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NORTHEAST NEWS



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARMANDO WALLE AT THE WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

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VOL. 48, NO. 37 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

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.

Book Reading at BakerRipley Oct. 4

High Meadows Library Friends, the East Aldine District, and BakerRipley present a "Familia: Community Storytelling Gathering" with author Denise Chavez. Readings from her book "STREET OF TOO MANY STORIES" with a book signing to follow. Friday, Oct. 4 from 5pm to 7pm, at BakerRipley East Aldine Campus Family Welcome Center, 3000 Aldine Mail Route, Houston.

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.

County votes Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget

By Tim Carlin

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County raised property tax rates by 7 cents per \$100, and passed a \$2.67 billion budget, over District Attorney Kim Ogg's objections. Despite last minute pushback from District Attorney Kim Ogg and the panel's lone Republican, Harris County Commissioners Court passed its \$2.67 billion budget last Thursday with the increase.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey attempted, unsuccessfully, to add back \$6 million to the Harris County District Attorney's office's budget that was removed after the district attorney's office failed to com-

ply with a requirement that departments propose spending plans that include potential cuts equal to 5 percent of last year's budget.

Ogg and members of her top brass spoke before the court earlier Thursday, saying that without the \$6 million the office would need to layoff experienced employees.

Harris County Budget Director Daniel Ramos rebutted the claim, saying the district attorney's current budget would carry the office through the end of the year without issue.

To assuage Ogg's concerns, the court amended the budget by instructing the county's office of management and budget to work with the district at-

orney's office to ensure no layoffs take place between the start of the next fiscal year in October and the beginning of 2025 when a new district attorney will take office.

Also in this year's budget is the start of a five-year plan to help offset

any future structural deficits to the county's finances. Each year, the amount of deficit reductions will vary based on necessity, Ramos said.

This year the budget

includes nearly \$26 million in deficit reductions.

Those reductions largely will come in the form of revenue enhancements, much of it in a direct transfer from the Harris County Toll Road Authority. The budget only includes \$1 million in cost-cutting measures to reduce the current deficit.

The budget office identified jail costs, indigent defense, natural disasters and health care costs as key factors his office had to take into account when creating the fiscal 2025 spending plan.

Population growth in the county jail has caused \$85 million in additional spending, Ramos wrote. When the Texas Commission on Jail Standards be-

gan decreasing the Harris County Jail's bed capacity, more spending was needed to outsource inmates.

The county's indigent defense costs also have increased in recent years. Last year alone, Harris County spent more than \$100 million on court-appointed lawyers for people who cannot afford to pay for their own legal representation.

Three natural disasters – the May 2 flooding event, the May 16 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl – will require about \$50 million in clean-up expenses. The county, however, is anticipating the Federal Emergency Man-

Continued. See COUNTY TAX INCREASE, Page 2

SEE OP-ED "COUNTY RAISES PROPERTY TAXES 30% IN TWO YEARS" by Bill King. Page 4

Walle at White House Child Care Conference

WASHINGTON DC – Texas State Representative Armando L. Walle was invited to The White House States Convening on Childcare, along with legislators from across the country last Friday, September 27. They met to network and share ideas about childcare policy.

Walle said that having high quality, affordable and accessible child care for hard working families is not a luxury. It's pro family issue but also an economic issue. Walle said he looks forward to hearing more from policy makers and the White House.

"I'm Glad to represent Texas with my colleague Rep. James Talarico in Washington, DC."



State Representative Armando Walle, at the White House Child Care Conference, gives his views on the subject.



Walle in 2nd row at right, with other State Representatives at Conference at White House Executive Offices.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE – (2nd of a series)

Celebrating Sylvia Garcia

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX ~ September 23, 2024 is the second week of Hispanic Heritage Month to be observed 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 fall is just one opportunity to showcase these achievements.

My honoree this week is Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia whom I've known for about 45 years and watched her grow into becoming one of the nation's most influ-



U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia

ential congressional representatives'. Just as her parents believed in her future, Congresswoman Garcia believes the children of

CONTINUED. See HISPANIC HERITAGE HONOREE, Page 3

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 5:

Diggs faces old team when Bills come to town: Reeling Cowboys face stern test in Pittsburgh

Texas' two professional football teams had a rough go of it two weeks ago as both teams suffered defeats.

The Texans were dominated on both sides of the ball in their 34-7 loss at Minnesota, while the Cowboys were run over and through by Baltimore enroute to a 28-25 loss at home, in a game that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

The Texans offensive line had a rough day, which was bad news for QB C.J. Stroud. That unit allowed Stroud to be sacked five times and had numerous illegal procedure and holding calls that stalled out drives.

The Cowboys defense once again was shredded at home as Ravens running back Derick Henry, who many expected would sign with Dallas in the offseason, ran over and through the Pokes for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Dallas trailed 28-6



entering the fourth quarter and scored 19 points in the final stanza to make the score respectable.

Things don't get any easier for either team this week as the Texans host the hot Buffalo Bills, while the Cowboys head to Pittsburgh to take on a Steelers team that won its first three games behind a defense that allowed just 26 points through the first three weeks of the season. Dallas and Pittsburgh will meet on Sunday Night Football.

Texans wide receiver Stefon Diggs will be going up against his former team when the Bills visit NRG Stadium on Sunday at noon. Diggs spent four productive years with Josh Allen and Buffalo, but was traded in the offseason to the Texans. Some say he wore out his welcome in Buffalo, while others contend it was time for him to move on. The Texans were more than happy to have the steady

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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Hispanic Heritage, Sylvia Garcia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas can do anything. Garcia has dedicated her life to her community and to public service. As a social worker and legal aid lawyer early in her professional career, she protected our community's most vulnerable, old and young, and ensured no one was forgotten.

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia is a native of Palito Blanco, a South Texas farming community. The eighth of ten children, Congresswoman Garcia saw her parents struggle to raise her and her siblings. Congresswoman Garcia's parents taught her that with hard work and a good education she could accomplish anything. As a result of these lessons, Congresswoman Garcia dedicated herself to success at school. She earned a scholarship to Texas Woman's University in Denton, where she graduated with a degree in social work and political science. Congresswoman Garcia then received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, working several jobs to pay for her tuition.

Garcia continued her public service career by serving as Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal System for an unprecedented five terms under two mayors.



Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia on her Early life as a native of Palito Blanco, a South Texas farming community.

In 1998, she was elected Houston's City Controller, the second highest elected official in Houston city government and its chief financial officer. She quickly earned a reputation as the taxpayers' watchdog, fighting to protect the pocketbooks of working families and ensuring the City was transparent and accountable.

After two terms as Controller, Congresswoman Garcia broke barriers in Harris County, when she was elected to the Harris County Commissioner's Court. The first Hispanic and first woman to be elected in her own right to the office, she continued her advocacy for working families and made certain Harris County took care of its most defenseless, all while making certain Harris County led the way for new jobs and economic development.

Congresswoman Garcia was sworn in to the Texas State Senate on March 11, 2013, representing Senate District 6. She became the seventh woman and the third Hispanic woman to serve in the upper chambers after winning a special runoff election for the seat of the late Senator Mario Gallegos.

