

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Measles Vaccine ..... 2
- Library News ..... 2
- METRONow ..... 2
- MacArthur Decathlon ..... 3
- Canada Not the Enemy .. 4
- Crossword & Sudoku ..... 7
- LSC Open House ..... 8
- East Aldine District Honors Black Women Leaders ..... 8
- LSC Foundation ..... 8

# NORTHEAST NEWS

**St. Patrick's Day  
March 17, 2025**



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years  
VOL. 49, NO. 10 TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

**LSC Health Open House March 28**

Lone Star College North Harris will hold an Open House at their Health Professions Building on Friday March 28 from 10am-1pm. Anyone interested in a Nursing career is invited. 17200 Red Oak Drive, Houston 77090. RSVP to <https://forms.office.com/r/pUFSfsJz2>.

**Trash Bash at Crowley Park March 29**

Help clean Greens Bayou on Saturday, March 29, from 8:00am to 12:30pm. Volunteers needed starting at 7:30am for check-in, and clean-up from 9am to 12pm. Contact Monica Campos at the East Aldine District, 713-595-1291 or [www.AldineDistrict.org](http://www.AldineDistrict.org) to volunteer.

## Marathon Hearing on Voucher Bill

Education Committee hears 300 speakers in 23 Hours; Most opposed

State Representative Brad Buckley, Republican House public education committee chair and author of the chamber's voucher proposal, opened the hearing on House Bill 3 Tuesday morning, stating: "My intent is to provide families with the opportunity to choose the best possible educational setting for their child, and I believe House Bill 3 provides this choice while prioritizing Texas' most high needs and vulnerable students."



After hearing testimony over the next 23 hours—more than 300 registered to speak—the committee left the bill pending without an immediate vote. The bill's numerous oppo-

nents who testified often echoed Democratic Representative James Talarico's statement, that "There is a disconnect between the rhetoric and what the bill actually says." HB 3 is a universal

voucher program that would provide an estimated \$10,330 to students (and more for those with disabilities) who attend private schools and \$2,000 for homeschooled students in the program. The

amount for private school students is set at 85 percent of the average local and state funding public schools receive per student statewide; it is estimated to grow to \$10,889 by 2030 in the bill's fiscal note.

Lawmakers have initially set aside \$1 billion for the program for 2027, while the Legislative Budget Board estimates the program's net cost at nearly \$4 billion by 2030.

Proponents of the bill touted that HB 3 prioritizes low-income students and students with disabilities. If applicants exceed capacity, the bill lays out a priority order favoring kids with disabilities and in households at or below 200 or 500 percent of the federal poverty line. Despite that language, critics argue there are barriers for such families.

Continued. See VOUCHER BILL OPPOSED, Page 5

## County sues Concrete Plant for Violations

HOUSTON — Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee has filed a lawsuit against Yellow Jacket Ready-Mix, LLC and 2210 Hartwick, LLC for repeatedly violating fire safety and floodplain regulations at their Lindale Farms concrete batch plant in North Houston.

Despite multiple written warnings and compliance meetings with Harris County Fire Marshal inspectors, Yellow Jacket and 2210 Hartwick have continued operating illegally. The facility, previously known as Integrity ReadyMix, has failed to obtain the necessary permits and pass required inspections.

The companies have also ignored orders to address un-

permitted structures, paving, and materials at the plant, located at 2219 Hartwick Rd. in Houston. Additionally, they have failed to establish fire safety and evacuation plans, creating a serious risk for the surrounding community.

"My office raised concerns about this facility to the state years ago, pointing out that there are seven concrete batch plants within a three-mile radius of this site and warning about the impact on the community," said Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee. "What we've seen is a blatant disregard for the rules that are in place to protect the families who live and work in this area. This lawsuit makes clear that we will hold companies ac-

countable when they fail to follow the law."

In 2023, County Attorney Menefee formally urged the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) not to reauthorize the facility's operations, citing concerns that it did not meet permitting requirements.

Harris County is asking the court to shut down the plant unless it complies with all regulations, pays penalties for violations over the last four years, and meets fire safety and floodplain requirements.

Residents concerned about concrete plants can contact Harris County Pollution Control Services by visiting [pcs.harriscountytexas.gov](http://pcs.harriscountytexas.gov).

## New Streetlights installed in Water District 74

By Marina Flores Sugg  
The property owners in the water district I live in ( HCWCID 74) have been waiting for our street lights for over a year, maybe even two years! The lights were paid for by our property tax dollars a long time ago.

Finally, Centerpoint got on the ball and is going through our water district, a section at a time, working hard to finish the job. I, personally, am not totally pleased with what it took to get our lights. It's a long story, in which I had plenty to say, but this is the best deal they came up with.

As I said, we, the property owners of HCWCID 74 paid for the lights. However, thanks go out to East Aldine District for agreeing to pay the electricity needed to power up our lights.

The money EAD will use to pay for



Continued. See STREETLIGHTS, Page 2

## Silo Art Studios offer a unique interaction with the Artists

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

From young families shopping for art to decorate their new home, to investors seeking out that special promising artist, The Silos at Sawyer Yards maximizes the 80,000 square foot space of private art studios and creative flex space to attract even the occasional art enthusiast.

What could be more creative than a developer turning the once Riviana Rice packaging plant and silos into divided space to house more than 100 established and emerging artists, arts groups, and creative entrepreneurs.

The gem of the space comes every Second and Third Saturday of the month, when resident art-



Studio #214 — For 50 years, Grace Phillips has been creating her abstract art, even while she lived in Dubai in the Middle East. While in Dubai, she served as the director of a gallery at the Dubai International Art Center before returning to Houston. For a private viewing, please call Grace at 832-703-8650, or email her at [grace.phillips1015@aol.com](mailto:grace.phillips1015@aol.com). Her work is on display at [www.gracephillipsart.com](http://www.gracephillipsart.com).



Studio #113 — Mei-ing Hoffman is an artist and Associate Publisher for Grafikpress newspapers. Her email is [meihoffmanart@gmail.com](mailto:meihoffmanart@gmail.com), and can be reached at 713-906-4585. These beautiful paintings were done by Mei-ing Hoffman. She can be reached at her Studio on the Second and Third Saturday of each month from 12 noon to 5 p.m. You can also see her work online at [paintingsbymeimei.com](http://paintingsbymeimei.com).

ists open their studios to welcome the public. The notion that artists are willing to spend valuable time discussing their feelings, thoughts, and inspiration behind their work is not novel, but rare.

Last Second Saturday, as shoppers awakened from

their winter slumber, foot traffic at The Silos was particularly busy.

When the front doors swing open for first-time visitors and novice art enthusiasts, they are greeted by an impressive array of art displays, akin to a museum exhibi-

tion, showcasing various genres of fine arts. Visual art includes realism, impressionism, surrealism, pop art, expressionism, minimalism, abstract expressionism, rococo, dada, conceptual art, portraiture, still life, landscape, and historical painting, to name a few.

Before running to a dictionary to refresh your memory on all those terms, ask the artist. They are happy to explain their art and in doing so, give depth to the meaning and purpose of the work.

In studio #209, Patricia Blackwell makes an interesting use of oval canvas.

"It's figurative artwork that's acrylic and pan pas-

Continued. See SILO ART STUDIOS, Page 5

**NORTHEAST NEWS – Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com)**

**Unlimited Possibilities**

**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

improving public safety  
mejorando la seguridad pública

advancing commerce  
avanzando el comercio

beautifying the area  
embelleciendo el area

**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE**  
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr. #200 - 77039  
713-595-1232 | [info@aldinedistrict.org](mailto:info@aldinedistrict.org)

posibilidades ilimitadas **AldineDistrict.org**

**ARMANDO L. WALLE**  
Attorney at Law

*Legal Services to the Community*

GENERAL PRACTICE  
PERSONAL INJURY  
WORKPLACE  
ACCIDENTS  
18-WHEELER  
ACCIDENTS

*Se Habla Español*

4101 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77007  
281-898-3823 [aw@wallelaw.com](mailto:aw@wallelaw.com)

**A TRUSTED NEWS SOURCE FOR 49 YEARS**

Pick up a copy at your local store or Online at [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)

**NORTHEAST NEWS**  
713-266-3444

# New Streetlights in WD74,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the electricity comes from sales tax dollars collected here in East Aldine. So, if you shop here in East Aldine, your sales tax dollars are also helping pay the electricity bill for the street lights. As I said, it's a long story. So, enjoy your lights neighbors. For those that do not yet have lights on their street: They're coming to your area soon, IF you live/own in water district 74.

Marina, Treasurer, Green Forest Civic Club (of East Aldine)



Electric Utility Crews installing poles and lights in HCWCID 74.

# METRO Unveils METRONow Plan to Enhance Mobility

METRO has unveiled details of the METRONow plan, a comprehensive and collaborative vision to grow ridership and improve mobility for the entire region.

"The new Board of Directors is laser-focused on ensuring all we do ties to ridership and mobility," said METRO Board Chair Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock. "METRONow is the roadmap to a sustainable, fiscally responsible public transit system. By meeting our customers where they are today, we will make it easy for people to choose METRO."

