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NORTHEAST NEWS



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS talk by US Rep. Sylvia Garcia drew a large audience and media last Wednesday night, at the HCC Northline campus. (Allan Jamail photo). See Story Below and KYR chart on page 4

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 VOL. 49, NO. 4 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

East Aldine District seeks two new board members

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of the East Aldine Management District seeks qualified candidates to fill the vacancies that exists in Director Position 4 & 5 of the board. See Complete details inside this issue.

BakerRipley Leadership Training

BakerRipley offers a free Leadership training class, starting Feb. 24. This seven night class will meet 6-8pm and include Leadership skills and Capacity Building. Classes at BakerRipley East Aldine campus. To enroll, contact Pearl Castaneda at 832-527-0008 or pcastaneda@bakerripley.org.

Congresswoman Garcia holds "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" Town Hall

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's Know Your Rights Town Hall Part one of a series. By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ January 29, 2025 ~ Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia of the 29th Congressional District held a town hall meeting at the Houston Community College Northline Campus.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform residents of their Constitutional Rights because of President Donald Trump's new immigration policies which made significant radical changes to former president Joe Biden's policies.

The town hall was packed to a standing room only crowd including large numbers of attendees filling the room entrance



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia held a Town Hall last Wednesday, to inform the public about KNOW YOUR RIGHTS in regard to immigration status. (Allan Jamail Photo)

doorways trying to hear speakers explaining their rights. The event was also made available online virtually which was also well attended.

Garcia opened the meeting with her own statement concerning the new changes. She then introduced US Congressmen Sylvester Turner and Al Green who delivered their positions on the new changes. All three of these Harris County Democratic Party congressional members pledge full support to work together to resist Trump's policies on US Constitutional grounds.

There are reports of school children coming home and finding their parents not there and not knowing how to locate them. Children being afraid and at home alone must be a frightening experience. Zeph Capo, President of the Texas American Federation of Teachers said this experience for kids to go through is inhuman.

Separating children from their parents is not new for Trump; he did this during his first term as president.

I remember covering a story for the North Channel Star on June 29, 2018 then State Senator Sylvia Garcia and State Representative Ana Hernandez went to Casa Montezuma a child detention facility in their district to check on migrant children being held there against their will by the Trump administration. The children had been forcibly separated from their parents who immigrated to the United States seeking political asylum from violence and persecution.

U. S. Rep. Garcia said the last two weeks have been a nightmare for immigrant communities, with people telling her they are afraid immigration agents are waiting for

Continued. See GARCIA TOWN HALL, Page 5

Budget crunch: Aldine ISD considers closing 7 schools in 2025-26

By Angelica Perez Houston Landing

Aldine ISD's school board expects to vote in February on whether to close seven schools, as the district continues to face budget issues brought on by declining enrollment and no major increases in state funding.

District administrators recommended during a board workshop Tuesday that trustees close two early education campuses, four elementary schools and a middle school ahead of the 2025-26 school year. Administrators said the campuses were chosen after considering numerous factors, including current

enrollment size, student demographics, building issues and academic ratings.

The vote will mark the second year in a row that leaders in Aldine, the Houston region's sixth-largest district, will decide whether to shutter some of its roughly 75 campuses. The district's board of trustees voted in February 2024 to close three elementary schools and send students to nearby campuses for the current school year.

The latest proposal comes as part of the district's plan to "optimize" its facilities by closing lower-enrollment schools and sending students attending those campuses to



At a recent Aldine ISD Board Meeting, at right board president Kim Booker and Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney listen to a presentation.

schools with available space. Most of the campuses recommended for closure rank among the smallest schools in Aldine.

Aldine ISD schools facing closure

District administrators are recommending the closure of these seven schools:

- Stovall EC/PK/K School
- De Santiago EC/PK/K School
- Eckert Elementary School
- Oleson Elementary School
- Raymond Elementary School
- Smith Elementary School
- Hoffman Middle School

Aldine Superintendent LaTonya Goffney said district leaders knew they would have to make tough decisions in 2025 as the

district continues to bleed students and dollars. District leaders said the seven school closures would potentially save the district \$32.5 million annually.

"This is our second year evaluating how we can best optimize our schools and continue to do it in a way that not only continues to put us in a better position but also respects our community and helps us move forward," Goffney said.

Aldine's enrollment has fallen over the past decade from about 70,000 students to roughly 58,000 in 2023-24. The change is largely due to declining

birth rates, fewer families living in the district and the growth of charter schools in northern Harris County. About 6,500 students living in Aldine's boundaries attended charter schools in 2023-24, up from about 2,400 a decade ago.

At the same time, Aldine has not seen a significant boost in state funding over the past several years, even as costs have risen with inflation. Aldine ran a \$65 million deficit in 2023-24 in its general fund, which covers day-to-day costs like teacher salaries and building

Continued. See ALDINE ISD SCHOOL CLOSINGS, Page 5

Mike Keeney's Super Bowl Preview: Chiefs look to make history with 3rd straight SB win: Eagles look to win second Lombardi at SB 59

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles are the last two teams standing in the NFL.

And on Sunday, Feb. 9, KC and Philly will meet in Super Bowl 59 at Caesar's Superdome in New Orleans.

Patrick Mahomes and his Chief teammates will be looking to become the first team in the history of the NFL to win three consecutive Lombardi Trophies, while Jalen Hurts and the Eagles will be looking to win the City of Brotherly Love's second SB title.

These two teams met in the Big Game just two years ago in SB 57, with the Chiefs winning a thriller, 38-35 on kicker Harrison Butker's last-second field goal. That kick was set up by a controversial interference call against the Eagles. Many (including the Texans) think the Chiefs get preferential treatment from the men in the stripes, but all I know is the Chiefs just keep on winning.

Since Texas Tech product Mahomes became the starting quarterback in 2018, Andy Reid's (273-146-1 career record) team has gone 90-26 in the regular season and an amazing 17-3 in postseason play. KC played in five of the last six Super Bowls, winning three Lombardi Trophies. Sunday's game will be the fourth straight Big Game for Mahomes and Co.



PATRICK MAHOMES QB KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (PLAYED FOR TEXAS TECH)



JALENS HURTS QB PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (PLAYED FOR CHANNELVIEW)

KC is no stranger to the Super Bowl. The Chiefs played in Super Bowl I, losing 35-10 to the great Green Bay Packers and head coach Vince Lombardi. They returned in Super Bowl IV, upsetting the heavily-favored Minnesota Vikings, 23-7. They took a long hiatus before they returned to the SB in 2020 and have been a fixture for the AFC five of the last six years, winning three Lombardi's.

The Eagles have played in four Super Bowls, with the first coming following the 1980 season where ironically, they lost to the then Oakland Raiders (27-10) in the New Orleans Superdome. They returned to the Big Game following the 2004 season and lost to Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots, 24-21. Following the 2017 season, Philly extracted revenge over the Patriots with a wild 41-33 victory over the defending champions. And two years ago, they lost that thriller to the Chiefs.

Both teams were the class of their respective conferences during the 2024 season. The Eagles enter the game with a 17-3 record with an NFC East title and playoff wins over the Green Bay Packers (22-10), the Los Angeles Rams (28-22) and a dominating victory in the NFC Championship Game when they blasted one of the biggest surprises during the 2024 season, the Washington Commanders, 55-23.

