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# NORTHEAST NEWS



Houston's ART CAR PARADE  
Photos Page 5

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years  
VOL. 49, NO. 15 TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

**Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at East Aldine on May 2**

East Aldine District will hold a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on Friday, May 2 from 5pm to 11pm at the Amphitheatre in Town Center.

Live Music, featuring Juan Acuña and Y El Terror Del Norte, Compo Latino, Idoio, and Crupo Crystal.

Also Food Trucks, Bounce House, Moonwalk, Games, Prizes and More. Free, everyone welcome.

**Sales Tax Holiday April 26-28 for Emergency Supplies**

As severe weather season approaches, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 28.

"While we can't know in advance when the next fire, flood, tornado or hurricane may occur, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "Don't wait for disaster to strike. I'm encouraging Texans to take advantage of this tax holiday to save money while stocking up for emergency situations."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save about \$2.3 million in

Continued. See SALES TAX HOLIDAY, Page 2

## Aldine HS students debut Art Car entry

Students from CTE and Visual Arts create Art Car "AQUARIUM"

By Leticia Fehling

Aldine High School Students Debut 'Aquarium' Art Truck at Orange Show's 2025 Houston Art Car Parade

After months of hard work, collaboration, and creativity, Aldine High School students proudly unveiled their "Aquarium" themed art car at the 2025 Orange Show's Houston Art Car Parade on April 12 in downtown Houston.

The 'Aquarium' art truck was a visual masterpiece. It brought to life an underwater world with its vibrant colors, sculptural sea creatures, and imaginative design elements.



Aldine High School's AQUARIUM Art Car Parade entry

This unique vehicle was the result of a cross-curricular collaboration between Aldine High School's visual arts and career and technical education (CTE) programs, showcasing the students' artistic vision and technical craftsmanship.

Led by visual arts teacher Chinedu Onochie, welding instructor Chad Reese and automotive teacher Kenneth Burrell, the students worked alongside award-winning art car artist Rebecca Bass through the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art's Team



Aldine HS students proudly display their Art Car entry on Allen Parkway

Gillman Art Cars in the Schools Program. Aldine ISD was selected as one of nine school districts to receive a donated vehicle and participate in the two-year program.

"This project was truly a vehicle of learning — literally and figuratively,"

said Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD's director of visual arts. "From concept to creation, our students experienced firsthand what it means to collaborate, design, and build something representing their

Continued. See ART CAR PARADE, Page 5

## Lone Star College students visit State Capitol

HOUSTON (April 2, 2025) – Lone Star College System is a student-focused teaching institution that constantly finds ways to enrich students' lives. Thus, the college had its own Lone Star College Day at the Texas Capitol on Feb. 27 to provide students with a high-impact, real-world learning experience. LSC students met directly with state legislators and their staff while watching the 89th Texas State Legislature in action.

"The Lone Star College Day at the Texas Capitol provided students with live, hands-on experiences to interact with elected leaders and express their needs and priorities to help

Continued. See LONE STAR STUDENTS VISIT CAPITOL, Page 8



Lone Star College students gather under the Capitol Rotunda in Austin during their Legislative visit.

## BAA's Mariana Sanchez honored in Houston's Top 50 Women 2024

HARRIS COUNTY – Houston's Women Magazine has chosen Mariana Sanchez as one of the 50 Most Influential Women for 2024. The announcement was made as a dinner held last month at the Junior League.

In honoring Sanchez, the program said: "Under the strong leadership of Mariana Sanchez, Bonding Against Adversity has assisted more than 22,000 Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card holders) prepare and apply to become U.S. citizens."

Before coming to the United States in 1998, Mariana Sanchez was a successful business owner in Costa Rica and Ecuador.

She also worked in small business development in the German Embassy in Quito, Ecuador,



Mariana Sanchez  
Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Bonding Against Adversity



Awards Dinner at Houston Junior League, with Mayor Whitmire

developing social programs to help the underserved communities there.

She studied business at the Catholic University in Ecuador in 1979, won a scholarship to the Business University in Angers, France and lived there for three years. When she came to the United States, Sanchez worked in and

Continued. See TOP 50 WOMEN, Page 2

## Almendarez promoted to Detective rank posthumously

On April 1, 2025, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and the Harris County Sheriff's Office solemnly honored Detective Darren Almendarez, Detective John Coddou, and Detective Fernando Esqueda, three remarkable men whose dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to justice will never be forgotten.

Sheriff Gonzalez said "With deep reverence, we posthumously promote them to the rank of Detective — a title they embodied through their actions and sacrifices. Their relentless pursuit of truth, courage in the face of danger, and devotion to protecting our community leave behind a powerful legacy.

"To their families, colleagues, and loved ones — we stand with you. Their names, their work, and their sacrifice will live on.

"Heroes are never truly gone. They live in the lives they touched, the justice they fought for, and the stories we tell to honor them."



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# Sanchez honored in Top 50 Women,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

managed commercial establishments in the service sector where she learned the value and responsibility of providing excellent services. She worked for rental car companies in Florida, helping the company to win the Gold Star in sales in 1999. From Florida, she moved to Houston in 2000.

Like many of those Sanchez serves, she encountered economic hardships, and not being fluent in English (yet) added to her challenges. However, she recognized the need to be a good provider for her two young sons, and she worked hard to move forward.

In 2000, Sanchez launched her career in social services with the YMCA, where she worked as an abuse case worker for the YMCA in the Aldine - Greenspoint area.

She worked with all different types of communities in the Houston area and interacted with immigrants from no less than 13 different countries. Being

able to help diverse populations has been enhanced by her ability to speak French, Spanish and English.

In 2010, Sanchez co-founded Bonding Against Adversity, with the mission of "Helping Others Help Themselves."

Her passion is helping improve lives in the immigrant community by providing education to build strong communities.

Sanchez is currently a U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Legal Access Programs Accredited Representative of Bonding Against Adversity, Inc, which has helped thousands of families in the underserved community.

Under her strong leadership, Bonding Against Adversity has assisted more than 22,000 Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) prepare and apply to become U.S. citizens.

Her 35 years of experience in business in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Houston has helped her to de-

velop a new method of community service for the underserved in the northern part of the metropolitan Houston area. Her expertise and building relationships with business partners, foundations and sister organizations, and collaborating with others have shaped her to provide the best for the people she reaches. Her dedication to and passion for the community are endless. She wants to be part of building a community with strength, and values and help every person she encounters to achieve the American dream and pursue happiness and strong families by providing access to services and resources.