Over three terms in the Texas Senate, Congresswoman Garcia has been a fighter for her district and advocated for veterans, immigrant rights, women's health and access to healthcare. She has passed numerous bills including the Relationship Privacy Act which outlaws revenge pornography, the Truckers Against Trafficking Bill, which requires human trafficking training for commercial drivers, and the School Bus Safety Act, which requires school buses in Texas to have seat-belts.

In 2018, Congresswoman Garcia decided to take her fight to Washington. She ran to represent her community, country and family in Congress. On January 3, 2019 she was inaugurated to represent Texas Congressional District 29. She became the first His-

panic member of the Houston Congressional Delegation and one of the first two Latinas to represent the State of Texas in the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman Garcia serves as the Vice Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee. During her first year in Congress, she played a critical role in the impeachment investigation against Donald Trump. On January 15, 2020, she was selected as one of seven impeachment managers tasked with making the case to the American people and the Senate for the removal of Donald Trump as President of the United States.

She is the first Hispanic and one of the first three women to ever serve as an impeachment manager in a presidential impeachment trial.

The most recent achievement Garcia made was in August when she was named/appointed Chief Deputy Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives. This new role puts her in a position to help Democrats organize members before big important votes. She'll work as go-between top leaders and rank-and-file members.

Congresswoman Garcia has been named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and chosen as one of "Houston's 25 Power People" by Inside Houston magazine. She has been awarded the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America, the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund Matt Garcia Public Service Award and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus Eleanor Tinsley Award.

Active in the Houston community, Congresswoman Garcia has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, Battleship Texas and the Museum of Fine Arts - Houston.

County Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget passed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

agement Agency to reimburse 70 percent of those costs.

The county also is budgeting for an increase in health care costs for its employees in the next fiscal year, anticipating a "substantial" rise in medical inflation.

Raising tax rates

In addition to the budget, Commissioners Court also approved the first overall property tax rate increase in six years.

The court formally increased the overall property tax rate to 60.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, just more than 7 cents higher than the current levy.

For the owner of a

\$274,000 home – the median home value in Harris County, according to the Harris Central Appraisal District – with the standard 20 percent homestead exemption, next year's tax bill will go up about \$162.

A state-imposed tax cap requires local governments to get voter approval before raising tax revenues by more than 3.5 percent. That cap, however, does not apply during declared disasters, which this year include the May derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

One part of the county's property tax rate, the Harris County Flood Control District levy, is contingent upon voter

approval this November.

Commissioners Court is asking voters to approve a flood control rate of 3.78 cents per \$100 of assessed value – a 1.5-cent increase – to help modernize the county's flood mitigation system.

If approved, the increased tax rate would generate an additional \$100 million in revenue for the Flood Control District. That money would be used to improve flood mitigation and allow the county to operate on a 67-year rehabilitation and replacement schedule. The district currently operates on a 270-year rehab and replacement rate.

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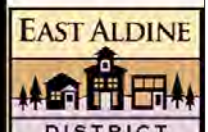
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First 30 Attendees get a free copy of Denise Chavez book

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EVENTO DE AUTOR
CON DENISE CHAVEZ
@BAKERRIPLEY
Una colaboración con High Meadows Library Friends, East Aldine Management, y BakerRipley.
Acompáñanos en BakerRipley para Familia: A community storytelling Gathering with Denise Chavez con una noche de cuentos de su último libro y firma de libros.
Regístrate escaneando el código QR o visitando aldinedistrict.org en la página del evento.
Los 30 primeros atender recibirán un copia gratis del libro de Denise Chavez

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LIBRARY TECHNICIAN
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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Movement Monday: Mario Math Party

Come out and move! Use math to complete the course and reach the finish line. Come dressed up in your favorite costume that allows crawling and jumping! This program focuses on improving physical health and also enhances early literacy skills in a fun and interactive way. Encouraged to bring water. No registration required. **Monday, Oct. 7, 11 - 11:30am.**

¡Sal y muévete! Usa las matemáticas para completar el curso y llegar a la meta. ¡Ven disfrazado con tu disfraz favorito que te permite gatear y saltar! Este programa no solo se enfoca en mejorar la salud física sino que también mejora las habilidades de alfabetización temprana de una manera divertida e interactiva. El programa está en inglés y español. Se recomienda traer agua. No es necesario registrarse. **Lunes 7 de octubre, 11-11:30am.**

Paint with Me
Paint with Me is a space for you to explore creativity and embrace the beauty of making mistakes. You'll work together with other teens to create large-scale pieces based on classic works of art! Our finished pieces will be displayed in the teen area. Each session begins with a brief introduction to the painting techniques and styles used in the classic work so that you can have a foundation to experiment with. Paint with Me is all about artistic expression, not technical perfection. Embrace your creativity, learn from your mistakes, work together, and find joy in the artistic process. **Monday, Oct. 7, 3-4:30pm.**

Bilingual Story Time/Hora de cuentos Bilingue
Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome! **Tuesday, Oct. 8, 11-1:45am.**

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

Are Books Good
Help us decide once and for all whether books are good. Ms. Gage and Ms. Nicole will read the stories out loud. You eat snacks and vote on which story is the best! Great for reluctant readers ages 9-13 or for readers who need to practice their language skills! Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 2nd to 6th graders. **Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5-5:45pm**

Computer Basics and Digital Learning
If you are new to computers, haven't used them for a while, are a little unsure and uncomfortable, or just need a bit of a refresher, we have the tools to help you tackle technology at your own pace and gain the confidence you need to succeed? Join us on Tuesdays at 5pm in the computer lab. Registration is required for full series. **Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5-6pm.**

Self-Care Sessions
Join us weekly and make yourself a priority. Take some time to focus on yourself. It's not selfish. It's time just for you. This program is for adults only (ages 18 and up). This week we will have a guest speaker, Felicia Pichon, a breast cancer survivor and founder of Sisters Thrive, who will talk to us about moving beyond surviving to thriving. **Wednesday, Oct. 9, 11am - 12pm.**

October Sessions:
Oct. 2 - Chair Yoga & Paper Flowers
Oct. 9 - Sisters Thrive: from Surviving to Thriving & Affirmation Coloring
Oct. 16 - Golden Friends & Friendship Rocks
Oct. 23 - Puzzles & Podcasts
Oct. 29 - Art & Music
Teen Thursdays
Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! **Thursday, Oct. 10, 3:30pm - 5:30pm.**
Ology: Fossils
How hard is it really to dig bones out of the ground? What can scientists learn from dinosaur bones they discover? Let's find out

together by having our very own cookie excavation! **Thursday, Oct. 10, 6-7pm**

PJ Storytime
Join us for Pajama Story Time! Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite bedtime friend. Featuring stories, songs and yoga for better sleep. See you there! **Thursday, Oct. 10, 6-6:45pm.**

Butterfly Buddies
Join a monarch butterfly and her friends to save their endangered habitat in Mexico! This program is fun, interactive, and educational for the whole family. **Friday, Oct. 11, 3-4pm.**

Aldine Library Fall Festival
Aldine library invites you to take part in our Fall Festival. We'll have candy, community partners, activities, scary storytelling, black light spooky room and craft activities. We cannot wait for this family-fun event! Don't forget to wear your Halloween costumes to Trick or Treat as well. No registration required. **Wednesday, Oct. 23, 4-6pm.**

Passport Services
Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 6-8 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services/>. Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Outstanding Awards From Mexican American School Board Association at 2024 Conference

The conference also featured two AISD student speakers and two student art winners.

The Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA) honored Aldine ISD with the 2024 Outstanding Educator Support and Outstanding Civics Initiative Awards.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, the Board of Trustees, and her Executive Leadership Team members accepted the awards at the 2024 MASBA Conference this month in San Antonio. The MASBA Recognition of Excellence Awards recognize outstanding achievements and share best practices within our community.

2024 MASBA Recognition of Excellence Awards Outstanding Educator Support — SHINE (Supporting Honoring Inspiring New Educators)

SHINE in Aldine is an induction program that provides novice teachers



MASBA Recognition of Excellence Awards 2024

with the necessary skills and tools to start their teaching careers. The program enhances retention rates and satisfaction through targeted professional development, certified mentors, dedicated coaching support, and the fostering of community,

teamwork, and professional growth.

Outstanding Civics Initiative — Parent Leadership Academy

The mission of the Parent Leadership Academy is to support emerging bilingual families and communities with a pragmatic

curriculum and instructional delivery. The goal is to supplement the district's vision of "strengthening partnerships with families and communities" by reaching the parents of emergent bilingual students. AISD is committed to providing families with

the motivation, tools, and resources needed to succeed, fostering a sense of belonging and unity within the Aldine community.

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney thanked MASBA for acknowledging the school district's work in two vital

initiatives: educator support and civics education and outreach. These initiatives are about their impact on our students and parents. We are truly grateful for the honors and remain committed to preparing our students for their future.

2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Honors Hispanic Pioneers

Brief History About Hispanic Heritage Day

President Lyndon B. Johnson first introduced National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. As cited in President Johnson's 1968 Proclamation, on September 15, five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua—earned independence from Spain in 1821. Mexico and Chile became independent from Spain on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Belize became independent from the United Kingdom on September 21.

A Few Facts

Spanish has the second largest number of speakers around the world. From Asia to the Americas, many places speak Spanish, with nearly 500 million native speakers and almost 600 million when including second language speakers worldwide.

The number of Spanish speakers worldwide is on a steady rise, from Spanish-speaking countries in Africa to Spanish-speaking nations in Asia, making it one of the most widely spoken languages globally. The Census Bureau estimates that 65.2 million Hispanics lived in the U.S. as of July 1, 2023, a new high. They made up more than 19% of the nation's population.

The Cervantes Institute predicts that the population in officially Spanish-speaking nations will reach 750 million by 2050.

By the Numbers

Spanish is second only to Chinese in terms of the most spoken languages in the world.

According to the official U.S. census, by 2060, the United States will have the highest number of Spanish speakers in the world after Mexico, and around 28.6% of the population will be Hispanic.

Houston's Hispanic population is increasing rapidly as more Latin American immigrants move to the area to work. Houston now has the 3rd largest Hispanic population in the United States after New York and Los Angeles.

Celebrate!

The district encourages everyone to learn about Hispanics' various cultures, customs, traditions, and history. Click [HERE](#) for celebrations around the city of Houston.

Planned Activities at the District's Administrative Buildings

Week of September 23
Virtual Lunch Panel: On Friday, September 27, at

11:30 a.m., the DAB and BAM staff members are invited to a special event—a virtual lunch panel. Here, they'll have the chance to hear from Aldine campus leaders about how their Hispanic culture has shaped their leadership in our schools. A virtual meeting link will be shared via a Blackboard email closer to the date.

Week of September 29
Student Performances: On Tuesday, October 1, the Carter Elementary ballet folklórico dancers and violin players will perform at the DAB and BAM Buildings. On Thursday, October 3, the Aldine ISD's award-winning student mariachi group, Acero, will perform for the BAM building.

Week of October 6
Staff will continue to complete their book lotería card. They can find a lotería page within the Hispanic Heritage Month PDF (Page 9) or click [HERE](#) to download the lotería card. Competing staff members must send their completed card to Grace Delgado, ahdelgado@aldineisd.org, by Monday, October 14. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, October 15.

Week of October 13
The Hispanic community has made significant contributions to the well-being of Americans across the country. The more than 62 mil-

lion Hispanic Americans living in the U.S. today have left their mark on communities through their music, art, food, and social and political contributions, all for the betterment of the country.

Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans Association of Latino Professionals for America Baker Ripley Bilingual Generation Hispanic Health Coalition Houston Hispanic Chamber Latin Women's Initiative Latinos for Education Racial Equity Institute Texas Association for Bilingual Education

And right after HHM24 ... October 21

Award-winning author Raúl González, aka Raúl the Third, will be sharing his most recent addition to his World of Vamos series, ¡Vamos! Let's Celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos: A Halloween and Day of the Dead Celebration with second-grade bilingual students in Elementary Team 1 on Monday, October 21, 2024. Students will hear from the author and receive a signed copy for their home libraries.

Share on Social Media
Be sure to share on social media how you celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Include the hashtags #AIS-DHHM24 and #AldineImpact.

Aldine ISD Campuses Receive Magnet School Awards

A new school year has also brought new awards for a couple Aldine ISD campuses. Grantham and Reece Academy have both received distinctions from Magnet Schools of America, by earning Nationally Certified Demonstration Magnet School status.

To be awarded these certifications, the campuses must have met rigorous qualifications. There are only five other schools in Texas who have achieved this national certification. The qualifications are all tied to a grading rubric based on standards of excellence and five pillars that are used to critique the campuses. Those five pillars are: Diversity, Innovative Curriculum and Professional Development, Academic Excellence, Leadership and Family and Community Partnerships.

Grantham Academy Principal Ivan Hepworth said he was proud of his



team for their hard work in achieving this national status.

"I am so excited that we met the criteria to be recognized as a Nationally Certified Demonstration Magnet School! Not only did we attain the National Recognition status, but we were also awarded the Demonstration Magnet School status, the highest certification available," Hepworth said.

Reece Academy Principal Natalie Andrus also shared a mutual sentiment with her team.

"I know what a great accomplishment this is for our school, and I'm so

proud of the wonderful culture we have created here for our students, staff and teachers," Andrus said.

In addition to the new certification that MSA has awarded these campuses, it also means that other magnet schools across the country will look to these campuses as guides and examples on how to achieve the certification. This can range from ways on how to model the programs at other campuses, to campus visits from other schools to get a closer look at how Grantham and Reece Academy operate.

Aldine ISD is always looking to provide its communities with the best choices and opportunities, and this is another example of that being done within the district. If you want to learn more about Grantham Academy, or Reece Academy, you can click either link to be taken to their website.

Aldine ISD Trustee Dr. Viola M. García Joins Latino Policymakers for NALEO's Institute on Emergency Preparedness

Aldine ISD Trustee Dr. Viola M. García joined the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and a cohort of more than 70 Latino policymakers in Houston, Texas, for an Institute on Emergency Preparedness. The NALEO Policy Institute on Emergency Preparedness: Mitigation Planning for All Hazards took place September 19–20 at the C. Baldwin Hotel in downtown Houston, Texas.

