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NORTHEAST NEWS

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 VOL. 48, NO. 46 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

BAA Volunteer Awards Dinner



NEWS NOTES

East Aldine Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 6

East Aldine Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Kick-Off. Friday Dec. 6 from 6pm - 9pm at the Amphitheatre. Tree Lighting at 7pm.

Holiday Decorations, Music, Food, Santa's Elves. Family entertainment to start the Holiday Season.

BakerRipley 2024 Holiday Toy Drive

Every Toy Counts. Help make their Holiday Bright.

Support the BakerRipley Community Center by purchasing a toy from Amazon.

BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road, Houston, TX 77039. Follow this link to order a toy from Amazon: <https://shorturl.at/ActUr>.

TxDOT Meeting on I-45 North Project (NHHIP)

TxDOT will hold a Public Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, 4014 Market Street, Houston 77020. Learn about the Highway Project, especially Segment 3 (Downtown area). Comments and Discussion will take place, as well as a presentation. See INFO on Page 8.

East Aldine Team delivers Thanksgiving Turkeys

2024 Turkey Giveaway

On Saturday, November 23rd, the East Aldine Management District Board and staff embraced the season of Giving Thanks. It was our pleasure to bless East Aldine families at our Turkey Giveaway. Huge thanks to our partners & dedicated volunteers for helping make this possible. Many turkeys were given out as cars drove through the East Aldine parking lot, and then District staff members hand delivered turkeys to those families unable to participate in the drive-



East Aldine Staff, volunteers, and friends helped distribute the Turkeys.



Westfield Firemen helped unload a truckload of turkeys!

thru.

We're so grateful for this community!

Sorteo de pavo 2024
 Noviembre 23rd, 2024

El sábado, el Distrito de East Aldine tuvo la oportunidad de regalar

pavos a la comunidad. Fue un placer bendecir a las familias de East Aldine. Un gran agradecimiento a nuestros socios y voluntarios dedicados por ayudar a hacer esto posible. ¡Estamos muy agradecidos por esta comunidad!

MORE PHOTOS on Page 7



Hundreds of cars lined up for their turkey.

New Proposal to Revive AstroDome

HOUSTON – The Houston Astrodome has been in limbo, waiting for its chance at a second life since being shuttered more than 15 years ago.

It was a technological marvel when it opened in 1965. But its heyday has long passed and it hasn't been home to a sports team since the Astros left in 1999 and it was closed to all events a decade later.

Over the years, ideas for its redevelopment and re-birth have been plentiful, everything from turning it into an indoor water park to flooding its sunken floor in order to reenact naval battle scenes. But none of these plans garnered enough public support or financing.

The latest proposal to refurbish the Astrodome was unveiled on Wednesday by a nonprofit focused



Cutaway View showing some of the possible uses for the renovated Astrodome.

theirs is backed by data and would be economically viable in part because there would be enough private investment to support it.

"This is a big, big, bold vision. And those previous plans, even admitted by Harris County officials, were a first step towards a future Astrodome. And this is the full swing of the bat. And this gives people something to be excited about," Jackson said.

The plan, Vision: Astrodome, proposes the construction of four state-of-the-art buildings inside the stadium that would offer spaces for restaurants, stores and offices. Similar spaces for shopping and eating would also be located around the

Continued. See ASTRODOME PROPOSAL, Page 2

on saving the beloved domed stadium. The group, the Astrodome Conservancy, proposes redeveloping the inside of the structure to create new areas for restaurants, retail,

office and cultural spaces. But like the others before it, this plan could face a similar fate, with a \$1 billion price tag and an initial lack of support from local entities that would

need to give their OK for the project to go forward.

Beth Wiedower Jackson, the conservancy's executive director, said that unlike previous proposals, her organization believes

BAA holds Volunteer Awards Celebration!



BAA TEAM MEMBERS

By Mariana Sanchez Bonding Against Adversity

On November 16, 2024, the Board Of Directors, Community partners, and people from the community get together at Manny's

Mexican Seafood Restaurant located in the heart of the East Aldine in the East Mount Houston road, to honor our great volunteers who helped BAA to achieved the Mission to "Helping Others Help Themselves" many of the New Citizens came to-

gether with flowers gifts to show the appreciation for their teachers and volunteers who help them to complete their citizenship application. They were de-

Continued. See BAA Celebration, Page 2 with MORE PHOTOS

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14:

Ohio State, Oregon meet for Big 10 title: Texans get much-needed week off to regroup

It's conference title weekend across the country and heading into the Thanksgiving Weekend, the only league that has its title game set is the Big 10, which will feature a rematch at No. 1-ranked Oregon will face off against No. 2-ranked Ohio State on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Lucas Oil Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

These two teams met on Oct. 12 in Oregon, with the Ducks pulling off a 32-31 win over the Buckeyes. Ohio State has not lost a game since that meeting in Eugene, but then again, neither have the Ducks.

That loss seemed to be a wakeup call for Ryan Day's team, especially the defense, which has allowed just 52 points since that game.

Ohio State could very well be the best team playing at this juncture of the season and that could be bad news for the Ducks. No matter what happens in Indy on Saturday, both teams should earn berths in the College



Football Playoffs now that it has become a 12-team tournament. The winner of this one could very well earn the No. 1 seed and earn a very important first round bye, while the loser should host a first-round game.

While the Big 10 is settled, that can't be said for the other major conferences, especially the SEC and Big 12. Two weeks ago, a plethora of upsets clouded the picture of who would play in each of those respective conference title games.

Texas appears headed to the SEC title game if they beat

Texas A&M on Nov. 30. Their opponent could very well be Georgia, thanks to Alabama's stubbing its toe at Oklahoma (a 24-3 loss). The Aggies hurt their chances of earning their first-ever trip to the SEC title game by being upset by a five-win Auburn team in four overtimes. Mike Elko's team fell behind 21-0, but rallied to tie things up in the fourth quarter, only to lose in the fourth OT and badly hurt their SEC title game and CFP chances.

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 7

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BAA holds Volunteer Awards Celebration

lighted with the Garcia Leza Choir directed by Maria Funez a great music Director. Also we have the Jazz music from Raymond Victor a great musician who entertained the volunteers and kept them dancing and enjoying his music. November is the month to give thanks to others and is the best time to celebrate our volunteering. We honor Marcelina Govea Mata as a volunteer of the Year 2024, she has gone up and beyond helping Bonding during 2024. Also Charles Castany received special recognition for his dedication and passion to help the community. All the Volunteer teachers and Workshop volunteers received a picture with part of the puzzle from the masterpiece Bonding Against Adversity.

