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NORTHEAST NEWS



Spirit of East Aldine
Night View of the Obelisk

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years
VOL. 49, NO. 11 TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 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 at <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 to volunteer.

Talk with Journalists Tuesday April 8

Houston Landing newspaper will hold a Round Table talk session on Tuesday night, April 8 at the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus. The session starts at 6:00pm.

The subject matter will be the State of Aldine ISD. The public is invited and encouraged to come, to hear and to speak up on your opinions and experiences.

Free Zydeco Festival at East Aldine April 11

Bring the whole family to this Free ZYDECO FESTIVAL on Friday April 11, from 5pm to 10pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre.

Featuring Live Music, Nooney and the Zydeco Floaters, Jammin Jesse and the H-Town Sounds, and Step Rildeau and the Zydeco Outlaws.

Activities for all Ages, Food Trucks, Bounce House, Interactive Games, Prizes and More.

Town Hall hears Dreamers' Stories

Congresswoman Garcia reintroduces American Dream and Promise Act

EAST ALDINE – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia held a Town Hall last Tuesday evening at the Lone Star College East Aldine campus. About a 100 persons, including LSC Chancellor Mario Castillo were present, and heard presentations from “Dreamers,” students who had benefitted from the previous legislation known as the American Dream and Promise Act. As this act is due to end and not be renewed by the Administration, Garcia has reintroduced the bill in the current Legislature, with the hope to again provide opportunities. The purpose of the Town Hall was to garner support for her bill in the House.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29) reintro-



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia moderates a Panel at Lone Star College - East Aldine discussing their experiences as “Dreamers” and how the legislation changed their lives with new opportunities.

duced the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, alongside co-authors of the bill.

The bipartisan American Dream and Promise

Act would provide a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. It

would also include recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) beneficiaries. The legislation has been

cosponsored by 201 Members of Congress, including all the bill leads, and has been endorsed by nearly 120 organizations.

Dreamers have spent nearly their entire lives here in the United States. They have attended school, earned degrees, built careers, and contributed billions to our economy, all while calling this country home. Many have started families and raised children who are U.S. citizens. For example, it is estimated that the average DACA recipient came to this country at the age of six and has been here for 20 years. Likewise, TPS holders have been living and working in the United

Continued. See GARCIA TOWN HALL, Page 5

Wildfire burning in Keith-Wiess Park

HFD Extinguishing Fire at Keith Wiess Park

The Houston Fire Department's Wildland Division was working last week to extinguish a wildfire at Keith Wiess Park (12300 Aldine Westfield Road, 77093).

Around 9 a.m. Friday, HFD responded to reports of woods on fire at the park. Upon arrival, our Wildland division was notified, and has established a unified command including Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) and Houston Health Department (HHD).

As of 2:30 p.m., the fire was contained to approximately less than 5 acres and not expected to spread



Houston Fire Department Wildland Division Firemen battle a blaze in a 5 acre section of the Keith-Wiess Park. The park was closed to the public.

given current weather conditions. No injuries have been reported, and HHD was conducting air quality monitoring in the area. Keith Wiess Park will remain closed until it is released by HFD.

“With dangerous fire weather we’re currently experiencing, it’s important that we are careful in safely mitigating the risk from dead vegetation,” said Fire Chief



Thick smoke obscures the view of the Houston Fireman working to put out the fire in Keith-Wiess Park.

Thomas Muñoz. “Our Wildland division is skilled in this type of work and provides world-class service to encourage a healthy recovery for our beloved park spaces.”

Urban parks present unique concerns for residents who live nearby. HFD coordinates with HPARD's Natural Resources division to ensure the safety of the Wildland where it intersects with the communities.

BakerRipley curtails hours and services at East Aldine campus

Thanks to friends and partners like East Aldine Management District, BakerRipley has provided thousands of learners with access to new technologies, tools, and STEM education to spark creativity in the Fab Lab. We are grateful for your partnership to put youth and individuals from all walks of life on a path to pursue higher education and broaden their career prospects.

After careful review of BakerRipley's annual budget and an assessment of current and anticipated government funding impacted by changes in recent policy, our leadership

team has made the decision to no longer offer dedicated Fab Lab memberships. This change becomes effective March 15, 2025.

All STEM education will continue at BakerRipley's Learning and Innovation Centers (LICs) at BakerRipley's Central and Gulfton locations. These LICs remain hubs for hands-on, unique learning experiences including laser cutting, engraving, 3D printing, photography, podcasting, audio/video recording and editing.

BakerRipley is working on plans to reimagine the existing Fab Lab which

could include shifting to a volunteer-driven model for operations, leasing the space to generate revenue, and utilizing existing space for enrichment classes and workshops currently held at the East Aldine community center.

We are also changing our community center hours of operation. Our current hours of operation are M-F 8am-8pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. Starting April 1st, our new hours will be M-F 10am-7pm.

BakerRipley will contin-

Continued. See BAKERRIPLEY HOURS, Page 2

BASEBALL SEASON OPENS: New-Look Astros seek 9th straight trip to Playoffs; Can Anyone beat the defending champ Dodgers?

Opening Day to kick off another baseball season is one of the best days of the year if you are a true-blue baseball fan like myself.

Life begins again on Thursday as 28 of the 30 teams will begin their quests to replace the Dodgers as World Series champions. (it should be noted the 2025 season officially started March 18-19 in Tokyo when the defending World Series champion Dodgers played the Chicago Cubs in a two-game series)

The Astros will be one of those contenders when they host the New York Mets at newly-named Daikin Park at 3:10 p.m. Thanks to my recent retirement from Aldine ISD after 27 years in the Communications Department, I will be there with friends to watch Game No. 1 of 162. I



can't wait!
There's nothing like Opening Day. The feeling of hope permeates the air for fans of their favorite teams from Houston, to Detroit, to Atlanta, to New York and points along the way.

Over the last 10 years, Astro fans have witnessed the Golden Era of Houston baseball. The Astros have won two World Series titles (2017 and 2022), four American League championships (2017, 2019, 2021 and

2022), six AL West titles and have made the playoffs nine of the last 10 years.

That's pretty impressive. And they've done it with three managers, A.J. Hinch, Dusty Baker and current skipper Joe Espada.

The 2025 season will see a lot of new faces and one very familiar face who may be playing

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

NORTHEAST NEWS – Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or nenewsroom@aol.com

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posibilidades ilimitadas AldineDistrict.org

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SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Report Suspicious:

- * Vehicles
- * Activities
- * Groups of People
- * Persons
- * Locations

HARRIS COUNTY HCSO SHERIFFS OFFICE

PLEASE JOIN THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN CRIME REDUCTION EFFORTS

WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

EMERGENCIES: ALWAYS CALL **9-1-1**

NON-EMERGENCIES: **713-221-6000**

House Fire in the Northside / Northline Area on Apache St.

Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on March 16, 2025, at 12:45 a.m., at 1200 Apache St.77022.

There were No reported injuries.

PROPERTY SAVED amounted to \$45,700 in estimated property saved.

However, there was \$170,000 in estimated damage.