Sanchez is married to Tom Burdette (a native Houstonian). She has two sons: Eduardo, a graduate of the McCombs School of Business at the University of Houston, and Jean Pierre, a graduate of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

# Fresh Start: Clear Your Arrest Record May 3

Worried a criminal record from your past might be holding you back? Trying to get connected to community resources but struggling to navigate the network of services? Need help with a civil legal matter but don't know where to go for guidance?

Mark your calendar for Fresh Start on **Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Harris County Jury Plaza, 1201 Congress St.** in downtown Houston. Pre-registration is required, starting April 14.

"Fresh Start directly helps individuals participating in the program, but its benefits ripple throughout our community," Harris County Criminal Courts at Law Presiding Judge Erika Ramirez said. "When we help people meet their basic needs and become productive citizens, it helps to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer."

Online pre-registration for criminal record screening and

sealing is required and starts at **noon on Monday, April 14**. Space is limited to 300 people, and slots fill quickly: [www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm](http://www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm).

In addition to record sealing, the May Fresh Start will feature:

**Know Your Rights Housing Workshop\* for Landlords and Tenants:** Learn about contracts, expectations, landlord and tenant rights, and the eviction process.

**South Texas College of Law Legal Clinics:** Apply to determine your eligibility for assistance with civil legal matters, including debt relief and estate planning.

**Consulate General of Mexico in Houston:** Access support for Mexican citizens in need of legal documents or legal services, including criminal, civil, immigration, labor, and administrative matters.

**Harris County Public Health ACCESS Harris County:** Register for

wraparound support and resource assistance related to education, food security, job placement, counseling, peer support, healthcare and insurance, housing, and transportation.

**Harris County Voter Registrar:** Register to vote.

Fresh Start is offered by Harris County Criminal Courts at Law and their community outreach arm, BAYOU City Community Court, in partnership with Harris County Public Defender's Office, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Harris County State District Criminal Courts, Harris County Civil Courts at Law, Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas, Houston Apartment Association, and Harris County Constable Precinct One.

For more information about Fresh Start or to pre-register, go to [www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm](http://www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm).

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### House Fire in The East Little York / Homestead Area

Houston Fire Department reports a House fire on March 29, 2025, at 10:25 a.m. at 12400 block of River Trail Dr. 77050.

There were No reported injuries.

Property saved was \$87,000 in estimated property saved, but \$110,000 in estimated damage. The cause was Unintentional (electrical).

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Firefighters arrived on scene to find smoke coming from a 1-story house and made an offensive attack. They ventilated the roof and performed a primary search. Crews extinguished the fire and determined that while a tree cutting company was cutting a tree, an electrical line was broken, causing sparks and an electrical surge to occur. CenterPoint arrived on scene and disconnected the electricity.

39 personnel responded to this incident, including firefighters from Stations 56, 15, 34, 64, 32, 30 and Rescue 42.

# Sales Tax Holiday April 26 thru April 28,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;

hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and

portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an item can be

purchased tax free during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase an emergency ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the emergency ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Purchases that do *not* qualify include: batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles; camping stoves and camping supplies; chainsaws; plywood; extension ladders and stepladders; and tents.

A complete list of [emergency preparation supplies](#) that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

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## High Meadows Branch Library

### UPCOMING EVENTS .APR 8- APR 12TH

<b>8 APR</b>	11 AM TODLER TIME
<b>3 APR</b>	3 PM POKEMON CLUB
<b>9 APR</b>	1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS 5 PM READING WONDERLAND 5:30 PM MAGIC OF COLOUR
<b>10 APR</b>	TIAM CITIZENSHIP 3:30 PM GAME ZONE
<b>12 APR</b>	10 AM WORLD OF WORDCRAFT

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

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

**Luis Arredondo LIBRARY TECHNICAN**  
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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!

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**ART & POETRY EXHIBITION Monday, April 21, 2025 All Day**

Come see a unique Art & Poetry Exhibition produced by the gifted students of Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson at the Aldine Library.

As part of Poetry Month, we're focusing on the theme of community. The student artists will write a poem for each piece of art. Visitors to the exhibit this year will also be able to scan QR codes to access the animated version of the students' poetry readings. Impact Leadership Academy students studying digital animation art produced the animated films.

**Tuesday Bilingual Story Time & Craft/Hora de cuento con manualidades Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 11:00am-11:45pm**

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. The last half hour is craft time! Children of all ages are welcome! Está invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡La última media hora es tiempo de manualidades! ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

**Dungeons and Donuts Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 5:00pm-6:00pm**

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) Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:00pm-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.

**ESL Registration Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 12:00pm-1:30pm**

Join us for registration for Beginner or Advance ESL classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays! REGISTRATION will be held in person on the following days and times: April 15, 17, 22, and 24 from 12pm - 1:30pm. You must register

**Wednesday Tween Spark: Art Hour Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 4:30pm-5:30pm**

Need to color for an hour? Want to make a zine? Thinking about picking up a paintbrush to give acrylics a try? Here's your chance! Join Ms. Gage for an hour of freestyle artistic expression. Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders

**Thursday ESL Registration Thursday, April 24, 2025 12:00pm - 1:30pm**

Join us for registration for Beginner or Advance ESL classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays! REGISTRATION will be held in person on the following days and times: April 15, 17, 22, and 24 from 12pm - 1:30pm. You must register and take the assessment before you can attend classes.

Advance beginner classes begin April 28 and will go through July 2nd. Classes will meet twice per week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm - 1pm.

Beginner classes begin April 29 and will go through July 3rd. Classes will meet twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm - 1:30pm.

**These classes are designed for students who are interested in learning and/or practicing speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills in English. Classes are free and all materials are provided.**

**Ology: Light Thursday, April 24 on April 24, 2025, 6:00pm-7:00pm**

Do you know how fast light travels? How do we see light from stars that are billions of miles away? Find out with Ms. Gage by playing games and lighting up your own stars with a flashlight!

**Saturday Pathway to citizenship Saturday, April 26, 2025, 11:00am-1:00pm**

We are now planning for new classes that will begin in January 2025. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have about these classes.

Join us for a free, 12-week class to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and civics test. An English placement test must be passed for class admittance. Students must commit to attending all classes. Taking this class does not grant citizenship or pay for any application fees. Registration is required as space is limited. Register at the first class.

