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NORTHEAST NEWS



ALDINE PINES:
185 New Homes for Sale in the East Aldine Community

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VOL. 49, NO. 45 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Housing Forum Yields Relationships, Possibilities for Aldine Area

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Keynote speaker Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia ended the Housing Forum with a quote from John F. Kennedy, made during a campaign speech on national housing in Boston, on June 1, 1946: Kennedy said "Let us talk less about conferences, programs, theories, and panel discussions. Homes are not made of talk. They are made with blueprints, hammers, and nails. Hot air may heat them, but it doesn't get them built."

The quote was the final words by Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia at the Housing Forum hosted by the East Aldine Management District last Friday.

"This is really the first



Arturo Barragan and Rick Rivas, developers of Aldine Pines, were among the speakers at the East Aldine Housing Forum.

step," said a pleased Carlos Silva, chairman of the board for EAMD. "This was something that we've been wanting to do for a long time, is to get all the people in the same room together, get the public sector. Obviously, you saw

the county folks, the Harris County Flood Control District folks, but also some of the private sector, some of these home builders, also the banks, so that we can understand that all of us here in this community have a role to play in



Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia closed the forum with his remarks on how the county can help and bring resources to the table.

trying to address this issue," he said. Garcia called the housing shortage a crisis and the affordability only getting worse. "The question now," he said, "is how do we move forward?" Garcia answered his own question by suggesting the district take a strategic look at the land

use within their boundaries and see if there are any available parcels of land.

"There are some lots, parcels we're looking into. We don't want to be the developer, we want to acquire lots so that we can be in a position to partner with a developer to get some single-family homes built instead of just leaving the free market to do its thing," he said. Silva was concerned that they might not build homes but maybe an industrial park, likening it to the wild, wild, west with no zoning in the county. "We already have a robust industrial sector in East Aldine and we appreciate that. We rely on that for sales tax dollars, but frankly, we need more home inventory," the chairman said. The district has a lot to offer

with fast access to Beltway 8, Bush Intercontinental airport, and Houston's most tempting amenities. "Through these forums, it allows us to rekindle that connection and being able to, not just us as a district, we kind of know who's out there, but we want those partners to know of each other, to know what they can do," he explained. Garcia also spoke about the large role banks play when it comes to mortgages. Commissioner Garcia talked about, the banks play a crucial role in this, when it comes to mortgages hoping they would show favor towards hard-working families who have shown consistency and have full-time jobs. The other component,

Continued. See HOUSING FORUM YIELDS RELATIONSHIPS, Page 8

NEWS NOTES

ReCap: East Aldine District Board Reviews October Projects, Financials, and Community Partnerships



EAST ALDINE DISTRICT HOLIDAY KICK-OFF DEC. 5
7pm Tree Lighting
9pm Drone Show
Family Fun - SANTA - Live
Nativity - Food - Hot Cocoa +

The East Aldine Management District (EAMD) Board of Directors met on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, to review community updates, district financials, and project developments aimed at supporting safety, mobility, and economic growth throughout the area.

Community Feedback and Public Comments

Residents and community partners shared comments at the start of the meeting.

Judy Rodríguez, a resident and representative of the High Meadows Branch Library, praised the district's public art, noting that a visitor from Hewlett-Packard admired the JFK sculpture along JFK Boulevard. Amelia Day, speaking on



behalf of the Greater Pure Light Missionary Baptist Church, encouraged the district to continue fostering inclusivity and collaboration

with local organizations. Pastor Darryl W. Broussard, also from Greater Pure Light Missionary Baptist Church, expressed appreci-

ation for the district's ongoing community partnerships and affirmed the church's continued commitment to serving East Aldine.

Financial Report Shows Strong Position

The board's prudent financial decisions have led to a strong position, with total sources of funds reaching \$11.68 million as of September 30, 2025, and expenditures remaining below projections.

Overall, the district reported \$5.08 million in excess revenues over expenditures year-to-date, with unrestricted reserves totaling \$15.23 million and total funds on hand of \$20.65 million.

Executive Director Rich-

ard Cantú reported continued growth in sales tax revenue — up 11% year to date and 47.5% in September alone — while expenditures are 9% lower than last year.

Leadership Elections

The board approved recommendations from the Nominating Committee, led by Director Rocio C. Witte, for the 2025–2026 slate of officers:

- Carlos Silva, Chair
- Reyes García, Vice Chair
- Rubén Salazar, Secretary
- Flor Zarzoza, Treasurer
- Rocio C. Witte, Assistant Secretary
- Executive Director's Report Highlights Growth and Engagement

Cantú shared insights
Continued. See RECAP: EAMD October Meeting, Page 5

Stem Academy holds School Fair Dec. 6 to present Choices

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, KIPP, 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, offering a welcoming space to meet school representatives, learn about academic programs, and discover pathways that best match each child's needs and interests. A highlight of the event is the Parent Resource Center, where representatives from participating school districts will be available to personally assist parents with completing applications online for any schools or programs they wish to explore. Whether families are new to the process or looking for additional support, this hands-on guidance ensures that every parent has the tools needed to

confidently take next steps.