The multifaceted plan provides a roadmap for ridership growth, financial sustainability, and the establishment of key priorities that will strengthen the transit culture for the Houston area.

Mayor Whitmire said "This is a great day for the City of Houston. We have challenges, but METRO is on the right track with new leadership and better collaboration with the city and law enforcement than before. Every great city has a viable, successful public transit system. As mayor, I expect METRONow to focus on using resources wisely to build transit that people will use: a cleaner, safer and more efficient system that improves the overall customer experience."

METRONow focuses on four initiatives, aimed at enhancing the customer experience:

- Strengthening safety and growing security
- Improving cleanliness across the system
- Increasing service and reliability
- Expanding accessibility

### Prioritizing Safety

The safety of customers, employees, and the public is METRO's top priority. In 2025, the Authority will allocate an additional \$7 million for expanded security measures, including growing security presence by adding additional officers and substations, deploying patrols on buses and trains, upgrading monitoring technology, and installing new lighting and security fencing.

### Improving Cleanliness

To maintain a safe and welcoming environment, METRO is dedicating \$2.4 million to cleaning efforts in 2025, including:

- deploying eight street sweepers and eight all-terrain vacuum trucks,
- adding new cleaning contracts to support a 24-hour rapid response team that at-



Mayor Whitmire makes the METRONow announcement.

tends to bus stops, rail platforms, transit centers and Park & Rides,

- partnering with management districts to be more efficient in keeping bus stops and shelters clean, including more frequent emptying of trash cans; and providing more consistent landscaping across the system to enhance curb appeal.

### Increasing Reliability

To improve service and reliability, METRO is committed to helping maintain infrastructure through projects and partnerships dedicated to:

- repairing hazardous sidewalks, crosswalks, and streets,
- refreshing aging and opening new METRO facilities,
- partnering on a \$200 million traffic relief plan for Inner Katy mobility,
- partnering on a \$300 million Gulfport revitalization effort, and
- investing \$100 million into mobility solutions at railroad crossings.

Additionally, METRO is modernizing its fleet and operations by:

- adding 350 new buses,
- replacing 100 METROLift vehicles,
- expanding curb2curb service,
- adding microtransit to our service options,
- expanding customer service hours,
- implementing a new fare system with easier ways to pay, and
- restructuring routes and schedules to meet growing demand.

### Boosting Accessibility

The Authority is committed to accessibility for all, including:

- continuing investment in BOOST routes, including making sidewalks and ramps ADA compliant,
- making more than 700 additional bus stops fully accessible by the end of fiscal year 2025,

- upgrading signage and lighting, and
- offering bike racks on buses and designated bike areas on trains.

METRONow includes a focus on preparing for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, including prioritizing direct routes to and from our airports. Airport service routes will be permanent fixtures in the METRO system.

Collaboration is a key component of the METRONow plan. The Authority will continue to serve as a secondary responder, moving people to safety during emergency events.

## Measles vaccine locations in Houston and Harris County

Harris County Public Health and the Houston Health Department offer the MMR vaccine to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.

At Harris County Public Health, appointments are currently required, although same-day appointments may be available. Please call 832-927-7350 to schedule an appointment.

### Locations:

<b>Humble Clinic</b> 1730 Humble Place Drive Humble, TX 77338	<b>Southeast Clinic</b> 3737 Red Bluff Road Pasadena, TX 77503	<b>Antoine Clinic</b> 5815 Antoine Dr Houston, TX 77091
<b>Harris County Public Health Cypress Station (Mobile Unit Thursdays)</b> 221 FM 1960 Houston, TX 77090	<b>Harris County Public Health Northeast Pod</b> 10918 1/2 Bentley Dr. Houston, TX 77093	<b>Harris County Public Health Southeast Pod</b> 7340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena, TX 77505

**Houston Health Department Health Centers**  
Phone: 832-395-9100 Appointments: 832-393-5427 (Walk-in services are also available)

<b>Northside Health Center</b> 8504 Schuller Rd Houston, TX 77093	<b>Sharpstown Health Services</b> 6201 Bonhomme Rd. Houston, TX 77036	<b>Sunnyside Multiservice Center</b> 4410 Reed Rd. Houston, TX 77051
---	---	--

Harris County Public Health Building a Healthy Community | HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT | HCPHTX.ORG | OCEE AP 03/01/2025 HoustonHealth.org

## H.U.D. Efficiency/One Bedroom Housing for the Elderly and Disabled

• UTILITIES & APPLIANCES FURNISHED

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Age 62 or older
- Disabled
- Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment

CALL **713-692-8541**

APPLY TO:  
**W. Leo Daniels Tower 8826 Harrell**  
Off Jensen between Berry Road & Aldine Westfield

## High Meadows Branch Library

Luis Arredondo LIBRARY TECHNICIAN  
4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD HOUSTON, TX 77039 (832-927-5540)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR 24-MAR 31**

<b>24 MAR</b>	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL 4 PM CREATION STATION
<b>25 MAR</b>	3:30 PM TEEN RESUME WORKSHOP
<b>26 MAR</b>	12 PM COMPUTER BASICS 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS 5 PM READING WONDERLAND 5:30PM MAGIC OF COLOUR
<b>27 MAR</b>	1PM CITIZENSHIP 3:30 PM GAME ZONE
<b>28 MAR</b>	1:45 PM HEALTHIER YOU
<b>31 MAR</b>	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL

**SIP & PAINT**  
JOIN US FOR A SPELLBINDING SIP N' PAINT AFFAIR, WHERE THE BRUSH MEETS THE CANVAS AND MAGIC FLOWS WITH EVERY STROKE. TERRORS AND DELIGHTS AWAIT, ALL IN GOOD FUN!

**NEIGHBORHOOD FOREST FREE TREE**  
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY IS PARTNERING WITH NEIGHBORHOOD FOREST TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH FREE TREES FOR KIDS TO PLANT DURING EARTH WEEK! SIGN UPS ARE OPEN NOW UNTIL MARCH 15TH

**FOLLOW US**  
highmeadowslibrary  
@highmeadowslibrary

**CREATION STATION**  
COME ENJOY THE MAGICAL WORLD OF SCIENCE! WE'LL LEARN ABOUT A DIFFERENT CONCEPT IN SCIENCE THROUGH CRAFT AND PLAY EACH TIME!

**CITIZENSHIP CLASS:**  
AN ON GOING CLASS TO LEARN THE STEPS ON BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN.

**CONVERSATIONAL W/ ESL:** PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH WITH THIS JOURNALING CLASS.

**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!

**TEEN RESUME WORKSHOP**  
FILLING OUT COLLEGE AND JOB APPLICATIONS IS TOUGH. MAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER ON YOURSELF BY ATTENDING OUR BEGINNER-FRIENDLY RESUME WORKSHOP!!

**MAGIC OF COLOUR**  
DE-STRESS, UNWIND, AND ENJOY THE ALMOST-MAGICAL CALM THAT COMES FROM PAINTING WITH WATERCOLORS

**FABLES & FUN/ READING WONDERLAND:** STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**Monday**  
**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. Revisaremos todo lo básico: ¿de cómo usar un ratón a utilizando el correo electrónico eficazmente y más! **Acompañenos los lunes de 4 a 5:30 p.m. Inscripción requerido. Llame o visite para inscribirse.**

If you are completely new to computers, feel uncomfortable with them, or simply want a refresher in the basics, this class is for you. We will review all the basics: from how to use a mouse to effectively utilizing email and more! Join us on **Mondays from 4 to 5:30 pm. Registration required. Call or visit to register.**

**Tuesday**  
**Bilingual Story Time & Craft/Hora de cuento con manualidades**  
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. Last half hour is craft time! Children of all ages are welcome!  
Estás invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡La última media hora es tiempo de manualidades! ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

**Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 19, 2025, 4:30pm-5:30pm 4:30pm to 5:30pm**  
**Ology: Hieroglyphic's**  
**Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 20, 2025, 6:00pm-7:00pm**  
Egypt is one of the oldest cultures still around today, so it's no wonder there's a whole science devoted to it! Join Ms. Gage to learn about one of many aspects of ancient Egyptian culture: hieroglyphics, the ancient writing system  
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.**

**Open Tech Lab (Bilingual)**  
Have questions about email, social media, word, your smart phone or more? Come in and let's figure it out! Computer repair or diagnosis is not available. **Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm. Registration is required.** Call 832-927-5410 or come by to register.  
¿Necesita ayuda con un programa específico en la computadora? o cualquier pregunta relacionada con el teléfono celular? ¡Te podemos ayudar! Reparación o diagnóstico de computadoras o teléfono celular no será disponible.  
**Pajama Jam Story Time (Bilingual)**  
**Tuesday March 18, 6:00pm - 6:30pm**  
Come join us in your pajamas for a special story time at night. We have songs, stories, and crafts for Black History Month! This program is in English and Spanish. **Tuesdays, 6-6:45pm.**  
**Community Story Time with LWVH**  
In this special story time, a League of Women Voters of Houston guest reader will share inspiring tales of community and civic engagement. **\*Families attending will receive 1 FREE \*Children's Museum Pass**  
**\*1 pass = entrance for up to 6 people**  
**Tween Spark: Pop Sockets**  
Customize your phone by making a personalized Pop Socket! Show off what you like, have a splash of your favorite color, or just make a silly little doodle. The possibilities are endless  
Snacks will be provided.  
This program is best for 6th-9th graders

Bert Barron  
Adult Program Specialist  
Aldine Branch Library  
11331 Airline Dr.  
Houston, TX 77037  
Phone: 832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Aldine ISD CTE Programs Spotlights at February 25 Board Meeting



During the district's Feb. 25 board meeting, Chief Transformation Officer Dr. Adrian Bustillos highlighted Aldine ISD's Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) during the Teaching, Leading, and Learning segment. February is CTE month, and as it ends, Dr. Bustillos shared Aldine's CTE program opportunities and impact on Aldine students and the community.