It was well attended; more than 160 people were present, and most importantly, we felt the love from all the attendees. We are a big family, and they are so engaging with the community. We are so proud of all our new citizens, most of whom voted for the first time during the presidential election.

We invite them to be part of the Ambassadors for Bonding Against Adversity for everyone to know that if you are a Legal Resident for more than 3 or five years don't wait anymore is time to Naturalize and become a Citizens. Bonding Against Adversity commitment is to help you from the beginning to the end. No matter if you don't speak English or need financial assistance this is the organization to go to. All the staff at Bonding Against Adversity is here to help.

Don't wait and be part of the Puzzle! Become a volunteer for a great Organization.

Mariana Sanchez
Chief Operating Officer



Board Members



Aldine Choir



Attendees



Attendees



Awarded Volunteers



Attendees



Awarded Volunteers



Awarded Volunteers



Awarded Volunteers

Astrodome Revival Proposal,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Astrodome and connected to other facilities around the stadium. The Astrodome is at NRG Park, a 350-acre complex that includes NRG Stadium, located right next to the Astrodome and home to the NFL's Houston Texans, as well as an arena and exhibition halls.

"The Astrodome is ready now for its next chapter, redevelopment," said Phoebe Tudor, the conservancy's chairman. "It is time for all of us in Houston to come together and do something hard, working together to repurpose the Astrodome."

Nicknamed "the Eighth Wonder of the World," the Astrodome ushered in a change in how people attended sporting events. It also hosted various cultural events, including concerts by Elvis and Tejano music star Selena as well as the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King in 1973.

Some people have called for its demolition. But a 2017 designation by the Texas Historical Commission as a state antiquities landmark essentially protects it from wholesale destruction. The stadium also maintains a strong foothold in the memories of many people both in and outside of Houston.

Rafi Kohan, whose 2017 book "The Arena" explores the place sports stadiums hold in American culture, said the Astrodome's construction came at a time of incredible technological innovation in the United States, and it helped transform Houston from what some saw as a "backwoods cow town" into a leader in technology. Houston became the home of the space program with the opening of Johnson Space Center in 1964.

"There was and contin-



Exterior View with imagined Environment



Interior View shows multi-use possibilities

ues to be a lot of civic pride around the Astrodome, what it represented, the sort of space age feat, you know, in stadium form," Kohan said.

But whether there continues to be enough support in Houston to refurbish and save the Astrodome remains to be seen. It costs between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a year to maintain the stadium.

The Astrodome is owned by Harris County and managed by the Harris County Sports & Convention Corporation.

The office of Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county's top elected official, declined to comment on the conservancy's proposal.

James Dixon, the sports and convention corporation's chairman, said in a statement that he respects the conservancy's efforts but "over the last few years, we have seen sever-

al concepts that, while thought-provoking, haven't resulted in viable funding and maintenance solutions."

Dixon said his organization and the county are working with other stakeholders on a plan for the future of NRG Park and "the solution for the Astrodome must be decided within that context."

One of those stakeholders, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which holds its annual event at NRG Park and would have a say on what to do with the Astrodome, was not on board with the conservancy's proposal.

"The proposed plan by the Astrodome Conservancy does not align with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's strategic vision and operational requirements," Chris Boleman, the group's president and CEO, said in a statement.

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD and HOPE Worldwide Celebrate Second Year of Mentor Program; SPARK Academy



Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department is in its second year of a partnership with HOPE Worldwide. FACE and HOPE Worldwide partnered together this fall to create SPARK Academy, which is a social-emotional based program, to build resilience in students aged 5-12.

Spark Academy is a volunteer mentor program that aims to teach students how to handle life's stresses and setbacks, while also progressing through those struggles. The program includes fun activities, and was based at Caraway Elementary. For the second year of this endeavor, sessions were held each Saturday morning during the month of October. It was free for all students who participated. In addition, all the volunteers received training and approval to work with students.

"It is heartwarming to see the kids and volunteers interact with one another," said Caraway Elementary principal, Kory Jessie. "Sometimes they are playing soccer, other times they may be working with arts and crafts, but the en-



tire time they are smiling!" The sessions were provided to the students during both the spring and fall. Approximately 40 students participated in the Spark Academy, while 30 volunteers gave up their time to assist and mentor students. FACE seeks to bring resources and assistance to

Aldine ISD families. The partnership formed with HOPE Worldwide is just another example of FACE's commitment to providing worthwhile programs to the Aldine community. To learn more about the Family and Community Engagement department.

Janet Scott-Carrier: Champion for K-12 Health Education

Janet Scott-Carrier didn't set out to become a trailblazer in health education, but her dedication to empowering students and educators alike has earned her the prestigious title of 2024 TAHPERD K-12 Health Teacher of the Year.

Janet's leadership extended beyond the classroom. As a key contributor to TAHPERD, she advocated for

systemic changes to integrate health education more deeply into public education. Her efforts ensured that health wasn't treated as an afterthought but as a core component of a student's overall success.

For the students and educators in Aldine ISD, Janet Scott-Carrier isn't just a teacher—she's an inspiration, proving that with passion and persis-

tence, one person can spark change that resonates far beyond the classroom.

Congrats to Janet Scott-Carrier for being named the 2024 TAHPERD K-12 Health Teacher of the Year! Since 2020, she's improved public education with TAHPERD and AldineISD, beginning with a virtual talk on SEL.



Aldine ISD to Host a Special Education Job Fair on December 7



Any qualified applicant interested in a job in special education can attend the event.

The job fair will offer on-site information and networking opportunities for those interested in making a profound difference in the lives of students with diverse learning needs.

AISD Special Education Job Fair

December 7, from 9-11 a.m. Register Ahead of the Job Fair: Register online with the QR code on the graphic at the top. Child

Nutrition Center 1802 Aldine Bender • Houston, TX 77032

The school district is hiring for the following positions in over 15 different special education areas:

- Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) facilitators
- Assistive technology specialists
- Brailleists
- Deaf/blind interveners
- Dyslexia specialists
- Educational diagnosticians
- Homebound teachers
- Inclusion teachers
- Licensed specialist in school psychologists
- Paraprofes-

sionals • Resource teachers • Special Education Management System (SEMS) clerks • Sign language interpreters • Small Learning Communities (SLC) teachers • Special education counselors • Speech-language pathologists • Teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing • Teachers of the visually impaired • Transition specialists

Contact Aldine ISD Human Resources Department at (281) 449-1011 for any questions or concerns.

Blanson CTE High School 12 Days of Christmas



Aldine Education Foundation to Host Inaugural Gala: 'Scholars and Sneakers' on April 26

The Aldine Education Foundation is thrilled to announce its inaugural gala, themed "Scholars and Sneakers," to be held on April 26, 2025, at the G & L Event Center. The evening promises to blend sophistication with a touch of fun, all in the name of supporting scholarships for students in Aldine ISD.