To add to the excitement, a brand-new Huffly bicycle will be raffled every hour, giving students multiple chances to win throughout the morning. Families can also enjoy free refreshments and a cheerful holiday atmosphere that reflects the spirit of the season. Organizers hope this event will serve as both a joyful celebration and a meaningful resource, empowering families with knowledge, support, and community connections as they make important decisions about their child's educational future.

See MORE INFO on Page 8

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14: Aggies look for 12th win against disappointing Texas; Cowboys host Kansas City on Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and while we dine on turkey and all the trimmings with family and friends, there will be plenty of important football games at the college and pro level to keep us entertained this holiday weekend.

The college schedule is loaded with key late-season conference games, no bigger than in the Big 10 where No. 1-ranked Ohio State will travel to Ann Arbor to take on 18-ranked Michigan at 11 a.m. on FOX on Saturday. Ryan Day's team will be looking to cap off a perfect season, but it won't be easy against a Wolverine team that has won four straight in this bitter rivalry. Playing on the road won't make things any easier for the Buckeyes, who will bring in one of the best defenses in the country into the Big House on Saturday. The OSU defense is allowing just 7.3



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

points per game and as they say, defense travels.

Speaking of bitter rivalries, No. 3-ranked Texas A&M, which overcame a 27-point deficit at home to South Carolina and pulled out a 31-30 win, heads to Austin to take on No. 17-ranked Texas with the Aggies looking to improve to 12-0 on the season and land a spot in their first-ever SEC title game. The 2025 season has been somewhat of a disappointment for Steve Sarkisian's Longhorns, who entered the season ranked No. 1 in the country, but three losses later (the latest a 35-10 beat

down at Georgia two weeks ago) has left UT with three losses and on the outside looking for their College Football Playoff (CFP) hopes. An upset of the Aggies might give them a glimmer of hope, but there are just too many other teams in the SEC and other leagues that are more deserving of one of the 12 playoff spots that are available.

Speaking of Georgia, the No. 5 Bulldogs head to Atlanta to take on No. 15 Georgia Tech in an in-state rivalry. Kirby

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Partners With Young Women's Preparatory Network to Launch College Success Program



College Success Advisors now serving students at Aldine High School and Avalos P-TECH School.

Aldine ISD has joined forces with the Young Women's Preparatory Network (YWPN) to introduce a distinctive College Prep program at Aldine High School and Avalos P-TECH School. This program offers personalized college guidance, including one-on-one support with college applications, financial aid, and career pathways. With a focus on individual needs, this two-year initiative is designed to turn students' college aspirations into reality.

The program is made possible by a two-year grant awarded to YWPN. It is designed to provide comprehensive support to up to 200 students across the two campuses. Services include individualized guidance on college applications and essays, financial aid advising, college-readiness workshops, parent engagement programs, college trips, and access to advanced advising tools, such as Admit AI.

Why These Campuses?

"These two campuses were selected by Aldine ISD to participate in the program," said Jeremy Cortez, Executive Director of College Success at YWPN. "We are excited to bring our College Prep program to these schools and provide sustained, personalized support to students."

Cortez emphasized that YWPN's model's strength lies in one-on-one guidance tailored to each student's needs.

"Our advisors work directly with students on applications, essays, career pathways, and financial aid navigation," he said. "The program also provides parent engagement and tools like Admit AI, creating a supportive ecosystem to help students confidently navigate the college process."

The program's success will be measured through both qualitative and quantitative data, including milestone tracking, ongoing advising sessions, student and family feedback, college applications and acceptances, scholarship awards, and college matriculation rates.

College Success Advisors: On Campus, Full-Time

Meet our dedicated College Success Advisors, Javier Osornio at Aldine High School and Stephanie Mintz at Avalos P-TECH School. They are not just advisors, but also individuals who deeply understand the challenges and aspirations of the students they serve. Their full-time presence on campus allows them to build strong relationships, offer immediate guidance, and help students stay on track through every step of the college application process.

Aldine High School: Javier Osornio

For Aldine High School graduate Javier Osornio, this role is deeply personal.

"Serving my alma mater gives me a deep sense of purpose," Osornio said. "When I graduated in 2008, I lacked many of the resources needed to thrive after high school. Returning now allows me to support students facing similar challenges by providing the guidance and opportunities I once needed."

A first-generation college graduate who immigrated from San Juan del Río, Querétaro, México, Osornio uses both his experiences and his bilingual background to build trust with students.

As a first-generation student, I know the confusion and fear that can come with the process — that connection builds trust," he said. "With empathy, honest guidance, and unwavering support, I help students feel empowered and ready to confidently pursue their college journey."

He encourages students to fully engage with all available resources. "It's not enough to just hear advice — success comes from taking action, applying what you learn, and using every resource at your disposal," he said.

What excites him most about College Prep? "The power to transform lives and shift mindsets at Aldine High School," Osornio said. "Being the founding College Success Advisor means opening doors students didn't know existed and shaping the trajectory of our community."

Avalos P-TECH School: Stephanie Mintz



At Avalos P-TECH School, Stephanie Mintz brings a deep personal connection and a student-centered approach.

