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NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 48, NO. 36 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Aldine Community Health Fair Sept. 28

2nd Annual Community Health Fair, featuring Blue Bear. Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9am to 1pm at BakerRipley, 3000 Aldine Mail Route.

Free Family Event, Screenings & Vaccinations. Diabetes, HIV, STD, Dental, Hearing, Flu, PHV, Child Immunizations, Pneumonia, Covid. Mammogram Registration.

Also Face Painting, Funnell Cakes, and More.

East Aldine National Night Out Oct. 1

The East Aldine community is planning the 41st year of this event, a partnership with the Police, Sheriff's deputies, and the public.

Tuesday night, Oct. 1st from 6pm - 9pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre.

Join us to meet neighbors and celebrate those who help keep our community safe.

Free Rock Climbing, Train Ride, Face Painting, Prizes, Food, Games, and music with a DJ and More.

Literacy Carnival Saturday Oct. 12

A Free Literacy Carnival will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10am to 2pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre.

Free Goody Bag for Kids, register online at AldineDistrict.org/Literacy.

Free Books, Face Painting, Balloon Art, Moonwalk, DJ with music and MORE.

Sponsored by Junior League and East Aldine District.

BAA leads successful Constitution Day

Parade, Patriotic speakers, Voter registration, Awards highlight Festivities

EAST ALDINE – On Saturday, September 14, 2024, Bonding Against Adversity hosted a celebration to recognize all who have become citizens.

To honor the achievement of U.S. citizenship, Bonding Against Adversity partnered with Lone Star College - East Aldine Center and many other organizations to celebrate Constitution and Citizenship Day with Music, Po-

Continued. See CONSTITUTION DAY, Page 8



Panel of speakers included State Representative Armando Walle, Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez President of Lone Star College - Kingwood, Dean Reyna Gomez Tippetts from Lone Star College - East Aldine Center, and Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, Adrian Garcia. They related stories from their own personal history regarding citizenship.



Bonding Against Adversity Director Mariana Sanchez leads a parade of Citizens to the festivities at Lone Star College East Aldine Campus. Over 700 guests and new citizens participated in the Event.

Studio Opening draws Aldine viewers

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Texas – September 14, 2024, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, 1502 Sawyer Street is home to Houston's artist Mei Hoffman. She's located in Suite 113 and if you visit her studio it'll be an experience you'll enjoy. She's an artist of Fine Art, created for aesthetic or intellectual purposes. Fine art is beautiful and can convey ideas, emotions and memories.

My wife Linda and I made it our goal to be the first to sign the studio's grand opening guest book. Our early arrival allowed us to visit with Mei so she could show us her paintings and describe her thoughts about painting them. They all were life-like and depicted many different subjects. Visitors would be able to resonate with most of them as they

Continued. See MORE PHOTOS on Page 2



Mei Hoffman (center) at her Art Studio's Grand Opening. One of four walls in her studio of Fine Art Paintings. Located at The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Suite 113, 1502 Sawyer Street, Houston.

L - R: Wendy Reichert, Mei Hoffman & Patricia Hoffman (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mei Hoffman with a self-portrait. In opening her own art studio she pursuing and fulfilling her lifelong dream. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Susan and Sarah Hill, friends of the artist seen at right, commented on the amount of work on display, and had a hard time picking their favorites from the many choices.



The viewing crowd included many folks from East Aldine, including Rocio Witte with husband and son, Patti Acosta, and Marina and Ken Sugg. They commented on the wealth of art to be seen at the Silos of Sawyer Yards.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE - (1st of a series) Celebrating Dr. Melissa Gonzalez

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ September 15, 2024 is the beginning of the annual celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month to be observed from September 15th until October 15th.

What is Hispanic Heritage Month? According to the Hispanic Heritage Month official website, it is observed: "by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America." For generations, Latinxs have contributed to the food, music, business, science, and culture that we know as American, and the 30 days that make up Hispanic Heritage Month each



Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College Kingwood. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

fall is just one opportunity to showcase these achievements.

My first 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree is Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College-Kingwood. I've known Melissa for going on twenty years, I first met her when she was engaged to

her husband and now Harris County's Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. When I began my interview with her for this article I've learned a lot about her that I didn't know before.

