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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## East Aldine Christmas Parade



Westfield Fire Dept. leads the Parade through the East Aldine neighborhoods. See PHOTOS on Pages 1 and 7.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years  
VOL. 49, NO. 1 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

# Partner Awards Gala at East Aldine District

By Gilbert Hoffman

**EAST ALDINE** – The East Aldine Management District held its second annual Holiday Reception and Partner Awards ceremony last Friday evening, Dec. 13 in their headquarters building at Town Center.

It was a festive and colorful occasion, with beautiful and colorful table decorations, and a view outside of the immense 30' high community lighted Christmas Tree.

Attending the Reception were several hundred guests from Partner organizations, and community representatives of educational and civic groups.

After welcoming remarks from District executive director Richard



**PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS** were presented to the above recipients by the East Aldine District, at their Holiday Reception held last Friday evening, December 13 at the District Headquarters. **ABOVE**, (Not in Order), recipients included Community: Brooke Riedeman, High Meadows Branch Library Manager; Public Health: Monty Northern, Harris County Emergency Corps; Public Safety: Adrian Dillehay, Chief of Westfield Fire Dept.; Governmental: Carmen Aguilar, Pct 2. Community Liaison; Business: Arturo Barragan, II Group; Volunteer of the Year: Coach Mervin Pellerin, Avalos P-Tech School, AISD; Education: Kaileigh Newman, Director of Visual Arts, AISD; Board Choice: Nataly Perez, Avalos P-Tech School, AISD; Chairman's Award: Selina Valdez; Leadership Award: Deborah Foster (All photos courtesy ev1pro and East Aldine District)

Cantu, board chair Carlos Silva made special opening remarks on behalf of the board of directors, and then introduced guests, board members, officials, and others present. Silva spoke about how the East Aldine District had helped create a sense of community to the area, and gave hope and direction to the residents.

Next on the program was a video, showing recent projects of the District, community events held at the Town Center, and comments from citizens of the District about how the quality of life has changed and improved over the 23 years of existence of the management

Continued. See **PARTNER AWARDS**, Page 8

# Aldine Christmas Parade with Westfield FD

By Marina Flores Sugg

**Saturday 12-21-2024** - What a fun evening we had judging the East Aldine Christmas Parade floats. Thanks to all who made this possible, providing a fun and safe activity for East Aldine residents, young and old.

And, many, many thanks to all of the participants in the parade. It was not easy picking only three winners. ALL of you brought smiles and cheers from the crowd. Congratulations to NHA Little League - 1st place, Houston Dept. Of Transformation - 2nd place, and Top Gun Cookers - 3rd place.

By Carmen Aguilar, Pct. 2

Thank you to all who made the 2024 Christmas Parade in East Aldine a success.

Shout out to all our partners:

Westfield Fire Department for

Continued. **MORE PHOTOS** on Page 7.



1st Place Winning Float: NHA Little League



The Parade ended at the Westfield Fire Station. Above, Fire Chief Adrian Dillehay gets into the dance.

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## KEENEY'S KORNER

### ALDINE COACH OF YEAR: After rough start, Davis Falcons rally behind second-year head coach Kelvin Chatham

By Mike Keeney  
Contributing Writer

The Davis Falcons got off to a rough start at the beginning of the 2024 football season. Head coach Kelvin Chatham's team faced a daunting non-district schedule that included perennial playoff teams Willis and Strake Jesuit.

After losing their first two games of the season, the Falcons defeated Cypress-Lakes, 31-17 in their final tune-up before the District 14-6A season began.

Once league play started, Chatham's team's



Davis High School head football coach Kelvin Chatham is the 2024 Northeast News' Coach of the Year.

turned things around, in a big way.

Davis opened district with a 29-13 win over Eisenhower, then followed that up with a 10-7 victory over Spring.

Davis fell to Dekaney, before winning a thriller over Nimitz, 47-42. Chatham led the Falcons to a 5-2 record in 14-6A play, good for a second-place finish for a team that finished 3-4 in league play in 2023.

For his effort, Chatham earned the Northeast News' Coach of the Year Award.

Continued. See **KEENEY'S KORNER**, Page 2

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# Harris County obligates all 100% of ARPA Funds

Harris County – (December 11, 2024) – Harris County is excited to announce that Commissioners Court has obligated 100% of the \$915 million allocated to the County by the U.S. Treasury following the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA was enacted in March 2021 to provide direct relief to American communities and address the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under ARPA guidelines, funds must be obligated to programs or investments by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. Harris County's investments reflect an ongoing commitment to building a dynamic, vibrant, and resilient community through strategic investments.

"The full obligation of ARPA funds is a significant milestone for Harris County," said **Commissioner Lesley Briones**. "This fund-

ing has empowered us to invest in transformative programs that positively impact our residents. Initiatives like the TeleDeputy Program have enhanced public safety and optimized resources, and the Alief Forest will provide cooler temperatures and improve the environment. Funding for expanded resources to address domestic violence will also ensure vital support for survivors. We are deeply grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration and all our partners who have played a crucial role in delivering these impactful projects to benefit Harris County residents."

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) under ARPA have enabled local governments, including Harris County, to invest in critical areas to support recovery and promote equity. Commissioners Court adopted a national-recognized governance approach, established an equity framework to guide project selection and delivery, and identified major investment priorities to ensure a holistic

recovery. Since then, Harris County's mission with ARPA funding has been to address the immediate and long-term needs of its residents while promoting equity, transparency, and inclusivity in all initiatives. The County's focus for the **\$915 million** is on **five strategic priorities: Health, Housing, Jobs & Infrastructure, Justice & Safety, and County Operations.**

**County Judge Lina Hidalgo** stated, "In the next ten years, I would like to see our most successful ARPA programs become permanent in Harris County. The programs we started with these dollars are still up and thriving, like creating more childcare spaces for parents and families, making sure kids and families have nutritious food to eat, providing affordable housing for all, and helping residents become homeowners. These funds are also helping train the next generation of workers through apprenticeships in trades, in cooperation with our labor union partners."

