# MORTHBAST MUDIUS

The SPLASH PAD at East Aldine Town Center has

been repaired and is available to Coof Off.

**Cool Off at Town Center** 

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## Resilience, Growth, and Safety:

## Garcia Delivers State of the HC Precinct 2

### **Commissioner Garcia Says State Of Precinct 2 Is Strong**

Harris County, TX — Thursday, July 17th, in a fireside chat, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia declared "the State of Precinct 2 is stronger than ever." Held before a sold-out crowd at the Hyatt Regency in Baytown, Garcia took questions from community and business leaders about the accomplishments of the past year and his vision for the future of Precinct 2. The event was sponsored by 5 local Chambers of Commerce including Pasadena, South Belt-Ellington, La Porte-Bayshore, Deer Park, and Clear Lake. Precinct 2 includes Aldine in the northern portion and much of East Harris County: from the East End, past the Hobby-area and City of South Houston, over to Pasadena and into the Bay Area and Ship Channel. From major flood prevention projects to economic development and emergency preparedness, Garcia emphasized that despite challenges, he is proud of the work that Precinct 2 has accomplished.

#### **Historic Flood Control Investments and Infrastructure Progress**

Commissioner Garcia shared that by the end of this



year, Precinct 2 will have committed over \$1 billion in capital improvement projects. Some of the highlights in the work being done includes:

Major detention projects such as the Lauder Detention Basin and Mud Gully widening, which mitigated flooding from Hurricane Beryl

A major land acquisition partnership with the Armand Bayou Nature Center, expanding the preserve to 4,000 acres of wetlands to hold 4 billion gallons of stormwater

#### **Partnership Projects Across Cities**

Through the Precinct 2 Partnership Program, 76 projects totaling \$335 million have been launched across municipalities, with Precinct 2 contributing nearly half of the total funding. These range from small park enhancements to major drainage systems like the Near Northside project in Houston. Additionally, Precinct 2 has contributed more than \$31 million to drainage and street projects in Baytown. Other highlights of the program are below, however, the entire discussion has been posted online by visiting the Harris County Precinct 2 Youtube page. (https://youtu.be/\_wd0QnfQ-LY?si=2SjA-1hhO3SPBY8L

#### **State of the Precinct Programmatic** Highlights:

#### **Empowering Small Businesses and Workforce**

To address economic challenges, Garcia spotlighted the success of Biz2Empower, a small business accelerator program that has helped 91 entrepreneurs graduate and access over \$10 million in economic impact through contracts and capital. Additional programs like Train2Empower and a new countywide Apprenticeship

Continued. See STATE OF THE PRECINCT, Page 5

#### Aldine ISD Back-2-School EXPO July 31

Aldine ISD will hold a Back-2-School EXPO Thursday, July 31 from 2 to 7 pm at M.O. Campbell Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Road. Free school supplies, immunizations and health screenings.

#### **East Aldine Youth** Night August 1

East Aldine District will host a Youth Night for Middle & High School students, Friday August 1 from 6pm to 9pm at the Town Center Amphitheatre. Music, Games and More. End of Summer Fun. Free for all.

## AISD Leadership Changes announced

Aldine ISD Announces Leadership Changes for 2025-2026 School Year

District- and campuslevel leadership changes aim to strengthen support systems and accelerate student achievement.

As Aldine ISD gears up for the 2025-2026 school year and commemorates its 90th anniversary. Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney has unveiled pivotal leadership changes. These changes are strategically designed to fortify support for campuses and expedite student outcomes, underscoring our commitment to continuous improvement.

The alignment includes shifts in school assistant superintendent teams,



campus leadership appointments, and the elevation of a senior leader to support school improvement efforts.

"We have a lot to celebrate, and as I always say leadership matters,"

said Dr. Goffney. "With nities." these leadership changes, I'm confident we will continue to deliver on the promise of an Aldine ISD education that guarantees all our students graduate with choices and opportu-

#### **New School Support** Structure

Chief of Schools Dr. Javier Villarreal will continue to lead the district's campus support structure. The alignment includes five

school assistant superintendents overseeing specific elementary and secondary teams:

#### Elementary Team 2 -Dr. Matilda Orozco

Black, Bussey, Calvert, Carroll, Carmichael, Goodman, Johnson, Marcella, Orange Grove, Reed Academy, Stephens, and Worsham Elementary Schools

#### Elementary Team 3 -Dr. LaToya Wynne

García-Leza, Vardeman, Vines, Keeble, and Kujawa EC/PreK/K Schools; Carter Academy; Ermel, Escamilla, Hill, Kujawa, and Odom Elementary Schools; Houston Academy

Continued. See AISD LEADERSHIP,

## **Redistricting Hearing in Houston draws Democrat's Ire**

By Colleen Deguzman **Texas Tribune** 

The Texas House's redistricting committee visited Houston on Saturday to hear out local residents' concerns on the state Legislature's plans to consider redrawing nearly a handful of congressional districts in Texas — all of which are held by Black or Latino Democrats, three in the Houston area.

But the testimony portion of the hearing, limited to five hours, had to wait while Democratic committee members spent the first hour grilling committee Chair Cody Vasut on why they were there in the first place.

When Vasut, R-Angleton, welcomed the standing-room only crowd for the committee's second "public testimony regarding a revised congression-

"Hell no, we don't need to be doing this!"

--Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

al redistricting plan," State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, offered a correc-

"I just want to advise the public that they would not be testifying on a revised congressional redistricting plan, because there is no revised congressional redistricting plan," she said.

The state has not publicly revealed proposed revisions of the state's congressional district map, which was drawn in 2021 following the 2020 census. Critics of the mid-decade redistricting process raised ques-

tions about why the committee is hosting public hearings before maps are on the table.

State Rep. Jolanda Jones, D-Houston, noted to Vasut that the hundreds of people who signed up to speak residents who were either crowded in the University of Houston's Student Center or waiting outside - were "unable to testify as to how they will be negatively or positively affected by any maps, because there are no maps filed for anybody to testify to."

Jones asked Vasut if Texans will have the same opportunity to speak up once the maps were made public, to which he said: "1,000%... There is no proposed map pending before the committee at this time for which public testimony will be

Continued. See REDISTRICTING HEARING, Page 2

## East Aldine Board Meeting June Recap



New Mural: Local artist Primo and MacArthur High student Kaylee Jiménez completed a mural behind Town Center; ABOVE: East Aldine Board Members with Artist Primo (at right) and Student artist Jimenez (3rd from right).

The East Aldine Management District (EAMD) Board of Directors met virtually on June 24 to review district finances, receive community updates, and approve several initiatives supporting local services, infrastructure, and youth engagement.

Community Partners Share Updates

#### High Meadows Librarv

Judy Rodríguez of the Friends of High Meadows Library thanked the district for a recent community ride-along and shared highlights from summer programming. The library's goal is to reach 5 million minutes read through the Summer Reading Program. Other offerings include:

 $\bullet$  UnplugandPlay board game after-

Continued. See EAMD JUNE RECAP,

WSJ WINE

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







## Redistricting Hearing,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

offered, but we will have a hearing if such a map is filed."

"I wish that this Legislature were working on redistricting fairness rather than gerrymandering," said Jerome Wald, a longtime Houston resident of the 7th Congressional District. "Instead. I'm here to testify against this harmful attempt to redraw congressional districts in the middle of the decade."

Wald asked Vasut for "at least five days to review the maps" once they're made public before a hearing, and for "at least five days to review any proposed changes in the maps" ahead of a vote.

Testimony from Houstonarea congressional leaders took up at the next two hours. While some representatives questioned Vasut on the purpose of the hearing, U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia D-Houston was assertive in her testimony that there wasn't one.

"My answer is hell no, we don't need to be doing this," said Garcia, who represents the 29th district, one of the districts the Legislature is target-

Redrawing the state's congressional maps is one of 30 items Gov. Greg Abbottintends to get through during the 30day special legislative session that started on Monday.

State House Democrats spent much of the mid-day hearing defending congressional districts that wouldn't affect their own seats, and Garcia said, "You all should really be back in Austin passing legislation to support families in the Hill Country after the devastating flooding."

"Instead, we're here today playing political games to appease the felon in the White House," she added.