The district's CTE program serves over 20,000 Aldine ISD students, equipping them with hands-on experience, industry certifications, and real-world skills to prepare them for high-demand careers in fields such as healthcare, technology, business, skilled trades, and more. Dr. Bustillos shared how CTE programs allow students to earn certifications before graduation through internships and apprenticeship programs and securing well-paying jobs essential to our local and national economy.

In addition, CTE programs bridge the gap between education and the workforce, ensuring that students can transition into a career field, further their education, or pursue military service after high school. Dr. Bustillos also shared during the meeting that Aldine ISD received a significant achievement of being named a District of Distinction for their commitment to excellence in CTE and presented the award to Brooke Martin, AISD executive director of CTE. Dr. Bustillos thanked the students, educators, and business and industry partners involved in the CTE program for their determination, passion, and collaboration as the program continues to be successful.

Hearing Held to Announce Targeted Improvement Plans

Chief of Accountability, Assessment, and Analytics Dawn Rodriguez presented a public hearing to notify the public of the district's 2024-25 Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs) for identified campuses. The campuses that will implement TIPs are Caraway Elementary School, Cypresswood Elementary School, Escamilla Elementary School, Francis Elementary School, Harris Elementary School, Ogden Elementary School, Stehlik Elementary School, Grantham Middle School, Hoffman Middle School, Jones Middle School, Lewis Middle School, Mead Middle School, Plummer Middle School, Stovall Middle School, Aldine High School, Davis High School, Eisenhower High School, Hall Success Academy, and MacArthur High School. Rodriguez said the campuses identified are rated Comprehensive Support and must submit an Effective Schools Framework (ESF) Aligned TIPs to address areas of low performance identified through the three state accountability domains. Targeted elements in the plans will be implemented and monitored throughout the year as campuses engage in the continuous improvement process.

Aldine Impact Award Winners



During the Feb. 25 board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees recognized seven winners of the Aldine Impact Award. Employees and community members are rewarded for going above and beyond the call of duty in their respective roles with Aldine ISD. Board President Dr. Kimberly Booker nominated Justin Foster, Nimitz High School social studies teacher; Maria Cordova, custodial manager at Magrill EC/PK/K; Shalondra Moore, a counselor at Goodman Elementary; Chandra Watson, SLC aide at Ogden Elementary, and Alina Montoya, a fourth grader at Caraway Elementary School and the winner of the 2025 FFA t-shirt design contest. Vice President Connie Esparza and Dr. Viola M. Garcia both nominated Mike Keeney, retired external media relations director. Board Secretary Steve Mead nominated Troy Carlyle, Eisenhower High School agriculture science teacher; Edward Arkadie, MacArthur High agriculture science teacher; Michael Johnson, retired agriculture science teacher; and Jacorey Burnett, MacArthur High School agriculture science teacher. Board Member Paul Shanklin nominated Peggy Russell and Benny Frank Calhoun, crossing guards at Harris Elementary.

Teaching, Leading And Learning Department Announces Spelling Bee Winner

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Faviola Cantu announced the Spanish Spelling Bee winner, Yaritza Valladares, from Garcia Middle School. Valladares will move on to the inaugural State Spanish Spelling Bee in El Paso, TX, this summer after winning second place in the inaugural Region 4 Spanish Spelling Bee earlier this month.

Goodman Elementary Counseling Team Recognized

Josefina Trevino, director of guidance, counseling, and support services, recognized Keshia Franks and Shalondra Moore, counselors at Goodman Elementary School. On Feb. 2, at the Texas School Counseling conference, the counseling team was awarded the Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas award (CREST) for having a data-driven school counseling program. Trevino said this is the first time Aldine ISD has received the CREST award.

Black History Month  
Aldine ISD campuses and district staff celebrated Black History Month through events like the district's first Black Excellence Expo, the 5th Annual Black History Month Oratory

Competition, and a panel discussion. The district held observation days like African Heritage Day, Rep my HBCU & Greek Day, and Black Joy Day. It was an opportunity to recognize the contributions and influence of African Americans to history and culture.

Employees Recognized

During the Feb. 25 board meeting, Aldine ISD employees were recognized for their leadership, connections with their fellow employees, and impact on students.

Aldine ISD Chief Paul Cordova recognized Officers Michael Almaguer and Juan Rodriguez as his department's Employees of the Month.

Chief Operations Officer Fred Washington named Judy Berwick and Sharon Joe of the Northside Transportation Department as his Employees of the Quarter. Wendy Bonilla of the Child Nutrition Services Department and Antonio Serna of the Maintenance Department were also nominees.

Staff Assignments

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced one staff assignment during the Feb. 25 board meeting.

Timothy Momanyi was named Chief Financial Officer after serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance.

Trustees Approved Action Items

During the Feb. 25 board meeting, Aldine ISD approved the following action items:

Approval to close De Santiago Primary, Stovall Primary, Eckert Elementary, Oleson Elementary, Raymond Elementary, and Smith Elementary Schools and other school actions related to school consolidations, reorganizations, or repurposing for the 2025-2026 school year and rezone students to schools for 2025-2026.

Approval of amendments to the 2024-2025 Additional Day School Year school calendar

Approval of resolution for staff pay during district closure on January 21, 2025 through January 22, 2025

Approval of contracts and purchases of \$100,000 and greater

Approval of monthly tax office refunds

Before the start of the Feb. 25 board meeting, Francis Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Nimitz High School ROTC Guard presented the colors. The March board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in the boardroom at Donaldson Administration Building.

# 19 District Students Named National Qualifiers After Texas Thespians Virtual Competition

The students will join the over 50 AISD students who made nationals in person at the state festival in November 2024.

Students from Carver High School, Davis High School, and Eisenhower High School who couldn't participate in the Texas Thespians State Festival in November 2024 took part in the virtual state competition this spring semester.

Nineteen students from the three campuses earned Superior Ratings, the highest accolade in the competition, qualifying them for nationals. They will join the over 50 AISD students who made nationals in person at the state festival in the fall semester. The national event will occur at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, from June 22 to 27, 2025.

The virtual competition provided an opportunity for students who could not attend the Texas Thespians State Festival or wished to compete in an



additional individual event. These students, along with their qualifying classmates from the fall, will showcase their talents at the national level, representing their schools and districts among the best in the country.

Texas Thespians Virtual Competition — National Qualifiers

\*Denotes students who have now qualified in two events.

Carver High School Duet Acting — Ka'Sean Francis\*Duet Acting — Nazanine Graves\*Duet Acting — Trinity Jones\*Duet Acting — Aja White\*Monologue — San-

nia Bell\*Monologue — Ivan Davidson\*Monologue — Cora FrazierMonologue — Amare HaywoodMonologue — Devin Spearman\*Solo Musical — Cedric MillerSolo Musical — Amayah Watson\*

Davis High School Duet Acting — Haley GriffinDuet Acting — Victoria HarrisonDuet Acting — Karen SingletonDuet Acting — Khaliyah Williams

Eisenhower High School Duet Musical — Logan Daniel RouseDuet Musical — Miguel RamosHair and Makeup — Karla RodríguezMonologue — William Sifuentes

# Former Carver HS Athlete, Aldine ISD Coach Willard Dean Ester Honored by Houston Astros



Former Aldine ISD coach and Southern University baseball standout Willard Dean Ester (the man in the blue shirt holding award) received special recognition from the Houston Astros during the HBCU Classics Game at Daikin Field on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Ester and his family — his grandchildren attend Aldine ISD schools — were escorted onto the field and introduced during pregame festivities before the

matchup between Southern University and Grambling State. The honor follows Ester's recent induction into the Southern University Sports Hall of Fame in December 2024.

He was a force at Carver High School, earning All-District and All-State honors in basketball and baseball. By his senior year, he had cemented his athletic reputation, playing for the Texas All-Star Basketball Team and being drafted by the Houston As-

trois in the 1969 Amateur Baseball Draft. However, he opted to pursue college instead. A standout athlete at Southern, Ester played a key role in the university's baseball program before continuing his career as a coach and mentor at Aldine ISD. His contributions to the sport and his impact on student-athletes were celebrated during the event, highlighting the legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in baseball.