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## Esparza elected as VP of Aldine ISD School Board



At the December Board Meeting, Connie Esparza had the distinct honor of being voted in as Vice President of the Aldine Board of Trustees by her colleagues. Since Connie's appointment to the Board in 2017 and elections thereafter, she remains committed to ensuring that all students receive a dynamic education filled with choices and opportunities. She is looking forward to a great year in her new role as Vice President."

## Elderly couple die in house fire on Rebecca Street

HOUSTON, Texas — A man and woman have died after being pulled from a house fire when they were found unconscious after their neighbor's grandson called the police after noticing the smoke coming out of their home.

Just before 4 a.m. on Saturday, fire officials responded to Rebecca Street near Bauman and saw smoke flames engulfing a home.

District Chief Kevin Carley with HFD said firefighters initially had difficulty entering the home because the windows and doors had burglar bars. After gaining entry, the couple was found by firefighters inside a bedroom.

EMS officials began life-saving efforts on both of them before taking them to the medical center, HFD said.

Hours after the fire, the



Neighbors and family gather at the site of the house fire after couple die from fire and smoke.

Houston Police Department said the man and woman did not survive.

Officials said the couple has lived in the area for years and were loved by all in the neighborhood.

HPD confirmed that the victim's son and the neighbor's grandson lived next door, which is who noticed the fire.

As officials swept the

home, fire crews said they saw no smoke detectors. Chief Carley said that although they didn't find any, that doesn't necessarily mean they weren't present.

HPD says there is no foul play involved, and initial signs point to the fire possibly starting in the couple's living room.

## Keeney: Coach of the Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chatham, in just his second year at the helm of the Davis program, said playing a tough non-district schedule was done intentionally to prepare his team for the rigors of the district schedule.

"Yes, the intent behind our preseason schedule was to help us get battle tested for 14 6A

district play," he said.

Chatham, 33, played wide receiver at Citrus College (Florida) and Illinois State University. He had stints with the Tennessee Titans and the Canadian Football League before returning to Citrus College to coach wide receivers. His coaching career has taken him to Nimitz High School where he coached defensive backs, wide receivers and served as the interim head coach for a short pe-

riod of time. After his time at Nimitz, he landed the head coaching job at Houston ISD's Booker T. Washington High School, where he turned a losing program into a playoff team.

Two year ago, he was named the head coach at Davis High School and he's proud of how his second team responded after a tough start to the season.

"I'm proud of their determination and grit," Chatham said. "Their efforts show me that the program is on track for where we want it to be. We are proud, but not satisfied. I think the season left a lot to be desired."

Chatham hopes that desire results in more good times for the Davis program and he's excited for what the future could hold.

"Yes, I am very excited about the future of the program. I'm excited about meeting the

challenges that will present themselves in the upcoming years to come and the

responsibilities that come along with it," he said.

Chatham thoroughly enjoys coaching and teaching young men and hopes he will have an influence on them far beyond their playing days.

"My coaching philosophy is teaching kids how to win the day," Chatham said "I fundamentally believe that if you can teach kids how to win the day in the classroom, hallway and in the

community, the wins on the field will come naturally."

# High Meadows Branch Library

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 13 - 18

11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN  
1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL  
4 PM CREATION STATION

JAN 14 4 PM POKEMON CLUB

JAN 15 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS  
4 PM ARTOPIA  
5 PM READING WONDERLAND  
5 PM CITIZENSHIP

JAN 16 11 AM CITIZENSHIP  
3:30 PM TEEN GAME ZONE

JAN 17 3:30 TEEN FRIDAY FREE SPACE

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**Fresh Start to a Healthier You**  
**January 24th 1:45pm**  
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**FABLES & FUN/ READING WONDERLAND:**  
STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!

### ARTOPIA:

MAKE SOME ART AND EXPRESS YOURSELF! CREATE SOMETHING NEW USING DIFFERENT MEDIUMS, SUCH AS PAINT, CLAY, AND MORE!

**CONVERSATIONAL ESL:** Practice your English with this conversational class.

**POKEMON CLUB:**  
GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL! DO IT WITH US AS WE PLAY GAMES, DO CRAFTS, AND MORE!

**KRAFTY KIDS:**  
CRAFT PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

### 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 **Mondays from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm!** For ages 18 & up - no registration required.

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

- January:
  - Jan. 6 - Collage
  - Jan. 13 - Table Games
  - Jan. 27 - Cooking Demo and Recipe Sharing

### Bilingual Story Time

You're invited to attend Story Time every Tuesday at 11 am. Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome. **Tuesday, Jan. 7, 11am-12pm.**

### Beginner ESL Registration

Join us for registration for Beginner ESL classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays! **REGISTRATION** will be held in person on the following days and times: **January 7, 9, 14, and 16 from 12pm - 1:30pm. You must register and take the assessment before you can attend classes.** Classes start January 21 and will go through March 27th. Classes meet twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm - 1:30pm. This class is

designed for students who are interested in learning and/or practicing speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills in English. Classes are free and all materials are provided.

### 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, Jan. 7, 3-4pm.**

### Self-Care Sessions

Would you like to add a little more movement and peace to your day? Start here with us every **Wednesday at 11am** for Self-Care Sessions. We will do a gentle movement followed by guided meditation. You can thank us later :) Here's the January lineup:

- Jan. 8 - Somatic Yoga
- Jan. 15 - Indoor Walking
- Jan. 22 - Yoga stretch & flow
- Jan. 29 - Qi Gong

This program is for adults 18 and over. No registration required.