The Eagles front office made perhaps the biggest move of the offseason when it signed star running back Saquon Barkley away from NFC East rival New York. All Barkley did in his first year in Philly was rush for 2,005 yards and 15 total TDs. He was 105 yards away

Continued. See SUPER BOWL PREVIEW, Page 5

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East Aldine District seeks candidates for two vacant board positions

Board Seeks Candidates for Vacant Positions No. 4 and 5

January 31st, 2025 | About the District, Community

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of the East Aldine Management District seeks qualified candidates to fill the vacancies that exist in Director Positions No. 4 and 5 of the board. Statutory qualifications as defined in Chapter 375, Local Government Code, are as follows:

Sec. 375.063. QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTOR. To be qualified to serve as a director, a person must be at least 18 years old and:

- (1) an owner of property in the district;
(2) an owner of stock, whether beneficial or otherwise, of a corporate owner of property in the

district;
(3) an owner of a beneficial interest in a trust that owns property in the district; or
(4) an agent, employee, or tenant of a person covered by Subdivision (1), (2), or (3).

The Board of Directors meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 pm at the East Aldine District's Town Center community room. Candidate must be willing to participate in the Board's regular meetings and serve on at least one committee. The term of Position 5 expires June 1, 2027, and is renewable for an additional four-year term upon recommendation of the Board and approval by the Harris County Commissioners Court. Currently there are no limits on the number of terms a director may serve.

If you are qualified or know someone who is qualified and may be interested, please submit your resume and the application to the Nominating Committee by Friday, February 28, 2025 to the following:

East Aldine Management District
Nominating Committee
c/o Monica Campos
2909 E. Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Ste. 200
Houston, TX 77039

Or by email to: mcampos@haweshill.com

Download the Candidate Information Form (PDF)



OPINION BY SEN. JOHN CORNYN: Safer Communities Act is Cause for Optimism

AUSTIN – U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Susan Collins (R-ME) authored the following op-ed in Newsweek highlighting the mental health and school safety provisions included in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which was signed into law on June 25, 2022, to address specific concerns that have led to mass shootings.

No parent wants to send their child to school fearful for their safety, and no student ought to have to go to school and be afraid. But we sadly live in an increasingly challenging and charged environment for young people.

As Jonathan Haidt has brought to light in his recent book, The Anxious Generation, more teens are struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges than ever before. And so, for far too many families, those fears have turned into a tragic reality.

Spurred by the devastating shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Congress answered the call for more mental health resources and school safety measures by way of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. We were proud to champion this legislation, which was enacted in June 2022.

We crafted this landmark law with a simple purpose: to reduce violence and save lives. The law contains commonsense measures to improve how our schools address mental health, alongside targeted resources to help harden schools against violent threats.

Too often, adolescents with untreated mental health conditions become the very same perpetrators who commit acts of violence. For this reason, we crafted our law to ensure teachers and administrators are equipped with the tools to recognize when a student is experiencing a mental health crisis and, more importantly, connect

them with the care they need before it's too late.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act made the largest investment in community-based mental health care in American history, from expanding the community behavioral health center model nationwide, to increasing access to suicide prevention programs and crisis intervention.

This law addressed student mental health by expanding support services like early identification and providing the resources to help bring 14,000 additional mental health professionals into U.S. schools. To date, more than \$570 million in awards provided by the law have already gone to K-12 schools across America to bolster their mental health programs and personnel.

Our legislation paired these investments with

school hardening provisions, including more than \$1 billion in grants to institute safety and security measures and hire additional school resource officers, on campuses nationwide.

Many schools have already received and put into action these grants for everything from safety film for exterior doors to video management systems and specialized radios to help school resource officers respond swiftly in an emergency.

Thousands of schools across the country have benefitted from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act's provisions to make their learning environments safer and, in turn, more productive for the students, teachers, and administrators alike. In some instances, school safety measures like the ones supported by our law have literally saved lives.

According to law enforcement, more lives could have been lost on the devastating September day when an armed 14-year-old walked into Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, and killed four innocent people, had it not been for the school's alarm system that notified police of an emergency.

We're proud of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the impact it's had on our students and in our schools.

We encourage each and every district to pursue the grants provided by this law as we work together to ensure children of all ages and walks of life can grow, learn, and thrive.

This is a law that has and will continue to save lives, and there's no better benchmark for success than that.

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ALDINE Independent School District. BLACK EXCELLENCE EXPO African Americans and Labor. DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2025. TIME: 9 AM - 12 PM. LOCATION: M.O. CAMPBELL CENTER 1865 ALDINE BENDER, HOUSTON, TX 77032. COME CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ENJOY: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, ARTISTS, FOOD TRUCKS, STUDENT PERFORMANCES, HOUSTON FOOD BANK, HEALTH SERVICES, COLLEGES/CAREERS. POETRY.

High Meadows Branch Library. 4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD HOUSTON, TX 77039 (832-927-5540). FOLLOW US highmeadowslibrary @highmeadowslibrary. UPCOMING EVENTS FEB 3-7: 11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN, 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL, 4:00PM TOMMY TERRIFIC:BLACK COWBOYS OF THE OLD WEST (SPECIAL SHOW), 12 PM COMPUTER BASICS CLASS, 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS, 1:00PM JOURNALING W/ESL, 5 PM READING WONDERLAND, 5 PM CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT (59& LITTLE YORK), 11 AM CITIZENSHIP, 4 PM ARTTOPIA, 1:45 PM HEALTHIER YOU, 3:30PM UN-VALENTINE'S PARTY. COMING SOON... HEARTS & HUGS STORYTIME FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINE THEME STORYTIME WITH SPECIAL FUN. CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS: FEBRUARY 27: BEGIN YOUR CROCHET JOURNEY IN THIS CLASS/ GATHERING. ARTTOPIA: MAKE SOME ART AND EXPRESS YOURSELF! CREATE SOMETHING NEW USING DIFFERENT MEDIUMS, SUCH AS PAINT, CLAY, AND MORE!. CITIZENSHIP CLASS: AN ON GOING CLASS TO LEARN THE STEPS ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN. TOMMY TERRIFIC: FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH AN EDUCATIONAL MAGIC SHOW ABOUT FAMOUS BLACK COWBOYS IN HISORY. HEALTHIER YOU THE 4-SESSION SERIES EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE HABITS. KRAFTY KIDS: CRAFT PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!. FABLES & FUN/ READING WONDERLAND: STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS. Movement Monday: Come out and move! Join us on Monday and get ready to exercise your brain and body! We'll be dancing, reading, singing and moving. Open Tech Lab (Bilingual): Have questions about email, social media, word, your smart phone or more? Come in and let's figure it out! Pajama Story Time: Come join us in your pajamas for story time at night. Self-Care Sessions: Would you like to add a little more movement and peace to your day? Clases de Computación Básica (Basic Computer Classes in Spanish): Si las computadoras son nuevas para usted, se siente incómodo con ellas o simplemente quiere un curso de actualización, este curso es para usted. Bilingual Story Time & Craft/Hora de cuento con manualidades: You're invited to attend Story Time every Tuesday at 11 am. 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. Building Your Financial Future: Frost Bank invites you to a FREE financial class! Learn about building wealth, saving, and home buying, among other topics.