**Spark 5 Story Time w/ The Michelle Project Saturday, April 26, 2025, 11:00am-12:00pm**

Join the library and The Michelle Project for a special Saturday story time! These interactive story times are suitable for all ages and abilities. We'll explore the world of early literacy through singing, talking, writing, playing, and reading! Each super fun educational adventure is inspired by celebrations and traditions from that month. There's always a free book waiting for you at every session!

**Zine Workshop Series Saturday, April 26, 2025, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Join us at the Aldine Branch Library for a monthly series on zine-making! This workshop will be led by an accomplished local writer, poet and teacher.

What's a zine? Pronounced "zeen", it is typically a small-circulation self-published work of original or appropriated texts and images. No registration required! Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring magazines, comics, newspapers, etc.

Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 4-6 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services> Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 9-4pm 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



SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Aldine ISD Students and Staff Highlighted at April 15 Board Meeting



Several students and staff were recognized at Aldine ISD's April 16 board meeting for their accomplishments in academics, performance arts, and roles and responsibilities throughout the 2024-25 school year.

### Aldine Impact Award Winners

Aldine ISD Board of Trustees recognized winners of the Aldine Impact Award. Employees and community members are rewarded for going above and beyond the call of duty in their respective roles with Aldine ISD. Board President Dr. Kimberley Booker nominated Tamala Willis, assistant principal at Vines EC/PK/K, Sandra Black, resource teacher at Oleson Elementary, and the Aldine ISD Unified Athletics department program consisting of Julie Grutzmacher, Hugo Maese, Kelli Hodgkinson, Jessica Corrick, Christopher Weldon-Zimney, and Larissa Coulter. Vice President Connie Esparza nominated Sharon Kennedy, pregnancy coordinator at Hall Success Academy. Board member Randy Bates Jr nominated Xandra Williams-Earlie, the high school science program director. Board member Paul Shanklin nominated the school administration office for attendance efforts. The department consists of Paul Carampatan, director of school administration; Perlita Leija, dropout recovery and attendance office specialist; Juan Flores, dropout recovery and attendance office specialist; Israel Flores, dropout recovery and attendance specialist; Alfonso Sahagun, dropout recovery and student attendance specialist, Richard Woods, dropout recovery and student attendance specialist, Luis Perez, dropout recovery and student attendance specialist, and Nora Guzman secretary to the executive director of school administration.

Teaching, Learning, and Leading Department Honors Staff Members and Students

Chief of Schools Dr. Javier Villarreal presented seven staff members from Grantham Academy with the Humanitarian Award for their heroic efforts, which saved the life of their Assistant Principal, Catherine Fletcher, who experienced a medical emergency. The staff members recognized were Matthew Cline, interim 8th-grade science instructional specialist; Joseph McGuinness, 8th grade science teacher; Medagan McDermott, 8th-grade science teacher, Miranda Harris, inclusion teacher; Jaqueline Jones, 7th-grade science teacher; Angela Miller, school nurse, and Alexandra Manriquez, the clinic aide.

Chief Academic Officer Faviola Cantu celebrated two groups of students. Ter-

esa Boquer, a two-way dual language student at Ermel Elementary, won the NABE Essay Writing Contest in Atlanta, Georgia, for her essay, Proud to be Bilingual. She also received \$500 in cash. Aldine ISD Junior Science Fair winners Dellivon Frazier of Drew Academy, Jacob Nunez, Dominic Hernandez, and Dante Tamez of Hambrick Middle School were recognized for their scientific achievements. The students excelled at the district science fair, advancing them to the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston, where they placed second among 54 other school districts in their categories. From there, the students represented Aldine ISD and the region at the Texas Science and Engineering Fair at Texas A&M University on March 29, 2025.

Chief Transformation Officer Adrian Bustillos shared the exciting news that's taking place at the Young Women's Leader Academy (YWLA). The YWLA was selected for a campus-wide community service project with up-grades to three key spaces that focus on nurturing the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of students, staff, and school communities. YWLA will continue to build on the STEM field this summer, with several programs scheduled for June and July. Several students from YWLA have applied to prestigious summer programs across the state and nation and have received scholarships to attend the summer programs.

### Performing Arts Students Spotlited

During the board meeting's teaching, leading, and learning segment Refugio Rodriguez, director of performing arts, highlighted the district's performing arts programs for the 2024-25 school year. Aside from high school performing arts, Aldine ISD has over 20,000 elementary students who are part of the performing arts program, over 22,700 students participate in the performing and visual arts programs at the secondary level, and over 8,000 students from the district's magnet and choice schools participate in the performing arts. The district's band, orchestra, dance, choir, mariachi, speech and debate, and theater programs were spotlighted for their accomplishments. Two educators, Kari Zimmerman, the music teacher at Jones Primary, and Grace Lewis, director of orchestras at Carver High School, were recognized for their outstanding work in the arts.

### AISD Public Hearing on 2023-24 Annual Performance Report

Aldine ISD held a public hearing for the 2023-24 Annual Performance Report at

the April 16 Board meeting. Dawn Ayers-Rodriguez, chief of accountability, assessment and analytics, led the hearing. 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."

### Employee Recognized

During the April 15 board meeting, Aldine ISD employees were recognized for their leadership, connections with their fellow employees, and impact on students.

Aldine ISD Police Commander Marc Harris named police dispatcher Kristen Truitt the department's Employee of the Month.

### Staff Assignment Announced

Padriac McGinnis was named campus athletic coordinator/head football coach at Eisenhower High School after serving as the coordinator of special teams and offensive line coach at Houston Heights High School in the Houston Independent School District.

### Trustees Approved Action Items

Approved the 2025-2026 instructional materials allotment and TEKS certification.

Approved a statement of agreement between Allegany College of Maryland and Aldine Independent School District regarding the clinical placement program for the period of March 21, 2025, to February 28, 2026.

Approved a Memorandum of Understanding between San Jacinto Community District and Aldine ISD for the HEAL at Nimitz High School Pathway specific and core content for the 2025-26 through 2026-27 school year.

Approved the turnaround plan for Hall Success Academy.

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

Approved the monthly tax office refunds.

Before the April 15 board meeting, Bussey Elementary led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag. The Aldine Middle School LOTC Color Guard presented the colors. The Aldine ISD Orff Ensemble (AOE), consisting of third, fourth, and fifth graders from 40 Aldine campuses, graced the audience with a performance. The May board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the boardroom at the Donaldson Administration Building.