Dr. Gonzalez said, "I am excited and humbled to be featured in this article, which highlights my work and contributions to education, especially during the meaningful celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. It's an honor to be recognized, and I'm truly grateful for it."

Gonzalez has earned a Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and she's been the President of Houston Community College-Kingwood since 2021. Dr. Gonzalez holds a bachelor's degree Continued. See HISPANIC HERITAGE, Page 2

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 4:

District 14-6A play starts up for Aldine ISD teams: #2 Georgia visits #4 Alabama in early season showdown

Aldine ISD's five varsity football programs will open District 14-6A play this weekend and if the non-district portion of the schedule is any indication, the race for the league's four playoff berths could be a wild one.

Nimitz and Eisenhower both finished non-district play with identical 3-0 records, while Aldine High finished 2-1 and Davis and MacArthur finished 1-2. One of the biggest surprises in non-league play was perennial powerhouse Westfield struggling to a 1-2 record prior to district play. It should be noted the Mustangs lost to two of the area's top teams in Fort Bend Hightower (14-7) and state power North Shore (47-3). Something tells me Westfield will be ready for league play. Spring ISD's other two teams, Dekaney and Spring, both finished 0-3 in non-league action.



District play kickoff on Thursday evening with Nimitz taking on MacArthur at Thorne Stadium. On Friday, Eisenhower will face off against Davis at Thorne and on Saturday, Aldine will host Dekaney at Thorne Stadium.

In college action, all eyes will be on Tuscaloosa when No. 2-ranked Georgia visits No. 4-ranked Alabama in a key early-season contest in the SEC. Two weeks ago, the Bulldogs struggled at one-win Kentucky

and escaped with a 12-12 victory, while the Crimson Tide rolled on the road at Wisconsin with a 42-10 drubbing of the Badgers. That was an impressive road win for first-year Bama head coach Kalen DeBoer and had to assuage some Crimson Tide fence sitters who have a wary eye toward the man who replaced the legendary Nick Saban. So, far, so good for DeBoer in Tuscaloosa. Saturday

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Receives \$72K Grant From MD Anderson to Fund 'Be Well Acres Homes' Program



Aldine ISD was recently the recipient of a \$72,000 grant from MD Anderson to fund the "Be Well Acres Homes" program. The goal of the program is to reduce the risk of cancer by improving fitness through exercise, nutrition education and sun safety education throughout the Acres Homes community.

This is the third grant Aldine ISD has received from MD Anderson.

This grant will provide an After-School Active Kids Program from Sept. 2024 through May 2025 for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders in Aldine ISD schools in the Acres Homes area. The program will provide high-quality physical activity in a sun-safe environment. Students will utilize heart rate monitors to track and improve cardiovascular endurance and reduce the risk of can-

cer.

The six campuses that will benefit from the program are:

- *Anderson Academy
- *Caraway Elementary
- *Goodman ACE
- *Harris Academy
- *Houston Academy
- *Smith Elementary

According to Kenneth Hernandez, coordinator of health and physical education and the program manager of the grant, a study conducted in 2023 found that rates of obesity and poverty are higher in the Acres Homes area, which leads to more sedentary behavior and increases the risk of cancer in the community. The study also found a lack of physical activity opportunities at a young age also contributes to negative health risks.

Students who participate in the program will remain after school weekly for one hour, a minimum

of 12 times in the fall and 15 times in the spring.

The grant will provide heart rate monitors, sunscreen dispensers, BRAIN-Ball equipment that integrates math and literacy into physical activity, water bottles, and shirts for participants.

Aldine ISD Child Nutrition Department will provide nutritious snacks to students who participate at the end of each session and the district's Transportation Department will provide bus transportation to students.

"Part of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model is physical activity," Hernandez said. "The Active Kids program is another way Aldine ISD is ensuring students have opportunities to be physically active, accelerating their path to being healthy, lifelong learners."

Aldine ISD's Toby McCraw Joins Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's Prestigious Teacher Advisory Group

Toby McCraw, the art teacher at Impact Leadership Academy in Aldine ISD, has achieved a significant milestone by being selected as a Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) Teacher Advisory Group member.

This selection is not just remarkable, but it's a testament to his dedication and expertise. It marks the first time the advisory group has expanded beyond Houston ISD, welcoming art educators from across the region to influence the museum's future educational programs.