Three influential community leaders — Bryce Kennard, Susie Molina, and Ashley Turner — are co-chairing the highly anticipated event. They each bring their passion for education and commitment to student success to this unique celebration.

Guests can don their finest attire paired with stylish sneakers, symbolizing the dual spirit of academic achievement and youthful energy. The evening will feature dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions, and inspiring stories from scholarship recipients.

"The 'Scholars and Sneakers' Gala represents more than just a night of entertainment; it is a commitment to investing in the future of Aldine ISD's students," said Bryce Kennard, one of the event's chairs. "We are determined to make a difference and open more doors of opportunity for our scholars."

All proceeds from the gala will go directly toward funding scholarships that empower students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

You can purchase sponsorships for the



Bryce Kennard and Susie Molina are two of the three co-chairs, along with Ashley Turner, for the Aldine Education Foundation's (AEF) "Scholars and Sneakers Gala," slated for April 26.

"Scholars and Sneakers" Gala through the Aldine Education Foundation's website.

Join us for a night where community, fashion, and philanthropy meet to create brighter futures.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

★
OPINION
 By Michael Regan
 Environmental Protection Agency

New Rules for Car Emissions could boost EV sector

Biden announces new rule for gas car emissions that could boost EV sector

Rule, hailed as historic step on climate crisis, will have slashed more than 7bn tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2055

In a move being hailed as one of the most significant climate rules in US history, the Biden administration announced on Wednesday new regulations on tailpipe emissions. The rule, which calls for a 56% reduction in fleetwide average carbon emissions by 2032, constitutes the strictest-ever limit on pollution from the nation's cars and light trucks.

"Today, we're setting new pollution standards for cars and trucks," Joe Biden said in a statement. "US workers will lead the world on autos making clean cars and trucks, each stamped 'Made in America'. You have my word."

The new standards do not mandate the sale of particular kinds of vehicles, but they all but ensure a dramatic increase in EVs over the next eight years.

EVs made up just 7.6% of new car sales last year. But by 2032, the standards will mean EVs make up 35% to 56% of sales, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The new standards form one of the most significant pieces of the White House's efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is the largest source of planet-warming emissions in the US, and passenger cars and trucks account for the majority of that pollution.

By the time the rule is fully implemented in 2055, it will have cumulatively slashed more than 7bn tons of carbon dioxide emissions, senior administration officials told reporters on Tuesday. It will also tackle toxic pollution, they said, slashing fine particulate emissions by 95% and emissions of NOx and volatile organic compounds by 75%.

But the regulation has been weakened since it was first proposed last spring.

The final rule would result in the same endpoint — a 56% reduction in fleetwide average carbon emissions by 2032 from 2026 levels — but the year-over-year tightening of the pollution standards between 2027 and 2030 will happen at a more gradual pace.

The change aligns with asks from auto manufacturers and the United Auto Workers. UAW, which has long noted that EV jobs often pay less than traditional autoworker jobs, last year said the EPA should revise its standards to increase stringency "more gradually" in an effort to ensure they do not "disproportionately impact domestic union auto production".

In a Wednesday statement, the union said: "By taking seriously the concerns of workers and communities, the EPA has created a more feasible emissions rule that protects workers building ICE vehicles, while providing a path forward for automakers to implement the full range of automotive technologies to reduce emissions."

Automakers also applauded the changes. "The right pace for something this consequential and transformative ... gives us a chance to secure manufacturing and industrial base needed for long term success," said John Bozell, president of the automaker trade group Alliance for Automotive Innovation, in an EPA press conference on Wednesday.

But critics say the slower cuts will allow automakers to continue selling fossil fuel-powered vehicles longer and will produce more cumulative pollution.

"This rule could've been the biggest single step of any nation on climate, but the EPA caved to pressure from big auto, big oil and car dealers, and riddled the plan with loopholes big enough to drive a Ford F150 through," said Dan Becker, director of the safe climate transport campaign at the environmental advocacy group Center for Biological Diversity.

Last spring, the EPA projected that electric vehicles would need to make up about two-thirds of car and light truck sales by 2032, up from less than one-tenth in 2023, to meet emissions reduction goals.

In a shift from the 2023 proposal, which did not mention plug-in hybrid vehicles, the EPA's final rule suggests manufacturers achieve the same reduction by ensuring 56% of cars sold are fully electric and 13% are plug-in hybrids by 2032. The move comes after automakers criticized the earlier omission.

The EPA says the rule will save the nation \$99bn a year, including \$46bn in reduced fuel costs and nearly \$16bn in auto repair and maintenance. The rule is also expected to prevent 2,500 premature deaths by 2055 thanks to cuts in pollution.

Some environmental groups applauded the new limits.

"Every single day, millions of Americans suffer under the weight of vehicle pollution, unsustainable gas prices and the climate crisis, all fueled by tailpipe emissions spewing from gas cars throughout our communities," said Ben Jealous, executive director of the Sierra Club. "Today, President Biden, in one of the most significant actions his administration can take on climate change, has put forward standards with benefits extending far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

The new standards, Jealous said, will "save lives and money for families".

Republicans have already launched plans to go after the new regulation. Two GOP lawmakers are preparing a resolution aiming to kill the rule, E&E News reports. On the campaign trail, Donald Trump has said he would repeal Biden's "insane electric vehicle mandate" on his first day in office.

Senator Joe Manchin, the conservative Democrat from West Virginia, has said he would support Republicans' efforts to overturn the rule. In a Wednesday statement, he called it "reckless and ill-informed" and said it "will impose what is effectively an EV mandate without ensuring the security of our supply chains from nations like China and without a realistic transition plan that addresses our domestic infrastructure needs".

EV sales are accelerating. Last year, they were up by 54% compared with 2022, which was a 46% increase from 2021, according to Wards Auto Data.

"From plug-in hybrids to fuel cells to fully electric, drivers have more choices today," said Biden's national climate adviser, Ali Zaidi, in emailed statement. "This growth means jobs, and it means we are moving faster and faster to take on the climate crisis."

Advocates say the rule will benefit communities of color who are more likely to breathe in pollution from roads and highways.

"While there's undoubtedly more work ahead to improve our environment, today marks a positive step forward in protecting communities like mine," Asada Rashidi, environmental justice organizer for the South Ward Environmental Alliance and member of the National Environmental Youth Advisory Council, said at the EPA's Wednesday press conference.

Regan said the rule "marks a historic win for public health, for the environment and for the future of our country".

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

Abbott Issue orders Targeting China

Gov. Greg Abbott issued three executive orders last week targeting the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, The Dallas Morning News reported

Abbott said the orders were intended to protect Texans of Chinese descent from "harassment and intimidation" by the Chinese Communist Party and government, and to fight threats to state security.