The Institute provided García and other Latino policymakers with an opportunity to learn about effective response and mitigation planning for local policymakers who play critical leadership roles, support multi-jurisdictional and agency coordination, and help establish critical partnerships across sectors before a disaster occurs. These efforts are essential to saving lives and property in response to disasters.

"Given the critical need and responsibilities to plan for unexpected hazards, emergencies, and disturbances, I am very grateful for the opportunity to have participated and met with



Dr. Viola M García

experts and leaders across the country to better understand policies and best practices to prepare for and mitigate emergencies," García said.

During the convening, García networked with other Latino leaders from over 10 states nationwide and heard from leading public, private, and non-profit experts about policies and best practices for preparing for emergencies. The Institute also served as a platform for participants to network and exchange ideas about this critical issue.

Topics addressed during the convening included:

The Current and Future Landscape of Emergency Management and Personal Safety
Emergency Response

and Recovery: Who Is in Charge? And Who Pays for It?

Identifying Hazards and Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Planning

Building Resilient Communities: Zoning and Building Codes for Hazard Mitigation


The Role of AI in Hazard Mitigation

Select speakers at the Institute included the Honorable Francisco Sánchez Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration; Mr. Hansel Ibarra, Community Disaster Risk Reduction Manager, American Red Cross; and Mr. Josh Morton, First Vice President, International Association of Emergency Managers.

For more than a decade, more than 400 Latino elected officials have participated in these professional development institutes, which are dedicated to enhancing Latino leaders' governance and leadership skills by providing programming on various components of emergency preparedness, response, and management.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Harris County has Raised Property Taxes by nearly 30% in the last two years

It has been widely reported by the local media that Harris County Commissioners' Court increased taxes by 8% at their meeting on September 19.

However, the County's public tax notices clearly show that for the increase for the average homeowner will be at least 15% and may be as high as 19%. While this increase is jaw-dropping, it is made even more egregious because it comes on the heels of a nearly 12% increase last year, making the increase over the last two years 29.5%. These increases will result in the County and its related entities receiving nearly \$900 million more in tax revenue than just two years ago. To say this increase is unprecedented is a gross understatement. I suspect this is the largest two-year tax increase in the history of the State of Texas.

The Tax Setting Process

First, it is important to remember that your tax bill is a function of two factors: the tax rate and the taxable appraised value of your property. If either of those goes up or down, so will your tax bill.

When elected officials set their tax rates in the fall of each year, the appraisal district has provided them with an estimate for the likely increase in the appraised values for that year.¹ That estimated increase in the appraised value for the average taxpayer's home is included in the required tax notices. So, when elected officials set tax rates for the year, they know what the likely effect will be on their residents' tax bills.

Officials like to talk about tax rates but ignore appraised values, which for many years have been steadily moving higher. This allows elected officials to claim that they are holding taxes steady or, in this case, mislead taxpayers that an increase is not as dramatic as it actually is.

The 2024 Tax Increases

The **Commissioners' Court** sets the tax rates for the Harris County along with the Harris County Flood Control District, the Harris County Hospital District and the Port Authority. Because these are separate legal entities, they must publish separate public notices regarding their tax rates.

So, let's look at what happened at each of these entities in the tax setting process over the last two years.

In both of these tax years, the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) notified Commissioners' Court in advance of setting the tax rate, that appraised values would be increasing. The projected increase in 2023 was 9.3% and 4.48% in 2024. So, Commissioners knew that even if they did not increase the tax rate at all, property owners' tax bills would still go up by those amounts.

Here are the tax rates set by Commissioners' Court this year and the effect they had on the average homeowner according to the official public tax notices.²

For the County, the Commissioners' Court approved an increase in the tax rate of just over 10%. When the 10% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's County tax bill will increase by 15%.

(Note: All of the tables included in this post are screenshots taken from the public tax rate notices the County is required to publish. Each screenshot has a hyperlink to the corresponding notice in which it appeared.)

For the Harris County Hospital District, the Commissioners' Court approved a 13.98% tax rate increase. When the 13.98% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's Hospital District tax bill will increase by 19.09%.

For the Port Authority, the Commissioners' Court approved a 7.14% increase in the tax rate. When the 7.14% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's Port Authority tax bill will increase by 11.96%.

In addition, the Commissioners' Court has also asked voters to approve a massive 65% increase in the property taxes for the Flood Control District.

If voters approve the increase for the Flood Control District, the total tax bill for all four entities for the average homeowner will jump from \$1,159 last year to \$1,379 this year, a 19% increase.

The 2023 Tax Increase

As I mentioned previously, this increase comes on top of another large increase in the tax bills last year. However, the math last year was different.

Last year, there were small increases in the tax rates for the County and the Flood Control District with small offsetting reductions in the tax rates for the Hospital District and the Port Authority. But HCAD projected at the time that the value of the average home would increase by 9.3%. As a result, the Commissioners' Court knew that if they held the tax rate close to even, taxpayers would be paying about 9% more. **The end result was an overall 9.7% increase last year.**

When added together, the taxes for the average homeowner will increase in just two years by 29.5% (\$1062 \$1,379).

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from the beginning of 2023 through the first quarter of 2024 (their last published data), average wages for Harris County were only up by 3.9%. So, Harris County taxes over the last two years have grown more than the rate seven times higher than Harris County's residents' wages.

The increase in Harris County taxes is **five times the rate of inflation for our region** over the last two years.

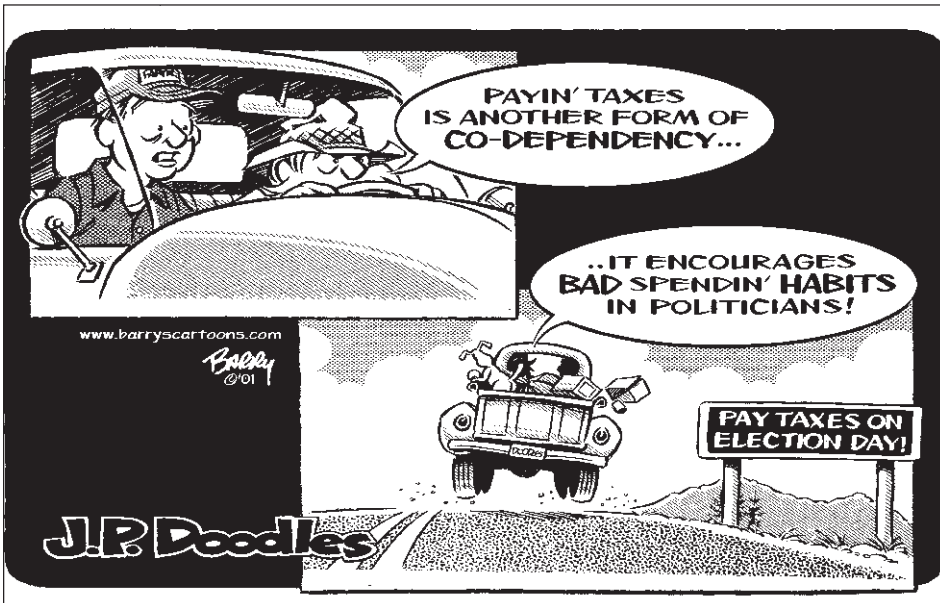
Of course, homeowners are only one piece of the property tax pie. The increases in the total tax levy by the County provides a more macro view of the magnitude of the increases over the last two years. Again, according to the County's tax notices, **the total levy for all four entities has gone from slightly under \$3.1 billion in 2022 to nearly \$4 billion for this year, a staggering 28.7% increase** in the overall tax burden from the County in just two years. Frankly, I have never heard of a property tax increase even close to this magnitude before.

