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NORTHEAST NEWS

Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway

Section of Eastex Freeway Renamed for Deputy Almendarez - See Story below

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years
VOL. 49, NO. 13 TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

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.

East Aldine Small Business Lunch April 24

East Aldine District will hold its Free Small Business Seminar Luncheon on Thursday, April 24 from 12pm to 1:30pm at its offices on 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.

RSVP required, info@aldinedistrict.org or 713-595-1232.

Subject will be "2025 BIZLOAN Ready." Speaker: Alexis Rios, BakerRipley.

Highway renamed in honor of fallen Deputy Almendarez



County Officials, Family, Deputies, and friends gathered along Highway 59 to participate in the official unveiling of the Highway Sign memorializing Deputy Darren Almendarez.

HOUSTON- TxDOT Houston District and the East Aldine Management District unveiled the Deputy Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway on Monday, March 31 at 10 a.m.

The section of Highway 59 Eastex Freeway between Little York and Beltway 8 has been renamed Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway in honor of the deputy who was tragically killed on March 31, 2022. The unveiling ceremony was held on the third year anniversary of his death.

TxDOT partnered with the East Aldine Management District, the Harris County Sheriff's Department,



Flor Zarzoza Almendarez was one of the speakers at the ceremony. Also pictured State Rep. Armando Walle, Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, and Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

ment, State Representative Armando Walle, State Senator Carol Alvarado, and Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia in making this memorial tribute possible.

Speakers:

- State Rep. Armando Walle
- Sheriff Ed Gonzalez
- East Aldine District Board Member Flor Zarzoza Almendarez (widow of Deputy Darren Almendarez).
- Commissioner Adri-



Witnessing the Unveiling Ceremony were Sheriff Gonzalez, EAD Exec. Dir. Richard Cantu, daughter Andrea Almendarez, Commissioner Adrian Garcia, widow Flor Almendarez, and State Rep. Armando Walle.

an Garcia

Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez was shot and killed while off duty when he interrupted three men attempting to steal a catalytic converter from his truck at about 8:40 pm.

He and his wife were

returning to their vehicle in a grocery store parking lot at 2929 FM 1960 when he observed the three men attempting to steal the catalytic converter.

Continued. See HIGHWAY RENAMED, Page 5

Smart TV Giveaway!

Attend Open House for a chance to win a TV.

*Must be present to win

Open House

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WHAT TO EXPECT AT OPEN HOUSE

WE ARE ROLLING OUT OUR RED CARPET TO GREET RETURNING, NEW AND CURRENT STUDENTS TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING OPEN HOUSE ARE:

- GUIDANCE FROM ADMISSIONS & ADVISING * FINANCIAL AID
- ACADEMIC DEGREES * WORKFORCE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES
- CONTINUING EDUCATION * PAYING FOR COLLEGE
- STUDENT RESOURCES * TESTING SERVICES
- TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025, FROM 3 TO 6 P.M.

LONE STAR COLLEGE- EAST ALDINE CENTER

Open House

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Check-In
LSC-EAC, Lobby

Resources Fair
First Floor

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Information Sessions Sesiones de Información

New Student Orientation
Orientación para estudiantes nuevos

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Participantes aprenderán una descripción general de Lone Star College, políticas y procedimientos importantes, así como recursos para ayudar a los estudiantes a tener éxito.

Financial Aid - Ayuda Financiera

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Los participantes recibirán información sobre cómo pagar la universidad.

Campus Tours - Guías

4:30 p.m. and at 5:15 p.m.

(Mira cómo es el campus! Nuestro recorrido mostrará los puntos de acceso del campus y las áreas académicas en todo el campus.)

HVAC - Aire Acondicionado EAC 128/122 4:30 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.

Welding - Soldadura EAC 128/120 4:30 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.

Imp Tech- Tecnología de Inspección EAC 124/126 4:30 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.


Open House Food & Prizes!

Smart TV Raffle! Must be present to claim prize!

(Rifa de Smart TV! ¡Debe estar presente para reclamar el premio!)

LSC-EAC Lobby

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



TIP LINE: 713-222-TIPS
Houston's top non-profit that keeps you safe everyday.

WHO KILLED VICTOR "TREY" GONZALEZ?
TO \$5,000 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CHARGING &/OR ARREST OF THE SUSPECTS IN THIS CASE

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Homicide Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspects responsible for a Murder.


On Friday, January 20, 2023, at approximately 5:38 p.m. Trey Gonzalez was shot and killed in the 6500 block of Homestead Rd. in Houston, Texas. During the incident, the suspect approached, produced a firearm, and shot Trey multiple times. Trey sustained major injuries from the gunshot wounds resulting in their death.

Suspect #1 is described as a black male, approximately 5'06"-5'08", 130 lbs. wearing a red jacket with the word "ITALIA" written across the front, a black Bass Pro baseball hat, and a black full-face mask.


Suspect #2 is described as male, approximately 5'05"-5'09", 150 lbs. wearing a dark colored hooded jacket with light blue jeans and a blue face mask.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging &/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

VICTIM: TREY GONZALEZ



SUSPECTS



HPD #99033-23

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE


LEGAL NOTICE

AISD to hold public hearing on the 2023-2024 APR at April 15 Board meeting

Aldine ISD will hold a public hearing for discussion of the 2023-2024 Annual Performance Report at the April 15 Board meeting. According to TEA guidelines:


"A hearing for public discussion of the annual report must be held within 90 calendar days from the district receiving Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPRs). Parents and property owners must be notified of the hearing."