"Texas will not tolerate the harassment or coercion of the more than 250,000 individuals of Chinese descent who legally call Texas home by the Chinese Communist Party or its heinous proxies," Abbott said.

The orders:

- Instruct the Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a hotline for victims and to "target and arrest" operatives in the state working with the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government.
- Direct all state agencies, colleges and universities to "harden" their systems against foreign governments. That includes stronger background checks on employees with access to critical infrastructure and banning state agencies from doing business with companies owned wholly or partially by foreign adversary countries.
- Direct the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Public Utility Commission to create a task force to study vulnerabilities to potential cyberattacks and run simulations of possible responses.

"China has made it clear that they can — and will — target and attack America's critical infrastructure," Abbott said.

STATE PLAN FOR \$3 BILLION TO EXPAND BROADBAND APPROVED

The state has won federal approval to move forward with its plan to improve broadband internet access for the estimated 7 million Texas residents who don't have access, The Texas Tribune reported.

The approval came from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which means the state now has access to about \$3.3 billion in federal funding included in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The state has already awarded more than \$1 billion in state and federal funding for broadband investments. Last week, applicants in 15 counties were awarded \$580 million to connect 80,000 locations, according to the Texas Broadband Development Office. Federal maps that show where internet connections are need-



ed are being questioned as to their accuracy, The Tribune reported.

"We want to make sure the data being provided to us by the federal government is accurate and up to date," Greg Conte, director of the TBD, said.

More buoy barriers added in Rio Grande

Despite a dramatic decrease in border crossings in recent months, Abbott has ordered expansion of the 1,000 feet of orange buoys in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"We're not letting up at all; we're continuing our efforts," Abbott said.

The barriers have prompted lawsuits from the federal government, which are tied up in an appeals court.

Monthly border crossings have dropped steadily since March. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data for October indicate that 27,000 migrants were encountered that month in the five Texas sectors of the border with Mexico — fewer than the 44,000 monthly migrants encountered in the final months of the first Trump presidency.

NEWLY PURCHASED RANCH COULD BE DEPORTEE STAGING AREA

A Starr County ranch purchased last month by the state has been offered as a staging area for potential mass deportations promised by President-elect Donald Trump, according to The Washington Post. Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham sent a letter to Trump on Nov. 14 extending the offer.

Tom Homan, former director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and Trump's pick to be "border czar," said the incoming administration would "absolutely" use the 1,400-acre parcel of land.

"We absolutely will. When we find somebody — it's a targeted enforcement operation. When they get arrested, they'll be detained," Homan said.

"We feel like this is actual-

ly very well-located. The land is very flat there. It's adjacent to major airports. It's also adjacent to a bridge over the river," Buckingham said. "So, if it's helpful, then I would love to partner up with the federal government. And if it's not, then we'll continue to look to ways to be helpful to them."

TEXAS STILL LEADS NATION IN JOB GROWTH

The Lone Star State has again led the nation in job creation over the past 12 months — October 2023 to October 2024 — adding nearly 275,000 non-farm jobs during that time period.

"With the best business climate in the nation and a skilled and growing workforce, Texas is where innovative entrepreneurs and businesses find the freedom and tools needed to succeed," Abbott said.

Coming in second in job creation during that same time frame was California, which added 212,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by New York, which added 133,600 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate has changed little in the past year, reported at 4.1% last month, up just two-tenths of a percentage point from October 2023.

LAWMAKER SEEKS FUNDS TO PLUG WELLS, CUT EMISSIONS

A West Texas legislator has introduced bills that would provide millions of dollars to the state to seal abandoned oil and gas wells.

The money would come from taxes being collected from oil and gas companies that now go to schools, highways and the state's "rainy day fund," or savings account.

State Rep. Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa, is seeking to use the money now going to the rainy-day fund that is collected from those companies. The measure would require approval of the Legislature, governor and voters in a November 2025 amendment election.

So-called orphaned wells have proven to be hazardous, with at least eight erupting with briny water since October 2023. For example, a well blew out last December in Imperial that took more than two months and \$2.5 million to clean up, according to The Tribune.

SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE AUCTION DRAWS BIG BIDS

The bidding is over for the My Plates Great Plate Auction 2024, with winners spending more than \$71,000 on 50 different messages that were offered. The most expensive plate was "ACE," which sold for \$20,500, according to the Chronicle. Coming in a distant second was "006," a play of James Bond's 007. It sold for \$9,000.

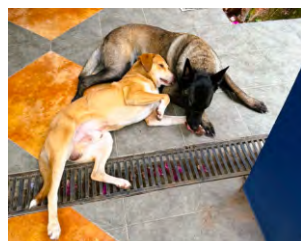
"BOSSMAN" sold for \$3,600, while REAL and TEX4S each garnered \$2,700. None of those bids compare to the most expensive license plate ever sold in Texas. That was in 2013, when 12THMAN sold for \$115,000.

Those Aggies...

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

Waiting for a Friend



My husband, Peter, told me about the unlikely friendship.

When we stay in Mexico, Peter walks the same route up to the environmental preserve every day. It's a steep climb to the park, which is filled with wildlife and rare plants. Because Peter walks the same streets daily, he has gotten to know a lot of the people who have homes on the way up.

The whole thing started with Reacher, an exuberant 75-pound Belgian Malinois, and his American expat owner, Anita. The Belgian Malinois is a dog often trained for search and rescue. You might have seen videos of them scaling walls. Peter never saw Reacher actually climbing any walls, but he never doubted his ability to do so if the need arose.

Reacher is less than two years old, and he is a handful. Peter would stop and talk to Anita while she was trying (with limited success) to curb Reacher's more enthusiastic impulses.

In Anita's neighborhood, there also lived a feral dog who did not have a name or a home. Peter would regularly see him as well. Peter thought he was part lab and part herding dog and probably a lot of something else. The dog stayed in the neighborhood, so Peter figured folks must have left food for him. Most days, he stayed in a shady spot in the dirt under a tree.

The dog was not aggressive, but he was very wary of people. He never made eye contact with Peter and would back off if Peter got too close when he walked by. People who lived in the area said he'd been there, under the tree, quietly staying out of the way, for a couple of years.

But then Reacher met him. Belgian Malinois are apparently known for the strong bond they form with other dogs (presumably that's an asset in the search-and-rescue biz), and Reacher took an interest in this stray dog in his neighborhood.