# Aldine ISD Students Recognized by Mexican Consulate



On Monday, April 7, the Mexican Consulate in Houston recognized five Aldine ISD students from Aldine High School for their hard work in civic academics and engagement. The Mexican Consulate partnered with AISD in their Aldine Votes initiative to recognize student efforts. The work being done by the students is through their Mustangs Vote Club at their high school.

Through its Educational Guidance and Civic Education Office, the Mexican Consulate seeks to strengthen the Mexican community's sense of belonging within the United States, and to allow students to learn and appreciate Mexican traditions. The students were selected based on their work in the district's Mexican communities and their Mexican heritage.

As active advocates, the students have built strong connections with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure their community's needs are prioritized. They regularly participate in community events and workshops, continually gaining knowledge to better support their work



and share valuable resources within their community.

"It was great to see the students being rewarded for their efforts," said Pam Gallardo, civic engagement specialist. "With Aldine Votes, our goal was to empower students to become involved and informed about the world around them, and to watch these students then turn around and want to do the same for their communities, it shows that hunger to make a change is there for our students."

After the recognition ceremony concluded, the students were given a certificate and a tour of the Mexican Consulate building.

The students recognized were (from left to right):

- \*Liliana Moreno
- \*Natalia Hernandez
- \*Lilliana Rojas
- \*Nataly Morales Gonzalez
- \*Marilyn Serrato

# Aldine ISD Orchestra Teacher Honored by Houston Symphony



On Sunday, April 6, the Houston Symphony's annual Spec's Charitable Foundation Award for Excellence in Music Education was presented to Aldine ISD's Grace Lewis, head director of orchestras at Carver High School. Lewis was among four Houston music educators nominated.

For the nomination process, Lewis' colleagues, former teachers, and current students wrote letters of support to the selection committee, detailing her work within the Aldine

ISD community and beyond. Lewis was recognized for hosting music camps for the Carver Orchestra and Pearland Youth Orchestra students, and for encouraging them to earn scholarships to Texas universities and pursue careers in music.

"Our students represent a boundless future," Lewis said. "Nothing is outside of their reach!" Lewis also noted the valuable contribution of her co-teacher, Gabriella Garces, to the rich learning environment of the Carver High School

Orchestra classroom. The Houston Symphony's support through its Community Embedded Musician residency program at Carver has allowed students to observe and participate in professional-level music-making and understand the many ways one can use music to affect change after graduation. In 2025, 30% of graduating Carver orchestra seniors will attend university to pursue a career in music performance or education.

*You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)*



OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY CLERK MATTERS**  
By HC Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth



### Early Voting for the May 3rd Joint Election begins April 22

HOUSTON, TX – Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth announced that early voting for the May 3 Joint Election starts April 22nd and emphasized this election’s importance for the future of communities across the county.

“The May 3 ballot includes contests from various local political subdivisions, such as cities, colleges, school districts, and utility districts,” said Clerk Hudspeth. “Voters will cast ballots in 46 districts, including single-member districts, with races and propositions specific to where voters are registered.”

Harris County will operate over 20 early voting locations and more than 180 on Election Day. For a list of vote centers and their estimated wait times, visit [www.HarmsVotes.com](http://www.HarmsVotes.com)

- DATES AND HOURS:**  
**EARLY VOTING DATES:**  
 Tue., April 22-Sat., April 26 (7 am-7pm) Sun., April 27 (Noon - 7 pm)  
**ELECTION DAY:**  
 Mon., April 28/Tue April 29 (7 am-7pm)  
 Sat., May 3, 2025 (7 am - 7pm)
- Acceptable forms of ID when voting in person:  
 --Texas Driver’s License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
 --Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS  
 --Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS  
 --Texas Handgun License issued by DPS  
 --United States Military Identification Card containing the person’s photograph  
 --United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person’s photograph  
 --United States Passport (book or card)

Voters who do not have and cannot obtain one of the approved forms of photo ID may complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) at a vote center and present another form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or voter registration certificate.

“Early voting offers flexibility, shorter wait times, and peace of mind, allowing voters more control over their voting experience,” added Clerk Hudspeth. “Please remember that electronic devices, including phones and cameras, are not allowed within 100 feet of the voting area at any time.”

Additional election information is available at [HarrisVotes.com](http://HarrisVotes.com). For news and updates on social media, follow @Harris Votes



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### Paxton, Cornyn Gear Up for Primary Battle

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton made it official last week, announcing he will challenge U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next March’s Republican primary. The fireworks already have begun, the Austin American-Statesman reported, with Cornyn calling his rival “a con man and a fraud.”

Paxton, for his part, said he is running to “fight for President Trump’s agenda and take a sledgehammer to the D.C. establishment.” He accused Cornyn of being insufficiently loyal to Trump.

Paxton’s decision to run for the Senate leaves the attorney general’s seat open in 2026. Former U.S. Attorney John Bash, a lawyer for Elon Musk, has announced plans to run, The Dallas Morning News reported. He will almost certainly have company in the GOP primary. Longtime lobbyist and political consultant Bill Miller said the job’s high profile makes it attractive to potential candidates.

“It’s the most attractive job below being senator or governor. You have this enormous machinery to put yourself in almost every issue, state or federal,” he said. “You can make news and be news almost at will.”

The News named several possible GOP candidates, including state Sens. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, and Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston; state Rep. Mitch Little, R-Lewisville; and former Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, who ran for the job in 2022.

**TEXAS VERSION OF DOGE HEADS TO ABBOTT’S DESK**  
 If signed, the first bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott’s desk would create the “Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office,” the Statesman reported. A supermajority of the House passed Senate Bill 14 last week, following its approval in the Senate in late March.

The measure is expected to save taxpayers \$25 million for five years by identifying rules that are “unnecessary, duplicative, expensive or prohibitive.” It would also look for ways that state agencies could cut costs.

House sponsor state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Keller, noted the state of Texas has more than 274,000 rules and regulations.

“The purpose of the office is to have technical professionals, people skilled in those regulations, review those regulations and to come up with recom-



mendations to the agency on how they can make things better for the constituents of Texas,” Capriglione said.