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

AISD Names New Chief Financial Officer

The Aldine Independent School District has named Timothy Momanyi as its new chief financial officer, succeeding Stan Osborne, who retired after a distinguished career. Momanyi is a seasoned finance executive with over two decades of experience. He brings a wealth of knowledge. Momanyi is deeply committed to fiscal stewardship and has a proven track record in school finance and budget management.

"I am excited to welcome Timothy Momanyi to the Executive Leadership Team," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "His expertise and dedication to aligning financial resources with student success will ensure that Aldine ISD continues to serve our students, staff, and community with excellence and transparency."

Momanyi's appointment marks his return to Aldine ISD, where he previously served as assistant superintendent of finance and executive director of finance. His extensive background also includes serving as senior executive director of budgeting and financial planning at Houston ISD, where he managed a \$2.2 billion budget, led a team of over 50 finance professionals, and oversaw the distribution of \$1.1 billion in federal ESSER funding.

"I am honored to rejoin Aldine ISD and continue its legacy of financial excellence," Momanyi said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the district's leadership to ensure our financial resources align with the strategic goals of fostering academic achievement and operational efficiency."



Chief Financial Officer Timothy Momanyi

Momanyi holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from the University of Houston's C.T. Bauer College of Business and an MBA from Houston Christian University's Archie W. Dunham College of Business. He is also a Registered Texas School Business Administrator (RTSBA) and a Certified Public Funds Investment Manager (CPFIM).

Momanyi has demonstrated a commitment to operational transparency, financial accountability, and strategic planning throughout his career. He will oversee the district's financial operations in his new role, including budgeting, accounts payable, grants, purchasing, accounting, and business services.

"Timothy's leadership, experience, and vision align with our district's needs as we continue to prioritize the success of every student," added Dr. Goffney. "I am confident that his strategic approach will strengthen our financial operations and support our district's ongoing progress."

Momanyi's appointment is effective immediately. He joins Aldine ISD at a pivotal time as the district continues implementing initiatives to enhance academic outcomes and operational efficiency.

For more information about the Aldine ISD Executive Leadership Team, visit www.AldineISD.org.

Faith of a Mustang Seed: Aldine Basketball Undergoes Remarkable Turnaround in Coach Christopher Ceaser's First Year

ALDINE, Texas – The Aldine High School basketball program has experienced a transformative season under the leadership of first-year head coach Christopher Ceaser. After finishing last season with a record of 0-32, the Mustangs now contend for the district title (20-12, 8-2), fueled by a rejuvenated culture of faith, perseverance, and determination. Ceaser, a seasoned coach with over a decade of experience, took over a struggling program, confident in its potential despite its recent woes. For the coach, returning to Aldine ISD—a district he knows well as a former student and assistant coach—was a personal journey marked by faith. "This was a true 'Gideon moment,'" Ceaser said, referencing his belief that his path to Aldine was divinely guided. "The Lord has been stripping away any inclination of someone else taking credit for what He's about to do."

Stepping into a program with only two wins in two years, Ceaser leaned on his faith, preaching a message of resilience and belief: We can do this.

Building a Foundation of Faith and Hard Work

When Ceaser accepted the Aldine position, the program was coming off two winless seasons, with just two victories in the previous two years. He emphasized the need for faith and hard work to build a winning culture. "I believe the Lord would be with me wherever I go, and there's nothing I can't overcome," Ceaser said. Central to his strategy was assembling a coaching staff with both experience and passion for the game. Among them is longtime colleague and friend Coach Cassey Green, who joined Ceaser after previously working with him at Nimitz High School. Their bond extends beyond basketball, with Green describing Ceaser as a "brother in Christ" and a great leader. Green, along with other staff, has brought expertise and support to Ceaser's vision. They had a pact with each other that whoever got a head coaching opportunity first, the other would be join their coaching staff.

"Our job is to serve young men, not just on the court but in life," Green



said. "In our program, we teach them that if you defend well, take care of the basketball, and rebound, you'll have an opportunity to win every game." The players responded to this leadership with enthusiasm. Ceaser recalls a pivotal moment during practice when senior leaders Kaleb and Joshua Green, along with Jameison Kegler, initiated extra conditioning drills unprompted. "That moment showed me the culture shift was real," Ceaser said.

Kaleb Green, a senior guard who transferred to Aldine this season, embraced the challenge of joining a struggling program. "It feels good to make this change," Green said. "We've focused on defense, and that's where I've seen the most growth in my game." Kegler, who experienced last year's winless season but didn't finish before its conclusion, returned for his senior year and immediately noticed a change in the program's energy under Coach Ceaser. "The teachers and students see it—there's high energy and a new culture," Kegler said. "Our goal is to win the district and make it to state. This season is special."

The Mustangs' defensive intensity has translated into results, with the team boasting the district's top-scoring offense and five players among the

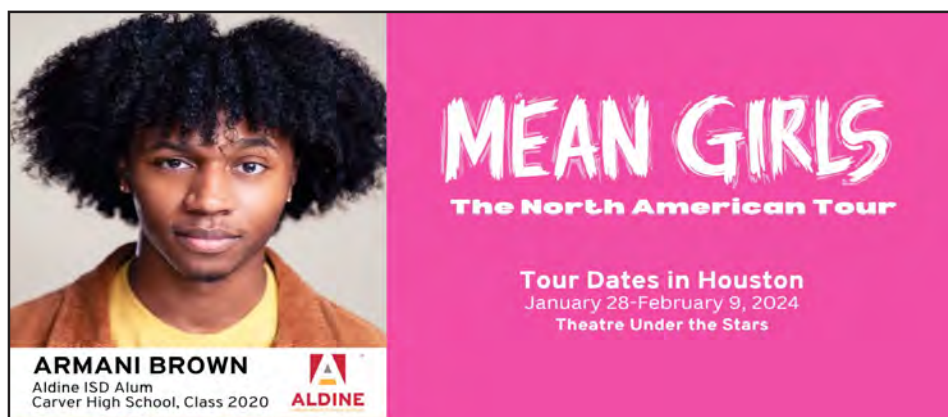
leaders in steals.

Ceaser attributes the team's transformation to the faith he instills in his players and the trust they have in him and his staff. He encourages them to learn from their mistakes without fear, emphasizing the importance of hustle and defense as a means to overcome errors. When asked about his vision for the program, Ceaser stated, "We strive daily to thrive and be victorious on and off the court, in Jesus' name. We're not just playing basketball—we're working to dominate."

For Aldine High, the shift is undeniable. With Ceaser at the helm, the Mustangs are not just winning games—they're building a legacy.

With just four games left in the regular season, the Aldine Mustangs find themselves in a thrilling race for the district title, tied with Westfield for first place. A key factor in their remarkable turnaround has been Jorge Castro, whose offensive prowess has been a game-changer. Averaging 11.7 points and 6 rebounds per game while shooting over 50% from the field, Castro has been a consistent force in the Mustangs' resurgence. As they push toward the playoffs, the Mustangs need your support to close out their red-hot season. Check out their remaining schedule and come cheer them on: [Aldine Mustangs Basketball Schedule](#)

Carver HS Alum Armani Brown Returns in 'Mean Girls' at Theatre Under the Stars



Carver High School graduate Armani Brown is taking center stage nationally, earning a spot in the ensemble cast in the second Broadway national tour of Mean Girls the Musical by Tina Fey. The Houston native and 2020 graduate of Aldine ISD's Carver High School will perform in the touring production, which will stop in Houston this week and next.

