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NORTHEAST NEWS



Reimagine Aldine Mail Route Public Input - See Story below

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years
VOL. 49, NO. 12 TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

EGGstravaganza at East Aldine Town Center April 5

East Aldine District will host an Easter Egg hunt and EGGstravaganza on Saturday, April 5 from 9am to 1pm at the Town Center Amphitheatre, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive behind BakerRipley on Aldine Mail Route. Fun for the Whole Family, Bring a Basket and Join in an Epic Egg Hunt. Food Trucks, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prizes and MORE. Info 346-570-4463.

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.

PUBLIC REIMAGINES AN IMPROVED ALDINE MAIL ROUTE

Residents give input on Garcia's 'Reimagine Aldine Mail Route' proposal

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

No money has been committed just yet, but if Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has the opportunity and funds, Aldine Mail Route will look different soon.

Last Tuesday night, residents were invited to the headquarters of the East Aldine Management District for a public meeting giving them the opportunity to view the options for the corridor. Many were surprised that the stretch of Aldine Mail Route has been identified as one of the Top 10 most dangerous roads in the precinct and in Harris County.

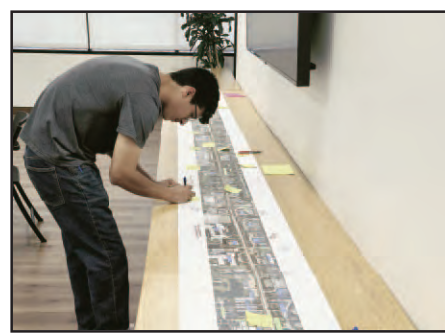
"We're hosting this community outreach meeting for the residents who use Aldine Mail Route. We want to do a redevelopment of this corridor because this corridor has one of the highest rates of ac-



The Public interacts with the various planning tools at the workshop.



Ruben DeLeon lives in the Aldine area and came out to show his support for the project. DeLeon believes everyone should do their part in cleaning up the area and helping make Aldine a great place to live.



Eli Bautista Cortez, 20, writes notes on one of the many maps that were set up at the community meeting. Residents could write on the map suggestions they had for the plans.

cidents and fatalities in Harris County," said Daniel Brassil, planning project manager for Harris County.

Part of that redevelopment includes improving the roadways and to do that, they are seeking input from the people who live here, work here, and use the roadway every day.

"We're gathering that input so the consultants who the county will hire to put together a plan with recommendations for the roadway will really know how to improve the roadway from a resident's point of view," he said.

The funding will come later, once a plan has been put together and Brassil said they will seek out as much of it from grants as possible.

He said he hoped that they could get approval from the commissioner's court on a plan by the end of the year if all goes well.

The corridor is listed in

Continued. See REIMAGINE ALDINE MAIL ROUTE, Page 5

Candidates interested in District 18 Congressional seat

HARRIS COUNTY – The race to fill the late Sylvester Turner's Congressional District 18 seat is off to a fast start — but candidates don't know when voters will head to the polls. With Gov. Greg Abbott yet to set a special election date, experts say the vote is likely months away.

Prior to Turner, the seat was held for many years by Sheila Jackson Lee.

Early moves: Demo-



From left, candidates for Congressional District 18 seat Isaiiah Martin, Amanda Edwards and Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee.

cratic frontrunner Christian Menefee made an early splash with major endorsements and fundraising. He was soon joined by Isaiiah Martin and former City Council Member Amanda Edwards. Several others have since filed, with more likely to come.

Election uncertainty: Abbott has until March 31 to set a May 4 election

Continued. See Race for 18th District Seat in Congress, Page 2

Garcia testifies in Washington on FEMA Disaster responses

Commissioner Garcia urges improved disaster response

HOUSTON – With Hurricane season two months away, recent disasters have highlighted how critical FEMA is in helping Harris County recover.

This week, Commissioner Garcia was on Capitol Hill representing counties nationwide as Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Inter-governmental Disaster Reform Task Force for the National Association of Counties (NACo).



In his role as an advocate of NACo, Commissioner Garcia represents counties large and small, rural and urban, any of which might be impacted by a disaster. He testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Emergency Management to advocate for faster, more efficient FEMA funding.

Elvin Franklin honored by North Houston District for his Community Service

North Houston Park, & New Sculpture Dedicated to Elvin Franklin, Jr.

NORTH HOUSTON – The North Houston District attended a special celebration recognizing Elvin Franklin, Jr., a leader whose service helped shape the future of our community.

His long-standing dedication to the North Houston Development Corp (TIRZ 11) Board has left a lasting impact, and now, his contributions are honored in a meaningful new way. On January 16, Sally Bradford, Executive Director of TIRZ 11, hosted the dedication of Elvin Franklin,



Elvin Franklin, Jr. and wife Ann Franklin at Franklin Linear Art Park

Jr. Linear Art Park, bringing together longtime colleagues, family, and community partners to reflect on his legacy.

It was a sunny and brisk winter afternoon in

North Houston, a fitting backdrop for celebrating years of collaboration and investment that have to reflect on his legacy.