### Computer Basics Class

Harris County Public Library and Harris County Universal Services join forces to bridge the digital divide by offering services to aid in the complete digital literacy of Harris County residents. No registration required. **Thursday, Jan. 9, 5-6pm.**

### Ology: Frogs

Frogs! Join us at the Aldine library to learn all about frogs and play frog games to really understand what's going on in their little frog minds. **Thursday, Jan. 9, 6-7pm.**

### Passport Services

Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 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  
11331 Airline Dr.  
Houston, TX 77037  
832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Hambrick Middle School Teacher Emiliano Flores Jr. Honored as LULAC Educator of the Year



Emiliano Flores Jr. (center) poses with Chief of Academics Dr. Faviola Cantú, Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Executive Director of Multilingual Services Altigracia 'Grace' Delgado, and Hambrick Middle School Principal José Almendarez (far left picture).

Emiliano Flores Jr., a sixth-grade math teacher at Hambrick Middle School in Aldine ISD, has been named the 2024 Educator of the Year at the middle school level by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Flores was recognized at LULAC's 60th Anniversary Scholarship and Awards Gala, held on Dec. 14, 2024, at the NRG Center. The gala was themed "Empowering the Next Generation."

"Mr. Flores embodies the spirit of excellence and service," said Altigracia Delgado, executive director of the AISD Multilingual Services Department, who nominated him for the award. "His passion for education and ability to inspire others make him a transformative force in our district."

Flores's 26-year career with Aldine ISD exemplifies his unwavering commitment to education and student success. Beginning as a paraprofessional in 1998, he transitioned to teaching after completing the district's Homegrown Program in 2002, becoming a bilingual educator. His journey underscores his belief in the transformative power of education, a principle he shares with his students daily.

As a sixth-grade math teacher, Flores creates a dynamic and engaging classroom environment where students consistently achieve top scores districtwide — with many of them regularly achieving in the district's top 10% of secondary math scores. His innovative teaching methods and student-centered approach inspire a love for learning, empowering students to reach their full potential. Beyond academics, Flores is a champion for student development, leading Hambrick's boys' and girls'



tennis teams to three consecutive championships and volunteering for various school events, from DJing dances to creating memorable experiences during campus "lock-ins" for students.

Flores also serves on multiple campus and district committees, contributing to initiatives that enhance educational experiences for all Aldine ISD students. His dedication to teaching, leadership, and community engagement exemplifies the values LULAC and Aldine ISD seek to celebrate.

The educator veteran is grateful for the recognition.

"I want to share my utmost gratitude to LULAC for this incredible honor," said Flores. "It is not lost on me how tall and how strong the shoulders on which I have the privilege to stand are. It is not only through my efforts and joy of hard work that this is possible, but the work of those who came before me, who fought to give me a voice when someone like me may not have had one."

"This award also culminates my parents' years of hard work and effort. Their unwavering commitment to perseverance and love in

our home has been a guiding light in my life. My hope today is to give my father, who almost lived long enough to see this, the reassurance that his life was more meaningful than he could ever imagine.

"My daily prayer is to be kind and respectful and to be what my kids need today. That has helped me hone my craft, although there is still much more to learn. As I look to the future, I am filled with hope and optimism for the impact I will continue to make. My career has been one of service to this community. Seeing my little first- and second-graders grow up and see them as I moved to teach math in middle school has been an immense joy. Seeing them graduate high school and witness their journey into the workforce is more rewarding than I imagined.

"Teaching emergent bilingual students has, I hope, repaid a small amount of my debt to this great nation for welcoming me and allowing my family to thrive."

Aldine ISD congratulates Mr. Flores on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his enduring impact on students, colleagues, and the community.

# Aldine ISD Trustees Approve New Slate of Officers at Dec. 17 Meeting



Aldine ISD Police dispatcher Priscilla Holloway was named the Aldine ISD Police Department's Employee of the Month at the December 17 Board meeting. She's pictured with Commander Marc Harris, far left, Police Chief Paul Córdova, and family members.

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees approved a new slate of officers during its December 17 Board meeting. The Board's Nominating Committee, consisting of chairman Paul Shanklin and members Rose Avalos and Steve Mead, recommended that Dr. Kimberley Booker serve as president, Connie Esparza serve as vice president, Mr. Mead serve as secretary and Ms. Avalos serve as Assistant Secretary. Dr. Viola M. García, Mr. Shanklin, and Randy Bates will serve as members. This will be Dr. Booker's second straight year to serve as Board president.

Trustees named December Impact Award Nominees

During the December 17 Board of Education meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees recognized several district employees with the Aldine Impact Awards. Aldine Impact Awards are given to district employees and community members who go above and beyond the call of duty in their respective roles with Aldine ISD. Board President Dr. Kimberley Booker nominated Nichole Coleman, a second-grade ESL Teacher at Oleson Elementary. She also nominated Dré Thompson, Executive Director of Athletics; Shawn Bingham, a Distribution and Logistics Teacher at Blanson Career And Technical Education High; Maria Cordova, the Custodial Manager at Primary School; and Robert Morris, a bus driver with the district's Transportation Department. Board Secretary Connie Esparza nominated John Bankston, the tool room supervisor at the

Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center.

Aldine ISD earns the state's highest fiscal accountability rating for the 20th straight year

Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne announced that for the 20th consecutive year, Aldine ISD received a rating of "Superior" under Texas' School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) accountability rating system. The "Superior" rating is the state's highest rating, demonstrating Aldine ISD's financial management and reporting system quality. Aldine ISD received a perfect score of 100 points.

The primary goal of the School FIRST system is to ensure that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices. The School FIRST system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources better and provide a maximum allocation for direct instructional purposes.

The School FIRST system evaluates 15 indicators. The first five are critical and must be met to avoid failure. The other 10 indicators evaluate financial solvency and financial competency.

Employee Honored

During the December 17 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul Córdova named Priscilla Holloway the police department's Employee of the Month. Holloway serves as the dispatcher for the Aldine ISD Police Department.

Staff Assignment Announced

Aldine ISD Superinten-

dent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced one staff assignment during the December 17 Board of Trustees meeting.

Meredith McCune was named Director of Digital Learning after serving as the Coordinator of Digital Learning with Cleveland ISD.

