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# NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 49 Years  
 VOL. 49, NO. 44 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## VET FEST 25



**Honoring All Who Served**

# East Aldine Panel to examine Housing in Harris County

By David Taylor  
 Managing Editor

ALDINE – The East Aldine Management District is set to host a Housing Forum and Resource Fair on November 21, bringing together community leaders, developers, and housing advocates for a morning of insights, resources, and networking aimed at strengthening communities and expanding housing opportunities across Harris County. The event will take place at the East Aldine District Office, with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and an official welcome at 9 a.m.

The forum will feature special speakers such as Thao Costis from the Housing and Community



Development of Harris County, who will kick off the event. Attendees will hear success stories from Arturo Barragan and Rick Rivas of International Investors Group and Sarato-

ga Homes, a company with 30 communities across Texas, including the Aldine Pines neighborhood in Houston. Aldine Pines offers single-family homes with three to four bed-

rooms, convenient access to major highways, and proximity to attractions like Mercer Botanic Gardens, making it an appealing choice for families. Additional highlights

include presentations from Francisco Castillo and Anton Edwards of Houston Habitat for Humanity, as well as a section on housing programs and resources led by Thao Costis and

Rene Martinez of Harris County Housing and Community Development. An update on flood control will be provided by Jeremy Ratcliff from the Harris County Flood Control District. At lunch, a video presentation and partnership opportunities will be shared by Naina Magon of Hawes Hill & Associates. The forum will conclude with closing remarks from Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and a Q&A session hosted by Richard Cantu, executive director for the East Aldine Management District.

In an interview, Richard Cantu emphasized the district's hands-on role in fa-

Continued. SEE HOUSING FORUM, Page 5

## NEWS NOTES

### RYSS School Choice Fair Dec. 6th

Families across the East Aldine community are invited to the East Aldine School Fair: A Season of Choices, taking place Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at North East STEM Academy (RYSS), located inside James Driver Park at 10918 + Bentley St., Houston, TX 77093. This festive, family-friendly event brings together schools from RYSS, Aldine ISD, and YES Prep, giving families the opportunity to explore a wide range of high-quality educational options for the 2026-2027 school year. The fair is open to all Pre-K through 8th-grade students and their families.

# Vet Fest 25 Honors All Who Served

On November 7 at VET FEST 25 East Aldine and Aldine ISD honored and thanked all the brave men and women who have served our country. "Your courage, sacrifice, and dedication protect the freedoms we cherish every day. We salute you and your families, your strength inspires us all." Happy Veterans Day! Thank you American Legion Post 578. \*\*\* Hoy honramos y agradecemos a todos los valientes hombres y mujeres que han servido a nuestro país. "Su valentía, sacrificio y dedicación protegen las libertades que valoramos cada día. Les rendimos homenaje a ustedes y a sus familias, su fortaleza nos inspira." ¡Feliz Día de los Veteranos!



Veterans and Friends gather at VET FEST 25 in the East Aldine Building for a Luncheon in honor of area Veterans.. MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8 Photos courtesy EAMD and EV1Pro

**New skills. New opportunities in one semester or less!**

Get certified, a degree, or prepare for university transfer at **HCC Acres Homes Campus**

Earn a Career-Boosting Credential in:

- Phlebotomy
- 911 Emergency Dispatcher
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
- OSHA/NCCER
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Full-Time & Part-Time classes are available.

**Saturday Registration & Open House**  
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | SAT. | JANUARY 10  
 Advising, Registration Assistance, Career Information, Scholarship Opportunities, and refreshments!

Train for in-demand careers at the HCC Acres Homes Campus

## REGISTER NOW

Spring Classes Begin **JANUARY 12**

- Academic and University Transfer courses
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- Adult Education (GED and ESL)
- Apple Innovation Lab
- Registration & Financial Aid assistance
- Community Learning classes for Adults 50+ (FREE or Low Cost)
- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
- Criminal Justice classes
- Digital Communications | Graphic Design
- 911 Emergency Telecommunicator/ Dispatcher
- Legal Office Assistant
- OSHA 10 & 30 (Construction & General)
- Phlebotomy
- CompTIA A+ Certification
- VAST Academy (new)

Beginners Computer | Health & Wellness  
 Master of Memory | Walk & Talk | Beginning Spanish | Art | Medicare

Scan for steps on how to get started!

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 630 W. Little York Road  
 Houston, Texas 77091  
**713.718.6900**  
[hccs.edu/spring2026](http://hccs.edu/spring2026)

**HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE**

## FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 13: Cougars look for another win when they host TCU: Texans host reeling Bills on Thursday Night Football

Don't look now, but the University of Houston Cougars have been one of the feel good stories of the 202 college football season.

Two weeks ago, Willie Fritz's team improved to 8-2 on the season with their 30-27 comeback win at Central Florida. A year ago, in Fritz's first year at the helm, UH finished 4-8 and Cougar fans were souring on the football program, while the basketball program continued to flourish (head coach Kelvin Sampson led the Cougs to the national title game, where they fell to Florida).

Now, UH fans are crowing about their football team and this Saturday, they have a chance to win their 9th game of the season when they host TCU and in the process, improve their bowl-game status. Their Big 12 title hopes are pretty much finished, but if they could this week and in their finale at Baylor on Nov. 29, UH would finish 10-2 and pretty much solidify Fritz as the Big 12's Coach of the Year (with all due respect to Tech's Joey McGuire).

While the Cougars host TCU, the rest of the college schedule is pretty lackluster heading into the big Thanksgiving Weekend, which will be loaded with key games and rivalries.

No. 22-ranked Missouri visits No. 12-ranked Oklahoma in the SEC. There's a good one in the Big 10 as No. 19-ranked USC visits No. 9-ranked Oregon with the winner remaining alive for a spot in the conference title game and in the ACC, No. 24

**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
 BY MIKE KEENEY

Pitt visits No. 17 Georgia Tech.

In the NFL, the Texans, who overcame a 29-10 deficit at home two weeks at home against Jacksonville by scoring 26 fourth-quarter points to pull out a 36-29 win, will host the desperate Buffalo Bills on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime. Two weeks ago, the Bills were dominated on both sides of the ball in their 30-13 loss at Miami. This is a weird Buffalo team. The week before the loss to the Dolphins, Buffalo dominated Kansas City at home before laying an egg on the road in South Florida. The Texans hope to have starting QB C.J.

Stroud back for this game after he missed the Jags game after suffering a concussion in the home loss to Denver on Nov. 2.