Continued. See NORTH HOUSTON FRANKLIN PARK, Page 8

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Race for 18th District Seat in Congress,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

date, but he could wait until November, potentially giving Republicans a short-term edge in Congress. Potential candidates, like At-Large City Council Member Letitia Plummer, are holding back until the timing is clear.

Big picture: The race is shaping up as a battle between establishment-backed candidates and those positioning themselves as fresh alternatives. With a deep-blue district and a long legacy of Democratic leadership, the competition will be fierce — whenever Election Day arrives.

Credits: By Paul Cobler, Houston Landing Photos: (Houston Landing file photo / Douglas Sweet Jr.) (Elizabeth Conley/Houston Chronicle via AP, file) (Houston Landing file photo / Antranik Tavitian)

OBITUARY

BILLIE KATHERINE MASON

Billie Katherine Mason Obituary - Long time resident and community volunteer and Aldine ISD VISA volunteer at Worsham Elementary Passed away on March 21, 2025.

Born July 19, 1952 to Helen Faye Lauter and William Mason. She died March 21, 2025, at the age of 72, peacefully in her sleep. Full obituary on Brookside Memorial Park website.

Service at Brookside Memorial Park, 13747

Eastex Freeway at Lauder Rd., Houston, Tx on April 5th, 2025. Viewing and Visitation at 8:30 to 10:00am with burial at 11:00am.

Memorial donations may be made to Aldine Education Foundation.

Online at aldineeducationfoundation.org or donate a book to Worsham elementary library. For information on how to donate a book contact Worsham Elementary School, 3007 Hartwick Rd., Houston, Tx. Ph: 281-985-6520

Man shot in hand, driving near Aldine Mail Route and Sellers Road



Man stops for help after being shot while driving in north Harris County, HCSO says

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas (KTRK) — One man is hospitalized after he was shot in the hand while driving Sunday night in north Harris County, according to the sheriff's office.

Authorities responded to Aldine Mail Route Road and Sellers Road, where the man said he had been

shot nearby and stopped in the area for help, said Captain Sandi Chapa with Harris County Sheriff's Office Patrol District 2.

She wrote on X, formerly Twitter, at about 9 p.m. that first responders transported the man to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Investigators searched the area for shell casings. ABC13's crew overnight captured video of the shattered back passenger window.

It wasn't immediately known what led to the shooting.

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8. The Hunger Games
9. The Shack
10. The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Source: Publishers Weekly

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2 APR	1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL
	3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS
	5 PM READING WONDERLAND
3 APR	11AM CITIZENSHIP
	3PM CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS
7 APR	11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN
	1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL
	4 PM CREATION STATION
8 APR	11 AM TODDLER TIME
	3 PM POKEMON CLUB

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6347

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Coach Venzant Revives the Nimitz Girls Basketball Program, Earning Coach of the Year Honors



HOUSTON — Walking through the hallways of Nimitz High School, the sounds of bouncing basketballs and coaches calling out instructions echo through the gym. But inside her office, Coach Kendra Venzant, known simply as Coach K, remains calm, focused, and reflective—a demeanor that has helped transform the Nimitz Cougars girls' basketball program into a force to be reckoned with.

Under her leadership, the Lady Cougars finished the 2024-25 season with a 26-7 record, securing second place in District 14-6A and advancing to the third round of the playoffs. It marked back-to-back 25-win seasons, a feat the program had not achieved since the Brittany Griner-led teams of 2007-2009. For her efforts, Venzant was named the 14-6A Coach of the Year.



Success, however, didn't come overnight. Venzant took over the program during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when building relationships and instilling her philosophy proved incredibly challenging. "Coming up with creative coaching strategies outside of my norm made it difficult to set my standard and my goals and ultimately to build relationships with my girls," Venzant said. "But that challenge pushed me to connect with them in different ways, to show them not just what I expect but how much I care."

She taught me a lot—how to be a better person and how to overcome obstacles while being a good teammate," Richards-Holmes said, emphasizing the importance of never giving up. Her growth stands as a testament to the coach-player relationship that has blossomed over the last four seasons.

letes has been beautifully recognized, not only through her achievement as the district Coach of the Year but also by Principal Walter Stewart, who honors her as a vital leader on campus, expressing how Venzant embodies the essence of collaboration, showcasing outstanding leadership and deep dedication to her players.

Richardson's dedication culminated in a viral moment this season when she confidently told the crowd she was about to drain a three-pointer—and then did just that. It was a defining moment for the senior guard, who wrapped up her high school career with over 1,000 total points and 500 assists, averaging 18.2 points, 4.2 assists, 3.3 steals, and 2.4 rebounds per game in her final season.

"Her buying into everything—how she handles herself on and off the court, coming to point guard school, being a leader, and allowing me to pour into her—that's what this culture is about," Venzant said.

"Her positive discipline approach is truly inspiring, nurturing a culture of respect and excellence within the Nimitz High School community. We feel immense pride in her accomplishments and are deeply grateful for her unwavering commitment to shaping the lives of our young female athletes. Her influence goes far beyond the court, as she helps these young women grow as athletes and individuals."

That culture has taken root, and Venzant credits the 2022 senior class—particularly her first point guard, Ny'Asia Vance—for setting the tone. "Vance was here before I arrived, but she immediately stepped into that leadership role," Venzant said. "That 2022 class bought into everything—discipline, accountability—and they took us back to the playoffs. Vance made it easy because she led by example, and the rest followed."