Mean Girls the Musical Tour Dates in Houston: Jan. 28-February 9, 2024. Theatre Under the Stars. Tickets: meangirlsontour.com

About Armani
Armani recently earned a bachelor's in musical theatre from Sam Houston State University and has built an impressive resume with performances nationwide. His credits include Newsies at Theatre Under the Stars, She Loves Me at Sam Houston State, and Footloose at Woodstock Playhouse, among others. He has also performed in New York City with The Link Program. The Link Program is exclusively for college stu-

dents ready to slay Broadway. Actors work with Broadway's most influential creatives over the course of one week in New York City. They accept 15 actors, less than 3% of all applicants, and only one actor from each college program. Armani has also performed in California with the American College Dance Association (ACDA, formerly the American College Dance Festival Association).

Carver's award-winning theater director, Roshunda Jones-Koumba, expressed excitement about Armani's success. "We are beyond proud of him!" she said. "It's incredible to see one of our alumni shine on a national stage."

Armani to Share his Journey With Current Carver HS Students

As part of his homecoming, Armani will return to Carver High School, an Aldine ISD Choice School, on Monday, Feb. 3, at 10:15 a.m. to speak with students during the third period of the school day. His return is a personal achievement and a moment of pride

for the entire Carver community. He will share insights about his journey from Carver's stage to Broadway and advise aspiring young performers, inspiring a new generation of local talent.

A Masterclass at TUTS
Additionally, Armani will conduct a masterclass at Theatre Under the Stars on Friday, Feb. 7. This is a unique opportunity for students to learn from the rising star firsthand. This experience will surely inspire and motivate them in their artistic journeys.

Armani's journey from Carver's stage to Broadway is a testament to the potential and talent that Carver students possess. His success will undoubtedly inspire current and future students, reinforcing the impact of Aldine ISD's performing arts programs.

For more information about the Mean Girls tour and ticket availability, visit Mean Girls on Tour.

To keep up with Armani's journey, follow him on Instagram @manifromhouston.

CTAT Recognizes Aldine ISD as a CTE District of Distinction

Aldine ISD proudly announces its 2025 CTE District of Distinction selection by the Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT). CTAT introduced the District of Distinction program in 2024 to recognize Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that meet exacting standards. This prestigious designation is open to all districts that meet the stringent guidelines set by the CTAT Board and executive committee.

Brooke Martin, AISD executive director of CTE, expressed her appreciation for the recognition, stating, "We are honored to be awarded as a Career & Technical Association of Texas (CTAT) CTE District of Distinction. This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our entire CTE team and community. We are proud to be among the districts leading the way in providing transformative educational experiences. Our future-focused CTE opportunities across the district, including our P-TECH programs at Avalos and Carver, our CTE programs at Blanson, and the



HEAL program at Nimitz, prepare our students for success after high school."

According to Martin, executive director of CTE, over 20,000 Aldine ISD students are enrolled in CTE programs. The district offers well over 45 programs of study, 93 dual credit courses, and 75 industry-based certifications are provided by the district. AISD students also participate in the CTE program and extend their learning by participating in a CTSO (Career Technical Organization), which provides students with knowledge and leadership skills within CTE pathways. Click here to learn more about the district's CTE programs.

CTAT is committed to advancing career and technical

education (CTE) excellence. Statewide, CTE programs empower students to thrive in their chosen career paths. Guided by CTAT members, these programs flourish and achieve standards that were once only aspirations. CTE administrators uphold rigorous expectations for teachers, students, and program effectiveness.

CTE Leadership at Aldine ISD

Aldine ISD's CTE programs are based on student interests, workforce alignment, and a deep commitment to student success.

AISD CTE students can receive a high school diploma, industry credentials, and/or an associate degree at no cost.

OPINION PAGE



Know Your Immigration Rights and Stay Prepared

As you have probably heard through news reports, the new Trump administration plans to make changes to our immigration laws that will impact all of us.

What are your rights?

IN YOUR HOME: ICE agents cannot search your person, belongings, car, or home without your permission or a valid search warrant signed by a judge with your correct name and address on it.

AT WORK: ICE can only enter a workplace with the employer's consent or a judicial warrant. If they enter your work place, do not panic or try to run away.

IN PUBLIC: You are not required to answer questions about your immigration status, where you were born, or how you entered the country.

AT DOCTOR'S OFFICES: You are not required to disclose your immigration status to receive medical care, even if your healthcare provider asks you for this information.

AT SCHOOL: Students have the right to attend school without providing documentation of their immigration status. Schools should not ask about immigration status, and they cannot deny enrollment based on immigration status.

AT PLACES OF WORSHIP: Currently, ICE is directed to avoid enforcement actions in certain "protected areas" like schools, places of worship, and hospitals.

If you are detained by ICE, ask to speak with an attorney immediately. If you do not have a lawyer, ask an immigration officer for a list of pro bono lawyers.

To help protect yourself and your loved ones, here's a "Know Your Rights" card that outlines your legal protections and present it to ICE agents if needed.

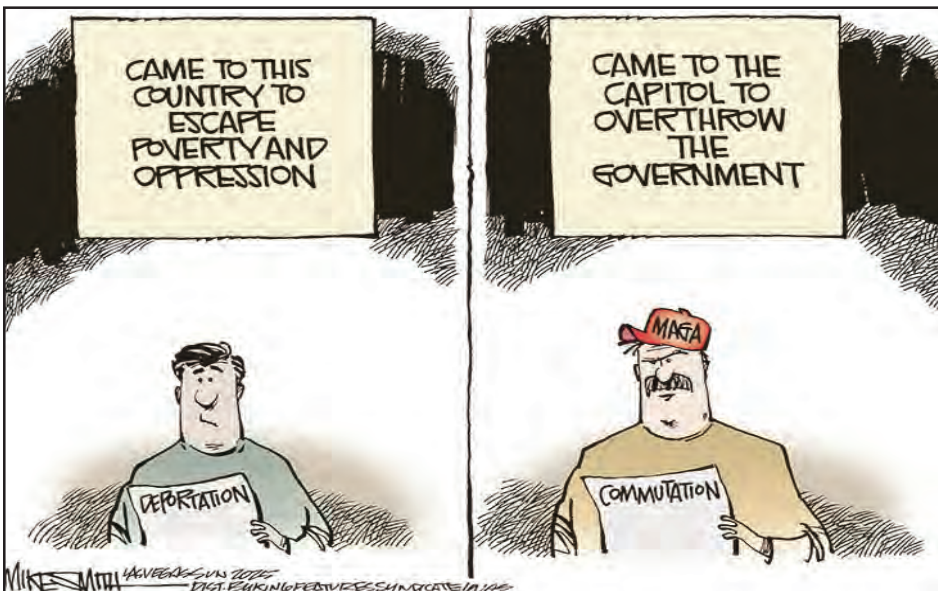
Develop a family safety plan by identifying trusted contacts that can keep important immigration paperwork safe and memorizing important phone numbers you can contact in case you are detained.

During these uncertain times, we must stand together as neighbors and ensure everyone knows their rights.

