

## District unveils "Spirit of East Aldine" Sculpture

**A Symbol of Community Pride, Culture, and Spirit**

By Monica Campos

On Tuesday, December 10th, the East Aldine Management District and the East Aldine Arts Council came together to host a special dedication and unveiling ceremony for the "Spirit of East Aldine" sculpture.

Created by talented local artist Guadalupe Hernandez, this striking art piece stands as a testament to the vibrant culture and rich heritage of the East Aldine District. The 30-foot-tall sculpture, with its intricate details and symbolic design, is set to become a prominent landmark within the community.

The "Spirit of East Aldine" sculpture not only adds to the aesthetic beauty of the district but also plays a significant role in establishing a strong sense of place and identity that resonates with residents and visitors alike. It serves as a reflection of the community's spirit and a celebration of its unique character.

Chairman Silva said at the dedication event, "This landmark represents the beginning of a new era for this community."

As East Aldine continues to grow and evolve, this sculpture will serve as a constant reminder of the district's past, present, and future. It symbolizes the pride and unity of the community, showcasing how art can bring people to-

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The Spirit of East Aldine sculpture appears before the East Aldine office building, at the Roundabout. Posing with the Sculpture are members of the East Aldine Board of Directors, the East Aldine Arts Council, Sculptor Guadalupe Hernandez (4th from left) and other community members.



The SPIRIT OF EAST ALDINE sculpture was dramatically unveiled, with a cloth parachute hiding the final artwork until the time for the dedication and opening remarks. The Sculpture is located in a "Roundabout" in front of the East Aldine Office Building, with radiating streets leading to BakerRipley, Lone Star College East Aldine Campus, Harris County 9-1-1 Center, and eventually access into Keith-Wiess Park.

## Dedication Remarks by Chairman Carlos Silva



Carlos Silva, Chairman of both the East Aldine District board, and the East Aldine Arts Council, sends greetings and Opening Remarks at the Unveiling of the Spirit of East Aldine Sculpture, pictured in the background.

### Spirit of East Aldine Dedication Remarks

Thank you Richard and thank you everyone for being here today on what is truly a monumental day in East Aldine.

We are so honored to have our friends, family, colleagues, residents, stakeholders, and folks from various art organizations across the city here this afternoon to be a witness to the unveiling of a landmark and a sculpture that is much more than just "Art" - it is a towering representation of the pride of the people who have inhabited this place for over 150 years.

This Town Center has transformed our community into a place that few dreamed would ever be possible. The amenities and opportunities available here would be the envy of most neighborhoods. And just as the East Aldine Management District has aimed to continuously improve the lives of our residents for the past 20 years, a young little offshoot sprouted in 2019 - what we affectionately call EAAC around here...or the East Aldine Arts Council. The Arts Council aimed to bolster civic pride by advocating for the visual and performing arts all around the District....and although we

Continued. See SCULPTURE DEDICATION, Page 6

## Rep. Walle hosts Annual Senior Dance Event



Last month, State Rep. Walle hosted his annual House District 140 Senior Dance at the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus. The Kentucky Derby-themed event included lunch, door prizes and dancing. State Rep. Ana Hernandez (House District 143) also stopped by the event to join in the fellowship.

See Additional Photo on Page 7

### FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 16:

## Texas hosts Clemson in 1st round of CFP: Texans visit KC on Saturday looking for upset

The 12-team College Football Playoff (CFP) field is set and it has a strong Big 10 and SEC presence.

The two best conferences during the 2024 season were richly rewarded with the Big 10 leading the way with four teams as Oregon (No. 1), Ohio State (No. 5), Penn State (No. 6) and Indiana (No. 10) will represent the Big 10. The SEC landed three spots with Georgia (No. 2), Texas (No. 5) and Tennessee (No. 9) getting into the field. will represent the SEC. The ACC earned two spots with No. 11 SMU and No. 12 Clemson, while the Mountain West earned one spot with No. 3 Boise State, the Big 12 earned one spot with No. 4 Arizona State and Notre Dame (No. 7) earned a berth as an independent.

The top four seeds, Oregon, Georgia, Boise State and Arizona State earned first round



byes. The other four teams will play first-round games the weekend of Dec. 20-21 with the higher seeded team hosting a game at their respective campuses.

On Friday, Dec. 20, Notre Dame (11-1) will host Indiana (11-1) at 7 p.m.. On Saturday, Dec. 21, Penn State (11-2) will host SMU (11-2) at 11 a.m., followed by Clemson (10-3) a Texas (11-2) at 3 p.m. and Ohio State (10-2) will host Tennessee (10-2) at 7 p.m. in the nightcap.

Weather could play a factor in

three of the four first-round games. The 10-day forecast calls for temperatures in the low 30s in South Bend, State College and Columbus, while the Clemson-Texas game should be played in perfect football weather as the forecast calls for a high in the 60s.

The winner of the Clemson-Texas game will face Arizona State, while the winner of the Tennessee-Ohio State game will face Oregon. The winner of the

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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from  
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of the  
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Thank you for your support  
in the last year.



# Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas!  
What I want for Christmas is 5 fufu saushies, and a four wheeler. That's all I want for Christmas. Love,  
Alyson Hope, 9 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Today for Christmas I want a PS five, drawn, Roblox, gift card, phone, smiling critters, backpack, A sprunki plush.  
Anthony Martinez, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This is going to be the best Christmas ever! This Christmas I pray that my loved ones and my dog are safe. I really hope that my family is happy and feels love. Don't forget I want a Stanley cup too!  
Ariel Garcia, 8 years old  
Oleson elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Alejandro, I am nine years old and I'm in third grade. I'm currently attending Orange Grove elementary and this year I have good because I wish to have something that I wish for this Christmas is that I want to give food to the homeless.  
Alejandro, 9 years old,  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I would like a iPad, clothes, Jordans, blue stroller, blue Chivally iPad case.  
Merry Christmas.  
Kira Thomas, 10 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a small robot, hot wheels, a puppet and a computer. This is all I want. Your friend Sebastian.  
Sebastian Perez, 9 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
December 4, 2024.  
Merry Christmas Santa. This year will be an awesome Christmas Santa. For this year I want action figures, Pokémon cards, and robux gift card. A new bike, Pokémon plushies and art supplies with coloring books.  
Merry Christmas Santa  
Cody Gibbs, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a Watch, food, rainbow, rainbow, trick, rainbow, things, Xbox, Robux, and diamond, beautiful book rainbow.  
Elizabeth, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Dear Santa, I want three cats, one kitten, a scooter, clothes for winter, a hat, a brush, a coloring set, a makeup set.  
Claire Godinez, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

# Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want for Christmas an iPhone 14 because it's my favorite iPhone 14 because I have no phone but my mom is have a phone and me and my dad has too.  
Alexandre  
Orange Grove elementary


\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I can't wait for Christmas. What I want for Christmas is a hello Kitty plushie, a gumball and slime and that is what I want for Christmas.  
Carolina Vidales, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I can't wait for Christmas! Here are a few things I want for Christmas. Nintendo switch, controller sign, and Amy rose plush, a master city ultra instinct, Goku funko pop. CmuD and a rouge plushie. I think that was all I needed for Christmas, bye!  
Galeb Torres, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I would like my family to celebrate at my cousin's house. There we will pop fireworks and eat Mexican food, I can't wait to open my gifts at midnight!  
Thank you for this amazing holiday.  
Marcus Melina, 9 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a PS 5, a VR, Power Ranger toys, a car game for Nintendo switch, heelys and nike shoes for Christmas.  
Xavier Flores, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

**Happy Holidays**




*from Armando and Debbie Walle & Family*  
Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you at the Texas House of Representatives.

**Season's Greetings**

From:



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*Merry Christmas*  
*From the members*  
*of*  
*The Aldine*  
*Optimist Club*  
*Supporting the*  
*youth of Aldine*

*Season's Greetings*

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# SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## Aldine ISD Adds Parent and Family Engagement Clerks to Strengthen School-Family in Campuses Districtwide

On Monday, Nov. 18, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department held a meeting for its Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Clerks. PFE Clerks are new to FACE. They are in place at all Title I campuses to foster more communication between the campus and families.

The role of the PFE Clerk is to ensure that Aldine's families are informed, supported, and empowered. They are instrumental in assisting families with Annual Enrollment in the Home Access Center (HAC). This process is critical as it ensures that all student information is accurate, up-to-date, and ready for the new school year. In



many instances, they serve as the first point of contact for parents and guardians, guiding them, answering questions, and

providing resources to make sure families have the support they need.

"The PFE Clerks are committed to service, and

are at the heart of building a thriving partnership between schools and families," said Director of Family and Community

Engagement, LaTashia Abrams. "We understand that the foundation of student success is not only built on great teachers

and administrators, but also on the dedication of those behind the scenes who ensure that families are fully engaged and supported."

Additionally, the PFE clerks receive development courses and continuous learning through the FACE department, to offer guidance, strategies to engage families more effectively and technology tools to assist in their roles.

Aldine ISD continuously looks for ways to bring additional resources to students and families in the district, and Parent and Family Engagement Clerks are another way in which Aldine is doing just that.

## District Students Engage in Computer Science Education Week Activities

Computer Science Education Week (CSEd-Week) is an annual program that inspires K-12 students' interest in computer science. The Computer Science Teachers Association's (CSTA) mission is to empower, engage, and advocate for K-12 computer science teachers worldwide, providing them with the support they need to excel in their roles. CSTA is a membership organization that supports and promotes the teaching of computer science and other computing disciplines. CSEdWeek is held to recognize computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (b. December 9, 1906).

CSEdWeek 2024 runs from December 9 through December 15. The district schools—elementary, middle, and high schools—will celebrate each weekday with themed spirit dress days and activities.

Social Media We encourage you to share your experiences and activities on social media during Computer Science Education Week. Use #AldineImpact and #CSEdWeek24, and tag the CTE Department using @AldineCTE to join the conversation and inspire others!

Take advantage of the fun and creativity!

**#CSEdWeek 24**

**SEMANA DE LA EDUCACIÓN EN CIENCIAS DE LA COMPUTACIÓN**

9 a 15 de diciembre de 2024

Actividades en las escuelas primarias

La misión de la Asociación de Profesores de Ciencias de la Computación (CSTA, por sus siglas en inglés) es empoderar, involucrar y abogar por los maestros de ciencias de la computación de kínder a 12.º grado en todo el mundo. CSTA es una organización de miembros que apoya y promueve la enseñanza de las ciencias de la computación y otras disciplinas informáticas. Hagan clic en los enlaces activos en actividades para el aula y disfruten de una semana de diversión y creatividad.

**Vestimenta para celebrar**

**El lunes: Día del Icono Tecnológico**  
¡Vístanse como un ícono de la tecnología como Steve Jobs o Mark Zuckerberg o personajes de los videojuegos como Pac-Man o Mario!

**El martes: Día del código ASCII**  
Vístanse como su carácter ASCII (Código Estándar Americano para el Intercambio de Información) favorito o su representación ASCII (ej.: Mayúsculas A-65-01000001).

**El miércoles: Lenguajes de programación**  
¡Es su oportunidad de mostrar su estilo único! Vístanse usando un tema de computadora y "expresen su mensaje" con HTML sin procesar o cualquier otro lenguaje de programación.

**El jueves: Códigos de patrones de diseño**  
¡Es el día de los códigos de patrones de diseño! Vístanse con tiras de algún patrón, bloques, etc

**El viernes: ¡Día del Solucionador de Problemas!**  
¡Vístanse como un superhéroe porque saben resolver problemas!

**ACTIVIDADES ESCOLARES**

**El lunes**  
Es una fiesta, ¡bailemos!  
Hagan clic aquí.

**El martes**  
Hora del código con Minecraft

**El miércoles**  
Realicen un proyecto con el juego Flappy

**El jueves**  
Star Wars: Construyan una galaxia con código

**El viernes**  
La aventura secreta de Mario: Crea su propio juego de Mario en 3D.

**Preguntas**  
Departamento de Educación Técnica y Profesional (CTE)  
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## AISSD Crowns Champions of the Inaugural District Spanish Spelling Bee



Dilan Galván, Yaritza Valladares, and Helen Padillo (l-r) are the third-, first-, and second-place winners of the district's inaugural Spanish Spelling Bee held at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center on December 11, 2024.

Top district winners from Aldine ISD's inaugural Spanish Spelling Bee have earned the honor of representing the district at the prestigious Region 4 Spanish Spelling Bee.

On December 11, the top competitors from Aldine ISD campuses gathered to vie for the Elementary and Secondary Spanish Spelling Bee Champion titles.

Approximately 40 emergent bilingual students in grades 4-8 participated in the event, enduring five rounds of intense competition. The event showcased the students' linguistic skills, focus, and determination.