# MacArthur High School Academic Decathlon Team Shines at State Competition



The MacArthur High School Academic Decathlon team performed excellently at the Texas Academic Decathlon State Competition, held February 28 through March 1, earning multiple individual awards and a scholarship.

For the first time in a decade, MacArthur advanced to the state level, marking a milestone for the Aldine ISD school. Guided by coach Park Van and assistant coach Stephanie Debettignies, the team competed against some of the top academic teams in Texas, bringing home several top-five finishes across multiple categories.

"I couldn't be more proud of our students," Van said. "This was my first time at State, and watching them compete and succeed at such

a high level was an incredible experience."

MacArthur HS Student Secures 3rd Place for Highest Overall Individual Score

Among the standout performances, Logan Haagen-Jiménez secured third place for the highest overall individual score in the competition, earning a \$1,500 scholarship. Logan also placed third in Literature and Social Science.

Other team members who placed in their respective categories included:

Varsity Division  
Brandon Guzmán — 5th place in Science. Katie Sánchez — 5th place in Literature, 1st place in Music, 1st place in Essay.

Scholastic Division  
Adán Mendoza — 4th place in Science, 5th place in

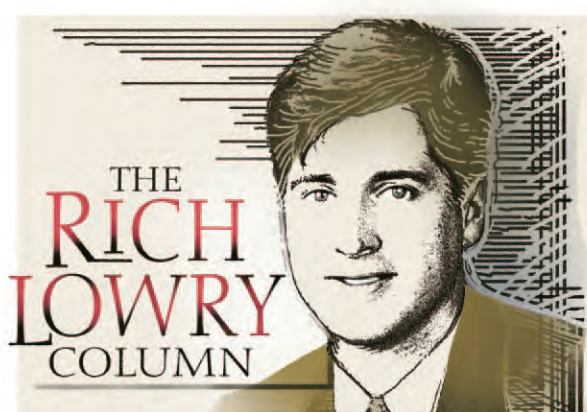
Essay. Andrés Juárez — 5th place in Literature.

Honor Division  
Alan Álvarez — 3rd place in Interview, 5th place in Speech. Kealsy Rincón — 4th place in Interview.

The MacArthur Academic Decathlon team's journey to the state competition was a testament to their dedication and hard work. Their success highlights the strength of Aldine ISD's academic programs and the bright future for these talented students.

Caps  
Coach Park Van (far left) and assistant coach Stephanie Debettignies (far right, front row) pose with the MacArthur High School 2024-2025 Academic Decathlon team that competed at the state competition.

OPINION PAGE



Canada is not the enemy

Canada is not the enemy
Canada has always been an inoffensive country, and how is that working out for it?

President Trump has made more threatening sounds about Canada than about Russia. He is wielding a weapon — sweeping 25% tariffs — that would almost certainly drive our Friendly Neighbor to the North into a recession, while he is making its leaders and people honestly fearful of the United States.

The madman theory has much to recommend it ... when dealing with Hamas or the Houthis. No one heretofore has thought it has similar benefits when handling relations with Ottawa.

It's important to realize the magnitude of the threat Trump is making. About three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the United States, accounting for 20% of Canadian GDP. The Canadian free-market think tank, the Fraser Institute, notes that 25% tariffs would subject the Canadian economy to "the biggest external shock in a century (apart from during the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic)."

This is the kind of thing a much larger country does to a miscreant nation when it is punishing it for pursuing an illicit nuclear weapon, invading a neighbor or engaging in human rights abuses.

Canada's sin is to be party to a free-trade agreement — the USMCA — that it negotiated in good faith with the same U.S. president now browbeating it.

Defenders of Trump's approach to trade tend to cite China as an example of how pure free-trade theory doesn't work in the real world — China is an authoritarian society, engages in massive intellectual theft and other unfair practices, and can't be trusted not to cut off supply chains on a crisis.

None of this applies to Canada, a friendly, English-speaking country that shares our values and fights wars alongside us, not against us.

That doesn't mean there aren't legitimate complaints about Canada. But the fentanyl trade and illegal border crossings aren't really among them (Canada is not Mexico). It is true that Canada protects politically sensitive sectors of its economy, most notably dairy and lumber.

These matters have long been the subject of U.S.-Canadian negotiations. Whatever else you think of Canada's dairy policy, it isn't an emergency as contemplated under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act that Trump is using as the legal basis for his tariff threats. Such an emergency would be Canada, say, launching an amphibious invasion of the upper peninsula of Michigan.

If nothing else, President Trump is succeeding in deranging Canadian politics. It's not just the possibility of ruinous tariffs, but the talk of Canada as the 51st state, a somewhat amusing joke that — as Trump keeps talking about it — now has to be considered half-serious.

This is disrespectful at best and threatening at worst. Why should we care? Well, it is a boost to Justin Trudeau's party in impending elections and a drag on the conservative populist Pierre Poilievre.

Trump has suggested that he believes he can use economic coercion to induce Canada to submit to annexation. The opposite is likely true; the more we troll Canada and disrupt its economy, the greater the anti-U.S. reaction.

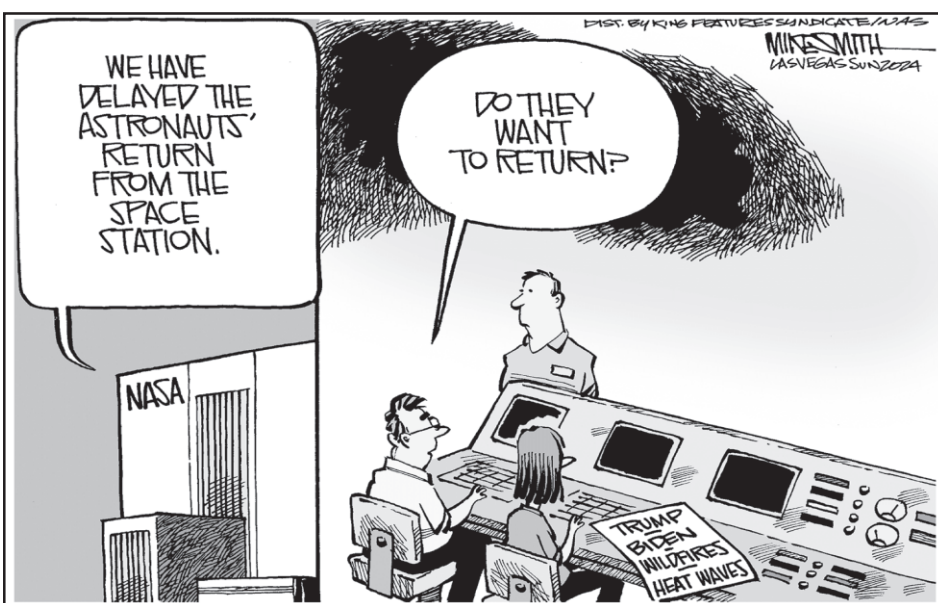
Trump should take as a win greater Canadian efforts against fentanyl and on the border (although these aren't hugely consequential), while kicking complaints about Canada trade practices to next year when the USMCA is scheduled to come up for review anyway.

At the top of our list with Canada should be pushing it to spend more on its military. As part of that, we should seek to deepen what is already an incredibly close defense relationship — with a particular focus on securing our interests in the Arctic — rather than foundering on gratuitous enmity.

John F. Kennedy said of Canada: "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder."

The man in the Oval Office, unfortunately, has a different idea.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

House Proposes \$7.5B in New School Funding

Critics say a House bill proposing \$7.5 billion in new funding for public education doesn't go far enough, The Dallas Morning News reported. House Bill 2 would raise the per-student allotment by \$220, to \$6,360 a year. It would also invest \$750 million in teacher pay and \$450 million in teacher training.

The bill by Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, would increase the amount of allotment used to raise salaries for non-administrative staff from the current 30% to 40%. Some testifying against the bill said the proposed raises for teachers is inadequate.

"The pay teachers receive demonstrates the level of respect afforded to our children," said Megan Holden, a 10th-grade English teacher at an Austin-area high school. "They are getting the message that Texas doesn't value them or their future."

The basic allotment would need to increase by \$1,300 to keep up with inflation since 2019, according to The News. That's the last time the allotment was increased.

The Texas Senate has already passed its version of a public education bill: a measure that would give \$10,000 raises to teachers with at least five years working in districts with fewer than 5,000 students, with teachers in larger districts getting \$5,500 raises.

The average teacher in Texas made \$62,500 last year, according to the Texas Education Agency, up from \$54,000 in 2019. According to the federal Consumer Price Index, cumulative inflation over that period is about 20%, meaning teacher salaries have not quite kept up with inflation.

STATE WORKERS MUST RETURN IN PERSON TO OFFICES

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed heads of state agencies to phase out remote work "as soon as practicable," the Texas Standard reported. That follows a similar mandate for federal workers issued by President Trump last week.

