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# NORTHEAST NEWS

## Mural Honors Deputy Almendarez's Legacy



Carlos Silva, chairman of the East Aldine Management District, in his remarks said the district was happy to help sponsor the Pct 2 Mural art. See Story and photos below & page 8.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years  
VOL. 49, NO. 43 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

# Pct. 2 Mural: Celebrating Community Spirit and Deputy Darren Almendarez's Legacy

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

A vibrant new mural now graces the walls of James Driver Park in East Aldine, serving as both a tribute to fallen Deputy Darren Almendarez and a celebration of community spirit. On Monday, community leaders, law enforcement, family members, and residents gathered for a heartfelt dedication ceremony, marking the official unveiling of the artwork—part of the "Love Letters to Precinct 2" initiative designed to transform public spaces into reflections of local pride and unity.

"For the Harris County Sheriff's Office, thank you



Flor Almendarez was grateful to all for their support and the latest tribute to the life of her husband.

so very much for that prayer, and it is my honor to open up this occasion to help celebrate a number of things first and foremost," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia, who led the ceremony. "We are always in this particular park to honor and celebrate the life of Deputy Darren Almendarez. Please give him and his memory your thoughts."

Garcia highlighted the broader significance of the mural, noting, "Today is a little bit of a special occasion. We're here to celebrate art—and this is something that we've been working on. These murals are exactly what the name says: they're love letters written in color and shar-

ing a story celebrating who we are, where we've been, and where we're headed together."

The mural's vision was brought to life by street artist DUAL, formally known as Paul Basedra, whose work reflects creativity, grit, and a deep connection to the community.

"It means a lot to me. It's an honor to celebrate this mural with the East Aldine community," DUAL said. "This project is part of 'Love Letters to Precinct 2'—and that's really what it is: a love letter to the people who call this place home, the energy, the fam-

Continued. See EAST ALDINE UNVEILS TRIBUTE MURAL, Page 8

## NEWS NOTES

### Free Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway Sat. Nov. 15

East Aldine District will Give 400 Families Turkey Dinners with all the Fixins.

Registration required at [AldineDistrict.Org/Turkey](http://AldineDistrict.Org/Turkey). East Aldine residents only. Saturday, November 15 Drive through to pick up your Dinner. Enter Lone Star College parking lot entrance on Aldine Mail Route Rd. and follow the signs.

Public Hearing in Austin 11/20/2025 on Concrete Batch Plants. You are invited on the Bus Trip. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/Bus-CBP-PublicHearing>

## All Texas Constitutional Propositions Okayed by Voters

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

With a complete count of the vote, all 17 constitutional propositions on the ballot will pass. It will be good news for many Texas voters across the board.

The vote was lopsided with almost two-thirds of the vote in favor of most propositions.

Just over 2.7 million cast votes in the constitutional election, about 250,000 of those in Harris County.

According to the Secretary of State, 400,141 registered voters in Harris County cast their vote either in-person or by mail. It was the largest turnout in the state maybe because of the turnout to fill the

18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District previously held by Sylvester Turner and Sheila Jackson Lee.

Even with that amount, it falls way short of the 2,681,462 registered voters making it only about 14.92 percent of active voters.

Here's the results from the Secretary of State and a brief description of each:

**Proposition 1**  
Creating an endowment for the Texas State Technical College Program to fix campus infrastructure, upgrade classroom equipment and expand its footprint across the state.  
For 69.03%  
Against 30.97%

**Proposition 2**

Banning the state from taxing people or businesses on profits or potential profits from capital assets such as investments, real estate, valuable items and certain personal property.  
For 65.37%  
Against 34.63%

**Proposition 3**  
Requiring judges to deny bail for individuals accused of committing specific felonies, such as murder, aggravated assault and indecency with a child.  
For 61.14%  
Against 38.86%

**Proposition 4**  
Allocating up to \$1 billion of sales tax revenue into the Texas Water Fund each year starting in 2027. This would be used to fix

infrastructure, develop new water sources and support conservation efforts to help meet the state's increasing water demands.

For 70.42%  
Against 29.58%

**Proposition 5**  
Extending tax exemptions on animal feed when it's held as inventory to be sold.  
For 63.61%  
Against 36.39%

**Proposition 6**  
Prohibiting the state from creating new taxes on securities transactions, such as stock trading, and from taxing those who op

Continued. See ELECTION RESULTS, page 5

## Aldine ISD School Board Election Results

**Aldine ISD Trustee Position 3**

1. Angela E. Williams — 70.41%
2. Jill Metcalfe — 29.59%

**Aldine ISD Trustee Position 4**

1. Steve Moore — 35.79%
2. Veronica Sanches — 26.58%

**Aldine ISD Trustee Position 5**

1. Nataly Perez — 53.63%
2. Steve Mead — 46.37%

## Pct. 2 completes West Gulf Bank Street Safety Improvements



### A ONCE-DEADLY ROAD IS NOW SAFER

Harris County, TX — Tuesday, October 28 Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, State Rep. Armando Walle, Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare, Harris County Flood Control Director Dr. Tina Peterson, and other local officials gathered to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the \$21 million West Gulf Bank Road Project in Aldine. The project expanded the narrow two-lane road, added sidewalks, and improved drainage along a stretch that has experienced multiple fatalities and serious injuries in the past. These improvements will provide a safer route for students and parents traveling to nearby schools and address long-standing safety concerns from residents in what was considered a high-injury network. This effort is part of Harris County's implementation of a Vision Zero strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries. This work is also key to Precinct 2's ongoing commitment to making Aldine a safer place to live, work, and play.

## FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 12: UT looks to exorcise its demons against Georgia: Desperate Texans face must-win game against Titans

The regular season of the college football season is winding down and the next three weeks will go a long way in determining what 12 teams make up this year's College Football Playoff (CFP) bracket.

There's no bigger game on the schedule this weekend than No. 13-ranked Texas visiting Athens, GA to take on No. 5-ranked Georgia in a key SEC game for both teams. Thanks to a very generous nephew, I will be attending that game in person and will be reporting on it in a later column. Just let me tell you, I am really looking forward to attending my first-ever game between the Hedges.

There's also another big one in the SEC this Saturday as No. 10 Oklahoma visits No. 4 Alabama. Two weeks ago, Brent Venables' Sooners came up with a big statement win with their



## KEENEY'S KORNER

By  
MIKE KEENEY

33-27 over Tennessee in Knoxville. That game moved OU to 7-2 on the year and probably saved Venables' job, while the Vols fell to 6-3 and can look forward to a middling bowl game in their future.

Those are the two biggest games on this weekend's schedule, which is so-so after those two big SEC tussles. No. 10 Notre Dame has a road challenge against a 7-2 Pitt team, while TCU heads to Utah to take on No. 8-ranked BYU, hoping to upset the Cougars, throw a wrench in their Big 12 title hopes

and get back in the league race themselves.

In the NFL, the beat-up Texans head to Tennessee to take on a bad Titans team, which could be just what DeMeco Ryan's team needs at this point in what appears to be a lost season. Two weeks ago, the Texans dropped an 18-15 decision at home to the Broncos in a game where they could not score from a 1-yard-line on four straight tries. They also lost starting QB C.J.

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

NORTHEAST NEWS – Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com)

**Unlimited Possibilities**

**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

- improving public safety  
mejorando la seguridad pública
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713-595-1232 | [info@aldinedistrict.org](mailto:info@aldinedistrict.org)

posibilidades ilimitadas [AldineDistrict.org](http://AldineDistrict.org)

**EAST ALDINE NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORY & RECYCLING CENTER**

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**HARRIS COUNTY HCSO SHERIFFS OFFICE**

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

**WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

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

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

COMMUNITY WATCH

# Harris County Sheriff's Office and Crime Stoppers of Houston Seek Public's Help Following Series of Juvenile-Related Shootings

\$5,000 Reward Offered for Information Leading to Arrests

**HOUSTON, TX-** The Harris County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Crime Stoppers of Houston, held a press conference last week to address a series of recent juvenile-related shootings that occurred over the past few weeks.

Assistant Chief John Nanny called the circumstances surrounding the incidents "tragic and senseless," emphasizing the devastating impact of gun violence among young people.

"These cases are heartbreaking," said Chief Nanny. "Young lives were forever changed because of reckless decisions. We are asking our community to come forward, even one piece of information could help detectives bring justice to the victims and their families."

Crime Stoppers of Houston announced a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of suspects connected to any of the cases. All tips remain anonymous and can be submitted by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [www.crimestoppers.org](http://www.crimestoppers.org).

Summary of Incidents

**October 26, 2025** At approximately 1:10 a.m., Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a shooting at a large Halloween party in the 9200 block of Cornette Drive. Approximately 100 individuals were reported to be in attendance after the event was advertised on social media.

An altercation occurred between the suspect and others present, during which the suspect fired a handgun into the crowd, striking three male victims. All three victims were transported to area hospitals in stable condition.

The suspect fled prior to deputies' arrival. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 16-19 years of age, thin build, 5'6" in height, wear-

ing a black skeleton costume. He was accompanied by a female wearing a military-style costume and a second male wearing a green hoodie with a live lizard on his shoulder.

**November 1, 2025** At approximately 11:30 p.m., Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to reports of gunfire at 27499 Nelson Street in Spring, Texas.

Initial information indicates a large gathering involving juveniles was occurring at the location when a physical altercation took place, followed by multiple gunshots. Witnesses reported hearing gunfire but did not observe the shooter. No confirmed victims have been located at this time; however, investigators were advised a potential gunshot victim may have been transported from the scene by private vehicle. Area hospitals were checked with negative results.