HFD Arson investigators ruled the cause as accidental.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find a house on fire and made an offensive attack. They extinguished a fire on the porch and entered the home. The roof was ventilated, and a primary search was completed. The resident had safely exited the house when the smoke alarms sounded. CenterPoint was notified to secure the utilities. Crews extinguished the fire and requested HFD Arson investigators to determine the cause and origin.

The American Red Cross was also requested to assist the resident. 37 personnel responded to this incident, including firefighters from Stations 30, 15, 31, 34, 39, 58 and 56.

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Shooting Incident at 855 Greens Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested for firing shots at a Houston police officer at 855 Greens Road about 8:55 a.m. on Saturday (March 8).

The suspect, John Dyneu Taylor, 45, is charged with aggravated assault against a public servant and aggravated assault of a family member in the 337th State District Court. A booking photo of Taylor is attached to this news release.

One officer, E. Beye, discharged his duty weapon in the incident. Officer Beye, sworn in as an officer in January 2023, is assigned to the North Belt Patrol Division.

No officers or citizens were injured.

HPD Special Investigations Unit Detectives M. Childs and V. Lewis reported:



John Dyneu Taylor, 45

An officer was dispatched to a family disturbance call at the apartment complex at the above address regarding a male who assaulted his wife with a metal pipe and then refused to let her inside their apartment. The officer arrived and attempted to speak with the suspect and obtain his statement. The suspect went inside his apartment and closed the door. The suspect returned onto the balcony with a

rifle and fired shots at the officer, who returned fire. The suspect retreated into the apartment as other officers arrived to the scene.

The suspect, identified as Taylor, eventually exited the apartment and was taken into custody without incident. The facts of the incident were resented to the Harris County District Attorney's Office and charges were filed against Taylor. He was transported and booked into the Harris County Jail.

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:

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

Northside Health Center 8504 Schuller Rd Houston, TX 77093	Sharpstown Health Services 6201 Bonhomme Rd. Houston, TX 77036	Sunnyside Multiservice Center 4410 Reed Rd. Houston, TX 77051
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Harris County Public Health Building a Healthy Community | HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT | HCPHTX.ORG

BakerRipley curtains hours,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ue to honor our 118-year-old founding mission of connecting Neighbors and communities to resources, education, and opportunity with support from investors who share our commitment to keeping Houston a place of oppor-

tunity for everyone.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you- **Rocio Witte BakerRipley**

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website:

www.nenewsroom.com

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

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 - 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

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Monday Movement Monday- Lunes de Movimiento
Monday, March 24, 2025 11:00am-11:45am

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.

This program focuses on improving physical health and also enhances early literacy skills in a fun and interactive way. Program is in English and Spanish. Encouraged to bring your own water.

¡Sal y muévete! Únase a nosotros el lunes y prepárese para hacer ejercicios por su mente y cuerpo. Estaremos bailando, leyendo, cantando y moviéndonos.

Este programa no solo se enfoca en mejorar la salud física sino que también mejora las habilidades de alfabetización temprana de una manera divertida e interactiva. El programa está en inglés y español. se recomienda traer su propia agua.

Clases de Computación Básica (Basic Computer Classes in Spanish)

Monday, March 24, 2025 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

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. Inscrpción 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
Tuesday, March 25on March 25, 2025, 11:00am-12:00pm

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!

Harris County Pollution Control Tuesday, March 25on March 25, 2025 11:00am-12:00pm 11:00am to 12:00pm

Let's welcome Harris County Pollution Control for an environmentally minded story time celebrating our community and our planet!

All ages are welcome. No registration is required.

Pajama Jam Story Time (Bilingual)
Tuesday March 25, 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.

Wednesday Tween Spark: CD Dreamcatchers
Wednesday, March 26on March 26, 2025, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Some yarn and an old CD or DVD is all you'll need to make an amazing dreamcatcher. Join Miss Gage to learn how to weave and customize your dreamcatcher!

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

Container Gardening Series
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join us for this series of programs to learn about growing food on your own, even if you live in an apartment! Get all the lessons and supplies for container gardening thanks to Texas A&M Agrilife. Texas A&M Agrilife is uniquely positioned to improve lives, environments and the Texas economy through education, research, extension and service.

Children must attend with an adult Register to save your spot! Supplies are limited. Thursday Ology: Technology Thursday, March 27th, 2025

6:00pm-7:00pm

Learn the basics of coding by playing computer games! Seats for this program are limited; first come first serve, with priority given to registered participants

Computer Basics Class Thursday, March 27, 2025
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us for a Free Computer Basics class led by Harris County Universal Services. No registration required.

Class will be from March 13th - April 17th on Thursday from 5-6:30 pm

Can't make it to class? No problem. A Universal Services Digital Navigator also has office hours on Thursdays from 2 - 7 pm to assist patrons with finding free or low-cost internet services and devices, as well as finding digital fluency training, adult education programs, or workforce programs.

¿No puedes asistir a clase? No hay problema. Un Navegante Digital de Servicios Universales también tiene horario de oficina los jueves de 2 a 7 p. m. para ayudar a los usuarios a encontrar servicios y dispositivos de Internet gratuitos o de bajo costo, así como a encontrar capacitación en fluidez digital, programas de educación para adultos o programas para la fuerza laboral.

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.

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

High Meadows Branch Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 24-MAR 31

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

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

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

SLIME TIME
TURN STICKY GLUE INTO A STARCHY, SQUISHY GOO!

GAME ZONE
PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS TRY TO GET THE HIGH SCORE!

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!!

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:
CRAFTY PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE


AUGUST 18, 2023

ALDINE
ISD

GOFFNEY CHRONICLES
The Official Newsletter of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent of Schools

With Aldine Pride!



Aldine ISD Students Recognized for Artistic Achievements at March Board Meeting



During the district's March 18 board meeting, Dr. Faviola Cantu spotlighted Aldine students for their artistic achievements in honor of Youth Art Month. Students were highlighted in two major art contests where they excelled. Fifty-nine students earned top awards during the Scholastic Art & Writing contest – one of the longest-running national high school art competitions. The district's high school students earned 13 Gold Key and 19 Silver Key Awards for their creativity and dedication in visual and literary arts. The Gold Key recipients are advancing to the national adjudication. Aldine had two standout students amongst those highlighted. Ian Paiz from Blanson CTE earned multiple awards, including 1 Gold Key and 3 Silver Key awards, and 4 Honorable mentions for his photography. Emily Lucio of Aldine High School artworks was selected by the Harris County Department of Education for the Board of Trustees Incentive Art Award, earning her a \$500 cash prize.

During the district's March 18 board meeting, Chief Financial Officer Tim Momanyi announced that the district's purchasing department was awarded the "Award of Merit of Purchasing Operations" by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). The Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize Texas school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education service centers committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. Momanyi said this is the seventh time the purchasing department has received the prestigious award. The Purchasing Department consists of Abigale Garcia, executive director of business services; Bianca Ellis, purchasing supervisor; Victoria Lee, lead buyer; Yolanda Aleman, buyer; and Gloria Harris, buyer.