And keep in mind that is on top of **historic increases** in the amount that County has siphoned from the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

This tax increase will be felt by every person and business across the county. The cost of everything will be higher as result of it and that will be on top of the current inflation we are already dealing with.

I am not sure when, or perhaps, if ever, these elected officials will come to comprehend that people do not have to live here. Ultimately, they will vote with their feet. Indeed, they have already begun to do so. In the last decade, Harris County's net domestic migration has been a **negative 200,000**. I suspect these massive tax increases will send more running for the exits.

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Voter Registration Deadline Nears for November Election

Eligible Texans planning to vote in the November general election have until Oct. 7 to register, Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson reminds folks. The registration deadline applies to both early and election day voting.

"Texans have just a few short weeks left to register to vote, and I want to ensure all eligible Texans who want to make their voices heard are registered and prepared to do so," Nelson said.

Instructions on how to register to vote and how to update existing voter registrations can be found at VoteTexas.org. To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county where you register and at least 18 years old on Election Day.

Texas officials say they have scrubbed voter rolls of more than 1 million voters deemed ineligible. The routine process culls people who have moved out of state or are dead. Voters can ensure they are registered by going to the My Voter Portal on the secretary of state's website,

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Early voting begins on Oct. 21 and ends Nov. 1. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Oct. 25. Election Day is Nov. 5.

VENEZUELAN GANG DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Gov. Greg Abbott and state officials have labeled the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua as a "foreign terrorist organization," the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The gang originated in Venezuela's prison system a decade ago and first operated from the state of Aragua, from which it derives its name. Its criminal activities include drug trafficking, human smuggling, kidnapping, extortion and illegal mining, according to the report. State officials believe the gang is operating in Texas.

"Our goal is to defend Texas from the growing threat of the gang," Abbott said. "We will not let them use Texas as a base of operations to terrorize our citizens."

Abbott has said El Paso is a locus of illegal activity by members of Tren de Aragua. A law passed in 2023 to target smugglers of undocumented



immigrants will be used against gang members, he said.

JUDGE TOSSES PAXTON SUIT AGAINST BEXAR COUNTY

A state district judge last week threw out a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against Bexar County's plan to mail voter registration forms to county residents, The Texas Tribune reported. Since the forms have already been mailed, District Judge Antonia Arteaga ruled the case was moot.

Paxton sued the county to attempt to block the mailing of the forms. He asserted that the efforts in Bexar County, as well as in Harris and Travis counties, are a violation of state law and risk adding non-citizens to voter rolls. Bexar county commissioners called the claims misleading and unfounded.

A similar suit against Travis County has been moved to federal court, where county officials are also challenging Paxton's efforts to stop voter registration efforts. In addition, Jolt, a nonprofit that is pushing for increased Latino participation in the electoral process, has sued Paxton after being targeted in a separate investigation into its registration efforts.

PROJECT 2025 DATA SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD

Data compiled by the Heritage Foundation, architect of the controversial Project 2025,

indicates noncitizen voting in Texas is not a widespread problem, the Texas Newsroom reported.

A database maintained since 2017 houses state data since 2005. Only three instances of noncitizens casting ballots have been found since

2012, the database indicates.

The Heritage Foundation has recently sounded alarm bells about potential noncitizen voting in the upcoming general election. The American Immigration Council cited the foundation's own data as proof that noncitizen voting is not a widespread problem.

"The lessons to take from Heritage's own database are that noncitizen voting is not a serious problem and that to the extent rare cases occur, they would be best addressed by better training government workers to recognize immigration documents and follow procedure," wrote Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a senior fellow at the council.

PUC URGED TO MORE CLOSELY VET PLANT LOAN APPLICANTS

The Public Utility Commission has drawn criticism after initially approving a power plant project in the Rio Grande Valley for a company whose CEO was convicted of embezzlement seven years earlier.

The application has since been canceled, the Texas Standard reported. Earlier this month, the Senate Finance Committee grilled agency leaders, who are tasked with approving loans out of a \$5 billion fund approved by lawmakers to boost the state's power grid.

"The role of your organization has changed dramatically," state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, told PUC Chair Thomas Gleeson. "We're expecting more from you. You're not just a [electricity] rate organization anymore."

Gleeson said the PUC would review its processes and has penalized Deloitte, the firm hired to administer the Texas Energy Fund, by cutting its contract by 10%. The agency is under pressure to finish loaning the \$5 billion by the end of 2025, according to the legislation.

TIME FOR FLU, COVID-19 VACCINES

Autumn has officially arrived, which means it's the season to consider booster shots for the flu, COVID-19 and other immunizations, such as shingles or pneumonia. The Statesman reported healthcare providers say it's OK to get both the flu and COVID-19 shots at the same time, but people should first check with their healthcare provider.

The federal Food and Drug Administration has approved three updated COVID-19 boosters, and the agency urges people of all ages to get vaccinated. The vaccines typically become effective in two weeks, healthcare authorities say. Most insurance plans cover the cost of the vaccines.

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**

The Way of Cats



My husband, Peter, had never had a cat before we adopted Felix, and Felix is taking full advantage of this.

Peter didn't know, for instance, that cats require tuna, right out of the can, every night at precisely 8:30 p.m.—until Felix informed him. Peter did not know that he was not permitted to be late, nor was he allowed to run out of tuna. Felix has a firm no-substitutions policy. Peter now understands this.

Peter didn't know the kinds of games that cats like to play, so Felix had to train him from scratch. This has been a lot of work for Felix, but he is patient, and Peter is a remarkably good student—for starting his training at such an advanced age.

Felix started Peter out with relatively easy games at first. There was the Towel Over the Head game, which is quite simple once you get the hang of it. All Peter had to do was throw a towel over Felix's head and stomp around the floor in front of him so Felix could chase Peter by sound from underneath the towel. The towel serves as a handicap for Felix because, obviously, catching Peter without a towel over his head would be far too easy and not much of a game.

After Towel Over the Head was mastered, Peter moved on to more challenging games. He played Around the House With a Mouse, where Felix has Peter run around with a mouse on a string. But that grew old quickly because Peter is far too slow. They tried Hide and Seek, but that also became tedious because Peter was loud as well as slow, and it was not reasonable to think he could ever outsmart Felix.