I wasn't there, and neither was Peter, but according to Anita, Reacher tried to make friends with this dog. It was a slow process, but Reacher was determined and, eventually, the feral dog started cautiously following Reacher. One day, he followed Reacher home and walked right into the outdoor courtyard and stayed for a little while. Anita gave him some food. This continued and, finally, the dog (who Anita started calling Duke) followed Reacher all the way into Anita's house. And he stayed.

Duke was still very shy around people, but he trusted Reacher and soon he started to trust Anita and her husband. Duke started letting them pet him and make eye contact. Anita took him to the vet to be fixed. The vet said he thought Duke was about five years old. Duke was bathed. He had his teeth cleaned. He started sleeping on a couch. And now Duke is Anita's second dog and lives with Reacher.

Peter now sees Reacher and Duke and Anita on their walks together. Duke is very submissive and laid-back. Reacher is as exuberant as ever. "I think I could pet Duke now, if I wanted to," Peter told me.

Duke has bonded with Anita, and he is obviously Reacher's best friend. And none of it would have happened without Reacher.

I love this story so much. It seems to me that everyone made a lot of assumptions about Duke—the kind of assumptions I make every day—and all of those assumptions turned out to be wrong. It took someone like Reacher to see that Duke was just waiting for a friend.

Till next time,
 Carrie

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Fatal Motorcycle Crash at 6500 East Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 6500 East Freeway (East Interstate Highway 10) about 12:45 a.m. November 1.

The identity of the deceased male, 64, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant M. Sudduth and Officer S. Bouarar reported:

The male was operating a red Honda GL1800 motorcycle westbound near the above address when he struck the rear of a Toyota RAV4 being towed by a second Toyota RAV4. That crash produced debris that disabled a maroon Dodge Ram pickup

truck.
 Following the crash, the operator of the Honda was lying in the roadway and was struck by a vehicle of unknown make or model. The vehicle did not stop to provide assistance and fled the scene. The drivers of the Toyota and the Dodge remained at the scene and called 9-1-1 and responding Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the male deceased at the scene.

Anyone with information on the identity of the unknown driver or in this case is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4065 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

PET MATTERS
 In Memory of Susan Hoffman

How to “Curb” Car Sickness in Puppies and Dogs

Much like humans, dogs and puppies can also experience a feeling of illness while on car trips. This car sickness can make pet travel, whether short or long, quite an ordeal for dogs and their families. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help your dog in the car.

The most common reasons for car sickness in puppies and dogs are:

–The ear structures used for balance aren't fully developed in puppies. This can cause motion sickness. Fortunately, many dogs will outgrow car sickness.

–Stress can also add to travel sickness. For example, if your dog has only been in the car to go to the vet, he may make himself sick from the worry and apprehension of seeing the vet.

–If your dog has been nauseous the first few times traveling in the car as a puppy, he may have conditioned himself to see car travel as a time when he will get sick.

You can look for some common signs of car sickness in your pet, such as:

- Inactivity
- Restlessness
- Excessive Yawning
- Whining
- Hyper Salivation (drooling)
- Vomiting

Typically symptoms will go away shortly after the vehicle stops.

There are a number of treatment options available to help prevent car sickness for your puppy or dog. Physical comfort in the car, reconditioning, medication and holistic treatments can all help to make car traveling a lot easier on your dog.

1. Physical Comfort in Car
 Try these options to help make the car ride as physically comfortable as possible for your dog.

–Face your dog forward in moving vehicle – if your dog is facing forward he will see less movement. Looking out of the side windows causes objects to blur and that can cause or compound motion sickness.

–If possible, avoid letting your pet travel in the rearmost area (cargo) because this is where there is the most motion.

–Opening the windows in the car a little bit may help reduce air pressure inside the vehicle and allow for better ventilation.

–Don't give your puppy or dog any food for a few hours before getting in the car.

–Try putting him in a travel crate. Sometimes, this helps to keep him from looking outside too much and helps to keep any sickness he may have in a confined space.

–Keep it cool in the vehicle. A hot, stuffy ride can make car sickness worse for your dog.

–Toys may help distract and entertain a high-strung dog.

–Taking frequent potty breaks may also help. –Exercise before getting in the car to travel.

2. Reconditioning
 Sometimes reconditioning will help your dog to relax in the car. Reconditioning is needed if your dog associates riding in the car with something bad, like getting sick or going to the vet. Reconditioning takes patience for both you and your dog. Here are some tips to help recondition your dog.

–Try a different vehicle. He may associate your vehicle with unpleasant memories.



–Take short car trips to places your dog enjoys.

–Gradually build your dog's tolerance. Start by sitting in the car with your dog with the engine off. Do this over a few days. Then, when he seems comfortable, sit in the car with the car idling. After this, take a ride around the block. Now you can try a longer trip. By doing this slowly and over a period of time you are helping remove the stress of traveling from your dog.

–Use treats to make the car a fun place for your dog.

–Buy a special toy that they can only play with in the car.

3. Medication
 There are times when medications are necessary to help your dog during pet travel. Some over-the-counter and prescribed medications are listed below.

- Anti-nausea drugs - reduce vomiting
- Antihistamines - used to lessen motion sickness, reduce drooling, and help them to be calm
- Cerenia and other related drugs that help reduce vomiting and help to sedate

Always discuss any medications with your veterinarian before using to make sure your dog is healthy, the dosage is correct, and that the medication won't harm your dog.

4. Holistic Approach
 Holistic treatments are another option for a dog parents to try. Some common holistic choices are listed below.

–Ginger can be used for nausea. Ginger snap cookies or ginger pills can be given at least 30 minutes before travel.

–Peppermint, chamomile and horehound naturally help calm the stomach of your pup.

–CBD Oil is used by many pet parents to calm their pet while traveling by car. This may help with car sickness.

–Massage helps to relax your pet before you travel.

Always discuss any holistic remedies with your veterinarian before using to make sure your dog is healthy, the dosage is correct, and that the treatment won't harm your dog.

Patience and training may help in preventing car sickness during pet travel. You may also need to stock up on certain medications or holistic remedies to help calm your dog if physical changes and reconditioning don't do the trick. Hopefully, with time and a little effort your dog will be able to ride safely and happily in your car!

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Islamic Arts Society Art Display
 Visit Aldine Library to view a special arts display from the Islamic Arts Society during the month of November. The display will be available from November 2nd until December 2nd.

Islamic Arts Society aims to share the rich heritage of Islamic Arts. Art is a common language and binds diverse communities. The Islamic Arts Society hopes to promote mutual understanding and to bring the broader American community together.