Employees Recognized

During the March 18 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 Officer Jeremy Graham as his department's Employee of the Month.

Staff Assignments

Thania Gonzalez was named Assistant Superintendent of Finance for Aldine ISD after serving as the Financial Controller at the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD.

Trustees Approved Action Items

Approved the Open Education Resource Instructional Materials Transition Plan for Bluebonnet Learning Math Grades K-8 and Algebra 1.

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Air Force and Aldine ISD for the renewal and operation of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit for the school year 2025 – 2026 through 2027 at Davis High School and Aldine High School.

Approved the TEA Innovative Courses from the Health Science Cluster for HEAL at Nimitz High School for the school year 2025 -2026.

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

Approved a board resolution to designate investment officers and authorized investment institutions representatives to comply with the Public Funds Investment Act.

Approved a board resolution extending depository contract for funds of independent school districts under Texas Education Code, Chapter 35, subchapter G school district depositories, first renewal.

Approved a budget amendment for March 2025

Approved the monthly tax office refunds.

Before the March 18 board meeting, Houston Academy led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Davis High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors. Following the presentation of the colors, the Carver High School Mariachi Acero graced the audience with a performance. The April board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. in the boardroom at the Donaldson Administration Building.

The recognition continued as Dr. Cantu celebrated students from pre-K to high school who were recognized at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Art Competition. Dr. Cantu stated the district's visual arts has had a long-standing partnership with the HLSR School Art Contest. Student artists from 1st through 12th grade received 3 Best of Show, 5 Gold Medals, and 3 Special Merit Awards for their artistic skills and visual storytelling. Lastly, Dr. Cantu took the opportunity to recognize Aldine's art educators for their guidance in the district's visual art programs. AISD has been recognized for the past six years as a District of Distinction by the Texas Arts Education Association. Over 1,200 Texas districts and learning institutions were eligible to apply for the award, and only 96 districts met the high standards. Dr. Cantu said the honor indicates that the district's visual arts programs are among the state's top 5.5% of visual art programs.

Aldine Impact Award

Aldine ISD Board of Trustees recognized 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. Kimberley Booker nominated Betty Simmons, an early childhood educator, and Kai Goffney-Mukes, an associate science teacher at Nimitz High School. Vice President Connie Esparza nominated Bianca Ellis, purchasing supervisor, Victoria Lee, lead buyer, and Gloria Harris, a buyer with the Aldine Purchasing Department. Assistant Board Secretary Rose Avalos nominated Mervin Pellerin, a PE Teacher at Avalos P-Tech Early College High School.

Teaching, Leading And Learning Department Recognizes Aldine ISD Top Ranked Schools

Chief of Schools Dr. Javier Villarreal presented five Aldine schools that earned top spots in the 2023-2024 Children at Risk Annual Houston School Rankings. The nonprofit released its ranking on February 12, 2025. Avalos P-Tech School was ranked second, and Blanson CTE was ranked third among Houston Area Gold Ribbon High Schools. Impact Leadership Academy was ranked third for Houston Area Gold Ribbon Middle Schools, Young Women's Leadership Academy was ranked fifth for the Houston Area Middle Schools category, and Thompson Elementary School was ranked fifth for the top Houston Area Gold Ribbon Elementary Schools.

Aldine ISD's Purchasing Department Earns Prestigious "Award of Merit"

A Message From the Superintendent, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

My Dear Aldine Community,

March is National Women's History Month, a time to reflect on the impact of women. When I think of the women who shaped my life—my grandmother Bigmama, my teachers such as my 4th-grade teacher Ms. Bradford, my college counselor Ms. Allen, and Dr. Stacey Edmonson, Dean of the College of Education at Sam Houston State University—I am truly grateful for their contributions in molding me into the person I am today. To inspire the young ladies in the district, it gave me great joy to host the Youth Empowerment Summit, which consisted of 150 sixth-grade girls—though I was more inspired by them! Our young ladies are destined for greatness, and it was such a privilege and honor to spend the morning with them.

At Aldine ISD, we believe in the importance of teaching our students about the pivotal role that women have played in shaping our society.

We have many things to celebrate as our students shine this spring semester, demonstrating their skills and talents. Several of our Aldine students earned creative recognition at the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Emily Lucio was recognized with a Gold Key award during the regional contest and received the Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees Incentive Art Award. Lucio and all the Scholastic Art and Writing Award winners will be honored on March 27 by The Harris County Department of Education

We had 19 students from Carver, Davis, and Eisenhower High School named national qualifiers after the Texas Thespians Virtual Competition. Students will join over 50 AISD students who made nationals in person at the state festival in the fall semester. Our MacArthur High School Academic Decathlon team shined at the state competition earlier this month, with one of their teammates, Logan Haagenson, placing third with highest overall score and receiving a \$1,500 scholarship.

You often hear me say that Aldine ISD offers many choices and opportunities

for our students and families, like our early childhood programs for children ages 3, 4, and 5 and the free Head Start program. It's already time to register for PreK! On Saturday, April 5, families can attend our PreK Enrollment Expo. They will meet teachers and school leaders, learn about district resources like special education and English language learners, and connect with our community resource partners.

Make sure to click on the latest newsletter, Aldine Connection, to catch up on all the latest news, information, and wonderful things happening around the district.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our students.

Your contributions are invaluable, and we are grateful for your commitment to Aldine. Let's continue making

#AldineImpact together!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
SuperintendentAldine ISD

Aldine ISD Police Commander Marc Harris Graduates From FBI National Academy

The Aldine ISD Police Department is proud to announce that on March 13, 2025, Commander Marc Harris graduated from the 293rd session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Nationally, fewer than 1% of officers are given the opportunity to attend the program. Commander Harris now joins Aldine Police Chief Paul Cordova and Commander Orville Wright as an FBI National Academy graduate.

The FBI National Academy is internationally recognized for its academic excellence. Commander Harris spent 10 weeks in a rigorous training program, where he received training in advanced leadership, communication, and fitness. He also received specialized training from experienced FBI instructors, special agents, and professional support during the national academy session.

Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to be selected for the academy. On average, graduates have over 20 years of law enforcement experience and often return to their respective agencies in executive leadership roles. During the national academy session, law enforcement professionals receive specialized training from experienced FBI instructors, special agents and professional support teams.

"I am immensely proud and elated that Commander Marc Harris graduated from this globally recognized executive leadership program taught at the FBI Academy," said AISD Police Chief Paul Cordova. "He now belongs to an elite group of law enforcement professionals who have been instructed and groomed to be the next generation of cutting-edge leaders in innovation, technology, and forensics. His network now expands beyond Texas and even the United States."



Commander Marc Harris was born in Houston, Texas, and attended Aldine ISD schools. He graduated from Aldine High School in 1993 and lives in the district. Shortly after graduating from North Harris Police Academy in 1999, Harris' began his career in law enforcement with the Spring ISD Police Department. He then joined the Humble ISD Police Department briefly before signing on with Aldine ISD in 2001. He was promoted to Corporal in 2007, supervising evening shift patrol. In 2015, he was promoted to Administrative Sergeant and now holds the rank of Commander with 25 years of law enforcement experience.