Trustees Approve Action Items

During the December 17 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved the following action items:

Approved the minutes from previous board meetings

Approved an interlocal agreement between Aldine ISD and the Arizona State University for Innovative School Models during the 2024-25 school year

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Aldine ISD and Tarleton State University for Agriculture Science Dual Credit Courses for the 2024-25 school year

Approved single contract purchases of \$100,000 and greater

Approved the monthly Tax Office refunds

Before the December 17 Board meeting, students from Raymond Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Jones Middle School LOTC Color Guard presented the colors. The MacArthur High School choral, under the direction of Micah Schirado, entertained in the foyer of the Donaldson Administration Building. The January board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, in the Donaldson Administration Building's board room and begin at 7 p.m.

# Aldine High School Students to Participate in Creation of Art Car

The student-created art car will be showcased at the 2025 and 2026 Orange Show's Houston Art Car Parade, presented by Team Gillman.

A car can represent a lot to different people. It can become a part of your identity and be a way to express yourself. A vehicle can also be a canvas for even further expression, from the cultural identity—and gravity-defying hydraulics—of Chicano low-rider car scenes in the East Los Angeles or New Mexico areas to wild and wacky and, in some cases, sculptural masterpieces on wheels at the annual Orange Show's Houston Art Car Parade.

Not every high school student has the cash to purchase a car solely to use it to create something uniquely visionary and inventive. Luckily for a few students at Aldine High School, they will get the opportunity of a lifetime to do just that: be utterly creative.

Aldine ISD is one of the school districts selected to participate in the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art's (OSCA) Team Gillman Art Cars in the Schools Program. It will be a joint venture between the district's Visual Arts and Career and Technical Education departments. The departments selected Aldine High School's welding teachers Chad Reese and Kenneth



Visual Arts Director Kaileigh Newman poses with the truck donated by Team Gillman for the Art Cars in Schools Program.

Burrell and visual arts teacher Chinedu Onochie to sponsor and lead the initiative with their students.

"This program has the potential to inspire our students by bridging their current learning experiences with future career opportunities in both the visual arts and career and technical careers," said Kaileigh Newman, visual arts director. "Beyond that, it will be an innovative vehicle for hands-on, cross-curricular learning."

On December 7, Newman attended the program kickoff event, where Chris Gillman of Team Gillman donated nine vehicles — one to each participating school. The team at Aldine High School will be working on a truck for their project.

The two-year initiative is a creative and collaborative program for high school stu-

dents interested in art, design, fabrication, and construction. Under the instruction of award-winning artist Rebecca Bass, students will build an art car to be featured in the 2025 and 2026 Houston Art Car Parade.

Over several months, students will learn design fundamentals, automotive basics, mixed-media techniques, prototyping, collaborative creativity, project management, hands-on fabrication, and a public showcase.


AISD will determine the fate of the donated vehicle after the two-year agreement with the OSCVA and Team Gillman expires.

Contact Newman via email at [karosplowski@aldineisd.org](mailto:karosplowski@aldineisd.org) if you have any questions about the program at Aldine High School.

# Aldine ISD Seeks Parent and Community Input on Proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar

Aldine ISD is seeking public comment on the 2025-2026 school calendar. The public comment period will close at the end of the day on January 7, 2025.

Copies of the two different drafts (A and B options) for the campuses that follow the traditional instructional calendar and the four campuses — Ermel Elementary, Harris Elementary, and Vines EC/PreK/K School — that follow the Additional Days School Year (ADSY) calendar.



## SURVEY

**AISD is seeking your input on the 2025-2026 calendar.**

REMINDER: The survey will close at the end of the day on January 7, 2025.

After gathering recommendations from community members, the Board of Trustees will vote in Jan-

uary to approve the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar.

You can access the Survey by accessing Aldine ISD official website: [www.aldineisd.org](http://www.aldineisd.org)

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By John Hryhorchuk,
Texas 2036

Looking Ahead:
Texans Ready to Shape
a Stronger Future

As 2024 comes to a close, Texans are turning the page to a new year — and a new chapter of opportunity. Our latest Texas Voter Poll reveals a shared determination to tackle challenges together, fueled by growing optimism about our state's economy and future.

Texas has long been a symbol of immense opportunity. Last year, nearly 612,000 people moved to Texas, while about 478,000 moved out, according to the latest Census Bureau numbers. This dynamic growth brings challenges: a booming population, rising demands for energy and water, and the need for an education system that prepares our workforce for tomorrow's jobs.



The poll results show that Texans are ready to work toward practical solutions to these pressing issues. Our future depends on more than data identifying problems; it's about envisioning and embracing pragmatic solutions that protect our quality of life and create greater opportunities for all Texans.

Take water supply, for example. Texans understand that water is life — essential not only for families and communities but also for industries and economic growth. With 85% of voters concerned about potential shortages, there's broad support for dedicating \$1 billion annually to the Texas Water Fund to ensure long-term reliability.

Or consider education and workforce readiness. More than 90% of voters believe high school students should have access to the training or certifications that will allow them to graduate ready to compete for good-paying jobs. This reflects Texans' belief in the power of education to unlock potential and build a stronger economy.

The same forward-thinking approach extends to issues like housing affordability and child care availability. Voters want solutions that ensure everyone has the chance to thrive in our rapidly growing state.