Garcia was joined by fellow Democratic U.S. Reps. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas and **Lizzie Fletcher** on a panel before the committee. U.S. Rep. Al Green, D-Houston, spoke as part of a subsequent panel — who were all asking the state to leave Houston's districts alone.

President Donald Trump's administration recently pushed Abbott and state representatives to give Republicans a stronger footing in the U.S. House ahead of the 2026 midterm election.

The Department of Justice put out a legal rationale, alleging that four Texas districts, including the 9th, 18th and 29th congressional seats in Houston, constitute illegal racial gerrymanders. (The fourth district in question is the 33rd Congressional District, currently held by U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth.)

DOJ lawyers in a letter argue that they're coalition districts — when various racial groups are combined to constitute a majority — and do not qualify for federal protection under the Voting Rights

Democrats are fighting hard against this because Republicans can work to flip reliably blue Houston-based districts by moving left-leaning precincts into neighboring Republican districts in the county's sub-

State Rep. Jon Rosenthal, D-Houston, vice chair of the House Committee on Redistricting, pointed to the very district the hearing was being held as an example of what's being threatened: the historic 18th Congressional District.

"When I say historic, I mean historic," Rosenthal said, naming previous Black representatives the district has elected. "This district gave us Barbara Jordan, George "Mickey" Leland, Craig Washington, Sheila Jackson Lee and the late great Sylvester Turner."

"Three of these four districts called out just happen to be represented by African American representatives — tell me that that is not a racist attack on our Black reps.," Rosenthal said.

Redrawing districts that dilute the voting power of communities of color is sure to draw legal complaints. Several Democratic seats in Houston were explicitly drawn to allow such communities to elect a candidate of their preference by ensuring they constitute a majority in a congressional district, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act. The 29th Congressional District which is about 75% Latino, for example, was drawn as a majority-Latino district has only ever elected Democrats to Congress.

The 2020 census showed that Texas' population grew by nearly 4 million people, and 95% of that growth is made up of people of color in blue urban areas. But, Democrats argue, the Legislature seems to be making moves that secure more Republican seats. In Houston, population growth is being concentrated in Asian American voters.

Despite making up over 7% of Harris County and over 22 percent of neighboring Fort Bend County in the 2020 Census, Asian Americans do not constitute a plurality in any Houston-based congressional district — an example of how certain voting groups can be divided by district lines and have their voting power watered down.

After a push from two Texas Democrats, the state Senate's redistricting committee sent a letter to U.S. Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon, requesting her to testify before them.

Nine of Texas' 38 congressional districts contain part of Harris County — four represented by Democrats, and five by Republicans.

But Democratic committee representatives on Saturday reminded Republicans that just a few years ago, they were content with the state's congressional map.

They pointed to statements from Republican state leaders including Attorney General Ken Paxton and state Sen. Joan Huffman, who chairs the Senate redistricting committee — who said in 2021, when the state's current legislative maps were passed, that they drew the districts "race blind.'

That's left Democrats confused about why Republicans are now alleging that the maps are unfair - maps Vasut voted in favor of in 2021.

"You're aware that the Republicans drew this map that now the Republicans saying are now illegal," said State Rep. Armando Walle, D-



East Aldine Management District Stats for June

**Operations and Special** Assignments in June 2025

On June 3, 2025, Day Shift Aldine Proactive Unit received a Flock alert on a vehicle that was used in an Aggravated Robbery case. Surveillance was conducted by Aldine Units on the vehicle, and they observed the offender enter the vehicle and drive on the county roadway. The vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation, and the offender was taken into custody. The offender was interviewed by the Violent Crimes Unit and was transported to the Harris County Jail.

On June 4, 2025, Day

Shift Aldine Proactive Unit assisted the Auto Theft Unit on a "bait" vehicle in Aldine, where the Aldine Units were the reaction team to the theft of the "bait" vehicle.

On June 10, 2025, Day **Shift Aldine Proactive Units** assisted DPS with a narcotics investigation at several addresses in East Aldine. Evidence has been obtained, and the investigation is ongoing.

On June 16, 2025, Day Shift Aldine Proactive Units responded and assisted District One units who were searching for an aggravated robbery suspect who had shot the victim in a carjacking. The flock cameras in East Aldine flagged the victim's

vehicle, which was located in the 1400 block of Aldine Mail Road. The suspect was observed entering the vehicle, and the deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, but the suspect refused to stop, and a vehicle pursuit ensued. After an 18-mile pursuit that traveled all through East Aldine, the suspect drove into a dead end, where he was arrested.

On June 26, 2025, Day **Shift Proactive Units** assisted DPS with a narcotics investigation on several addresses in East

The operation was successful, with undercover troopers obtaining necessary evidence for the



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

• UTILITIES & APPLIANCES FURNISHED

- **ELIGIBILITY:** • Age 62 or older
- Disabled • Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment

CALL 713-692-8541

APPLY TO: W. Leo Daniels Tower

Off Jensen between Berry Road & Aldine Westfield

8826 Harrell



## **High Meadows Branch Library**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS JULY-AUG**

11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL JUL 3:30 PM CREATION STATION

5:30 PM MAGIC OF COLOUR

11:30 AM TODLER TIME 1 PM UN PLUG AND PLAY

**4 PM COMPUTER CLASS** 

30 12 PM TOMMY TERRIFIC 1 PM INTERMEDIATE ESL 3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS 5 PM READING WONDERLAND

11AM CITZENSHIP JUL

3 PM DISNEY MOVIE MONDAY MANIA AUG

1 PM LEGO LAB

AUG

3:30 PM LITTLE GENIUS TRIVIA

AUG \*SPECIAL EVENT \*

> DISNEY MOVIE MONDAY MANIA AUGUST 4 @ 3:30 PM LIGHTS, CAMERAS, AND ACTION! TAKE A

BREAK, DISNEY YCARTOON LOVERS AT THE LIBRARY AND WATCH OUR FEATURED FILM "CARTOON FAVORITES VOLUME 1: STARRING MICKEY MOUSE." WE'LL HAVE POPCORN AND THEMED ACTIVITIES TO GO ALONG WITH THE MOVIE, IF YOU LOVE DISNEY AND THE MAGICAL MICKY MOUSE, THIS SCREENING IS FOR YOU!

THE ENCHANTING

WORLD OF SCIENCE

AND ART WITH HANDS-

**FOLLOW US** highmeadowslibrary

Luis Arredondo

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN 4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD HOUSTON,TX 77039

(832-927-5540)



@highmeadowslibrary

**KRAFTY KIDS** 

**DRAWING TO** 

**FABLES & FUN,** 

READING

WONDERLAND.

**TODLER TIME STORIES.** 

SONGS, RHYMES, AND

**FABLES & FUN, READING CREATION STATION** WONDERLAND, TODLER TIME CALLING ALL YOUNG STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND CREATORS! DIVE INTO MORE!

FROM PAINTING AND ON ACTIVITIES THAT SPARK IMAGINATION SCULPTING AND MORE, AND CURIOSITY. THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERY YOUNG **UNPLUG AND PLAY** ARTIST TO ENJOY. EVERY TUESDAY, JOIN US FOR A REFRESHING

BOARD GAMES. INTERMEDIATE ESL ARE YOU READY TO LEARN MORE ENGLISH? JOIN THIS 8-WEEK

\*SPECIAL EVENT \*

LITTLE GENIUS TRIVIA

AUGUST 6 @ 3:30 PM

THINK YOU KNOW VIDEOGAMES?

GRAB THE FAMILY AND PUT YOUR

KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST FOR AN

AFTERNOON OF TRIVIA. TOP

SCORERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES

AFTER THE 7 ROUNDS OF QUESTIONS.

LICHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE

PROVIDED.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2025

AGES 5-12

PARENTS/ GUARDIANS ABLE TO

PARTICIPATE.

MIX OF COLORING AND

CLASS!

**CONVERSATIONAL ESL** 

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH WITH THIS CONVERSATIONAL

CLASS IN A WELCOMING, STRESS-FREE ENVIRONMENT

\*SPECIAL EVENT \* TOMMY TERRIFIC MAGIC SHOW: THE ART OF MAGIC JULY 30TH 12 PM

GET READY FOR AN ARTISTIC, MAGICAL JOURNEY AS TOMMY TERRIFIC GOES CANVASSING THROUGH A MAGICAL ART GALLERY IN HIS NEW SHOW, "THE MAGIC OF ART".