Venzant's impact extends beyond wins and losses. For her, success isn't just about the scoreboard—it's about shaping young women into leaders. The confirmation of her impact came in a simple text message from a player driving to the Nimitz campus one morning, thanking her for being more than just a coach.

A former Nimitz player herself under legendary coach Debbie Jackson, Venzant is still chasing the ultimate prize: a state championship. The Cougars haven't reached the state championship game since 2009, but this season's playoff run gave them a glimpse of what it takes.

Richards-Holmes cherishes the freedom and trust she has gained from Coach K over the years, but resiliency remains her biggest takeaway from playing under her. She believes the lessons extend beyond basketball, shaping her character on and off the court. "I look up to Coach K like a role model.

"That message was my confirmation from God that I'm doing the right work," Venzant said. "As coaches, we preach and teach; sometimes, we don't know if they receive the message. But this class—this senior class, whom she refers to as her favorite class—they got it."

"We got a taste of what Dallas-style basketball is like—the aggressiveness, the effort," Venzant said. "Now, we have to bring that same grit into the off-season. It's the little things that win big games, and that's what we have to lock in on."

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

Aldine ISD Receives \$2.3 Million Grant for Cybersecurity Programs



In February 2025, Aldine ISD was one of several districts across Texas selected to participate in a cybersecurity pilot program through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). As part of the program, Aldine will receive grant funds through the FCC's Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program.

ity, incident response plans, firewalls, monitoring and detection services, and other items that will help protect sensitive data and secure the network and applications for students and staff.

sought-after, with nearly 3,000 applications submitted requesting over \$3.7 billion in funding. Entities interested in participating in the program had to submit an extensive application detailing their needs, plans, and information about the district. Participants were selected based on various criteria, including district needs, demographic makeup, discount rates, and cybersecurity experience.

The grant will provide AISD with just over \$2.3 million over the next three years to help fund cybersecurity initiatives, services, and hardware throughout the district. The district will use the funds as early as the 2025-2026 school year. They will help cover costs associated with network security, email secu-

"This selection recognizes our district's commitment to cutting-edge technology and cybersecurity best practices," said Chief Information Officer Adam Galvan. "As one of a limited number of participants, this program presents an unprecedented opportunity to enhance our district's cybersecurity infrastructure, safeguard student data, and ensure a secure learning environment for all."

This program reinforces Aldine ISD's commitment to providing all students with a dynamic, unparalleled education that guarantees choices and opportunities today and in the future.

The grant was highly

District Names 2025 Rookie Principal of the Year



On Thursday, March 20, Dr. Pablo Siboldi, at a district leadership event, got the surprise of the year. He learned he had been named the district's Rookie Principal of the Year.

when I was in the classroom, and they mentioned I should give administration a try. I went for it, and it has been a very rewarding experience."

University, and a bachelor's in history from the University of Houston-Downtown.

Principal Pablo Siboldi of Worsham Elementary School

Siboldi was named principal of Worsham Elementary School at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

"I chose to be a leader because I wanted to help and serve as many students and teachers as I possibly could; I wanted to have the biggest impact on the positive relationships that can exist within campus walls."

"I have always wanted to be in education, but I never imagined that I would be a principal," said Siboldi. "I remember having a conversation with a previous administrator

Siboldi holds a doctorate in education and executive leadership from Houston Baptist University, a master's in European history and education administration from Houston Baptist

Educators of the Year Celebration
Pablo Siboldi and Principal of the Year winners Kathleen Scott and Dr. Jericah Jackson will be honored at the district's 2025 Educator of the Year breakfast on March 28.

ALDINE Independent School District **FESTIVAL DE PRIMAVERA**
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<p>Virtual Event Saturday, April 26, 2025 10 to 11 a.m. Pre-register Online at: AldineISD.org</p>	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffle prizes* • Guest speakers • Student performances 	<p>Guest Speakers</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-left: 5px;"> <p>Andrés Ruzo, a well-known explorer and host, has been featured on BBC, Forbes, and more!</p> </div> </div>	<p>Dr. Gilberto D. Soto is a renowned music education and guitar professor performing classical and flamenco concerts globally.</p>
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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



With No Immigration, U.S. Population could fall 30% by Year 2100

The US Census Bureau makes projections of the US population based on various immigration scenarios.

In its main case, which the Census Bureau considers the most likely scenario, the US population is projected to increase slowly from its current level of about 338 million to 369 million by 2080, with an average annual growth rate of 0.0163%.

In the high case, which assumes approximately 1.5 million new immigrants each year, the population continues to grow for the remainder of the century, reaching 435 million by 2100.

In the low case, which assumes about 500,000 new immigrants each year, the population peaks in 2043 at just under 346 million, representing a 2.8% increase from the current population.

But the scenario that really caught my attention was the zero-immigration projection. In this scenario, the US population is projected to have already peaked and will decline by over 30% by 2100, reaching approximately 225 million.

If you look at the components of the zero-immigration projection, you will see that net immigration is a negative number for all years. This is because, contrary to what many believe and what is trumpeted incessantly on social media, many immigrants leave the country every year.