**VISAS REVOKED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN STATE**

At least 110 international students at Texas universities have had their visas revoked or their immigration status marked as terminated in a federal database, The Texas Tribune reported. As of last week, these universities confirmed the number of international students affected:

- University of North Texas: 27
- University of Texas at Dallas: 19
- University of Texas at Arlington: 27
- Texas A&M University: 19
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: 9
- Texas Women’s University: 4
- Texas Tech University: 3

The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston said that some of its students had a change in their immigration status but declined to say how many.

**MEASLES CASES SURPASS 500; OUTBREAK COULD LAST FOR MONTHS**

The number of measles cases in West Texas and the Panhandle has surpassed 500, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. Health experts say the outbreak likely will continue to grow and could last for months.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, The News reported. The World

Health Organization defines that as the “absence of endemic measles transmission” for at least 12 months. If the current measles outbreak lasts longer than a year, which seems likely, the U.S. would lose its elimination status.

“We are almost certainly going to lose that,” Dr. Greg Poland, a vaccinologist, said. “In that sense from a public health view, we are going backwards. And that will hurt people.”

**HOUSE PASSES \$337.4 BILLION BUDGET**

The Texas House on Friday overwhelmingly passed a \$337.4 billion budget that includes funding for school vouchers, teacher pay raises, and property tax cuts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The General Appropriations Act passed by a 118-26 margin after 14 hours of debate on the House floor.

“[The bill] stays well under all spending limits and grows less than population and inflation—ensuring we protect taxpayers while meeting the needs of a growing Texas,” said House Appropriations Chairman Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood.

Senate Bill 1 now goes into negotiation with the Texas Senate, which passed its version of the budget in March. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said that chamber can now turn its attention to other priorities. Before passing the budget, only a handful of bills had made it out of the House, in contrast with the Senate, which has passed nearly 200 bills thus far.

“Now that we’ve established a strong fiscal framework, the House will soon act on key legislation—starting first with school finance and school choice—knowing exactly the resources we have in place to deliver real results for Texans,” Burrows said.

The House budget bill contains \$6.5 billion to continue Operation Lone Star, Abbott’s border security initiative, as well as \$3 billion to create a Dementia Prevention and Research Institute.

**MARCH BROUGHT HIGHER TEMPS, LESS RAIN**

Warmer-than-usual temperatures in March, combined with less rain for most of the state, meant 70% of the state was in drought by the end of last month. That’s a rise of 21 percentage points since late February, according to hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel, with the Texas Water Development Board.

“In the next few months, drought conditions are expected to improve somewhat in South Texas but expand across the Panhandle and North Central Texas,” Wentzel wrote.

He added he expected some easing of drought severity in South Texas, which was hit with torrential rain last month, and no drought areas in East Texas.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### A Very Good Dog



The note from Marci was in Spanish, so I translated it to make sure I understood.

“Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to see if you could help us share this photo of a dog to see if anyone could adopt her. Her owner just passed away, and she was thrown out onto the street.”

The dog’s name was Munecca, which means “doll” in Spanish. Marci attached a photo of a dog with very long ears lying on the ground. Marci added, “She’s a very good dog.”

“That poor dog!” my husband, Peter, said.

Marci was the foster mother of our cat, Felix. Marci takes in stray animals and tries to find homes for them. She cared for Felix for two months before we adopted him. But Marci was caring for 12 dogs already. She did not have room for Munecca.

Peter and I didn’t know what we could do. We didn’t know anyone who could take a dog. So we did what people do when they want to get the word out—we posted a short story about this sad little dog on Facebook.

Immediately, lots of people put hearts next to her photo and wished her well. People shared the post. People asked me to keep them updated. Peter told a man who contacted him that Marci was an honorable and trustworthy person—and that Marci said that Munecca was a very good dog.

“I hope Munecca finds a home,” Peter said.

“I hope so, too,” I told him. But, honestly, I was not hopeful. There are a lot of stray dogs in Mexico, and Munecca was no longer a puppy. We later learned that her owner was not an older person, as we assumed, but a young woman who died unexpectedly. The whole thing seemed terribly tragic.

The day after the post went up, I was taking my walk when my phone made a sound. I never pay attention to my phone when I’m walking. But this time I did.

I stepped into a little shop and saw a message from Marci.

“I wanted to tell you that Munecca has already been adopted, in case you’d like to let anyone know. Thank you very much for your help.”

“Oh!” I said out loud. “That’s wonderful!” The man Peter had been messaging had adopted Munecca. Marci sent a photo of Munecca getting a bath and a video of the man walking her with his other dog. Both tails were wagging.

The young woman behind the counter of the shop looked at me curiously. “I am so happy,” I told her in Spanish. “I helped a dog to find a home. Her owner died, and she was on the street!”

“Oh!” the young woman replied in Spanish, “You mean Munecca?” She had seen the post on Facebook.

I was amazed. “Munecca is a famous dog!” I said. The girl laughed. She was happy this dog she had never met had found her new home. And so was I.

Social media is filled with a lot of hate and arguing and pointless posturing. I don’t blame people who choose to ignore it entirely. But I don’t think Facebook is a bad thing. Like most things, it all depends on how it is used. I reported that Munecca had found a home, and a whole lot of strangers were happy and relieved.

And I thought of what a funny world we live in—where there is so much hate and distrust, and where strangers can come together and find a home for a very good dog.


Till next time,  
Carrie

**top ten**

**CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES\***

1. United States
2. Russia
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. South Korea
7. France
8. United Kingdom
9. Brazil
10. Pakistan

\*Largest Christian population  
Source: Pew Research Center



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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com)  
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# Aldine HS students debut Art Car entry

Students from CTE and Visual Arts create Art Car "AQUARIUM"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creativity and community. The 'Aquarium' is a moving symbol of their hard work and talent."

Students learned and applied various skills throughout the school year, including automotive basics, mixed-media art, fabrication, project planning, and teamwork. The result: a rolling piece of art that amazed parade goers and highlighted the unique strengths of Aldine's art and CTE programs.

Before making its parade debut, the "Aquarium" truck was previewed during a special event at Discovery Green, giving the public a sneak peek at the student-driven transformation.



The truck will return for the 2026 Art Car Parade, wrapping up the district's three-year partnership with the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art

and Team Gillman. Newman added that Eric Blume, AISD CTE program manager, and Jennifer Gonzales, AISD CTE program director, were

also pivotal to the vehicle's success.

"This experience has been nothing short of transformative for our students," added Newman.