WITH THE HELP OF HIS MAGICAL GUIDEBOOK, TOMMY AND THE KIDS PERFORM MAGIC REPRESENTING DIFFERENT MEDIUMS OF ART, FROM PENCIL AND PAINTS TO CRAYONS AND CLAY. WITH EACH TRICK, THEY ALSO LEARN ABOUT KID-FRIENDLY, CLASSICAL STYLES OF ART, FROM THE RENAISSANCE ALL THE WAY THROUGH POP ART.

## **AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS**

Sensitive Skin-Friendly

**Dungeons and Donuts** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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! Future U College & Career As-

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Description

Join Future U for weekly for beneficial and informative handson assistance for ALL things College and Career.

This will be a weekly session, where you can come and work on anything related to College and Career Topics. Whether it is receiving help on creating a game-changing resume, updating or enhancing an existing resume, or how to research and prepare for all types of job interviews. If you have guestions or need help on researching marketable careers, and how to apply for them, or maybe just need help with a cover letter, or how to fill out a specific job application, Future U can assist in all these areas. We are also able to assist with preparing and informing on how to fill out College Essays, researching and applying for financial aid for higher education (FAFSA, TAS-FA, Scholarships and Grants), as well as how to find schooling (2year, 4-year, technical certifications and licensing) and what degrees will lead to a marketable and

Just sign up for a timeslot, or drop-in, and we can help you navigate this journey together! This is a weekly series, Every

fulfilling career.

Tuesday at Aldine from 5-8pm. www.hcpl.net/futureu

Tommy Terrific's The Magic of

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Let's all come together and welcome Tommy Terrific to Aldine

Get ready for an artistic, magical journey as Tommy Terrific goes canvassing through a magical art gallery in his new show, "The Magic of Art". With the help of his Magical Guidebook, Tommy and the kids perform magic representing different mediums of art, from pencils and paints to crayons and clay. With each trick, they also learn

about kid-friendly, classical styles of art, from the Renaissance all the way through Pop Art. So, give your summer a splash of color, and join us as we explore the "Magic of Art".

Este programa está en inglés. Prepárense para un viaie artístico y mágico con Tommy Terrific, quien recorre una galería de arte mágica en su nuevo espectáculo, "La Magia del Arte". Con la ayuda de su Guía Mágica, Tommy y los niños realizan magia con diferentes medios artísticos, desde lápiz y pintura hasta crayones y ar-

Con cada truco, también aprenden sobre estilos de arte clásicos, desde el Renacimiento hasta el Pop Art, ideales para niños. Así que, dale un toque de color a tu verano y acompáñanos a explorar la "Magia del

> Tween Spark: Duct Tape Bouquet Wednesday, July 30, 2025 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM We all know duct tape can fix

everything, but it can also be used to make just about anything. Join Miss Gage to make a beautiful duct tape bouquet! Snacks will be provided.

This program is best for 6th-9th graders

ESL Registration Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Join us for registration for Begin-

ner or Advance ESL classes on Tues-Thursdays! REGISTRATION will be held in person on the following days and

times: July 22, 24, 29, and 31 from 12pm - 1:30pm. You must register and take the assessment before you can attend classes Advance beginner classes begin August 4th and will go through Sep-

tember 24th. Classes will meet twice per week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm - 2pm. Beginner classes begin August 5th and will go through September

25th. Classes will meet twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm

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.

> Field Day Thursday, July 31, 2025

5.30 PM - 6.30 PM Join the Aldine Library for a Field Day and compete against other kids for fun prizes!

> Activities include: Hula Hoop Competition Bowling Egg Toss

Pathway to Citizenship Saturday, August 2, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 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 lim-

> Stardew Valley Council Saturday, August 2, 2025 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Join us on Saturday for an

hour of Stardew Valley gaming! What we do is entirely up to you: work on the farm, go fishing, or hunt monsters in the minesanything is possible!

Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 4-6 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - https://www.hcpl.net/services/ passport-services Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts

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

## SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

## Several Staff Assignments Announced, **Employees and Board Members** Recognized at the July Board Meeting

The July 15 board meeting was a celebratory occasion, as several new staff assignments were announced for the upcoming school year, and awards and honors were presented. In addition to district employees, the Aldine ISD School Board was even recognized for obtaining a historic designation, demonstrating its commitment to leadership, public education, and student success.

### TASB Recognizes the Aldine ISD Board of **Trustees**

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) recognized the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees with the TASB Master Trustee Designation Legacy Award. On June 20, 2025, after Board Vice-President Connie Esparza graduated as a member of the Leadership TASB Class of 2025, it marked the first time during the program's 29-year history that all seven members of the Aldine ISD school board earned the Leadership TASB Master Trustee Designation. President Dr. Kimberley Booker, Vice President Connie Esparza, Secretary Steve Mead, Board Member Paul Shanklin, Board Member Rose Avalos, Board Member Randy Bates, and Board Member Dr. Viola García were all honored for achieving the Master Trustee Designation.



Aldine ISD Board of Trustees with representatives of the Texas Association of Schools Boards (TASB).

## **Aldine ISD Counsel Kaye Dewalt Receives Kelly Frels Lifetime**

The State Bar of Texas School Law Section recognized Kaye Dewalt with the Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding member of the school law community. Dewalt was recognized for her many years of contribution to public and school-based legal practice.



Kaye Dewalt (center in red) with members of the AISD Legal Department and representatives of the State Bar of

### **Aldine Impact Award Winners**

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees recognized the 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 Member Dr. Viola M. García nominated Christine Kujawa, multilingual program director for the Accelerated English Academy and Secondary Newcomer Program (Grades 6-12), and Aundrea Schultz, who recently retired as a director in the Student Services Department after 58 years in education.



(Left to right) Christine Kujawa, Board Member Dr. Viola M. García, Aundrea Schultz, and Board Secretary Steve

### Staff Assignments Announced

During the July 15 board meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney announced several new staff assignments. Isaac Carrier was named principal of Lewis Middle School after serving as the

officer of partnerships and certifications/school climate and culture specialist for the Harris County Department of Education. Michael Bland was named principal of Stovall Middle School after serving as the

dean of graduates at Wiley University in Marshall, Texas.

Lidia Calderon was named principal of Aldine Ninth Grade School after serving as the curriculum assistant principal at Nimitz High School.

Ahmad Traylor was named principal of Teague Middle School after serving as the curriculum and instructional coordinator of secondary schools in the Wharton Independent School District.

Dr. Kanisha Wiley was named principal of Aldine High School after serving as

principal of Aldine Ninth Grade School.

Jose Diaz was named principal of Aldine Middle School after serving as principal

of Orange Grove Elementary School.

Ricardo Pequeno was named principal of La Promesa School after serving as principal of Odom Elementary School.

Tyam Richard was named principal of Hoffman Middle School after serving as principal apprentice of Navarro Middle School in the Houston Independent School

Salvador Peralta was named a director in the Student Services Department after serving as principal of Aldine Middle School.

Aniyushka Martin was named executive director of the Multilingual Services Department after serving as a multilingual specialist in the Pasadena Independent School

Latashia Abrams was named executive director of the Family and Community Engagement Department after serving as its director.

Deanna Longo was named tax attorney in the Legal Department after serving as a partner with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, L.L.P.

Kanika Middleton was named assistant general counsel and tax litigation of the Legal Department after serving as a tax attorney.

Diaka Melendez was named chief of school improvement and student support services after serving as the assistant superintendent of student support services.

### **Trustees Approved Action Items**

Approved minutes of the previous meeting(s).

Approved board nominations for Slate of Candidates for the TASB Board of Direc-

Discussed and considered board approval of a delegate and alternate to the 2025 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly.

Approved the 2025-26 Compensation Manual.

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

Approved renewals for purchasing cooperative and interlocal agreements. Approved the monthly tax office refunds.

Approved the general fund and child nutrition fund budget amendment #1 for 2025-

Approved a resolution adopting prevailing wage rates for Aldine ISD public works/

The August board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19, at 7 p.m. in the

## **District Reminds Families About Here Comes the Bus App**



With the Here Comes the Bus app, families can conveniently track their child's school bus, providing a sense of reassurance and peace of mind.