The April 15 Board meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building and will begin at 7 p.m.



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W. Leo Daniels Tower 8826 Harrell
Off Jensen between Berry Road & Aldine Westfield



Woman lying on Eastex frontage road run over, killed

Fatal Crash at 10100 Eastex Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 10100 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) service road about 6:40 a.m. on Saturday (March 22).

The identity of the deceased female, 21, is pending verification by the Montgomery County Medical Examiner's Office.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant E. Alejandro and Officer M. Keita reported:

The female, a pedestrian, was lying down in the lanes of the Eastex Freeway service road when she was struck by a tractor-trailer truck driving northbound on the service road. At that time, the driver did not stop.

Paramedics responded to the scene and transported the female to HCA Kingwood Hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

The driver of the 18-wheeler later returned to the scene in his personal vehicle.

No charges have been filed, as the investigation is continuing.

High Meadows Branch Library

UPCOMING EVENTS
.APR 8- APR 12TH

8 APR 11 AM TODDLER TIME

9 APR 3 PM POKEMON CLUB

9 APR 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL
3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS
5 PM READING WONDERLAND
5:30 PM MAGIC OF COLOUR

10 APR TIAM CITIZENSHIP
3:30 PM GAME ZONE

12 APR 10 AM WORLD OF WORDCRAFT

Luis Arredondo
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KRAFTY KIDS:
CRAFT PROGRAM CREATED JUST FOR KIDS!

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

GAME ZONE
DECOMPRESS FROM A LONG DAY AT SCHOOL BY PLAYING VIDEO GAMES AT THE LIBRARY! CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS TO A COMPETITION OR JUST COME HANG OUT!

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

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..

WORLD OF WORDCRAFT
BRING YOUR FAVORITE MARKERS, GEL PENS, STICKERS, WASHI TAPE, JOURNALS, ETC. AND WORK ON PROJECTS WITH US. YOU CAN JOIN IN ON THE MONTH'S SELECTED PROJECT OR ONE OF YOUR OWN.TI.

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

is unique? Did you know fingerprints are used by forensic experts to help solve crimes? Join Ms. Gage to learn how and put your new forensic skills to the test!

Computer Basics Class Thursday, April 3rd, 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 Thursdays 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 9 - 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 9 a 7 p.m. para ayudar a los usuarios a encontrar servicios y dispositivos de Internet gratuitos o de bajo costo, así como un centro de capacitación en fluidez digital, programas de educación para adultos o programas para la fuerza laboral.

Do you 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

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Monday Movement Monday- Lunes de Movimiento
Monday, March 31, 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)

Homeschool Social /Escuela en casa Social
4-5pm

Join us for a social event dedicated to homeschooling families and those interested in learning about homeschool resources! Enjoy snacks, crafts, robots, and board games. All age groups are welcome.

A School Play Workshop - Meet the Author

4-5pm

In this 1-hour workshop, kids will learn warm-ups for your voice, body, and imagination - and then jump straight in to acting on the play! Finally, they will learn a theatre game that teaches them to create everything they need to perform their own plays - no experience necessary. Ideal for kids aged 7-11 and their families.

Tuesday Bilingual Story Time & Craft/ Hora de cuento con manualidades
Tuesday, April 1st, 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 cantar las canciones con nosotros. ¡La última media hora es tiempo de manualidades! ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

Dungeons and Donuts 5pm-6pm

Join us for role-playing and board games, no experience needed! Come and try out some games in a beginner-friendly environment. Donuts will be provided!

Pajama Jam Story Time (Bilingual) 6pm-6:45pm

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: Bubble Art Wednesday, March 26on March 26, 2025, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Not sure how to paint? No worries! Let bubbles do all the work for you in this Bubble Art program. It's as easy as mixing paint and soap and blowing bubbles on canvas! 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: Fingerprints Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 6:00pm-7:00pm

Learn about the science of fingerprints! Did you know each fingerprint

IMPORTANT NEWS

DUE TO NEW LIBRARY RENOVATIONS THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED STARTING APRIL 14- 27

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Texas Superintendent LaTonya Goffney Named AASA President-Elect

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, superintendent of the Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Texas, was voted as the 2025-26 president-elect of AASA, The School Superintendents Association, the nation's premier organization representing more than 13,000 school system leaders nationwide.

Goffney was named the superintendent of Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Texas in 2018 after serving in a similar role with the Lufkin Independent School District in Lufkin, Texas for five years.

"My experience as a superintendent in rural, suburban, and urban districts has provided me with diverse insights into the unique challenges and opportunities schools face," Goffney said. "As AASA president-elect, I will champion public education, leading with optimism, courage, and hope, while uniting educational leaders from all districts across the country - small, midsize, and large; rural, suburban, and urban - to ensure every child graduates with choices and opportunities. Together, we will foster resilience, innovation, and collaboration to strengthen public



Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, superintendent

schools."

Goffney joined AASA in 2013 and currently serves as a member of the organization's executive committee. She has been a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators since 2008 and served as its President from 2023-24.

"Superintendent Goffney provides strong, future-driven leadership for her district and demonstrates a tireless commitment to the transformative power of public education by shap-

ing opportunities for all students," David R. Schuler, executive director, AASA said. "I look forward to working closely with LaTonya in her new role as president-elect to forge brighter futures for district leaders and ensure students nationwide are not only prepared for real life in the real world but can succeed and thrive."