"They took ownership of every part of the process and created something unforgettable. We're already excited to see what they dream up next."

For more information about the Art Car Program at Aldine High School, contact Kaileigh Newman at [karosplowski@aldineisd.org](mailto:karosplowski@aldineisd.org).



# HOUSTON'S ART CAR PARADE 2025

Art Car Parade  
Houston's largest free public event returns in April 2026!

Community groups, public and private schools, and professional organizations have become regular participants. Inspired by what they see, spectators create art cars of their own and often become future participants. And as the parade grows, attracting more and more participants, the complexity and quality of the entries increases.

One of Houston's most beloved annual events started as small gatherings of like-minded artists and individuals in the early 1980s - from the creation of Jackie Harris' "Fruitmobile" and the Ann Harithas curated exhibition "Collision" at Lawndale Art Center in 1984, to Rachel Hecker and Trish Herrera's New Music Parade and the Orange Show's "Road Show" in 1986 - all of which featured automobiles that had been transformed by artists into works of art. Then in 1988, the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art produced "Roadside Attractions: The Art Car Parade" with 40 art cars seen by 2,000 people.

Today, The Houston Art Car Parade is the largest celebration of its kind in the world, featuring over 250 entries and attracting 200,000-300,000 spectators as the mobile masterpieces created by artists, students, youth groups, families, organizations and anyone with a passion for creativity roll through downtown Houston every April. The Houston Art Car Parade represents the idea that there is an artist inside all of us, and in doing so offers the opportunity to showcase that inherent creativity on a large scale.

More information at [www.thehoustonartcarparade.com](http://www.thehoustonartcarparade.com).

38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival Rolls Back Into Town  
Houston's Most Colorful Tradition Rolls On  
By Marlene Rivera, Student Reporter ■ April 11, 2025

HOUSTON — The city's most unconventional and visually striking event returns as the 38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival, Presented by Team Gillman, takes over downtown this weekend, showcasing over 250 elaborately decorated vehicles in a dazzling display of creativity and community spirit.

Organized by the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, the parade has become the largest event of its kind in the world, drawing thousands of attendees eager to experience an explosion of artistic ingenuity on wheels. Whether a first-time visitor or a longtime devotee, spectators can expect a one-of-a-kind event that merges art, engineering, and



performance.

Festival Schedule and Key Events

The Houston Art Car Parade Weekend is more than just the parade itself. The festivities span multiple days, offering a variety of activities leading up to the grand event.

A Moving Museum of Art

More than just a parade, the 38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival is a multi-

sensory experience. Spectators will witness everything from classic cars transformed into intricate murals to massive mechanized sculptures rolling through the streets. The event includes live music, interactive installations, and some of the city's best street food.

A Community Celebration

The parade attracts artists from across the country, creating a network of art car enthusiasts who collaborate

and share their passion for artistic transformation.

The Evolution of a Houston Tradition

Originally a grassroots event, the Houston Art Car Parade has evolved into a defining cultural phenomenon. Groups such as the Houston Art Car Klub (HACK) and national art car networks have helped expand its reach.

One of the parade's most impactful initiatives is its

educational outreach program, which provides vehicles generously donated by Team Gillman to teachers in many school districts at different grade levels in and around Houston. These educators and their students work together to design and create art cars, fostering young talent while encouraging creativity and collaboration.

A Reflection of Houston's Identity

The parade is an extension of

Houston itself—bold, inventive, and diverse. Many art cars reflect themes inspired by the city's aerospace industry, energy sector, and culinary scene. NASA-inspired designs, oil-themed creations, and even art cars dedicated to Houston's famous Tex-Mex cuisine all make appearances.

Some vehicles incorporate moving parts, pyrotechnics, or elaborate lighting, further blending Houston's spirit of technological innovation with artistic vision.



CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Bezalel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. At the Last Supper, which disciple protested against having his feet washed by Jesus? Peter, Andrew, Bartholomew, Judas
3. What golden graven image did the Israelites dance in front of? Calf, Ox, Horse, Camel

- 4. Who primarily made the golden graven image in the above question? Joseph, Michal, Lot, Aaron
5. From Revelations 13:18, what's the number of the beast? 7, 13, 666, 777
6. In John 18:38, who asked, "What is truth"? Pilate, Martha, Joel, Eve

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Peter, 3) Calf, 4) Aaron, 5) 666, 6) Pilate
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE
And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. JOHN 19:17,18

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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 Sanches, Deputy Executive Director (vsanches@haweshill.com)orRichard Cantu, Executive Director (rcantu@haweshill.com)

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Tom Hardy stars in "Havoc."

"Havoc"

"Black Bag" (R) — Out now to rent, this spy thriller film stars Cate Blanchett ("Borderlands") and Michael Fassbender ("The Killer") as two suave and sexy British intelligence officers who are also married to each other. For his latest mission, George (Fassbender) is given a week to figure out where a breach leaked from within their organization, but his wife, Kathryn (Blanchett), is one of five suspects in the case. Torn between his duty to his work and his marriage, George must be cautious and resourceful when solving this case, but the price is steep. Will he lose his career or his wife? Naomie Harris ("Moonlight"), Rege-Jean Page ("Bridgerton"), and Pierce Brosnan ("Mobleland") co-star. (Apple TV+)

gritty crime drama full of gory action, a misunderstood antihero, and potent one-liners, it's Mr. Tom Hardy ("Venom: The Last Dance," "The Bikeriders," "Peaky Blinders"). He stars as Walker, a detective in a city with a brutal criminal underworld and lots of corruption. When a politician's son gets caught in the middle of a drug deal gone awry, Walker plans to rescue him. But with so many people — both criminals and not — hot on his tail, Walker is at the precipice of unraveling something much bigger than he knows. Look out for familiar faces like Timothy Olyphant ("Justified: City Primeval") and Forest Whitaker ("Big George Foreman") in this film premiering April 25. (Netflix)

"Azrael" (R) — If you like your horror movies with a religious or cultish touch, look no further

than this film led by scream queen Samara Weaving ("Borderline"). Taking place years after the Rapture, the only people still surviving on Earth must spend their days outrunning "the Burned Ones," who are demons that feast on humans. Azrael (Weaving) and her boyfriend, Kenan, are powering through with a cult in the forest, but when the cultists soon decide to turn on them, a traumatic battle for survival begins against demons and non-demons alike. Although this film went under the radar after its release, it should still satisfy you if you're looking for a good spook. Premieres April 25. (Hulu)

In Case You Missed It "The Holdovers" (R) — "Downsizing" director Alexander Payne spearheaded this comedy-drama that received recognition during last year's award season, specifically for Paul Giamatti ("Downton Abbey") and Da'Vine Joy Randolph's ("Only Murders in the Building") palpable performances. Taking place in 1970, the film spans the lonely days of a Christmas break at a boarding school, where teacher Paul Hunham (Giamatti) is required to chaperone a group of students who can't go home for the holidays. Of these students, a cynical boy named Angus (Dominic Sessa) gives Paul an incredibly hard time, but the impact he leaves on Paul after just a few weeks can make anyone's eyes water. If films like "Dead Poets Society" tickle your fancy, this one's right up your alley! (Peacock)

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Q: What is Josh Holloway from "Lost" doing these days? I haven't seen him in anything since the show ended. — D.I.