The Aldine Independent School District utilizes the Here Comes the Bus app for all school bus riders' families. With its real-time tracking feature, this app allows parents or legal guardians to securely monitor the location of their students' buses.

#### Here Comes the Bus **Tracking Features**

\*Parents who download the app will receive a push notification or email message in the morning and afternoon when the bus is within a one-mile radius of their student's bus stop.

\*The app shows the real-time location of your child's bus on a map

\*The app provides the schedule and arrival times at home and school for bus routes.

\*The app can indicate when students scan on and off of the bus with their student IDs.

### **Student ID Badges**

For the app to track when each student gets on and off the bus, it is important that students carry their AISD student IDs and that the IDs are easily accessible so they can be

scanned into the Here Comes the Bus software. However, the app will still track the students' buses and push notifications when the bus is within a one-mile radius of the bus stop because the app is tracking the bus, not the student. The app will also allow parents to receive notifications from the Transportation Department with important information about their child's

How to Register for the Here Comes the Bus App

\*To set this up, you will need a smartphone or tablet. Download the Here Comes the Bus app from the Apple Store or Google Play. The App is available in English, Spanish, and French.

\*Click the "Sign Up" button or visit HereComesTheBus.com to learn more.

\*Select "I have the code."

\*Enter school district code 84000, first and Last name, & email address.

\*Contact your school if you have any questions regarding which code to

\*Complete the "User Profile" box.

Additional Information Families Need to

\*The app tracks the bus route, not the student.

\*Bus route information is based on the student's residential address.

\*The app will not provide information for Saturday school, extended days, and tutorial routes. It's important to note that the app is designed to track regular school days only.

\*Students are expected to be at their bus stop at the time designated by the driver or school. This is crucial for the smooth operation of the bus service. However, a different driver and bus may occasionally be sent to cover a route, and parents may not receive notifications when this happens.

\*The app is available to most campuses and programs. However, there are some exceptions.

### Questions

If you have a question, the school district is here to help. Use Let's Talk, the district's two-way communication platform, to contact us. Choose the Transportation Department link.

Include in your email:

-Your (parent/legal guardian) name and phone

-Student's full name -Student's ID number

-Child's assigned school



## ★ OPINION PAGE ★



**Houston City Councilwoman** 

## Councilwoman against Texas Redistricting

Houston, Texas – Council Member Kamin, a civil rights attorney, represents areas impacted by mid-decade redistricting. She issued the following public testimony to the Texas Legislature Select Congressional Redistricting Committee in advance of the public hearing at the University of Houston on July 26, 2025:

I represent nearly a quarter-million Houstonians as the duly elected Council Member for District C. We reside in congressional districts at the heart of this blatant attempt by the Trump Administration to manipulate and diminish the voice of voters.

As a civil rights attorney I was involved in challenges to discriminatory voting laws in Texas. I am also a former Texas House Committee Director & Clerk. Before us is a troubling, flawed, intentionally discriminatory redistricting scheme in violation of the Constitution and Voting Rights Act.

In addition to concerns about the legality of what is being rammed down Texans' throats, I note the following in my objection to this middecade redistricting scheme.

#### 1. Ongoing Litigation

Texas' current maps are the subject of ongoing litigation. Just weeks ago in federal court, the State defended, under oath, the maps now being redrawn. That case should be resolved before any further changes are made.

All the more perplexing is that under oath in court, state legislative members defended the current maps that are now being redrawn saying the process was "race-blind." Now incongruent reasons for redrawing these maps mid-decade are allegedly because they were drawn by those very members with racial intent.

#### ${\bf 2.\ Intentional\ Discriminatory\ Impact}$

There can be no doubt this is an intentional effort to discriminate against minority communities and minority voters.

This effort suppresses the vote of everyday Texans—it is a manufactured excuse in an attempt to manipulate the November 2026 Midterm Elections by diminishing the votes of Houstonians, including majority-minority districts.

I am deeply concerned the Texas Legislature, under Trump's order, is being forced to ram through a process designed as a grasp for power, rather than ensuring fair and lawful representation for all Texans.

### 3.Timing

The process laid out is wholly insufficient and presents serious concerns.

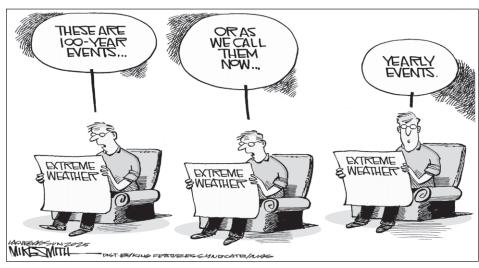
Mid-decade redistricting is rare and signals a dangerous departure from standard processes that afford public engagement and oversight. Furthermore, the limited public hearings on this matter are being held prior to any map being released to the public. Redistricting normally takes place during legislative sessions encompassing 140 days. Sneaking through a special session (only 30 days) does not provide enough time for public and legislative engagement.

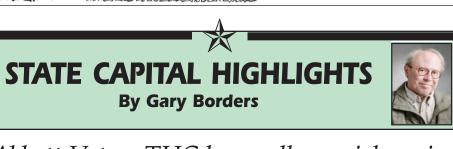
Changes to congressional district boundaries would take effect just four (4) months prior the filing deadline for the 2026 Midterm Elections, and only seven (7) months prior the 2026 primaries. This creates chaos and limits participation.

I represent some of the most repetitively flooded areas in our city, if not the state. Our hearts are broken for so many enduring the ongoing nightmare of the Hill Country Floods. That redistricting "hearings" are being held prior to addressing the deadly natural disasters that devastated our State, and our families, is wrong. Priority must be given to protecting Texans.

For additional information, visit the Notice of Public Hearing. Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to congressional redistricting without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting: https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c055.v

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.





## Abbott Vetoes THC ban, calls special session

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Gov. Greg Abbott just before the midnight deadline Sunday vetoed a bill on THC products and said he would call a special legislative session to regulate products containing the substance, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The veto angered the bill's chief champion, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.The governor's decision was being closely watched by both supporters of the bill, including law enforcement, and opponents, the latter of which included those in the hemp industry, libertarian conservatives, and veterans' groups. The veto came about 30 minutes before the midnight deadline."At worst, Senate Bill 3 would be permanently invalidated by the courts," Abbott wrote. "At best, its implementation would be delayed for years as the case winds its way through the legal system. We can do better."The 30-day special session on how or whether to regulate products containing THC will begin July 21.Patrick quickly denounced the veto. "His latenight veto, on an issue supported by 105 of 108 Republicans in the legislature, strongly backed by law enforcement, many in the mediand education communities, and the families who have seen their loved ones' lives destroyed by these very dangerous drugs, leaves them feeling abandoned," he wrote on X.If SB3 had gone into effect, tens of thousands of businesses selling hemp-infused products would have faced closure. Abbott late Sunday also signed bills approving the state budget and an

#### GOVERNOR SIGNS \$10B WATER PLAN; NOW VOTERS

overhaul of the Texas lottery.

TO DECIDE Gov. Greg Abbott signed two bills into law last week that will launch a \$20 billion investment in the state's water infrastructure if voters approve the proposed constitutional amendment in November.If voters pass the measure, \$1 billion in state tax revenues will be set aside for water projects each year, the Houston Chronicle reported."This session, Texas confronted a crisis," Abbott said when signing the bill in Lubbock. "Compounding a problem of inadequate sources of water, we lose about 88 billion gallons of water a year because of broken, busted and aged pipes."The new funds would be spent on repairing those leaks in aging water systems and on finding new



sources of water.State Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, considered the Legislature's chief water expert, shepherded the legislation through the Senate. He said passage of the proposed amendment would change how the state approaches its water needs, which are expanding rapidly because of growth, aging infrastructure, and increased industrial demand."It's going to be a little bit of a cultural shift from the way we do water in Texas," Perry said. "We're moving from a siloed, city-by-city conversation to where we're going to have more oversight and more of a

## STATE CURBS SPENDING ON BORDER AS CROSSINGS DROP

coordinated effort."