Speaking of the Chiefs, they host the Colts in a key game for both squads. Indy leads the AFC South and improved to 8-2 two weeks ago with a 31-25 overtime win over Atlanta in Berlin. Running back Jonathan Taylor had a huge day, rushing for 244 yards and three TDs, the last coming in OT to lead his team to the victory. Two weeks ago, KC had the week off as QB Patrick Mahomes spent Satur-

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

**SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING**

Report Suspicious:

- Vehicles
- Activities
- Groups of People
- Persons
- Locations

**HARRIS COUNTY 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**

# Letter to Santa

Dear Santa, \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Letters can be mailed to SANTA,  
 5832 Star Lane, Houston, TX. 77057  
 or e-mailed to grafikstar@aol.com.  
 Letters must be received by  
 Dec. 5 for publication in  
 our Special Christmas Editions

# Hang your Christmas Card on our Tree

**Best Wishes! Wishing You The Best...**  
 Tom, Barbara & Family  
**SOLUTIONS**  
 824 Grand 899-1888  
 M-F 10:00 - 5:30

**Cheers! 3 J's**  
 Dry Cleaning 24-Hour Service  
 Drycleaning Alterations Wash-N-Fold  
 Leather Cleaning Tailor Service Laundromat  
**3 J's Drycleaning & Laundry**  
 819 Grand Ave., Bacliff (713) 559-1210

**Happy Holidays! Bob Rowland & Associates**  
 Rob. Edna Betty Joan Susan Emma Thomas & Bill  
 827 Grand Ave. Bacliff 339-1563

**Over 33 years... Lou's Grocery**  
 339-1579  
 Open 7 Days a Week 8:00 am til 10:00 pm  
 Fresh Groceries Fresh Meats, Vegetables, Fresh Seafood, for 4th & Grand Ave., Bacliff

**Happy Holidays! WALKERS LIQUOR**  
 4411-B Hwy 146 Bacliff 559-2273

**Bacliff Medical Clinic**  
 Dr. Chacko  
 1125 Grand Ave. Hwy 646 Bacliff (713) 339-4515  
 Complete Medical Care for the entire family. Please call for appointment or come by and see us. Medicare Accepted.

**J&A Garage**  
 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR & TIRE SERVICE  
 • Auto Inspection • Tune-Ups • Alignments • Mufflers • Oil Change  
 339-1083 339-3776 4445 Hwy 146, Bacliff

**Merry Christmas from Baywind**  
 Mobile Home Park  
 Mobile home lots for sale 50x103 Owner Financing \$1,000 down Rentals Single-spaces 50x90  
 524 Louisiana No. 15 Bacliff 339-1107

**Kuntry Kar Kare, Inc. Auto Sales**  
 We also do tune-ups and general repairs.  
 Days 339-1301 Nights 559-1495  
 Intersection of Hwy. 146 & 51 San Leon

**Crowder Jewel Lines**  
 The Crowder Family Tradition  
 401 Texas Ave. La Marque 409-935-2401  
 FM 517 & FM 646 Dickinson 713-337-1515

**Bay Area Taxi**  
 Hikes Everyone Season's Greetings 24 Hr. Service Delivery Service  
 1-800-471-6775 Fax 339-2351  
**339-2180**

(This Ad is reduced in size. Your card will be twice as large— a Full Page)  
**We will publish your Card Ad in our Christmas Editions Dec. 9 and 16**  
**For Details call 713-266-3444**

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

Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.



## HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

**College and Career Assistance | Asistencia Universitaria y Profesional**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 12:00pm-6:00pm

**Description**  
 Connect with a Future U advisor! Discover the college and career resources around you.  
**Get help with:**  
 Resume & cover letters  
 FAFSA application  
 Free resources for career development  
 To make an appointment, please click on the link below or call. Virtual appointments are also available.

**FutureU Appointment**  
 ¡Conéctate con un asesor de Future U! Descubre los recursos universitarios, profesionales, y ayuda con aplicaciones para el trabajo.  
 Todos los recursos y ayuda son totalmente gratis! Obtenga ayuda con:  
 Curriculum (resume) y carta de trabajo  
 Encontrar ayuda financiera (FAFSA)  
 Recursos gratuitos para el desarrollo profesional (con su tarjeta de biblioteca gratis)  
 Para programar una cita, haz clic en el enlace de abajo o llama. También ofrecemos citas virtuales.

**Toon Cafe**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 3:00pm-5:00pm  
**Description**  
 Lights, laughter, and classic cartoons!  
 Calling all teens—come hang out at the library for a special cartoon.  
 Bring your own favorite snacks to enjoy while you watch and get ready for a fun-filled break with nonstop cartoon comedy. If you love animation and humor, this is the perfect event for you!

**Aventuras En Lecturas | Adventures In Reading**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 5:00pm-5:30pm

**Description**  
 Join us for our bilingual Storytime! Every week, new story themes like Robots, Superheroes, Dragons, and more! Also, play some instruments with us and play interactive games between the tales.  
 ¡Acompáñanos en nuestra hora del cuento bilingüe! Cada semana, nuevos temas como robots, superhéroes, dragones y mucho más. Además, toca algunos instrumentos con nosotros y participa en juegos interactivos entre cuento y cuento.

**The Magic of Color**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Description**  
 De-stress, unwind, and enjoy the almost-magical calm that comes from painting with watercolors.  
 This is not an art class — it's a chance to be creative and relax while enjoying each other's company in an encouraging environment.  
 See the colors flow from your imagination to the paper and let your worries drift away for a while.  
 This program is for adults 18+.

**Registration for ESL & Citizenship Classes | Inscripción para Clases de ESL y Ciudadanía**  
 Thursday, November 20, 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Description**  
 Join us for in-person registration for our FREE Citizenship and ESL classes!  
 In-Person Registration Dates  
 Monday Nov 10 at 11:30 am  
 Thursday Nov 13 at 11:30am  
 Monday Nov 17 at 1pm  
 Thursday Nov 20 at 1pm  
 An assessment is required before attending classes.

¡Acompáñanos para inscribirte en persona a nuestras clases GRATUITAS de Ciudadanía e Inglés como Segundo Idioma (ESL)!  
 Fechas de inscripción en persona:  
 Lunes 10 de noviembre a las 11:30 a.m.  
 Jueves 13 de noviembre a las 11:30 a.m.  
 Lunes 17 de noviembre a las 1:00 p.m.  
 Jueves 20 de noviembre a las 1:00 p.m.  
 Se requiere una evaluación antes de asistir a las clases.  
 ESL classes focus on speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English. Citizenship classes focus on preparing students for the Citizenship exam through USCIS.  
 All classes are free and all materials are provided.

**Teen Lounge**  
 Thursday, November 20, 3:30pm-5:00pm

**Description**  
 Calling all teens and tweens! This is your space to relax and unwind. Draw and color, play some games, do a craft, or hang out with your friends—the possibilities are endless! No registration is required. This event is open to ages 12 to 18.

**Fables and Fun**  
 Monday, November 24, 11:30am-12:00pm

**Description**  
 Dive into Our Lively Storytime Adventure!  
 Get ready for a whirlwind of tales, tunes, rhymes, and giggles! This enchanting Storytime guarantees a blast for all ages. Swing by and join the fun every Monday at 11:30 AM!

## AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

**WIGGLE WEDNESDAY**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 11:00 am-11:45am

**Description**  
 Come Move and Groove with Us!  
 Join us 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 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!

**RESUME ASSISTANCE FREE WORKSHOP**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Description**  
 Ready to Enhance your Resume? Take your resume to the next level with a Future U advisor who can help you with great insight on how to attract top-notch employers and get their attention. Get great tips on

crafting your resume to be tailor-made with your skills, qualifications, and experiences.