Commander Harris holds a Master Peace Officer certification

from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 2012, and a Master of Public Administration in 2014 from Bellevue University. He has successfully completed the FBI LEEDA Trilogy training in supervision and received the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award for Command and Executive Leadership, Management and Supervision from Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT). Commander Harris's professional associations include the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA).

The 293rd session of the FBI National Academy consisted of 244 law enforcement professionals from 48 states, the District of Columbia, 24 countries, 11 military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations. Since its establishment in 1935, the FBI National Academy has graduated over 55,941 law enforcement professionals.



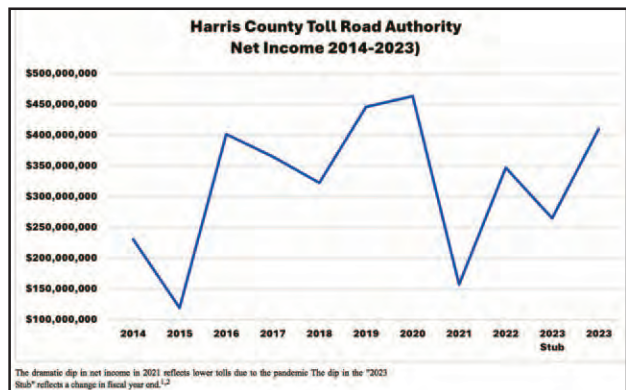
OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Toll Roads have become a Cash Cow for Harris County

Harris County toll roads are very profitable. Over the last decade, the toll revenue has grown from \$610 million annually to \$896 million, a 47% increase. Because the expenses for the toll roads are mostly fixed, the net income from them has soared, growing by 78% (\$230 million \$410 million). The cumulative profit over the last decade was just over \$3.5 billion.



The dramatic dip in net income in 2021 reflects lower tolls due to the pandemic. The dip in the "2023 Stub" reflects a change in fiscal year end.^{1,2}

Texas law provides that excess income from tolls must be used for "the study, design, construction, maintenance, repair, or operation of roads, streets, highways, or other related facilities." Using this authority Harris County annually transfers funds to its treasury. The transfers are included in the County's general fund but are shown as "restricted" since they are supposed to only be used for transportation projects. In the County's audits these restricted funds are referred to as the Mobility Fund. Over the last decade the County has transferred under \$2.2 from HCTRA.

As you can see, the transfers have been dramatically ramped up since the Democrats gained control of Commissioner's Court. From 2014-2018, the Court transferred 44% of HCTRA's net income. Since 2019 it has transferred 75%. I do not offer that observation as a criticism because I generally do not favor governmental entities hoarding funds, especially when we have pressing infrastructure needs. However, it does raise the question of why, in the face of this surge in toll revenues, the County needs to raise property taxes by the 8% currently being discussed. I also worry whether transferring such a large portion of the toll roads' income is prudent in the long term.

The other question the transfers raise in my mind is exactly how the mobility funds are actually being spent. The state law provides that the County may transfer excess funds "without state approval, supervision, or regulation." So, there is virtually no state oversight.

I have not been able to find much public information on how the funds are being spent. Harris County's monthly financial reports provide some general information about the transfers and expenditures. For example, as of **last month**, the County had spent about \$174 million from the mobility fund this year and had \$385 million on hand. But the expenses are shown in general categories such as "salaries" and "services and other" which are not particularly helpful in know how the money is being spent.

I was able to dig up a **Harris County Auditor report from December, 2022**. It found some documentation issues but concluded that "expenditures paid from the Harris County Mobility Fund generally complied with the Texas Transportation Code." (Emphasis added.)

The combination of the ambiguous definition of how the transfers can be spent, the lack of state oversight, the relatively little transparency on how the funds are currently being spent and the County Auditor's qualification that the County's expenditures "generally" complied with state law, gives me some concern about how these funds are actually being spent.

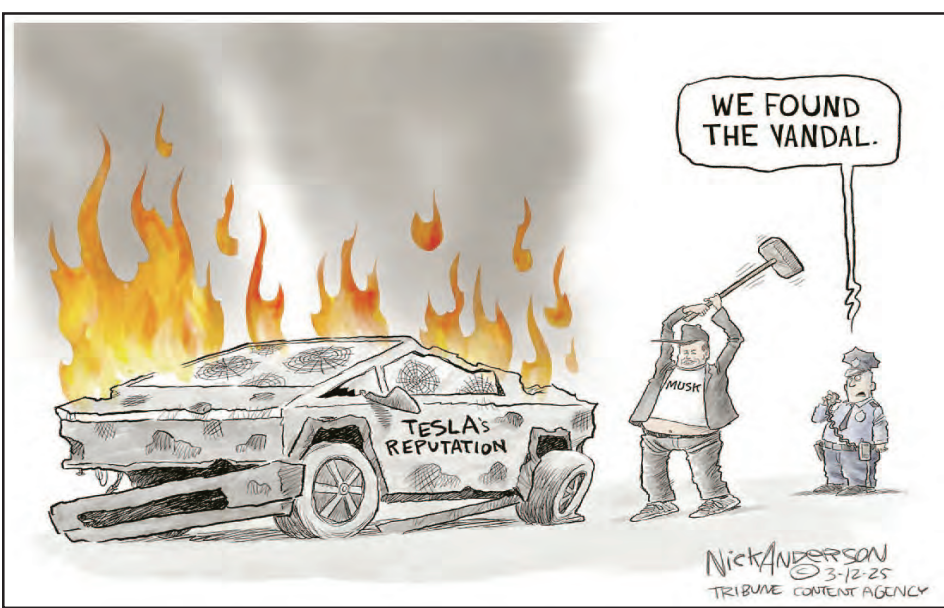
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Americanisms



"I've failed over and over in my life, and that is why I succeeded."
— Michael Jordan

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Texas Farmers Concerned Over Growing trade War

Texas farmers are voicing growing concerns about tariffs being enacted by President Trump adversely affecting their ability to sell agricultural goods overseas, the Houston Chronicle reported. Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said the tariffs could be especially tough on younger farmers.

"We understand that's his negotiating tool, but at the same time tariffs can be hard on agriculture," he said. "If you're in a good spot you can withstand this, but you worry about the producer who has only been in this for five or 10 years and doesn't have a lot of equity built up. Those are the operations that could be in trouble."

Drought and low commodity prices are already taking a toll on agricultural revenue. Cotton sank to its lowest price in four years this month after China announced a 15% retaliatory tariff on several U.S. agricultural goods. China, the largest purchaser of grain sorghum in the world, has almost completely stopped buying the crop from Texas farmers, Boening said.

Farmers are hopeful the Trump administration will provide federal relief as occurred during his first term. Voters in counties dominated by farms and ranches voted for Trump by 77.7%, the Chronicle reported.