Goffney earned her Doctor of Education, Master of Education, and Bachelor of Arts from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Aldine ISD Creates Lighthouse Mentorship Project for District Students



During the 2024-2025 school year, Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department and Student Support Services created the Lighthouse Mentorship Project, a joint mentoring program for third, fifth, and eighth-grade students at Anderson Academy, Francis Elementary, and Grantham Academy, respectively.

The program features 25 Aldine district leaders who were selected through a program sign-up, and underwent a thorough orientation process led by FACE. The students were selected by the campus counselors, identifying those who would benefit the most from additional support with relational

skills. The mentors will follow their mentees throughout their schooling, up until graduation. Additionally, the mentors meet their students on campus during school hours, and the school counselors are the ones who set those times.

"My desire is for this program to cultivate strong, positive relationships among our students while paving the way for their educational success," said Diaka Melendez, assistant superintendent of student support.

With the mentors all being district leaders within Aldine, it allows for a unique opportunity of guidance. The mentors have access to the grades and attendance of their

mentees, and can use this information for added insight in how to best assist the students during their scheduled meetings. This is only the first year for the program, but plans to expand the amount of students being mentored, and campuses being included, are already underway for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Lighthouse Mentorship Program name was chosen to reflect the ultimate goal of the project, which is to be a beacon of hope for the students by helping them manage and navigate situations and overcome challenges they encounter. Whether it be academic or social and emotional challenges, the mentors are there for the students.

The Future is Now: How Aldine is Using VR to Usher in the Future of Education



Aldine ISD is leveraging VR technology to expose middle school students to global destinations and career-training modules without leaving the classroom. Since Dr. LaTonya Goffney became superintendent in 2018, Aldine ISD has embraced technological advancements to equip students with the necessary tools to create choices and opportunities. Virtual reality (VR), once regarded as a high-tech plaything, is now transforming education by expanding students' learning experiences.

Gail Jackson, a teacher at Garcia Middle School, has been in education since 2007 when technology in classrooms was still a novelty. Over the years, she has seen how VR has reshaped her teaching methods and students' learning experiences.

"VR has allowed me to build relationships with students in a way that creates a safe but fun learning environment," Jackson said. "It has sparked their interest in future careers and has made them more engaged in the classroom."

Jackson noted that the introduction of VR headsets has given students the freedom to explore different career options hands-on. "Having the VR headsets in my classroom has allowed the students to be open, work freely, and learn about different types of careers," she said. "I don't know why we didn't do this before. It's a plus for us."

The influence of virtual reality (VR) on student learning is supported by data from PWC. Learners who participate in VR training experience a confidence boost of up to 275% when applying what they've learned, which is 40% more than traditional classroom learning and 35% more than e-learning. One of Jackson's students, eighth grader Carson Norris, has emerged as a leader in his classroom since using the VR learning headset. Norris, who aspires to become a surgeon, believes the greatest benefit of VR is its capacity to help students discover their passions.

"VR learning is helping me know what I want to do in my future career because it gives us real-life simulators," Norris said. "That way, we know what to do when we actually get the job or if we even want that job."



With this being the first year using the VR Headsets, the district has seen 784 eighth-grade students across Aldine ISD have had access to VR headsets, with 321 actively utilizing the technology to explore various career pathways. Through immersive, hands-on experiences, students gain deeper insights into potential careers, with Health Sciences, Law and Public Safety, Hospitality and Tourism, and Manufacturing emerging as the top career interests. Specifically, many students have shown interest in becoming Registered Nurses, EMTs, Chefs, and Welders, highlighting the diverse range of professions explored through VR simulations.

The adoption of VR is part of a broader educational shift, with projections estimating an increase of 5.5 million VR headsets between 2024 and 2028, according to the 2024 Virtual Speech Article. This growth aligns with Aldine ISD's vision to stay competitive and innovative in education.

Kalwenda Lott, Aldine ISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Director, emphasized the district's commitment to integrating VR into learning.

"Virtual reality transforms education by providing immersive, hands-on experiences that enhance career exploration," Lott said. "For Aldine ISD, integrating VR technologies like TransfrVR can significantly enrich educational programs by exposing students to various career paths through interactive simulations. Additionally, VR supports professional development by equipping educators with innovative tools to engage students and enhance instructional methods, making learning more dynamic and effective."

Lott also stressed the

importance of training teachers to effectively use VR in the classroom.

"Educators should familiarize themselves with VR basics through workshops and hands-on experience," said Lott. "They need technical training on setting up devices, navigating content, and using dashboards. Professional learning opportunities help integrate VR with traditional teaching methods and promote active learning. Building a supportive learning community encourages peer collaboration and ongoing professional development."

According to Lott, parental involvement is a crucial factor in ensuring the success of virtual reality (VR) in education. For example, Aldine uses VR headsets during open houses and parent-teacher nights, which allows parents to see the impact of VR firsthand.

"By helping parents understand the value of VR, we can make sure they recognize its potential to enhance their children's learning experiences," Lott said. "This innovative approach can spark interest in various career fields, giving students the opportunity to explore career paths through the lens of VR technology."

Looking ahead, Aldine ISD is preparing to expand its VR learning opportunities further. In the 2025-2026 school year, the CTE department will introduce the "Dollars and Sense" course, integrating VR technology to teach financial literacy, decision-making, and the role of technology in consumer and career choices. This initiative aims to equip students with essential life skills, ensuring they are prepared for high school and life beyond graduation. By continuing to innovate and incorporate emerging technologies into the classroom, Aldine ISD remains committed to creating real-world learning experiences that open doors to a brighter future.