If you have any questions or need assistance with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or have an issue with ICE, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at 832-325-3150.

Sincerely, Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

\$1 Billion for Vouchers, \$5 Billion for Teachers

Legislative budget writers are proposing nearly \$5 billion to increase teacher pay and \$1 billion to implement a school voucher program in the next biennium, the Austin American Statesman reported.



out of those positions this session, though committee vice chairmanships would be given to them."The rule is amended to restrict the appointment of chairs of a standing committee to those members of the political party that constitutes a majority of the House membership and to provide that a majority party member may not be appointed as a vice chair of a standing committee.

PATRICK BACKS CLARIFYING STATE'S NEAR-TOTAL ABORTION BAN

Patrick said last week that the Legislature should amend the state's near-total abortion ban to address confusion over when doctors can legally terminate pregnancies.

SHARING CHAIRMANSHIPS WITH MINORITY PARTY TO END

A decades-long tradition of giving at least some committee chairmanships to members of the minority party is about to end under proposed rules for the current legislative session.

RRC SEEKS \$100 MILLION TO FIX LEAKY OIL AND GAS WELLS

The cost and frequency of plugging leaking oil and gas wells has prompted the Texas Railroad Commission to request an additional \$100 million in funding to address the issue.

watchdog organization. "We have a robust oil and gas industry, the biggest in the country," Virginia Palacios, executive director of Commission Shift, said.

TEXANS URGED TO REPORT WINTER WEATHER DAMAGES

Abbott is urging Texans affected by recent winter weather to report any property and agricultural damages to the Texas Division of Emergency Management's portal: damage.tdem.texas.gov.

2024 WAS HOTTEST ON RECORD, BUT RAINFALL TOTALS VARIED

It's hardly news to Texans who lived through it, but last year was the hottest on record, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

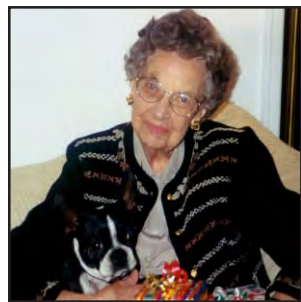
STATE RECORDS MOST TORNADES IN 2024

Preliminary data from the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center indicates the United States experienced a record 1,855 tornadoes in 2024, breaking a 20-year-old record.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Talking to a Friend



Yesterday, I got to talk with an old friend.

I used to see Cheryl almost every day. But for the last several years, we have seen each other once a year, at most. She's going to direct my show, so we'll be working together again.

"If we can't find a chair that looks good..." I began.

"You could bring a throw to toss over it," she finished.

"Exactly," I said.

We did that all afternoon. This is also the week my editor, Patty, is retiring. Patty has been editing my columns for most of the time I've been writing 'The Postscript.'

But I can't imagine not talking with my friend Patty every week because—although I'm sure she is one of the best editors in the business—that is not what makes her really special.

What makes her special is that every week she says something nice about my column. There is no need for her to do this, but it means the world to me.

But I somehow feel that Patty will remain in my life, just as Cheryl drifted away for a bit and circled back. The people who are meant to be in my life have a way of staying there, in some form or another.

I've learned that almost always, when people do something that hurts me, it has much more to do with their own hurts than me.

Relationships change. One thing leads to another and, before I know it, I'm spending my time with new people, talking to new friends, without realizing how much has changed.

My grandmother lived to be 100 and outlived all her old friends. So she made new old friends.

We all need someone to talk to.

Till next time, Carrie

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Mike Keeney's Super Bowl Preview: Chiefs look to make history with 3rd straight SB win: Eagles look to win second Lombardi at SB 59

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from breaking Eric Dickerson's all-time single-season rushing record as he sat out Week 18 to rest up for the playoffs. In the post season, Barkley has added another 442 rushing yards (giving him 2,447 yards on the ground for the season). Barkley's presence has taken a lot of pressure on Hurts (2,903 passing yards, 18 TDs/630 rushing yards, 14 TDs in the regular season/505 passing yards, 3 TDs/122 rushing yards, 4 TDs in the playoffs). Hurts sustained a knee injury in the Division Round against the Rams, but did it did not seem to bother him at all in the NFC title game as he rushed for 3 TDs and threw a touchdown pass.

The Eagles also have one of the best offensive lines in the league and that unit helped the Eagles score an amazing seven touchdowns against Washington. The Kansas City defense will have its hands full against that unit.

While Barkley has been the key to the offense, Hurts has had his moments making plays to wideouts A.J. Brown (67 receptions, 1,089 yards, 7 TDs in regular season/9 receptions, 109 yards, 1 TD in playoffs) and DeVonta Smith (68 receptions, 833 yards, 8 TDs in regular season/9 receptions, 120 yards, 1 TD in playoffs). Look for Hurts to attack the KC secondary, which is one of the best in the league, with play-action if the Eagles can get Barkley going early on the fast track in the Dome. In Week 3, the Eagles defeated the Saints in NO 15-12 as Barkley rushed for 147 yards and two touchdowns. Eagle fans will be hoping the Penn State product has another big day in the Big Easy on Sunday.

The Eagles have another weapon in tight end Dallas Goedert who missed a number of games with a hamstring injury during the middle part of the season. Goedert (42 receptions, 496 yards, 2 TDs in regular season/15 receptions, 188 yards, 1 TD in playoffs). Goedert could be a key weapon in the Super Bowl if the Chiefs concentrate on slowing down Brown and Smith. Don't be surprised is Hurts goes to Goedert early with short passes to get him and the passing game going.

The Chiefs enter SB 59 with a 16-2 record. They won another AFC West title and dispatched Houston (23-14) in the Divisional round of the playoffs and took care of Buffalo, 32-29 in the AFC Championship Game. The Chiefs will go as far as Mahomes will take them and the East Texas native thrives in big games. He's 3-1 in Super Bowls and the chance to make history and lead KC to a three-peat will motivate him all the more.

Mahomes had a pedestrian regular season passing for 3,928 yards with 26 TDs and 11 interceptions. He's passed for 422 yards and 2 TDs in his first two playoff games and something tells me he's saving his best game for the last game of the season come Sunday.

The Chiefs won a lot of close games this year, which means they don't panic as long as No. 15 is under center. Starting running back Isiah Pacheco was lost in

Week 2 to a fractured fibula, so the Chiefs signed former starting running back Kareem Hunt, who picked up the slack with 728 rushing yards and 7 total TDs. Hunt has added 108 yards and two scores in the post season.

And while star tight end Travis Kelce (97 receptions, 823 yards, 3 TDs in regular season/9 receptions, 136 yards, 1 TD in playoffs) had perhaps his least productive season in a number of years, the Eagles know he can turn it on when its big game time. Look for Kelce and Mahomes to be their usual big-play selves come Sunday.

Mahomes has found a new go-to wideout in rookie Xavier Worthy (a UT product). Worthy grabbed 59 passes for 638 yards and 9 total TDs (three rushing TDs) in his first NFL season. He's added a receiving TD and more than 100 yards in the playoffs. Look for Mahomes to go to him deep early to test the Philly secondary, which starts two rookies. Mahomes also has another weapon back in speedy wide receiver Marquis Brown. The former Ravens star played only two regular season games after dealing with an injury, but he could be a key player on Sunday. Like Worthy, he has game-breaking speed and I would not be surprised if Mahomes looks to get him going early, which could open up the middle of the field for Kelce.