**November 2, 2025** At approximately 12:36 a.m., Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a shooting at the Fall Creek Sports Complex located at 8910 Wyatt Road. Preliminary investigation indicates a large group of juveniles gathered at the property following a Halloween party in the Summer Creek subdivision. While on the premises, an unknown suspect or suspects discharged a firearm, striking three 17-year-old individuals — two males and one female. All victims were transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

Investigators continue to actively pursue leads in all three cases. Assistant Chief Nanny urged residents, particularly young people, to think before engaging in violence or sharing event details online that may draw unsafe crowds.

"We cannot normalize these kinds of events," Nanny said. "We all share the responsibility to make sure our teens come home safe."

# County Judge Hidalgo Decides Not to Seek A Third Term; Highlights Progress

**Harris County** - Judge Lina Hidalgo announced that she will not seek a third term as Harris County Judge. She also highlighted the historic progress that Harris County has made since she first took office in 2019.

"I ran for office as a changemaker to challenge the establishment and bring a fresh perspective to a Harris County government. I never ran for office to build an empire, which is why I am keeping my promise not to serve more than two terms. I'm so proud of our community and all of the progress that we've achieved together, from expanding early childhood education to making our community safer. To the voters, it continues to be an honor to serve as your County Judge. Our work is not done, and I am excited to see what we'll achieve together throughout the rest of my term," said **Judge Lina Hidalgo**.

Since 2019, Judge Hidalgo has worked to build a fairer and more accessible Harris County. Key accomplishments to date include:

Reducing **homelessness** by 21% since 2018, even when other communities saw homelessness increase during the COVID pandemic.

Helping more than 60,000 families access high-quality, **early childhood education**. These programs include summer learning opportunities, programs for at-risk kids, workforce development and high-

quality childcare slots.

Making Harris County safer by investing more money in **public safety** than ever before. Harris County has invested 37% more, or \$500M, in public safety since 2018. These investments include traditional investments in law enforcement raises and other criminal justice programs that have been proven to work.

Advocating for \$1B in funding for the Harris County Flood Control District to address its maintenance backlog of **flood control** projects.

Achieving the biggest **ethics reform** in 50 years. The Flood Control District and the Engineering Department are now required to follow basic standards and have written documentation for the procurement process.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is Harris County's chief executive and Director of the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Judge Hidalgo, alongside four county precinct commissioners, oversees a budget of approximately \$5 billion that funds services and institutions for the third-largest county in the nation, home to nearly 5 million people. For more information about Harris County and the Office of the County Judge, please visit: [cjo.harriscountytexas.gov](http://cjo.harriscountytexas.gov).

## TOP 12

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## High Meadows Branch Library

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER

**10** 11:30 AM ESL CLASS REGISTRATION

**NOV** 11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN

**1** 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL

**4** 4 PM CREATION STATION

**11** 11:30 AM TODDLER TIME

**3** 3 PM GAME ZONE

**NOV** 4 PM COMPUTER CLASS

**12** 11:30 AM CITIZENSHIP

**NOV** 12 PM FUTURE U

**1** 1 PM INTERMEDIATE ESL

**3** 3 PM KRAFTY KIDS

**5** 5 PM AVENTURAS EN LECTURA

**13** 11:30 AM CITIZENSHIP

**NOV** 1 PM INTERMEDIATE ESL

**3:30** 3:30 PM TEEN LOUNGE

**14** 3:00PM TOON CAFE

**NOV** 11:30 AM ESL CLASS REGISTRATION

**17** 11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN

**NOV** 1 PM CONVERSATIONAL ESL

**4** 4 PM CREATION STATION

**Luis Arredondo**  
LIBRARY TECHNICIAN  
4500 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD  
HOUSTON, TX 77039  
(832-927-5540)

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STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!

**KRAFTY KIDS**  
FROM PAINTING AND DRAWING TO SCULPTING AND MORE, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERY YOUNG ARTIST TO ENJOY.

**FABLES & FUN, READING WONDERLAND, TODDLER TIME**  
STORIES, SONGS, RHYMES, AND MORE!

**CONVERSATIONAL ESL**  
PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH WITH THIS CONVERSATIONAL CLASS IN A WELCOMING, STRESS-FREE ENVIRONMENT

**ESL REGISTRATION**  
CLASSES ARE STARTING DECEMBER 1ST. REGISTER FOR ESL CLASSES

**SPECIAL NEWS**

**New Citizenship Classes Starting November 17**  
Mondays and Wednesdays @ 6:00PM

**Intro ESL will begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>, every Monday @ 11:30 AM**  
Register to enter the class

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**Wiggle Wednesday**  
Wednesday, November 12, 11:00am-11:45am

Description  
Come Move and Groove with Us!

Join us on Mondays for a fun-filled session of reading, singing, and playful movement! It's the perfect way to introduce toddlers to the joy of books and reading while building important motor skills. Through music, movement, and play, we'll help support your child's growth in a joyful, engaging way—because play is essential to every part of toddler development! Ven a moverte y bailar con nosotros! Están invitados! Cada lunes para una divertida sesión de lectura, canto y movimiento lúdico! Es la manera perfecta de introducir a los niños pequeños al placer de los libros y la lectura, a la vez que desarrollan importantes habilidades motoras. A través de la música, el movimiento y el juego, apoyaremos el crecimiento de tu hijo de una manera divertida y atractiva, ¡Porque el juego es esencial para cada etapa del desarrollo infantil!

**BEGINNERS CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH CLASS**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Description  
Beginning November 3rd, 2025 join us weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00PM to 3:00PM to practice speaking English with other students. You can register for this class October 21, 22, 23 from 12pm - 1:30pm.  
Comenzando el 3 de noviembre 2025 tenemos una clase de inglés conversa-

cional cada lunes y miércoles a las 2:00 de la tarde. En esta clase puede practicar el inglés platicando con otros estudiantes. La inscripción para esta clase será en octubre 21, 22, 23.

**TWEEN SPARK: KEYCHAINS**  
Wednesday, November 12, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Description  
Come make a custom keychain for your bags, lanyards, or anything else you want to personalize! We'll provide all the materials; you just need to show up  
This program is best for 6th-9th graders  
Snacks provided.

**ESL - Beginner**  
Thursday, November 13, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Description  
Are you looking for a way to improve your English skills? ESL Classes are underway at the Aldine Branch Library. The Aldine Branch Library will be offering:  
Beginning ESL introduction (in-person)  
We will meet twice a week Tuesdays and Thursdays starting October 28th, 2025 - December 4th from 1pm - 2pm  
These courses are free of charge. For registration information, please click  
To register for class visit us October 21-23 from 12pm - 1:30pm a pre assessment test is required. Our Literacy Coordinator will help determine the right class for you.  
Estas buscando una manera de mejorar tu Ingles?

La Biblioteca de Aldine estara ofreciendo:  
Clases de Ingles (en persona) Empezando el 28 de octubre nos veremos dos veces por semana los Martes y los Jueves a las 1pm-2pm y terminaran 4 de diciembre, 2025.  
Para inscribirse en la clase visitanos el 21-23 de octubre de 12pm - 1:30pm se requiere una prueba

de evaluacion previa. Nuestro coordinador lo ayudara a determinar la clase adecuada para usted.

**HOMEWORK HELP/AYUDA CON TAREA**  
Thursday, November 13, 5:30pm-6:30pm

Description  
Looking for homework help? Come on in to your local library to find the resources you need for success! Aldine Library will offer a quiet space for teens and kids on Thursdays @ 5:30 PM. Librarians will be on hand to provide assistance.  
Harris County Public Library offers a variety of free resources, including computers, printers, and access to special research websites available with your library card.  
Note: Librarians will not do the homework nor can we guarantee any grades; this program is here to offer assistance answering questions.

**Pathway to Citizenship**  
Saturday, November 15, 10:00am-12:00pm

Description  
Join us for a free class to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and civics test. You must complete an English placement assessment to join the class. Taking this class will not grant citizenship or pay for any application fees. Registration is required as space is limited.

**Aldine Branch Library**  
11331 Airline Dr.  
Houston, TX 77037  
Phone: 832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Beyond the Pages: Virtual Reading Club



Register today! The first reading club session of the 2025-2026 school year is on Monday, November 10.

EAST ALDINE - Four years ago, Aldine ISD's Family and Community University (FCU) — part of the district's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department — introduced a simple yet powerful idea to its curriculum: an online reading club for English- and Spanish-speaking parents.

What began as a way to teach families reading strategies soon became something much deeper — a community of voices, laughter, learning, and healing.

From the very first day, two passionate facilitators brought the vision to life. Tara Rollins, an information literacy specialist at Kujawa Elementary School, led the English sessions. In contrast, Iván Tamayo, a FACE specialist, guided Spanish-speaking parents through stories that reflected their lives, cultures, and dreams. Together, they built more than a club — they built a warm and welcoming familia (family), where everyone is valued and included.

Each session is guided by the belief that parents are not just learners, but experts in their own right. In this space, their voices are heard, their experiences respected, and their insights celebrated. The club has become a living example of best practices in family engagement. In this place, literature bridges generations, languages, and hearts.

Over the years, parents have delved into a diverse range of 12 powerful titles, including *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, *Cajas de cartón* by Francisco Jiménez, *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, *Nacer bailando* by Alma Flor Ada, and *Crónica de una muerte anunciada* by Gabriel García Márquez, among others.