"Texans expect their public servants to be present and engaged in the work on their behalf," Andrew Mahaleris, the governor's press secretary, said in a statement. "With remote federal workers returning to the office where possible, it's important that state agencies ensure they do the same."

No written policy has been given to department heads, but they were directed to transition to in-person work "as soon as practicable."



RISK OF WILDFIRES INCREASING; FEDS PROVIDE FUNDING

Wildfire season is underway in the state with burn bans in place in 111 counties, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Welder Complex fire in Sinton was the only active fire as of Sunday. It had burned 803 acres and was 95% contained.

Abbott's office announced last week that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the state's request for federal assistance for the Welder Fire in San Patricio County and the Duke Fire in Bexar County. The approval from FEMA makes the state eligible to be reimbursed for 75% of the costs associated with fighting the two fires.

On a single day last week, state emergency responders battled 41 new wildfires that burned more than 4,400 acres.

TEXAS SENATE OKS PLAN FOR \$3 BILLION DEMENTIA RESEARCH

Creation of a multibillion-dollar dementia research center is a step closer to fruition after the Texas Senate overwhelmingly passed a measure authored by state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston. The Austin American-Statesman reported the bill would create the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. If the measure is ultimately passed and signed into law, it still must be approved by voters as a constitutional amendment.

"Dementia is a disease of particular concern because it robs a person of their thoughts and memories — the very essence of that person," Huffman said. "It leads to a loss of quality of life and independent function that places an immense burden on families and loved ones, and our overall health care system."

The institute would be modeled after the state's cancer prevention institute. It would distribute grants to universities and other research organizations to fund studies on dementia pre-

vention and treatment. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR NUCLEAR DISPOSAL CASE

The Supreme Court this week will hear longstanding arguments in a case that could result in Texas hosting the nation's first independent disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel, Inside Climate News reported. The state government and a Texas oil company sued the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2021 over its licensing of a temporary storage site in Andrews County for up to 11 million pounds of spent uranium fuel. The waste would have been stored at a facility owned by Waste Control Specialists, which already accepts low-level nuclear waste.

Thousands of tons of high-level radioactive waste are now stored at nuclear power plants across the country. For decades federal authorities have tried to develop a national, permanent site in the face of considerable opposition.

In August 2023, the Fifth Circuit of Appeals canceled a site license to Waste Control Specialists, writing that U.S. law dictates construction of a permanent repository, not a temporary one as proposed by the NRC.

"It plainly contemplates that, until there's a permanent repository, spent nuclear fuel is to be stored onsite at-the-reactor or in a federal facility," Judge James Ho wrote. "The Atomic Energy Act doesn't authorize the Commission to license a private, away-from-reactor storage facility for spent nuclear fuel."

MEASLES CASES IN SOUTH PLAINS NEAR 200

The number of measles cases reported in the South Plains region of the state reached 198 as of last Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Twenty-three people have been hospitalized and one unvaccinated school-aged child has died.

More than two-thirds of the cases have been in Gaines County, southwest of Lubbock. An unvaccinated New Mexico adult in Lea County, just over the border from Gaines County, died last week.

Measles is highly contagious, and DSHS has said additional cases are likely to occur "in the outbreak area and the surrounding areas."

SPRING BREAK DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Many college students are celebrating spring break this week, and the Texas Department of Transportation has launched a campaign to prevent drunk driving accidents as part of its "Drive Sober. No Regrets" initiative.

During the 2023 spring break period, TxDOT said there were 375 alcohol-related crashes resulting in nine deaths in Texas involving drivers between the ages of 17 and 30.

Students can save lives by designating a sober driver, using ride shares, taxis and mass transit, or simply staying put after drinking.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.

Email: gborderst@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Perfect for the Day



I had not planned on a party; that was the trouble.

There is something ridiculous about a woman who has collected so many dresses that they barely fit in her adequately sized closet, showing up at her own anniversary party with nothing to wear. But that is the position I was about to find myself in.

Every time I've come to Mexico, I've brought one especially nice dress. Every time, it has hung in my small closet in Mexico, untouched. The restaurants we go to just don't require a serious dress. A nice pair of capris or a casual summer dress is much more appropriate for anywhere my husband, Peter, and I go.

But we hadn't even thought about an anniversary party when we packed to leave for this trip. I distinctly remember looking at a lovely dress that takes up no space at all and thinking, "Is there any point in schlepping this all the way to Mexico?"

No, I decided. Wasted space, I decided. Then, a couple of weeks before our 10th anniversary, I suggested to Peter that maybe we should have a party. It was at night, so Peter was mostly asleep. I have found this is a good time to spring new ideas on Peter. "A party?"

"Yes! An anniversary party!"

"Hmmm." This might have sounded as if Peter was thinking it over, but I knew he was falling asleep. However, now that the subject had been broached, I could say the next morning:

"So! What do you think about the party we were talking about last night?"

Perhaps Peter's subconscious had been at work, because he didn't seem opposed to the idea in the morning. "No presents!" he said.

"No presents," I agreed. "I don't like it being all about me," he added.

"I don't think it will be. We have a lot of friends here now, and a lot of them don't know each other. I think it could be fun to introduce them. Plus, I think the hotel would enjoy throwing a party."

This part, Peter knew, was true. Our chef, Daniel, is a very good cook. He loves to try new things out on us. But most days, he's busy making hamburgers and enchiladas and french fries. Getting a chance to make something a little fancier for an invited party is exactly the kind of thing that gets him excited.

So Peter mentioned the still hypothetical party to a couple of people on his walk that day, and they said they'd love to come, and before we knew it, we had a plan. Then we started a list with everyone we'd like to invite.

"Maybe 16 people," I told Chef Daniel.

"It could be up to 20," I said a little later.

"No more than 25."

"We have 25 confirmed. There might be a couple more. ..."

At that point, the entire indoor part of the restaurant was reserved for us and the menu was planned, and I ordered a very large chocolate cake. It looked as if the party was on.

And I still had nothing to wear.

Peter, who knows I own more dresses than any sensible person should, was not taking this mini clothing crisis seriously. So I decided to follow suit.

I went to the store that sold Indian imports, and I bought a very long, very bright, very unserious skirt. I will wear it with a string of shiny beads, and it will be perfect for the day — a day that is not especially serious and was not expected, but came together exactly as it should.

Till next time, Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS
5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188
email: nenewsroom@aol.com
website: www.nenewsroom.com
Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin
Gilbert Hoffman... Editor & Publisher
Mei-Ing Hoffman... Associate Publisher
David Taylor... Managing Editor
Kristan Hoffman... Website Editor
Julieta Paita... Assignment Editor
Gerardo Hernandez... Production Manager
Contributing Writers: Mike Keeney, Charlotte Jackson, Allan Jamail, Kristan Hoffman, Marina Flores Sugg
Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com
Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental) Member Texas Press Association

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

# Marathon Hearing on Voucher Bill,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Prioritization in a lot of states is window dressing because what matters is who actually gets the funds; who actually gets admitted; or who’s already been admitted,” Talarico said.

Democratic Representative Harold Dutton argued high tuition rates made private schools cost-prohibitive for low-income students, citing an average private school tuition of around \$27,000 in the Houston area. “If you get \$10,000, you’re still \$17,000 short. And for most of these families that are poor families, that creates, you know, a mirage that they can now access it.”

Representatives of the Texas Private Schools Association and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops spoke of financial assistance that private schools could offer to some families.

Talarico called for a hard cap on income for eligible families and a provision that would give current public school students priority over current private school students to be added to the bill. “What we’re talking about is we are sending our limited, precious taxpayer dollars to the wealthiest families in the state who are al-

ready sending their kids to private school. And if you say that’s not the purpose, then put it in your bill.”

Democratic Representative Diego Bernal recommended adding a mandate for private schools to waive the difference between the tuition and the voucher amount for low-income applicants.

“That would be an inappropriate regulation into the private school and an inappropriate intervention into that process with the parent,” responded Jennifer Allmon, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Matthew Ladner, a senior policy adviser with the right-wing Heritage Foundation, testified that “private schools wouldn’t participate” if that mandate was included in the proposal.

Voucher opponents expressed concerns that it would mostly be current private school students who would ultimately take advantage of the program. Josh Cowen, a professor of education policy at Michigan State University, testified that only a quarter of voucher program participants nationwide came from public schools. The bill’s fiscal note estimates that of 350,000 students



Demonstration by the Texas American Federation of Teachers on the Capitol steps, opposing the Voucher bill.

currently attending private schools statewide, “50 percent would apply to participate in the program in the first year, increasing 5 percent each subsequent year.”

HB 3’s per-student funding formula, along with details of its student prioritization and some provisions related to kids with disabilities, distinguish it from its counterpart Senate Bill 2, which the Texas Senate has already passed.