Both teams have solid defenses. The Eagles defense recorded 41 sacks and came up with 26 turnovers (13 interceptions, 13 fumble recoveries in the regular season and have added 10 sacks and 10 turnovers (4 interceptions, 6 fumble recoveries) in the playoffs. The Chiefs defense produced 39 sacks and 20 turnovers (13 interceptions, 7 fumble recoveries) in the regular season and 10 sacks in the playoffs.

A key to this game will be if the Chiefs can get pressure on Hurts behind the Eagles excellent offensive line. KC defensive coordinator Steve Spagnolia is one of the best in the business, and with two weeks to prepare for this game, something tells me he will have something special up his sleeve come Sunday.

When it all comes down to it, look for Mahomes to be the deciding factor in this game. He's one of the best big-game QBs in the history of the league and lives for these types of moments. When the passing game struggled in the AFC title game, he rushed for two TDs. Look for him to once again use his legs to make plays for his team. Mahomes is also well aware he could become the first QB in the history of the NFL to win three straight Lombardi's, which would give him four of the shiny trophies in just his eighth year in the league.

This should be another high-scoring game, and Mahomes will once again be the difference maker as the Chiefs win their third straight. **My pick, Kansas City 33, Philadelphia 30**

top ten

NFL Teams With Most Super Bowl Wins

- 1/2 New England Patriots, 6
- 1/2 Pittsburgh Steelers, 6
- 3/4 San Francisco 49ers, 5
- 3/4 Dallas Cowboys, 5
- 5/6/7 Kansas City Chiefs, 4
- 5/6/7 Green Bay Packers, 4
- 5/6/7 New York Giants, 4
- 8/9/10 Denver Broncos, 3
- 8/9/10 L.A./Oakland Raiders, 3
- 8/9/10 Washington Commanders, 3

Source: ProFootballNetwork.com

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Aldine ISD may close 7 schools,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

maintenance, and passed a budget in June with an estimated \$98 million deficit.

The district remains on solid financial footing, with nearly \$400 million in a "rainy day" fund that grew significantly amid the pandemic thanks to federal stimulus money sent to schools across the country.

Adrian Bustillos, Aldine's chief transformation officer, said the district is planning an "ongoing effort to maximize and optimize our district" that will extend beyond 2025.

"This is not a one-time fix or one-year approach," Bustillos said. "This is Year Two, and we'll continue to go through that process until we're able to flatline on enrollment and make sure we can maximize our building utilization."

While school closures are often one of the most difficult and controversial decisions made by a school board, Aldine leaders received minimal public criticism for last year's vote. This time around, Trustee Viola Garcia emphasized the importance of community input and informing families about the impact of closures.

"Communities are feeling a sense that there is an abandonment," Garcia said, noting how school closures are affecting districts across Texas. San Antonio ISD, Spring Branch ISD and Lewisville ISD in the Dallas-Fort

Worth Metroplex have closed campuses in the past few years, with each citing budget shortfalls as the reason.

Garcia urged her fellow board members and district staff to consider other plans beyond school closures in the face of declining enrollment.

"I don't want to be part of a discussion where we just take it for granted that we are going to lose students and lose students and lose students without discussing, to greater extent, very serious initiatives that attempt to curb that loss," Garcia said.

District administrators plan to hold community meetings in the coming weeks to discuss the closure proposal, though dates and locations haven't been publicly announced. Aldine trustees also plan to hold another board workshop the week before the vote to close schools, which is scheduled for Feb. 25.

If the board approves the district's recommendations, the district will begin community meetings to inform families about the closures ahead of the 2025-26 school year. The proposal also involves moving a projected 265 students from Dunn Elementary School to Calvert Elementary School to help with overcrowding.

--Houston Landing

Congresswoman Garcia's Know Your Rights Town Hall,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

them at schools, health clinics and churches, regardless of their citizenship status.

She said this is why I put together a quick town hall meeting this week aimed at telling both documented and undocumented Houston residents about their constitutional rights and what they should and shouldn't do if federal agents knock on their door.

"I want you all to know you're not alone," Congresswoman Garcia told the crowd. "That's why we're here. Know your rights and have the information you need to keep your family safe."

"I know many of you are scared because immigration officers are no longer instructed to avoid targeting schools, churches and health clinics. Trump rescinded that policy when he took office last week, creating new concerns for people already fearful about Trump's mass deportation plan," Garcia said.

Garcia said when agents knock on the door; people can get nervous and forget their rights. So, she has printed up thousands of small red cards that can fit in people's pockets with instructions in English and Spanish reminding them of their Fifth Amendment rights and what they should say if confronted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at home or in the community. Attendees were given these cards.

But beyond that, Garcia and others pushed the au-

dience to make sure they talk to their families about creating a plan for if a parent or grandparent is suddenly detained. She said people need to have emergency plans in place, especially if they have children that need to be cared for.

In attendance Houston immigration attorney Silvia Mintz said, "Everybody who resides in the United States has constitutional rights, and we need to make sure that we exercise our rights and, if we are not undocumented, that we make sure our sisters and brothers who are undocumented know their rights."

"That includes making sure parents update their emergency contact numbers with their children's school to ensure another trusted adult or family member can get their children if they are unable to." In addition, Mintz said they need to have emergency phone numbers and important papers, like birth certificates and marriage licenses in a place other family members can access if anything happens to them.

Mintz continued, "Chief among those rights one does not necessarily have to open the door or answer questions from immigration agents. A deportation warrant is not the same as a judicial warrant, and agents cannot legally enter a home under a deportation warrant without a verbal agreement from people inside." In addition, Mintz said people shouldn't be signing papers they do not understand.

Garcia said one of the

things she's encouraging people to do is get their passports for themselves and family members — including children — in case someone is deported so they can easily reunite with a loved one if something happens to them.

Garcia made clear she's angry about the fear the Trump administration has helped spread in its first few days. "Sadly, we know that the Trump administration is not doing what he said during the campaign: just going after criminals," she said. "He's also targeting many undocumented immigrants who do not have a criminal record and have been in our country for years."

She pointed to a grandfather in Chicago who was reportedly caught in one of the deportation raids. "ICE should not be targeting our grandparents," she said. "That's insanity. They're not criminals. Deporting them would not make us safer."

At the town hall, Monica Zepeda, a teacher, said she feels like she needs clarification, too. The questions, she said, have started. "Over the weekend, I had two students talk to me about what's happening with immigration, and these are boys much taller than I am and the way that they posed the question was, 'Are we going to be OK?'"

Texas Governor Gregg Abbott who's assisting ICE in their arresting undocumented immigrants issued the following executive order.

In accordance with Executive Order GA-46 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on August 8, 2024,

hospital providers must ask each patient during; the hospital intake process whether the patient is (1) a citizen or an alien lawfully present in the United States, or (2) an alien not lawfully present in the United States. Hospital providers must report to HHSC quarterly the number of inpatient discharges of and emergency visits by all patients and patients who are (1) a citizen or an alien lawfully present in the United States, and (2) an alien not lawfully present in the United States. Hospital providers must also report to HHSC quarterly the costs of care for patients who are not lawfully present in the United States.