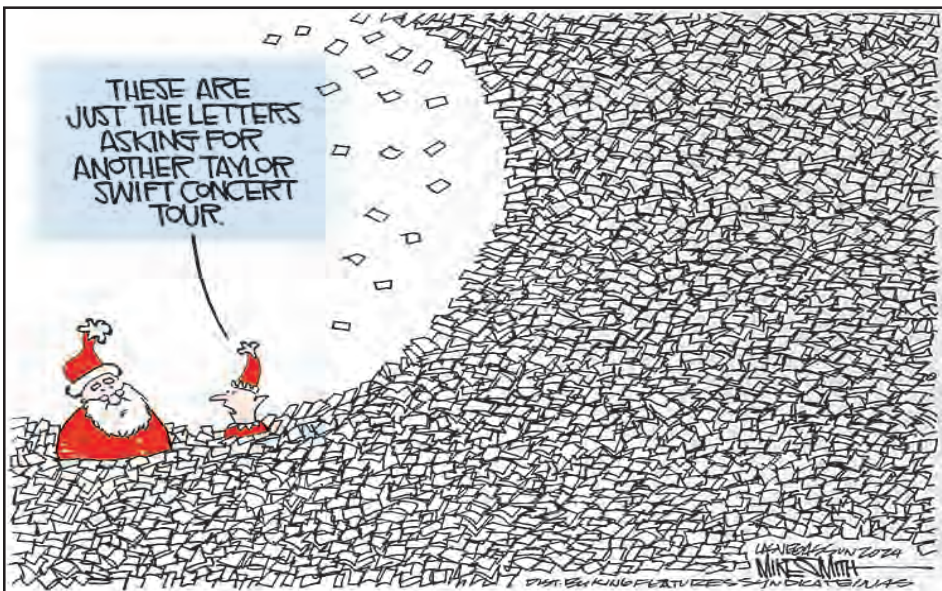
Many Texas voters also remain hopeful — maybe because they are ready to tackle the issues head on. The number of voters who told us they were extremely or very concerned about Texas's future is down significantly from last year and down to numbers not seen since before the pandemic.

The combination of optimism and pragmatism is a deeply Texan trait, which reflects our resilience and belief in solving big problems together. That's why the 89th Texas Legislative session offers a critical opportunity to translate these proposed solutions into action. By addressing Texans' priorities, we can ensure that Texas remains a place of prosperity and opportunity for generations to come.

As we step into 2025, let's seize this moment to unite and approach our challenges with determination and hard work — the Texas way.

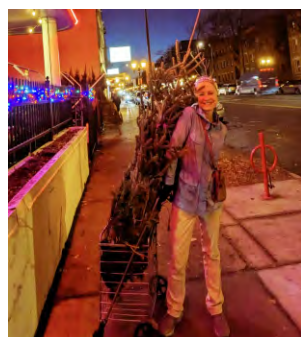
To learn more about the Texas Voter Poll and the work Texas 2036 is doing to address these challenges, visit www.texas2036.org/poll.

John Hryhorchuk is senior vice president of policy and advocacy at Texas 2036.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Just in Time



I will be home in time for Christmas.

It's always a little hard to leave Mexico, and leaving right before the holidays is perhaps the hardest. The giant Christmas tree just went up in front of the church last night. Thousands of hand-made tin stars hang over the streets, embedded with colored glass beads and lit from within. The poinsettias (or "nochebuenas") decorate the windowsills. There is a concert every night of the week. It is hard to leave, in the middle of all this celebration, to return to our own Christmas up north, where the weather is so very different.

But I don't really mind because I'll be home, just in time for Christmas.

There's a reason there are so many songs about going home for Christmas. Many of them are from decades past, in the heyday of movie musicals. I imagine it must have been a challenge for songwriters, sitting around a swimming pool in Los Angeles, penning lyrics about snow falling and sleigh bells ringing and Christmas trees.

One of my favorite holiday songs is about Christmas in Australia, where going home for Christmas means arriving at the hottest time of year, with family sitting outside drinking "white wine in the sun." People write about being especially determined to get home at Christmas and especially lonely if they don't make it home.

I know there are plenty of people who don't go anywhere at Christmas and have given up the whole idea of what the holiday season is supposed to look like in favor of a more relaxed and peaceful time, with fewer expectations and obligations. I can understand that as well.

But I'll be home in time for Christmas.

I am fortunate because I actually enjoy all the holiday cliches. I love baking cookies every year with my sister and wrapping packages and setting the table for more people than it can comfortably hold. I love the falling snow and the ringing of sleigh bells and—most of all—the Christmas trees.

My first official act of the Christmas season will be to hurry down to the local hardware store to get my Christmas tree from the lot out front. I will walk there with my cart, and I will worry all the way to the store that I am too late. I will imagine the tree lot empty except for a few broken branches lying in the trampled snow.

"Sorry! Just sold our last tree 30 minutes ago," the man in the insulated overalls will tell me, and I will stand there in the snow with my little cart and my bungee cords and wonder where I will find a Christmas tree at this late date.

But this will not happen. Instead, I will pick out a tree, all wrapped up in twine, and I won't even untie it. I will judge by its appearance—all tied up—that it will be the perfect tree.

The man in the lot will help me strap it into my cart, and I'll wheel it home. A few people will stare at the woman hauling her tree in a cart, but I won't mind. And when I get home, I'll put my tree in the stand and cut the twine cords binding it, and ever so slowly, the cold tree will unfurl. In the morning, I'll get out of bed, and it will be as if a miracle has taken place in my living room.

The perfect Christmas tree will be there, waiting for me, and I'll be home—just in time for Christmas.

Till next time,
Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Vehicle Inspections No Longer Required

Drivers will no longer be required to get annual safety inspections beginning Jan. 1, the Texas Standard reported. However, drivers in the state's 17 most populous counties will still be required to get an emissions test in order to register their vehicles.

While mandatory vehicle inspections are going the way of the pay phone and video cassette recorders, drivers will still end up paying a \$7.50 "inspection replacement fee" when registering their vehicle and getting a new windshield sticker.

The emissions test required in urban counties consists of an engine and exhaust test to ensure a vehicle isn't exceeding the state's legal limits on emitting pollutants.

The counties that require emissions test in order to register a vehicle are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson.

Vehicle owners are urged to keep up with maintenance.

"We urge people to still take care of their vehicles, still check your tires, make sure your brakes are working, headlights, tail lights and mirrors are still safe before you drive," Sgt. Billy Ray with the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

LONG-TERM CARE
ADVOCATES SAY MORE
FUNDING NEEDED

The state's lead ombudsman for residents in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, is calling for lawmakers to fund more full-time and part-time positions and make other reforms to a long-term care system that ranks 42nd in the nation for safety and quality, The Texas Tribune reported.