Find more information at <https://islamicartsociety.org>

Movement Mondays
 Come out and move! Join us weekly for Movement Monday! This program focuses on improving physical health and also enhances early literacy skills in a fun and interactive way. So, be prepared for Dancing, Stretching, reading and lots of laughter. Program is in English and Spanish. Encouraged to bring water. Best for kids for toddler/ preschool. No Registration is required. **Monday, Dec. 2, 11 - 11:30am.**

Happy Hour
 Got a case of the Mondays? Fight the mundane Mondays and join us for a Happy Hour, where we do different recreational activities every week! Join us every **Monday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm!** For ages 18 & up - no registration required.

Here's what we'll be doing each week in November:
 Dec 02 - Friendship Rocks
 Dec 09 - Art with Bert
 Dec 16 - Puzzle swap - Bring a puzzle to trade

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, Dec. 2, 3-4:30pm.**

Play and Grow Workshop
 Cole Health is joining us after story time to come and talk to parents and caregivers to provide resources about speech therapy. We're opening our meeting room for one-hour, child-led sessions in which families play with various passive toys and stations. We'll have a new play kitchen, puppet station, and more! This program is perfect for families with children 0-5 ages. (Older siblings are also welcome). **Tuesday, Dec. 3, 11:30am - 12:30pm.**

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, Dec. 3, 5-5:45pm 1 on 1 Drop in Tech Help**

Have questions about email, social media, word, your smart phone or more? Book a 45-minute 1 on 1 appointment and let's figure it out! Register on the website www.hcpl.net/events or call the branch at 832-927-5410. **Tuesdays and Thursdays 5- 6:30pm.**

- Computer repair or diagnosis is not available.
- To assist as many individuals as possible, you may only register for one appointment per week.
- Hablas español
- Self-Care Sessions**
 Adulting is hard and exhausting. It's time to take it easy and focus on yourself. Join us on Wednesdays at 11am for Self-Care Sessions and take some time just for you. Adults 18 and over only. **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11am - 12pm.**
- December sessions:
 Dec. 4 - Yoga & Guided Meditation
 Dec. 11 - Kickboxing & Guided Meditation
 Dec. 18 - Chair Fitness & Guided Meditation
- Tween Spark: Battle Jacket Sewing**
 Welcome back to the world of battle jackets, the ultimate form of self-expression! You've made your patch, and maybe a few more since then, and now it's time to sew them on! Come learn the basics of sewing with Ms. Gage to add personal flair to your armor of choice (vest, shirt, jacket, whatever you'd like).

Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders.

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 - 5:30pm.

Teen Thursdays
 Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out!

Thursday, Dec. 5, 3:30 - 5:30pm.

Ology: Colors
 Some colors look great together! Others? Not so much. Join Ms. Gage to learn the science behind colors and why some match so well while others don't. **Thursday, Dec. 5, 6-7pm.**

Support Group Workshops: Stress Management
 You don't have to experience difficult times alone. Join us every **first Saturday of the month** to be part of a support group led by crisis counselors from Texans Recovering Together to help you get through them. Each week we will discuss a different topic. This week's topic is stress management. Let us know you're coming by calling the library or stopping by the front desk. **Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 - 11am.**

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

Michelle Pichon
 Library Program Specialist
Harris County Public Library
 Aldine Branch Library
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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

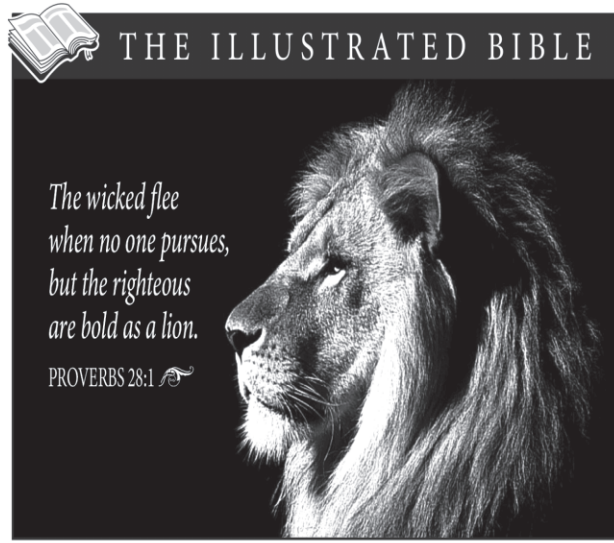
1. Is the book of Advent (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was the innkeeper's name who turned away the pregnant Mary as there was not room? Eliada, Jesimiel, Phlegon, Bible does not say
3. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the Wise Men saw the star in the ...? North, East, South, West
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of _____ in the days

of Herod the king. Nazarene, Jerusalem, Judaea, Capernaum

5. In what type of clothes did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus? Admonishing, Resurrecting, Swaddling, Castling

6. How many times is "swaddling clothes" mentioned in the Bible? 1, 2, 3, 4

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Bible does not say, 3) East, 4) Judaea, 5) Swaddling, 6) Two (Luke 2:7, 12)
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.



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 - c) Plumbing repairs (toilets, sinks, disposals) and minor carpentry, painting, and drywall repairs.
 - d) Minor clearing of drains and sewer lines.
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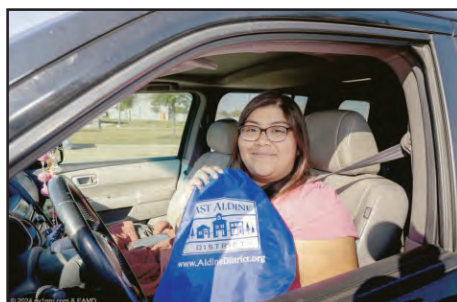
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HELPERS: MacArthur HS Girls Basketball



Home Delivery for those who couldn't make it to the Drive-Thru

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14: Ohio State, Oregon meet for Big 10 title: Texans get much-needed week off to regroup

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Colorado was upset at Kansas to slow their roll in the Big 12. Deion Sanders' team could earn a berth in the league title game with a season-ending win against disappointing Oklahoma State.

But with so much still to be decided, the only college game we will pick this week will be the Oregon-Ohio State tilt.

In the NFL, the Texans get a much-needed week off after losing at home to a then two-win Tennessee team. The Houston secondary was torched all afternoon and the offensive line had QB C.J. Stroud running for his life. Things only get tougher in the coming weeks as the Texans have games against a hot Miami team, Kansas City on Dec. 21 and Baltimore on Christmas Day. That's three games in a stretch of 10 days. Wow!

Week 14 kicks off with a good one in the NFC North on Thursday Night Football as the Packers visit the first-place Lions. On Sunday, Atlanta visits Minnesota in a key game for both team's playoff chances, while Seattle visit Arizona in an important NFC West contest. This will be the second time in three weeks these two have met. Two weeks ago, the Seahawks earned a hard-fought 16-6 home win over the Cardinals to force a tie in the division.