DUST STORM IN PANHANDLE CAUSES FATAL CRASHES, FANS WILDFIRES

A dust storm that swept across the U.S. last week caused a number of deadly crashes and fanned dozens of wildfires, The Dallas Morning News reported. Three people were killed Friday in car crashes in the Texas Panhandle. One dust storm in Amarillo County caused a crash involving an estimated 38 vehicles.

"It's the worst I've ever seen," said Sgt. Cindy Barkley of the Texas Department of Public Safety. "We couldn't tell that they were all together until the dust kind of settled."

As of Sunday, The Texas A&M Forest Service reported eight active wildfires. The largest was the Windmill Fire in Roberts County in the Panhandle. It covered 23,000 acres and was just 50% contained. A total of 130 counties have burn bans in place.

BILL FILED TO CLARIFY STATE'S ABORTION BAN



The author of the bill that essentially outlawed abortions in Texas has filed a bill that would give doctors more latitude to end pregnancies during medical emergencies, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, would remove language in the abortion ban that required pregnant women to have a "life-threatening condition" before doctors could legally induce an abortion.

The bill would also clarify that women in Texas can access abortions if they are at risk of a "substantial loss of a major bodily function," such as their fertility. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week designated Hughes' bill as a priority, increasing the chances it will pass. An identical bill has been filed in House by state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth.

The abortion ban authored by Hughes passed the Legislature and was signed into law in 2021.

"Our medical communities are desperate for relief and protection ... so that they can practice reasonable medical judgment in the face of pregnancy complications," state Rep. Ann Johnson, D-Houston, said. "This bill goes a long way to putting doctors back in the position of acting immediately."

TEXAS CONTINUES TO LEAD NATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Lone Star State is known for its oil and gas industry, but information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and reported by the San Antonio Express-News indicates the state's lead in solar and wind power increased in 2024.

However, natural gas continues to dominate electric generation both in Texas and across the nation at 43.3% of the country's electricity last

year, while the use of coal continues to decline, down to 15.2% from 16.1% in 2023.

Coal-fired plants continue to close across the state and country, largely because they are more expensive to operate. There are 15 active coal plants in Texas, down from 20 a decade ago.

Texas generated 169,442 gigawatt-hours from wind and solar in 2024, nearly double that of California, which generated 92,316 gigawatt-hours from those resources. Iowa ranks a distant third, almost all from wind power.

"Texas is the most innovative, most interesting market, and clean energy is thriving because it makes sense economically," said Ric O'Connell, executive director of GridLab, a nonprofit that does technical analysis for regulators and renewable power advocates.

MEASLES OUTBREAK CONTINUES TO SPREAD

The Texas measles outbreak has now, in less than three months in 2025, surpassed the total number of cases in any full year since 1992, The News reported. A total of 259 cases have been reported, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, primarily in West Texas. The outbreak began in Gaines County, near the New Mexico border, which has reported 174 cases and one fatality — a school-age, unvaccinated child.

Four new cases were reported last week in Lamar County, 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Health officials said the four infected patients were not vaccinated and had traveled to Gaines County.

Measles is considered one of the most contagious viruses in the world and can spread rapidly among unvaccinated people.

FOUR TEXAS COUNTIES AMONG FASTEST GROWING IN U.S.

Census figures released last week show that Kaufman County, east of Dallas, was the fastest-growing county in the state and second-fastest growing in the country, The Texas Tribune reported. The number of people living in that county grew by more than 50,000 residents from 2020 to 2024. More than half the county's residents are commuters to jobs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

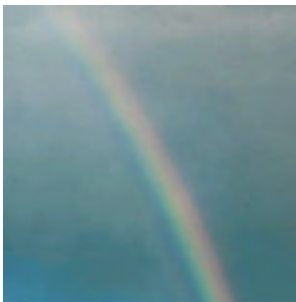
"I do think a lot of people are attracted to that small town vibe," Kaufman Mayor Jeff Jordan said. "You're getting people that appreciate that and want to be a part of it."

Of the 10 counties in the U.S. that grew the fastest between 2023 and 2024, four were in Texas: Kaufman, Liberty, Montgomery and Caldwell counties.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

The Tornado



My friend Wally and I have a fractious relationship. This is no secret.

Wally has said he thinks optimistic people like me are self-deluded, always looking for reasons to be happy when there is a lot to worry about and not much to celebrate.

Wally used the metaphor of a tornado. He said that people like me would be down in the storm shelter—right beside him—but would ignore the destruction the tornado left behind.

"Do perpetually positive people even hear themselves?" he asked. "How nice that must be! To see the world in ways it might or should be while ignoring how it is. To look for the rainbow while ignoring the flood!"

Wally got me so irritated that I wrote a whole book about a character he inspired. Since I didn't figure I could ever change Wally's mind, I wanted to create someone, just like Wally, who believed he had the world's worst luck and that looking for things to be grateful for was an act of willful ignorance.

I wrote the book, and I shared it with Wally, and—to his credit and my astonishment—he wasn't angry with my depiction of him at all. He was tickled that something he'd said inspired me.

Wally keeps on inspiring me. He has some interesting observations about life and thoughts about how optimism might fall short. It's taken me much longer than it should have to realize that Wally makes some very good points.

Optimism can be clumsy. It can be ham-fisted. Disappointment and grief and setbacks and bad news and failures are all very real things, and the optimist's impulse is to sweep them under the rug in record time.

"Where is the upside? What is the lesson? How can I learn from all this?" the optimist asks, and Wally gets a little angry. And maybe he has a right to. Because somewhere, between the time when the tornado strikes and the optimist goes looking for the rainbow, maybe there is a moment that optimists, like me, tend to forget.

We forget to say we're sorry. Wally is worried about his future and the future of his children and grandchildren. When I tell him all this worrying isn't getting much done, he gets angry and, really, I don't blame him. Because I skipped a step. I skipped the step between the tornado and the rainbow.

Today, for a change, I remembered. Oh, Wally," I said, "You always seem to think I'm scolding you when I try to cheer you and encourage you. I care about you. Do you not get that? I worry about you, and I want you to be happy."

"Thank you," Wally said. "Thank you so much."

And I realized that he really didn't know this. I get impatient with Wally's ruminating and doomsaying and daily dose of gloom. I want to remind him of all the things he has to be grateful for.

But I forget to tell him that I care. I forget to say I'm sorry he is troubled. I don't acknowledge how he feels. I jump right from the tornado to the rainbow.

I'm pretty sure Wally will regularly irritate me, and I will do the same for him. And yet I don't think he will ever be out of my life for good.

Because I will continue to remind him that things might not be as bad as he assumes. And Wally will remind me, in my endless quest for sunshine, it's important to recognize the hurt and fear that come with the tornado.

Till next time,
Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS

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Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)
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Keeney's Korner: Baseball Season Opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a new position.

So, what's in store for our Astros in 2025?

Change, a lot of change, but a lot of optimism.

Gone is long-time third baseman Alex Bregman, who signed as a free agent with the Boston Red Sox, pitcher Justin Verlander, who signed as a free agent with the San Francisco Giants, right fielder Justin Tucker, who was traded to the Chicago Cubs for three players (more on those acquisitions later) and reliever Ryan Presley, who was also traded to the Cubs in a separate deal.