As VR adoption grows, Aldine ISD is positioning itself at the forefront of educational innovation, ensuring students have access to cutting-edge learning tools. With an emphasis on immersive career exploration and improved classroom engagement, the district's investment in VR is proving to be a transformative force in education.



Take Pride in our Community RECYCLE

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By TxDOT

A mother's plea: Put down the phone, save a life

Distracted driving was the second-most common factor in traffic crashes last year

HOUSTON – Maria Espinoza never imagined a routine walk to school with her 6-year-old son would turn into a life-altering tragedy.

But in an instant, a distracted driver jumped the curb, striking her son and trapping him beneath the vehicle. He spent six months in a coma, with doctors warning he might never walk or talk again.

Years later, Maria's son has defied the odds — relearning how to walk, talk and even eat. He's studying to become a physical therapist, determined to help others recover just as he did. And Maria is on a mission: asking everyone to pay attention behind the wheel.

"We don't want this to happen to any other family. We want to save lives and create responsibility," Espinoza said. "If I take the responsibility and you take the responsibility today, that will make a difference."

The alarming truth about distracted driving

In 2024, distracted driving contributed to more than 91,000 crashes in Texas, leading to more than 370 deaths — all preventable tragedies. That's why the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching its Talk. Text. Crash. campaign this April during Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"Everyone knows they should focus while driving, but too many people still take their eyes off the road to check a text, fiddle with their dashboard or grab a bite to eat," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We want to make it clear: no text or call is worth a life."

It's not just dangerous — it's illegal

Texting while driving isn't just risky — it's against the law. In Texas, anyone caught reading, writing, or sending a text while driving faces a fine of up to \$200. Many cities have even stricter laws, banning all handheld device use while driving.

Stay safe: simple steps to avoid distractions

TxDOT urges all drivers to follow these safety tips:

- Stay focused — Keep both hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.
• Put your phone away — Use "Do not Disturb" mode while driving.
• Pull over if needed — If you must send a message, stop in a safe place first.

Experience the dangers firsthand

To drive this message home, TxDOT's Talk. Text. Crash. campaign will be hitting the road, bringing a driving simulator to cities across Texas. This interactive exhibit lets visitors experience just how quickly distractions can lead to disaster.

Talk. Text. Crash. is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of January 13, 2025.

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

Americanisms
"I always wanted to be someone better the next day than I was the day before."
— Sidney Poitier



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Stealth Comedy



The bad thing about living in a new place is that I don't know anyone. The good thing about living in a new place is that I meet new people.

Jade is one of the new people I have met while spending time in Mexico. Jade used to be an eye doctor. But after retiring from medicine in her 60s, she decided to do something a little different.

Stand-up comedy. "But how? And why?" everyone wants to know.

To hear Jade tell it, it happened in a moment. Her grown son was watching a well-known comedian on TV. Jade knew almost nothing about comedy.

"I decided that was what I was going to do."

Generally, when someone tells me they are going to try a new thing, I imagine it might be a hobby they would like to try once or twice. That would not be Jade. When she decided comedy was her next big thing, she dove in with both feet.

But since it was hard to get a lot of time on stage, and getting it meant driving long distances, Jade took to heart the words of Shakespeare when he wrote, "All the world's a stage."

I have done some performing in my life, but I have never done anything as brave as that.

Jade calls it "stealth comedy," and people are certainly surprised. No one expects an impromptu comedy set while strolling through the park. But Jade has now done well over 1,000 stealth comedy sets for unsuspecting visitors. I think that is astonishing.

For the last couple of days, I have been a little grumpy. I am living with some uncertainty about my book. Uncertainty comes with life—and certainly with writing—so it's silly to get grumpy about the way things usually are. But I have been anyway.

Yesterday I went to meet with Jade because, in addition to doing stand-up in clubs and in the park, she is turning her material into a memoir, which is naturally very funny. I feel honored to work with her on it. I told my husband, Peter, it was good I was going to meet her. "It's impossible to be grumpy around Jade."

I told Jade I was grumpy because I didn't know what was going to happen next with my book. "What's the worst that can happen?" she asked, and I realized she was right. There was no real downside, just a lot of uncertainty.

Jade embraces uncertainty. She walks up to total strangers and says, "Would you like five minutes of comedy?"

I would be terrified that every one of them would say, "No!" And, the truth is, some of them do. But overwhelmingly, people say, "Sure, why not?" Jade proves, time after time, that the worst thing that can happen is really not that bad.

Jade and I spent almost two hours over a cup of coffee and ginger tea, laughing and talking. When I got home, I thought about how much I admire her humor and her audacious bravery and her solid advice.

Maybe a little uncertainty is exactly what I need.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Senate Bill Would Curb Home Insurance Rate without Approval

Lawmakers in the Texas Senate are considering a measure that would require home insurers to get approval from regulators before increasing rates more than 10%, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, would also create a three-member commission to oversee the Texas Department of Insurance. The veteran legislator and others have accused the agency of failing to prioritize consumers.

Homeowner insurance rates have skyrocketed in recent years, up an average 21% in 2023, double the average hikes of previous years. Insurers currently can file rate increases with the state and immediately put them in effect. TDI has not denied a single rate filing out of 22,000 submitted since 2017, according to a Hearst Newspapers analysis.