Illegal border crossings ave dropped dramatically since the summer of 2024, when then-President Biden widely restricted asylum, and it has continued to slow under the administration. The Texas Tribune reported Border Patrol agents in May arrested 12,452 people for illegal crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, compared to 170,000 people arrested the previous May. The Legislature has already allocated \$3.4 billion on border security for the next two years. The money is expected to be shifted largely to assisting the federal government with deportation efforts. Lawmakers also slashed funding for the state's largely unbuilt border wall, ceding border control back to the federal government. The state is seeking reimbursement for \$11 billion spent under Operation Lone Star, the state's effort to stop illegal migration along the Rio Grande. The massive spending bill passed in May by the U.S. House allocates \$12 billion for Texas and other states for past border security spending. However, the Senate has yet to act on that measure.

State audit finds major lapses in jail systems

A recent audit of the agen-

state's county jails faulted the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for failing to consistently investigate prisoner complaints, maintain accurate records or complete legally required inspections, t h e T e x a s Standard reported. The audit, which covered the period from October 2022 to December 2024, identified some of the failures as "high risk." "These weaknesses increase the risk that the Commission will not identify a jail in violation of minimum standards, which could affect the safety and well-being of inmates," auditors wrote. In a written response to the audit, the TCJS said it agreed with the findings and plans to implement fixes by Aug. 1."TCJS will improve its processes and uphold its commitment to effective oversight and accountability," the agency wrote.

cy in charge of overseeing the

#### \$10 BILLION IN GRANTS FOR ELECTION SECURITY ANNOUNCED

The deadline is fast approaching for counties to apply for grants to strengthen election security, Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced. The funding is coming through the federal Help America Vote Act. Grant amounts will be based on the number of registered voters in each county, which must supply a 20%grant match. The deadline to apply is June 30; awards will be made by Aug. 1."These grants will go a long way toward helping counties better secure their elections, and I'm pleased to partner with counties to promote election security throughout Texas," Nelson said.Funding priorities include: • Compliance with paper audit trail requirements• Replacement of decertified electronic pollbooks. Video surveillance systems to comply with ballot e c u r i t y measures • Protection of election equipment and supplies. IT services and upgrades

### LATEST STAAR RESULTS SHOW

MIXED RESULTS Third through eighth graders taking the state's assessment exams showed mixed results, according to results from the Texas Education Agency. The Tribune reported the elementary students taking the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness exam made the biggest gains in reading, especially among third graders. "These results are encouraging and reflect the impact of the strategic supports we've implemented in recent years," said Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath. "We are seeing meaningful signs of academic recovery and progress."Performance on the math portion also improved but is still below pre-pandemic levels, with 43% of students meeting or mastering those requirements, up two percentage points from last year. That is still down from the 50% who met those levels in 2019, before the pandemic.Parents can access their child's test results at texasassessment.gov but must have the unique access code provided by the child's school.



### A New Route



I'm driving back to my parents' home from a state park on a beautiful summer day.

My mother is riding shotgun; my dad is in the back seat. I have Google directions on my car dashboard, out of habit.

"We know how to get home!" my mother says. And of course she does.

"Turn here," my mother says.
"Turn in one-quarter mile,"
Ms. Google orders.

Now I am in a quandary.

"That's wrong." my moth

"That's wrong," my mother says—meaning the directions

Ms. Google has just given.

"There's nothing up ahead,"
my dad confirms.

"The turn is here," my mother insists. I am not always the best daughter. I drive on.

I can feel the skepticism seeping out of my parents. I turn onto the little road that Ms. Google has suggested. "You're on your own now!" my father says.

"Turn right in one-half mile,"

Ms. Google tells me. Then, "Turn left in one-quarter mile."

"I have never been here before," my mother says. My father says nothing.

"She's taking us around the slow part," my mother observes. My dad remains silent.

We emerged onto the road we would have come to, but a bit sooner than expected, having missed several slowdowns and traffic lights.

"I never knew you could go that way!" my mother exclaimed. "We have a new route!" my father said.

And I realized, once again, why I admire my parents so much. My dad turned 91 this year and, although my mother might prefer I not mention it, she's going to turn 90 later this year. It would certainly be reasonable, at their time in life, to have found all the routes they were interested in taking and stick to them.

But I have never sensed that either one of them was through learning. And I am not finished learning from them, either.

I know a lot of folks my own age who think they have everything figured out. They tell me how it's all downhill from here—whether they are talking about the country or their health or literature or the quality of baked goods. Everything was better in the past, and now we're all addicted to social media and reliant on the internet and nothing good will ever come of it.

They are not interested in a

I want to be like my parents when I am 90. I want to be open to new routes. I may be sure I am right, but I want to be happy and surprised if proven wrong and something better shows up. I want to be open to new information, new stories, new ways of doing things. I want to try a new dish, a new path, a new idea. I think this is the way you get to be 90 and still have a lot of living to do.

My dad uses his tablet to look up birds. My mom solves Wordle every day, sometimes consulting with her sister in California while she does it. They are better informed than I am about current events and attend more musical and theater performances than I do. They will be the first to tell you they are slowing down. But to hear them tell it, slowing down doesn't sound like such a bad thing.

"We're not in a hurry," my dad will say.

"We don't have anywhere we have to be today," my mother will

And that is why they are so much fun to be with. We have plenty of time when we are together. We have time to find a new route.

Till next time, Carrie

## **NORTHEAST\*NEWS**

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

Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com

Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental)
Member Texas Press Association

## Garcia: State of Precinct 2,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Advantage are preparing residents for in-demand careers in fields like nursing and cybersecurity.Garcia emphasized the importance of investing locally to raise income levels and economic opportunity across the precinct."Before I was Commissioner, we looked and found that very little of the business of the Precinct was being done by Precinct 2 businesses." Garcia said. "That's why I am so proud of the work we've done to get more local companies, many of whom are here today, getting county business."

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Regional** Safety

Garcia also highlighted improved emergency coordination with cities in Precinct 2. Precinct 2 has expanded warning systems, improved communication platforms, and led joint drills to better prepare for storms and industrial incidents. New sirens were installed in Galena Park, and businesses were urged to join response networks and stay connected through systems like ReadyHarris. "Engagement is key," said Garcia. "we want to make sure that if you are part of the solution to help us recover, that you aren't left out in the rain and are made whole for stepping up."

#### Preparing for the 2026 FIFA World Cup

As Houston prepares to host seven FIFA World Cup matches, Commissioner Garcia is helping lead regional safety and infrastructure planning. As the only elected official in the region with a law enforcement background, he serves on the Executive Advisory Council."We want to be sure the millions of visitors coming here are safe" said Garcia. "from the time they land, while they attend events and matches, and while enjoying the city,"Garcia also emphasized that the World Cup will bring significant economic benefits to Harris County, while giving visitors the opportunity to discover Precinct 2 and hopefully draw greater attention to the region.

#### **Investing in Community Spaces and Tourism**

Garcia also announced a \$30 million investment into Sylvan Beach Park to make it a premier regional destination, along with improvements at the Seabrook Sports Complex, Challenger 7 Park, and John R. Harris Park. These upgrades aim to boost tourism and strengthen community pride.

## East Aldine Board June Meeting Recap,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

noons (Tuesdays)

• Citizenship Classes (Thursdays at 1

• The Magic of Color art workshops (Mondays at 5:30 p.m.)

#### Lone Star College-**East Aldine Center**

Services Student Manager Cendy Soto and Financial Aid Advisor Ana Moros reported on enrollment and scholarship support, especially for DACA and undocumented students. FAFSA assistance is ongoing for Summer Bridge and incoming fall

### **Harris County WCID**

Director **José** Reyna invited attendees to the district's next meeting on June 25 at 1 p.m.

#### Financial Highlights and Board Approvals

Financial Report The Board approved financials for the first five

months of 2025, noting: • \$6.1 million in revenue, exceeding projections

- by \$291,000 • \$3.45 million in expenditures, \$603,000 un-
- der budget · Reserve and capital fund balances exceeding \$15 million

#### Other Approvals

• Disclosure Services greement Renewal with HTS Continuing Disclosure Services to maintain compliance as the district continues issuing bonds.