The Teacher Advisory Group (TAG), launched in October 2021, is a passionate cohort of educators dedicated to shaping the direction of CAMH's Education and Public Programs Department. As a member of TAG, McCraw will not just play a pivotal role, but his influence will



Toby McCraw

be significant in providing strategic recommendations, contributing to the writing of exhibition materials, and advocating for the museum's programs within his school and the broader community.

Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD's Director of Visual Arts, praised McCraw's accomplishment, emphasizing his outstanding contributions to the district. "Mr. McCraw wears many hats at Impact Leadership Academy, but his role in developing a thriving visu-

al arts program is truly special. He has created an environment that nurtures creativity and enhances the educational experience for our students," Newman stated.

Newman congratulated McCraw, highlighting his unwavering dedication to his students and the broader art education community. "This incredible honor is a testament to Mr. McCraw's passion and commitment. He consistently gives more than 100% to ensure that our students thrive artistically and academically. We are deeply proud of him and grateful for the inspiration he brings to all of us."

Those interested in learning more about CAMH's Teacher Advisory Group or how to get involved can visit CAMH's website or contact feleveland@camh.org.

8 Artworks to Represent Aldine ISD at TASA/TASB Convention

Eight talented art students within Aldine ISD have been honored with the unique opportunity to showcase their extraordinary artwork at the annual Texas Association of School Administrators/ Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) conference in San Antonio later this month.

Each year, the Texas Art Education Association presents an exhibit of artwork created by prekindergarten through 12th-grade students representing schools from across Texas. The conference draws school board members, superintendents, and district administrators. It provides

a unique and prestigious opportunity for the selected students to display their artistry to a broad audience of educational leaders and professionals.

This recognition celebrates the students' talent. It also shines a spotlight on the commitment of art teachers across the district who tirelessly nurture and promote artistic talent and excellence within our schools.

"Our students' creativity and innovation truly shine through these artworks," said Kaileigh Newman, AISD director of visual arts. "I thank all art educators and leaders for being true champions of

the arts. They know firsthand the incredible impact arts education has on our students, and their dedication is making a difference. Let's continue amplifying the arts and their powerful role in shaping our students' lives. Thank you for all you do to keep the arts alive in education."

Congratulations to these students and their teachers for being selected to represent the district at this year's TASA/TASB Convention.

The following students have been selected to represent AISD at this year's TASA/TASB Convention (Click on each image to enlarge):



Edward Conde, 2nd Grade
Cypresswood Elementary School
Teacher: Yvonne Lopez-Taylor



Vida Reyes, 5th Grade
C Hill Elementary School
Teacher: Chris Perkins



Perla Reyes Toledo, 7th Grade
Garcia Middle School
Teacher: Melinda Howard



Jayla Heard, 6th Grade
Houston Academy
Teacher: Mary Cooper



Jose Barrera, 10th Grade
Hall Success Academy
Teacher: Ketsia Hamilton



Yuritza Hernandez, 5th Grade
Hill Elementary School
Teacher: Chris Perkins

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2024
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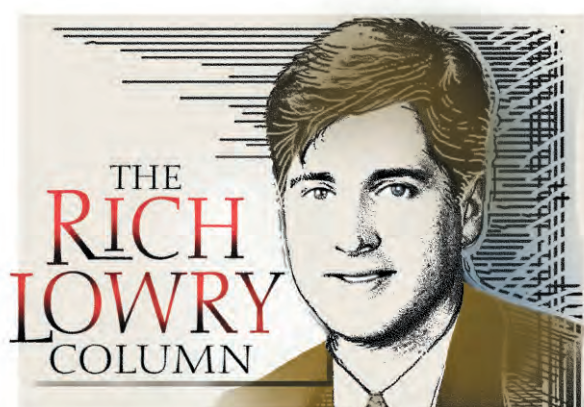
Emily Lucio, 12th Grade
Aldine High School
Teacher: Birgit Langhammer



Yahaira Yanes, 12th Grade
Blanson CTE High School
Teacher: Christopher Peel

OPINION PAGE

OPINION



The real scandal in Springfield, Ohio

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city. To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City in the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch unsuspecting domestic short hairs. Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and with needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult. Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors and several interpreters.