Joining the Astros this season will be third baseman Isaac Parades, who was acquired in the Tucker deal from the Cubs and will take over at third base. Parades is 25 and has a lot of potential. He struggled with the Cubs after he was traded from Tampa Bay last year, but if he regains his 2023 form (31 home runs, 98 RBIs), the Astros should be in good shape at third base. He's not the defensive player that Bregman is, but not many are. Bregman is a Gold Glove winner, but at 30 are his best days behind him? I guess we shall find out.

The Astros also acquired a possible starting pitcher from the Cubs in 26-year-old Hayden Wesneski (3-6, 3.86 ERA) in '24 with the Cubs. Wesneski could become the fifth starter in the rotation. But the gem of the trade with Chicago could be 22-year-old third baseman Cam Smith. Smith was outstanding in Grapefruit action, but he's never played at the major league level. Houston worked him in right field during the spring to see if he could handle the job. The Houston outfield is very unsettled entering the '25 season, so much so that the team is considering moving its franchise player, Jose Altuve (.295 average, 20 HRs, 65 RBIs in '24) from second base to left field. If the move works, that would allow Yordan Alvarez

(.299, 35 HRs, 86 RBIs) to pretty much serve as the full-time designated hitter.

The Astros also filled a huge void at first base with the signing of former Arizona Diamondback first baseman Christian Walker (.251, 26 HRs, 84 RBIs in '24). Walker is a solid all around first baseman and should give the lineup a boost with his power.

The Astros have a young catcher who can hit in Yanier Diaz (.299, 16 HRs, 54 RBIs in '24) and his improved defense is another big plus for the team. He also works well with the pitching staff, which is key for the position.

Speaking of pitching, the Astros starting rotation will be led by 31-year-old veteran left hander Framber Valdez (15-7, 2.91 ERA), who will be making his fourth straight Opening Day start against the Mets.

Valdez will lead a young but promising rotation. Hunter Brown (11-9, 3.49 ERA) had a breakout year in 2024 and could be in for a big year. If Lance McCullers is able to return at some point of the season (he hasn't pitched since Game 3 of the 2022 World Series due to elbow issues), that will only bolster the rotation. The back-end of the bullpen is solid with closer Josh Hader (34 saves, 3.80 ERA) and set-up man Bryan Abreu. Espada needs to find some capable arms to get to those two and don't be surprised if GM Dana Brown makes a trade to shore up the pen at some point this season.

The Astros should be the team to beat in the AL West, but they will get a strong challenge from Seattle (85-77 in '24) and the Texas Rangers, who are two years removed from winning the World Series.

Seattle has best starting rotation in the division led by Logan Gilbert (9-12, 3.23 ERA, 220 strikeouts), George Kirby (14-11, 3.53 ERA, 179 Ks) and Luis Castillo (11-12, 3.64 ERA, 175 Ks) and a solid closer in

Adres Munoz (22 saves). The Mariner aren't an offensive juggernaut and did little to address that issue in the offseason. They will be led by budding superstar centerfielder Julio Rodriguez (.273, 20 HRs, 68 RBIs) and catcher Cal Raleigh (34 HRs, 100 RBIs).

The Rangers were decimated by injuries in 2023 and fell to 78-84. Look for them to bounce back this year behind second baseman Marcus Semien (.273, 23 HRs, 74 RBIs), shortstop Corey Seager (.278, 30 HRs, 74 RBIs), outfielder Adolis Garcia (25 HRs, 85 RBIs) and second-year outfielder Wyatt Langford (.253, 16 HRs, 74 RBIs, 19 stolen bases). Langford is one of the best young players in baseball and could be in for a big year in Arlington. Pitching will be the key to the Rangers success in 2025 and they are already down two starters. Manager Bruce Bochy is hoping for a big year from seasoned vet Jacob deGromme.

In the AL East, the Yankees (94-68) are the team to beat and are the defending AL champs. They have one of the best players in baseball in reigning MVP Aaron Judge (.322, 58 HRs, 144 RBIs). NY lost a key piece of its offense when Juan Soto (.288, 41 HRs, 109 RBIs) signed with the cross-town Mets. The Yanks also have starting pitching issues as Gerrit Cole (8-5, 3.41 ERA) is out for the year with Tommy John surgery and last year's Rookie of the Year, Luis Gill (15-7, 3.50 ERA, 171 Ks) is out at least three months with an elbow injury. The Yankees acquired Max Fried (11-10, 3.25 ERA, 166 Ks) from the Braves. He and Carlos Rondon (16-9, 3.96 ERA) will have to be the bell cows in the rotation until help arrives.

Baltimore (91-71) appears to be the most complete team in the division. They are young and talented led by catcher Adley Rutschman (.250, 19 HRs, 79 RBIs) and shortstop Gunner Henderson (.281, 7 HRs, 37 RBIs, 118 runs scored). Grayson

Rodriguez (13-4, 3.56) will lead the starting rotation.

Toronto will go as far as first baseman Vladimir Guerrero (.323, 30 HRs, 103 RBIs) takes them. The Blue Jays need a big bounce back year from shortstop Bo Bichette (.225, 4 HRs, 31 RBIs in just 81 games). Boston will look to Bregman (.260, 26 HRs, 75 RBIs) to move to second base to keep third baseman Rafael Devers (.272, 28 HRs, 83 RBIs). I don't think the BoSox have the starting pitching to contend with New York and Baltimore.

The AL Central should be competitive with division-winner Cleveland (92-69) and the surprising Detroit Tigers battling for the division crown. The Indians will once again be led by third baseman Jose Ramirez (.279, 39 HRs, 118 RBIs). Former Astros manager A.J. Hinch worked his magic once again in leading the Tigers (86-76) to a Wild Card berth and a sweep of his former team in the first round of the playoffs. Detroit has perhaps the best pitcher in the AL in Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal (18-4, 2.39 ERA, 228 Ks, best in the AL). They have a nice, young team led by left fielder Riley Green (.262, 24 HRs, 74 RBIs).

In the National League, everyone will be chasing the defending World Series champs the Dodgers. LA has the best player in baseball in DH and reigning NL MVP Shotei Ohtani (.310, 54 HRs, 130 RBIs, 59 stolen bases). This is a loaded team with first baseman Freddie Freeman (.282, 22 HRs, 89 RBIs) the WS MVP, shortstop Mookie Betts (.289, 19 HRs, 79 RBIs, 16 SBs) and left fielder Tescor Hernandez (.272, 33 HRs, 99 RBIs). The starting pitching is also solid with the addition of former Cy Young winner Blake Snell and holdover starters Tyler Glasnow (9-6, 3.49 ERA) and Yoshinobu Yamamoto (9-6, 3.49 ERA).

San Diego (93-69) could give LA a run for its money in the NL

West. The Padres have a solid everyday lineup led by third baseman Manny Machado (.275, 29 HRs, 105 RBIs), right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. (.276, 21 HRs, 49 RBIs) and outfielder Jackson Merrill (.292, 24 HRs, 90 RBIs). The starting rotation is solid led by Dylan Cease (14-11, 3.47 ERA, 224 Ks) and Michael King (13-9, 2.95 ERA, 201 Ks). They also have a big-time closer in Robert Suarez (36 saves).