Many leave voluntarily. A good example is when young people come here on educational visas and then return to their country after completing their education.

There is a heavy emphasis on immigration in these projections because it is the most impactful factor on population and the most difficult to predict. When making a population projection, three key variables must be taken into account: the birth rate, the death rate, and immigration.

However, the country can regulate the number of people who enter the country. The rate of immigration, therefore, depends on the public's attitude toward immigration and how their feelings will be reflected in public policy.

I think the US will have significantly lower immigration rates in the near term. That is what the American people want, and it was the animating issue in the 2024 election.

However, I am not sure that will be a good predictor of this cycle. The country has never experienced an anti-immigrant cycle with this demographic setup or with information moving at the speed it does today.

But the attitudes will change. Because this kind of population loss, or even a stagnate population, is going to create economic hardships for a wide swath of the country.

For those of you who engage in the fantasy that native Americans will backfill these jobs, let me assure that it is exactly that - a fantasy.

The American ship of state has a massive ballast. It will eventually right itself and we will not have a net zero immigration policy, at least, not for long.

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Senate Backs Prayer Time, Ten Commandments in Classrooms

The Texas Senate last week passed a bill to allow school districts to set aside time for in-school prayer and gave initial approval to requiring all schools to post a copy of the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

BILL FILED TO ABOLISH TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

A Waco lawmaker has filed a bill to abolish the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and transfer its duties to the Texas General Land Office, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Public Safety.

NORTHEAST NEWS

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

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to the agencies overseeing the new duties. TPWD sent an emailed statement, saying in part: "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proud of the important role our agency plays in managing Texas land and waters in coordination with our partners and private landowners to provide for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

PAXTON MULLING RUN AGAINST CORNYN IN 2026

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is raising money for a possible primary challenge against U.S. Sen. John Cornyn next year, the Chronicle reported. "I think I can win if I have \$20 million," Paxton, 62, told Punchbowl News.

BILL SEEKS TO IMPROVE STATE'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE

A Panhandle legislator whose district and his own property were affected by last year's wildfire that burned more than 1 million acres has filed a bill to create a statewide system connecting all first responders and government agencies to the same network.

The Texas Interoperability Council, which would be charged with creating a statewide plan for the use of emergency equipment and infrastructure. King led an investigative committee last year after the wildfires. "The first responder community will tell you it takes three meetings in the middle of a disaster before everybody starts moving in the same direction," King said.

MEASLES CASES NOW TOP 300 IN STATE

The number of confirmed measles cases in Texas now totals 309 as of Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, with 40 hospitalizations and one fatality. Of that number, 211 have been in Gaines County, in West Texas.

CASE AGAINST STATE IMMIGRATION LAW DROPPED BY DOJ, BUT OTHERS CONTINUE THEIR SUIT

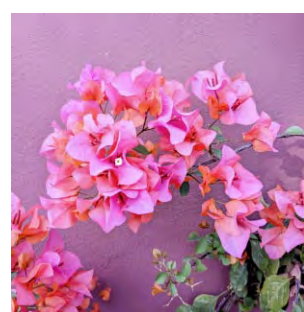
The U.S. Justice Department has dropped its lawsuit against a 2023 state law that allowed local and state law enforcement to arrest and deport undocumented migrants, The Dallas Morning News reported.

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

Bougainvillea Poetry



After a while, no one wants to look like a tourist.

Experienced travelers will buy a hat in a local store, convinced that having the same head covering will somehow make them less conspicuous.

If the tourists who don't want to appear to be tourists take photos, they only take a picture of themselves and their traveling partners.

I was at a poetry reading the other day. I go to very few poetry readings. Because I write, I have writer friends, and some of them write poetry.

I sit among a group of people, listening to poetry, while consciously thinking to myself, "I have no idea what that means."

As I puzzle over what it might mean, the poet keeps on reading. Then I realize I have missed the last line. Now I really don't understand what is being talked about.

But at this poetry reading, I heard something that I understood—although it was not from the poet who was reading, but from another poet.

Everyone around the poet laughed, and I actually knew what she meant—and I was kind of sorry that I did.

Much of Mexico is filled with bougainvillea, which bloom for most of the year, and San Miguel is no exception. It is stunning, especially blooming against a brightly painted wall.

Everyone photographs the bougainvillea when they first arrive. Then they realize it is everywhere, and in time, they usually stop noticing it altogether.

If having more refined tastes means I stop noticing bougainvillea, I'd be happy with the tastes I have, even if I never understand much poetry. Because it seems to me the ability to notice the beautiful in the ordinary is more important than recognizing the unusual.

My friend read her poetry, which I was delighted to discover I not only understood but found very funny.

It is ordinary beauty that stuns me, time after time.

Seeing something that has no business being so beautiful—in a setting where no one even notices—seems like a miracle.

It is not a bad thing to be a tourist. It is not terrible to stop in the middle of the sidewalk, blocking foot traffic, overwhelmed by the beauty of an ordinary thing.

Till next time, Carrie



Reimagine Aldine Mail Route,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Residents were able to view rows of presentation posters and use sticky notes to leave on the posterboards giving their personal opinions on what they wanted for the area.