Under HB 3, students with disabilities in private school could receive up to \$30,000 a year—but private schools do not have to offer special education services, as public schools are required to under federal

special education laws, said Steven Aleman, a policy specialist with Disability Rights Texas. “There is no state law or federal law for that matter that requires an IEP [Individualized Education Program for students with disabilities] be developed by a private school for a student with a disability. The rights that a student gets pursuant to IDEA [the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act], you forgo those rights when you go to a private school.”

Laura Colangelo, executive director of the Texas Private Schools Association testified that 19 percent of private school students currently enrolled have “special needs” and that services students

can receive are dependent on the student’s contract with the private school.

Others testified that private schools did not admit or accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. “My name is Phil Lee, sixth grade, and I use a power walker because I have cerebral palsy,” a student testified. “My mom has tried and looked at private schools for me, but they turned me away because I’m in a wheelchair.”

Liz Piñon, a mother of kids with disabilities and education associate with the pro-public ed Intercultural Development Research Association, testified, “We’ve explored the possibility of private schools all over DFW, but the outcome was always the same. As soon as they learned about our children’s disabilities, the doors were closed.”

“If we truly want to support students with disabilities, we must strengthen, not abandon, our public schools instead of draining money from our public schools. Why not fix our system, fully fund our special ed schools, reduce those class sizes, hire and train more special ed teachers, and expand access to transition programs to prepare students for life after high school?” Piñon

said.

Criticism of the bill came from both sides of the political aisle, with conservatives denouncing the program’s high cost to taxpayers. “I’m coming to you as a Texas retired teacher and as a conservative from Harris County. I’m a Republican precinct lead, and I wanted to remind you to please represent your Texas constituents. ... My input for you today is to kill this bill,” Mary Ann Jackson said.

Mary Lowe, who testified as a member of the conservative public education group Families Engaged, said the debate around vouchers was “ripping the party apart.” She added, “This bill has an open-ended check for the taxpayer.”

Last week, the education committee heard testimony on House Bill 2, what Buckley has called “a historic school funding bill.” While applauding the bill’s investment in special education funding, school district leaders and teachers criticized the bill for insufficient increases to the state’s basic allotment and to teacher pay.

# Silo Art Studios offer a unique interaction with the Artists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tels on canvas,” she said. “I just needed to do something, and to draw, so I did that every day.”

Blackwell’s process begins with the canvased oval on the floor of her studio. “All you do is throw paint on the canvas first,” she said, and then she paints the photo-like object she calls “realism” on top. She’s no novice, and the work can be done in as short a period as an hour. The detail in the painting is exquisite and comedic at times.

At the end of another hallway is delightful Grace Phillips, whose studio #214 is just as artfully decorated as her abstract art.

“No images, and I do use a lot of black,” she said. For 50 years, she has been creating art, even while she lived in Dubai in the Middle East. “I was really involved in the art scene in Dubai and served as director of a gallery at the Dubai International Art Center,” she said.

She lived there for 20 years before returning to Houston and has since delved back into art locally. Her husband has a PhD as a geophysicist, the left brain in the family, and she has an art degree, the right brain, she joked. “We’ve had a lot of life experiences, and we retired and came back to Houston,” she said.

Elaine Rose Lanoue at studio 218 is a self-avowed contemporary acrylic semi-representational and abstract painter who works together with her husband, Guiteau Lanoue, in their studio at The Silos.

Some of her work is post-impressionism with a little more abstract angle, whereas her husband’s works are more cubist, and he likes Picasso. Lanoue has been painting for 60 years. “I’ve been making a living at this since 1970 and I will be 82 at the end of the month,” she said proudly.

Lanoue starts her works very abstract, “then I start to see it,” she said. “French Impressionists were more squares of color where mine are not. They’re loose.” “The reason the movement was so popular — and controversial, too — was they used to do very tight, like Rembrandt, detailed paintings. Then these guys come



Studio #118 – This beautiful and colorful work of art hangs in the Ongrounds Art Gallery and was composed by Oluseyi Soyeye. He can be contacted at The Silos inside Studio #118 or by calling him at 281-760-7679 or by email at ongrounds2000@gmail.com. His work is also viewable at [www.oluseyisoyeye.com](http://www.oluseyisoyeye.com).



Studio #218 – Elaine Rose Lanoue is a self-avowed contemporary acrylic semi-representational and abstract painter who works together with her husband, Guiteau Lanoue in their studio at The Silos. Her impressionism with a hint of the abstract comes from an incredible 60-year career with a brush in her hands. Her Studio is loaded with beautiful art to take home. She can be reached at 832-541-5058 or by email at [elaine.lanoue@yahoo.com](mailto:elaine.lanoue@yahoo.com).



Studio #209 – Patricia Blackwell has been creating art from just about anything including a unique shaped oval canvas. Her figurative artwork that’s acrylic and pan pastels on canvas draws attention. Visit Blackwell in her Studio #209, or email her at [pblackwellart@gmail.com](mailto:pblackwellart@gmail.com), or phone her at 713-855-5499.



Studio #122 – There’s nothing like working with your friends. Artists Mary Rogas, Cora Salvino, and Suzanne Buckland share a corner studio. Cora does glass work, and Mary does abstract, floral and figurative work, while Suzanne does oil, acrylic, and mixed media collage.

Studio #113 — Mei-ing Hoffman is an artist and Associate Publisher for Grafikpress newspapers. Her email is [meihoffmanart@gmail.com](mailto:meihoffmanart@gmail.com), and can be reached at 713-906-4585. These beautiful paintings were done by Mei-ing Hoffman, including the cityscape of an Italian village. She can be reached at her Studio on the Second and Third Saturday of each month from 12 noon to 5 p.m. You can also see her work online at [paintingsbyme.com](http://paintingsbyme.com).

out and it’s much different,” she said.

Van Gogh, she said would walk up to the canvas and use the tube of paint, turn it, and leave its mark. The style is different today.

Mary Rogas, Cora Salvino, and Suzanne Buckland share a corner studio. Cora does glass work, and Mary does abstract, floral and figurative work, while Suzanne does oil, acrylic, and mixed media collage.

Mei-ing Hoffman at studio #113 is a part-time artist and full-time Associate Publisher for Grafikpress newspapers, which publishes several community newspapers reaching most of the North and East Harris County area. She has only been in The Silos since last September.

“I did my first painting six years ago, because my best friend wanted to have a bird, so I painted a bird,” she said. When she finished, she looked at it and realized she might be able to paint professionally.

She is often inspired by the movement of nature, light, shadow, four seasons, and water. She has a great eye for composition, although she has never been officially trained. “I’ve been running a commercial printing company, so I do know color and color schemes,” she said.

She tries a lot of different styles, although one of her favorites is impressionism. She has also done small sculptures using recycled wire and other found objects, as well as free-hand pencil sketches that burst with feeling, despite their simplicity.

Besides sharing her own art with a wider audience, one of the things Mei appreciates most about being part of The Silos at Sawyer Yards is the sense of community. The artists there encourage her and share painting techniques with her.

Most of the artists are available on the Second and Third Saturday of the month from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Others are also available during the week by appointment.

Drop by and visit them at their studios. The Silos at Sawyer Yards are at 1502 Sawyer Street, off I-10 at the Taylor Street exit near downtown Houston.

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lot (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From what book does a woman call on the north and south wind to blow on her garden? Proverbs, Daniel, Hebrews, Song of Solomon
3. What was Herod's last name who had John the Baptist beheaded? Pilate, Laban, Herod, Antipas
4. Who said in Deuteronomy 6, "Hear, O Israel: The

Lord our God is one Lord"? Moses, Joshua, David, Jacob

5. From Exodus 16, what bird served as food for the Israelites in the wilderness? Dove, Quail, Duck, Robin
6. In Revelation 9, what sort of creatures had tails like snakes? Sheep, Oxen, Horses, Fish


ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Song of Solomon, 3) Antipas, 4) Moses, 5) Quail, 6) Horses  
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).



**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. JEREMIAH 23:19

© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



### Bonding Against Adversity

Helping Others Help Themselves  
Our "Immigration, Integration, Education" Programs

**Citizenship Classes, Free Citizenship Workshops, Beyond Citizenship/Civic Engagement**

Mariana Sanchez, Director  
Call: 281-799-9076  
Text: 832-906-4214  
[marianas@baatexas.org](mailto:marianas@baatexas.org)

BAA offers online citizenship applications & virtual review.  
Start your citizenship application @ [WWW.CITIZENSHIPWORKS.ORG/PORTAL/BAA](http://WWW.CITIZENSHIPWORKS.ORG/PORTAL/BAA)

## Church Page Sponsors

If you would like to be a Church Page Sponsor, please call 713-266-3444



**ALDINE FAMILY HOPE CENTER**  
4700 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, 77039  
(Next to Hambrick Middle School)

After School Program	Summer Program	GED & ESL
Resource Center	Resale Shop	Counseling
Senior Program	Food Pantry	Computer Classes
Family Activities	Teen Job Training	Sports

281-449-4828 [www.aldineyouth.org](http://www.aldineyouth.org)

## First Baptist Church North Houston

Where Jesus Has the Priority And Everyone is Welcome

Sunday Service Schedule: Bible Study - 9:45 a.m.  
AM Worship - 10:50 a.m.  
Children's Church - 10:50 a.m.  
PM Worship - 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: All Ages - 7:00 p.m.