"That's a question mark I have regarding how aggressively TDI is overseeing rate changes," Schwertner said.

In a recent hearing, insurers defended their rates, blaming the state's extreme weather and saying the present system has enabled Texas to have a "highly competitive market," according to Scot Kibbe, the vice president of state government relations at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association.

ABBOTT: TEXAS ON 'CUSP' OF APPROVING VOUCHER BILL

Gov. Greg Abbott continues to push his top legislative priority, a universal school choice plan that allows public dollars to be spent for private-school tuition, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"We're going to get this across the finish line," Abbott said during a Capitol news conference. "When we do, Texans will see that when it comes to education, it's not one or the other. It's not either public schools or school choice. We can do both."

The Senate version of what is popularly known as a voucher plan passed in February. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said last week that chamber's proposal would likely be approved this week.

Critics point to a similar plan passed in Arizona, which has grown more than 10-fold since being implemented. They also point out private school options are limited in rural areas and for low-income families.

The state's Legislative Budget Board projects costs for an education savings account program would increase from \$1 billion in 2027 to about \$4 billion in 2030, a project Abbott said was "based on nothing but fiction."

SENATE PASSES \$336 BILLION

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



TWO-YEAR STATE BUDGET

The Senate unanimously passed a \$336 billion proposed budget last week to fund state government through 2027, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The funding supports a wide array of new investments in education and infrastructure, as well as property-tax relief.

State Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, said the budget will allow the Legislature to use some of the state's \$24 billion surplus to make one-time investments.

"At the same time, we were very careful to craft a budget that is fiscally conservative and sustainable in future years," Huffman said.

The Senate's budget, which will have to be reconciled with the pending House budget, does not include an increase in per-student funding for public schools. That allotment has not changed since 2019, despite pleas from educators who say local districts are suffering financially.

"Even though hundreds of school districts throughout Texas have been cutting back on programs because of inadequate state funding and inflationary pressures, the Senate budget, SB1, doesn't even raise the basic school funding allotment," said Texas State Teacher's Association President Ovidia Molina in a statement Tuesday.

'VOLATILE' HURRICANES EXPECTED IN 2025, FORECASTERS SAY

As hurricane season approaches, meteorologists with AccuWeather are predicting 2025 could bring "volatile hurricanes" similar to those seen in 2017 and 2023, the Statesman reported. "AccuWeather is forecasting near to above the historical average number of named storms, hurricanes, major hurricanes, accumulated cyclone energy and direct impacts to the United States," said AccuWeather's Alex DaSilva.

Forecasters expect 13 to 18 named storms in the Atlantic, with three to five major hurricanes reaching Category 3 strength or higher. Texas is

among states facing higher-than-average risk of direct hits from hurricanes, and storms could rapidly intensify before making landfall.

The state was hit by two hurricanes last year. In June, Hurricane Beryl turned into a Category 5 storm quickly, gaining 95 mph in less than two days before striking Matagorda Island.

FUNDING HAUL TRANSFORMS TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A bill passed in 2023 that took effect last year has proved a financial boon for the state's community colleges, The Texas Tribune reported. HB8 sent a record \$683 million to the state's community colleges.

As a result, community colleges have introduced free tuition and are reshaping how they are run and who is attending school.

"HB 8, at its heart, was an attempt for the Legislature ... to say, 'What's the most impactful way that we can ensure alignment between educational outcomes and business and industry needs?'" Ray Martinez III, the president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, said. "That's why this is so significant ... We have seen tremendous outcomes."

As The Tribune reported, the five ways community colleges have been transformed because of the new funding formula are:

- Dual credit boosting enrollment, especially among low-income students.
• Free tuition expanded.
• Students hired as peer advisers, greatly increasing the number helping classmates register and stay on track to graduate.
• Increase in workforce training.
• Schools form alliances so credits transfer from a community college to a four-year institution.

UPDATE: MEASLES OUTBREAK REACHES 327 AS FUNDING REDUCED

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports 400 cases of measles primarily in the South Plains and Panhandle regions as of Friday, with one fatality and 41 people hospitalized.

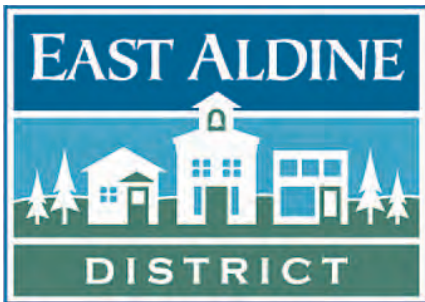
Politics continues to infuse the debate, as lawmakers consider several bills that would make it easier to opt out of getting vaccinated, the Texas Standard reported. Virtually all the cases of measles reported — more reported in Texas in three months than in the entire nation last year — were among unvaccinated people.

Meanwhile, federal funding for DSHS to fight measles has been cut by about half by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the Statesman reported. DOGE plans to cut \$877 million of a \$1.5 billion federal grant and \$97 million from a \$473 million grant, both from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grants were used to help state, city and county health departments fight infectious diseases.

"We're evaluating the potential effects of the funding changes," said Chris Van Deusen, director of media relations for DSHS.

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

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East Aldine Management District Approves Key Investments and Welcomes New Board Members

Board Meeting Overview

The East Aldine Management District (EAMD) held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The meeting addressed financial reports, infrastructure investments, and community development initiatives. Two new board members were appointed amid a record number of applicants.