Neighbors and Friends:

We are more than halfway through the 89th Legislative Session. I want to take a moment to reflect on the work we're doing at the Capitol.



Last month, we all experienced the loss of a true Texas giant. We said goodbye to former Congressman Sylvester Turner—a lifelong public servant, and a dear friend to my whole family. His leadership and unwavering commitment to the City of Houston will be missed. Every day at the Legislature, I think of his legacy and all of the lessons I learned watching him in the Texas House.

In Austin, I am pushing forward with the work you sent me here to do. I've presented seven bills in committee so far, fighting for the resources and policies that will improve the lives of our neighbors. Despite our busy committee and Floor schedules, I always make time to meet with advocates and officials who travel from back home to advocate for House District 140 – including Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and his team, Legacy and Hope Clinics and Aldine ISD.

There's still a lot of work ahead, but as always, I'm grateful for the trust you've placed in me to represent you. Let's keep moving forward together.

Rep. Armando Walle



Rep. Walle Presents Seven Bills in Committee Hearings

Rep. Walle has had the opportunity to present seven of his bills so far this Session. On March 17th, Rep. Walle presented his first piece of legislation, **HB 618**, which would expand insurance coverage for IVF treatments for state employees. Click on the video above to watch his presentation.

Rep. Walle has also had committee hearings for the following bills:

HB 252 — This bill amends the Government Code to expand the number of state employees who are eligible to be paid twice a month.

HB 636 — This bill directs the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to collaborate with the Texas Homeless Network to create a homeless data sharing network.

HB 932 — This bill would create an Interstate Compact for Occupational Therapist practitioners that would allow participating members to practice telehealth in participating Compact states outside of their own.

HB 1846 — This bill creates an electric truck advisory council that oversees electric truck operations and infrastructure.

HB 1918 — This bill limits water rate increases by Class A utilities to once every 36 months, with a maximum increase of 20%.

HB 2578 — This bill limits the publicization of information regarding certain landlord tenant disputes by requiring courts to include the information their official monthly reports.

Rep. Walle Hosts Chairs of Key Natural Resources Agencies

This month, Rep. Walle hosted a meeting with Chairwoman Brooke Paup (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), Chairwoman L'Oreal Stepney (Texas Water Development Board), and Chairman Thomas Gleeson (Public Utilities Commission) to discuss critical funding for Texas' natural resource agencies.



95,000 Texas children are waiting for state help to pay for day care

(Rep. Armando Walle) asked for an additional \$181 million, but his request was added to Article XI, the place for wishlist items in the House's budget proposal. "This session, I've been working with stakeholders to serve another 10,000 kids on the waitlist each year," Walle said. "I am hopeful that I can continue working with Chairman Bonnen and House leadership to help these children."

Will lawmakers let Texas' maternal mortality committee review abortion deaths?

HB 731, filed by (Rep. Armando Walle), would restore Texas to the federal system, which committee leaders have said is essential for tracking and improving maternal health outcomes in Texas and the nation. At a June meeting, Ortigue spoke about attending a national conference and seeing the importance of data sharing between states, especially for a state that represents more than 10% of births in the country. Walle's bill has been referred to committee.

the Top Ten of Harris County's High Injury Network under Vision Zero.

Commissioners Court approved the Harris County Vision Zero Action Plan on September 13, 2022. The Harris County Vision Zero Action Plan has identified corridors and intersections on the High Injury Network to prioritize safety improvement projects.

As part of Commissioner Adrian Garcia's Revive2Thrive initiative, Precinct 2 proposed to conduct a corridor study on Aldine Mail Route from Airline Drive to Easthampton Drive (5.6 miles). This corridor is in the top 20 percent of the County's High Injury Network.

According to the Vision Zero Action Plan, the Reimagine Aldine Mail Route corridor study will include extensive public engagement; in-depth safety analysis; and concept development of an inclusive, resilient, and safe corridor. The study will provide engineering solutions for improving safety along the corridor and at intersections for all roadway users, including bicyclists and pedestrians, who are the most vulnerable roadway users.

There have already been meetings with stakeholders, community leaders, and precinct staff, but Tuesday night was the public's say in the process. The study will also provide preliminary cost esti-

mates for implementing the preferred corridor concept.

The proposed section of Aldine Mail Route is from Airline Drive to Easthampton Drive (5.6 miles). This corridor is in the top 20 percent of the County's High Injury Network.

The overall project would not only improve infrastructure, but create economic opportunities, and enhance residents' overall quality of life.

Ruben DeLeon lives in the area and is hopeful.

"I just feel that as a community, we can work together, clean up everything ourselves and bring harmony to our area," he said. "We should expect other people to do the work. With just a little bit of effort, we can all put in our share and make a big difference."

Lauren Henry grew up in Aldine behind Oleson, where she attended elementary school, then on to Hambrick Middle School, and finished at the magnet school Victory Early College High School.

Henry is a substitute teacher by day, and going to school for an education degree at night and hopes to return to the community to reinvest her talents here.

"I am interested in the development of Aldine considering my generation will be the next leaders," she said. She was impressed with the presenta-

tion. "I think the redevelopment will change the vibe and encourage new business for the area," she said.