• Board Reappointments: Directors Bob Beasley (Position 6), Gilbert E. B. Hoffman (Position 8), and Carlos Silva (Position 9) were recommended for reappointment through June

• ICMA Member**ship:** \$1,200 was approved for Executive Director Richard Cantú to join the International City/County Management Association, supporting leadership development.

#### Sales Tax Growth Reflects District Resilience

Executive Director Richard Cantú, recovering from surgery, reported a 14.7% monthover-month and 7.4% yearover-vear increase in sales tax revenue, outpacing many neighboring areas. Chair Carlos Silva praised the district's fiscal strength, calling it "truly remarkable."

Cantú also shared updates on infrastructure improvements, streetlight repairs, Recycling Center operations, and coordination with local partners.

**Enhancing Community** Spaces and Infrastructure

• Town Center Phase III: The Board approved Invoice #4 from Asakura Robinson for \$18,224.16 for design and community engagement work.

• Splash Pad & Holiday Tree: Up to \$10,000 was approved for summer splash pad repairs and \$16,375.14 for holiday tree refurbishments. Bids for potential new decorations are still under review.

• Hartwick Sanitary Sewer Extension: The Board approved Outlay Request #65 totaling \$154,407.48, including contractor payments and engineering services under the Texas Water Development Board.

Public Safety Update

The Public Safety Committee reported 191 arrests in May, along with drug-related incidents and vehicle recoveries. Sergeant Hernández credited collaboration with partner agencies for ongoing success.

Board members discussed community concerns about Flock camera technology and emphasized the importance of transparency and education to address privacy misconceptions.

Supporting Local Events, Accessibility, and Advocacy

The Board approved several community-focused actions:

• \$5,000 Sponsorship of the 2025 Scenic Houston Dinner (October 16), supporting livable, well-designed public spaces.

• \$2,500 Sponsorship for the Jensen Jubilee Fall Festival, promoting engagement in high-tax-revenue areas like Little York and Hwy 59.

 Secondary Interpretation Services: Tecolotl was added as a backup to Ronquillo Consulting Group to provide Spanish interpretation when needed. The Board also discussed exploring American Sign Language support for future events.

#### Youth Engagement and Back-to-School Support

Two initiatives from the Health, Education, and Community Engagement Committee were approved:

• Youth Night: End of Summer Fun Festival: Set for Friday, August 1, the \$30.000 event will feature food, music, games, and interactive activities for middle and high school students at Town Center.

• Back-to-School Shoe Drive: The Board approved support for the American Legion's effort to provide 100 pairs of shoes to children from families in need Trustees also encouraged outreach to families of children with special needs who may require adaptive footwear.

#### Gateway Public Art and Creative Milestones

The Board approved Task Order #9 with Up Art Studio for \$4,000 to support final design and project management for the Gateways Public Art Project. Once designs are finalized, budgets will return to the Board for re-

#### **Other Arts Updates:** JFK Art Way

**Project:** Permits secured; construction to begin soon along JFK Blvd.

• Love Letters Mural Project: Community input session scheduled for July 1 at James Driver Park, featuring artist DUAL.

#### • Town Center Labyrinth Sign: Interpretive signage has been installed.

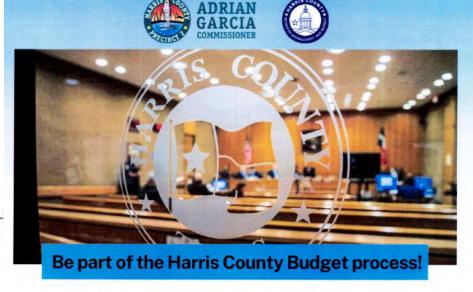
• New Mural: Local artist Primo and Mac-Arthur High student Kaylee Jiménez completed a mural behind Town Center; a dedication is scheduled for Friday.

#### Scholarships for Mac-**Arthur High Graduates**

The Board approved a \$1,000 allocation to Lone Star College-East Aldine Center to fund two \$500 scholarships for Mac-Arthur High School graduates. The committee noted growing financial need among students and aims to expand scholarship access for adult learners and GED students in future phases.

Stay Connected

For more information or to download the June 2025 meeting agenda, visit the East Aldine Management District website. Learn more about efforts to improve mobility, enhance public spaces, and serve residents across the district.



## 2025 Budget Town Hall

August 11th & 13th | 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Commissioner Garcia invites residents to be part of the Harris County Budget process and attend upcoming in person town hall! This town hall is an opportunity for residents to learn about the county budget, the process and provide input on what matters most to them!

08/11 Deputy Darren Almendarez **Community Center** 

10918 1/2 Bentley St Houston, TX 77093

08/13 JD Walker Community Center

7613 Wade Rd Baytown, TX 77521



Scan for more info

## E-mail questions to: openbudget@bmd.hctx.net

## SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.



America's #1 Awning!

## AISD Leadership Changes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Elementary Team 4 -Ray Mondragon

Reece, Griggs, Hinojosa, Jones, and Magrill EC/ PreK/K Schools; Child Development Center; Ander-Academy;

Cypresswood, Greenspoint, Jones, and Thompson Elementary Schools

#### Secondary Team 1 -Dr. Crystal Watson

Drew Academy; García, Hambrick, Impact Leadership Academy at Wilson, Jones, Plummer, Shotwell, and Teague Middle Schools; Knippel Education Center; Lane School

Secondary Team 3 -Dr. Xóchitl Rodríguez

Aldine, Davis, Eisenhower, MacArthur, and Nimitz High Schools and their respective Ninth Grade Schools; Avalos P-TECH School; Blanson CTE High School; Carver High School; Hall Success Academy; La Promesa; Victory Early College High School; Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy at Parker

#### New Role: Chief of **School Improvement**

To further support student achievement. Diaka R. Melendez has been promoted to Chief of School Improvement. In addition to overseeing athletics, school administration. guidance and counseling, health services, and mental health and support services, she will now support two school assistant superintendents and their group of identified opportunity schools:

#### Elementary Team 1 -Scott Dubberke

Caraway, Dunn, Francis, Harris, Ogden, Spence, and Stehlik Elementary Schools

#### Secondary Team 2 -Dr. Kwabena Mensah

Aldine, Grantham, Hoffman, Lewis, Mead, and Stovall Middle Schools



#### CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 37:28

For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

### 💓 THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Therefore do not worry* about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. *Sufficient for the day* is its own trouble.

MATTHEW 6:34



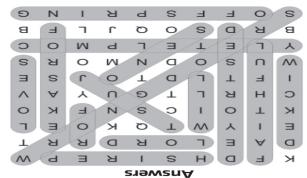
© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

**BIBLE TRIVIA** By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Daniel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Which book's first verse is, "The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth"? Ephesians,
- 3 John, Titus, 2 Peter 3. From Exodus 25, what was the cover on the Ark of the Covenant called? Mercy seat, Mordecai, Mina seat,
- Myrrhan 4. Which prophet was famous for his vision of the dry bones? Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Nathan
- 5. From Judges 4:4, who was the first female Israelite leader? Deborah, Esther, Ruth, Miriam
- 6. What is/was the first sin called? The Exodus, Eucharist, The Fall, Ephah

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 3 John, 3) Mercy Seat, 4) Ezekiel, 5) Deborah, 6) The

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



**BIBLE WORD SEARCH** 

## Church Page Sponsors If you would like to be a Church Page

Sponsor, please call 713-266-3444



ALDINE FAMILY HOPE CENTER

4700 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, 77039 (Next to Hambrick Middle School)

After School Program Resource Center Senior Program **Family Activities** 

Summer Program **GED & ESL** Counseling Resale Shop **Computer Classes** Food Pantry Teen Job Training Sports

281-449-4828

www.aldineyouth.org

#### **First Baptist Church North Houston**

Where Jesus Has the Priority And Everyone is Welcome

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

4422 Lauder Road, Houston, TX. 77039

281-449-7201



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

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

Mariana Sanchez, Director

Call: 281-799-9076 Text: 832-906-4214 marianas@baatexas.org

BAA offers online citizenship applications & virtual review. Start you citizenship application @ WWW.CITIZENSHIPWORKS.ORG/PORTAL/BAA

## HIR FRUCKLER

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





FREE Home **Evaluations** 

as Low as \$125/m

Warranty Options Technology

Limited Time Offer Up to \$250 off **Foundation Repair** 

Trustpilot 4.8 Rating -Google 4.9 Rating - Schedule Your Free Evaluation!