"I relate on a personal level to the students Aldine ISD and Avalos P-TECH serve," Mintz said. "Many of their experiences mirror my own, and that drives my passion for supporting them."

Mintz emphasizes perspective and balance in college preparation. "I teach students to outline responsibilities, break tasks into manageable steps, and stay focused on what they can control," she said. "Sometimes they just need reassurance that they are capable and that they're not alone in the process."

She also works closely with families through virtual sessions, campus visits, and guided questions, helping them feel informed and confident as they support their student's college journey.

One of the many success stories from our program highlights its transformative impact. A student, initially lacking confidence and believing college wasn't possible, was accepted to several reach schools and chose to attend Texas Tech University. She is now set to graduate with a bachelor's in political science and is preparing for law school. This success story is a perfect example of the program's ability to help students realize their full potential.

"My favorite part is helping students realize their full potential and showing them that they are capable of great things," Mintz said. "Watching them begin to believe it is truly the most rewarding part of what I do."

A Shared Vision for Student Success

This is not the first time Aldine ISD and YWPN have worked together. They have had a running partnership with Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy since the school opened in 2021. The district is proud to expand its collaboration to strengthen college readiness.

"This partnership exemplifies our commitment to expanding opportunities for every student," said Dr. Autumn Boyd, Aldine ISD senior executive director of postsecondary outcomes. "By working together with YWPN, we are creating pathways that help students imagine, plan for, and achieve a future in higher education."

For more information about the College Prep program or to learn how students can participate, families are encouraged to connect with the College Success Advisor on their campus.

Aldine ISD Highlights PFE Clerks' Role in Growing Parent Engagement

The district continues to grow its volunteer culture, supported by parent and family engagement clerks.

November is National Parent Engagement Month, and Aldine ISD is proud to recognize the families, caregivers, and volunteers who strengthen student success every day. The national observance takes place on Nov. 20 with National Parent Involvement Day, a reminder of the powerful role families play in creating thriving school communities. A group of staff members at the heart of that work are the district's parent and family engagement (PFE) clerks.

Together, families, volunteers, and PFE clerks help build the welcoming, supportive campus environments where students feel connected, valued, and ready to succeed.

Launched in 2024, this campus-based initiative ensures that every family has a friendly, accessible point of contact for involvement and support. Aldine ISD deeply appreciates the dedication and impact of these team members, who help connect school and home in meaningful ways.

The PFE clerk's role is pivotal in ensuring that Aldine's families are informed, supported, and empowered. They are instrumental in assisting families with required online updates, such as the annual student enrollment, ensuring that all student information is accurate, up-to-date, and ready for the new school year. In many instances, they serve as the first point of contact for parents and guardians, guiding them, answering questions, and providing resources to make sure families have the support they need. Their work directly contributes to student success.

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said family engagement is central to Aldine ISD's vision for student achievement.

"Families are a child's first and most important teachers," Goffney said. "When they feel informed, connected, and empowered, students do better — academically, socially, and emotionally. Our PFE clerks play a key role in strengthening those school-home partnerships, and we are grateful for everything they do to support our families and our #AldineStory."

Small Steps, Big Impact

The district's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department emphasizes that involvement does not require attending every event or being on campus daily. Instead, it often begins with simple, consistent actions at home. These small, everyday actions, when done consistently, can have a significant impact on your child's academic, social, and emotional development.

"Getting involved doesn't have to be overwhelming," said LaTashia Abrams, AISD executive director of FACE. "It can be as simple as talking with your child about what they're learning, building routines that support schoolwork, or staying connected with teachers. Those small steps have the greatest impact."

Abrams encourages families to communicate regularly with teachers through TalkingPoints, attend conferences or family nights when possible, and explore free classes offered through the district's Family and Community University.

Families who wish to volunteer can also connect with their campus PFE clerk, who helps match them with opportunities such as assisting during morning arrival, supporting events, or helping behind the scenes. All volunteers must complete a district criminal background check. This critical measure protects students and reinforces trust between schools and families.

"The primary goal of our PFE clerks is to ensure every family, no matter their background or experience, has the tools and confidence to take an active role in their child's education," Abrams said.

The People Who Make School Communities Thrive

Principals across the district say volunteers bring immeasurable value to daily school operations.

"Volunteers allow administrators, teachers, and school personnel to actually do their jobs," said Gregory Castille, principal of Ogden Elementary School. "It frees us up to delegate responsibilities so we can be effective in our daily operations."

At Lewis Middle School, Principal Dr. Isaac Carrier said volunteers enhance the sense of community on campus.

"It's important to have volunteers serving on campus because they are part of the school community," Carrier said. "They provide vital support for what educators and students need. They're simply invaluable and greatly appreciated."

PFE clerks see that support firsthand. "Parent volunteers strengthen our school community and bring families and staff together," said Fara Urtecho, PFE Clerk at Lewis Middle School. "Their presence shows students that their families and community care about them. When parents are involved, students feel valued and inspired to do their very best."

Families Say Involvement Brings Connection and Pride

Parents say volunteering allows them to build stronger relationships with their children's schools — and with the people who support their learning.