Students Advancing to Regional Competition The top three finishers will advance to the Region 4 Spanish Spelling Bee, which will be held on Feb. 5, 2025, at the McKinney Conference Center in Houston.

First Place: Yaritza Valladares, García Middle School (Grade Band 6-8)

Second Place: Helen Padillo, Oleson Elementary School (Grade Band 4-5)

Third Place: Dilan Galván, Escamilla Elementary School (Grade Band 4-5)

These students will proudly represent Aldine ISD as they compete at the regional level.

Congratulates the winners and all participants for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding performances in this milestone event!

## AISSD Alum and Former Coach Willard Ester Jr. Inducted Into Southern University's Sports Hall of Fame in Baseball

For over three decades, Willard Dean Ester Jr. shaped young minds and strengthened bodies as a teacher and coach in the Aldine ISD and Houston ISD. Beyond the classroom and athletic fields, his impact ripples through the lives of countless students and athletes who found in him a mentor and guide.

This year, Ester was inducted into Southern University's Sports Hall of Fame in baseball, a prestigious honor recognizing his outstanding achievements as a student-athlete at the Louisiana college. The accolade solidifies his legacy as one of the finest to play the game and underscores his resilience and dedication throughout his career.

Ester's journey began as a standout athlete in Aldine ISD. A natural on the baseball diamond and basketball court, he began playing at Bethune Elementary, earning accolades at Drew Junior High (now Drew Academy) and Carver



Coach Willard Ester Jr. holding his hall of fame award

High School. At Carver, he was a force in both sports, earning All-District and All-State honors in basketball and baseball. By his

senior year, he had cemented his athletic reputation, playing for the Texas All-Star Basketball Team and being drafted by the Hous-

ton Astros in the 1969 Amateur Baseball Draft. However, he opted to pursue college instead.

At Southern University, Ester's prowess continued to shine. He earned Freshman of the Year honors as a scholarship athlete and captained the baseball team his senior year. Despite a serious pitching arm injury in his senior year, Ester's resilience saw him return to lead his team to a playoff victory in Phoenix, Arizona.

After graduating with a bachelor's in secondary education in 1973, Ester returned to Houston and devoted his life to teaching and coaching. His influence extended far beyond wins and losses; he became a cornerstone of character development, instilling values of discipline, integrity, and perseverance in his students.

Ester earned a master's degree in education from Prairie View A&M University in 1996, further equip-

ping him to inspire young people. His work in education mirrored his dedication to his family and church. A devoted husband to his college sweetheart, Melinda Stevens Ester, and proud father and grandfather, Ester's commitment to those he loves reflects his life's broader mission of uplifting others.

Ester's granddaughter attends Kujawa Academy, and his grandson, who also attended Kujawa Academy, is now a student at Impact Leadership Academy. Ester's daughter currently works at Kujawa EC/PreK/K School.

Though retired, Ester's legacy endures in the lives of those he mentored and the community he continues to inspire. His induction into Southern University's Sports Hall of Fame is a testament to a lifetime of excellence, on and off the field. For Willard Ester Jr., the game never ended—it evolved into a lifelong commitment to shaping futures.

**GREEN FOREST CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Hello, East Aldine Residents. Please mark your calendar! Monthly meetings of the Green Forest Civic Club Last **Thursday** of the month @ 6:30 p.m. 2909 E. Aldine Amphitheater Dr. 77039 At our meetings, you will receive in-person updates from elected officials, law enforcement officers, and service providers and organizations about issues, concerns, and events having to do with East Aldine. Also receive advice and assistance on any issue you may be having. Our meetings are open to the public. For additional information, contact Selina Valdez @ 832-416-0964 or at [greenforestcc1983@gmail.com](mailto:greenforestcc1983@gmail.com) or on our Facebook page: Green Forest Civic Club. We look forward to seeing you!



OPINION PAGE

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20,

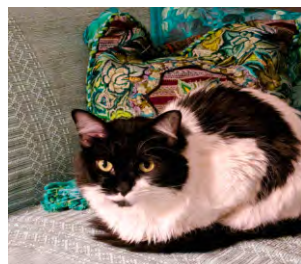
King James Version

1: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Tuna Time



"He's on vigil," my husband, Peter, said, watching our cat, Felix.

Peter, who never had a cat before Felix, has become the resident cat expert. Of course, he has a sample size of one, so all his generalizations about cats are based on Felix.

I had quite a few cats before Felix, so I feel in a better position to say what kind of cat Felix is. Felix is a lively cat—he is the most playful adult cat I've ever had. He is not a lap cat and does not like to be carried around. And he is a fussy eater. The first two make sense, since he spent his early life on the streets. The fussy eating is just Felix. He seems to think that, since he was scooped up off the streets into the lap of luxury (not the literal lap, you understand, because laps are much too confining), he deserves nothing but the best.

Felix is not crazy about his dry food—which is a very good brand and is nutritionally complete. He will not eat leftover fish skin or cheese. He'll eat the occasional garbanzo bean, but it must be warm. I don't know how a cat with such particular tastes survived on the streets. But the one thing Felix likes is tuna, and he gets tuna every day. He gets tuna at promptly 8:30 p.m. because that has been declared by Peter as Tuna Time.

So Felix is on vigil every night from around a quarter to 8 until exactly 8:30. The anticipation before Tuna Time is the high point of his day. (I meant the high point of Felix's day, but it may well be the high point of Peter's day as well.)

Shortly before 8, Felix finds a spot where he can watch Peter—a place where Peter could not possibly escape without passing him. He stares at Peter. As the hour approaches, Felix slowly inches closer to Peter. He watches more and more intently. Every time Peter glances up, there are a pair of golden green eyes fixated on him. Peter is master of Tuna Time, and every move he makes is observed by Felix.

I'm not sure how our lives became so ruled by this ritual that did not exist before we adopted Felix. Ignoring Tuna Time would be like skipping a sunrise or forgetting my birthday or putting on my shoes before my socks. It's a thing that can't even be imagined. When we go out to eat, Peter looks at his watch, "45 minutes until Tuna Time!" he says, and we know we better be heading home.

At about 8:27, Peter takes a deep breath. Felix hears the sharp intake of breath and freezes.

"And..." Peter's voice rises to a crescendo, "... it's TUNA TIME!"

Felix races to the kitchen so fast his paws spin in place for a moment before he gains traction. He purrs so loudly I can hear him from the next room, as Peter assures him this is the most tuna he has ever received. (It is exactly the same amount every night.)