Buffalo heads west to take on the Rams, and there's a good one in the AFC West on Sunday Night Football as the Chargers visit the defending Super Bowl champs in Kansas City. Monday Night Football has the Bengals visiting the Cowboys, in a meeting of two disappointing teams this season.

Before we take a look at this weekend's game, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 93-39 (68%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Ohio State vs. Oregon, Big 10 title game - The first game between these two was a barnburner with the Ducks outlasting the Buckeyes, 32-31. The rematch should be just as good. I think playing in a neutral environment will be a big plus for the Buckeyes, who have been here before. Oregon has played in the Pac 12 title games a few times, but the Buckeyes are used to playing in Indy and will be out to revenge that Oc. 12 loss in Eugene. The Buckeyes



are playing as well as any team in the country at this time, and that includes the top-ranked Ducks. OSU will look for a big game from QB Will Howard (2,685 yards, 26 TDs), running back Quinshon Judkins (759 yards, 8 TDs) and TreVeyon Henderson (730 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (52 receptions, 899 yards, 9 TDs) and Emeka Egbuka (56 receptions, 652 yards, 9 TDs). The Ohio State defense has been a force as of late, but that unit will face a very good offense in Oregon, led by QB Dylan Gabriel (3,066 yards, 22 TDs), running back Jordan James (1,067 yards, 11 TDs) and steady wideouts Tez Johnson (64 receptions, 649 yards, 8 TDs) and former Aggie Evan Stewart (47 receptions, 609 yards, 5 TDs). I think the OSU defense will be the difference maker in this one as the Buckeyes earn the Big 10 title. My pick, Ohio State 24, Oregon 17

NFL

Green Bay at Detroit - A good one to start Week 14 pits the Packers against the division-leading Lions. Two weeks ago, Green Bay dismantled a beat up SF team at home, 38-10, while the Lions won a tough road contest at Indy, 24-6. Detroit is tough to beat at home and QB Jared Goff (2,761 yards, 20 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (886 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (71 receptions, 747 yards, 9 TDs) will be a handful for a solid GB defense. The Packers have a few offensive weapons of their own in QB Jordan Love (2,244 yards, 18 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (944 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Jayden Reed (41 receptions, 669 yards, 4 TDs). The Lions want that top seed in the NFC, so don't expect them to slip up against their division rivals on Sunday. My pick, Detroit 26, Green Bay 23

Atlanta at Minnesota - A big game for both teams who are squarely in the playoff hunt. Atlanta has upgraded at QB with Kirk Cousins (2,807 yards, 17 TDs) and they have a dual-threat at running back in Bijan Robinson (783 rushing yards, 6

TDs/45 receptions, 359 yards, 1 TD). They also have a big-play wide receiver in Drake London (61 receptions, 710 yards, 6 TDs) and a go-to guy in Darnell Mooney (48 receptions, 711 yards, 5 TDs). The Vikings have a stout defense that plays well at home. Minnesota has gotten a nice season out of Sam Darnold (2,717 yards, 21 TDs), steady running back Aaron Jones (798 yards, 3 TDs) and two dependable wide receivers in Justin Jefferson (61 receptions, 939 yards, 3 TDs) and Jordan Addison (32 receptions, 521 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Vikings defense to make things tough on Cousins all afternoon as they pick up a big late-season win. My pick, Minnesota 30, Atlanta 22

Seattle at Arizona - The Cards will look to extract revenge from their loss at Seattle two weeks ago. Tyler Murray and his offensive mates were limited to just six points in that loss, and will look to play much better on Sunday. Seattle will look for QB Geno Smith (3,035 yards, 12 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (493 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Jaxson Smith-Njigba (66 receptions, 755 yards, 4 TDs) to step up in the desert come Sunday. Look for Murray to get the offense back on track as the Cards pick up a big-division win on Sunday. My pick, Arizona 31, Seattle 24

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams - The Bills head across the country to take on a Rams team that needs to get back on the winning track if they hope to remain in the NFC West race. Two weeks ago, the Bills enjoyed the weekend off, while the Rams fell at home to the Eagles, 37-20. Buffalo is not scared to play on the road and with QB Josh Allen (2,543 passing yards, 18 TDs/316 rushing yards, 5 TDs), under center, the Bills always have a chance to win at home or on the road. Buffalo also has a strong running game led by James Cook (696 yards, 10 TDs) and dependable receivers in wideouts Khalil Shakir (56 receptions, 599 yards, 2 TDs) and Keon Coleman (22 receptions, 417 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dalton Kincaid (34 receptions, 356 yards, 2 TDs).



The Rams can put up points as well behind QB Matthew Stafford (2,800 yards, 15 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (822 yards, 9 TDs) and wideouts Cooper Kupp (55 receptions, 548 yards, 5 TDs) and Puka Nacua (37 receptions, 490 yards, 1 TD). Look for Allen to be the difference maker in this one as the Bills get a big road win. My pick, Buffalo 31, Los Angeles Rams 26

Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City - A big one in the AFC West for the Sunday Night Football crew has the Chargers visiting the Chiefs. LA will need a big game from QB Justin Herbert (2,186 yards, 13 TDs) and running back J.K. Dobbins (726 yards, 8 TDs) against a solid KC defense. Wide receivers Ladd McConkey (43 receptions, 615 yards, 4 TDs) and Quentin Johnson (22 receptions, 365 yards, 6 TDs) will also need to step up as well. Two weeks ago,

the KC defense gave up 27 points to the lowly Panthers, but something tells me defensive coordinator Steve Spagnolia will have his troops prepared for this one. The KC offense will once again rely on QB Patrick Mahomes (2,673, 18 TDs), running back Kareem Hunt (577 yards, 5 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (68 receptions, 569 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Xavier Worthy (28 receptions, 353 yards, 4 TDs) to make plays. KC is tough to beat at home, which the Chargers will discover come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 30, Los Angeles Chargers, 23

Cincinnati at Dallas - Week 14 concludes with a Monday Night Football meeting between the Bengals and Cowboys. Both teams entered the season with high aspirations, but both have been huge disappointments thus far in the season. The Bengals have one of the best QBs in the

league in Joe Burrow (3,028 yards, 27 TDs) and one of the top receivers in Ja'Marr Chase (73 receptions, 1,056 yards, 12 TDs), but their defense has let them down in numerous games this year. Look for running back Chase Brown (607 yards, 5 TDs) to have a big night against a porous Dallas defense. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys did step up with an upset win at Washington, 34-26, as the Pokes returned two kickoffs for touchdowns. Dallas backup QB Cooper Rush (813 yards, 4 TDs) had a nice game throwing for 247 yards and two TDs. He should have another solid game going up against a suspect Cincinnati secondary. Look for wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (77 receptions, 841 yards, 4 TDs) to have a big night on Monday, but I think Burrow will be too much for a bad Cowboys secondary. My pick, Cincinnati 33, Dallas 26