Patty Ducayet, the state ombudsman, works independently from the Texas Health and Human Services Department, which oversees these facilities. She and others are also urging more volunteers to advocate for residents as well as more state funding to hire additional ombudsman.

"We would be lost in the long-term care community without them (volunteers), but they definitely need more support across the board," said Andrea Earl, the associate state director of advocacy and research for the AARP.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

In 2024, the state ombudsman had its highest turnover rate at 255. Ducayet said ideally the state would have one staff member for every 2,000 licensed care facility beds. Right now, the ratio is one person for every 2,514 beds, which would require hiring 22 more full-time employees as well as increasing the volunteer base.

WASTEWATER LEAKS FROM
OIL WELLS POSE DANGER

The water that comes up as a byproduct of oil and gas fracking is becoming a bigger headache for the state's energy operators and those who regulate them, the Houston Chronicle reported. Most of the "produced" water is injected into disposal wells that carry it into geologic formations for containment.

The extremely salty water — nine times saltier than the ocean — also contains a number of carcinogenic chemicals, such as benzene. The practice of wastewater injection is believed to have caused earthquakes across the state and several environmentally damaging and costly blow-outs.

One barrel of Permian crude can also produce as many as eight barrels of tainted water. The industry is working to create a new technology to desalinate the water so it doesn't have to be injected underground and possibly could be reused.

POSTAL SERVICE WARNS OF
TEXTING SCAM

Christmas is over, but that doesn't mean scammers have taken a holiday. Officials with the U.S. Postal Service are warning about a scam being sent by text messages, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The scam consists of text messages being sent to cell phone owners that claims a USPS package can't be delivered because of missing infor-

mation. A link is included in the message. Clicking on the link can expose the user's personal information.

"The criminals want to receive personally identifiable information such as: account usernames and passwords, Social Security Number, date of birth, credit and debit card numbers, personal identification numbers, or other sensitive information," the news release says.

Postal customers are urged to go to the official USPS page to determine the status of a package: usps.com/sms-tracking.

TEXAS NOW HOME TO MORE
THAN 31 MILLION

The Lone Star State added nearly 563,000 residents in the last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Tribune reported the state's growth has slowed, though the 1.8 percent growth rate is still the third highest in the country, behind Florida and the District of Columbia.

Roughly 40% of the state's new residents came from net international migration, with 319,569 new residents from abroad, the Census Bureau said. Texas still led the country in migration from other states, adding 85,267 people in the last year who moved here from another state.

The slowing of domestic migration means Texas will likely rely on international migration to meet the labor needs of a booming state economy, according to Lloyd Potter, the state demographer.

"With a growing economy, we have a growing demand for labor," Potter said. "And if we're seeing a decline in domestic migration, well, that labor probably is going to need to come from immigrants."

TAKE A HIKE IN STATE PARK
TO KICK OFF NEW YEAR

The state park system is once again hosting First Day hikes on New Year's Day, Texas Parks & Wildlife reported. Last year, Texas state parks hosted 177 events in which 8,729 people hiked, biked, swam and paddled a record 17,284 miles, according to TPWD.

"One of the many reasons that I love Texas is the nice weather that we can have even in the winter, and there is no better way to spend a beautiful winter day than walking with friends and family at a Texas State Park," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks.

The agency strongly encourages anyone planning to visit a Texas state park to reserve a day pass in advance, since some parks could reach capacity. You can do so at www.texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com or at 512-389-8900.

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 CedarPark. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

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2. Texas 30,029,572
3. Florida 22,244,823
4. New York 19,677,151
5. Pennsylvania 12,972,008
6. Illinois 12,582,032
7. Ohio 11,756,058
8. Georgia 10,912,876
9. North Carolina 10,698,973
10. Michigan 10,034,113
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Scarlett Johansson, left, and Channing Tatum star in "Fly Me to the Moon."

"Fly Me to the Moon"

"FLY ME TO THE MOON" (PG-13) — This film deemed as a "rom-com drama" tells an intriguing story about marketing specialist Kelly Jones' (Scarlett Johansson) efforts to improve NASA's public image during the Space Race. Kelly moves from New York to Cocoa Beach, Florida, to start work at the Kennedy Space Center, where she meets launch director Cole Davis (Channing Tatum), who disagrees with her marketing strategies. However, their opposing energies cause a romantic spark to develop between them, even though Kelly is hiding the fact that she's also been secretly tasked with creating a fake moon landing just in case the Apollo 11 mission doesn't succeed. Ray Romano and Woody Harrelson co-star in the film, which is out now to stream. (Apple TV+)

("Pretty Little Liars") star opposite each other in this Christmas rom-com out now; although for a Christmas movie, the holiday spirit is lukewarm at best. Focusing more on the amusement of its incredulous story rather than the elements needed to tell the story properly, "Our Little Secret" follows exes Avery (Lohan) and Logan (Harding) who receive the surprise of a century when they bump into each other at their new significant others' family Christmas celebration. Realizing their new partners, Cam and Cassie, are siblings, Avery and Logan agree to keep their romantic past a secret so that they can make it through the holiday without any hiccups. The highlights of the film were the quips made by the supporting cast, specifically Kristin Chenoweth, Dan Bucatinsky and Judy Reyes. (Netflix)

"OUR LITTLE SECRET" (TV-14) — Lindsay Lohan ("Irish Wish") and Ian Harding

"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY: HOLIDAY

"SPECTACULAR" (TV-PG) — Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianne Hough trade the "Dancing with the Stars" ballroom for Disney to host this holiday special out now! In this 1-hour-and-20-minute spectacular, viewers can enjoy performances of their favorite holiday songs and a few new songs from Disney films like "Moana 2" and "Mufasa: The Lion King." Look out for musicians such as Elton John, John Legend and Pentatonix, as well as familiar faces like Auli'i Cravalho, Seth MacFarlane and Leslie Odom Jr. The performances were filmed in Disney resorts located in Florida, California and Hawaii. (Disney+)

"SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY" (PG-13) — This documentary, out now, recounts the life of actor Christopher Reeve, who is known best for his role as Superman in the 1978-1987 "Superman" films. But Reeve's career spanned over 30 years, with many television, theater and directing credits to his name. Unfortunately, in 1995, Reeve suffered a spinal cord injury after falling from his horse, which paralyzed him from the neck down. Fortunately, though, it catapulted him into activism as a result, and he began advocating for disabled people and spinal cord injury research. In the doc, there is ample footage of Reeve and his wife, Dana, as well as his children, Alexandra, Matthew and Will. Actors Jeff Daniels, Susan Sarandon, Glenn Close and Whoopi Goldberg were also interviewed for the film. (Max)

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Q: I just read that Robert De Niro is going to star in a TV series soon. Has he ever done one before or just movies? — K.E.

A: According to TV Guide, two-time Oscar winner Robert De Niro was "pretty much Hollywood's last A-list holdout" when it came to starring in a regular television role. The series that lured him away from motion pictures is "Zero Day," a six-episode miniseries that will premiere on Netflix on Feb. 20, 2025. It also stars Emmy nominee Connie Britton ("Nashville") and Oscar nominees Jesse Plemons ("The Power of the Dog") and Angela Bassett ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever").

While the conspiracy/political thriller will be De Niro's first contract role in a series, he has guest-starred on a few others, playing himself on the NBC sitcom "30 Rock" and the British series "Extras." In "Zero Day," which he also produces, De Niro will play the former leader of the free world, who faces a global cyber-tack.

One of the creative minds behind the series is Michael Schmidt, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the sexual harassment case against Bill O'Reilly. He also wrote the book "Donald Trump v. The United States," which was published in 2020. "Zero Day" is his first TV script.

Q: I love watching "A Christmas Story" marathons when they show it every year on TBS. I know the actor who played Ralphie has gone on to do other things in show business, but whatever happened to Ralphie's younger brother? — M.S.

A: Peter Billingsley, who played young Ralphie in "A Christmas Story," is one of the few success stories involving a child actor in Hollywood. As an adult, he's gone on to produce and direct several projects, even making (and starring in) "A Christmas Story Christmas" — the 2022 sequel to the original. Melinda Dillon and Darren McGavin, who were both brilliant as Ralphie's parents, have since passed away, but their characters live on each year when "A Christmas Story" airs on TBS, TNT and Max.

Ralphie's younger brother, Randy,



Robert De Niro (Upcoming in "Zero Day")

who ate mashed potatoes like a "little piggy," was played by Ian Petrella. He continued working as a child actor in the 1980s and most recently worked in animation and puppetry, according to Entertainment Weekly.

Petrella reprised the role of Randy in "A Christmas Story Christmas," along with actors Scott Schwartz as Flick (whose tongue infamously adhered to an icy pole in the original) and R. D. Robb as Schwartz (who laughed at Flick's predicament).

Q: Is "The Night Agent" returning for another season? My wife and I really enjoyed the first one. — K.A.

A: Yes, "The Night Agent," an action-thriller series based on the novel of the same name by Matthew Quirk, proved to be a big hit on Netflix during its first season. Starring Gabriel Basso ("Hillbilly Elegy") as an FBI agent working in the basement of the White House, it's already been renewed for a third season before the second has even premiered. Look for season two on Netflix, beginning on Jan. 23, 2025.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

Comic strip panels with dialogue about cows and space.

Tiger comic strip by Bud Blake showing a tiger and a boy in winter.

The Spats comic strip by Jeff Pickering showing a man with a speed bump.

Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions.

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff with a 'Find at least six differences' challenge.

December 30, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and a crossword puzzle.

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ephesians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord" is found in ...? Psalms, Proverbs, Numbers, Jeremiah
3. What tree did Jesus tell a parable about? Apple, Fig, Olive, Sycamore
4. Who was John the Baptist's father? Zechariah,

Zacharias, Zephaniah, Zaccheus  
 5. What did the oak tree symbolize in the Bible? Growth, Strength, Weakness, Fruitfulness  
 6. Which is not a book of the New Testament? Revelation, Judges, Colossians, Jude

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Psalms 150:6, 3) Fig, 4) Zacharias, 5) Strength, 6) Judges  
 Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.  
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*The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame.*

—JOB 29:13-15—

Detail of "Bust of a Bearded Oriental Man in a Turban" by Jan Lievens (1631)

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# Aldine Christmas Parade with Westfield FD

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 Thank you!  
 Gilbert Flores with GS Customs thank you for your tremendous generosity to give back to the community with your Toy distribution.  
 400+ children will have a for sure toy this year and this was just the beginning! Looking forward to working with you next year  
 Harris County Sheriff's Office thank you for being a part of the first Lighted Christmas Parade in East Aldine.  
 Thank you Deputy Torres & family for donating over 400 stuffed animals to the children of East

Aldine.  
 Shout out to our DJ of the night Jonny Zuniga DJ Funkenstein  
 To all our participants THANK YOU!!!! You all made history in East Aldine.  
 Everyone's floats/vehicles were incredible! Can't wait to see what our Christmas Parade in 2025 is going to look like.  
 Last but not least we can't forget the reason for the season, Jesus our Lord and Savior, THANK YOU!!!! Blessed to have such a great Commissioner Adrian Garcia, in Harris County Precinct 2, amazing community leaders, and a hardworking community.  
 Merry Christmas to all my Aldine community, from Carmen Aguillar, Precinct 2 Liaison.



2nd Place Parade Float Winner: Houston Department of Transformation



Parade Judges: Rocio Witte, Ruben Salazar, Patti Acosta, Flor Zarzoza, Marina Sugg.



1st Place Trophy went to NHA Little League float.