Felix eats the tuna in an instant. And then he relaxes for the evening. The main event is over. When he was younger, he would wail in apparent grief that the best moment of the day was over so soon. But he has come to understand that, like every good thing, Tuna Time must come to an end. And when it does, all there is to do is wait for another day when Tuna Time will come again.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Phelan drops bid for speaker: No clear winner yet

House Speaker Dade Phelan withdrew last week from seeking another term leading that chamber. After three rounds of voting on Saturday, state Rep. David Cook, R-Mansfield emerged as the preference of most House Republicans. However, his opponent, state Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, claims to have enough support from both Republicans and Democrats to clear the 76-vote threshold.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Cook acknowledged the race for speaker wasn't yet over.

"I'll continue working between now and Jan. 14 to earn [the vote] of every member of the Texas Republican caucus — as well as any Democrat," Cook said.

Phelan, R-Beaumont, narrowly won re-election to his seat in the May primary, needing to prevail in a runoff to return to Austin. He was opposed by fellow Republicans who blamed him for the failure of several priorities in the last session, including the push to institute school vouchers.

Among Phelan's opponents were Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was impeached by the House but survived a conviction trial in the Senate. Paxton blasted Burrows, who voted to impeach him, as "Dade 2.0"

"Supporting Burrows is a betrayal of the conservative movement," Paxton said Friday. "Voters will remember."

VOUCHER PUSH SPURS CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Education savings accounts, popularly known as school vouchers, are again a top priority for Gov. Greg Abbott in the upcoming session after a similar push failed in 2023. This time, however, the primary loss of several voucher opponents last March has even those opposing vouchers conceding passage of a measure is likely.

That means lawmakers will pass a bill to send public tax dollars to private schools, according to the Texas Standard.

At a recent visit to the private religious school Kingdom Life Academy in Tyler, Abbott said, "We are assuring that students who may have fallen through the cracks in their public school, they're going to have a new chance, a new opportunity to be able to, to learn, to achieve, to succeed."

Dallas school board member Dan Micciche recently said that since vouchers are a likely possibility, it is vital that private and home schools that receive taxpayer money be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, including STAAR testing.

"Any school or educational entity that receives public funds should be held to the

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

same accountability standards for student outcomes, fiscal performance, open records and meetings act, and student services," he said.

Public school administrators are also pushing for teacher pay raises, something that fell by the wayside in the last session when a voucher bill failed to pass.

LAWMAKERS MULL SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR TEENS

Texas lawmakers could consider banning social media from minors in the upcoming session, The Texas Tribune reported. A bill filed by state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, would prohibit minors from creating accounts on social media sites and add age verification for new users.

Other online measures would attack use of artificial intelligence to make pornographic images using people's likenesses and would boost funding for internet crime units in law enforcement agencies.

"Social media is the most dangerous thing our kids have legal access to in Texas," Patterson said.

A number of national organizations, including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Psychological Association, have criticized social media companies for being a "root cause" of the nationwide youth mental health crisis. Studies indicate 95% of youth ages 13 to 17 use social media, with more than a third saying they use it "almost constantly."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued TikTok in October, saying the company allows its algorithms to affect minors. That suit is set to go to court in coming months.

HIGHER RISK OF ANOTHER DEEP FREEZE IN TEXAS

The top meteorologist for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said the coming winter could bring a higher risk of extreme cold temperature than experienced during the February 2021 storm.

Chris Coleman with ERCOT said a bevy of weather variables such as ocean currents,

atmospheric patterns and soil moisture appear very similar to the 2021 conditions that spawned Winter Storm URI, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"The more I look at this winter, the more cold potential I see," Coleman said. "This is like a tornado watch. Doesn't mean a tornado is going to happen. It means conditions are there."

ERCOT is emphasizing that any potential rotating outages because of winter storms would be only hours long rather than multiple days because of improvements to the Texas grid, such as weatherproofing of power plants and more backup power sources.

"I always point to the weatherization program as probably being one of the most statistically significant changes that have been made, that has markedly changed the risk profile of the ERCOT grid, in particular during the winter seasons," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas told the board Tuesday.

TEA INVESTIGATING 100 TEACHERS IN CHEATING SCHEME

More than 100 Texas teachers are being investigated by the Texas Education Agency in connection with a teaching certification cheating scheme. The vast majority of teachers on a list released last week by TEA are employed by North Texas or Houston-area school districts.

Five people have been charged with felonies in connection with the scheme, allegedly organized by a Houston-area basketball coach, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

School districts have had a difficult time filling teacher vacancies since the pandemic, and the number of uncertified teachers hired has risen considerably. Statewide, 34.6% of teachers hired during the 2023-24 school year didn't have a teaching certificate, nearly three times the rate in 2019-20.

PATRICK VOWS TO GO AFTER THC PRODUCTS SOLD BY DISPENSARIES

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said banning THC products will be a top priority next session, threatening the livelihood of dozens of stores across the state selling products with higher levels of the main compound in cannabis, the Chronicle reported.

Hemp was legalized in Texas in 2019. That has led to a proliferation of products containing higher levels of THC, which produces a high similar to cannabis, which is still illegal in Texas.

"Retailers exploited the agriculture law to sell life-threatening, unregulated forms of THC to the public and made them easily accessible," Patrick said.

Hemp producers are regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and industry groups say there are far too few producers for the booming market.

"Such a ban would hand this multi-billion-dollar industry over to the illicit market, abandoning all opportunity to properly regulate the industry," said Heather Fazio, co-founder of Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy.

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

TOP Ten

Most Popular Christmas Movies of All Time

- 1. The Santa Clause 2 (2002)
2. The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (2018)
3. The Santa Clause (1994)
4. The Holiday (2006)
5. Elf (2003)
6. The Polar Express (2004)
7. A Christmas Carol (2009)
8. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)
9. Home Alone (1990)
10. The Grinch (2018)

Source: ScreenCrush

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NORTHEAST NEWS

5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188
email: nenewsroom@aol.com
website: www.nenewsroom.com

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- Gilbert Hoffman... Editor & Publisher
Mei-Ing Hoffman... Associate Publisher
David Taylor... Managing Editor
Kristan Hoffman... Website Editor
Julieta Paita... Assignment Editor
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Contributing Writers: Mike Keeney, Charlotte Jackson, Allan Jamail, Kristan Hoffman, Marina Flores Sugg

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 16:

Texas hosts Clemson in 1st round of CFP: Texans visit KC on Saturday looking for upset

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Indiana-ND game will take on Georgia and the winner of the SMU-Penn State game will take on Boise State. The second-round games will be played in the Peach Bowl, the Rose Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. The two semifinal games will be played in the Orange Bowl and Cotton Bowl. The CFP Championship game will be played on Monday, Jan. 20 at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The games will be televised on ABC, ESPN and TNT.