**BEGINNERS CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH CLASS**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 2:00pm-3:00pm

**Description**  
 Beginning November 3rd, 2025 join us weekly on Mondays and Wednesday 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 conversacional 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.

This class is 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.  
**Tween Spark: Legos**  
 Wednesday, November 19, 4:30pm-5:30pm

**Description**  
 Join us at Aldine for a Lego night! We'll provide as many Legos as you need to get your creativity flowing and make something awesome. Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders

**ESL - BEGINNER**  
 Thursday, November 20, 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,

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.

**Homework Help/Ayuda con Tarea**  
 Thursday, November 20, 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.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

### 3 Aldine ISD Schools Earn Recognition in 2024–2025 Children at Risk Rankings



Aldine Young Women’s Leadership Academy, Blanson CTE High School, and Thompson Elementary honored for excellence among Greater Houston schools.

Three Aldine ISD campuses were recognized among the top-performing schools in the Greater Houston region by Children at Risk in its 2024–2025 Houston School Rankings, announced Monday, Nov. 10, at a press conference.

Aldine Young Women’s Leadership Academy (YWLA), Blanson Career and Technical Education High School, and Thompson Elementary School were each honored for their academic excellence and progress in serving students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



#### Young Women’s Leadership Academy

Young Women’s Leadership Academy earned two distinctions this year: ranking No. 10 among the top middle schools in the Houston region and earning the top spot as the No. 1 Gold Ribbon Middle School. Principal Jericah Jackson accepted the award on behalf of the school, crediting students, staff, and community partnerships for their success.

“I am constantly amazed by the work that these young women do,” Jackson said. “Because of our partnership with the Young Women’s Preparatory Network, we’ve built a foundation of excellence. At YWLA, our ceiling becomes our floor — our previous results become the baseline for what comes next.”

#### Blanson Career and Technical Education High School

Blanson CTE High School was recognized as the No. 5 Gold Ribbon High School. Principal Joshua Van Donsel accepted the award, highlighting the school’s consistent record of excellence.

“Since opening, Blanson has earned an A rating from the Texas Education Agency every year,” Van Donsel said. “Our focus is preparing students for high-demand, high-paying careers. This recognition affirms the dedication of our teachers, students, and district leadership.”

#### Thompson Elementary School

Thompson Elementary School, led by Principal Miriam Acosta, ranked No. 8 among the top Gold Ribbon Elementary Schools in the Greater Houston Area.

“This award belongs to our teachers, students, and families,” Acosta said. “Our teachers take the initiative every day to look at data, plan instruction, and support one another so that our students receive the best education possible.”

#### Aldine ISD



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney also spoke at the press conference, which celebrated 20 years of Children at Risk rankings. Children at Risk highlighted Aldine ISD as one of the top school districts in the Houston region for improvement, noting the significant and inspiring gains happening across our campuses. These recognitions reflect the hard work of our teachers, campus leaders, and, most importantly, our students, who rise to challenges every day.

“I am proud to serve all the students who attend schools that are 100% Title I,” Dr. Goffney said. “When we see data like this, we remember that behind every number is a student who needs us to show up and do

great work every single day. This recognition is a testament to the leadership and commitment of our teachers across the district and the Houston region.”

Sanborn commended Houston-area districts for their improvement, particularly those serving large populations of economically disadvantaged students.

“In most cases, success starts with leadership at the top and within schools,” Sanborn said. “The Houston region is getting better, and districts like Aldine ISD are leading the way.”



#### Children at Risk

Children at Risk, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization, has published annual school rankings for 20 years. The group evaluates more than 7,000 public schools statewide, measuring student achievement, growth, and college readiness, as well as comparisons with demographically similar campuses. Gold Ribbon Schools are those where at least 75% of students are economically disadvantaged yet still achieve an A or B rating.

### 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.

### Academy Students Exhibit at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston Exhibition



Students from Aldine ISD’s Impact Leadership Academy will debut their collaborative artwork in Shared Grounds, a new exhibition hosted by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH).

By Leticia Fehling

**Event Details**  
Shared Grounds Exhibition Opening Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025 | 7–9 p.m. The 3rd Space, University of Houston Fine Arts Building

Free parking is available in designated spaces in front of the Blaffer Art Museum.

The exhibition marks another milestone in the transformative partnership between Impact Leadership Academy and CAMH, through the museum’s Teaching Artist-in-Classroom (TAIC) program. Under the guidance of teaching artist Carlos Mendoza and Impact Leadership Academy art teacher Toby McCraw, students have created a series of large-scale paintings that delve

into themes of place, memory, and the future, offering a unique perspective that will engage the audience.

Felice Cleveland, CAMH’s Director of Learning and Engagement, praised the students’ creativity and insight.

Newman said the district is proud of McCraw and his students for continuing to elevate the visual arts in Aldine.

“Mr. McCraw has built an environment where students feel empowered to express their stories through art,” Newman said. “Collaborations like this show our young men that their voices and perspectives matter.”

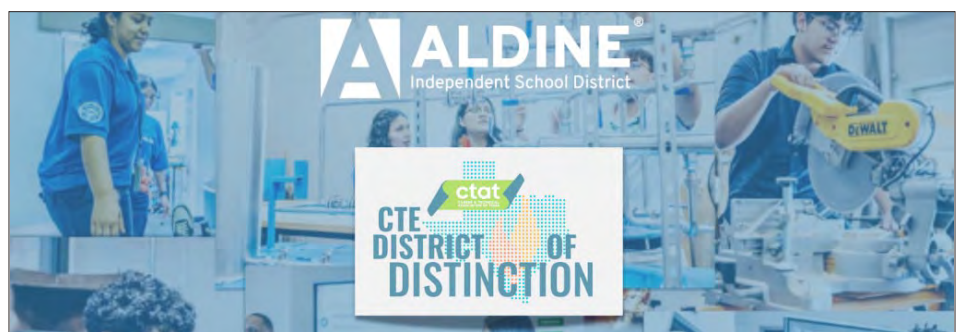
This collaboration follows previous exhibitions featuring McCraw and Impact Leadership Academy students, including

Threat of Joy earlier this year. McCraw, who also serves on CAMH’s Teacher Advisory Group, continues to help shape the museum’s education and engagement initiatives.

The Shared Grounds opening celebration will feature light refreshments and provide an opportunity for students and teaching artists to share the inspiration behind their work. The event is free and open to the public; RSVPs are recommended.

The Teaching Artist-in-Classroom (TAIC) program connects K–12 students from historically under-resourced schools with local artists for collaborative, curriculum-aligned projects. Aldine ISD and Houston ISD are among the participating districts.

### Aldine ISD Named a CTAT CTE District of Distinction for Second Consecutive Year



By Leticia Fehling

The Aldine Independent School District has once again been recognized as a CTE District of Distinction by the Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT) — marking the second consecutive year the district has earned this prestigious honor.

The recognition celebrates Aldine ISD’s continued commitment to preparing students for success in college, careers, and beyond through innovative and high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, which equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the workforce.