Twenty-year-old Eli Bautista Cortez said he has seen the accidents himself.

"There's a lot of accidents and car pileups," he said. "It's frustrating to see and dangerous. You see a lot of people walking and turning really fast, speeding."

Cortez is hoping they will have a median with turn lanes.

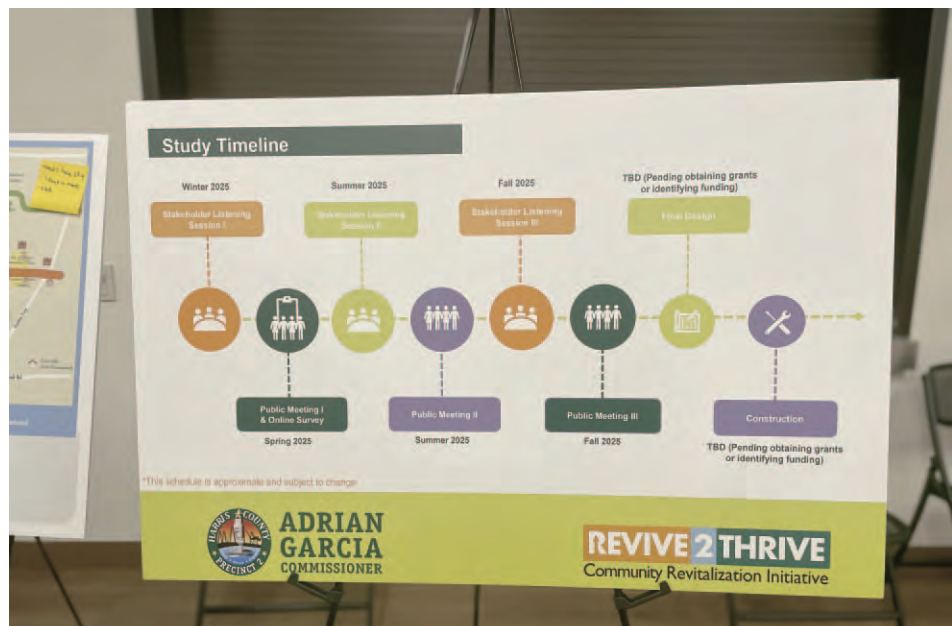
"It's hard for them right now to make those turns and they can block up traffic and make dangerous advances to get across (to their destination)," he said. Exiting stores along the corridor is also dangerous, especially if they are crossing over to the other lanes.

After the public feedback, they will go back and consider all of the input, work on completing the design process, get approval and then begin applying for funding opportunities, and ultimately begin construction to bring the improvements to Aldine Mail Route Road.

Project Next Steps
Next steps include gathering public feedback, completing the design process, applying for funding opportunities, and preparing for construction to bring these improvements to Aldine Mail Route Road.



Precinct 2 consultants were on hand to answer questions and listen to suggestions from the Public.



What's Next? The Timeline shows several more meetings with the Public, and Engineering and Funding studies that carry through to the end of the year.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. How did God identify Himself when speaking from the burning bush? I am who I am, King of all, Jesus Christ, Lord of Jehovah
3. Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues in Egypt? Locusts, Wicked skins to stone, Water turned to blood, Livestock diseased

4. 2 Kings 19 and which other book and chapter are almost alike word for word? Jeremiah 50, Job 16, Isaiah 37, Deuteronomy 7
5. Which judge of Israel had 30 sons? Samson, Jair, Ephraim, Gideon
6. What king dug wells in the desert? Abner, Isaac, Uzziah, Abimelech

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) I am who I am, 3) Wicked skins to stone, 4) Isaiah 37, 5) Jair, 6) Uzziah
 More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."

ACTS 17: 22-24

View of the Areopagus today

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

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/RQs), 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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From left, Rachel Zegler and Jaeden Martell star in 'Y2K.'

Y2K

'Y2K' (R) — In his directorial debut, Kyle Mooney ('Saturday Night Live') brings back 2000s-style comedy in full force. This film deemed an 'apocalyptic sci-fi comedy horror' follows a group of high school students in 1999 who crash a New Year's Eve party. Expecting a night full of the usual teenage angst and antics, these kids receive the shock of their lives when the power goes out at midnight and technological chaos ensues! As pieces of technology from VCRs to Tamagotchis to microwaves begin to murder the partygoers, our group of unsuspecting high schoolers must fight to make it through the night. Jaeden Martell ('Mr. Harrigan's Phone'), Rachel Zegler ('The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes'), and even The Kid LAROI co-star in 'Y2K,' out on

April 4. (Max) ***

'PULSE' (TV-MA) — Fans of 'Grey's Anatomy' and medical dramas, look no further than this new series set to premiere on April 3. Taking place in a trauma center in Miami-Dade County, the show centers around Danny Simms, a third-year resident in emergency medicine. When her personal relationship with the chief resident gets him suspended, Danny receives a promotion so that she can prove herself. With a hurricane on its way to Miami and new responsibilities on her shoulders, Danny faces the biggest challenge of her entire career. Luckily, she has the help of a great staff, played by Colin Woodell ('The Flight Attendant'), Justina Machado ('The Horror of Dolores Roach'), and Jessie T. Usher ('Smile').