Financial Reports and Budget Review

Cindy Craig of Hawes Hill and Associates presented the district's financial review for February 2025. While EAMD slightly exceeded its budget in some areas, it remained under budget in most. Notable expenses included a \$21,000 allocation in the marketing budget for community outreach and participation in events such as the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Craig also provided a detailed breakdown of the district's income and expenses.

The board reviewed the General Fund, noting a healthy balance of \$199,107.38 at Prosperity Bank, while the TexSTAR Operating General Fund totaled \$15,199,922.55. Despite some debt service payments exceeding \$500,000 in January and February, the district remains financially stable. Craig also updated capital improvement projects, including the Keith-Wiess Park Trail Connection and ongoing property acquisitions.

Investment Policy and Financial Compliance

The board approved the annual review of the investment policy. It adopted a resolution confirming its authorized depository institutions and qualified brokers. Assistant Secretary Reyes García inquired about potential political tariffs affecting investments, to which it was clarified that EAMD's investments, managed through TexSTAR, remain secure and have performed well.

New Board Members Appointed

EAMD Board Chair Carlos Silva announced the appointment of Rubén A. Salazar to Position 4 and Sherry Curl to Position 5. Silva acknowledged the unprecedented number of applicants and praised the dedication of the Nominating Committee.

Salazar, applying for the third time, expressed gratitude and credited his inspiration to EAMD Executive Director Richard Cantú.

"I am honored to have been named to the board and I thank the Committee for the privilege. I am accepting the position on behalf of the community. I thank my parents for all the support," shared Salazar.

Salazar, a passionate advocate for East Aldine, has been a driving force for community improvement since graduating from Douglas A. MacArthur Senior High School in 2019. His leadership in local organizations has led to increased community engagement and infrastructure improvements, including streetlights, sidewalks, and safety patrols. As the founder of the East Aldine Civic Association and an elected member of the Sunbelt Fresh Water Supply District's board, he brings experience in grassroots advocacy and public service to his new role at EAMD.



Ruben Salazar

Curl, a longtime educator and community advocate, is a teacher of the visually impaired, brings more than 20 years of experience working with students with visual impairments from birth to age 22. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Houston before pursuing a master's in special education from Texas Tech University. She is currently working toward a doctorate in educational leadership.

Also a proud graduate of MacArthur High School, Curl emphasized her eagerness to contribute to the community.

"Thank you for welcoming me, for involving me. And thank you for all you do for the community. I want to learn and do good work in the community," said Curl.

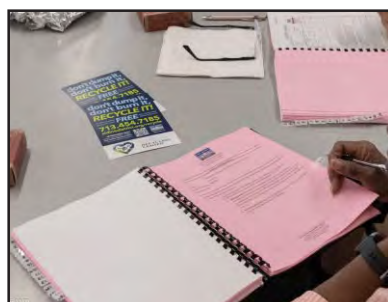


Sherry Curl

Growth and Community Engagement

Cantú highlighted several initiatives, including:

- *The acquisition of Aldine ISD property for residential development and a maintenance facility.
- *Ongoing discussions with Harris County officials to address homelessness.
- *Plans for a youth symposium focused on development programs.
- *Increased outreach for recycling efforts, which collected over one million pounds last year.
- *The upcoming Zydeco Fest is on April 11 at East Aldine Amphitheatre. It will feature live music, food trucks, and family-friendly activities.



He also noted EAMD's support for renaming a section of Highway 59 as Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway. A ceremony is scheduled for March 31 at 11 a.m.

Infrastructure and Mobility Developments

The board approved key projects, including:

- ***Town Center Phase 3 Development:** Approval of a \$22,042.50 invoice for consulting services, with upcoming town hall meetings to engage local businesses.
- ***Water & Sewer Improvements:** Agreement to pay \$131,615 to secure the Westfield Estates Lift Station Site, ensuring project completion.
- ***Public Safety Investments:** Updates from District 2 Patrol reported 140 arrests in February as part of efforts to curb illegal street racing and parking lot take-overs.

Next Steps and Community Involvement

With a steadfast focus on infrastructure, public safety, and community engagement, the EAMD reaffirms its commitment to the growth and improvement of East Aldine. We are optimistic about the future and look forward to your continued support and participation in our upcoming public meetings and events, including the Zydeco Fest and the Deputy Sheriff Almendarez Memorial Highway dedication.

Highway Renamed in Honor of Fallen Deputy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He instructed his wife to run from the scene before confronting the subjects. A struggle ensued after one of the men produced a handgun. During the struggle, Deputy Almendarez pulled out his off-duty weapon, and shots were exchanged in which he and two of the three

suspects were wounded.

Deputy Almendarez was transported to Houston Northwest Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. The two wounded suspects drove themselves to the same hospital where they were taken into custody. The third suspect was arrested a few days later.

Deputy Almendarez had served with the Harris County Sheriff's Office for 23 years and was assigned to the Auto Theft Task Force. He is survived by his wife, Flor Zarzoza Almendarez, family, and a community of friends.



The Signage indicating the new name for this section of the Eastex Freeway US 59 was unveiled in a very dramatic fashion, with a blue tarp pulled off the sign at a given signal. Family and friends watched the ceremony.

STATEMENT BY PRECINCT 2 AND THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

HONORING A HERO: Today, Commissioner Garcia joined the family of Deputy Darren Almendarez and the Harris County Sheriff's Office to commemorate the life and legacy of the late deputy. The section of Hwy 59 Eastex Fwy between Little York and the Beltway was renamed as Deputy Sheriff Darren Almen-

darez Memorial Highway.