Each year, CTAT honors districts that demonstrate exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication to workforce readiness. Honorees serve as models for other districts across the state, showcasing strong industry partnerships, relevant programming, and outstanding student outcomes.

Under Martin’s leadership, Aldine ISD’s CTE programs con-

tinue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of students and the local workforce. More than 20,000 students are currently enrolled in over 45 programs of study, with access to over 100 dual credit courses and over 40 industry-based certifications. Students also extend their learning through Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), where they develop leadership, teamwork, and career-readiness skills.

Aldine’s CTE high school programs offer students a variety of hands-on, career-focused experiences across the district, including:

- P-TECH programs at Avalos and Carver High Schools, where students can earn college credit and industry credentials before graduation.

- Blanson Career and Technical Education High School which offers specialized pathways in fields such as aviation, hospitality, and engineering.

- The HEAL (Health Education And Learning) Program at

Nimitz High School, launched in partnership with Memorial Hermann Health System and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, provides students with real-world experience in healthcare careers.

CTAT will formally recognize Aldine ISD during its Winter Leadership Conference and will present the district with an award plaque and banner in February 2026 — just in time to celebrate CTE Month.

The Career and Technical Association of Texas is the state affiliate of the Association for Career and Technical Education. CTAT supports educators and administrators across Texas in creating workforce-aligned learning opportunities that empower students to succeed in an ever-changing economy.

Aldine ISD’s consecutive recognition as a CTE District of Distinction highlights the district’s focus on ensuring every student graduates with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve their goals.

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

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By Harris County Sheriff  
**ED GONZALEZ**



### Safeguarding Our Youth: Preventing Violence and Inspiring Leadership Across Harris County

The holiday season brings moments of joy, togetherness, and celebration — but it also reminds us how fragile those moments can be. Recent incidents across Harris County serve as a heartbreaking reminder of how quickly a night meant for fun can turn into tragedy.

In the days surrounding Halloween, Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) deputies responded to multiple shootings involving juveniles at large gatherings. These events have deeply affected families, neighborhoods, and our entire community.

On November 6, during a joint press conference with Crime Stoppers of Houston, HCSO leaders delivered a united message: we all share a role in protecting our youth and preventing violence before it starts.

Speaking on behalf of Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, Chief Nanny emphasized the shared responsibility among law enforcement, parents, and community members in safeguarding our children:

"Every young person deserves to come home safe — and no family should ever have to endure the pain of losing a child to senseless violence," Chief Nanny said. "We refuse to accept this as the new normal. Change begins when each of us chooses courage over silence."

HCSO investigators continue to follow leads in connection with three separate shootings that occurred between October 26 and November 2, each tied to large teen gatherings promoted through social media. In each case, what began as a social event ended in violence — leaving several young people injured and families shaken.

As the holiday season continues, the Sheriff's Office urges parents, guardians, and community leaders to take simple but powerful steps to help keep our youth safe:

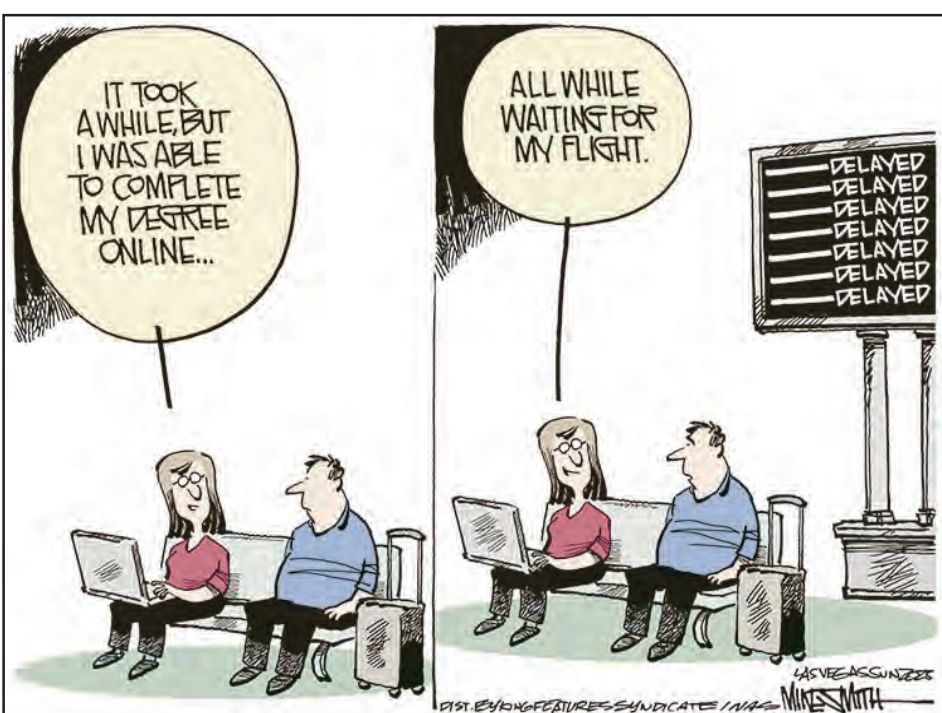
- Know the plan. Ask where your teen is going, who's hosting, and whether responsible adults will be present.
- Set expectations. Talk openly about curfews, safe choices, and avoiding unsupervised or online-promoted gatherings.
- Stay connected. Encourage kids to share their location with a trusted adult and check in throughout the evening.
- Report concerns. If you hear about potential violence, weapons, or unsafe gatherings — say something. Your action could save a life.

If you have information related to recent shootings or suspicious activity, contact HCSO Violent Crimes at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

The safety of our youth depends on all of us — families, neighbors, educators, and law enforcement — working together with vigilance and compassion. Every conversation matters. Every precaution counts.

Together, we can make this holiday season one of peace, joy, and protection — because when we protect our youth, we protect our future.

**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.



**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
**Carrie Classon**



It's November, and so I'm writing a book. You may have heard of National Novel Writing Month. Until earlier this year, it was an official organization called NaNoWriMo, and it had almost 400,000 participants. The goal was to write 50,000 words in the month of November, and people of all ages and from all over the world participated.

But the organization got a little too big to monitor properly. At least one volunteer behaved badly, and the board was slow to act. The organization had no idea how to deal with AI. (If 50,000 words are written by artificial intelligence in 30 seconds, does it count?) Eventually, the organization closed its doors, and I was one of many participants who were sad because, while I write almost every day, it was fun, one month of the year, to know I had lots of company. Having a big goal can be a lot of fun. Writing 50,000 words in a month means I must write 1,667 words a day. It's a stretch for most writers, and I loved the feeling that I was surrounded by people as excited about putting words on paper as I am most months of the year.

I was talking to someone about setting goals yesterday. We agreed it was hard for most people to set goals, not because they don't know what they want, but because they aren't sure what the first step would look like and, somewhere early on, they get worried that they are headed in the wrong direction.

I think that was what was so fun about NaNoWriMo. There was a graph. There was a big, exciting graph, and when I hit milestones, I earned a badge that everyone could see. Of course, the words might be terrible. But they were counted up and recorded, and I had the badges to prove it!