A Community Christmas Party was held at the Westfield Fire Station as a conclusion to the Christmas Parade



Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Westfield Fire Station



One of the Parade Floats



The Parade approaches the Spirit of East Aldine Sculpture in the distance at the Town Center. Bikes followed the Fire Truck through the community.



Party Time and Dancing at the Westfield Fire Station as a conclusion to the Christmas Parade.



Custom Cars and Low Riders joined in the Procession of the Christmas Parade.



The Precinct 2 Float was bright and colorful. Pct. 2 and Commissioner Adrian Garcia were one of the sponsors of the Parade.

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## Emmy-winning film features Lone Star College professor's journalistic work

HOUSTON – When a gun went off inside Chol Soo Lee's San Francisco hotel room in 1973, he never imagined it would lead to two wrongful murder convictions and a death sentence at San Quentin State Prison. Sandra Gin, Lone Star College-CyFair adjunct professor of communications and former KHOU 11 broadcast journalist is among three generations of reporters who have shared his story over the last 50 years, culminating in a national Emmy win for the documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee" at the 45th annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards held Sept. 26.

"This Emmy win represents a three-generational work of art and journalism. It began with K.W. Lee (no relation to Chol Soo Lee), an investigative print reporter, in 1977 who probed into the Korean immigrant's wrongful murder conviction," said Gin. "I followed the case from 1980 to 1984 and produced the first documentary on the case, 'A Question of Justice,' which won a regional Emmy in 1984 before 'passing the baton' to film directors Julie Ha and Eugene Yi in 2015."

"Free Chol Soo Lee" won in the Outstanding Historical Documentary category against fierce competitors: "America & The Taliban," "WWII," "JFK" and "Oppenheimer & The Atomic Bomb." Gin donated 35 raw videotapes from her 1984 documentary, significantly contributing to "Free Chol Soo Lee." Gin has won 15 Emmy nominations and nine wins during her vast career in journalism.

"[Professor] Sandra Gin conducted compelling in-



Lone Star College-CyFair adjunct professor Sandra Gin (second from left) celebrates the national Emmy win for "Free Chol Soo Lee" with the film's producer Su Kim (far left), director Julie Ha (center), film participant Ranko Yamada (second from right) and film narrator Sebastian Yoon. The film, which includes Gin's powerful interviews from the first documentary about the case, won in the Outstanding Historical Documentary category at the 45th annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards in New York City.

terviews with Chol Soo Lee when he was in prison and kept following him and his story after his release," said Ha, in a Facebook post paying tribute to Gin's past journalistic work. "[Professor] Gin's work and passion paved the way for us to continue sharing Lee's powerful story."

The Emmy-winning documentary gives insight into Lee's life in South Korea before immigrating to California, his struggles acclimating to a new country and his tragic story of fighting for his life inside California state prisons. Lee was released from prison in 1983 after a pan-Asian solidarity movement helped overturn his convictions. In the aftermath, he struggled to meet the community's expectations and overcome the demons of his unjust incarceration. Lee later sought redemption before his unfortunate death in 2014.

"Chol Soo Lee's story is a human story of struggle, triumph and loss," said Gin. "I am privileged to have experienced a humanistic story that caused an unprecedented social

movement of activism and reaped the rewards of our team's work throughout my broadcast career. I am content in knowing three generations of journalists and storytellers made a difference then and now."

"Free Chol Soo Lee" was directed by Ha and Yi and produced by Su Kim, Jean Tsien and Sona Jo. The documentary is free on PBS until Nov. 14. Watch it at <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/free-chol-soo-lee/>.

Lone Star College System enrolls over 90,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSCS is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSCS, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2024 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education. LSCS consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

## East Aldine Partners Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- PHOTOS BY MARINA SUGG

district.

Following dinner, executive director Richard Cantu made the announcements of Partner Awards in various categories, and with board member Rocio Witte presented the awards.

The following Partners were thanked for their support through the year, and given Award recognition:

- Brooke Riedeman, High Meadows Library Manager for Community
- Monty Northern, Harris County Emergency Corps for Public Health
- Adrian Dillehay, Chief of the Westfield Fire Department for Public Safety
- Carmen Aguilar, Precinct 2 Commissioner Garcia's Community Liaison for Governmental
- Arturo Barragan, International Group LLC for Business
- Mervin Pellerin, Avalos PTEch – Aldine ISD for Volunteer
- Kaileigh Newman, Visual Arts Director at Aldine ISD for Education

- Nataly Perez, Avalos PTEch – Aldine ISD for the Board Choice
- Selina Valdez, Green Forest Civic Club & East Aldine Arts Council Co-Chair for the Chairman's Award

Our final award of the evening was dedicated with great pleasure to Director Deborah Foster for the Leadership Award. After 19 years of service, it was our privilege to take this moment to thank and acknowledge the contributions she made to our community and our Board.

We appreciate the opportunity to recognize the talent and achievements we have in our community. To all our award recipients, congratulations again, and thank you for inspiring us with your hard work and dedication.

Thank you to the community for allowing us to serve you and to our sponsors for their continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the East Aldine District Board and Staff.

## PARTNER AWARDS:



VOLUNTEER Mervin Pellerin, Avalos PTEch



COMMUNITY Brooke Riedeman, High Meadows Library



PUBLIC SAFETY Adrian Dillehay, Westfield Fire Dept



GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE Carmen Aguilar, Pct. 2 Liaison



PUBLIC HEALTH Monty Northern, HC Emergency Corps



BUSINESS Arturo Barragan, International Group



EDUCATION Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD Dir. Visual Arts



BOARD CHOICE Nataly Perez, Aldine ISD



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD Selina Valdez, Green Forest CC



LEADERSHIP AWARD Deborah Foster, East Aldine



HONOREE: Deborah Foster, center in green coat, was honored by the East Aldine Board of Directors as seen above. Also at left, Executive Director Richard Cantu. As Deborah Foster retired after 19 years on the Board, the District thanks her for her Leadership and Contributions to the Community and the Board.



The Partners Award Gala was held in the East Aldine Multipurpose Room with an Elegant setting.