4422 Lauder Road, Houston, TX. 77039 281-449-7201


CLASSIFIED

# THE FRUGAL FROG

CLASSIFIED

CALL 713-266-3444 TO REACH 10,000 READERS

HELP KEEP EAST ALDINE CLEAN... TOSS IT INTO THE CAN. IT'S A NEAT IDEA.



**SERVICES**

### TEJAS TRANSMISSIONS

Houston's Only Standard & Automatic Specialists

FREE Computer Diagnostics  
Quality Work! Since 1997 BBB Rating A+

Full 12 Mo. Or 12,000 Mile Warranty  
"We Will Honor Other Shops Coupons"  
Se Habla Español  
225 Aldine Mail Route, 77037  
281-931-9300

**HELP WANTED**

### INTERN AT A NEWSPAPER

Part Time Position available for person interested in learning all phases of the news business. Will experience writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Send letter of interest to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)

**HELP WANTED**

### NEWSPAPER MARKETING/SALES PERSON

Position available for AD SALES representative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com) or call 713-252-8000

EMPLOYMENT      EMPLOYMENT      EMPLOYMENT      EMPLOYMENT      EMPLOYMENT

**Manager, Safety, Kinder Morgan, Inc., Houston, Texas**

Responsible for providing leadership, strategic planning, & tech support for Safety, Occupational Health, Radiation Safety & Industrial Hygiene Management programs for KM's Products Pipeline business unit. Req: BS degree (or equiv foreign degree) in Occupational Health & Safety Management, or in social or physical sci & 8 yrs of experience as EHS Manager in pipeline industry. Position requires up to 30% dom travel. For full job descr. & reqs. & apply at <https://www.kindermorgan.com/Careers/Job-Opportunities> under "Manager, Safety" Job ID # 30197

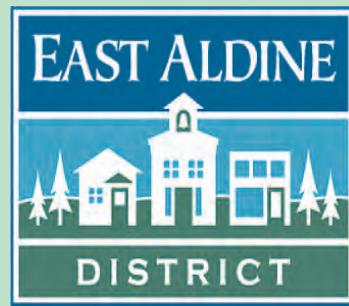
**OPERATIONS MANAGER – EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

Responsible for general oversight of the Town Center facilities and amenities of the East Aldine Management District, a special purpose government district served by Hawes Hill & Associates LLP, in accordance with the district's approved Service and Improvement Plan. The Operations Manager reports to and works under the general supervision of the district's Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**  
Essential Duties & Responsibilities:  

- Manage operations related to district functions, events, and services, at the Town Center and throughout the district, under the guidance of and in coordination with the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director.
- Oversee the Facility Use Request process, scheduling and logistics (set-up/preparation) for district community meetings, committee/board meetings and any other events or functions.
- Manage the efficient operations and maintenance of district assets (property, buildings, vehicles, equipment and other amenities) including scheduling and coordinating inspections, routine maintenance, and repairs with contractors, vendors, partners, and constituents to provide efficient district services (IT, HVAC, housekeeping/landscaping, etc.).
- Maintain inventory (including restocking/repair) of all assets, equipment and supplies for the effective delivery of district operations (Town Center, Office Building, etc.).
- Maintain the district's official records (in accordance with the rules established by the Texas Open Government Act and related Statutes), such as files, contracts, agreements, deeds/titles, insurance policies, receipts & invoices (of all district-related purchases and expenses), coordinating with the district's accountant/bookkeeper, legal counsel, vendors/contractors and staff.
- Provide staff support to district committees as assigned, including the Building and Properties committee.
- Assist with the preparation of committee and board meeting agenda material, including committee reports, agenda item back-up documents, invoices, proposals, contracts, and marketing material (including the preparation, binding, and delivery of the district's board agenda books).
- Assist with the administrative operations of the district such as: expenditures, accounts payable/receivable, requests for proposals (RFPs/RFOs), partner requests, requests for information, etc.
- Assist with coordination of district wide events, activities, and programs including coordinating vendors, contractors, logistics, etc.
- Assist district staff with any district related projects as needed.

Other duties as necessary and assigned.  
**Qualifications:** Excellent verbal and written communication skills; demonstrated success in administrative and operations management; facility maintenance, risk management; organizational and problem-solving skill; ability to work in a fast-paced environment with a diverse community; ability to work independently; manage deadlines and follow through, and organize and prioritize tasks as necessary; willingness to lead members of a team in moving community initiatives forward; proficiency in word processing, analytical, project management programs/applications such Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Creative Suite and others appropriate to the position and duties. Bilingual in English and Spanish languages is strongly preferred.  
**Education and Experience:** Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, logistics or related public service field from an accredited college or university strongly preferred. At least five (5) years of applicable professional experience desired.  
**Other Conditions:** Must provide own transportation. Must be willing to work occasional irregular hours and weekends to support the district's programs and initiatives, attend evening meetings, meet deadlines, and achieve objectives. Must submit names and contact information for at least three personal/professional references.  
**Physical Conditions:** Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds.  
**Salary Range:** \$75,000 – \$85,000 annually, depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include health, basic dental and vision, life and accidental death/disability insurance, SIMPLE IRA retirement plan, paid vacation, sick leave, holidays.  
**To Apply:** Contact: Veronica Sanchez, Deputy Executive Director ([vsanches@haweshill.com](mailto:vsanches@haweshill.com)) or Richard Cantu, Executive Director ([rcantu@haweshill.com](mailto:rcantu@haweshill.com))



**Take Pride in our Community  
Keep it Clean**

**CLASSIFIED WORD AD FORM**  
NORTHEAST NEWS  
Call 713-266-3444

DEADLINE 12:00 NOON THURSDAY \$18.00 (20 WORDS) 2 WEEKS

Place one word per box					
					18.00
18.50	19.00	19.50	20.00		20.50

**GREAT VALUE • GREAT RESULTS**

NO. OF WORDS IN AD: \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF WEEKS TO RUN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ AMOUNT PER WEEK: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DESIRED CLASSIFICATION HEADING: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

CHECK or  VISA  MASTERCARD  AM EX

CREDIT CARD NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO 5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057, or EMAIL: [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com), or FAX TO 713-977-1188 or CALL 713-266-3444

LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE NORTHEAST NEWS, HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL 713-266-3444

# Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

**SCREENS AND SHADES**

### Beat the Heat!

Exterior Solar Screens and Insect Shades  
Free Estimates  
**832-247-4581**

**UPHOLSTERY & AWNING**

Tapiceria PRAT  
Upholstery & Awning  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
**RAPHAEL PRAT**

2021 Aldine Mail Rt. Suite 902  
Houston, TX 77039  
281-590-7562

**VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION**

House Vehicle Inspection Station  
Monday-Friday 8am-6pm  
Gladys House-El  
3621 Hurley St. Houston, TX 77093  
713-742-6995 [gladys.house@gmail.com](mailto:gladys.house@gmail.com)

**CAR SERVICE**

**MOBILE MECHANIC+**  
IMPORT or DOMESTIC CARS & TRUCKS SINCE 1981  
24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK  
WE COME TO YOU

- General Repairs
- Computer Equipped Cars & Trucks
- Electrical Specialists
- Fuel Injector/ Diesel • Engine Repairs
- A/C • Brakes • Tune-Ups
- Industrial Machinery & Motorized Equipment
- Refrigerated Trucks
- Transmissions
- Pre-Buy Inspection for Cars - Trucks - RVs & SUV's
- Repair of Recreational Vehicles & Big Trucks & Buses

713-465-7300  
3515 Hillcroft  
[www.mobilemechanicsofhouston.com](http://www.mobilemechanicsofhouston.com)  
Houses Calls By Professional Mechanics

**CALL 713-266-3444 to place your Business Card in our Directory. Thousands of Readers in this area will see your message.**



Edwina Findley, left, and Uza Aduba star in "The Residence."

"The Residence"

"The Residence" (TV-MA) — This whodunnit series hails from the production company Shondaland...

Family" (TV-MA) — This limited drama series has two heavy hitters in television — Ellen Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy" fame and Mark Duplass from shows like "The Mindy Project" and "The Morning Show."

"Happy Face" (TV-MA) — This true-crime drama series was adapted from Melissa Moore's real-life story as the daughter of the "Happy Face" killer Keith Hunter Jespersen.

"Picture This" (PG-13) — For their latest original film out now, Amazon Prime enlisted the help of two actors who were sure to bring this rom-com to life: "Bridgerton's" Simone Ashley and "After's" Hero Fiennes Tiffin.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: Who is the actor playing "Daredevil" in the new series on Disney+? What else has he been in? — E.O.

A: Charlie Cox was born in London and studied drama there before landing his first on-screen role in 2001 in the BBC series "Judge John Deed."

Next up for Cox is the Amazon rom-com flick "Merv," opposite Zooey Deschanel, about a couple who reunite to take their depressed dog on a vacation to Florida.