Offer valid from 9/1/2024 to 1/1/2026. Only valid to new customers. \$250 savings valid on projects \$2,999 or r offers or promotions. Offer is non-transferable, has no cash value and cannot be applied to previous purchase



MAIL TO 5832 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057, or EMAIL: nenewsroom@aol.com, or CALL 713-266-3444

CREDIT CARD NO.

NAME ON CARD:









**Business Advertising** 

**Screens and Shades** 

**Beat the Heat!** 

**Exterior Solar Screens** and Insect Shades Free Estimates

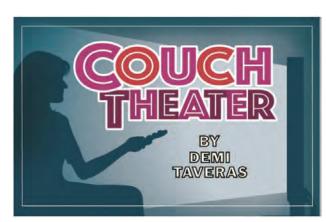
832-247-4581

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS Ask about our Business Directory Package 13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260 713-266-3444





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





Maia Kealoha, left, and Sydney Agudong, right, star in "Lilo & Stitch."

#### "Lilo & Stitch"

"Lilo & Stitch" (PG) The 2002 animated film "Lilo & Stitch" was such a hit for Disney that it spawned several sequels and spin-off series. Now, 23 years later, Disney produced a live-action remake of the original "Lilo & Stitch" story, with Chris Sanders reprising his role as Stitch and 8year-old Hawaiian native Maia Kealoha playing Lilo. Forget about it just being a hit; this live-action film smashed box-office records for Memorial Day weekend and grossed more than \$1 billion! Of course, this means that a sequel for the film is already in development. But before we get too ahead of ourselves, make sure to

check out this live-ac-

tion film for yourself. Several changes from the original story were made, leading to some criticism from fans and critics. It's available now to stream at home! (Disney+)

"M3GAN 2.0" (PG-13) — Another sequel is out now to rent for your viewing pleasure at home! (Though, I'm not quite sure this will be a very pleasurable experience for all.) Starring Allison Williams ("Get Out"), this sequel picks up two years after childsized robot M3GAN went absolutely wild and tried to kill everyone in sight. Since her antics, Gemma has become an author and an AI regulation advocate, while M3GAN's original technology gets stolen to create a new android

named AMELIA. Naturally, AMELIA also evades her creator's control and escapes to cause havoc. (Those pesky children, am I right?!) So, Gemma is left with no choice but to use a stored backup of M3GAN and allow her to return — only to do the right thing and save the world from AMELIA taking over. Should be easy peasy! (Apple TV+) "My Mom Jayne"

(TV-MA) - Even if you're not a fan of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," you've probably heard of Mariska Hargitay due to her prolific career in television. Besides being such a successful actress, she has an incredibly profound backstory. Being born to Hollywood legend Jayne Mansfield ("Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?"), Hargitay only had three years with her mother before a tragic car accident took Mansfield's life. In this documentary film that Hargitay directed herself, she and her siblings break down Mansfield's life, career, and many talents that sadly went unnoticed. In addition, Hargitay goes public in the documentary about her biological father, Nelson Sardelli, with whom Mansfield had a wild affair that occurred sometime between her marriage to Mickey Hargitay. Fill your cup up with some Old Hollywood tea that will surely perk up your ears! (HBO Max)

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q:Is it true that the new Mrs. Bezos used to be an actress? What has she been in? Also, did his ex-wife ever remarry? — K.D.

A:Yes, Lauren Sanchez, who is newly wedded to Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, has an IMDb page of acting credits. but most of her roles consist of playing reporters and news anchors. Before this, she majored in communications at the University of Southern California, which is why she was probably a natural for these types of roles. Her first on-camera role as a reporter or anchor was in 1997 in the series "Babylon 5," followed by the cult classic film "Fight Club."

Many people probably don't remember that she was the original host of the reality competition series "So You Think You Can Dance," which premiered in the United States in 2005. She left after one season to have a baby and was replaced by Cat Deeley.

Bezos' ex-wife MacKenzie Scott, who played a significant role in the early rise of Amazon, remarried in 2021 to a science teacher. Unfortunately, it didn't last, and she filed for divorce a year lat-

According to USA Today, as part of her divorce settlement from Bezos, Scott planned to donate half of her wealth to charity, and she has. The Center for Effective Philanthropy released a study in February stating that her donations have totaled \$19.25 billion and have been distributed to over 2,450 nonprofit organizations.

Q:Will they ever reboot "Supernatural"? I know it hasn't been off the air for that long, but I miss it. -

A:According to TV Insider, ever since the Winchester boys (Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki) met on the bridge one last time in 2020, fans have been asking, "When is the 'Supernatural' revival?" Even after 15 seasons, viewers want more, but Padalecki isn't sure that another 22-episode season is doable. He suggested that perhaps a limited series format would be a good compromise.

In the meantime, Ackles recently wrapped up filming season five of "The

> ACROSS Two-way Existed Carton sealer

12 Lewd

17 Sailor 18 Excuses

15 Baking dish

20 Leek's kin

spice 28 Used a chair

29 Evelashes

network

34 Roman

36 Classic

41 Flair

32 Cane-cutting knife

"The Voice

23 Revue segment 24 Benefit 25 Goulash



Philanthropist Lauren Sanchez.

Boys," and you can also see him in his new show "Countdown," both of which are on Prime Video. It's also been reported that Padalecki and another "Supernatural" star, Misha Collins, will join Ackles in the final season of "The Boys," which will air sometime in 2026.

Q: Which book is the Justin Hartley series "Tracker" based on? I just found out that it was a novel or a series of novels first. — N.B.

A:For the past two seasons, "Tracker" has been consistently ranked as the No. 1 rated network series. Fresh off the hit ensemble series "This Is Us," star Justin Hartley was chosen to star in CBS' "Tracker," which got a strong start by debuting in the coveted post-Super-Bowl time slot.

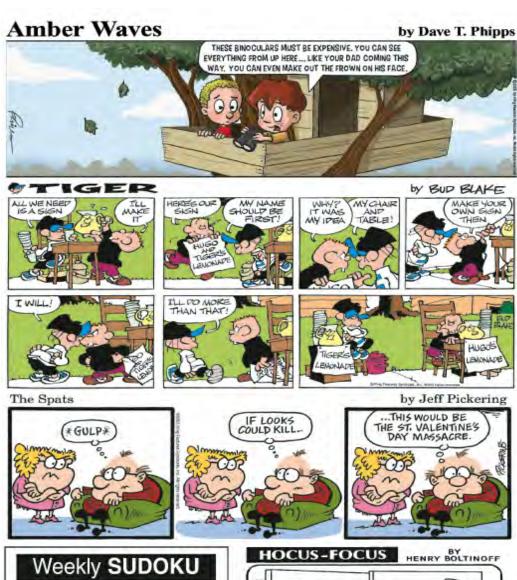
"Tracker" is indeed based on not just one but a series of fiction books by Jeffery Deaver, the first of which is titled "The Never Game." Season three kicks off on Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. ET, but two familiar faces will not be part of the cast. Both Eric Graise and Abby McEnany, who play Bobby and Velma respectively, have been written out of the show.

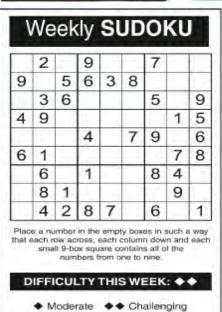
Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



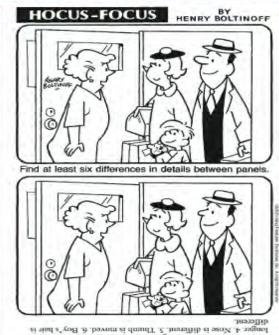
## ENTERTAINMENT





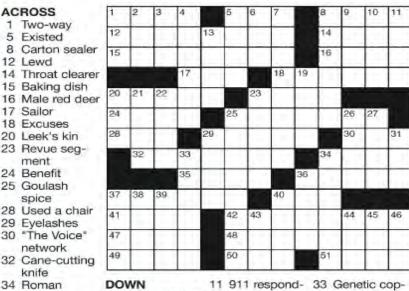
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd, Inc.