Not all goals are quite this satisfying. Most goals involve a little dithering. The plan has to be altered. There is a step backward after two steps forward. There are obvious failures when, as optimistic as I try to be, I know I have hit a setback.

Last week, a book I'd written was rejected for publication. I had great hopes that it would be published in the not-too-distant future. It was rejected with a lot of kind words and perhaps even a little reluctance, but it was still rejected, and now I don't know if that book will ever find a home. This was a disappointment. I don't earn any badges for this.

But I try, as I always do, to look for the learning in the disappointment. I certainly learned a lot about writing while writing that book. But I try to learn something about the disappointment as well, because I've noticed when things are going great and I get one badge after another, I don't actually learn a whole lot—no matter how fun and motivating it might be.

And I think the lesson in this particular disappointment is rather simple. It's something I thought I already knew but needed to be reminded of once again.

It doesn't really matter what I've done. All that matters is how I spend today. If I am writing today, then I am doing everything I can to earn more badges in the future.

So I'll be participating in Novel November in whatever form it appears this year. I'll be tracking my words and collecting any badges available—as if this were the first book I've ever written because, in truth, it is the only one that matters.

Till next time,  
Carrie

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### Voters Approve all 17 Proposed Amendments

Texas voters approved all 17 constitutional amendments on the ballot last week, the Houston Chronicle reported. Those included measures to raise the homestead exemption and reduce property taxes for businesses, and to provide \$1 billion annually for a statewide water fund. Other propositions passed would allow judges to deny bail to people accused of serious crimes and create a \$3 billion dementia research fund. "This legislative session, we delivered the conservative victories Texans demanded," Gov. Greg Abbott wrote in a statement. "And this November, Texans showed up to enshrine them in the Texas Constitution."

#### NEARLY 3 MILLION CAST BALLOTS STATEWIDE

Texans showed up in record numbers for this off-year election. Unofficial statewide returns indicate nearly 3 million cast ballots — nearly 15% of all registered voters in the state, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

That appears to set a new record for off-year election turnout in Texas, driven in part by key local issues in larger counties, such as Travis and Bexar counties.

The statewide leader in voter turnout was tiny Loving County on the Texas-New Mexico border, where more than half of the county's 140 registered voters cast ballots.

#### NELSON FIGHTING GOP LAWSUIT OVER CLOSED PRIMARIES

The state's top election official is fighting a GOP lawsuit that seeks to restrict the state's primaries to registered party members, the Texas Standard reported. Republican Secretary of State Jane Nelson in her filing said that decision should be left up to state lawmakers, not the courts.

She said that a court ruling now, with the March primaries just a few months away, would "confuse voters, unduly burden election administrators, or otherwise sow chaos or distrust in the electoral process."

The Texas Republican Party claims the state's open primaries violate their constitutional right to freedom of association. Key Republicans, such as Attorney General Ken Paxton, complain Democratic and independent voters are casting ballots in Republican primaries to back moderate candidates.

Closing Texas primaries would require overhauling the



state's voter registration system, require changes in state law, and take years to implement, the Standard reported.

Lawmakers filed at least six bills in 2025 to close the primaries but all failed. Nelson said state lawmakers could take the issue back up in the 2027 session.

#### SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN WHOOPING COUGH IN TEXAS

The Texas Department of State Health Services is reporting a steep increase in cases of pertussis, or whooping cough, this year. Early data indicates Texas has had more than 3,500 reported pertussis cases through October, four times the number reported over the same period last year.

This is the second straight year the state has experienced high increases in pertussis cases, according to DSHS.

Pertussis can cause serious and possibly life-threatening complications in infants and young children who are not fully immunized. About one-third of babies younger than a year old who contract pertussis need to be hospitalized.

Pertussis is a highly contagious illness with early symptoms akin to the common cold. It can lead to extended coughing fits that can last for weeks or even months.

#### TEXAS TO BUY 54,000 ACRES FOR NEW STATE PARK

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission last week accepted a gift of a 54,000-acre ranch in the western Hill Country, the Statesman reported. The Silver Lake Ranch, about 125 miles west of San Antonio, is being acquired from the Moody Foundation.

"We actually haven't been using it for a long time," Elle Moody, with the foundation, said in an interview before the formal vote by the parks commission. "But hopefully it will be in the near future

for camping and paddling and mountain biking. So we're really looking forward to opening it up to the wider public."

The parcel, located in Kinney and Edwards counties, would be second in size only to Big Bend Ranch State Park, at 300,000 acres and purchased in 1988.

"This is exactly that kind of property that could really help expand or meet the demand for recreational opportunities on public land in Texas," Luke Metzger, with Environment Texas, said. "I swear, that's just some of the prettiest country I've ever seen in Texas. It's just gorgeous out there."

The money to purchase the ranch would come from the state's new Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, established in 2023 when voters agreed to allocate \$1 billion to create a dedicated revenue stream to increase the state's parks inventory.

#### STATE EXCEEDS 3 MILLION REGISTERED BUSINESSES

Texas has set a record high by exceeding 3 million registered businesses, Abbott announced.

"This milestone shows the true strength of the Texas economy. Texas is the land of freedom and opportunity where businesses and workers can chart their own path to succeed and thrive," he said.

The number of registered business entities in the state has more than doubled since 2015, when 1.4 million businesses were registered.

The total includes both businesses incorporated in Texas and out-of-state entities conducting business here. The largest classification is in-state, limited liability companies (LLCs).

#### MAJOR TEXAS AIRPORTS SEE FLIGHT REDUCTIONS DURING SHUTDOWN

Four Texas airports will have the number of daily flights reduced by 10% by Nov. 14, as the government shutdown drags on and air traffic controllers and TSA officers, working without pay, increasingly call in sick or are otherwise absent.

The Dallas Morning News reported the reduction at DFW could mean 96 fewer flights a day, or more than 13,000 fewer seats. Love Field is seeing cuts of 20 flights a day, or roughly 3,000 seats.

In Houston, both Houston International Airport and Hobby also have seen flight reductions.

The airports have seen major delays during the shutdown. Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, called for an end to the shutdown.

"The only way aviation keeps moving during a shutdown is because air traffic controllers and TSA officers come to work without getting paid, while everyone who supports their work for our safety and security is sent home without pay," said Nelson. "Cutting capacity is a regular tool used to keep aviation safe when increased risks are present."

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: gbborders@texaspress.com

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# Housing Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cilitating new housing developments. "We have a current single-family development going in. It's under construction. It's going to be 180-plus homes, single-family homes," he said.

The new subdivision is called Aldine Pines, located on Aldine Bender and is being developed by International Investors Group, and the builder is Saratoga Homes.

"The district helped facilitate that development by helping to make connections with the city and the county regarding utilities, permitting, planning, and detention," he added.

They were able to make connections because of the relationships they already have with the county Flood Control District, the City of Houston Public Works, and other partners.

"We basically kind of

helped project manage any issues that they ran into, any red tape, any delays and issues, we were able to get involved and help bust some of that red tape loose," he said.

Cantu added, "We decided we wanted to do a housing forum because we know there's more interest around the county to invest in Aldine, specifically in housing, both multifamily and single family. The district is more focused on single family, not that

we're opposed to multifamily, but we would like to focus on single family," he said about the forum.