Arizona (89-73) could be in line for a Wild Card spot thanks to second baseman Katel Marte (.292, 36 HRs, 95 RBIs), third baseman Eugenio Suarez (.256, 30 HRs, 101 RBIs) and center fielder Corbin Carroll (22 HRs, 74 RBI, league leading 14 triples). The starting rotation is solid with the addition of Corbin Burns (15-9, 2.92, 181 Ks with Baltimore last year) and hold over Zac Gallen (14-6, 3.65, 126 Ks).

The Phillies (95-67) have perhaps the most complete team in the NL East led by first baseman Bryce Harper (.285, 30 HRs, 87 RBI), shortstop .295, 21 HRs, 68 RBIs) and DH Kyle Schwarber (38 HRs, 104 RBIs). Philly also has a strong starting rotation led by Zack Wheeler (16-7, 2.57 ERA, 224 Ks) and Aaron Nola (14-8, 3.57 ERA, 197 Ks).

The New York Mets (89-73) were one of the surprise teams in baseball in '24, going all the way to the NL Championship series where they fell to the Dodgers in six games. They are hoping Soto will be the missing piece to an offense that also features first baseman Pete Alonso (34 HRs, 88 RBIs) and shortstop Francisco Lindor (.273, 33 HRs, 91 RBIs).

Look for the Atlanta Braves (89-73) to bounce back after injuries derailed them a year ago. The Braves have a potent offense led by third baseman Austin Riley (.256, 19 HRs, 56 RBIs in 110 games), first baseman Matt Olsen (29 HRs, 98 RBIs) and right fielder Ronald Acuna, who played in just 49

games after sustaining another knee injury. When healthy, Acuna is one of the best players in all of baseball. Chris Sale, (18-3, 2.38 ERA, 225 Ks) the '24 NL Cy Young Award winner, will lead the starting rotation and closer Raisel Iglesias (34 save) will handle close things out.

The Milwaukee Brewers (93-69) should be the class of a weak NL Central. Budding superstar outfielder Jackson Chourio (.275, 21 HRs, 79 RBIs, 22 SBs) could have a breakout season. The starting rotation will be led by Freddy Peralta (11-9, 3.68 ERA) and Colin Rea (12-6, 4.29 ERA).

The Cubs are hoping Tucker (.289, 23 HRs, 49 RBIs in just 78 games) bounces back to his 2023 form when he hit .284, had 39 HRs, 112 RBIs and 30 stolen bases. Chicago will count on Shota Imanaga (15-3, 2.91 ERA, 174 Ks) and Justin Steele (5-5, 3.07 RBI) to have big years as starters.

So, without further ado, here are one man's picks for the 2025 season:

- AL WEST - ASTROS
- AL EAST - BALTIMORE
- AL CENTRAL - DETROIT
- AL WILD CARDS - CLEVELAND, SEATTLE AND NEW YORK
- AL CHAMPIONSHIP - HOUSTON OVER BALTIMORE
- NL WEST - LOS ANGELES
- NL EAST - PHILADELPHIA
- NL CENTRAL - MILWAUKEE
- NL WILD CARDS - ARIZONA, SAN DIEGO, NEW YORK
- NL CHAMPIONSHIP - LOS ANGELES OVER PHILADELPHIA
- WORLD SERIES - LOS ANGELES OVER HOUSTON

Garcia Town Hall,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

States for decades. They have built their families here and contribute significantly to their communities and our nation's economy.

Dreamers and TPS recipients make major economic and fiscal contributions each year. DACA recipients pay approximately \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes annually. The Center for American Progress estimates that the national GDP could grow by \$799 billion over the next decade if Dreamers were provided a pathway to citizenship.

Economic models show a pathway to citizenship would increase wages for all workers in the U.S. and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. It is estimated that DACA recipients in 2022 collectively earned nearly \$27.9 billion and contributed nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare, despite not being eligible for these benefits under current law.

"Dreamers are American in every way but on paper. For decades, they have contributed to and shaped the fabric of America. Yet, they are currently denied their place in the American story," said Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia. "Our nation cannot afford to lose the small business owners, the talent, the artists, the aspiring public servants, and the drive that Dreamers bring. If that's not American, I don't know what is. The American Dream and Promise Act writes them into the American story—a part that has been missing for too long."

"Twelve years ago, the Obama-Biden administration took a bold and necessary step by creating DACA to protect undocumented young people who

were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own. This program has allowed more than 800,000 Dreamers to live, work, and contribute to their communities," said Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez. "But for too long, courts have put their futures at risk, forcing them to live in uncertainty. That is why I was proud to be one of the original authors of the bipartisan Dream and Promise Act, a common-sense solution that will provide permanent protections and a path to citizenship for Dreamers and recipients of Temporary Protected Status. These are our neighbors, colleagues, and friends, and it is long past time we give them the security they deserve.

The bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025 would:




- Protect and grant eligible Dreamers conditional permanent residence for ten years and cancel removal proceedings
- Provide a pathway to citizenship for eligible Dreamers by granting full Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status
- Provide individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) with LPR status
- Protect Dreamers and individuals with TPS or DED during their application for relief under the American Dream and Promise Act
- Provide eligible Dreamers with access to federal financial aid
- Allow eligible Dreamers located abroad to apply for relief
- Prevent penalizing states that grant in-state tuition to undocumented students based on residency

Before his inauguration,

President Donald Trump indicated he wanted to work with Democrats to protect Dreamers and that Republicans were open to getting something done on this issue. Congresswoman Garcia and her colleagues extend an open invitation to President Trump to get this done by passing the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, which the American public strongly supports. Polls have consistently shown the majority of Americans support Republicans and Democrats working together on legislation that would enable Dreamers to earn legal status and eventual citizenship—that legislation is the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025.

-- Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Romans (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Chronicles 14, where was Abijah buried? City of David, Jerusalem, City of Gath, Nazareth
3. According to Numbers 33, how old was Aaron when he died? 100, 113, 123, 132
4. Which of these sons of Jesse did not go into battle

with Saul? Eliab, David, Abinadab, Shimea
 5. From 2 Kings, who was Elijah's successor? Solomon, Elisha, Nimshi, Nimrod
 6. Which of Saul's daughters loved David? Merab, Michal, Cornelius, Paulus

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) City of David, 3) 123, 4) David, 5) Elisha, 6) Michal
 Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE




For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

LAMENTATIONS 3: 31-33

Detail of "The Widow I" by Käthe Kollwitz (1922-23)

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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) or Richard Cantu, Executive Director (rcantu@haweshill.com)

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Nicole Kidman stars in "Holland."

"Holland"

"I'm Still Here" (PG-13) — To finish out the last of this year's award season darlings, this Brazilian political-biographical film was nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars...

Knives Out") was such a success after its February release that it has already been renewed for a second season by Netflix.