Of course, there is a bit of controversy with the field, mainly that Alabama was excluded for SMU. The Crimson Tide finished 9-3 on the year but owned a win over No. 2-ranked Georgia. SMU's best win came against Duke. Granted, 'Bama played in a much tougher conference, but its 24-3 loss against a .500 Oklahoma team on national TV might have been their undoing. SMU's rally in the ACC title game probably put them over the top. The Ponies trailed Clemson 24-7 at halftime but tied the game in the second half and lost on a last-second 56-yard field goal.

This should be an exciting four weeks as college football fans will be on the edge of their seats to see what two teams will play for it all in Atlanta on Jan. 20. It should be a fun ride.

In the NFL, the Texans head to Kansas City on Saturday to take on the Chiefs. Houston had its bye week in Week 14 and that might help DeMeco Ryan's team be rested and ready for the final stretch run of the season. The Chiefs clinched another AFC West title two weeks ago with a 19-17 win over the Chargers. KC has struggled this year and could be ripe for an upset on Saturday.

Week 16 starts with a good one for Thursday Night Football as Denver visits the Chargers in a key contest for both team's playoff chances.

Also on Saturday, the Steelers visit the Ravens in an important AFC North contest. On Sunday, the Eagles visit the Commanders, while Minnesota head to the Pacific Northwest to take on the Seahawks. The Cowboys host Tampa Bay on Sunday Night Football and Week 16 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Saints, who could be without starting QB Derek Carr (fractured hand) paying a visit to Lambeau Field to take on the Packers.

Before we take a look at this weekend's busy schedule, let's review last week's record. A 4-3 week brought the season record to 105-46 (70%).



Now, onto this weekend's game.

CFP FIRST ROUND

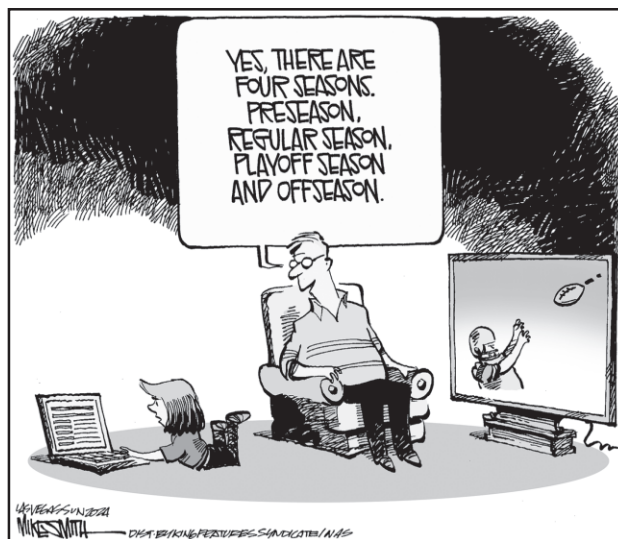
**Indiana at Notre Dame** - Weather should not be a factor for either of these two teams that play in the state of Indiana. The Hoosiers were one of the surprise teams this season as first-year head coach Curt Cignetti has done an amazing job leading his team to 11 wins, but he faces a Notre Dame team that is as hot as any team still playing at this juncture of the season. The Hoosiers will face a ND defense that allows just 13 points per game. Indiana QB Kurtis Rourke (2,827 yards, 27 TDs), running back Justice Ellison (811 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Elijah Sarrat (49 receptions, 890 yards, 8 TDs) will face their toughest test of the season. The Irish aren't explosive on offense, but are steady behind dual-threat QB Riley Leonard (2,092 passing yards, 16 TDs/721 rushing yards, 16 TDs) and burly running back Jeremiah Love (949 yards, 15 TDs). Look for the Irish to use their running game to wear down the Hoosier defense and then turn Marcus Freeman's defense loose against Rourke. My pick, Notre Dame 31, Indiana 14

**SMU at Penn State** - The surprising SMU Mustangs booked their trip to the CFP with an 11-win season, but they face a daunting task against a Penn State team that is tough to beat in State College. The Ponies are led by QB Kevin Jennings (3,050 passing yards, 22 TDs/379 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Brashard Smith (1,270 yards, 14 TDs) and wideout Roderick Daniels, Jr. (38 receptions, 599 yards, 3 TDs). The Nittany Lions don't do anything fancy, they like to run the ball with its two-headed running game of Nicholas Singleton (838 yards, 7 TDs) and Kaytron Allen (822 yards, 7 TDs). Look for those two to soften up the SMU defense, which should open up the passing game for QB Drew Aller (2,894 yards, 21 TDs) to make plays to big-play tight end Tyler Warren (53 receptions, 1,062 yards, 6 TDs). My pick, Penn State 26, SMU 20

**Clemson at Texas** - Texas had a chance to earn a first-round bye, but could not beat

Georgia's backup QB in the SEC title game. Longhorn fans had better hope Steve Sarkisian's team learned a big lesson from that game, or it could be one and out for UT. Once again, UT QB Quinn Ewers (2,665 yards, 25 TDs) failed to make the big play when it mattered, and it could have cost UT against Georgia. Sarkisian and the team have probably put that game behind them and are looking ahead to the post season. Look for Ewers to rebound against a 3-loss Clemson team, whose QB, Cade Klubnik (3,303 yards, 33 TDs/459 rushing yards, 7 TDs) will be returning to Austin where he played at Austin Westlake High School. The Texas defense, which is one of the top units in the country, will look to take Klubnik out of his comfort zone, then turn things over to Ewers, running back Quintrevion Wisner (863 yards, 3 TDs), wide receiver Matthew Golden (47 receptions, 738 yards, 8 TDs) and tight end Gunnar Helm (49 receptions, 611 yards, 5 TDs) to make plays all over Royal-Memorial Stadium. Texas has a nice path to reach the semifinals, but the 'Horns must take advantage of the home field on Saturday afternoon. It says here they will. My pick, Texas 33, Clemson 20