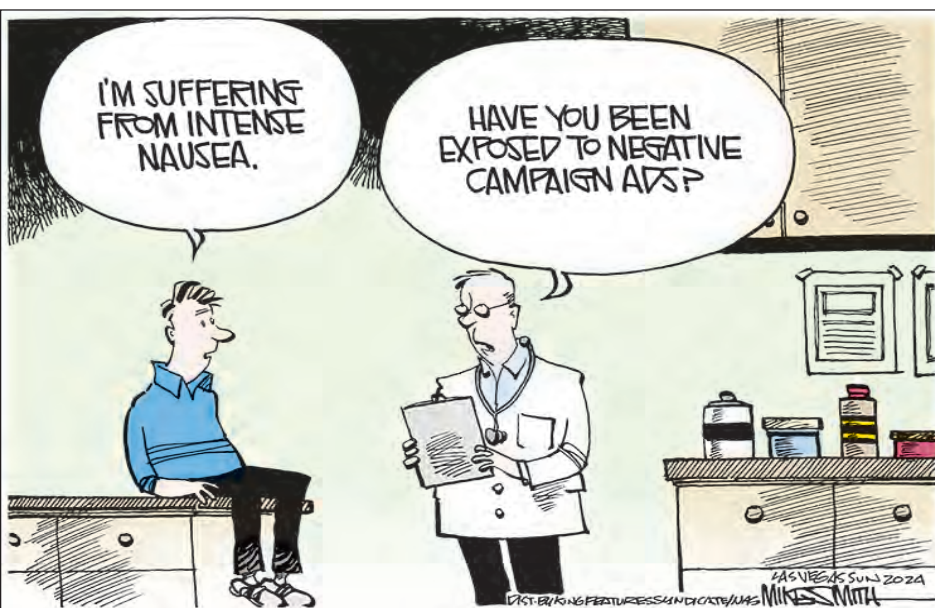
The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents." The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Border Patrol Faulted in Uvalde School Shooting

A 200-page report from the Department of Homeland Security faulted U.S. Border Patrol agents who rushed to the Uvalde school shooting in 2022, concluding they "failed to establish command and had inadequate training" in one of the deadliest classroom attacks.

The Dallas Morning News reported. A lone shooter killed 19 students and two teachers inside a classroom during a 70-minute standoff before a tactical team led by the Border Patrol went inside and killed him. "The failure of arriving law enforcement personnel to establish identifiable incident management or command and control protocols led to a disorganized response to the Robb Elementary School shooting," the report stated. "No law enforcement official ever clearly established command at the school during the incident, leading to delays, inaction, and potentially further loss of life." Two Uvalde school officers have been indicted for allegedly failing to act promptly and have pleaded not guilty. The victims' families have filed a \$500 million federal lawsuit against those who responded to the shooting.

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS END IN 2025

Texas car safety inspections will no longer be required in 2025, after HB 3297 passed the Legislature in 2023.

The Austin American-Statesman reported inspections end Jan. 1, though drivers living in and near major Texas cities will still be required to take their vehicles in for emission tests. Although actual inspection is ending, all noncommercial vehicles in Texas still will be charged a \$7.50 inspection fee when the vehicle is registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Counties requiring emission tests to comply with federal clean-air requirements are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson. Costs range from \$11.50 to \$35.50, depending on what tests are required. Diesel vehicles and motorcycles are exempt from emissions testing.

DEER DISEASE THREATENS STATE'S BREEDING INDUSTRY



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Texas deer breeders say their livelihoods are threatened by steps being taken by the state to limit chronic wasting disease, The Texas Tribune reported. The easily transmissible disease has been detected in Texas since 2012. As of August, 387 cases have been reported this year in 31 of the state's 254 counties. This includes cases in 34 captive breeding facilities. The disease gradually erodes a deer's neurological functions. It is not known to infect humans. "This disease is literally eating holes in the deer's brain," Kip Adams, a wildlife biologist with the National Deer Association, said. Breeders in areas where CWD has been reported can't sell or transport their deer outside the state-declared containment zone. Breeders have complained that having a facility inside a containment zone has hurt business. Breeders who have a deer with CWD are required to either euthanize their remaining deer herd or perform additional testing in order to segregate deer who test negative.

