people don't want other folks to know they've called us. But, if you see something, say something."

That might include a strange car in the neighborhood, or frequent loud gatherings, Reyes said.

"We can check out those things without letting others know who called it in," Reyes said, "With the help of the community, it would be a lot easier to figure out who these people are that are causing the problems or committing the crimes."

The biggest factor contributing to crime in East Aldine, like most other communities, is the demand for illegal drugs, Reyes said.

"I think drugs are the biggest problem, it really is a scourge. The drugs bring about all the other crime problems," Reyes said.

Under a contract with the East Aldine Management District, 21 Sheriff's Office deputies and other officers are assigned primarily to patrol the streets of the 20-square mile district. Those officers are also allowed to respond, when necessary, to other emergencies in the northeastern part of Harris County.

The Sheriff's Office keeps a storefront office on the first floor of the District's main office, located at 2909 East Aldine Amphitheater Dr. Citizens are encouraged to visit that office, for instructions on how to install child safety seats in vehicles and other crime-reduction instructions.

Reyes, who is divorced, has a 12-year-old daughter, Mia, who is an aspiring singer. She decides the radio stations and plans the playlists for their vacation trips to Disney theme parks, Reyes said.

"Everything revolves around her," Reyes said.

Reyes lives with his girlfriend, who has a 12-year-old son, and their "blended family" has involved the usual middle-school age balancing act.

"Our kids go to school together and they have classes together. And it's so funny how they get along. One minute they're fighting, and the next minute they're playing and getting along great," Reyes said.