Ivan Tamayo poses with NASA astronaut José Hernández, who signed a copy of "Reaching for the Stars: The Inspiring Story of a Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut."

Each book opens doors to reflection, connection, and personal growth. "Sometimes," one parent shared, "these stories helped me heal parts of my own story."

"That potential for personal growth or to see yourself or parts of you in a book is what we offer you through the reading club. This journey of self-discovery and empowerment is what makes the reading club a truly transformative experience," shared Tamayo.

Two years ago, the parents decided to make the club truly theirs. The Spanish group named themselves *Más Allá de las Letras* (Beyond the Letters); the English readers proudly called their group *The Virtual Reading Club With Parents*. Since then, participation has grown to a loyal circle of 20 families — some even crossing language lines. A few parents who began in English as a second language (ESL) classes now attend the English sessions, using literature as both a bridge and a challenge.

Their impact has reached beyond Aldine ISD. Members created a video for a regional conference and later shared their story at the district's annual Literacy Matters Conference.

"We invite all parents to join us to experience belonging," added Tamayo.

Now, as November 10 approaches, the club is preparing to dive into *Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros — a story rich in heritage and heart, perfectly fitting for this community of learners who have turned reading into a journey of belonging.

Parents across the district are invited to join the next chapter of this special reading club's story. Your presence and participation will only enrich our community.

Registration is open — a seat is waiting for you.

## Aldine ISD to Hold Nov. 18 Public Hearing on 2025-26 Improvement, Turnaround Plans

In compliance with state requirements TEC 39A.055(3), TEC 39A.057, and TEC 39A.101, a public hearing for the approval of the 2025-2026 Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs) and Turnaround Plans (TAPs) for identified campuses must be held.

Campuses identified by the Texas Education Agency are required to submit, for Board approval, an Effective Schools Framework (ESF) Aligned TIP or TAP that will address areas of low performance identified through the three state accountability domains. The targeted elements in these plans will be implemented and monitored as campuses engage in the continuous improvement process.

The public hearing will take place at the Nov. 18 board meeting in the Donaldson Administration Building boardroom beginning at 7 p.m.

## Aldine ISD to Host 2nd Annual District Spanish Spelling Bee



Aldine ISD will host its Annual District Spanish Spelling Bee on Tuesday, November 11, from 4–7 p.m. at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (Teaching Theater). This is the district's second year to hold the event.

This exciting event celebrates language, learning, and culture as students in grades 4–8 showcase their Spanish spelling skills. Each participating campus held a school-wide Spanish Spelling Bee between October 14 and 24, with winners advancing to the district-level competition.

Due to limited seating, only parents and campus representatives are permitted to attend the district event in person.

### Spanish Spelling Bee vs. English Spelling Bee

The Spanish Spelling Bee follows a format similar to the English version. However, contestants are allowed to write the word on a small handheld whiteboard before spelling it aloud, helping them visualize the word first.

A key difference is that Spanish contestants must include accent marks (such as é or ñ), dieresis marks (¨), and capitalization where appropriate. These details test both their language precision and understanding of written Spanish conventions.

Beyond spelling, the event promotes academic growth, confidence, and cultural appreciation, while highlighting the strengths of the district's emergent bilingual learners.

### Regional Competition



After the district event, three winners from each category (grades 4–5 and grades 6–8) will represent Aldine ISD at the Region 4 ESC Spanish Spelling Bee on February 4, 2026. The regional competition will be streamed live for families and supporters to watch.

Last year, Escamilla Elementary's Dilan Galván and García Middle School's Yaritza Valladares earned third place in the elementary division and second place in the middle school division, respectively.

### Celebrating Language and Leadership

The district event is coordinated by Migdalia Treviño, program director of languages other than English (LOTE), and Ana Aldrufeu-Madrado, program director of multilingual curriculum, under the leadership of Jacqueline Beas, executive director of literacy and social studies. Together, they aim to create enriching opportunities that elevate bilingualism, biliteracy, and cultural pride across Aldine ISD.

"The Spanish Spelling Bee aims to promote biliteracy, cultural pride, and academic excellence by challenging students to showcase their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and spelling," said Beas. "This event honors the rich heritage of the Spanish-speaking world while promoting self-assurance, leadership, and a passion for learning to understand and use the language."

### Cheering our "Súper" Spellers

We look forward to cheering on all our "súper" spellers at the district event as they demonstrate their hard work, dedication, and love of language!



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

**ALDINE**  
Independent School District

# APPLICATION HELP CENTERS

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**Davis High School**  
12525 Ella Blvd.

**Hall Success Academy**  
15014 Aldine Westfield Rd.

**Blanson CTE High School**  
311 West Road

**Carver High School**  
2100 South Victory Street

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**Need help with your Choice School application?**  
Visit one of our Application Help Centers! Our team will guide you through the process and answer your questions. With over 30 schools from Pre-K through high school, there's a pathway for every child. Families outside Aldine are welcome to apply too!

**¿Necesita ayuda con la solicitud para una Escuela Choice?**  
¡Visite uno de nuestros Centros de Apoyo para Solicitudes! Nuestro equipo lo guiará en el proceso y responderá sus preguntas. Con más de 30 escuelas desde Pre-K hasta la preparatoria, hay un camino para cada estudiante. ¡Las familias que viven fuera de Aldine también pueden presentar su solicitud!


Learn more at  
[AldineISD.org/choice](http://AldineISD.org/choice)

**DECEMBER 3 4-6 PM**

**CHOICE SCHOOLS**  
ESCUELAS DE OPCIÓN

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**

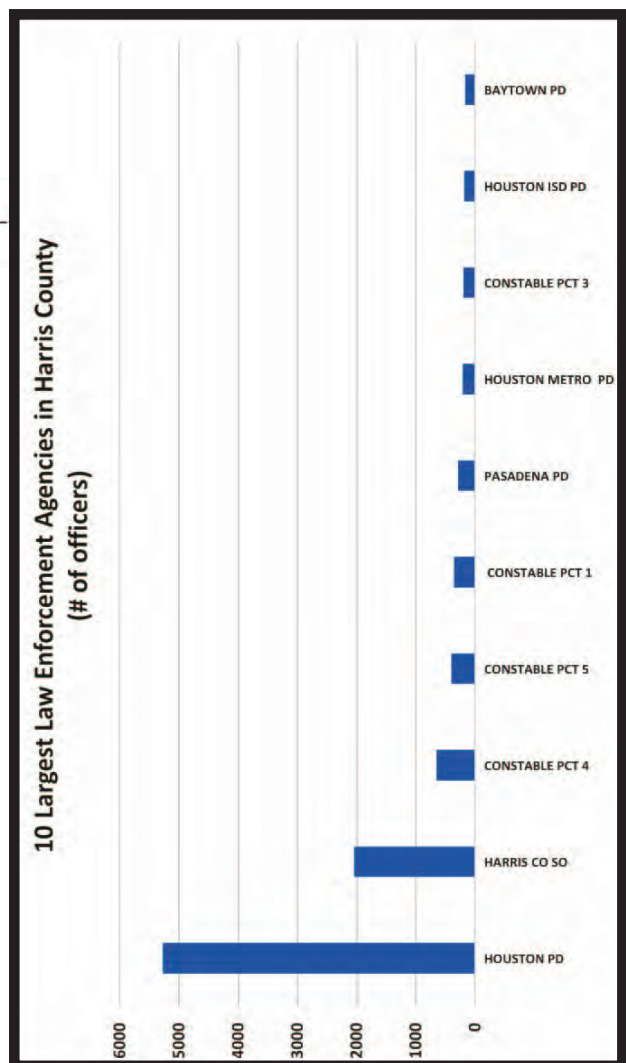


Analyzing Law Enforcement Agencies in Harris County

Spread over Harris County's 1,777 square miles are 63 different law enforcement agencies. That is one law enforcement agency for every 28 square miles. These agencies employ 12,014 licensed law enforcement officers ("officers") and another 5,385 civilian support staff. That is one officer for every 417 residents of the County.

These range from the largest, the Houston Police Department with 6,337 employees (of which 5,246 are officers), to the smallest, the Shore Acres Police Department with 6 officers. The second largest is the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) with 4,570 employees. However, HCSO has a substantially lower ratio of officers at 2,049 (44%). I suspect this has to do with the personnel necessary to run the County's jail.

There are another 2,174 employees at the Harris County Constable Offices, 1,921 of whom are officers. Precinct 4 is, by far, the largest at 706. Precinct 1 has the second largest with 490. It is located downtown and has specialized duties related to the courts, resulting in a higher ratio of civilian employees. The precincts with the larger forces are those in the unincorporated parts of the county where there are no municipal police departments.



There are twenty law enforcement agencies associated with school districts, colleges, and universities. These agencies employ 1,853, of which 1,108 are officers. The ratio of total employees to officers is unusual for this group. One person familiar with their operations told me that some of the larger forces, especially those associated with the universities, employ a substantial number of security guards who are not armed.

The number of women police officers has been steadily rising in recent years. As of the end of the year, they constituted 19% of all officers. They accounted for 54% of the civilian employees.

In future posts, I will be looking at the clearance rates for the agencies and how the overall headcount employed by law enforcement compares to the other large counties in Texas.

Stay tuned.

**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, 5832 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.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Gary Borders**



Premiums Rise as ACA Open Enrollment Begins

The window for signing up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act is now open through Jan. 15, with most Texans expected to pay considerably higher premiums, The Texas Tribune reported. Federal subsidies that reduced premium rates will expire at year's end without congressional action.