**Tennessee at Ohio State** - The first round concludes on Saturday night in Columbus as the Vols of the SEC take on the Buckeyes of the Big 10. The winner won't only move on to the second round, but will have bragging rights for its respective conference. OSU ended the season on a disappointing note by losing to a five-loss Michigan team at home on Nov. 30. The offensive play calling was widely criticized as QB Will Howard (2,860 yards, 27 TDs) had his game restricted by offensive coordinator Chip Kelly. Kelly better have a better game plan against a Vols team that has a very good front seven and is tough to run against. The Buckeyes will need big games from running back Quinshon Judkins (805 yards, 9 TDs) and TreVeyon Henderson (751 yards, 6 TDs) and wideouts Jeremiah Smith (57 receptions, 934 yards, 10 TDs) and Emeka Egbuka (60 receptions, 743 yards, 9 TDs) if they hope to defeat the Vols. Look for Tennessee to give the OSU defense a steady dose of big-



play running back Dylan Sampson (1,457 yards, 22 TDs), which should open up the passing lanes for QB Nico Iamalova (2,500 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Dont'e Thompson (25 receptions, 647 yards, 6 TDs). I think the Vols give the Buckeyes a game, but I also think that late-season loss at home to Michigan will serve as a motivating factor for Ohio State. My pick, Ohio State 26, Tennessee 23

NFL

**Denver at Los Angeles Chargers** - Week 16 begins with a good one for the Thursday Night Football crew as the Broncos visit the Chargers. The winner of this one enhances their AFC Wild Card hopes (the Chiefs wrapped up the West two weeks ago with a win over the Chargers), while the loser will need help down the stretch. It will be interesting to see how Denver rookie QB Bo Nix (2,842 passing yards, 17 TDs/304 rushing yards, 4 TDs) handles the pressure of playing for a playoff spot this late in the season. LA's defense is tough and will go after Nix hoping to force a mistake or two. The Chargers will look for a big night from QB Justin Herbert (2,764 yards, 14 TDs). Herbert hopes he has rookie wideout Ladd McConkey (55 receptions, 815 yards, 4 TDs) back for this one. Look for LA to protect the home field on Thursday night. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 23, Denver 20

**Houston at Kansas City** - The Texans and Chiefs meet on Saturday in KC in what's a big game for both teams. The Texans would like to pull off one of the biggest upsets in their history, while the Chiefs will look to protect the No. 1 seed in the AFC. The Texans' bye week came at a perfect time. Let's hope QB C.J. Stroud (3,117 yards, 15 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (887 yards, 13 total TDs) and wideouts Nico Collins (49 receptions, 832 yards, 4 TDs) and Tank Del (43 receptions, 543 yards, 2 TDs) are ready to take on a very good KC defense. The Houston defense will need to pressure KC QB Patrick Mahomes (3,189 yards, 20 TDs/

11 interceptions) into some mistakes. The KC offense isn't as potent as it has been in the past, but don't ever bet against Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce (80 receptions, 682 yards, 2 TDs) and newcomers Xavier Worthy (38 receptions, 448 yards, 5 TDs) and former Texans De'Andre Hopkins (30 receptions, 357 yards, 4 TDs) at this time of year. My pick, Kansas City 24, Houston 20

**Pittsburgh at Baltimore** - Another good one on Saturday has the Steelers, leaders of the AFC North, battling division foe and heated rival Baltimore. These two met on Nov. 17 with the Steelers earning a hard-fought 18-16 win. I expect more offense in this one as Steeler QB Russell Wilson (1,784 yards, 14 TDs) and Ravens' QB Lamar Jackson (3,290 yards, 29 TDs/678 rushing yards, 3 TDs) do battle against one another. Baltimore will also need a big day from running back Derrick Henry (1,407 yards, 15 total TDs). Pittsburgh needs its running back Najee Harris (877 yards, 5 TDs) to step up his game as well. Both teams had big-play wideouts in Pittsburgh's George Pickens (who missed the Cleveland game two weeks ago with a hamstring injury), (55 receptions, 850 yards, 3 TDs) and Baltimore's Zay Flowers (60 receptions, 863 yards, 4 TDs). Look for Jackson to outduel Wilson as the Ravens extract revenge from that Nov. 17 loss. My pick, Baltimore 30, Pittsburgh 26

**Philadelphia at Washington** - A big one in the NFC East as the Eagles head to Landover, MD to take on the surprising Commanders on Sunday afternoon. Two weeks ago, Philly struggled at home but pulled out a 22-16 win over Carolina as QB Jalen Hurts (2,602 passing yards, 16 TDs/544 rushing yards, 13 TDs) struggled throwing the ball, which was not lost on star wideout A.J. Brown (48 receptions, 836 yards, 4 TDs), who was critical of Hurts and the passing offense after the game. Look for running back Saquon Barkley (1,623 yards, 13 total TDs) to be the difference maker in this one, but Washing-

ton rookie QB Jayden Daniels (2,819 passing yards, 15 TDs/590 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Brian Robinson (646 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Terry McClinton (61 receptions, 896 yards, 9 TDs) will make it close. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Washington 23

**Minnesota at Seattle** - A big game for both teams as the Vikings look to protect their NFC playoff spot, while the Seahawks will look to hold onto their lead in the NFC West. Two weeks ago, Minnesota QB Sam Darnold (3,299 yards, 28 TDs) tossed five TD passes in a 42-21 win over Atlanta. He has two big-play wideouts in Justin Jefferson (75 receptions, 1,170 yards, 7 TDs) and Jordan Addison (44 receptions, 708 yards, 7 TDs) to makes plays to. Seattle will look to QB Geno Smith (3,374 yards, 14 TDs) to make plays to Jaxon Smith-Njigba (75 receptions, 911 yards, 5 TDs) and DK Metcalf. Seattle is tough to beat at home, which Minnesota will discover come Sunday. My pick, Seattle 31, Minnesota 27

**Tampa Bay at Dallas** - The Buccaneers visit the Cowboys on Sunday Night Football looking to keep its hold on the top spot in the NFC South. TB QB Baker Mayfield (3,329 yards, 28 TDs) is having another solid season, and he has a two-headed running game with Bucky Irving (735 yards, 6 TDs) and Rachaad White (509 yards, 4 total TDs) to attack a suspect Dallas rush defense. When Mayfield decides to throw, he has a big-play target in Mike Evans (43 receptions, 590 yards, 7 TDs) to turn to. Dallas will need a big night from backup QB Cooper Rush (1,191 yards, 7 TDs), running back Rico Dowdle (731 yards, 2 total TDs) and wideout CeeDee Lamb (85 receptions, 973 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the Bucs offense to be too much for a porous Dallas defense come Sunday night. My pick, Tampa Bay 33, Dallas 23