PUC SECURES REFUNDS, CREDITS

The Public Utility Commission has secured refunds and bill credits totaling \$502,982 for Texas electric, water and telecommunications customers for fiscal year 2024, which ended Aug. 31. Nearly 13,000 complaints were filed by consumers during the fiscal year. "Protecting consumers is the first commitment listed in our agency's mission statement, and our staff works every day to make sure Texas utility consumers are treated fairly and receive high quality service," Chris Burch, with the PUC, said. The bulk of refunds and credits were for electric customers. Customers who be-

lieve they were unfairly charged can file a complaint at puc.texas.gov/consumer/complaint.

BITCOIN PLANT EXPANSION FACES BACKLASH IN NORTH TEXAS

A proposal to build a new 300-megawatt power plant next to two existing neighborhoods in Granbury drew about 150 angry residents to a public meeting hosted by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality last week. Marathon Digital, a Florida-based cryptocurrency company, operates a 300-megawatt bitcoin mine on property owned by Constellation Energy, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Residents have complained about the constant noise coming from thousands of fans used to cool the banks of computers processing transactions. Constellation hopes to erect eight new turbines powered by natural gas to generate additional electricity and has applied for air permits to release nearly 800,000 added tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Residents near the plant objected. "It's not right. Y'all moved in on top of us. We didn't move in on y'all," said Nick Browning, who lives about 800 feet from the property. Texas leads the nation in bitcoin mining, which is an electronic payment system that forgoes use of banks and credit card companies and requires vast amounts of computing power. TCEQ officials have not decided whether to grant a permit for a new plant. Constellation says the new plant would only operate about 40% of the year and "would be prohibited from directly serving industrial load," such as bitcoin. However, opponents say the new plant would allow existing plants to be used for more bitcoin mining than being done now.

TEXTING SCAMS TARGET TXTAG CUSTOMERS

Toll customers in Texas are being targeted by scammers claiming the customer has a balance due or past due, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The agency is working to have fraudulent websites taken down. While TxTag does communicate with customers via email, text and phone, it does not send text messages concerning final payment reminders or past-due balances. Customers can report messages they believe to be fraudulent by calling 1-88-468-9824 or going online to TxTag.org. "TxTag takes customer account security and verification very seriously," the news release said. All customers are required to confirm their account information and verify their identity upon contacting TxTag.

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.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Reputable Source



I have a problem with inspirational quotes.

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream another dream," is a quote attributed to C.S. Lewis. He didn't say it.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been" is something George Eliot is supposed to have said. She never said that, either.

I could keep on going, but it's a safe bet that, if you read it on Facebook and it is attributed to Mother Teresa, Einstein or Keanu Reeves, they almost certainly did not say it.

For the longest time, I'd hop on Facebook and debunk a quote and, while it was satisfying to let folks know that Einstein was much too busy making discoveries to say the things he supposedly had said, and Mother Teresa did not spend her time writing poetry, I don't think I made anyone any happier by pointing it out.

I thought it was important to set the record straight. But what I finally realized was that inspiration doesn't inspire us because it comes from a reputable source. The real reason the quotes incorrectly attributed to George Eliot and C.S. Lewis troubled me was because I worried they were incorrect in more ways than one.

George Eliot died at 61. C.S. Lewis was dead by 64. Maybe they didn't say it was never too late, or you were never too old because, in fact, it sometimes is too late, and maybe I am too old. This is the sort of thing I worry about, some of the time. I wonder if I might be showing up a little too late for some of my dreams.

I consider myself a very fortunate person. I've gotten to do so many interesting things in my life, and I spend every day doing things I genuinely enjoy. But sometimes, I look at the careers of people I admire, and I realize they didn't dither around as long as I did. They stuck with one thing from a very early age. While here I am, at 62, looking forward to a first novel that won't be published until I'm 63, and I wonder (because how could I not?) if I didn't get kind of a late jump on things.

Of course, none of us knows how much time we get. So many authors and artists I admire died very young. They made this huge splash, and their ripples are still being felt, but they didn't live long. I like to imagine that, since I eat a lot of broccoli and don't drink bourbon, I might squeeze out more than the expected number of years to write things and tell my stories. I like to think that the actuarial tables do not apply to me. But, of course, they do.

And, because they do, I will do what I can with whatever time I have left.

I'll do this because I believe with every fiber of my being that starting late is so much better than never starting at all. And I'll do it because knowing that life is short (no matter how long it is) provides my greatest incentive to make this time—now—matter.