Q: I read that Jen Shah from "The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City" will be getting out of prison early. Have there been any other "Real Housewives" besides Shah and Teresa Giudice who have gone to prison? — L.S.

A: Jen Shah and Teresa Giudice (of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey") are the only two Bravo network Housewives to serve time in federal prison, but several others have been to jail.

Luann de Lesseps was arrested for battery and disorderly intoxication in 2017 in Florida while she was a cast member of "The Real Housewives of New York City."

The most recent Housewife arrest and



Charlie Cox as Matt Murdock/Daredevil.

sentencing is Karen Huger of "The Real Housewives of the Potomac," who wrecked her car and was charged with a DUI in 2024.

Q: I thought the new revival of "Frasier" had been canceled, but now I'm reading that Kelsey Grammer says it will be back. Is this true? — R.R.

A: Yes, the "Frasier" reboot was recently canceled after two seasons by Paramount+. I think the obvious reason it never caught on like the original series was that it was missing three very familiar faces: David Hyde Pierce as Niles, Jane Leeves as Daphne, and sadly the late John Mahoney as Martin.

Star Kelsey Grammer is hopeful that another streamer or network will pick it up. In fact, he's confident that "Cheers" star Ted Danson will also co-star or at least appear on the series.

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

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Includes Across and Down clues.

Trivia Test section with 10 questions on general knowledge, movies, literature, language, television, history, geography, medicine, U.S. presidents, and math.

# OPEN HOUSE

**April 8**  
4 - 7 p.m.

Attend Open House to get help planning & registering for a Full Year Schedule.

**LONE STAR COLLEGE**

**LONE STAR COLLEGE**

[LONESTAR.EDU/OPENHOUSE](https://lonestar.edu/openhouse)

## Comcast invests in Lone Star College students' futures



Comcast donated over \$100,000 in equipment to Lone Star College Foundation for students at LSC-Kingwood and LSC-Montgomery. Pictured are LSC-Kingwood students with their new laptops thanks to Comcast.

HOUSTON – Lone Star College Foundation and Comcast have partnered to ensure LSC students in Montgomery County have the technology and digital literacy needed to succeed in the classroom. The collaboration provides over \$100,000 in equipment for students attending LSC-Kingwood and LSC-Montgomery.

“Lone Star College Foundation is excited to work with Comcast to help Lone Star College students receive the equipment and education needed to compete in an increasingly technology and digital-savvy world,” said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, LSC Foundation executive director.

This partnership comes as Comcast expands its Xfinity network into Montgomery and Kingwood, bringing residents access to various services, including high-speed internet, cable television and phone services. This expansion aims to provide residents with greater connectivity and entertainment options.

“At Comcast, we know that technology is the foundation for success in the digital economy,” said Misha McClure, Director of External Affairs, Comcast Texas. “We are thrilled to help students who experience financial barriers have the full benefits of technology and wish these students all the success in the world.”

Comcast donated 100 Dell laptops to LSC Foundation to support LSC-Kingwood students pursuing a technology-related certificate or degree and are income-constrained. These computers will help students like Des-

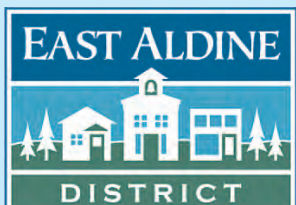
tiny Spearman complete their education without the financial burden of purchasing a device. Additionally, students can keep the laptop once they leave LSC, potentially using it to further their college education or enter the workforce.

“Receiving a laptop from Comcast has provided me the resources I need for my design classes,” said Destiny Spearman, LSC-Kingwood student, registered student organization specialist and graphic designer. “The new computer allowed me to download the software I needed to make my academic career easier. Before, I did a lot of designing on a tablet.”

Comcast donated a \$50,000 grant to the LSC Foundation to start “Maverick Minds,” a student-led podcast at LSC-Montgomery that will create a relatable space for students to learn about campus resources and student life, emphasizing digital literacy. “Maverick Minds” will have a dedicated podcast room in LSC-Montgomery’s marketing suite (Building E) and in the library (Building F) for students interested in learning about podcasting.

### About Lone Star College Foundation

Lone Star College Foundation impacts students’ lives by reducing the financial barriers to a quality college education. Since 1991, LSC Foundation has awarded over \$26 million in scholarships to more than 27,000 students and raised nearly \$13 million in program support. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Giving](https://LoneStar.edu/Giving).



## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### Deborah Foster: A Legacy of Leadership and Community Impact in East Aldine

Deborah Foster dedicated her time, expertise, and passion to the East Aldine community for nearly two decades, serving as a guiding force on the East Aldine Management District Board of Directors. In 2024, after 19 years of service, she retired, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and community progress. Foster’s impact on East Aldine is evident in the initiatives she championed, the partnerships she fostered, and the countless lives she touched. In recognition of her commitment, she was honored with the Leadership Award at the district’s 2024 Holiday Reception and Partner Awards, a testament to her unwavering dedication.



#### A Vision for Growth and Opportunity

Foster played a key role in the district’s efforts to enhance economic development, public safety, and infrastructure throughout her tenure. Her leadership helped shape policies and projects to improve the area’s quality of life for residents and businesses.

One of her significant contributions was advocating for expanding the Lone Star College-East Aldine Center, which would provide greater access to higher education and workforce development programs for the community. Foster also supported initiatives to improve local parks and green spaces, recognizing their importance in fostering community engagement and wellness.

From advocating for small businesses to supporting community-driven initiatives, Foster worked tirelessly to ensure East Aldine continued to grow and thrive. Her involvement extended beyond board meetings — she was a hands-on leader who believed in the power of collaboration.

Reflecting on her 19 years of service, Foster described her time with the East Aldine Management District as challenging and rewarding. She initially became involved by attending community meetings at local venues, such as the police station and Jed’s, long before she knew about EAMD. Being part of the district’s development was something she never anticipated. Still, it ultimately reinforced the importance of engaging in one’s community and advocating for its growth.

#### A Lasting Influence

The mark of a great leader is the ability to inspire and uplift others. Foster’s work on the board was not just about governance; it was about empowering residents and ensuring they had a voice in the future of their community.

She played a key role in launching the district’s public safety initiatives, working closely with law enforcement to enhance security measures and build stronger relationships between officers and the community. Her support for local arts and cultural programs also helped highlight East Aldine’s diverse heritage, creating opportunities for residents to connect and celebrate their shared identity.

One of Foster’s challenges was being one of the only African Americans on the board. There were moments when she felt her voice wasn’t always heard when addressing issues that affected the broader community. However, she remained committed to advocating for underrepresented groups and ensuring all voices were included in decisions that shaped East Aldine’s future.

She was also instrumental in the initiative to install streetlights in East Aldine neighborhoods, improving safety for all residents. Recognizing that individual carport lighting was insufficient, Foster and her colleagues worked to ensure the entire community benefitted from well-lit streets.

Foster emphasized the importance of respect when working with others.

“You have to understand that you may not agree on everything, but you can respect the perspective of another and work towards a healthy compromise,” shared Foster. “While it may have been my colleagues and myself in the meeting room, it was imperative that we kept the ‘bigger picture’ in mind. We were not there to pursue our own interests; rather, we were there representing all of our neighbors.”



Get involved! That is Foster’s message to the community. She encourages residents to actively shape their neighborhoods by attending meetings, volunteering, or simply sharing their perspectives. She noted that change happens when people step up and make their voices heard.

Even in retirement, Foster plans to stay engaged by attending meetings and supporting initiatives where she can. She wanted to make room for new leadership while ensuring that East Aldine continued its momentum toward innovation and inclusivity.

“After having served for as long as I did, I’m not even opposed to helping where I can,” added Foster. “I wanted to give someone else the opportunity to be a part of an amazing organization on track to keep doing more amazing things.”

As the East Aldine Management District celebrates Black History Month, Foster’s story stands as a powerful example of leadership, service, and one person’s impact on an entire community. Being recognized during this celebration was an unexpected but meaningful honor for her. She served not for recognition but out of a deep love for her community.

“I am beyond honored to be recognized during Black History Month (BHM), and it caught me by surprise,” said Foster. “Mainly due to the fact that I was never a part of EAMD for the recognition, I just wanted to serve my community the best way I knew how. To be among the ranks of others who have been, and are being, honored for their contributions during BHM is an awesome feeling. I was fortunate to serve alongside great individuals who accepted me for who I am, never tried to change me, and valued what I had to offer. I couldn’t have asked for a better team to work with!”



#### Hope for East Aldine’s Future

Foster remains hopeful that East Aldine will continue to be a place where all residents feel safe and valued. With a strong foundation in place, she believes the district can make that vision a reality.

“It is my hope that East Aldine will remain innovative and inclusive going forward,” shared Foster. “With so much division in the world today, community should be a sort of safe haven where all our residents feel safe, visitors should feel welcome and love flows to all. Though we have our individual differences, our power to make them work for us will make us stand out as one of Houston’s greatest communities, and we can make it happen!”