"Being present on campus allows me to stay connected with my son, support his growth, and contribute to the environment where he spends so much time," said Casey Coleman, a Lewis Middle School parent. "Every moment I spend on campus is an investment in not only my child's success, but in the success of every student walking those halls."

Volunteering not only benefits the school and students but also provides parents with a sense of fulfillment and a deeper understanding of their child's educational environment. It's a way to show your child that you value their education and are willing to invest your time and effort in their success.

For Lewis Middle School parent Isis Carrillo, volunteering has provided clarity, community, and confidence.

"As the mother of an autistic child, I want to understand his environment more closely so I can support him," Carrillo said. "It's our responsibility as parents to work hand in hand with the school team. The staff has been incredibly kind to me, giving me a place where I feel useful, can learn a lot, and feel happy and motivated."

Building the #AldineStory Together

Aldine ISD encourages families to reach out to their campus PFE clerk on National Parent Involvement Day — and throughout the year — to learn how they can get more involved, whether through small, everyday actions or volunteer opportunities.

"Every partnership, every conversation, and every step families take to support learning helps shape our students' futures," said Goffney. "Parent involvement is not just a part of our #AldineStory, it's a crucial chapter that we're writing together."

With families, volunteers, and PFE clerks working side by side, Aldine ISD continues building strong campus communities where every student can thrive.



OPINION PAGE



Many of our Native American tribes call this month the "hunger moon," and for good reason. The early fall hunting is generally over, the late season hunts in the snow aren't happening yet, and the fishing? Well ... let's just say the salmon are all spawned out and dead, the trout? (Well, who can really figure out a trout's thought processes) and the burbot is delicious and isn't too hard to catch, but they are one of Nature's ugliest creatures, giving even the mole rat a run for his money.

But most of us go to the store in November and buy grub the way we do the rest of the year. The hunger moon shouldn't affect us, really.

But it does.

Our daylight has pinched off to about zilch, It's cold enough in the living room to hang meat, and the kids are bringing home report cards that look as though they've been put together by gnomes.

But there is one saving grace, here in the good old U.S.A. ... Thanksgiving. Oh yes, we know that, even if our forefathers were smart enough NOT to sail here with the Pilgrims, we still get to absorb our country's most delicious holiday on Thanksgiving.

No matter what our ancestry tells us is the kind of food to eat then, at least we are entitled to a bunch of it. We know it's a tradition to help send the world's dumbest bird, the turkey, just a bit closer to extinction, but there is plenty of other stuff to bullsnake down if the choice of dark meat or light meat doesn't float our particular gastric boat.

But the main point of Thanksgiving is to look around the table and be thankful to the Creator for letting our family once again gather here to scratch that gluttonous itch as we rack our brains to try to remember who that guy is across the table with the gray hair.

But I suppose he belongs here, too. Just like me.

COUNTY MATTERS Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Harris County Rejects Divisive Rhetoric and Embraces Its Diversity

Harris County, TX — In response to Governor Abbot's Anti-Muslim Action, Commissioner Ellis, Garcia, and Briones have released the following statement:

"Governor Abbott's decision to designate Muslim organizations as "foreign terrorist organizations" today is a reckless action that fuels fear and runs contrary to Harris County's success as the country's most diverse metro area. It also has no basis in the law.

Harris County has thrived as a welcoming place for all. People come here from around the world. Not only do we contribute to their success, but they contribute to ours. We all work together to build a safe, prosperous community. The governor's rhetoric fractures community trust and undermines the safety and cohesion that government is meant to protect.

We, as Harris County Commissioners, condemn the Governor's decision and urge him to reverse it."

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

TEA Releases financial Accountability Ratings

More than four-fifths of Texas public schools received an 'A' rating for their financial practices, according to the Texas Education Agency, which released the final financial accountability ratings for the latest school year last week.

A total of 969 school districts and charter schools, or 81%, received the top rating for their financial management practices.

"By maintaining strong financial practices, these school systems are building brighter futures for the students and communities they serve," a news release stated.

Ten percent of school districts got 'B' ratings, while 6% received 'C' ratings. Failing grades were given to 18 school districts and eight charter schools.

All Texas public school systems are required to share their financial accountability ratings with parents and taxpayers at public meetings. Individual results for a school district can be found at txschools.gov.

FEDERAL BAN ON THC PRODUCTS SIGNED INTO LAW

A spending deal signed into law last week to end the federal government shutdown includes a ban on nearly all THC products that could devastate the Texas hemp industry, the Houston Chronicle reported. The restrictions will not take effect for another year.

The legislation caps the amount of THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in both marijuana and hemp products, at 0.4 milligrams per package. That would force the removal of nearly all currently available hemp products found in stores across the state, including edibles, beverages and smokable versions of hemp.

An earlier attempt at the state level to ban hemp products was vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott. After state legislators failed in two special sessions to produce ways to regulate hemp, Abbott issued an executive order banning its purchase by anyone under 21 years of age.

The hemp industry plans to fight the law, saying it jeopardizes U.S. farmers and threatens more than 300,000 jobs nationwide.