The district is particularly inviting realtors, brokers, bankers, builders, and developers to join the meeting and learn about the available programs and resources. For more information, interested parties can contact the district at 713-595-1232 or email [infor@aldine-district.org](mailto:infor@aldine-district.org).

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# LETTERS To The Editor

## Praise for a Really Good Doctor

Dr. Lola Carette is a name to remember. The reasons are because of her characteristics and she is a loving caring. Patient person very concerned with her patient.

There are not many doctors who compare with her all of her characteristics I will never forget her concentration and concern on her face as she listened to my physical problems, the interest she had trying to get to the cause of my problem. Never have I met a PCP so dedicated in trying to find out the cures for my problems.

I want the world to know that this is one PCP, who has all of the characteristics of a really good dedicated doctor.

--Trung Nguyen

**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES**

**LAST WEEK'S SCORES**  
**Thursday, November 13**  
 Galena Park 56, Houston Austin 22

**Friday, November 14**  
 C. E. King 76, Channelview 7  
 Summer Creek 27, North Shore 0

**THIS WEEK'S PLAYOFF SCHEDULE**

6A, DIV. 1, REGION III  
 North Shore (8-2) vs. Deer Park (6-4)  
 7 p.m. Friday, Galena Park ISD Stadium, Houston

6A, DIV. 2, REGION III  
 Clear Falls (7-3) vs. C.E. King (8-2)  
 7 p.m. Friday, Challenger Columbia Stadium

5A, DIV. 1, REGION III  
 Galena Park (4-6) vs. Port Arthur Memorial (10-0)  
 7 p.m. Thursday, Memorial Stadium, Port Arthur.

## FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 13:

# Cougars look for another win when they host TCU: Texans host reeling Bills on Thursday Night Football

Continued from Page 1

day in Lubbock as College Game Day's guest picker as his beloved Texas Tech Red Raiders upset then No. 8-ranked BYU, 29-7.

Also in Week 12, Minnesota visits Green Bay in an NFC North battle, while one of the league's biggest surprise teams, the New England Patriots (who improved to 8-2 two weeks ago with their 28-23 win at Tampa Bay) visits a struggling and beat up Cincinnati team.

Speaking of struggling teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers will limp into Chicago to take on the Bears, another surprise team, who improved to 6-3 two weeks ago with their come-from-behind win over the Giants.

There's also a big one in the NFC East as the Eagles visit Dallas, in a must-win game for Jerry Jones' team if it hopes to remain in playoff contention. The Cowboys think they improved their horrific defense by acquiring All-Pro defensive tackle Quentin Williams from the Jets at the trade deadline on Nov. 4. Williams is a run stuffer, which the Pokes need. They also acquired a solid linebacker in Logan Wilson from the Bengals.

There's a good one on Sunday Night Football as Tampa Bay visits the Rams, in what could turn into an offensive shootout. Week 12 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Carolina Panthers visit the San Francisco 49ers, in a must-win game for both teams who are in the NFC Wild Card hunt.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week upped the season record to 83-45 (65%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

### NCAA

**Missouri at Oklahoma** - A beat up Missouri team heads to Oklahoma to take on a Sooners team looking to improve its bowl status and finish the season on a high note heading into the offseason. Two weeks ago, Missouri freshman QB Matt Zoellers had a rough debut replacing injured starter Beau Pribuleau as he was held to just 77 passing yards and had a fumble in the Tigers' 38-17 home loss to Texas A&M. Things won't get any easier this



**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
 By **MIKE KEENEY**

week when the OU defense looks to tee off on the inexperienced QB. Missouri will need a big game from running back Ahmad Harvey (1,046 yards, 12 TDs), but it won't be easy against one of the best run defenses in the country. Look for OU QB John Mateer (1,949 passing yards, 8 TDs/306 rushing yards, 6 TDs) to have a big day, along with running back Tory Blaylock (401 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Isaiah Sategna III (49 receptions, 692 yards, 5 TDs). My pick, Oklahoma 33, Missouri 18

**TCU at Houston** - Willie Fritz's team plays its final home game of the season and the Cougars would like nothing more than to reward their fans with a ninth win after a 4-8 season just a year before. If that is to happen, UH QB Conner Weigman (2,113 passing yards, 18 TDs/412 rushing yards, 9 TDs) must do a better job of protecting the football. In his last two games, Weigman has thrown five interceptions with two pick sixes. UH and Weigman had an extra week to prepare for this game. Weigman should get help from running back Dean Connors (725 rushing yards, 4 TDs/23 receptions, 173 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wideout Amare Thomas (45 receptions, 737 yards, 8 TDs). The Houston defense will have its hands full dealing with TCU QB Josh Hoover (2,640 yards, 23 TDs), running back Kavarian Barnes (443 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Eric McAllister (48 receptions, 834 yards, 8 TDs). Look for Weigman to shake off his turnover woes and lead the Cougs to their ninth win of the season in what should be a high-scoring game. My pick, Houston 34, TCU 30

**USC at Oregon** - A good one in the Big 10 pits No. 19 USC against No.9 Oregon. The winner of this game keeps their slim conference title game hopes alive. The Big 10 appears it will come down to No. 1-ranked Ohio State and No. 2-ranked Indiana, but anything can happen in the season's last three weeks, that's why this is a big game for both the Trojans and Ducks. USC

improved to 7-2 on the season and to 5-1 in league play two weeks ago with their win over Northwestern, while Oregon improved to 8-1 on the season and 6-1 in the conference with a hard-fought 18-16 win at Iowa. This could be an offensive shootout as USC is led by QB Jayden Maiava (2,614 yards, 17 TDs), running backs King Miller (636 yards, 5 TDs) and Waymond Jordan (576 yards, 5 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Makai Lemon (61 receptions, 937 yards, 7 TDs). Oregon has some playmakers as well in QB Dante Moore (1,884 yards, 13 TDs), running backs Noah Whittington (551 yards, 4 TDs) and Jordan Davison (404 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Dakorien Moore (28 receptions, 443 yards, 3 TDs). The Ducks are tough to beat at home, which the Trojans will discover come Saturday. My pick, Oregon 36, USC 29

**Pitt at Georgia Tech** - This is a key ACC game as the No. 24-ranked Pitt Panthers visit the No. 17-ranked Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. The ACC is still up for grabs heading into the final few weeks of the season, and the winner of this one will put itself in a solid position to land a spot in the ACC title game. Pitt will need a big game from QB Mason Heintschel (1,550 yards, 12 TDs), running back Ja'Karian Turner (401 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Kenny Johnson (37 receptions, 576 yards, 4 TDs). Tech has one of the nation's best dual-threat QBs in Haynes King (1,888 yards, 9 TDs/754 rushing yards, 14 TDs), a solid runner in Malachi Hosley (518 yards, 6 TDs) and a decent receiver in Eric Rivers (32 receptions, 410 yards, 1 TD). Look for Haynes to have a big day as his running ability will make the difference in this key game. My pick, Georgia Tech 33, Pitt 20