Then Peter graduated to Cat in a Box and a Stick, and I have to say, this is where Peter really began to excel as a student. Felix got inside a box and Peter poked the rubber end of a hiking pole into the open top while Felix grabbed onto the end of the stick. This game sounds deceptively simple, but you must have a light touch with the stick and not punch Felix in the stomach too hard while still moving the stick quickly and coming up with unexpected moves. I tried to play this game once, and Felix jumped out of the box and looked at me with disappointment. I clearly did not understand the rudiments of the game. Felix waited for Peter to play again.

Then we had a larger-than-usual Amazon delivery and Felix got a bigger box. That's when things got more interesting because Peter had the brilliant idea of cutting a small window in the box and revising the game to Cat in a Box With a Hole and a Stick, and this proved to be even better. Peter laughed himself silly, and Felix played to exhaustion. Peter then cut several more holes in the box, so it became Cat in a Box With Several Holes and a Stick. Felix's paws were poking out of several windows at once, and Peter left for his bike ride later and later because of the extended rounds required to play this game properly.

"You never had a cat before?" I asked Peter.

"Never! I knew nothing about cats," he insisted.

"Well, you are an expert now."

It's surprising, really. Peter is a natural with cats. But they say when the student is ready, the teacher will appear. Peter was ready and Felix appeared, ready to mentor Peter in the way of cats.

Till next time,
Carrie

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GREETINGS FROM GUANGZHOU

By Kristan Hoffman & Family



Greetings from Guangzhou

By Kristan Hoffman and family

Ni hao! That means “hello,” from southeast China!

On August 1, our little family of four relocated from Ohio all the way across the globe to Guangzhou. We will be living here for the next three years, due to my husband’s work.

Before this assignment I knew basically nothing about Guangzhou (which can be pronounced like “Gwong Joe”). But after four months of fast-tracked preparations and moving, I now know a lot more, and I keep learning new things every day!

The climate here is similar to Houston’s: hot,

muggy, and buggy. To work up a good sweat, you need only to step outside your door. That’s because the city is located about an hour’s drive from the coast, and along the same latitude as the middle of Mexico.

For roughly 2,000 years, Guangzhou has been an important port and trading hub, even anchoring the infamous Silk Road. Together with the nearby cities of Hong Kong, Macau, and Shenzhen, it makes up the largest urban area in the world. Roughly 86 million people! 27 million of those belong to greater Guangzhou.

Hearing those numbers, I expected the city to feel crowded and noisy, but our neighborhood is not at all. We live in Zhujiang New Town, which was designed by the local government to serve as a new cultural and commercial center. The area features gleaming skyscrapers and high-rise apartments, as well as ancient city gates and historical buildings, all bordered by generous sidewalks, and lush with flowers and greenery. Many consulates and corporate offices are located here, which creates a very foreigner-friendly environment.

Even within our “expat bubble,” many aspects of living in China are wildly different from the United States. First and foremost, the language. Mandarin is the official language of China, although here in Guangzhou, the Cantonese dialect is also widely spoken. My kids and I know some Mandarin, because my mom is from Taiwan, but still the learning curve has been steep. My hope is that by the time we leave in a few years, we can be conversationally fluent.

Another big difference is that nearly everything in China is done by app. Whether you are paying your utility bills or ordering takeout, riding the subway or hailing a Didi (their version of Uber), you need only your phone. Cash is technically usable, but in reality, almost all payments are processed via QR codes within China’s most famous app, WeChat.

On the one hand, this hyper-digitalization is super convenient; on the other, it’s a bit tricky when you are unable to read the local language. Thankfully nowadays there are apps for that too! We can take photos or screenshots of the Chinese characters, then run them through translators.



Anyway, after a few weeks, we are mostly settled in, but still learning our way around our new home city. We are also very much looking forward to exploring other cities and countries on this side of the world while it’s more convenient. These three years could be the greatest adventure our family will ever have together!

Iris’s Insights:

I love China but... Cincinnati will always be my home. I miss being closer to my family and my friends. China is an amazing place to be, because of the art, the food, the shops — just to name a few. And my school is amazing too. But it will never replace the old! And I hope my friends will notice how much I miss them.

So there are ups and downs to living abroad but... it’s really cool.

Reed’s Report:

P.E. is my favorite class because I play games with my friends.



FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 5:

Diggs faces old team when Bills come to town: Reeling Cowboys face stern test in Pittsburgh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

receiver to add one more weapon for Stroud.

Other top games this weekend in the NFL have Tampa Bay visiting Atlanta on Thursday Night Football in a key early-season NFC South tilt, while the improving Jets visit Minnesota on Sunday. Baltimore hopes the Dallas win was the springboard it needed to get on a run after losing their first two games at home. The Ravens will visit the Bengals, who lost their first three games (two at home) and can’t afford another loss this early in the season if they hope to contend for a playoff spot.

Week 5 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Saints visiting the Chiefs.

On the college schedule, No. 24-ranked Texas A&M hosts No. 11-ranked Missouri in a key SEC game for both teams, while Iowa visits No. 3-ranked Ohio State. No. 4-ranked Tennessee has a tough road test at high-scoring Arkansas.

District 14-6A play enters its second week with Nimitz taking on Aldine, MacArthur taking on Eisenhower and Davis visiting Spring.

Before we take a look at this weekend’s games, let’s, unfortunately, review last week’s record. After a blazing start to the season, we hit a brick wall with a 5-7 week, which brought the season record to a respectable 31-17 (66%).

Now, onto this weekend’s games.

HIGH SCHOOL

MacArthur vs. Eisenhower – Blake Ware’s Generals take on Odell James’ Eagles on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium. James was a star QB for the Generals in the mid-90s and led his team to a 3-0 non-district record. The Eagles are led by running backs Eligh Dixon (347 yards, 5 TDs) and Keon Hall (264 yards, 1 TD), while the Generals are led by QB Lance Nero (293 yards, 2 TDs) and running back Nick Macias (292 yards, 1 TD). My pick, Eisenhower 23, MacArthur 20

Davis at Spring – Kelvin’s Chatham’s Falcons head to Spring to take on the Lions on Thursday evening. Lions finished 5-6 a year ago and returns six offensive and six defensive starters. The Falcons are led by QB Andre Salazan (522 yards, 4 TDs) and running back Nicholas Tramble (248 Yards, 2 TDs). The Lions



struggled in non-district play. Look for the Falcons to pick up a big road victory on Thursday night. My pick, Davis 26, Spring 24

Nimitz vs. Aldine – Cornelius Harmon’s Cougars take on Cirilo Ojeda’s Mustangs on Friday night at Thorne Stadium. Nimitz has an explosive offense led by QB Albert Brown (737 yards, 11 TDs), running back Augustus Miles (263 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Ke’Lyn Washom (15 receptions, 282 yards, 4 TDs) and Malachi Augustus (12 receptions, 253 yards, 6 TDs). Aldine has played well on defense thus far this season, but will have a tough task on Friday night. My pick, Nimitz 34, Aldine 17