Hospitals began collecting the information on November 1, 2024, and are expected to begin reporting to Texas Health & Human Services on March 1, 2025.

When collecting information about a patient's immigration status, hospital providers must provide notification that, as required by federal law, the response will not affect patient care.

This article is one of a series for the purpose of helping to educate everyone concerning President Trump's new immigration policies. Upcoming article; Immigrant Students' Rights to Attend Public Schools.

CHURCH PAGE

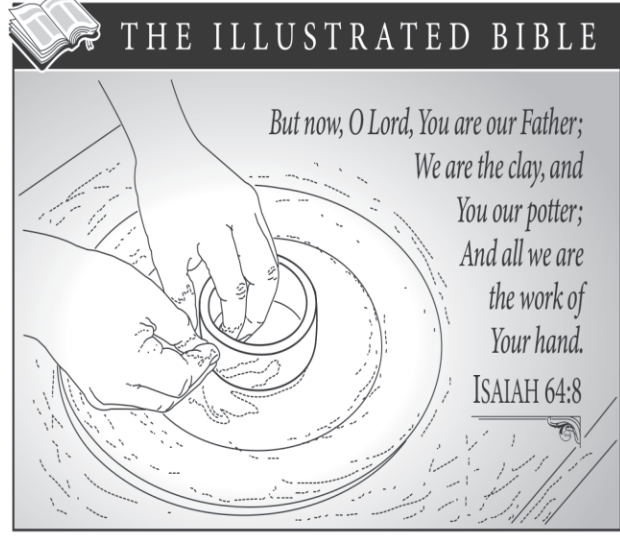
BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 3 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who said, "Lo, I dwell in a house of cedars but the ark of the covenant ... remaineth under curtains"?
3. From Numbers 12, why was Miriam shut out of camp for seven days? Ungodly act, Leprous, Fasting, Lent

4. Who took David in as his own after the slaying of Goliath? Jonathan, Solomon, Saul, Eliakim
5. About how tall was Goliath in approximate cubits? 3, 4, 5, 6
6. Upon which mountain did Aaron die? Hor, Carmel, Pisgah, Sinai

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) David, 3) Leprous, 4) Saul, 5) Six, 6) Hor
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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Lee Jung-jae stars in "Squid Games 2."

"Squid Game 2"

"SQUID GAME 2" (R) — The second season of the South Korean survival series "Squid Game" is out now to stream three years after the first season was released. After bingeing season one in a couple of days, envisioning another season that could follow up its success seemed nearly impossible, but season two does not disappoint! Following Seong Gi-hun (Lee Jung-jae), the winner of the Squid Game in the first season, viewers watch as he once again enters the deadly survival game in an attempt to warn participants of its sinister nature and stop the game entirely. However, the Front Man is hot on Gi-hun's heels to ensure that his precious game remains intact. (Netflix) ***

2016 animated film about Moana (Auli'i Cravalho), the daughter of a Polynesian village chief. Having a bit more experience in the realm of wayfinding and sailing after her last adventure with Maui (Dwayne Johnson), Moana is tasked with searching for a sunken island called Motufetu that can connect all of the islands across the ocean. This time around, she has a bit more help than just the demigod Maui, with a crew consisting of Maui superfan Moni, a quirky craftswoman named Loto, and a grumpy farmer named Kele. Together, they will be able to break the curse of Motufetu. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video) ***

"MOANA 2" (PG) — The third highest-grossing film of 2024 was this sequel to Disney's hit

"BABYGIRL" (R) — The creators behind this erotic thriller starring Nicole Kidman ("A Family Affair") and Harris Dickinson ("The

Iron Claw") knew exactly what they were doing by signing on these two actors to star opposite each other. Kidman plays tech CEO Romy Mathis, who's deeply unsatisfied with her marriage with husband Jacob (Antonio Banderas). When a young man named Samuel (Dickinson) begins interning at her company, Romy is immediately enticed by him, and a torrid love affair commences between the two of them. But Romy's career and family life will hang in the balance as she continues to let her inhibitions overpower her reasoning. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+) ***

"67TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS" (TV-PG) — Hosted by Trevor Noah ("The Daily Show") for the fifth consecutive time, the Grammy Award ceremony is now available on streaming after being broadcasted live on Feb. 2. Topping the list of most nominations is none other than Beyonce, thanks to the release of her eighth studio album, "Cowboy Carter." Other notable names who were nominated and dominated music during 2024 include Sabrina Carpenter for her album "Short n' Sweet," Charli XCX for her album "Brat," and Best New Artist Chappell Roan. The three aforementioned women also performed during the ceremony, as well as Benson Boone, Billie Eilish, Shakira and Teddy Swims. (Paramount+) In Case You Missed It

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Q: Who is Selena Gomez's fiancé? Is he an actor? I hope she's finally found happiness. I've always liked her. — K.I.

A: Selena Gomez ("Only Murders in the Building") announced her engagement to music producer/songwriter Benny Blanco in December of last year, shortly before they attended the Golden Globes together where Gomez was nominated. Blanco has worked with two of Gomez's famous exes, Justin Bieber and The Weeknd, and even co-wrote and produced two of his future fiancé's songs on her 2015 album "Revival." The two first met when Gomez recorded songs for Disney while starring in her hit show "The Wizards of Waverly Place." Blanco was already a successful producer, working with pop superstars like Katy Perry and Britney Spears. However, they were just friends and professional collaborators and didn't start dating until mid-2023.

The two also share a love of cooking. Gomez hosts "Selena + Chef" on Max, and Blanco published his cookbook "Open Wide: A Cookbook for Friends," which became a New York Times bestseller. He even cooked Thanksgiving dinner for Gomez and a group of 50 people. Most of all, he makes her happy, and friends agree that no one else has treated her as well as him. ***

Q: Is it true that Billy Corgan and Bill Burr are brothers? Did they take a DNA test, or have they known all this time and just never went public with it? — D.E.

A: Despite having essentially the same first name, singer Billy Corgan and stand-up comedian Bill Burr might be half-brothers. No 23andMe-like DNA test has been performed, but they both were recently bombarded into revealing their story on, of all places, a Howie Mandel podcast. Mandel invited both on his show without them knowing that it would be an unexpected family reunion.

A few months ago, Smashing Pumpkins lead vocalist Corgan was a guest on the podcast and revealed that his stepmother once told him that Burr "might be one of the children that [his] father sired in his days being a traveling musician." While Burr knew about the theory, he wasn't prepared to talk about it on the podcast and scolded Mandel for forcing the public re-



Actress/singer Selena Gomez

union. According to Entertainment Weekly, by the end of the episode, Burr was convinced that he and Corgan are indeed half-brothers. ***

Q: Who is the Asian actress who played the doctor who wanted a baby in "No Good Deed" on Netflix? Was she in "Hacks," too? — N.N.

A: Actress Poppy Liu plays Dr. Sarah Weber on the new Netflix series "No Good Deed." She is also part of the supporting cast of the Emmy-winning Max series "Hacks," who earned a SAG Award nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series in 2022.

Her breakout role was on the short-lived NBC sitcom "Sunnyside," which eventually led to a recurring role for her on the "iCarly" reboot and the critically acclaimed series "Better Call Saul." Next up for the very busy Liu is the comedy film "I Love Boosters" with recent Oscar nominee Demi Moore, as well as the upcoming Netflix series "His & Hers" with Tessa Thompson.