"The next year will be critical in determining the future of hemp," Art Massolo, U.S. Hemp Roundtable President, said in a statement. "As a significant American industry, we are committed to sharing with Congress the real story about hemp."

Approximately 8,000 retailers



in Texas sell products derived from hemp, though a ban on electronic vapes that went into effect Sept. 1 wiped out an estimated 30% of their income.

TRUMP BACKS ABBOTT IN REELECTION BID; BELL ENTERS RACE

President Donald Trump endorsed Abbott's unprecedented bid for a fourth term, praising his efforts to redraw congressional maps last summer, The Texas Tribune reported. Abbott responded to the early endorsement, saying he would work with Trump to "build a stronger, safer, more prosperous Texas and America."

As the governor enters the race with almost \$90 million in his campaign war chest, former U.S. Rep. Chris Bell of Houston has entered the race on the Democratic side. Bell ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2006, finishing second in a crowded race to then-Gov. Rick Perry.

Also running in the Democratic primary to date are state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, businessman Andrew White, and rancher Bobby Cole.

ABBOTT PROPOSES WIPING OUT LOCAL SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

Abbott is proposing a state constitutional amendment to eliminate local school property taxes, which provides most of public school funding in Texas, the Chronicle reported.

"It's time that we drive a stake through the heart of the ability of local property tax hikes in the future," he said.

In the current biennial state budget, legislators allocated \$51 billion for property tax relief, representing a fourth of the state's total spending. Texas gets about one-third of its revenue from sales tax. The comptroller's office last year concluded that to replace the \$81 billion of property taxes collected in 2023, the state would have to increase the sales tax rate

to 22%.

The state has had historic budget surpluses for the past several years, but some experts are warning that this could come to an end.

"The big carryover balances that we've had the last couple sessions are very, very, unusual," said Shannon Halbrook, the director of Invest Texas at Every Texan. "If we have an economic downturn, how do we keep paying for the tax cuts that we've committed to?"

TXDOT SAYS MORE PUBLIC TRANSIT NEEDED

A draft report from the Texas Department of Transportation says the state needs to boost public transportation in rural and smaller urban areas and add rail between the state's major urban areas if Texas is going to continue to grow, the Texas Standard reported.

"We have almost 32 million Texans, millions of (jobs), thousands of companies locating to Texas in droves, headquarters, etc.," said Caroline Mays, TXDOT's director of planning and modal programs. "The fundamental need is, how do we address mobility needs for this growing Texas?"

While the state plans to spend \$146 billion over the next decade to maintain and expand the state's highway system, public transit funding has largely languished. The state spends nothing on public transit in major urban areas, reserving its limited funding for rural and smaller urban transit agencies.

"What I would tell you is that it's foolish, shortsighted and moronic not to start making comprehensive plans when you know unquestionably that the population growth is going to double in the next 25 years," state Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburgh, said.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR KINSHIP FOSTER FAMILIES BOOSTED

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has eliminated 195 rules viewed as obstacles to Texas families fostering family members, the agency announced last week. A total of 75% of all administrative requirements have been eliminated, making it easier for relatives to become foster parents.

"By removing unnecessary barriers, we're helping Texans open their homes to relatives in need," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "These changes will give more children in foster care the opportunity to grow up in a familiar, loving environment."

Regulation changes include: Streamline housing inspections to focus on the health and environmental safety of kinship foster homes.

Eliminate unnecessary training requirements for kinship foster parents.

Require less documentation for over-the-counter medications.

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.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Wearing Capris



I was weeding through my closet, as I need to do much more often than I do. I bring my used clothing to my parent's house, up north, because they have a very nice thrift store that employs the developmentally disabled people. It appears my old clothes find new owners quickly, so I don't feel as bad about dumping my ill-considered clothing choices.

I brought the latest batch up north right before leaving for Mexico when I realized I owned about six more pairs of capris than I would ever wear. I had them in sizes that didn't fit and colors that didn't match, so I piled them all into a duffel, along with a blue sweater that I thought my sister might like. I thought I'd wear the sweater while writing, but it has big, bell-shaped sleeves, and I discovered trying to type with giant sleeves was not practical.

So my mother kept the duffel until the next time my sister and my niece, Isabelle, came up to visit. This was Isabelle's last visit before she went to Argentina for the year. My mother dutifully had my sister try on the blue sweater with the large sleeves, and my sister said that, while it was a nice sweater, it made her look exactly like Paddington Bear, so she passed on the sweater. My mother kept one pair of capris.

"Don't you want to try on some of these capris?" my sister asked Isabelle.

Isabelle just graduated from college. She is, and has always been, a very fashionable person, and I could have told you that she was not going to be excited about her aunt's hand-me-down capris, but I was still surprised when my sister reported to me what she said.

"I have never worn capris," Isabelle announced, "and I'm not about to start now!"

I had absolutely no idea that capris were old women's clothes until this was pointed out to me.

I went to New York just a week or so later, and I scanned the crowds. Coming from the Midwest, I am at a disadvantage when it comes to knowing what is or is not in fashion, but I knew New Yorkers would be a reliable source of information. I was there for three days, and I walked from Midtown to Soho, surveying the legwear of the women I saw, and I am here to report that Isabelle was right. No capris!