Deputy Almendarez had an outstanding 23-year career with the Harris County Sheriff's Office. He served as a Patrolman in District 3, a Field Training Officer, a Certified Instructor, an Investigator for the Multi-Agency Gang Task Force, which included the Federal

Bureau of Investigations, and as an Auto Theft Task Force Investigator.

On March 31, 2022, he made the ultimate sacrifice doing the job he loved, protecting the citizens of Harris County and protecting his family. He will never be forgotten.



Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, Andrea Almendarez (Darne's daughter), and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, who was previously the Harris County Sheriff.



STATEMENT BY EAST ALDINE DISTRICT:

Remembering Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez, a true hero, as we rename a portion of 59 Eastex Fwy between Little York and the Beltway in his name. His memory lives on in

the hearts of our community and this sign serves as a constant reminder of his bravery and service.

The East Aldine Management District is deeply committed to law

enforcement and public safety. Our Board of Directors showed this commitment by contributing the majority of funding to memorialize Deputy Almendarez.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Haggai (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where does Jesus speak of separating the sheep from the goats?
3. Who told Saul that rebellion was as bad as witchcraft?
4. From Proverbs 18, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth..."

- 5. How old was Moses when he died?
6. How many sons did Judah have?

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Matthew (25:31-33), 3) Samuel, 4) Good thing, 5) 120, 6) Five
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone - an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. ACTS 17: 29, 30

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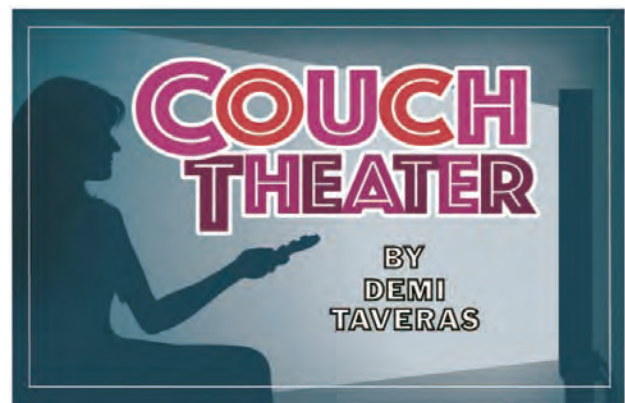
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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
OPERATIONS MANAGER - EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
Responsible for general oversight of the Town Center facilities and amenities of the East Aldine Management District, a special purpose government district served by Hawes Hill & Associates LLP, in accordance with the district's approved Service and Improvement Plan.
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/RFQs), 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, Viola Davis and Antony Starr star in "G20."

"G20"

"Black Mirror: Season 7" (TV-MA) — Fans of the longtime Netflix anthology series "Black Mirror" will be pleased to binge the next mind-bending season on April 10! The British sci-fi series brings six new stories to viewers, one being a continuation of a previous season four episode titled "USS Callister." Cristin Milioti, a Golden Globe nominee for her recent work on "The Penguin," will reprise her main role as Nanette Cole. Other faces to look out for are comedy actresses Issa Rae and Awkwafina, as well as Rashida Jones ("Sunny") and Academy Award nominee Paul Giamatti ("The Holdovers"). Buckle up for a trippy ride! (Netflix)

"Twilight" saga and "Jurassic World," but she also doubles as a director, having spearheaded a documentary film called "Dads," as well as several episodes of "The Mandalorian." This year, she's back with another documentary focusing on the furry friends we hold near and dear to our hearts. Starring real people from around the world and their dogs, cats, pigs, goats and birds, this doc showcases the bond that makes our relationships with animals so special and irreplaceable. Premieres April 11. (Disney+)

"Magpie" (R) — Daisy Ridley (of the "Star Wars" sequel trilogy) is captivating as the lead in this neo-noir thriller film, co-starring Shazad Latif ("Star Trek: Discovery"). Don't let the previous sci-fi credits of

these two actors fool you into thinking that they can't deliver gritty performances; they are incredibly palpable as Annette and Ben (respectively), a couple with two young children who reach a shattering moment within their marriage. When their daughter gets the opportunity to star alongside a popular actress in a major film, Ben chaperones her on set while Annette stays at home with their newborn. But Ben's priority shifts from watching his daughter to bonding with the actress, leaving Anette's picture-perfect life to crumble before her. Premieres April 11. (Hulu)

"G20" (R) — Academy Award winner Viola Davis will never stop being a badass as long as the grass is green and the sky is blue, and she continues to prove why with entertaining action films like "G20." Out on April 10, the film follows U.S. President Danielle Sutton (Davis) as she prepares for the G20 summit in Cape Town, South Africa. Thinking this will be a great experience for her rebel daughter, Serena (Marsai Martin), Danielle brings her entire family to Cape Town with her. Little does she know that an educational experience for her kids does not await them; instead, what awaits is a terrorist plot to hijack the summit. Luckily for them, Danielle's previous military training comes in handy — very handy! (Amazon Prime Video) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Q:Is "Watson" going to be renewed for a new season? Morris Chestnut has been one of my favorite actors ever since "Nurse Jackie," so I hope this new show lasts. — R.C.