"Hacks" is expected to return for its fourth season this coming May.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

February 3, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Beansies
5 Enfold
9 Stanley Cup org.
12 Luau dance
13 Roof overhang
14 Parisian "yes"
15 Pedestal occupant
16 Sketch
17 Trio after Q
18 Church organ feature
19 Retrieve
20 Bogus
21 Canonized Fr. woman
23 Soul, to Sartre
25 "Fantasia" ballerinas
28 Esteem
32 Commence
33 Biblical king
34 Gave a speech
36 Sipping aids
37 Weep
38 Spigot
39 "Holy cow!"
42 Away from SSW
44 Foot fraction
48 Flight stat
49 "Misery" star James
50 Olympian Lipinski

Grid for King Crossword with numbers 1-56.

- 51 Altar promise
52 Bullets
53 Family
54 Fresh
55 Low digits
56 Warmonger

DOWN

- 1 Poker token
2 BMW rival
3 Fall into a chair
4 Merchant's spiel
5 Hunks of cheese
6 Exceptional
7 Online icon
8 Church seat
9 Director Ephron
10 Corn cover
11 Low-calorie
20 Frenzied state
22 Photocopier need
24 Maestro Zubin
25 "Westworld" network
26 Suffix with hotel
27 Links org.
29 Notable time

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Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle with difficulty level: Moderate. Includes instructions and a difficulty key.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle with instructions: Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Serenity; 2. El Yunque National Forest; 3. "The Picture of Dorian Gray"; 4. Buf-falco; 5. Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Formal Sciences; 6. White Castle; 7. 14 (Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium); 8. Philadelphia Eagles and Seattle Seahawks; 9. 88; 10. Ikebana.

King Crossword solution with answers and a 21-minute solution time.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions on television, geography, literature, movies, science, ad slogans, general knowledge, U.S. states, astronomy, and art.

Enroll in a Next Start class at Lone Star College

HOUSTON (Jan. 24, 2025) – Lone Star College System is an open-enrollment institution geared toward helping students start, continue or complete their educational journey. LSCS began its spring 2025 semester Jan. 13, but there's still time to enroll in a course through LSC Next Start.

“Lone Star College has truly shaped who I am today, both academically and personally and has given me a strong foundation to build on,” said Karmyn Bonds, LSC-Houston North student. “The skills, perspectives and connections I’ve gained at Lone Star College will continue to influence me as I grow into a more confident, open-minded and motivated person.”

LSC Next Start classes range from eight to 14 weeks. Available courses fit various academic and career goals to help students earn bachelor’s degrees, associate degrees, workforce and continuing education certificates or transfer credits to a four-year university.

“Lone Star College’s Next Start offers students various academic and workforce courses each semester that can easily fit into their busy lives,” said Christina Hagerty, Ed.D., LSC interim chief academic officer. “Additionally, Next Start allows students to earn a degree, transfer to a university or quickly enter the workforce at an accelerated pace.”

LSC Next Start offerings are available in-person, online and hybrid with classes starting the week of Jan. 27.

- 14-Week: Jan. 27-May 11
- 13-Week: Jan. 31-May 11
- 12-Week: Feb. 10-May 11



It's not too late to enroll in a spring 2025 course at Lone Star College System. LSC Next Start offers flexible options to help students meet their educational goals.

- 8-Week: March 17-May 11
- 8-Week: March 19-May 11
- 8-Week: March 21-May 11

Visit LoneStar.edu/Class-Start-Options for more information on Next Start classes at Lone Star College System.

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.

Police Warn Public of Surge in ‘Jugging’

Have you ever felt uneasy after withdrawing cash from your bank’s ATM? Or even after visiting a teller inside the bank for a withdrawal?

Sure, we all know it’s wise to be aware of our surroundings, hide our PIN numbers, and avoid withdrawing large sums. But now, a growing crime trend known as “jugging” or “bank jugging” targets individuals right after they leave financial institutions, making every trip to the bank a potential risk. Here’s what you need to know to protect yourself and your hard-earned money.

What Is Jugging?

Jugging is a term used to describe a criminal activity in which individuals loiter around banks, ATMs, or other check-cashing establishments to observe customers who are withdrawing cash. These criminals patiently track their target and wait for the opportune moment to commit a theft or robbery. Individuals need to remain vigilant both during and after the cash withdrawal process, especially when transitioning to other locations, as this is when targets are most vulnerable to potential jugging incidents.



While Texas has seen a significant spike in jugging incidents, with Austin Police saying more than \$500,000 was lost in 2022 alone, this crime of opportunity is not isolated to the Lone Star State.

A Nationwide Concern

Officials in Florida said a man was caught on video smashing a car window and grabbing an envelope of cash. Police say it’s possible he followed the vehicle from a Bank of America and waited until the driver was inside a restaurant to strike.

Another notable case of the crime was in Fairfax, Virginia. Three criminals targeted someone who had made a \$10,000 withdrawal from the bank. They followed the victim to a local shopping center and waited until the target exited the car to smash and grab the money. Authorities believe there have likely been more victims targeted by this particular group.

Authorities are warning that bank jugging is on the rise, with perpetrators lingering at banks, eavesdropping on conversations, and then targeting individuals who withdraw significant sums.

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What Is the Punishment for Jugging?

While “jugging” is not currently defined by the law, a person accused of bank jugging may be charged with a theft offense, such as robbery or burglary of motor vehicles.

In Texas, if a person is convicted of robbing a bank patron, they could face a prison sentence of two to 20 years, along with a fine of up to \$10,000. This is considered a second-degree felony. If the person used a weapon during the robbery, it would be classified as a first-degree felony, carrying a prison term of up to 99 years and a fine of up to \$10,000.

If the jugging takes place in a motor vehicle, it would be considered burglary of a vehicle, which is a class A misdemeanor. If convicted of this offense, a person could be sentenced to up to one year in jail and fined up to \$4,000.

Protecting Yourself

How can you avoid falling victim to this disturbing trend? Law enforcement agencies offer several tips to protect yourself the next time you withdraw cash:

- Take note of anyone who is hanging around in the lobby of the bank or parking lot that does not appear to be immediately occupied.
- Don’t allow yourself to be distracted while visiting a financial institution: don’t be on your phone or don’t wear earbuds.
- Notice any vehicles that may follow you out of the parking lot to ensure you are not being followed.
- After receiving cash, secure it in a different bag before you leave the counter; use a briefcase or a purse, rather than the standard zipper cash bag or envelope.
- Lock your car doors when you get into your vehicle.
- Do not leave large amounts of money inside your vehicle.
- If you believe you’re being followed for any length of time upon leaving a financial institution, call 911 or drive to the nearest police station or fire/EMS station.
- Speak with bank security to see if they can help you with large withdrawals or if they have any safety suggestions for withdrawing a significant amount of cash.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The first step to safeguarding oneself from “jugging” is to be aware of it and take steps to reduce the risk of falling victim to this new crime tactic.

NEXT START CLASSES

12-WEEK CLASSES
start Feb. 10

8-WEEK CLASSES
start March 17

It's not too late to start your future!

For more information, please call **281.618.5400** or visit: **LoneStar.edu/LearnMore**

LONE STAR COLLEGE NORTH HARRIS