The government shut-down is now entering its second month. Democrats say they will not vote to reopen the government unless the subsidies are extended. Republicans say they will not consider extending the subsidies until the government is reopened.

Nearly 4 million Texans signed up for ACA coverage during the last enrollment period, a number that health experts predict will drop by a much as one million if the subsidies end.

Most people who choose ACA are not able to obtain employer-sponsored insurance – the most common method – or they make too much money to qualify for Medicaid.

The nonprofit health policy group KFF projects Texans who now receive the ACA subsidies will see their premiums rise by 115%, or \$456 a year, if they are not extended.

TDI offers tips on buying a health plan

With open enrollment underway at HealthCare.gov, the Texas Department of Insurance is offering tips to find a health plan that fits one's needs and budget. TDI notes new plans come out every year, so consider looking at other plans to make sure to get the best coverage for the price.

- Other factors to consider:
- Update your income every year to see if you qualify for a premium tax credit.
  - Be sure each plan you are considering will allow you to use your current health-care professionals.
  - Know what you will have to pay in copays, deductibles and coinsurance.
  - Ask the plan if a referral is needed to see a specialist.
- You can access TDI's health plan shopping checklist at this address: <https://tinyurl.com/384we9s7>.

**PAXTON SUES TYLENOL COMPANY OVER AUTISM CLAIMS**  
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing the makers of Tylenol, accusing Johnson and Johnson of failing to warn women about the risk of taking acetaminophen



while pregnant, claiming it is a possible cause of autism.

The Texas Standard reported the lawsuit is the first of its kind from a state government. It comes a few weeks after U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. discouraged pregnant women from taking the drug.

Paxton, who is running in the GOP primary against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, said in a statement that "by holding Big Pharma accountable for poisoning our people, we will help Make America Healthy Again."

There are conflicting medical studies concerning the effects of acetaminophen on pregnant women. Dr. Brian Lee, a Drexel University epidemiologist who headed one of the largest studies, said that while more research is needed, "the needle is pointing strongly toward there being no causal effect of acetaminophen use during pregnancy on autism."

**POLL: MOST TEXANS OPPOSE SENDING TEXAS SOLDIERS TO OTHER STATES**

A poll released last week shows most Texans oppose Gov. Greg Abbott's deployment of National Guard soldiers stationed in Texas to cities outside the state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The University of Texas at Austin's Texas Politics Project found 51% oppose the deployment with 43% strongly opposed. Only 41% support the move, with 24% strongly supporting it.

Abbott last month agreed to send 200 Texas troops to Chicago at Trump's request. However, a judge blocked that deployment, and the troops remain stationed outside the city.

**'FINANCIAL LITERACY' CLASS NOW REQUIRED IN HIGH SCHOOL**

Texas is now the 30th

state to offer financial literacy classes, with a half-credit to be offered starting with the graduating class of 2029, according to The Dallas Morning News. The Texas Education Agency plans to send school districts a list of companies that will offer free curriculum.

John Pelletier, director of the Center for Financial Literacy in Vermont, says the extra classes address what he terms "financial fragility." He notes lack of proper money management is a key reason only half of Americans could come up with \$2,000 in an emergency.

He added that the pandemic showed how unemployment levels could jump almost overnight, leaving people who have not saved or are in serious debt at greater risk of financial catastrophe.

**COURT: TEXAS JUDGES NOT REQUIRED TO PERFORM SAME-SEX WEDDINGS**

In a comment added to the state's judicial conduct code, the Texas Supreme Court said that Texas judges who decline to perform a wedding ceremony based on a "sincerely held religious belief" are not violating the state's rules on judicial impartiality, keranews.org reported.

This could have statewide implications for gay marriage and possibly factor in a federal lawsuit attempting to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage in 2015.

Texas Supreme Court clerk Blake Hawthorne said the court cannot comment on the rule change.

"The order speaks for itself, and the Court cannot comment on its connection to pending litigation," Hawthorne said.

**HUNDREDS OF 'ZOMBIE' WELLS FOUND IN SINGLE TEXAS COUNTY**

Researchers at the University of Houston have identified more than 600 non-operating oil wells in Reeves County that are either actively leaking or are at high risk of doing so, the Chronicle reported.

Two related problems – uncapped orphan wells and plugged wells that leak – pose a serious threat to Texas groundwater, as oil, salty wastewater and other fluids can contaminate aquifers.

With hundreds of thousands of wells across Texas, the potential for leaking wells is high. The researchers hope to pair machine learning – a subfield of artificial intelligence – with satellite imagery, wastewater injection data, and wellbore data to identify which wells pose the highest risks.

The Texas Railroad Commission announced last month that the number of orphaned wells in Texas has increased by almost 1,400 wells this year, topping more than 10,000 for the first time in nearly 20 years.

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**

Getting Better



Sometimes I think we should stay someplace fancier. All our friends do.

When my husband, Peter, and I are in Mexico, we stay at Casa de los Soles, a small group of apartment-style rooms owned by our gracious landlord, Jorge. We came here three years ago, when our lodging plans in another town fell through. It was high season, and we were very worried there would be nothing available. But Jorge answered my frantic plea on a San Miguel de Allende Facebook page, and we were delighted with the small, clean apartment in the center of town, just outside the bustling artisan market.

And so we stayed. And every time we come, we meet more people from the US and Canada, and all of them stay in places that are, frankly, quite a bit nicer than our little apartment.

Sometimes I fantasize about having more space to write or a spiffier kitchen. My desk (where I am writing this) faces the window. The back of my chair is against the end of the couch. There is not more than an inch to spare.

Peter sits about 10 feet away (which is almost as far as a person can be from another person in this apartment). I have learned to write while he works on projects. (He is replacing the tips of his hiking poles right now. "Bang! Bang! Bang!") He has grown accustomed to me sometimes talking to myself and sometimes talking to him and not being sure when—or if—he should pay attention.

The countertop is stained. The sink is not new. The backsplash is classic 1980s. There is nothing luxurious about our cozy apartment, and occasionally, when we visit our friends, I feel a little envious of their cute corner fireplace, or the shiny new countertop, or the extra bedroom they use as an office.

But we cannot bear the thought of moving to another place.

Because we have come to love this place. Jorge greets us at the door every day and, if he is not there, one of the other friendly employees does. The restaurant, which was opened after we started coming, is thriving, and the sound of laughing Mexican families and the smell of delicious food wafts up from the courtyard.

This week, there was yet another development. I heard violin music in the courtyard. And I knew—before I even came downstairs—this was no ordinary music.

Peter and I have been to a number of concerts by the local musician, David Mendoza. His blend of classical and contemporary music is played with such deep emotion and virtuosity that I feel transported every time I go to a concert, and this week, he was in our hotel on a Saturday morning—playing.

Of course, I ran downstairs. Peter was gone on his hike. I brought my coffee cup and found a spot to sit and listen. The restaurant was packed with people. Some had come to hear David; most were just Mexican tourists who had shown up for a meal and had this lovely surprise.

"Oh! How wonderful!" I told Pepe, who works every day at the front desk.

"He is playing every weekend," Pepe said.

"Every Saturday?"

"Every Saturday and Sunday!"

And it's true. He is playing on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. He plays in front of a large open archway that faces the street, and crowds gather outside while the restaurant patrons listen inside.

"You know we can never leave this place," I told Peter that night. "It just keeps getting better!"

Peter sighed. "I know."

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# Texas Election results

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erate or work in the securities market, including financial institutions, brokers and dealers.  
For 54.87%  
Against 45.13%

**Proposition 7**  
Providing property tax breaks on homes of spouses of U.S. veterans who died in connection to their service. This applies if they have not gotten married.  
For 86.25%  
Against 13.75%

**Proposition 8**  
Prohibiting the state from imposing inheritance taxes, which are taxes on an estate, and from taxing an estate or inheritance when they are transferred.  
For 72.22%  
Against 27.78%

**Proposition 9**  
Providing exemptions of up to \$125,000 on businesses' inventory or equipment from being taxed by school districts, cities, counties or any other taxing entity.  
For 65.04%  
Against 34.96%

**Proposition 10**  
Creating a process that would temporarily lower property taxes on homes destroyed by fire.  
For 89.28%  
Against 10.72%

**Proposition 11**  
Allowing the state to raise the homestead exemption, which is the amount of a home's value that cannot be taxed to pay for public schools, for elderly or disabled Texans.  
For 77.68%  
Against 22.32%

**Proposition 12**  
Changing the make-up and review process for the Texas' State Commission on Judicial Conduct.  
For 61.9%  
Against 38.1%

**Proposition 13**  
Increasing the homestead exemption, which is the amount of a home's value that cannot be taxed to pay for public schools, for all homeowners.  
For 79.41%  
Against 20.59%

**Proposition 14**

Providing \$3 billion to create the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to study dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and other brain related conditions.  
For 68.57%  
Against 31.43%

**Proposition 15**  
Adding language on parental rights, as currently outlined in federal case law, to the Texas Constitution.  
For 69.87%  
Against 30.13%

**Proposition 16**  
Adding language to the Texas Constitution clarifying that a person who is not a U.S. citizen cannot vote in the state.  
For 71.95%  
Against 28.05%

**Proposition 17**  
Allowing the state to prevent property values near the border from increasing due to border security infrastructure and related improvements.  
For 57.42%  
Against 42.58%