This is the thing about getting old. You don't realize you are doing it until it's too late.

I am now in San Miguel de Allende. No one comes to SMA, as folks call it, for spring break. It takes too long to get to, and it is too far from an ocean. This means that the people who are here have plenty of time to come and go and are not particularly interested in beaches. In other words, they are old.

One of the nicest things about SMA for me is that here, I am pretty young for an old person. Most of the old people are older than I am, which makes me feel youngish. Yesterday I was walking around town a little earlier than usual, and there were lots of women on the streets. It was a beautiful sunny day, and I noticed—I could not help but notice—that every single woman in my line of sight was wearing capris. Every single one.

Of course, Isabelle is right. Capris are totally out of date. The good thing is, here in San Miguel, so are we.

Till next time, Carrie

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Recap: East Aldine Board October Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Placer.ai, a data platform the district is using to analyze local consumer behavior and visitor traffic. Findings indicate that while East Aldine's overnight population is about 73,000 residents, more than 93,000 people work in or pass through the area daily — a sign of significant daytime economic activity.

He also highlighted successful community events:

National Night Out drew more than 1000 participants, one of the district's largest community gatherings.

The first-ever Fourth of July fireworks show attracted more than 2,200 attendees, marking the largest turnout for an event of its kind in district history.

Projects and Committee Reports

Town Center and Facilities Improvements

The board approved: Invoice #8 from Asakura Robinson in the amount of \$60,591.50 for design and planning services related to Town Center Phase 3.

A Tex-Star Electric proposal for \$13,000 to install lighting, fans, and electrical outlets on the second-floor patio.

Fall decor at Town Center by White Flower Events for \$20,000 and winter and Christmas decor for \$40,000 to enhance community celebrations.

Mobility and Environmental Design

Updates include:

A \$4 million Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Highway Capital Improvement Program (HCIP) grant for the Sandy Dale sidewalk project, now at 60% design.

Ongoing streetlight installations and maintenance improvements.

Continued litter and landscape maintenance, including the collection of more than 28,000 pounds of litter and debris across the district in recent months.

Water and Sewer Projects

The board approved:

A \$223,200 leverage letter to support the Castledale Project for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) funding.

Two work authorizations totaling \$80,000 with 5Engineering, LLC, for environmental and feasibility studies tied to the project.

Public Safety Initiatives

Public safety remains a priority across East Aldine.

The board approved: \$86,413.25 for the Westfield Fire Department to purchase new firefighter facepieces, ensuring compliance with safety standards.

Reports from law enforcement and first responders included updates on proactive policing, fire and rescue training programs, and partnerships with local schools. The

district continues to collaborate with agencies such as the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Aldine ISD Police Department, and the Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) to strengthen community safety.

Business and Economic Development

The board approved:

A \$78,000 contract with Hangry Woman to lead a Branding and Marketing Study designed to refresh the district's brand identity, engage bilingual audiences, and guide future marketing strategy.

Sponsorships supporting local partners, including:

Harris County Public Library Foundation's "Booked for Lunch" event (\$5,000).

Aldine ISD's State of the District event (\$5,000) and FFA programs.

Looking Ahead

Through continued investment in infrastructure, safety, and community engagement, the East Aldine Management District remains focused on enhancing the quality of life for residents, visitors, and businesses.

For more information or to download the October 2025 meeting Board Book, visit the East Aldine Management District website. Discover more about initiatives to enhance mobility, improve public spaces, and support residents throughout the district.

TxDOT: Car Seats Save Lives

TxDOT is urging parents to correctly restrain child passengers amid rise in unrestrained deaths

AUSTIN - Texas parents will do anything to protect their child — like checking under the bed for monsters at night or researching all the ingredients in baby food. But one of the most effective ways to protect children is often overlooked: properly securing them in a car seat every time they ride.

We recognize that installing a car seat correctly can be challenging, and while we all know it's important to buckle up, Texas saw an increase in unrestrained children younger than 8 dying in crashes last year. If we want to drive like a Texan and be kind, courteous and safe, it's vital that children are in properly installed car seats.

"The rise in unrestrained deaths is heartbreaking and unacceptable," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "These tragedies are preventable. Every parent and caregiver must make it a non-negotiable habit to properly secure their child in a car seat or booster — every ride, every time. Children's lives depend on it."

The dataThe number of children younger than 8 who were unrestrained at the time of a fatal crash in Texas grew from 30% to 40% between 2023 to 2024. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that nationwide, 46%

of all car seats are not correctly installed, putting children at unnecessary risk if they're in a crash. That means nearly one out of two car seats are not being installed correctly.

What parents can doTxDOT invites parents and caregivers to schedule a free car seat safety check by visiting SaveMeWithASeat.org and entering their ZIP code to find the nearest TxDOT office.

During September, the Save Me with a Seat campaign will make stops in multiple Texas cities, showcasing an interactive educational experience that features a space-travel-themed backdrop.