A: While Sawyer on "Lost" is probably Josh Holloway's most memorable role, he's far from retired. CBS had high hopes that "Intelligence," his first series after "Lost" ended, would be a surefire fit, but it was canceled after one season. He followed it with the sci-fi drama "Colony" on the USA Network, which was a modest hit with three seasons' worth of episodes. But he wouldn't have another hit until "Yellowstone," where he'd play a hedge-fund manager in season three.

Holloway currently has two upcoming projects. First up is the series "Duster" from "Lost" creator J.J. Abrams and LaToya Morgan ("Shameless"), where he plays a "gutsy getaway driver for a growing crime syndicate." Set in the 1970s, it co-stars Rachel Hilson ("This Is Us") and premieres on Max on May 15.

He'll follow this with the film "Flint," which is based on the classic Western novel by Louis L'Amour that is set in the 1860s. Holloway has long been trying to bring the late author's famed book to the big screen, and it looks like it's finally happening.

Q: I saw that singer Jelly Roll has lost a lot of weight and is planning on running a marathon. How has he accomplished his goal? — S.T.

A: Born Jason Bradley DeFord, Jelly Roll was given his nickname by his mother as a kid, but he actually prefers his friends to just call him "Jelly." He's overcome a troubled time in his life where he was addicted to drugs and served time in prison. He's now clean and living a healthy lifestyle, and he boasts an almost 200-pound weight loss. He hopes to lose another 100 pounds so that he can join his wife in a skydiving adventure next year. He's also training for a half-marathon.

He hasn't publicly attributed his weight loss to surgery or GLP-1 medications like Ozempic, but he does have a personal chef and a nutrition coach. The charismatic singer is currently serving as "American Idol's" first Artist in



Josh Holloway as Roarke Morris in "Yellowstone"

Residence, where his infectious enthusiasm is put to great use by mentoring young talent.

Q: How is the new daytime soap "Beyond the Gates" doing with its ratings? Do you think this could pave the way for more soaps in the future? — K.W.

A: "Beyond the Gates" is CBS's first new daytime drama to debut in 25 years, and it's done surprisingly well. The newbie is neck-and-neck with its time-slot competitor, ABC's "General Hospital," in the ratings race since it premiered, but it is far from achieving the numbers that CBS's "The Young and the Restless" achieves week after week.

Most importantly, "BTG" draws a significantly bigger audience than "The Talk," which was the daytime talk show that it replaced. As for whether there will be more afternoon stories developed by television networks in the future, we'll just have to wait and see!

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 grid and difficulty information

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff

April 21, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid and word list

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Beauty and the Beast; 2. Harry Potter; 3. Bunsy; 4. Outstanding children's picture books; 5. Albatross; 6. Hemoglobin; 7. Franklin D. Roosevelt; 8. Kentucky Fried Chicken; 9. Tadpole; 10. Two: Phobos and Deimos

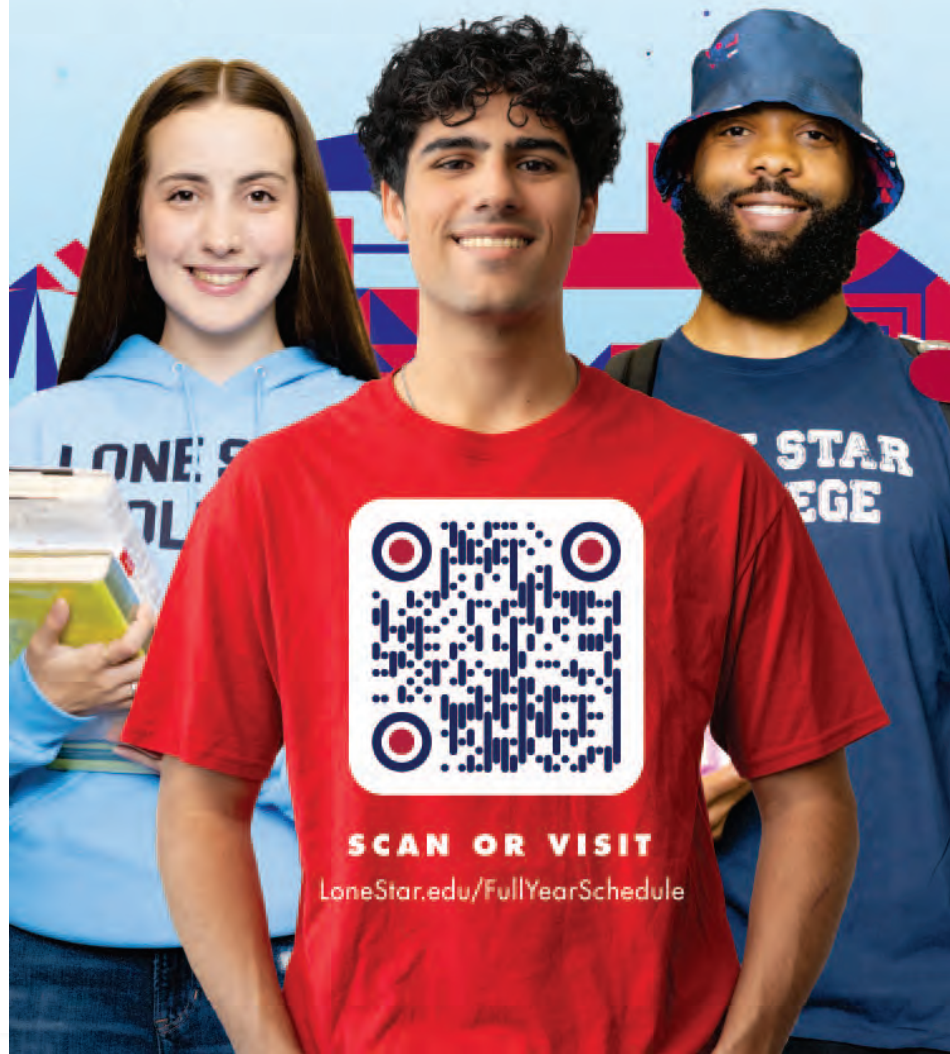
Trivia test questions and answers





# PLAN & REGISTER FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR!

Beginning April 14, you will be able to enroll for **Fall 2025, Spring 2026 & Summer 2026**