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

### LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Thursday, November 6  
Aldine Nimitz 51, Spring Dekaney 7  
Spring 49, Aldine 0

Friday, November 7  
Aldine Davis 59, Aldine MacArthur 6  
Spring Westfield 9, Aldine Eisenhower 6

**THIS WEEK'S PLAYOFF GAMES**  
Thursday, November 13  
Aldine Nimitz (8-2) vs. Grand Oaks (7-3)  
7 p.m. Thursday, Thorne Stadium, Houston

Friday, November 14  
College Park (10-0) vs. Aldine Eisenhower (6-4)  
7 p.m. Friday, Woodforest Bank Stadium, Shenandoah

Saturday, November 15  
The Woodlands (8-2) vs. Aldine Davis (7-3)  
6 p.m. Saturday, Thorne Stadium, Houston

6A Region II District 14 Final Standings  
1. Spring Westfield 6-4 (6-1) 2. Benjamin Davis 7-3 (6-1)  
3. Nimitz 8-2 (6-1) 4. Eisenhower 6-4 (4-3)  
5. Dekaney 3-7 (3-4) 6. Spring 2-8 (2-5)  
7. MacArthur 2-8 (1-6) 8. Aldine 0-10 (0-7)



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# FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 12: UT looks to exorcise its demons against Georgia: Desperate Texans face must-win game against Titans

Stroud to a concussion, but hope to have him back for this game. The Houston offense has been dormant for most of the season, and settling for five field goals (yes, they did play against one of the best defenses in the NFL when they faced the Broncos) won't get it done in the NFL. Once again, the Texans offensive line is an albatross for this team and it must be addressed in the offseason.

In other action for Week 11, the Chicago Bears visit Minnesota in a key AFC North game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Bears won a high-scoring affair, with a 47-42 win over Cincinnati on a 58-yard touchdown pass from QB Caleb Williams to tight end Colston Loveland with just 17 seconds left in the game. While the Bears were winning a big road game, so were the Vikings as they upset Detroit, 27-24.

Also on the schedule this weekend, the Los Angeles Chargers head to Florida to take on Jacksonville, in a key AFC game for both teams playoff hopes. Two weeks ago, LA took care of business against the Titans, while the Jags on a 30-29 squeaker in overtime against the Raiders.

There's a good one slated for Buffalo, when Tampa Bay visits the Bills. Two weeks ago, Buffalo beat their nemesis Kansas City, 28-21, while the Bucs had the week off. This game will match two good QBs as TB's Baker Mayfield takes on the Bills Josh Allen.

There's also a big one in the NFC West as Seattle visits the Los Angeles Rams. Both teams improved to 6-2 two weeks ago as the Seahawks routed the Washington Commanders, 38-14 in DC, while the Rams did the same at home against the woeful Saints, 34-10.

Speaking of big games out west, the Kansas City Chiefs visit the Denver Broncos in a big AFC West game for both teams. The Chiefs fell to 5-4 two weeks ago after their loss at Buffalo, while Denver improved to 7-2 (and sit atop the division) with their three-point win over the Texans. KC head coach Andy Reid knows his team has little room for error if they want to remain in the playoff hunt.

Sunday Night Football features a great matchup as Detroit visits Philadelphia, which will feature two high-powered offenses. The Lions might use their home loss to the Vikings as a wake-up call, while the Eagles will look to take command of the NFC East race, and the top seed in the conference if they can pull out the win.

Week 12 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Cowboys visit the Raiders. If Dallas hope to remain in the playoff hunt, they must start winning on the road and they have a prime opportunity against a suspect Vegas team.

In high school news, the



Class 6A playoffs begin this weekend, and since we do not know who is playing whom, our high school coverage has concluded for the season. It appears Aldine ISD has a good chance of sending three teams from District 14-6A into post-season play. Nimitz and Davis are locks. Davis picked up a huge win two weeks ago when the Falcons upset league leader Westfield 6-0. Eisenhower had a good chance to be the third team in, but needed to win out. Good luck to all of the AISD teams that are preparing for the playoffs.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 73-43 (63%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

### NCAA

**Notre Dame at Pittsburgh** - After losing their first two games of the season, Marcus Freeman's Irish have righted the ship and rode a six-game winning streak into last week's game against Navy. They should enter this road test 7-2 and if they win out, Notre Dame should earn a berth in the CFP. This will be a tough test for the Irish who take on a Pitt (7-2) team that will be looking for a signature win. Look for ND to once again lean on its two-headed running game of Jeremiah Love (894 yards, 14 total TDs) and Jadarian Price (521 yards, 8 total TDs). Once the run is established, look for QB C.J. Carr (2,057 yards, 16 TDs) to make plays in the passing game to wideout Jordan Faison (39 receptions, 518 yards, 2 TDs). The ND defense will need to be on its toes against a Panthers team that can score, led by QB Mason Heintschel (1,550 yards, 12 TDs), running back Ja'Kyrian Turner (401 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Kenny Johnson (37 receptions, 576 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Irish to continue their roll. My pick, Notre Dame 33, Pitt 20

**Oklahoma at Alabama** - Two of college football's winningest programs (Alabama 995 win, OU 905 wins) meet in Tuscaloosa in an important game for the Crimson Tide and their SEC and CFP hopes. Two weeks ago, the Sooners picked up a huge road win, with a 33-27 win at Tennessee, while 'Bama enjoyed the weekend off. OU QB John Mateer (1,949 passing yards, 8 TDs/306 rushing yards, 6 TDs) appears to be looking like his early-season self after he returned from a hand injury three weeks ago. OU will need a big game from him and running back

Tory Blaylock (403 yards, 4 TDs) and speedy wideout Isaiah Sategna II (49 receptions, 692 yards, 5 TDs) if they hope to pull off the upset against one of the hottest teams going at the moment. The Crimson Tide will look for another big game from QB Ty Simpson (2,184 yards, 20 TDs, just one interception), running back Jam Miller (308 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Germie Bernard (38 receptions, 526 yards, 6 TDs) and Ryan Williams (33 receptions, 495 yards, 3 TDs). Both teams have solid defenses, so look for the 'Bama offense to make a few more plays down the stretch to pull out the victory. My pick, Alabama 31, Oklahoma 23

**TCU at BYU** - The Horned Frogs head to Utah hoping to pull off the upset against No. 8-ranked BYU. TCU entered last week's game against Iowa State with a 6-2 record, while BYU carried an 8-0 record into their Big 12 showdown against Texas Tech in Lubbock. It will be interesting to see how much that game took out of the Cougars. TCU has a solid QB in Josh Hoover (2,371 yards, 22 TDs), a good running back in Kevarian Barnes (418 yards, 3 TDs) and a big-play wideout in Eric McAllister (37 receptions, 727 yards, 8 TDs). BYU has one of the best dual-threat QBs in true freshman Bear Bachmeier (1,693 passing yards, 11 TDs/408 rushing yards, 9 TDs), a good runner in LJ Martin (789 yards, 5 TDs) and two dependable receivers in Chase Roberts (32 receptions, 591 yards, 4 TDs) and Parker Kingston (34 receptions, 516 yards, 4 TDs). BYU is tough to beat at home, which the game Horned Frogs will discover come Saturday. My pick, BYU 30, TCU 27

**Texas at Georgia** - No. 13-ranked Texas heads to Athens to take on No. 5-ranked Georgia in a big SEC game for both teams. The Bulldogs had the 'Horns number last year, winning both meetings. The first game in Austin and the second game in the SEC title game. Two weeks ago, UT won its fourth straight game since its Oct. 4 loss at Florida. QB Arch Manning (2,123 passing yards, 18 TDs/203 rushing yards, 6 TDs) is playing his best football of the season, but will face a very tough Bulldogs defense on Saturday. Texas needs something from its running game, and head coach Steve Sarkisian is hoping Quintrevion Wisner (318 yards, 5 TDs) has a big game in him. If UT can run the ball, that will take a lot of pressure off of Manning and allow him to hit plays downfield to wideouts Ryan Wingo (31 receptions, 593 yards, 5 TDs) and Parker Livingstone (21

receptions, 351 yards, 5 TDs). Georgia will once again rely on dual-threat QB Gunner Stockton (1,776 passing yards, 12 TDs/290 rushing yards, 7 TDs). Stockton came off the bench in the SEC title game a year ago to replace an injured Carson Beck and led the 'Dawgs to an overtime victory over the 'Horns. Stockton is now the man and has a lot of talent around him in running back Chauncey Bowers (446 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Zachariah Branch (45 receptions, 474 yards, 2 TDs). This game will also pit two of the best defenses in the SEC, and the country for that matter, so look for a low-scoring, hard-hitting game. It appears Kriby Smart has Sark's number, so look for the Bulldogs to make it three straight over UT on Saturday. My pick, Georgia 23, Texas 20

### NFL

**Chicago at Minnesota** - The Bears head to Minnesota to take on the Vikings in an important game for both teams. Two weeks ago, both teams kept their playoff hopes alive as the Bears beat Cincinnati, 47-42 on a late 58-yard touchdown pass from QB Caleb Williams (1,916 yards, 12 TDs) to tight end Colston Loveland with just 13 seconds left. The Vikings picked up a big road win as well with a 27-24 upset of the Lions. QB J.J. McCarthy (444 yards, 4 TDs in 3 games) returned and played well. Look for him to attack a suspect Bears secondary with strikes to wideouts Justin Jefferson (47 receptions, 649 yards, 2 TDs) and Jordan Addison (23 receptions, 357 yards, 2 TDs in 5 games). Williams will rely on running backs D'Andre Swift (464 yards, 4 TDs) and Kyle Monangai (362 yards, 1 TD) and wideouts Rome Odunze (31 receptions, 473 yards, 5 TDs) and DJ Moore (30 receptions, 403 yards, 1 TD) to make plays on the ground and in the air. The Vikes have the better defense, so that should give them the edge in this game. My pick, Minnesota 26, Chicago 23