NCAA

Missouri at Texas A&M – Missouri will bring a 4-0 record into Kyle Field on Saturday when it takes on the Aggies for an 11 a.m. kickoff on ABC. Two weeks ago, Missouri escaped lowly Vanderbilt, 30-27 in double overtime, while the Ags struggled at home with Bowling Green and pulled out a 26-20 win. The A&M defense will have its hands full against a loaded Mizzu offense, led by QB Brady Cook (936 yards, 4 TDs), and wide receivers Theo Wease Jr. (26 receptions, 257 yards, and top NFL draft pick Luther Burden III (18 receptions, 247 yards, 4 TDs). The Aggies have some weapons of their own on offense with two solid QBs in Marcel Reed (422 passing yards, 4 TDs/217 rushing yards, 1 TD) and Conner Weigman (225 yards, 2 TDs). A&M can also run the ball effectively with Le’Von Moss (354 yards, 3 TDs). I think the Aggie defense will make a play or two late to pull off the upset and have Aggie fans smiling when they leave Kyle Field. My pick, A&M 33, Missouri 29

Iowa at Ohio State – The No. 3-ranked Buckeyes host a tough Iowa team on Saturday. Iowa has a strong running game led by Kaleb Johnson (685 yards, 9 TDs), so the Buckeyes will need to slow him down and turn their

attention to QB Cade McNamara (588 yards, 3 TDs). OSU is once again loaded on offense led by QB Will Howard (795 yards, 6 TDs), running backs Quinshon Judkins (336 yards, 5 TDs) and TreVeyon Henderson (267 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (14 receptions, 281 yards, 4 TDs) and Emeka Egbuka (14 receptions, 266 yards, 1 TD). Look for Ohio State to let the rest of the Big 10 know things will run through Columbus this year and not Ann Arbor. My pick, Ohio State 38, Iowa 13

Tennessee at Arkansas – The No. 4-ranked Vols have another tough road outing when they take on an Arkansas team that has a lot of offensive weapons. Two weeks ago, Tennessee won a tough road game at Oklahoma, 25-15. QB Nico Iamaleava (892 yards, 7 TDs) has a lot of weapons on offense, led by running back Dylan Sampson (449 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receivers Dont’e Thompson (7 receptions, 242 yards, 3 TDs) and Bru McCoy (12 receptions, 200 yards). The Hogs can get it done on offense as well led by dual threat QB Taylor Green (957 passing yards, 4 TDs/325 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and running back Ja’Quinden Jackson (472 yards, 8 TDs). I think the Hogs hang around in this one, but look for the Vols defense to be the difference maker late. My pick, Tennessee 31, Arkansas 23

NFL

Tampa Bay at Atlanta – Week 5 begins with Thursday Night Football as the Bucs visit the Falcons in an important NFC South contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Bucs dropped a 26-7 decision at home to a Denver team that lost its first two games of the season, while the Falcons, dropped a tough one at home to KC, 22-17. TB needs QB Baker Mayfield (637 yards, 6 TDs) to play as he did in the Buc’s first two games. Look for wide receivers Chris Godwin (21 receptions, 253 yards, 3 TDs) and Mike Evans (10 receptions, 120 yards, 2 TDs) to

attack a banged up NO secondary. The Falcons need QB Kirk Cousins (626 yards, 4 TDs) to pick up his game, along with running back Bijan Robinson (196 yards, 1 TD). Wide receiver Drake London (14 receptions, 136 yards, 2 TDs) and Darnell Mooney (12 receptions, 169 yards, 1 TD) are off to decent starts. Look for Cousins to get things going on Thursday night against the Bucs. My pick, Atlanta 26, Tampa Bay, 23

New York Jets at Minnesota

– Aaron Rodgers and the Jets visit the surprising Vikings on Sunday in what should be an interesting game. Two weeks ago, the Jets looked good on both sides of the ball in their 24-3 throttling of New England. Rodgers (624 yards, 5 TDs) tossed two TD passes, while the defense came up with nine sacks. Rodgers has some nice weapons in running back Breece Hall (170 rushing yards, 2 TDs/16 receptions, 120 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Garrett Wilson (15 receptions, 150 yards, 1 TD). The Vikings have been one of the NFL’s pleasant surprises, winning their first three games behind journey man QB Sam Darnold (657 yards, 8 TDs), running back Aaron Jones (228 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Justin Jefferson (14 receptions, 273 yards, 3 TDs). The Vikes also have a stout defense as evidenced by their 16 sacks and six take aways. Look for the Minnesota defense to be the difference maker on Sunday. My pick, Minnesota 24, New York Jets 18

Baltimore at Cincinnati – It’s only Week 5, but the Bengals could be looking at a lost season if they lose at home to Baltimore this Sunday. The Bengals lost their first three games, two at home to New England and Washington, while Baltimore got on the winning side two weeks ago with a dominant win over Dallas. Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow (746 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Ja’Marr Chase (16 receptions, 215 yards, 2 TDs) are doing their job, but the defense has been an issue. The Ravens will give that unit a steady dose of QB Lamar Jackson (702 passing yards, 3 TDs/254 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (281 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (16 receptions, 148 yards, 1 TD). Look for Baltimore’s defense to pick up its game and make it another tough day for Bengal fans. My pick, Baltimore 26, Cincinnati 23

Buffalo at Houston – Josh Allen (634 passing yards, 7 TDs/85 rushing yards, 2 TDs) brings the high-powered Bills into NRG Stadium to take on the Texans. Allen has a lot of weapons on offense in running back James Cook (188 yards, 4 total TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir

(14 receptions, 168 yards, 2 TDs) and a defense that has recorded 11 sacks in its first three games. The Houston offensive line must do a better job of protecting Stroud (709 yards, 4 TDs), or he could be in for another long day like he went through two weeks ago at Minnesota. The Texans hope to have running back Joe Mixon (184 yards, 1 TD) back for this game, which would be huge for the offense. Look for wideouts Nico Collins (18 receptions, 338 yards, 1 TD) and Diggs (20 receptions, 164 yards, 2 TDs) to be focused for this one, especially Diggs who would like nothing more than to stick it to his former team. My pick, Houston 31, Buffalo 28

Dallas at Pittsburgh – This one could get ugly if the Cowboys don’t fix a porous defense and find a running game. Dallas does not have a running back who has rushed for 100 yards on the season yet, let alone in a game. The lack of a running game could be costly against a Steeler defense that had nine sacks in its first three games. Look for the Pittsburgh defense to go after Dallas QB Dak Prescott (851 yards, 4 TDs/2 interceptions) and his go-to guy CeeDee Lamb (13 receptions, 218 yards, 1 TD) and turn things over to Justin Fields (518 yards, 2 TDs), Najee Harris

(209 yards) and George Pickens (13 receptions, 171 yards). If the Dallas defense does not play the run better, Harris and Fields could run wild on Sunday Night Football. Looks like it will be another long Sunday for Cowboy fans. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Dallas 16