The lawTexas law requires

all children under the age of 8 or shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches, to be in a car seat when riding in a passenger vehicle. Failure to properly restrain a child can result in a ticket of up to \$250.

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

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14:

Aggies look for 12th win against disappointing Texas: Cowboys host Kansas City on Thanksgiving Day

Continued from Page 1

Smart's team has a good chance to face the Aggies in the SEC title game, and with this being a non-conference game, look for the Bulldogs to use it as a tuneup for that game.

In the Big 12, No. 6-ranked Texas Tech heads to West Virginia to take on a Mountaineers team that has struggled this year, but a win over the Red Raiders would be monumental for them. Tech has not won in Morgantown since 2021, and that fact won't be lost on Red Raider head coach Joey McGuire. He knows there is too much at stake to look past WVU, namely a spot in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 6 in Arlington. Tech had an extra week to rest up for this game, so look for the Red Raiders to be focused for this one.

In the NFL, Thanksgiving means a triple header on Turkey Day, plus a Black Friday game. On Thursday, Detroit hosts Green Bay in a key NFC North game for both teams, at noon on FOX, followed by Kansas City at Dallas at 3:30 p.m. on CBS. Both the Chiefs and Cowboys are playing for their playoff lives, which could make for an intriguing matchup Turkey Day afternoon. The nightcap pits Cincinnati at Baltimore on NBC at 7:20 p.m.

On Friday, the surprising Chicago Bears, leaders of the NFC North, visit the Philadelphia Eagles at 2 p.m. on Amazon Prime.

The Texans, who improved to 5-5 and kept their playoff hopes alive two weeks ago with a 16-13 win at Tennessee, face a stern test when they head to Indianapolis to take on the AFC South leading Colts.

Also on Sunday, the Los Angeles Rams head to Charlotte to take on the surprising Carolina Panthers, who improved to 6-5 two weeks ago with a road win at Atlanta. There's also another big one in the AFC as Buffalo visits Pittsburgh, and beat up QB Aaron Rodgers.

Sunday Night Football features AFC West leader Denver at struggling Washington, while Week 13 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Giants visit the AFC East leading New England Patriots. Two weeks ago, NE won its eighth straight game and has been THE surprise team in the '25 season after going 4-13 in 2024. I'd say first-year head coach Mike Vrabel is a shoe in for NFL Coach of the Year.

Before we look at this holiday weekend's big games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record



to 91-49 (65%).

I'd like to wish all of you a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Please enjoy time with your family and friends and thanks for reading this column.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Georgia at Georgia Tech

Kirby Smart's team heads to Atlanta to take on a game Georgia Tech Yellowjacket team that still has their CFP hopes alive. Tech improved to 9-1 two weeks ago with a come-from-behind win at Boston College, while Georgia once again dominated Texas (that's three straight wins over UT). The 'Dawgs defense will have its hands full with Ga. Tech dual-threat QB Hayes King (2,259 passing yards, 10 TDs/807 rushing yards, 14 TDs). King has help from running back Malachi Hosley (625 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Eric Rivers (39 receptions, 529 yards, 1 TD). Georgia has a few offensive weapons as well led by QB Gunner Stockton (2,269 passing yards, 19 TDs/350 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back Nate Frazier (647 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideout Zachariah Branch (59 receptions, 529 yards, 1 TD). The Bulldogs appear to be rolling and are setting their sights on a long run in the CFP, and Georgia Tech will find that out the hard way come Friday. My pick, Georgia 34, Georgia Tech 15

Texas A&M at Texas - The No. 3 Aggies head to Austin to take on the No. 18 Longhorns on Friday night at 6:30 on ABC. It's good to have this rivalry back, but for UT, they will be playing for pride and little else, well, maybe a spot in the Alamo Bowl. Wow, Sark's team has taken a huge fall since starting the year ranked No. 1 in the country in both the AP and Coaches polls. The 'Horns have been unable to run the ball all year long, so look for the Aggie defense to tee off on QB Arch Manning (2,374 passing yards, 19 TDs/186 rushing yards, 6 TDs). On the other hand, the A&M is loaded with weapons led by QB Marcel Reed (2,632 passing yards, 22

TDs/391 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and productive wide receivers KC Concepcion (47 receptions, 787 yards, 10 total TDs) and Mario Craver (47 receptions, 781 yards, 4 TDs). A&M has so much more to play for, namely a spot in the SEC title game on Dec. 6 and a CFP berth. Look for the Ags to come out smoking in Austin on Friday night. My pick, Texas A&M 30, Texas 23

Ohio State at Michigan

No. 1 Ohio State heads to Ann Arbor looking to end its four-year losing streak to its bitter rival. Ryan Day's team is pretty much assured of a spot in the Big 10 title game (probably against Indiana) and is a virtual lock for the CFP, but Day's team wants to finish the regular season undefeated and let the rest of the CFP field know they are serious about repeating as champs. The OSU defense is one of the best in the country as evidenced by the paltry 7.3 points it allowed in its first 10 games. Michigan freshman QB Bryce Underwood (1,951 passing yards, 7 TDs/302 rushing yards, 5 TDs) will find that out in a painful way come Saturday. The Buckeyes also have a pretty fair offense led by QB Julian Sayin (2,575 yards, 25 TDs), running back Bo Jackson (725 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (69 receptions, 902 yards, 10 TDs) and Carnell Tate (39 receptions, 711 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Buckeyes to be one focused football team from start to finish come Saturday. My pick, Ohio State 36, Michigan 16