"Running Point" (TV-MA) — This sports-comedy series led by Kate Hudson ("Glass Onion:

"Holland" (R) — Following the heels of her "Babygirl" campaign that unfortunately fell under the radar during award

season, Nicole Kidman stars in this new mystery thriller, opposite Matthew Macfadyen ("Succession"). Kidman and Macfadyen play the Vanderbrooks, who appear to be your usual suburbanites raising a child in the midwestern town of Holland, Michigan.

"The Parenting" (R) — This campy horror film out now has such an incredible ensemble cast that one would expect it to be a sleeper hit, but its cringey plot and dialogue can only take these actors' performances so far.

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Leonardo DiCaprio has been absent from big screens since "Killers of the Flower Moon," which was an artistic success but a box-office disappointment.

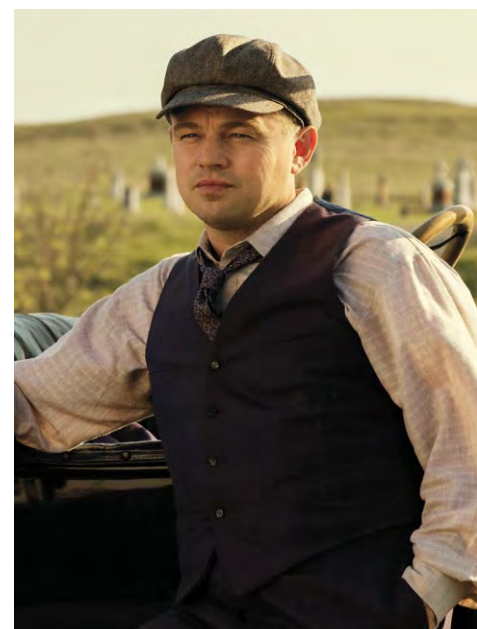
Brad Pitt wrapped the American sports action drama "F1," featuring the Formula One World Championship, and it opens on June 27.

George Clooney's next film is the Netflix coming-of-age comedy "Jay Kelly," with Adam Sandler, Laura Dern, Billy Crudup, Riley Keough, Jim Broadbent, Isla Fisher and Greta Gerwig.

As soon as Julia Roberts wrapped the thriller "After the Hunt" (due on Oct. 10), with Andrew Garfield and Chloe Sevigny, she jumped right into filming the thriller "Panic Carefully," with Elizabeth Olsen, Eddie Redmayne, Brian Tyree Henry, and Ben Chaplin.

Mark Wahlberg, who is approaching 54 years old, is still going full speed ahead. He shot "Flight Risk" in Las Vegas with Michelle Dockery and Topher Grace, which was directed by Mel Gibson.

He loved it so much that he stayed on to shoot another film — the Amazon MGM action comedy "Balls Up," with Molly Shannon and Benjamin Bratt.



Leonardo DiCaprio in "Killers of the Flower Moon".

Is this the end of an era? Founded in 1915, Technicolor was used by Walt Disney for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1937), by MGM for "The Wizard of Oz" (1939), and by David O. Selznick for "Gone with the Wind" (1939), to name a few classics.

Dwayne Johnson must have been disappointed by his Christmas movie "Red One," with Chris Evans, Lucy Liu, Nick Kroll and J.K. Simmons. It only recouped \$185.9 million of its \$250 million cost.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



by BUD BLAKE



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip with a 'Find at least six differences in details between panels' challenge.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. The Himalayas; 2. "Gone With the Wind"; 3. Neptune; 4. The National Archives; 5. A conspiracy; 6. Baltimore; 7. Indonesia; 8. Title character in "Oliver Twist"; 9. Rembrandt; 10. Cold-blooded.

March 24, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?
2. MOVIES: Which color film was the first to win an Academy Award for Best Picture?
3. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is believed to be the windiest?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is the U.S. Constitution stored?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of lemurs called?
6. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the dramatic series "The Wire"?
7. GEOLOGY: Which country has the most active volcanoes?
8. LITERATURE: Which character in a Charles Dickens novel famously said, "Please, sir, I want some more"?
9. ART: Which Dutch artist is considered a master of light and shadow, creating dramatic effects in paintings?
10. SCIENCE: What is an ectothermic animal?

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Solution time: 22 mins. Answers King Crossword

Lone Star Adjunct Faculty Career Fair March 27

Help teach the future workforce at Lone Star College



Lone Star College will host an Adjunct Faculty Career Fair March 27 from 3:30-7 p.m. (last entry is at 6:30 p.m.), at the Lone Star Community Building in The Woodlands. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/AFCF.

NORTHEAST HOUSTON (March 20, 2025) – Lone Star College knows instructors with industry-related experience can provide students with valuable knowledge and skills to help them succeed in their chosen field. The college will recruit more professionals to train the next generation at its annual Adjunct Faculty Career Fair March 27 at the LSC-System Office, The Woodlands Community Building located at 5000 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands. The event will run from 3:30-7 p.m., with the latest entry time for candidates is 6:30 p.m.

“Lone Star College values adjunct faculty’s wealth of experience, which provides students with classroom and hands-on training, giving them a competitive boost when transferring to a four-year university or entering their chosen career,” said Patricia Woods, LSC senior associate vice chancellor, Human Resources.

The LSC Adjunct Faculty Career Fair will feature department chairs from various disciplines across the college system to conduct on-the-spot interviews and assist job seekers with applications. Interested applicants should bring copies of their

resume, unofficial transcripts, certifications and licenses. Additionally, the fair will focus on credit and academic teaching opportunities, including biology, English and math.

Visit LoneStar.edu/AFCF for more information on the event. Advertised positions are for in-person or hybrid courses. View LoneStar.edu/Employment for full-time faculty positions and other job openings.

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.

Vacant Aldine ISD school Conley Elementary sustains fire damage



Report from the Northwest Volunteer Fire Department

At 2:48am Sunday morning March 16th units were dispatched to a fire at the Aldine ISD school, Conley Elementary on West Greens Road near Veterans Memorial.

When units arrived just a few minutes later heavy fire and smoke could be seen coming from the building and the fire had broken through the roof. Crews attempted to fight the fire inside the building but due to the compromise of the structure and instability of the roof crews were pulled out to fight the fire defensively.

Due to the older courtyard style structure crews were able to contain the fire to the

one wing of the school. There were no injuries and the fire is under investigation by the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear; however, Aldine ISD officials who were on the scene said there had been ongoing issues with people vandalizing the vacant elementary

school. This was a 3 alarm fire bringing help from Harris County ESD 17 Little York Fire, Champions Emergency Services District, Harris County ESD 16 - Klein Fire Department, Ponderosa Fire Department, Harris County ESD No.24/Aldine Fire & Rescue, Westfield

Fire Department, Cypress Creek Fire Department / Harris County ESD 13, Jersey Village Fire Department, and Harris County Emergency Corps.

Conley was one of the schools closed by district officials last year. The building is scheduled to be demolished in September.



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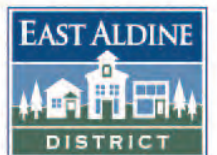
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