And, honestly, I don't care how much or how little I am remembered after I die. I'd just as soon make room for new people to tell their stories when the time comes. My goal is to make meaning of life now. To be useful today. Maybe even offer a little inspiration—even if I am not the most reputable source.

Till next time, Carrie

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Esarhaddon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Esther 2, what was Hegai "the keeper" of regarding King Ahasuerus? Holy Grail, Weapons, The women, Grain of the fields
3. What New Testament person was the "voice of one crying in the wilderness"? Judas, Jude, Jehovah, John the Baptist


4. From Proverbs 22, what is bound up in the heart of a child? Foolishness, Mischief, Love, Rebellion
5. In biblical times, what were small copper coins called? Pennies, Shekels, Mites, Paschals
6. From Judges 10, who had 30 sons that rode 30 donkeys? Elijah, Jair, Ezekiel, Job

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) The women, 3) John the Baptist, 4) Foolishness, 5) Mites, 6) Jair
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?" And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

Detail of "Jacob Weeping for Joseph," Marc Chagall, 1956
 GENESIS 37: 32-34



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Global Healthcare Alliance, Inc., subsid. of Cedar Gate Tech., has job openings in Houston, TX for the following position:
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 Mail resumes to Patrick Gallagher, Talent Acquisition Manager, Global Healthcare Alliance Inc., subsid. of C. G. T., 1360 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 900, Houston, TX 77056 or email patrick.gallagher@cedargate.com. Ref. job code 1042.

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Greens Parkway Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Greens Parkway Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 10, 2024 at 11 a.m.** at 14950 Heathrow Forest Parkway, Suite 125, Houston, TX 77032. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: John Sims, Mark Ivy, Thomas L. Brummett & R. Shawn Emerick
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Randy Thibodeaux

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2023 Last Year Adopted	2024 This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.27/\$100	\$0.27/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ -	\$ -
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)		
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ -	\$ -
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ -	\$ -
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0.00%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

Utility Tax Service, LLC
(713) 688-3855

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The PINE VILLAGE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 09, 2024 at 4:30 PM** at Bowden Education Bldg., 3000 Aldine Mail Route Rd., Houston, Texas 77039. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: Augustine Rodriguez, Emma Hall, Tranessa Hunt, Violet Allen and Waymon C. Lemon

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.770000 / \$100	\$0.650000 / \$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.12 / \$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-15.584416%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$56,900	\$71,914
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$11,380	\$14,383
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$45,520	\$57,531
Tax on average residence homestead	\$350.50	\$373.95

Annual increase/decrease in taxes if
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)
and percentage of increase (+/-)

+\$23.45

+6.690442%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, Water Code.

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.

Wheeler & Associates, Inc. 713-462-8906

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The SEQUOIA IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at 14435 Sequoia Bend, Houston, Texas 77032. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: Gilbert Arauza, James Eastham, Sr., Jason Simpson, Karen Baker and Richard Slater

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.349000 / \$100	\$0.327000 / \$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.022 / \$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.303725%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$168,566	\$186,403
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$33,713	\$37,281
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$134,853	\$149,122
Tax on average residence homestead	\$470.64	\$487.63

Annual increase/decrease in taxes if
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)
and percentage of increase (+/-)

\$16.99

3.609978%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

Wheeler & Associates, Inc. 713-462-8906

Sheldon Road Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Sheldon Road Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom or in person at 9419 Lamkin Road, Houston, Texas 77049. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Wade Landry, Austin Squires, Cecilia Casas, Larry W. Allen & Leslie Brown

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

To participate by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85007461014?pwd=4oA8XPbcERSD8Px8z0zAU3qjRhbzY.1>
 Meeting ID: 850 0746 1014
 Passcode: 827245

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2023 Last Year Adopted	2024 This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.40/\$100	\$1.3138/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		(\$0.0862/\$100)
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.16%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 110,717	\$ 125,347
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	20%	20%
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 88,573	\$ 100,278
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,240.02	\$ 1,317.45
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$77.43 6.24%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

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Mei's Studio Opening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

did for me bringing memories of times past and current scenes I've seen.

The Silos at Sawyer Yards includes 97 workspaces for 100+ artists and contains galleries, office spaces, and retail establishments. You'll be able to see many different types/styles of art. Example, see above photo of Oluseyi Soyeye's fabric collage painting.