**New Orleans at Green Bay** - Week 16 concludes with the banged-up Saints visiting the playoff-minded Packers on Monday Night Football. New Orleans will be without starting QB Derek Carr, who sustained a fractured hand in NO's 14-11 win over the Giants two weeks ago. Look for the Saints to give the GB defense a steady diet of running back Alvin Kamara (938 rushing yards, 6 TDs/64 receptions, 485 yards, 1 TD), but that won't be enough to hold off the Packers potent offense led by QB Jordan Love (2,724 yards, 21 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (1,053 yards, 12 total TDs) and wide receiver Jayden Reed (44 receptions, 693 yards, 6 TDs). The Packers know they have little room for error if they hope to earn a Wild Card berth. My pick, Green Bay 31, New Orleans 16

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Happy Hour

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Here's what we'll be doing each week in November:

- Dec 02 - Friendship Rocks
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- Dec 16 - Puzzle swap - Bring a puzzle to trade or just work on one of ours

Movement Mondays

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Play and Grow Workshop

DePelchin Children's Center is joining us after story time to come

and talk to parents and caregivers to provide resources and advice. 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. 17, 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Home School Social

Are you homeschooling at the moment? Join us for a social event dedicated to homeschooling families! Come and enjoy snacks, crafts, robots, and so much more. All age groups are welcome. \*\*This event is for families who currently homeschool or those interested in homeschooling. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2-3pm.

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. 17, 5-5:45pm

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Houston, TX 77037  
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DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
DEC 3	HOLIDAY GAME CHANGERS *ADULTS*	1 PM
DEC 4	DIY HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS *ALL AGES*	5:30 PM
DEC 5	CARDBOARD CUTOUT CREATIONS	10 AM
DEC 6	KRAFTY KIDS (HOLIDAY EDITION)	3:30 PM
DEC 9	SIP & PINT (HOLIDAY EDITION)	6 PM
DEC 10	POKEMON CLUB (HOLIDAY EDITION)	3 PM
DEC 11	CUSTOM HOLIDAY CARDS *ADULTS*	6 PM
DEC 12	HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS *ALL AGES*	3 PM
DEC 13	HOLIDAY CANVAS BAGS HOLIDAY HORROR MOVIE (KRAMPUS)	1 PM 3:30 PM
DEC 16	BOOKMARK MAKING	3:30 PM
DEC 17	COLOR AND COCOA	3:30 PM
DEC 20	NIGHTMRE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (HOLIDAY MOVIE)	3 PM

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\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want FIFA world cup sticker and they sell them on Walgreens.  
Miguel Pineda, 10 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want some white and black air force ones. And a nintendo for Carmen so she doesn't have to play mine. And some Nintendo games for Carmen and a legos and a remote control car and an Ipad and that's it.  
Joseph Comeau, Age 7  
Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa, I know you are busy, but can you give me Robux, nano board, and some clothes, you don't have to give me a lot of stuff.  
Edith G, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa, make up and toy for my sister and mom and for me price 13 max to see my real dad, bye Santa.  
Kyize, 9 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like for Christmas rolling skates, Make Up, robots, bike, scooter, pool, iPhone, swif box, ps5.  
Blanca, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I asked one Navidad cute and one dog and meet Ronaldo and one rosca de reyes and one PlayStation five, please and one iPhone if you no puedes is okei, Santa you is the best friend.  
Andy, 8 Year old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I would like a cat, a \$40 Robux and box gift card. A Tesla to flex, and a drivers license, Ialso want one of your elves to make toys for me. Don't forget fake money to flex on my older brother. Merry Christmas.  
Gianni Rodriguez, 9 years old  
Oleson elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For Christmas and one cat, stitch, clothes, journal, stickers, purses, toys in a touch land.  
Arianna Guzman, 7 years old  
Oleson elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa, I really love Christmas and what I want for Christmas is a toy truck a hoover board , a notebook, some shoes chorns and a pack of markers.  
Benjamin, 7 years old  
Oleson elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
We've been working hard this year - learning, growing, and spreading kindness whatever we can. If you have time, we'd love for you to sprinkle a little holiday magic or way. Maybe some extra smiles, cozy moments, and joy to share with our families and friends. Thank you for

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa, what I want for December is a pool, teenager mutant ninja turtle toys, Xbox, and Pokémon cards.  
David, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*  
\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas is a PS4 and four gaming PCs and the iPhone 16 Pro Max.  
Carlos de Jesús, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
What I want for Christmas is to meet Ronaldo and get game boy and a car of Robux and a Tesla cyber truck in a bag of loom stickers of Ronaldo the goat.  
Brando, 8 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

Dear Santa,  
I know that you are busy, but can you give me an air force one and a TV and two LED lights and PS five that's all.  
Edson, 10 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I would like an iPhone 13, Minecraft game for my PS 5, money, Legos and vbucks for my Nintendo and that's what I would like.  
Raul Guzman, 9 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Here is my Christmas list. First I want is a pair of Nike shoes. Next is a jacket and Nike socks. Then snack the nerd clusters. After I want a pair of a bow, merry Christmas.  
Sophia Andaya, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Here is my Christmas list. One I want for Christmas is a puppy. Next, I want a new hover board, an iPad, stitch outfit. Then I want mini barns and Makit mini. After that, I want a silp n slide and a pool. After I just want family.  
Amiyah Fulcher, 9 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I wish I have a soccer ball so I can play with Ian Leo and Jaiden and some of my classmates and Jaiden will be in Leo team and I wish I have a Phone and a nintendo switch from Jacob.  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
What I would like for Christmas will be a nice pair of shoes, Pokémon cards, a nice fuzzy blanket to keep warm, anima characters, an iPhone 15 protector and a watch, that's what I really want for Christmas.  
Athena Laca, 8, years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For Christmas, I would like a cat and a dog V-buck Santa. Thank you.  
Victor, 8 years old  
Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like some dolls. The next thing is to see my grandmother happy again because her father is gone from this earth. The last thing I want for Christmas is a lot of love.  
Sophia Alvarez, 8 1/2 years old  
Oleson elementary

Dear Santa,  
Rollers rabs, drum set, mini crafts, couper star play, air force charms, Jordan 4s robocob.  
Constanza, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I'm sorry if you are busy, I want for my family it's a lot of peace for me and my brother want some new Jordan 4s, my brother doesn't like Jordan 4, it's OK him Air Force one.  
Axzel, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