### NFL

**Buffalo at Houston** - The Texans and Bills kickoff Week 12 on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime. Two weeks

ago, I watched a majority of the Buffalo-Miami game from my Sunday hang at Molly's Pub in Kingwood. What I saw was a Bills team that was dominated on both sides of the line of scrimmage by a Dolphins team that entered the game with a 2-7 record. QB Josh Allen (2,139 passing yards, 15 TDs/311 rushing yards, 7 TDs) will face a much tougher test against a top five Houston defense. He will need help from running back James Cook (920 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (45 receptions, 457 yards, 3 TDs). Buffalo may be without solid tight end Dalton Kinkaid (29 receptions, 448 yards, 4 TDs), who sustained a hamstring injury in the loss to Miami. If Kiinkaid is out, that takes a key weapon away from Allen. The Texans hope to have starting QB C.J. Stroud (1,702 yards, 11 TDs) back for this one after he missed the Jacksonville game with a concussion. If he's out, backup Davis Mills will need a big night from rookie running back Woody Marks (304 yards, 4 total TDs), wideout Nico Collins (40 receptions, 550 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dalton Schultz (45 receptions, 438 yards, 1 TD) to help him out. Houston has the better defense, which I think will step up and make a key play or two down the stretch to keep the Texans playoff hopes alive. My pick, Houston 23, Buffalo 20

**Indianapolis at Kansas City** - A good AFC tilt as the rested Colts will visit the Chiefs on Sunday in Kansas City. Two weeks ago, Indy picked up a 31-25 OT win over Atlanta in Berlin as running back Jonathan Taylor (1,139 yards, 17 total TDs) ran wild for 244 yards and three TDs. His big season has helped QB Daniel Jones (2,659 passing yards, 15 TDs/143 rushing yards, 5 TDs) settle in at QB after he had a tough go as the starter with the Giants. The Chiefs playoff hopes are on the line, so look for QB Patrick Mahomes (2,349 passing yards, 17 TDs/28 rushing yards, 4 TDs) to step up and make plays in the air and on the ground. He should get plenty of help from tight end Travis Kelce (41 receptions, 540 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Marquise Brown (34 receptions, 389 yards, 4 TDs) and Rashee Rice (20 receptions, 215 yards, 4 total TDs in three games). The Chiefs are best when their backs are up against the wall, so look for them to step up Sunday against the Colts. My pick, Kansas City 34, Indianapolis 27

**Minnesota at Green Bay** - The Packers host the Vikings in a key game for them in the AFC North. Two weeks ago, GB lost their second straight home game as the offense struggled in a 10-7 loss to

the Eagles. QB Jordan Love (2,247 yards, 13 TDs) did not play well and he needs to step up his game if the Pack is going to be a serious NFC contender. Running back Josh Jacobs (608 yards, 11 TDs) needs to step up big time to take some pressure off of Love. The Vikings will like nothing more than to throw a wrench in GB's division and playoff hopes. QB J.J. McCarthy (692 yards, 5 TDs) will look to make plays to wide receivers Justin Jefferson (51 receptions, 686 yards, 5 TDs) and Jordan Addison (26 receptions, 392 yards, 5 TDs in six games) as they look to pull off the upset. Look for Love to get the offense rolling, while the defense steps up behind Micah Parsons as the Pack gets back on track on Sunday. My pick, Green Bay 31, Minnesota 18

**New England at Cincinnati** - New England has been one of the biggest surprises this season, racing out to an 8-2 record and sitting atop the AFC East standings. They take on a Bengals team that has been struggling, especially on defense, this season. NE QB Drake Maye (2,555 passing yards, 19 TDs/283 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is having an amazing second season and will look for help from rookie running back TreVeyon Henderson (430 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (50 receptions, 554 yards, 3 TDs) to come up with more big plays. The Bengals have been able to put up points behind QB Joe Flacco (1,254 yards, 11 TDs), running back Chase Brown (420 yards/33 receptions, 201 yards, 3 total TDs) and big-play wideout Ja'Marr Chase (76 receptions, 831 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the Pats defense to step up late as NE keep rolling. My pick, New England 32, Cincinnati 26

**Pittsburgh at Chicago** - This pits two teams heading in opposite directions. Two weeks ago, the Steelers lost their third game in four weeks to the Chargers, while the Bears won their fourth game in five weeks to take over first place in the NFC North. The Steelers are struggling on offense behind QB Aaron Rodgers (1,853 yards, 18 TDs), while the Bears have been flourishing behind second-year QB Caleb Williams (2,136 yards, 13 TDs/246 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (544 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Rome Odunze (37 receptions, 559 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Bears to continue Pittsburgh's downward spiral as they pick up another home win. My pick, Chicago 26, Pittsburgh 23

**Philadelphia at Dallas** - The Cowboys host the Eagles in a must-win game if they hope to keep their slim playoff hopes

alive. Dallas will need a big game from QB Dak Prescott (2,139 yards, 17 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (716 rushing yards, 8 TDs/25 receptions, 93 yards, 1 TD), wideouts George Pickens (49 receptions, 764 yards, 6 TDs) and CeeDee Lambe (35 receptions, 491 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Jake Ferguson (56 receptions, 384 yards, 6 TDs). That will be a tall task against an Eagles defense that is one of the best in the league. The opposite is true of the Dallas defense, which should have Philly QB Jalen Hurts (1,860 passing yards, 16 TDs/234 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Saquon Barkley (579 rushing yards, 4 TDs/27 receptions, 200 yards, 2 TDs), wideouts DeVonta Smith (48 receptions, 774 yards, 3 TDs) and A.J. Brown (31 receptions, 408 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (34 receptions, 332 yards, 7 TDs) licking their chops. The Cowboys always seem to step up when their fans least expect it, and something tells me Prescott will lead them to a big win on Sunday. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 29

**Tampa Bay at Los Angeles Rams** - This should be a fun game to watch on Sunday Night Football as the Bucs will visit the Rams in what could turn into an offensive shootout. TB will look for a big night from QB Baker Mayfield (2,192 yards, 6 TDs), running back Bucky Irving (237 yards), wideout Emeka Egbuka (40 receptions, 677 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Cade Otton (35 receptions, 353 yards). The Rams will counter with QB Matthew Stafford (2,427 yards, 25 TDs), running back Kryn Williams (659 yards, 8 total TDs) and big-play wide receivers Puka Nuccia (66 receptions, 77 yards, 4 TDs) and Davante Adams (42 receptions, 568 yards, 9 TDs). Look for Stafford to outduel Mayfield in this one. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 34, Tampa Bay 31

Carolina at San Francisco - Week 12 concludes with the surprising Panthers visiting the 49ers with the winner remaining alive in the NFC Wild Card hunt. The Panthers won five of their first 10 games behind QB Bryce Young (1,514 yards, 11 TDs), running back Rico Dowdle (788 yards, 5 TDs) and rookie wide receiver Tetarua McMillan (46 receptions, 618 yards, 2 TDs), while the 49ers have remained alive in the playoff hunt behind backup QB Mac Jones (2,151 yards, 13 TDs) and running back Christian McCaffrey (626 rushing yards, 4 TDs/69 receptions, 692 yards, 4 TDs). Look for McCaffrey to have a big night on the ground and in the passing game as the 49ers pick up a big NFC win. My pick, San Francisco 30, Carolina 23