(Netflix) 'The Bondsman' (TV-MA) — Kevin Bacon ('Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F') has been enjoying thrilling roles as of late, and his latest role as the titular character in this eight-episode miniseries continues to add to his repertoire in the horror genre. Premiering April 3, 'The Bondsman' stars Bacon as Fred Herbert, a bounty hunter whose last mission didn't go too well and resulted in a gruesome death. However, Fred eventually wakes up and realizes that he's been resurrected ... with just a small catch. Lucifer only let Fred escape from hell on the condition that he continues his bounty-hunting job — but this time, he'll be catching demons. (Amazon Prime Video)

'CLASSIFIED' (R) — Most notably known for his role as Harvey Dent/Two-Face in Christopher Nolan's 'The Dark Knight,' Aaron Eckhart leads this action thriller out on April 4. Eckhart plays Evan, a hitman who has been getting his mission instructions from the CIA through the classified section of newspapers. His MI6 analyst daughter, Kacey (Abigail Breslin), tracks him down to tell him that these coded instructions haven't been coming from the CIA and that his boss has been dead for years. Desperate to find out who he's been killing for, Evan pairs his combat skills with his daughter's analyst skills to follow this lead. Tim Roth ('Poison') co-stars. (Hulu)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

Q: Is it true that Meryl Streep is dating Martin Short? I thought they were just friends, but apparently they're in love? — S.J.

A: Yes, the two stars became an item after their on-screen love on the Hulu series 'Only Murders in the Building' turned into an off-screen courtship. Short was left heartbroken after losing his wife Nancy to ovarian cancer in 2010, while Streep has been separated from her husband, Don, since 2017.

Since their 'OMITB' characters, Loretta and Oliver, tied the knot last season, Streep will likely be featured in the upcoming fifth season of the hit whodunit series. Streep joined the show in season 3 as a recurring character. The new season, which is currently in production, will feature guest stars TV's Leoni ('Madame Secretary'), Keegan-Michael Key ('Wonka') and two-time Oscar winner Christoph Waltz.

Q: I read that Gwyneth Paltrow is going to be in something with Timothy Chalamet. I thought she retired from acting to focus on her lifestyle website. What happened? — J.A.

A: In 2017, Gwyneth Paltrow announced that she was taking a break from acting to focus on her business, Goop, but she didn't close the door completely. Her last major role was in the Netflix series 'The Politician,' which starred Ben Platt ('Dear Evan Hansen') and was co-produced by her husband, Brad Falchuk. That was back in 2020.

She's been selective about her next projects, which she has the luxury of doing. She's back on the set in 2025 with not one but two films, both comedies. First up is 'The Miracle on 74th Street' with Drew Barrymore and Christine Taylor, and then 'Marty Supreme,' which she's currently filming with Timothy Chalamet and Sandra Bernhard.

Q: I know that Donnie Wahlberg is an actor on a successful TV series, but whatever happened to his fellow boy band member Joey McIntyre? Is he still acting? — K.W.

A: Yes, Donnie Wahlberg and Joey McIntyre have both made a successful transition into acting since their days of singing and dancing with New Kids on the Block, a wildly successful boy band from the '90s. Wahl-



Actress Meryl Streep is dating on-screen love interest.

berg made the leap to film and TV with small roles in 'The Sixth Sense' and 'The Practice' before landing his big break, the critically acclaimed HBO miniseries 'Band of Brothers.'

He later appeared in the horror movie 'Saw II' and two of its sequels before being cast in the hit CBS police drama 'Blue Bloods,' which ended last year after 14 seasons. The network has a lot of faith in him and his character, Danny Reagan, because they're building a spinoff series around his character. 'Boston Blue' will launch during the 2025 fall TV season.

As for McIntyre, he starred in the short-lived CBS sitcom 'The McCarthys' a decade ago and has worked steadily ever since, mostly in TV movies like 'V.C. Andrews' Dawn' and the recent Roku Christmas movie 'Jingle Bell Love.'

Don't write off New Kids on the Block, however. Four of the five original band members, including McIntyre, will be performing in their very own Las Vegas residency called 'The Right Stuff' beginning this June. Visit NKOTB.com for more info.

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

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Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 9, 6, 8, 3, 8, 2, 1, 7, 3, 4, 6, 9, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 4, 7, 8, 4, 6, 5, 1, 2, 7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Difficulty this week: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pink is missing; 2. Panel is missing; 3. Paper is added; 4. Screwdriver is longer; 5. Fan is smaller; 6. Box is missing.