Sawyer Yards was officially launched in 2005 with the conversion of a 75,000-square-foot warehouse surrounded by a still-thriving rail yard. The renovated building debuted as Winter Street Studios and received the first art studio ordinance granted in Houston. At that point, the vision to move forward and construct a dedicated creative community gained momentum. The immediate success of Winter Street Studios was quickly followed by the unique, architecturally sensitive conversions of five other studio complexes in the area.

These former warehouses and industrial spaces have been converted into hundreds of art studios, art galleries, fine dining establishments, fitness concepts, craft breweries, entertainment venues, and more. The Sawyer Yards campus focuses on all forms of creativity, with plentiful recurring and unique events year-round.

The fact that all of this creativity has been built on converted old rail yard space is truly impressive, and it's worth it alone to visit as a testament to Houston's innovative and resourceful art spirit. More



First guests to arrive at the Grand Opening were Linda and Allan Jamail. Allan takes all the great sports photos for the newspapers, and now Art.



Gil and Mei Hoffman welcome guests with Dr. Elizabeth Guy.



Mei chats with Alexis Lajeunesse about the many types of mediums she uses for her artwork.

than 300 established and emerging artists work at six different buildings, and you can meet them face to face.

Hoffman is extending her invitation to readers to come to The Silos on the second and third Saturday of the month to visit her studio (Suite 113) and the many other artists studios. Many of them open their doors and will be glad to discuss their art pieces

with you. No matter what's your budget; from affordable mementos to expensive masterpieces, you may find a piece of art that appeals to you and you can take it home.

Mei and Gilbert Hoffman are the current owners of the North Channel Star, Northeast News, Star Courier and other publications that bring community news to their readers.

BAA leads Constitution & Citizenship Day in Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

etry and a great Historical Parade prepared by New Citizens. By celebrating the achievements of many Legal Residents who have prepared for an entire year to reach the goal of U.S. citizenship, we invited and were joined by many from all communities and organizations.

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, we welcomed remarks from Mr. Carlos Silva a great leader who is currently the Chairman of the Board of East Aldine Management District and works on many projects to beautify the Aldine area. We also had a great panel of speakers including, State Representative Armando Walle, Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez President of Lone Star College - Kingwood, Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, Adrian Garcia, and Dean Reyna Gomez Tippets from Lone Star College - East Aldine Center. We were fortunate to have Mr. Reggie Gray, President of the Houston International Chamber of Commerce as Master of Ceremony. Mr. Gray is a well-known leader in the community. Cadet Grethel Konopka received Bonding Against Adversity's Citizen of the Year Award. Ms. Konopka, complete the citizenship preparation and application process with Bonding Against Adversity, at the same time she was studying and completed the Law Enforcement Academy program at Lone Star College. Also, participating in the day's celebration was MacArthur High School marching band, MacArthur High School JROTC, the choir from Garcia Leza and the folkloric dance troupe from Carver School directed by Ms. Veronica Flores.

Perhaps, most important of all was the partici-



Bonding Against Adversity had a float in the Parade.



Music and Dancing were part of the Festivities for Constitution Day.



Mariana Sanchez presents Citizen of the Year Award to Grethel Konopka.



MacArthur High School marching band participated in the Parade.



Citizen audience listens to the Panel Speakers at Lone Star College - EA



President Dr. Melissa Gonzalez and BAA's Mariana Sanchez present Recognition Awards to Citizens for their participation.



Harris County was on hand to demonstrate voting machines.

pation of hundreds of new U.S. Citizens. Those not registered to vote had the opportunity to register to vote with the assistance of the League of Women Voters. All U.S. citizen participants were given the opportunity, with the guidance of Harris County Clerk's Office to see how the Harris County voting machines work and to practice using a sample machine.

The event, a tremendous success, attracted more than 700 participants.

CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY!

On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed the United States Constitution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For over 200 years (236, to be exact,) the Constitution has served as the Supreme Law of the Land. The Constitution, along with the Bill of Rights and other amendments, define our government and guarantee our rights. Each year, on September 17, Americans celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. However, it was not until 2004 (19 years ago) that the holiday took on the full name it bears today.

In addition, the week of September 17 through 23 is also recognized as Constitution Week. During this time, U. S. Citizenship, and Immigration Service (USCIS) encourages "Americans to reflect on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and what it means to be a U.S. citizen."

--By Mariana Sanchez