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 38:17-19a

For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. Many have become my enemies without cause;

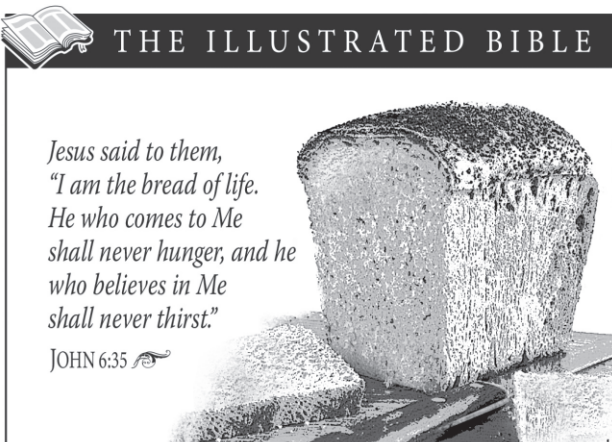
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Galatians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From which book's 10:35 does Jesus say the scripture cannot be broken? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. In order to see Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed what type of tree? Fig, Carob, Sycamore, Cedar
4. From Matthew 17, what did Peter find with a coin in its mouth? Ram, Fish, Viper, Raven
5. In Mark 3:17, who were called "The Sons of Thunder"? James/John, Thomas/Judas, Peter/Andrew, Philip/Matthew
6. From Luke 8, Jesus caused swine to rush into what body of water? River Jordan, Dead Sea, Nile, Sea of Galilee

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) John, 3) Sycamore, 4) Fish, 5) James/John, 6) Sea of Galilee



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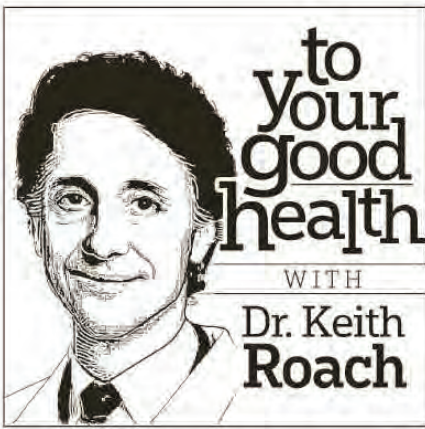
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Pain Persists Around Puncture Site After Medical Procedure

DEAR DR. ROACH: Nine days ago, I had a medical procedure under general anesthesia. One of the lines was put in the artery in my left wrist. Aside from deep bruising that went halfway up my forearm, it seems that there is some nerve damage. I have constant pain from my thumb, through my wrist, and up to about 3 inches on my arm. Overnight, the pain becomes intense and radiates all the way up to my shoulder. Tylenol and an arthritis sleeve only provide minimum relief. Should I request to see a neurologist, or is there another type of doctor to seek out for a diagnosis? This has become life-altering, and I'm hoping it will eventually be healed. — B.F.

ANSWER: I suspect that the bruising on your forearm was caused by bleeding from the puncture site of the artery in your wrist. (This type of line is used to measure blood pressure accurately and instantaneously.) The hematoma (blood collection) inside the wrist might be compressing the median nerve in your carpal tunnel, which causes a neuropathy very much like carpal tunnel syndrome.

If I am right, then the condition should improve as your body absorbs the blood, which takes pressure off the nerve. However, there are case reports of permanent damage to the nerve from complications of an arterial puncture. In general, if the nerve compression is serious enough to cause weakness, it needs to be acted upon urgently.

The doctors who performed your procedure need to know about this complication, and a neurologist is exactly the right person to see. A simple nerve test could confirm my suspicion or disprove it by finding a different cause if your

symptoms persist.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm an active 60-year-old who took a soccer ball to the groin some time back. After a few months, I noticed a change in my sexual organ. Narrowing and bending of my organ developed, and it seems to be getting worse.

My general doctor seems to think it's Peyronie's disease. After researching this, I started taking vitamin E and COq10 supplements. I scheduled a urologist exam but was hoping for some insight on this. — G.

ANSWER: I suspect your general doctor is correct, and an evaluation by a urologist is certainly indicated. Peyronie's disease is often triggered by trauma in a person who is genetically susceptible to the condition. (Your trauma was very clear, but it isn't always clear in everyone what the trauma might have been.)

The diagnosis is made by an examination showing a bend in the penis, along with plaque that can be felt during an examination in most cases. Some men, but not all, will have pain.

In men who are in the active phase of the disease (where the curvature is getting worse), urologists will often prescribe pentoxifylline for three to six months in hopes of stabilizing the condition and preventing the curve from worsening.

Vitamin E was not found to be superior to a placebo treatment. CoQ10 was found to have a benefit in a small trial, and since it is very safe, this was a reasonable treatment for you to try.

Depending on your symptoms and degree of curvature, there are several options for treatment. Medication can be injected directly into the penis; men treated with this were found to have about a 34% improvement in curvature. Traction therapy is also frequently used.

In men with more severe disease that does not respond to the previous options, surgical treatment can be considered. This should be done in men whose sexual function is affected by the disease and in cases where medical treatments have failed to improve their symptoms adequately.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Fun Fact

The first US state to require license plates was New York, in 1901. Each car owner ordered their own plate to be made, out of porcelain baked onto iron, or out of ceramic materials.



Sources: www.inspectaride.com, leatherlicenseplates.com

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Helping other veterans over the holidays

The holidays are here, and for many veterans they won't be very merry. It's one struggle after the other, and the holidays just bring additional burdens.

There are presents to buy for the kids, there is the weekly dilemma of how to maneuver the rising costs of groceries, etc. We want to step in, but sometimes the needs seem endless and we don't know if or how we can help.

But, we can. Even a small effort on our part can go a long way to helping fellow veterans make the holidays a little less of a struggle.

If you're a member of a veterans group, like the American Legion or Disabled American Veterans, you're in a perfect position to give some real assistance to other veterans.

Here are some ideas to get you started, either as part of a group or individually:

Call Voluntary Services at the closest VA medical center and ask what you can do. You might be asked to run the parking lot shuttle and bring veterans from their car to the door. You might be asked to do one-on-one visits with patients who don't have friends or relatives to stop by. You might be asked to read to patients with vision problems. If your group is big enough (as well as having a good budget), you might want to host a holiday party for a whole ward, with food, drinks and presents for each patient. Hint: You can seek donations from the community to defray the cost of purchases.

Take a local veteran and family under your wing and ask what they need, whether it's meals, presents for the kids, a warm pair of boots or some home repairs.

Work a shift at a homeless shelter that serves a large population of veterans. You might be cooking, serving meals at the tables or helping veterans find warm winter gear among the donated coats and gloves.

Whatever you do, your help will have an impact.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle with two panels and instructions to find differences.

November 17, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down.

Answers for the crossword puzzle.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and answers.

# Vet Fest 25 Honors All Who Served

Continued from Page 1. Photos courtesy EAMD and EV1 Pro



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