A:According to TVLine, "Watson" is averaging 6.8 million total viewers, making the decision to renew it an easy one for CBS. It's set six months after the death of Sherlock Holmes, Watson's friend and protege, and stars Morris Chestnut in the titular role. Chestnut became a household name after co-starring in the critically acclaimed John Singleton film "Boyz n the Hood." His stint on "Nurse Jackie" as Dr. Ike Prentiss was in 2013, and he followed this with recurring roles on several other series like "The Resident" and "Reasonable Doubt." "Watson," however, is arguably his biggest role yet. Interestingly, Amazon is developing a reboot of "Nurse Jackie" with star Edie Falco, but the premiere date has yet to be announced.

Q: When is the reality show "The Valley" coming back? I surprisingly enjoyed it last year and was happy it got renewed. — M.O.

A:April 15 is the date that the suburban reality-show soap opera premieres on Bravo, and it reairs the following day on Peacock. If you've seen the trailer at BravoTV.com, you'll know that it's filled with even more drama than its debut season, with former "Vanderpump Rules" stars Britney and Jax separating, Jax going to rehab for an admitted drug addiction, and even the seemingly stable couples coping with rumors of infidelity. Other former members of the "Vanderpump Rules" wait and bar staff are also expected to appear on "The Valley," including Lala Kent, Sheana Shay and hubby Brock Davies, and Tom Schwartz. Lala and Sheana have also bought homes in the San Fernando Valley, so they're most certainly hoping to end up being permanent cast members in the future.

As for "Vanderpump Rules," the next season is expected to debut on Bravo with its all new Gen-Z cast this fall. Season two of the other "VR" spin-off,



Morris Chestnut stars as the titular character in "Watson."

"Vanderpump Villa," will launch on Hulu beginning April 24 and will take place in Italy inside a 12th-century castle, relocating from its original location in the south of France.

Q:I've been watching "Ally McBeal" on Hulu. I've seen most of the cast on other shows since then, but whatever happened to the guy who played Billy? — W.W.

A:Actor Gil Bellows has actually worked quite steadily since playing Ally McBeal's (Calista Flockhart) first love. After his character was killed off, he quickly landed another series, "The Agency," on CBS and the Emmy-winning movie "Temple Grandin." His most recent roles have been in the Neil Gaiman fantasy drama series "American Gods," the Syfy horror series "Chucky," and "Alert: Missing Persons Unit" on Fox. He also guest-starred on "The Irrational," a current NBC drama series starring Jesse L. Martin, another "Ally McBeal" alum.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff

April 7, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid and word list

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Richard Simmons; 2. When the colored part of the eyes (irises) are two different colors; 3. Archipelago; 4. Foutine (French fries, cheese curds and gravy); 5. 2004; 6. Violet; 7. Texas; 8. Clownfish; 9. July; 10. 90 minutes

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and answers

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TRASH BASH 2025 In East Aldine's Crowley Park

East Aldine District 2025 Trash Bash
Thank you to the volunteers and our partners for another successful Trash Bash this past Saturday March 29th at W. E. "Bill" Crowley

Park! Also, thank you to the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Harris County Emergency Corps for keeping us safe. #CleanItLikeYouMeanIt



Lone Star College Electrical Technology program rated "exemplary"

HOUSTON (Jan. 23, 2025) – The Lone Star College-North Harris Electrical Technology program received an Exemplary Program Award from the National Council of Workforce Education (NCWE) for its work in preparing students to become skilled in the electrical field.

"Lone Star College-North Harris is honored to be recognized nationally for our work," said Michael Burns, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris vice president, Instruction. "We are committed to providing high-quality electrical education and training programs."

The NCWE selects two colleges each year for its exemplary award based on various criteria, including potential economic impact, student outcomes and partnerships. The LSC-North Harris Electrical



Pictured with the plaque are Osvaldo Caballero, LSC-North Harris director, Construction Technologies and Cruz Casiano, Ed.D., LSC-North Harris director, Career and Applied Technology Division.

Technology program meets those requirements through its proactive approach to meeting industry and community needs. The program offers the education and training necessary for

a city facing a labor shortage in the electrical industry and frequently affected by various challenges, including natural disasters.

"The NCWE award exemplifies our commitment to ensuring that students receive the education, training and wraparound resources they need," said Cruz Casiano, Ed.D., LSC-North Harris director, Career and Applied Technology Division. "We offer a comprehensive college-to-career experience, with holistic support designed to help students succeed."

LSC-North Harris electrical technology started in fall 2017 and boasts a 98% completion rate. Students like Brian Schepper are learning how to install, maintain and repair electrical wiring, equipment and fixtures.

"I have always wanted to work in the electrical field and Lone Star College-North Harris is helping me achieve that dream," said Schepper. "In the Electrical Technology Program, I am learning techniques to diagnose an electrical problem when working with generators and motors. I am confident that my time at Lone Star College will help me excel in my future career."

LSC-North Harris electrical technology is a two-year program in which students can earn an associate of applied science degree or relevant certificates. Graduates of this program are equipped with the expertise to pursue careers across a range of advanced industries, including construction and maintenance and emerging sectors driven by automation, smart systems and control technologies.

"Lone Star College-North Harris has created a program that trains electricians and develops electrical technicians who are shaping the future of the electrical industry," said Osvaldo Caballero, LSC-North Harris director, Construction Technologies.

The Lone Star College Electrical Technology program is also available at LSC-Tomball and LSC-Creekside Center. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/Electrical-Technician-AAS.

ARMANDO L. WALLE
Attorney at Law

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April 8
4 - 7 p.m.

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

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