**Houston at Tennessee** - After their Week 9 loss to the Broncos, the Texans are pretty much playing for next season. Houston is hoping QB C.J. Stroud (1,702 yards, 11 TDs) returns from concussion protocol, but even if he misses this game, Houston should be able to handle perhaps the worst team in the NFL. Look for a big day from running back Nick Chubb (355 yards, 2 TDs) and wideout Nico Collins (33 receptions, 414 yards, 3 TDs), while the Texans defense should tee off on Titans rookie QB Cam Ward (1,760 yards, 5 TDs/6 interceptions). My pick, Houston 33, Tennessee 17

**Los Angeles Chargers at Jacksonville** - This game is big for both teams' playoff aspirations. The Chargers (6-3) are looking up at Denver in the AFC West, but have a solid team led by QB Justin Herbert 2,390 passing yards, 18 TDs/305 rushing yards, 1 TD). He has two big-play wideouts to throw to in Ladd McConkey (47 receptions, 524 yards, 3 TDs) and Keenan Allen (50 receptions, 520 yards, 4 TDs). The Jags will rely on QB Trevor Lawrence (1,840 yards, 9 TDs) to finally have that breakout game they've been waiting on

for five years now. Lawrence will look for help from running back Travis Etienne (598 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Brian Thomas Jr. (30 receptions, 420 yards, 1 TD). My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 30, Jacksonville 27

**Tampa Bay at Buffalo** - This is a good interconference matchup as Tampa Bay heads to western NY to take on the Bills. Both teams are squarely in the playoff hunt in their respective conferences. The Bucs will be facing their second straight AFC East team after taking on New England last Sunday. TB QB Baker Mayfield (1,919 yards, 13 TDs) should have a big day against a suspect Bills secondary. Look for running back Bucky Irving (237 yards, 1 TD) to return after he's missed multiple games with an injury. Fellow running back Rachaad White (287 yards, 4 TDs) has filled in well in his absence, which gives TB two options at running back. When Mayfield goes to the air, he will look to make plays downfield to sensational rookie wide receiver Emeka Egbuka (34 receptions, 562 yards, 5 TDs). The Buccaneers defense will have its hands full when it takes on Josh Allen (1,833 passing yards, 13 TDs/280 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back James Cook (867 yards, 7 TDs), tight end Dalton Kinkaid (27 receptions, 411 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (38 receptions, 399 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Bills offense to be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Buffalo 32, Tampa Bay 26

**Seattle at Los Angeles Rams** - This is a huge one in the NFC West as the Seahawks head to LA to take on the Rams. Seattle brings one of the top defenses in the NFL into LaLa land, as evidenced by their 27 sacks. They are pretty solid on offense as well led by QB Sam Darnold (2,084 yards, 16 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (472 yards, 3 TDs) and the best wide receiver in the league in Jaxon Smith-Njigba (78 receptions, 948 yards, 4 TDs). The Rams have a pretty solid offense as well, but will face their toughest test against the 'Hawks stifling defense. QB Matthew Stafford (2,147 yards, 21 TDs) is having an MVP-type season and has a lot of help in running back Kyren Williams (586 yards, 6 total TDs) and big-play wideouts in Puka Nacua (61 receptions, 711 yards, 3 TDs) and Davante Adams (36 receptions, 491 yards, 8 TDs). The Rams have a solid defense as well, and look for that unit to step up big time in Sofi Stadium on Sunday. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 24, Seattle 20

**Kansas City at Denver** - Speaking of big division games, this is a huge one in the AFC West, especially for the Chiefs, who entered last week's bye week trailing Denver by two games in the division after their 28-21 loss at Buffalo two weeks ago. KC QB Patrick Mahomes (2,349 yards, 17 TDs) will get a stern test from a Broncos defense that leads the NFL with 40 sacks (linebacker Nik Bonitto has 8). Mahomes will need help from running back Kareem Hunt (294 yards, 5 TDs) to take some pressure off of him to allow him to make plays in the passing game to tight end Travis Kelce (41 receptions, 510 yards, 3 TDs) and wideouts Marquis Brown (34 receptions, 389 yards,

4 TDs) and Rashee Rice (20 receptions, 256 yards, 4 total TDs in two games). Denver will once again rely on dual-threat QB Bo Nix (1,976 passing yards, 17 TDs/207 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back J.K. Dobbins (695 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Courtland Sutton (38 receptions, 566 yards, 4 TDs). The Chiefs have played a lot of big games since Mahomes arrived as the starting QB in 2018. KC head coach Andy Reid also had an extra week to prepare for this game. I think Reid will have something up his sleeve for this one. My pick, Kansas City 26, Denver 23

**Detroit at Philadelphia** - A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the Lions against the Eagles in what could turn into an offensive shootout. Detroit has one of the top offenses in the league led by QB Jared Goff (1,915 yards, 17 TDs), running backs Jahmyr Gibbs (551 rushing yards, 6 TDs/29 receptions, 197 yards, 1 TD) and David Montgomery (395 yards, 5 TDs), wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (59 receptions, 635 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Sam Laporta (38 receptions, 436 yards, 3 TDs). The Eagles have a few weapons as well led by QB Jalen Hurts (1,677 passing yards, 15 TDs/207 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Saquon Barkley (569 yards, 6 total TDs), wide receivers DeVonta Smith (44 receptions, 588 yards, 2 TDs) and A.J. Brown (29 receptions, 395 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (30 receptions, 289 yards, 7 TDs). I think there will be a lot of points scored in this game, but look for Hurts and Co. to make one or two more plays in the fourth quarter to pull out the win. My pick, Philadelphia 33, Detroit 30

**Dallas at Las Vegas** - As a Cowboys fan since 1968, I've just about had it with this team. Two weeks ago with a chance to remain in the NFC playoff race, Dallas laid a huge egg at home with a 27-17 loss to an Arizona team that entered the game riding a five-game losing streak and starting its backup QB in Jacoby Brissett. The Dallas defense let Brissett carve them up and if owner/GM Jerry Jones does not address that side of the ball, this season will continue to spiral down. The Dallas offense, which came into that game as one of the top units in the league, spit the bit and could not capitalize on scoring opportunities when they were presented with them. QB Dak Prescott (2,319 yards, 17 TDs) should attack a weak Vegas defense early and often with strikes to wideouts George Pickens (49 receptions, 764 yards, 6 TDs), and CeeDee Lamb (35 receptions, 491 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Jake Ferguson (56 receptions, 384 yards, 6 TDs). That should open up the running lanes for running back Javonte Williams (716 yards, 8 TDs). The much-maligned Dallas defense should be able to handle a so-so Raiders offense led by QB Geno Smith (1,701 yards, 11 TDs/6 interceptions) and rookie running back Ashton Jeanty (489 yards, 3 TDs/20 receptions, 133 yards, 3 TDs). My pick, Dallas 34, Las Vegas 20

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 38:15-16

**LORD**, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God. For I said, "Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip."

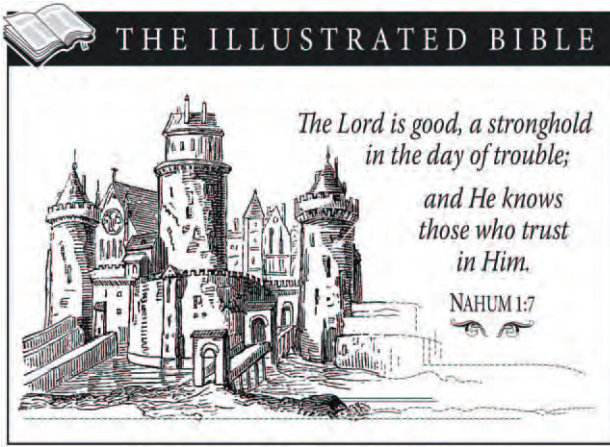
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 R O O W E I D W W V  
 B T A R D S A O V G  
 Y C T B Z R S S G N

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

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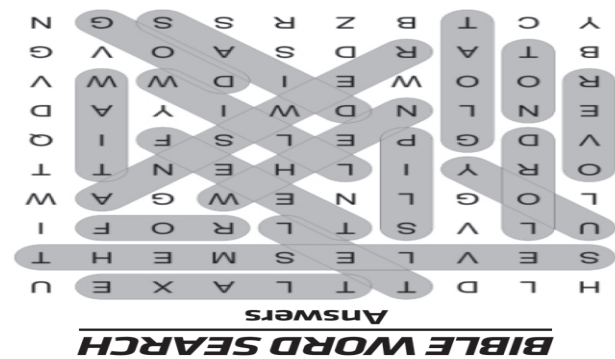
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### BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Nathan (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Though Paul was born in Tarus of Cilicia, where was he brought up? Jerusalem, Shiloh, Jericho, Damascus
3. What 8-year-old boy served as king of Jerusalem for 100 days? Shamgar, Jehoiachin, Adino, Sisera
4. From John 5, who stirred up the water at the pool of Bethesda? Priest, Angel, Wind, Jesus
5. Who was Jacob's firstborn as found in Genesis 35? Reuben, Ehud, Joshua, Elah
6. From Judges 1, who fed 70 kings at his table? Benaiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Adoni-bezek, Mephibosheth

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Jerusalem, 3) Jehoiachin, 4) Angel, 5) Reuben, 6) Adoni-bezek  
 Test Your Bible Knowledge™ available in bookstores and online.  
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## PET MATTERS

In Memory of Susan Hoffman



# Dogs with Jobs: Service and Therapy Animals

Dogs have been our loyal companions for thousands of years, but in recent decades, they have taken on roles that go beyond mere companionship. These incredible animals have become invaluable aids in various fields, offering assistance, comfort, and even saving lives. In this article, we'll explore the fascinating world of service and therapy dogs, celebrating their contributions and understanding how they make a difference in the lives of those they serve.