New Orleans at Kansas City

– Week 5 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Saints visit the Chiefs. New Orleans was the talk of the league after opening the season with two impressive wins, but they came back to earth two weeks ago with a 15-12 home loss to the Eagles. QB Derek Carr (585 yards, 6 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara (285 rushing yards, 4 TDs/10 receptions, 132 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Chris Olave (12 receptions, 178 yards, 1 TD) will get tested by a very good KC defense. It’s the KC offense that needs to get going. QB Patrick Mahomes (659 yards, 5 TDs) needs more help from tight end Travis Kelce (8 receptions, just 69 yards in first three games). Mahomes has had success hooking up with wide receiver Rashee Rice (24 receptions, 288 yards, 2 TDs) and the Chiefs may have found a new star in rookie running back Carson Steele (99 yards). Look for the KC offense to get rolling on MNF. My pick, Kansas City 31, New Orleans 18

top ten

MOST POPULAR COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAMS

1. Ohio State
2. Notre Dame
3. Texas
4. Penn State
5. Michigan
6. Florida
7. Oregon
8. Alabama
9. Wisconsin
10. USC

Source: Altimore Collins & Company

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Philemon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Matthew 8, which prophet's words did Jesus claim to be fulfilling, as He was healing people? Iddo, Esaias, Gad, Medad
3. Who wrote, "Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court"? Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea

4. From Genesis 19, in addition to fire, what did God rain down upon Sodom and Gomorrah? Hail, Lightning, Brimstone, Mud
5. Whose grave was marked by a pillar erected by her husband, Jacob? Abigail, Lillith, Puah, Rachel
6. From Judges 16, who slept through a haircut? Manoah, Samson, Adam, Uriah

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Esaias, 3) Ezekiel, 4) Brimstone, 5) Rachel, 6) Samson "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




...So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

— HEBREWS 9:28

Detail of "The Ascension" by John Singleton Copley (1775)

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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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Brad Pitt, left, and George Clooney star in "Wolfs."

"Wolfs"

"WOLFS" (R) — Following its premiere at the recent Venice International Film Festival...

other than Ryan Murphy (creator of "American Horror Story"). For his latest horror series, he's once again employed the talents of Niecy Nash...

"MONSTERS: THE LYLE AND ERIK MENENDEZ STORY" (TV-MA) — Speaking of Ryan Murphy and his "Monster" anthology...

series, the second season has just been released for viewers to binge. This season tells the true story of Lyle and Erik Menendez...

"WISE GUY: DAVID CHASE AND THE SOPRANOS" (TV-MA) — This two-part documentary series explores the making of the legendary HBO series "The Sopranos..."

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Amy Adams, who played Lois Lane in "Man of Steel" and Princess Giselle in "Enchanted"...

"I'm never going to be smart, happy or thin ever again," Adams says, in character, in the trailer. "Oh, and I'm pretty sure I'm turning into a dog!"

After being eclipsed by Margot Robbie in "Barbie" and Emily Blunt in "The Fall Guy"...

Here come remakes, sequels, and explicit film titles! Sony plans to remake the 1987 classic "La Bamba"...

"The Lord of the Rings" trilogy grossed \$2.988 billion, while the three "Hobbit" films grossed nearly \$2.938 billion...

Serkis has done voice and motion capture for "The Lord of the Rings" films, "King Kong" (2005), "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" (2014), and "Star Wars: The



Amy Adams (Upcoming in "Nightbitch")

Rise of Skywalker" (2019). He's also starred on screen as Alfred in "The Batman" (2022).

Danial Craig's new film "Queer" got a 9-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival. After all, it's not everyday James Bond goes gay!

Director Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me by Your Name") earned the trust of his two stars, and Craig admitted, "We all know there's nothing intimate about filming a sex scene on a movie set..."

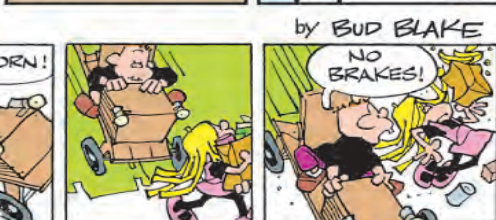
Craig and his actress wife, Rachel Weisz, were totally at ease with the love scenes. It's called acting, and he's one of our best!

ENTERTAINMENT

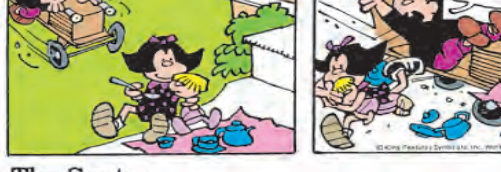
Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid and instructions by Linda Thistle. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

Spot-the-difference puzzle by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

September 30, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 5x5 grid for the King Crossword.

5x5 King Crossword grid with numbers 1-25.

Answers for the King Crossword puzzle.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Which animated film was the first to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture?
2. SCIENCE: What is a common name for the Aurora Borealis?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the third U.S. president?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Maldives (islands) located?
5. MUSIC: Who was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
6. TELEVISION: What is Dorothy's job on "The Golden Girls"?
7. MATH: Which number doesn't have a Roman numeral equivalent?
8. LITERATURE: In the Harry Potter series of novels, what was Lord Voldemort's name before he changed it?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which dog breed doesn't "bark"?
10. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who wrote the poetic line about fall, "Nature's first green is gold"?

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**Tip of the month:
Check your voter registration status**

November 5 is Election Day and now is the time to know your voter registration status. You can check it by [clicking here](#).




Additionally, here are some important dates:

- Oct. 7: Last day to register to vote for Nov. 5 election
- Oct. 25: Mail ballot application deadline
- Oct. 21 - Nov. 1: Early voting

For more information about voting in Harris County, visit HarrisVotes.com

ADRIAN GARCIA COMMISSIONER



Lone Star College helps veterans with On-the-Spot Certification events

HARRIS COUNTY – The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 22% of veterans have attained some college education after high school, with nearly 3% earning an associate degree. Lone Star College Veterans Services offers tailored resources to help more veterans and active military personnel achieve their academic and career goals.



Lone Star College host On-the-Spot Certifications events in August to help veterans, active military personnel and their dependents certify their education benefits.

“Lone Star College Veterans Services offers various opportunities to help these heroes and their dependents navigate seamlessly through their educational experience,” said Vickie Johnson, LSC executive director, Veteran Services. “Lone Star College is here to take care of these brave men and women who made the selfless commitment and sacrifice to defend our freedoms. One of the ways we can do that is to help them earn a college education without enduring significant challenges.”

LSC Veteran Services offers specialized advising, registration and financial aid options to over 4,000 veterans enrolled at Lone Star College. The college will host On-the-Spot Certification events in August to certify eligible educational benefits through the Veterans Affairs or Texas Veterans Commission and ensure students receive their funds, like tuition, on time.

LSC Veterans Services encourages attendees

to RSVP, enroll in registered courses, submit a Request for Certification form and have all required documents to expedite the process and minimize wait time. Required forms are available at LoneStar.edu/17915.

“The On-the-Spot Certification events provide veterans like me necessary guidance on how to use their educational benefits to enroll in classes and make the most of their time at Lone Star College,” said David Trevino Jr., LSC-Kingwood student and former aviation supply clerk in the United States Marine Corps. “I encourage students to attend to understand how the certification process works and have their questions answered by the experts.”

Lone Star College Veterans Services offers federal, state and scholarship options and specialized advising for veterans, active military personnel and their dependents who want to

earn a college education. Visit LoneStar.edu/Veterans to learn more about the LSC On-the-Spot Certification events or other veteran services, resources and support.

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

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