## July 28, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword



ers

13 Family Turkish cur-

rency

21 Linguist

22 Tiny bit

25 Patchy

23 Mariners

horses 26 Recognized

20 Delivery docs

Chomsky

19

DOWN	
1	Chips go-w
1.00	Half of bi-

emperor 35 "CSI" settings

Sinatra song 37 Actress Fanning 40 As well

42 Tart dessert 47 First-rate 48 Pulling along 49 Reply to

"Shall we? Juan 51 "Simpsons"

bus driver

3 t

t.

21

15

8 8

3 8 7 8 2 4 8 9 9

1 2

8 7 4 8 9 5 8 1 8

8 6 4 1 7 8 9

3 8 6

6 8 9 7 7 2 9 8 1

8 2 4 9 2 1 2 8 3

**Answer** 

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword —

8 8 9 9 4

3 Citric beverage Physics particle

5 Sport 6 Busy insect

entree

1

tain 10 Prefix with

18

6 9 9

1 6 t

island Melville cap-

Papeete's

Hearty pub

"East of Eden" girl 29 Converse 31 Coquettish 'scope"

@ 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

33 Genetic cop-

34 "Us" actress Lupita 36 Synthesizer

pioneer Transaction 38 Medicinal

plant Philosopher

Immanuel 40 IRS agent 43 Historic time

44 Trench 45 Bank acct. entry

46 Conceit

1. MOVIES: Who is Luke and Leia's mother in the "Star Wars" movies?

2. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Suriname is on which continent? 3. HISTORY: Which 5th-century conqueror

was known as "the Scourge of God"? 4. TELEVISION: Who is the creator of the

quirky sitcom "Community"? 5. ANATOMY: What kind of blood vessels carry blood away from the heart? MYTHOLOGY: In Greek mythology, who

turned everything he touched into gold? U.S. STATES: Which state was the 50th and last to join the union? 8. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "A

Clockwork Orange"? FOOD & DRINK: Which vegetable is used to make baba ganoush?

10. CHEMISTRY: What is the common name for acetic acid?

@2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

6. King Midas; 7. Hawaii; 8. Anthony Burgess; 9. Eggplant; 10. Vinegar 1. Padme Amidala; 2. South America; 3. Attila the Hun; 4. Dan Harmon; 5. Arteries; Trivia Test Answerst

## GREAT CARE Get certified, a degree, or prepare for university transfer at **HCC Northeast** Enroll today in: Academic/University Transfer Adult Education - GED/ESL Continuing Education Workforce Training Honors College Weekend College Full-Time & Part-Time classes are available. **HCC Northline Campus Registration Fairs Real World** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | SAT. | AUG. 9 & 16 Discover endless opportunities to cultivate your skills.

## REGISTER NOW

FALL CLASSES BEGIN

## **AUGUST 18**

#### Programs available at HCC Northeast campuses.

- Academic & University Transfer courses High School Equivalency/GED
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Community Learning classes (Free or Low Cost)
- Audio Recording Technology | Music Business
- Automotive & Diesel Repair
- Auto Body/Collision Repair
- General, Medical, Legal Office | Real Estate
- Cosmetology | Digital Communications Certified Nurse Aide | Phlebotomy
  - Scan for steps on how to get started!
- Basic Water & Wastewater Tech OSHA, Hazwoper, & NCCER Core
- Intensive English & ESOL
- Process Operator | Instrumentation Tech
- Petroleum Technician | Electronics Tech
- Police, Fire, EMS | 911 Dispatcher
- Welding & Bilingual Welding
- Air Conditioning Technician I & II
- Bilingual AC Technician I & II
- Plumbing Technician I & II



Acres Homes Campus | 630 W. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77091 Northline Campus | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022 North Forest Campus | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016

Northeast Campus | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013 Automotive Tech. Training Center | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

hccs.edu/fall25

## **Concrete Batch Plant regulations** tightened in legislature

## Bills by Alvarado, Walle passed in Legislature

By David Taylor Managing Editor

In a significant move towards environmental protection, the Texas Legislature has successfully passed Senate Bill 763, requiring concrete batch plants to undergo a protectiveness review at least once every eight years. This bill, championed by State Senator Carol Alvarado and Representative Keith Bell, marks a notable victory for environmental advo-

It s hard to get a lot of pro-environmental things done in this legislature, but last session and this session we ve been able to get a few things done, said State Senator Carol Alvarado. The bill aims to ensure that air quality standards are rigorously maintained, considering concentrations of pollutants authorized by the standard permit throughout the state.

Alvarado also highlighted another win with Senate Bill 2351, passed in collaboration with State Representative Armando Walle. This bill allows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to require plants requesting construction delays to comply with the most recent version of the air quality permit.

Right now, the concrete batch plant can delay construction for years, and during those delays, air quality de-

partment requirements might be updated. A bill might pass or there may be some new rules that have been adopted but the bill ensures that the TCEQ can require plants with construction delays to comply with the most current and rigorous rules, she explained.

Residents in the area have been vocal about the issues caused by concrete batch plants, including particulate matter, dust, and light and sound pollution. Alvarado emphasized the importance of firsthand experience for policymakers.

Unfortunately, there's not anything we can do right now, but I've got a commitment from the new chair of the TCEQ Commission to come out to Aldine, and we've got it on the record, because when she came up for confirmation, I asked her to come out and tour it with me. I want her to see firsthand, because the commissioners, they just don't get it unless you see it, she said.

The efforts of the Texas Legislature reflect a growing awareness of the environmental challenges faced by communities near concrete batch

There s a lot of progress that we ve made, but there salot more that needs to be done. We ve been taking baby steps with this issue, Alvarado noted.

With approximately 23 concrete plants between the 610 Loop to Beltway 8 to the north and US 90

to the east and Antoine Drive to the west, the need for stringent regulations is evident. Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan's lawsuit in 2020 against an east Harris County cement plant for violating the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and the Texas Water Code underscores the urgency of addressing these environmental concerns.

The power of community advocacy was demonstrated two years ago when residents in the East Aldine community successfully opposed the expansion of another concrete batch plant. Yellow Jacket Readymix, LLC withdrew its request to add a second concrete silo to the facility, highlighting the impact of public pressure on environmental policy.

As the Texas Legislature continues to tighten regulations, the hope is that these measures will lead to improved air quality and a healthier environment for all residents.



## HCC launches new nursing program to offer LVNs pathway to earn degrees

**HOUSTON** - Houston Community College (HCC) is launching its new LVN to ADN program at HCC-Coleman College for Health Sciences, helping to address the state and national shortage of nurses.

The program, which is pending approval from the Texas Board of Nursing, will accept applications for its inaugural fall 2025 cohort through June 19, 2025.

LVN to ADN is open to licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) who wish to earn their Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and take the licensure exam to become registered nurses (RNs). This full-time program is just three semesters, with the first cohort to graduate in August 2026.

"This new and improved LVN to ADN transition program at HCC makes it possible for hardworking nurses to advance their careers faster and with less financial burden, so they can achieve their goals and make a greater impact in their communities," said HCC Dean of Nursing Dr. Nicole Townsend.

"Not only will this program help fill critical registered nurse shortages," she said, "but it will also help LVNs elevate themselves into positions of greater responsibility, leadership, and pay."

The median salary for an RN in Texas was \$77,450 in May of last



Nursing student at HCC Coleman College.

year, about \$17,300 more than the median salary of an LVN, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

In the U.S., demand for health care servicesdriven because of an aging population and an increase in the prevalence of chronic disease-continues to increase, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services and BLS.

The BLS projects that an additional 275,000 nurses will be needed by 2030. And, in Texas, the number of nurses is low compared to national numbers. The state has just 826 nurses per 100,000 people in its population, below the national average of 948

nurses per 100,000 residents. "The HCC Coleman College team is doing all it can to help address the nursing shortage we face as a state and nation," said Chancellor Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D. "The goal is to help ad-

dress the shortfall while

offering pathways for vo-

cational nurses to move upward in their careers into in-demand registered nursing roles."

In addition to the fasttrack LVN to ADN program, HCC is expected to launch a traditional twoyear ADN program in 2027.

To learn more about the LVN to ADN program or to apply, please visit hccs.edu/LVN-ADN.

ABOUT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COL-LEGE: HCC is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities.