**What Are Service Dogs?**  
Service dogs are specially trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities, helping them navigate daily life with greater ease and independence. These tasks can range from guiding visually impaired individuals to alerting deaf individuals to important sounds, such as doorbells or alarms. Service dogs can also assist those with mobility issues, seizure disorders, and mental health challenges.

The training for service dogs is rigorous and can take up to two years. They must learn to remain calm in various environments and be highly responsive to their handler's needs. There are strict regulations in place to ensure that only dogs that meet specific criteria can be designated as service animals.

Did you know that service dogs can be of any breed? While Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are popular choices, breeds like Poodles and German Shepherds also excel in service roles.

**The Role of Therapy Dogs**  
While service dogs are trained to assist individuals with specific disabilities, therapy dogs provide comfort and support to a broader audience. These dogs are often found in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and disaster relief areas, offering emotional support and companionship. Unlike service dogs, therapy dogs do not have the same legal rights to access public spaces, but they play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of people in various settings.

Therapy dogs help reduce stress and

anxiety, promote healing, and provide emotional support during tough times. They can be particularly beneficial for children facing medical treatments or individuals undergoing challenging life experiences. The presence of a therapy dog can create a calming atmosphere and facilitate communication and interaction.

**Inspiring Stories of Service and Therapy Dogs**

**A Dog Named Sarge**  
One of the most inspiring stories in the realm of service dogs is that of Sarge, a Labrador Retriever who served in the military. After returning home, Sarge was paired with a veteran suffering from PTSD. His unwavering support and loyalty helped the veteran regain a sense of normalcy and comfort in life. Sarge was trained to recognize anxiety attacks and would nudge his owner or lay against him, providing a grounding presence during moments of distress. This partnership showcases the profound impact that service dogs can have on mental health and recovery.

**The Therapy Dog Brigade**  
In a bustling city hospital, a group of therapy dogs known as the "Therapy Dog Brigade" visits patients every week. These gentle canines offer cuddles, smiles, and a much-needed distraction from the stresses of hospital life. One notable dog in the brigade is Bella, a friendly Beagle who has a special knack for making children feel at ease. Bella's playful nature and soft fur create an instant bond with her young patients, turning tears into laughter. The joy she brings is palpable, and her work demonstrates the healing power of companionship.

Studies show that interacting with dogs can lower stress levels and improve overall mood. Spending just a few minutes petting a dog can release oxytocin, the "love hormone," in both humans and dogs!

**The Training Process**  
The training of service and therapy dogs is a labor of love that requires patience, dedication, and expertise. For service dogs, the process begins with basic obedience training and progresses to specialized tasks tailored to the needs of their future handlers. Trainers often use positive reinforcement methods, rewarding good behavior with treats, praise, or playtime.

Therapy dogs undergo similar training, focusing on socialization and temperament. They need to be comfortable in a variety of environments, including busy hospitals or crowded schools. Socialization helps ensure that therapy dogs remain calm and friendly, even when faced with unexpected situations.

**How to Get Involved**  
If you're inspired by the incredible work that service and therapy dogs do, there are many ways to get involved. Here are a few options:

**1 Volunteer with Therapy Dog Organizations:** Many organizations offer opportunities to train and take your dog on visits to hospitals, schools, and nursing homes. This can be a rewarding way to share your dog's love and joy with others.

**2 Support Service Dog Training Programs:** Consider donating to or volunteering with organizations that train service dogs. They often rely on community support to continue their life-changing work.

**3 Advocate for Awareness:** Help raise awareness about the importance of service and therapy dogs. Educating others about their roles and the rights they have can foster a more inclusive environment for these amazing animals.

Dogs with jobs are not just pets; they are heroes that make a significant difference in the lives of people around them. Whether they are guiding their handlers through life's challenges or providing comfort in times of need, their contributions are immeasurable. As we learn more about the profound bond between humans and dogs, it's essential to recognize and celebrate the incredible work these animals do every day.

Next time you see a service or therapy dog, take a moment to appreciate their hard work and the joy they bring to those they serve. These furry companions remind us of the power of love, loyalty, and support, inspiring us to be better, more compassionate individuals.



**FPCSK9i Drugs Are Reasonable Alternatives to Statins**

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** In a recent column, you wrote about reducing cholesterol levels with the help of statins along with a PCSK9i, such as Repatha or Praluent. My question is: Are these PCSK9is at all beneficial if one cannot take statins? — D.C.S.

**ANSWER:** Yes, PCSK9 inhibitors are very effective at lowering cholesterol and reducing the risk of heart attacks in high-risk people. Because these drugs are given by injection and are quite expensive, they are not usually the first-line treatments. We have decades of experience using statins, so they remain the first choice for most.

However, if a person cannot take a statin, or one of the alternatives such as bempedoic acid, then PCSK9i drugs are a very reasonable choice. In people with familial high cholesterol and extraordinarily high levels of cholesterol, combination therapy with two or three drugs (a statin, a PCSK9i and sometimes ezetimibe) is frequently used.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My wife had COVID and has lost most of her smell and taste. This has lasted for two years. She is in her late 70s. Strong flavors like barbecue sauce and onions can be detected. Is there any hope that her condition will improve? — P.M.

**ANSWER:** Most people recover their loss of smell after COVID. Having had this for two years is a bad sign; however, the fact that she does have some sense of smell is a good sign.

The most effective treatment for the loss of smell after a viral infection is olfactory training. The same scents that were used in clinical trials can be purchased online. Recent evidence has shown that a supplement combination, ultramicrocized palmitoylethanolamide and luteolin, along with olfactory training, led to greater improvement. The dose used in studies was 770 mg.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Amber Waves**

**TIGER** BY BUD BLAKE

**The Spats** BY JEFF PICKERING

**Weekly SUDOKU**

	9	1		4				
8		4		5			1	
4	2	7			9			
2	4		9					
	8	5						
7	3		4	1	6		8	
	4		5	8	6			
						3	4	
9	1							

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

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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November 10, 2025 Posting Date  
**King Crossword**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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18							19	20		
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		38		39			40			
41	42				43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51					52			53		
54						55			56	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ella's style
  - 5 Haydn nickname
  - 9 Oklahoma city
  - 12 "Hell — no fury ..."
  - 13 Pitcher
  - 14 Goose egg
  - 15 Long-snouted mammals
  - 17 "Mazel —!"
  - 18 Actress Ryder
  - 19 Puccini work
  - 21 ICU worker
  - 22 Tablecloth material
  - 24 Broadway production
  - 27 Silent
  - 28 Pesky insect
  - 31 Poetic dusk
  - 32 Khan title
  - 33 "Hail, Caesar!"
  - 34 Evening, in an ad
  - 36 Rep.'s rival
  - 37 Blue shade
  - 38 "It's nobody — business"
  - 40 Yes, to Juan
  - 41 Least desirable
  - 43 Iraqi currency
  - 47 "Entourage" character
  - 48 South Pole region
  - 51 Corp. boss
- DOWN**
- 1 "Candida" playwright
  - 2 Kid's plea
  - 3 Envelope abbr.
  - 4 Supposition
  - 5 Anti-fur org.
  - 6 Shock partner
  - 7 For each
  - 8 Incendiary crime
  - 9 Feelers
  - 10 Couturier Christian
  - 11 Thomas — Edison
  - 16 Raggedy doll
  - 20 Identify
  - 22 Olympic sleds
  - 23 Mosque leader
  - 24 Stock holder
  - 25 Maui souvenir
  - 26 Toward the front
  - 27 Constructed
  - 29 Director DuVernay
  - 30 Aviv preceder
  - 35 Golf's Ernie
  - 37 Colors lightly
  - 39 Intent look
  - 40 — Lancelot
  - 41 Some WWII vets
  - 42 Unrefined metals
  - 43 Title for Judi Dench
  - 44 Bickering
  - 45 Bar mitzvah, e.g.
  - 46 Garbage barge
  - 49 Neither here — there
  - 50 Preschooler
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**Weekly SUDOKU**

6	8	7	4	2	3	1	9	5
9	5	1	7	6	8	2	4	3
4	2	7	5	8	9	3	6	1
8	9	1	4	2	6	3	7	5
2	3	6	5	7	8	4	1	9
7	1	3	9	8	4	5	6	2
3	6	8	5	9	7	2	1	4
1	9	5	2	6	4	3	7	8
2	4	7	3	1	8	6	5	9

Answer

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: What is the study of clouds called?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country's highest mountain is called Ben Nevis?
3. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the acronym GPS stand for?
4. TELEVISION: What beer brand appears in "The Simpsons" animated TV show?
5. HISTORY: When was Earth Day first celebrated?
6. ANATOMY: What is a common name for the condition known as piloerection?
7. MOVIES: Which city was the setting for the movie "The Sting"?
8. MATH: How many yards are in a mile?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby ferret called?
10. FOOD & DRINK: Which celebrity chef stars on the cooking show "Hell's Kitchen"?