SCAN OR VISIT LoneStar.edu/FullYearSchedule

## Lone Star Students visit Capitol,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shape the state's future," said Cory Colby, LSC-Tomball political science professor. "Additionally, we represented the college system to our legislators who continuously support the college and work on important matters related to higher education."

Lone Star College transported 119 students and 16 faculty and staff members to Austin. At the state capitol, students personally met with the elected officials who represent their communities, maximizing the visit for both parties and showing students that they have real value in the political process. In all, students visited with 20 members of the Texas House and Senate, including the legislative staff and senators of the Senate Public Education Committee chaired by Senator Brandon Creighton.

"Traveling to the state capitol and witnessing the legislative process firsthand reinforced my belief in the importance of civic engagement," said Erick Lima, Lone Star College

student. "This trip has profoundly strengthened my belief that I have the power to participate in and influence social, political and community issues."

During Lone Star College Day, participants visited the legislative chambers and were recognized by Representative Cecil Bell as he read an honorary resolution on the House floor. LSC ended the day with a visit from Dan Huberty, former House representative and public education committee chair, who shared insight into the legislative session and the importance of constituents like LSC students and employees, showing up and communicating with legislators.

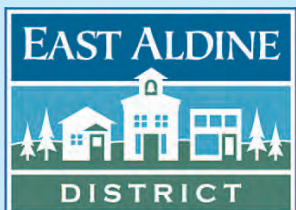
"Lone Star College Day showed me that the senators and representatives are real people who care about their constituents and want what is best for them," said Ivana Vilchez Montilla, Lone Star College student. "After this trip, I have decided to try to get into the world of politics after I finish my de-

gree in political science." Lone Star College System leads the state and the nation as the largest community college in Texas and one of the largest nationwide. The college system offers more than 200 academic and workforce programs and four bachelor's degrees. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study.

Lone Star College System enrolls over 90,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSCS is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSCS, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2024 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education. LSCS consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



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



## East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

### East Aldine Management District appoints two new Board Members: Sherry Curl, and Ruben Salazar

Rubén Salazar Appointed to East Aldine Management District Board

Rubén A. Salazar, a passionate advocate for East Aldine, has been appointed to Position 4 on the East Aldine Management District's board of directors. At just 23 years old, Salazar has already built an impressive track record of grassroots advocacy, civic engagement, and community leadership, making him a natural fit for the role.

Salazar's dedication to community improvement is deeply rooted in his personal experiences growing up in East Aldine, a suburb in north Houston. He witnessed firsthand how neglected properties, illegal dumping, and infrastructure issues affected residents' quality of life. Instead of waiting for change, he took action.

"I realized that by bringing people together, connecting residents with resources, and pushing for action, we could make real changes," Salazar said. "My passion comes from wanting to improve everyday life for people in my community and making sure their concerns aren't ignored."

#### A Legacy of Civic Engagement

Salazar's advocacy work began shortly after graduating from Aldine ISD's MacArthur High School in 2019. He became involved with a local community club, serving as assistant secretary and later president. Under his leadership, the club doubled in membership. It successfully lobbied for additional streetlights, sidewalk improvements, increased sheriff patrols, and new programs for residents of all ages.

In April 2023, he took his commitment a step further by founding the East Aldine Civic Association, a nonprofit organization focused on neighborhood improvements. The group has worked closely with local government agencies, nonprofits, and elected officials to address key issues, including public safety, beautification efforts, and civic engagement.

Salazar credits two figures as major influences in his journey — Richard Cantú, Executive Director of the East Aldine Management District, and his great-grandmother, Lilia Ríos Ortega. Ortega, a longtime neighborhood advocate, worked to create recreational programs for children and a daycare center for



single mothers in East Aldine in the late 1950s.

#### Priorities as a Board Member

Salazar sees his appointment to the East Aldine Management District as a full-circle moment, allowing him to continue the legacy of service his great-grandmother and other community leaders set in motion. As a board member, he plans to focus on:

**Neighborhoods:** Addressing neighborhood nuisance issues such as illegal dumping, neglected properties, and infrastructure concerns.

**Disaster Preparedness Initiatives:** Ensuring residents have the resources and education needed for emergencies.

**Economic Development:** Advocating for more businesses, job opportunities, and amenities in

East Aldine.

**Community Engagement:** Creating more opportunities for residents to have a voice in district decision-making.

"One of the biggest challenges facing East Aldine is the need for stronger infrastructure and public safety measures," Salazar said. "Flooding, aging roads, and economic development remain major concerns. My goal is to push for practical, impactful solutions that make East Aldine a safer, stronger, and more vibrant place to live."

#### A Future of Service

Beyond his advocacy work, Salazar serves as Precinct Chairman for Harris County's Precinct 411 and was elected Senator for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the University of Houston-Downtown Student Government Association for two consecutive terms. In May 2024, he was elected to the Sunbelt Fresh Water Supply District board of directors, where he helps oversee the management of water and sewer services for North Houston.

Despite his growing responsibilities, Salazar remains focused on grassroots engagement. His experience with the East Aldine Civic Association has shaped his leadership style, emphasizing transparency, collaboration, and direct action.

"My experience has shown me the power of listening to residents and working with them to create real, lasting change," he said. "In this new role, I want to bridge the gap between residents and the district, ensuring transparency, accountability, and meaningful progress."

As Salazar steps into his new position, he remains committed to his core mission — empowering the people of East Aldine and making sure their voices are heard.



East Aldine.



SHERRY CURL AND RUBEN SALAZAR JOINS WITH THE EAST ALDINE BOARD FOR A PHOTO.