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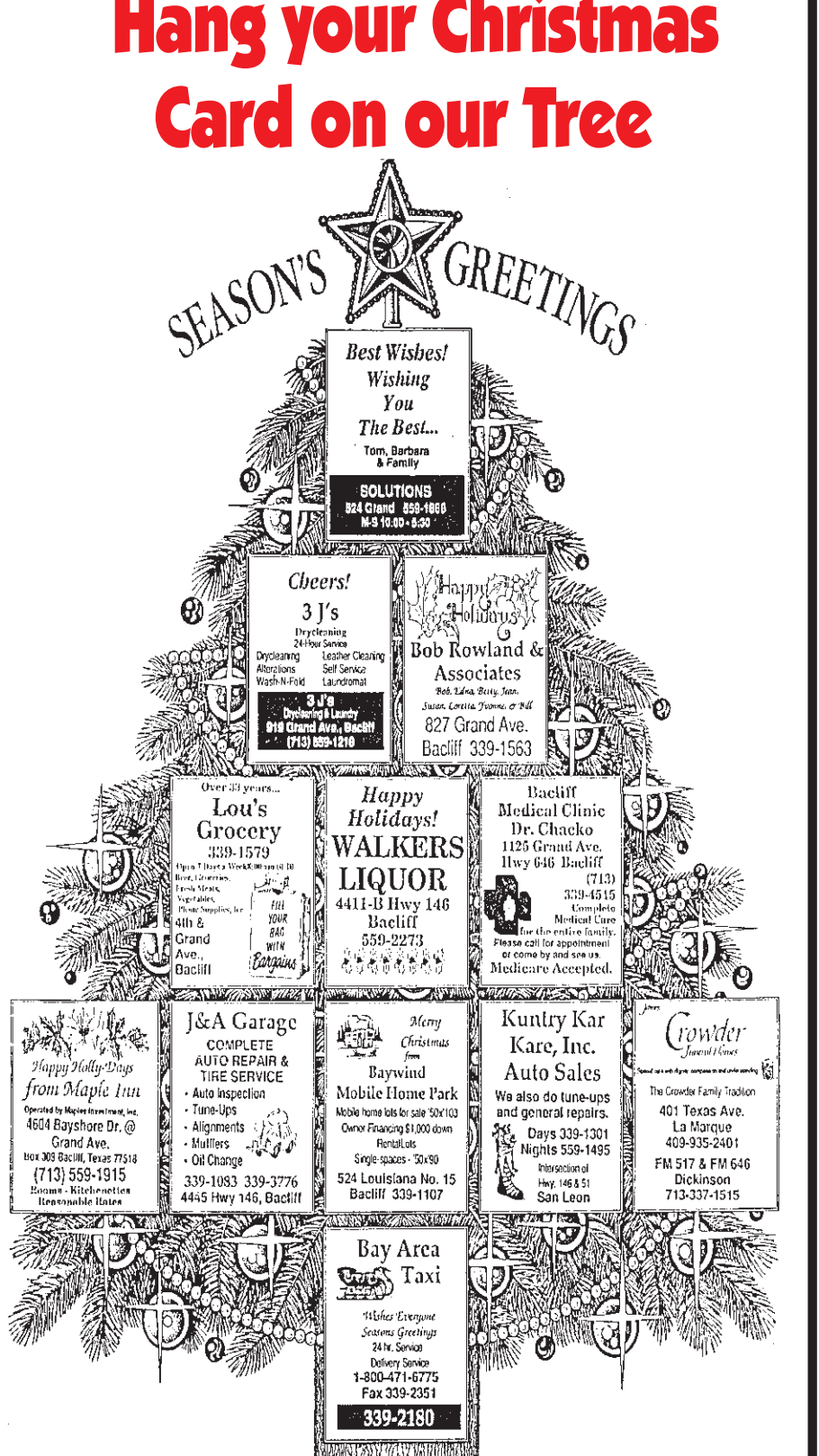
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Lone Star College and Rice University train future STEM professionals

HOUSTON – The United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects a 10% increase in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers over the next 10 years. To help address that need, Lone Star College Honors College and Rice University recently renewed a memorandum of understanding and signed an articulation agreement that allows transfer students in LSC's Take Flight program to receive Rice University credit for core science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses completed at LSC.



Lone Star College and Rice University signed an articulation agreement to make the Take Flight STEM program more accessible to LSC Honors College students. Pictured (left to right) are LSC students Jocel Angelo Reyes, Carlos Carreon and Alexis Lopez who will participate in the program. (Photo courtesy of Rice University)

“The Take Flight program gives Lone Star College Honors College students, seeking STEM-related associate degrees, opportunities to participate in speaker series, meet with Rice University students, attend lectures and conduct research projects with university faculty and leadership teams,” said Dwight Smith, Ed.D., LSC vice chancellor, Academic and Workforce Success. “Honors College students receive insight into transfer and enrollment processes at competitive universities and learn what it will take to succeed in a STEM industry.”

The LSC Honors College developed the Take Flight STEM Pathway as a co-curricular program with San Jacinto College and Rice University to expand education access and increase the number of students who complete STEM degrees. Take Flight supports students who are not ready to graduate but are interested in pursuing STEM degrees and careers, as well as high-achieving STEM stu-

dents who are graduating and want to pursue a four-year degree.

“Participating in the Lone Star College Honors College and the Rice University Take Flight STEM program opened doors to many educational and professional opportunities,” said Angelica Bernal Penaloza, LSC 2022 graduate and Cornell University biomedical engineering student. “Through Take Flight, I participated in the American Heart Association’s Summer Cardiovascular Research Internship Program where I learned to culture and engineer mammalian cells and continue my passion for medical research.”

This year’s LSC students include Alexis Lopez, Jocel Angelo Reyes and Carlos Carreon who spoke at the event saying they are happy to serve as representatives of the program that gave them the opportunity to apply the research skills they learned as LSC honors students.

After her first year as a

LSC Honors College student and a member of the Take Flight program, Lopez conducted research at Cornell University on using computer vision to study plant health. “The Honors College at Lone Star College created these foundational research skills,” said Lopez.

Along with the Take Flight program, Rice University offers other initiatives to LSC Honors College students, including summer paid research internships and mini summer research experiences for undergraduate students. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/College/Honors.

“One of the shared values that makes this Take Flight program and partnership so fruitful is Lone Star College and Rice University’s shared commitment to student success — and that means every student’s success,” said Amy Dittmar, Rice University’s Howard R. Hughes provost and executive vice president, Academic Affairs in a statement.




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