## CHURCH PAGE

### BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of

Christ's birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance

5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron
  6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3) Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Does not  
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There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

ISAIAH 11:1,2

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# Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Querido santa, Querido santa, mi nombre es Pablo, yo tengo nueve años y estoy en tercer grado. Yo estoy en Orange Grove. Este año yo me he portado bien y ayudo a mi familia con el mandado y trabajos de casa, este año yo quiero un iPad. Pablo, 9 años Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, Can you give me a lot of things of Kumari in my melody because it's my favorite character from Sanrio movie, please. Melanie, 9 years old Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, My wishes are that I want stickers, markers and a flower hair clip, and I want the stickers because I love stickers, I want the markers for drawing and I want the air clip because I love them. Andrea Suarez, 9 years old Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, Dear Santa, I want three cats, one kitten, a scooter, clothes for winter, a hat, a brush, a coloring set, a makeup set. Claire Godinez, 8 years old Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, Mi deseo...yo deseo un recuerdo de mis abuelos, y una muñeca que cante. Y cierras los ojos, cuando tengas sueño y también un gatito. Camila, 8 años Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, Please give me Legos of cars and Nintendo switch and a PlayStation 4 a seiderman, a video game, a game online a Lego of house a car of Lambo three, a Lego Avion, a 1 billion of dollar, a patinete. Diego, 7 years old Orange GroveElementary

## Rep. Walle hosts Senior Dance at BakerRipley,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



State Representatives Ana Hernandez (left) and Armando Walle hosted the Seniors Dance, and presented door prizes to some of the participants, as seen in photo above.

## Sculpture Dedication, Opening Remarks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started small we had big aspirations to make a meaningful impact with the projects we brought to bear. We are incredibly proud of what we have done thus far, but tonight marks the culmination of our biggest and most important endeavour to date.

Roundabouts just scream - put something on me!! And the Arts Council knew we wanted to take part in just what that "something" would be...so we set out for inspiration and in 2022 we took a field trip to True North in the Heights. An amazing project in its own right, we walked the entire boulevard and came upon a piece by the artist Guadalupe Hernandez, entitled "La Pesqueria" - we were immediately struck by the detail and the seemingly delicate nature of papel picado except it was made out of steel! The perfect balance and contrast of color, form, and material. We knew almost immediately that this was the artist we wanted to commission for the roundabout. Lupe's ability to tell stories with his work seemed the perfect fit for the project we had in mind.

So after his first visit to East Aldine we had some tortas and just brainstormed and talked about the possibilities....it was clear to me he instinctively understood what we were hoping to achieve and as such presented us with a stunning three sided tower that was meant to narrate the story of East Aldine through our past, present, and future. We were sold and he was awarded the commission. Over the course of many months Lupe engaged this community via the Arts Council to learn about all facets of the Aldine community. Including the legacy of our history, the fabric of our present day culture, and our collective aspirations for the future of this special place.

What finally came to be and what you will see tonight is a pillar of papel picado dedicated to the Spirit of East Aldine and the people that have settled and lived on this land for generations all seeking the same thing: prosperity for their families. The last names of the folks who live here may have changed in the past 100 years but that drive and desire to carve out a little corner of this world for yourself to be industrious and entrepreneurial remains to this day. The ambition to do better and succeed with each passing day is palpable here.

Spirit of East Aldine honors our past while proclaiming our present with pride and also looks forward to our future and our connection to our greenspaces to live in a world of progress and peace. All three of those elements are always seemingly commingling in this District where we live, work, and play.

This landmark represents the beginning of a new era for this community. It has been so awe-inspiring to see the people of East Aldine who have historically been devoid of public art embrace these projects and begin to IMAGINE ART HERE! We tell our story through the language of art not only as a medium for civic pride but also an engine for economic prosperity!

This glorious sculpture will stand for posterity as a monument of our historical and cultural importance not only to ourselves, but to the city of Houston, the region, and the world at large.

One thing that I have quickly come to realize is that ART BEGETS ART. and East Aldine aims to be a place that showcases and pursues opportunities for human expression and individual imagination.

We welcome you to our home and we are grateful you are here.

There are several people that must be thanked for without them we would not be here right now.

First and foremost, the Artist Guadalupe Hernandez. We were so blessed to see him work his incredible talents firsthand as he took all the themes we wanted to convey and weaved them into an elegant pattern that so magically and beautifully told our story. It was truly spectacular and delicately detailed in every way.

I would like to give a massive thank you to the first class team at Metalab who was managing the project alongside Lupe. Especially Joe Meppelink and Armando Arteaga for always keeping us updated and informed and most importantly keeping us on budget!! It should be noted we appreciate that very much!

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our Executive Director, Richard Cantu, and his staff. His Deputy Veronica Sanches, our Marketing Manager Monica Campos and the entire team really made sure that we had the resources we needed when we needed them and facilitated our meetings, stepped in with the county when they needed a little nudge on permits, and not to mention making sure the word got out to the community every step of the way. You all were instrumental in making today happen.

Of course, I want to thank the residents and stakeholders of East Aldine who showed such enthusiasm and embraced the whole storytelling spirit of the project from the outset. Without this ambitious and vibrant community we would be unable to do what we do.

A major thank you to all the Arts Council members who had the will and imagination to see what this project could look like even when confronted with doubt or skepticism. The East Aldine Arts Council has really come into its own as an entity poised to bring positive attention and acclaim to this District.

Lastly, and most importantly, our collective gratitude and thanks to the Board of Directors of the East Aldine Management District. If it were not for the vision and the trust and frankly, the leap of faith that they took to fund this project, this whole thing would never have gotten off the ground. The Board of Directors continues to push the envelope for what can be achieved in this community.

Ladies and Gentlemen, once again thank you for being here on this momentous occasion as we celebrate our past, our people, and our place in this world.

Without further ado, I proudly present to you the man of the hour - the brilliant artist, Mr. Guadalupe Hernandez.

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## Spirit of East Aldine Sculpture,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gether and create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

"It has been so awe inspiring to see the people of East Aldine who have historically been devoid of public art embrace these projects and begin to imagine art here," he added.

The dedication and unveiling of the "Spirit of East Aldine" sculpture marks a significant milestone for the district, reinforcing the importance of supporting local artists and investing in public art that enriches the lives of residents and visitors alike.

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