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## \$200,000 Grant will help Lone Star College develop new 4 yr. Degree

### Houston Endowment Teaching Grant

HARRIS COUNTY – A \$200,000 grant from Houston Endowment is helping Lone Star College System develop its next bachelor's degree program.

Houston Endowment has awarded Lone Star College Foundation a \$200,000 grant to help Lone Star College System launch its newest bachelor's degree program.

The proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education and Teaching (BAS ECET) is intended to produce certified teachers in Early Childhood-Grade 3 and Early Childhood-Grade 6, helping fill a crucial workforce gap in the Houston region and beyond.

"About 12% of Texas teachers were uncertified in the 2024-25 school year—up from just 3.8% in 2019-20," said Seelva Keshvala, Ph.D., LSC Executive Vice Chancellor, Academics. "Lone Star College System is committed to equipping future educators with the training and expertise needed to thrive in the classroom. We'll continue to work closely with our local school districts in these efforts."

The Houston Endowment grant will support consulting services and curriculum development for the BAS ECET degree program, which is expected to launch in fall 2026 with an initial cohort of 150 teacher candidates.

"Education is the foundation for future success. Lone Star College Foundation is eager to see this grant expand opportunities for aspiring teachers



who will encourage and empower the next generation," said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, LSC Foundation executive director.

The Houston Endowment is a private, nonpartisan organization founded by Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones in 1937. Grants awarded support public education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and green space initiatives to help meet the Houston region's most pressing needs.

"Every child deserves a well-prepared teacher, and that starts with strong, affordable pathways into the profession. Lone Star College System's new bachelor's degree in early childhood education is a smart, timely response to our region's certified teacher shortage," said August Hamilton, education program director for Houston Endowment. "By aligning with workforce needs and supporting future educators on their journey to certification, this program will help ensure more children in Greater Houston have the skilled teachers they need to thrive."

Launching this new degree requires approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating

Board as well as the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to ensure academic alignment with state needs and confirm the institution's capacity to offer the program.

If approved, the BAS degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching will be LSCS' fifth bachelor's program, with others offered in cybersecurity; emergency management; energy, manufacturing and trades management; and nursing. Additionally, the college system currently offers an Associate of Arts in Teaching and an Alternative Teacher Certification Program. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Associate-Of-Arts-Teaching](https://lonestar.edu/Programs-Of-Study/Associate-Of-Arts-Teaching).

About Lone Star College Foundation

Lone Star College Foundation impacts students' lives by reducing the financial barriers to a quality college education. Since 1991, LSC Foundation has awarded over \$26 million in scholarships to more than 27,000 students and nearly \$13 million in program and emergency support. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Giving](https://lonestar.edu/Giving).

## East Aldine unveils tribute mural to honor deputy's legacy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ilies, the workers, the kids who play right here. That's what inspired every color and form you see in this mural."

The mural features Deputy Almendarez, whose service and sacrifice continue to resonate throughout East Aldine.

His daughter, Andrea Almendarez, addressed the crowd with emotion and gratitude.

"Standing before me, this beautiful mural fills me with pride, gratitude, and hope. My father was more than a police officer. He was a man of art, courage, and compassion. He believed in helping others, no matter the circumstance, and he lived that belief every single day."

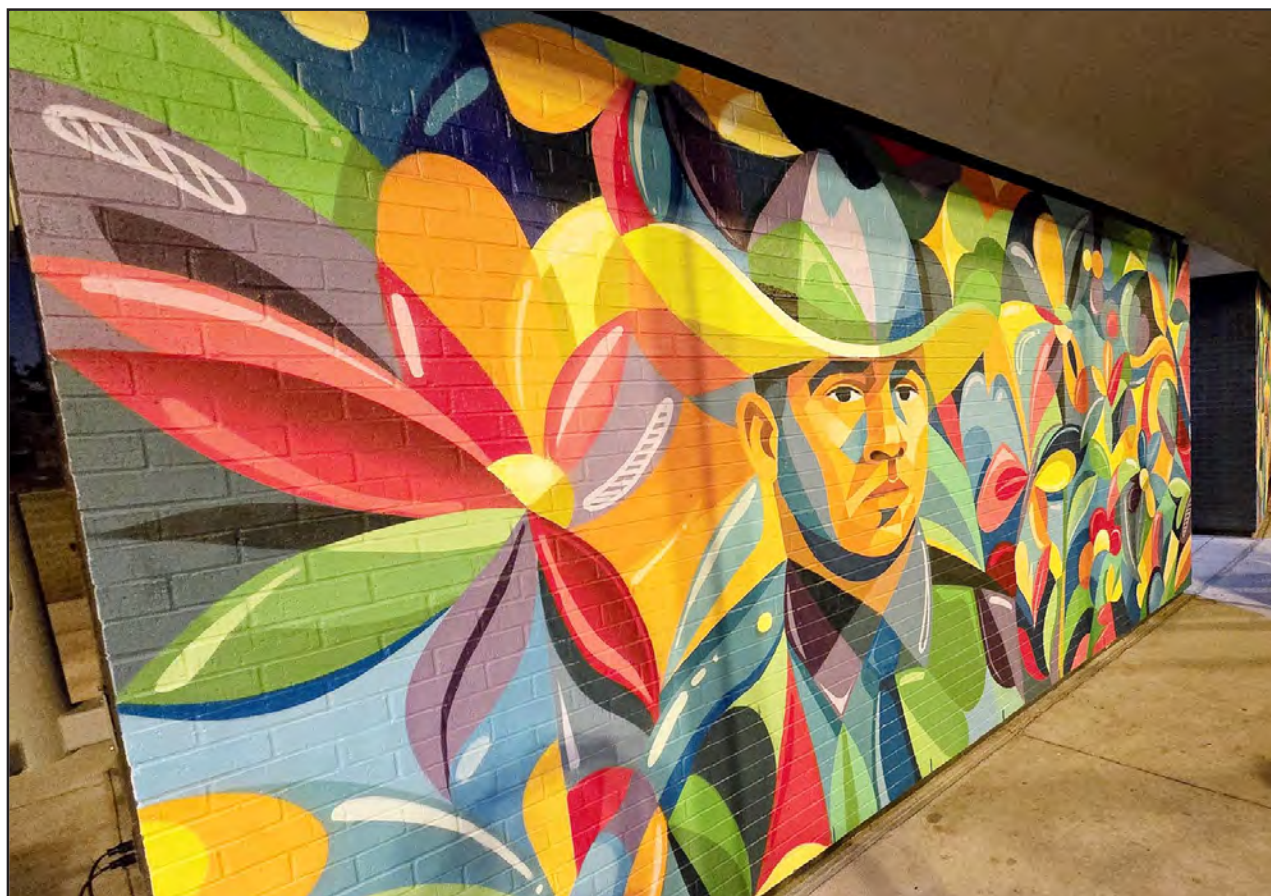
Andrea recalled her father's actions during Hurricane Harvey.

"He put on his boots, stepped into the floodwaters, and went on to serve. That was who he was—always ready to lend a hand, always putting others first. Losing him was one of the hardest moments of my life. But today, I look at this mural here in East Aldine and I'm reminded that his spirit is still with us."

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez also spoke, emphasizing Almendarez's enduring legacy.

"It's great to see the community come together. This mural is obviously a visual depiction of Darren, and it captures him so well. But as beautiful as it is, it's much more than just the paint on this wall. It's an image of unity, hope, and service, and all those are things that Darren embodied," the sheriff said.

The project was made possible through collaboration with the East Aldine Management District and the East Aldine Arts Council. Carlos Silva, chairman of the management dis-



The mural featuring Deputy Darren Almendarez in James Driver Park in Aldine was created by the street artist DUAL. The art was dedicated last Monday in an early evening ceremony.



His daughter, Andrea Almendarez, addressed the crowd with emotion and gratitude giving thanks for her father's courage and compassion.



Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia was the master of ceremonies for the dedication of the new mural which is part of the "Love Letters to Precinct 2" initiative designed to transform public spaces into reflections of local pride and unity.



Street artist DUAL was commissioned to do the mural that covers four walls and features Deputy Darren Almendarez.



trict, described the mural's impact.

"Frankly, art in all its forms stimulates, inspires, and challenges us. It creates a sense of belonging, a sense of civic pride, but also commemorates our fallen heroes. That's precisely what we've done today here with this beautiful conceptual portrait of Deputy Darren Almendarez."

The mural covers all four walls of the park's pavilion, doubling its intended impact. "Because of their (East Aldine Management District) collaboration and support, we were able to expand the mural to cover all four walls, transforming the space into something truly remarkable," Garcia said.

As the ceremony concluded, Almendarez's widow, Flor Almendarez, addressed the assembled deputies and community members.

"Everything that I do and will continue to do is for each and every one of you deputies. Every time I see a uniform, it reminds me of him. Many times, when he walked out the door, I prayed for you. Always."

The mural stands as a lasting testament to Deputy Almendarez's courage, the community's resilience, and the transformative power of public art. As Garcia summarized, "When we are invested in public art, we're not just beautifying walls—we're strengthening the spirit of our neighborhood, and I think art and these murals are a phenomenal way to do that."

A tearful Flor Almendarez, took a moment to gather herself before resuming her thanks to all responsible for the lasting testament to her husband.