King Crossword

King Crossword grid with across and down clues

- ACROSS: 1. 'Li'l Abner' creator, 5. Yellowstone grazer, 8. Cymbal's kin, 12. Petri dish gel, 13. Sturgeon product, 14. Ancient Dead Sea land, 15. Fierceness, 17. Milan money, once, 18. PC alternative, 19. Sheryl Sandberg best seller, 21. Grating, 24. Harangue, 25. 'Rhyme Pays' rapper, 26. With passion, 30. Monk's title, 31. Piquant, 32. Tic-tac-toe win, 33. Hit song by ABBA, 35. Curved, 36. Friend, 37. Jiggly dessert, 38. Rum cocktail, 41. Pear-shaped fruit, 42. Spumante source, 43. Agitates, 48. Actor Schreiber, 49. Colorful card game, 50. Sleek, in car lingo, 51. Salinger girl, 52. Journey part, 53. Must have, 8. Trattoria desserts, 9. Valhalla VIP, 10. Sushi wrapper, 11. Fed. agents, 16. Low isle, 20. Jealousy, 21. Jazz phrase, 22. Estate measure, 23. Burn something, 24. Tears apart, 26. Imaginary, 27. Toy store buy, 28. Lounge, 29. Cellist Ma, 31. Actress Re, 34. Indigenous, 35. Sea off Greece, 37. Comic Car, 38. Like gander, 39. Unrepaired, 40. Detail, 41. Toad's kin, 44. Away from WSW, 45. Formerly called, 46. Three, in Rome, 47. Turf

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: In the sitcom 'Modern Family,' Gloria is from which country? 2. LITERATURE: Which author wrote 'Kite Thief' and 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'? 3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest lake in the world? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which first lady's name was Lady Bird? 5. ASTRONOMY: How many stars make the Big Dipper? 6. MOVIES: Which famous Hollywood actor played lead roles in the film version of 'Wuthering Heights' and 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'? 7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of kangaroos called? 8. GEOMETRY: How many sides does a dodecahedron have? 9. ART: Which American artist focused on women and children in her paintings? 10. ANATOMY: What substance gives skin its color?

Answers for King Crossword and Trivia test

North Houston District Franklin Art Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Ann and Elvin Franklin, Jr. with former North Houston Executive Director Jack Drake, stand beside the sign indicating the dedication of the Linear Art Park.

helped define the region. The event welcomed Elvin's wife Ann, children, extended family, and fellow leaders from the TIRZ 11 Board of Directors, the City of Houston, and other key partners who have played a role in North Houston's success.

A Lasting Impact

Elvin Franklin, Jr.'s contributions go beyond boardroom decisions and infrastructure investments—they are embedded in the very fabric of North Houston. His calm leadership, steady vision, and unwavering commitment to progress helped shape the region's success.

But beyond his years of service, Elvin is someone you can't help but respect and admire. Genuine, kind, and always quick with a smile, he has a way of making people feel at ease. His calm determined presence has been a source of inspiration and reassurance to those who have had the privilege of working alongside him.

Now, Elvin Franklin, Jr. Linear Art Park is a lasting tribute to his dedication—ensuring that future generations recognize, appreciate, and build upon the foundation he helped create.

A Tribute in Public Art

The park's crowning feature is a stunning new sculpture titled "Botanical Peace," created by renowned artist Kevin Box in honor of Elvin Franklin, Jr.

Box, known for his distinctive technique of transforming delicate origami into enduring metal sculptures, designed the piece as a symbol of growth, transformation, and the lasting influence of leadership—qualities that defined Elvin's impact on the region.

Now, this sculpture and park will stand as a permanent tribute—a space that reflects Elvin's commitment to progress and community service.

"Botanical Peace" is a fitting tribute to Elvin Franklin, Jr. His leadership helped shape the North Houston community, and this sculpture reflects his ability to cultivate progress and bring people together to build something greater." — Sally Bradford, Executive Director, North Houston Development Corp

A large origami crane sculpture painted yellow



"Botanical Peace," created by renowned artist Kevin Box in honor of Elvin Franklin, Jr.

and white with floral patterns stands on a circular concrete pedestal in a park, surrounded by trees with autumn leaves and a bright blue sky in the background.

North Houston Development Corp's Commitment to Growth

For decades, the North Houston Development Corp (TIRZ 11) has been a driving force behind strategic investments in infrastructure, public spaces, and economic development. Their work has helped shape North Houston into a connected, thriving district that attracts businesses, investments, and opportunities.

Projects like Elvin Franklin, Jr. Linear Art Park reflect that ongoing mission—creating meaningful, engaging spaces that enhance the identity and appeal of North Houston while honoring the people who have helped it grow. Their partnerships with TIRZ 11, the City of Houston, and other key stakeholders continue to drive progress and long-term improvements across the area.

A Strong Partnership for North Houston

The North Houston Development Corp and the North Houston District have long collaborated on projects that enhance the area through

public safety initiatives, infrastructure investments, and placemaking efforts.

While North Houston Development Corp leads funding and implementation, the District supports long-term maintenance, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement—ensuring that these projects continue delivering value to businesses, investors, and the community.

A colorful origami crane sculpture with a vibrant floral pattern sits on a circular concrete pedestal in an open grassy area, with trees and a clear blue sky in the background.

Everyone is smiling in the bright sunlight. Thank you, Elvin!

The dedication was held at Greens Parkway between Greens Crossing and Gears Road.

Light refreshments after the dedication at 12257 Kuykendahl Events Center Rockstar Bike Park.

On behalf of the North Houston District, who want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your years of dedication and leadership. Your impact on this community is immeasurable, and the Elvin Franklin, Jr. Linear Art Park is a well-deserved tribute to your unwavering commitment to North Houston.



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