Texas Tech at West Virginia

No. 6 Texas Tech heads to Morgantown, WV with much at stake on Saturday, namely their first-ever appearance in the Big 12 title game and a berth in the CFP. Tech head coach Joey McGuire knows his team has struggled on the road against WVU, but he had an extra week to get his troops prepared and I expect the Red Raiders to be very focused for this one. QB Behren Morton (2,118 yards, 18 TDs), running backs Cameron Dickey (944 yards, 13 TDs), J'Koby Williams (647 rushing yards, 5 TDs/27 receptions, 362 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Caleb Douglas (48 receptions, 696 yards, 5 TDs), Reggie Virgil (45 receptions, 561 yards, 6 TDs) and Coy Eakin (41 receptions,

532 yards, 4 TDs) will look to attack a suspect Mountaineer defense. The Tech defense, led by big-play linebacker Jacob Rodriguz (100 tackles, 4 interceptions) will look to harass freshman QB Scotty Fox Jr. (1,178 passing yards, 7 TDs) all afternoon. My pick, Texas Tech 38, West Virginia 15

NFL

Green Bay at Detroit

The NFL's Thanksgiving Day triple header starts in the Motor City with the Lions hosting the annual Turkey Day game and this year it's a big one for both teams and their NFC North hopes. Two weeks ago, both teams were looking up at the Bears, who were atop the division standings. I don't see three teams from the North making the playoffs, so the loser of this one is going to need a lot of help to reach the post season. The Packers need a big game from QB Jordan Love (2,421 yards, 15 TDs) and hope running back Josh Jacobs (648 yards, 11 TDs) is fully recovered from a knee injury he suffered two weeks ago against the Giants. Love will need help from a suspect receiving corps led by Romeo Dobbs (39 receptions, 489 yards, 4 TDs). The Lions do not have a shortage of offensive weapons led by QB Jared Goff (2,490 yards, 21 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (732 rushing yards, 8 TDs/37 receptions, 334 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (66 receptions, 735 yards, 8 TDs). Look for the Lions offense to be on before a national TV audience. My pick, Detroit 30, Green Bay 24

Kansas City at Dallas

The second game of the Thanksgiving triple header has the Chiefs visiting the Cowboys in a game both teams desperately need to remain alive in their respective conferences playoff picture. Two weeks ago, KC fell to 5-5 on the season and three games behind Denver in the AFC West after their 22-19 loss in the Mile High City. While KC was losing, the Cowboys eased to a 33-16 win over the Raiders on Monday Night Football. Dallas QB Dak Prescott (2,687 yards, 21 TDs) threw four TDs in the Vegas win. He will need a big day from running back Javonte Williams (809 yards, 9 total TDs), wide receivers George Pickens (58 receptions, 908 yards, 7 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (40 receptions, 557 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (60 receptions, 400 yards, 7 TDs). KC QB Patrick Mahomes (2,625 yards, 18 TDs) should have a big day against a suspect Dallas defense. Look for him to make a lot of plays to tight end Travis Kelce (50 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Marquise Brown (38 receptions, 429 yards, 4 TDs). The Chiefs play well when their backs are against the wall and that's definitely the case for Andy Reid's team at this point in the

season. My pick, Kansas City 31, Dallas 29

Chicago at Philadelphia

The Bears will get a true measure of just how good they really are when they head to Philadelphia to take on the defending Super Bowl champs on Friday. Two weeks ago, Chicago improved to 7-3 and took over first place in the NFC North with their win at Minnesota, while the Philly defense stepped up once again to lead the Eagles to a 16-9 home win over Detroit. Chicago QB Caleb Williams (2,329 yards, 13 TDs) will face his toughest test yet and will need help from running back D'Andre Swift (634 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Rome Odunze (39 receptions, 600 yards, 4 TDs) when they face an Eagles defense that loves to bring pressure. While the Eagles defense has been playing at a championship level, the same can't be said for the offense. QB Jalen Hurts (1,995 passing yards, 16 TDs/265 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Saquon Barkley (662 yards, 4 TDs), wide receivers DeVonta Smith (49 receptions, 665 yards, 3 TDs) and A.J. Brown (38 receptions, 457 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (36 receptions, 356 yards, 7 TDs) have yet to put a complete game together. Maybe that will change come Friday. My pick, Philadelphia 27, Chicago 16

Houston at Indianapolis

The Texans hit the road to take on the AFC South leading Colts on Sunday. The Houston defense, which is one of the best in the NFL, will have its hands full taking on running back Jonathan Taylor (1,139 yards, 15 TDs/30 receptions, 260 yards, 2 TDs), QB Daniel Jones (2,659 passing yards, 15 TDs/143 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and rookie tight end Tyler Warren (50 receptions, 617 yards, 3 TDs). Houston hopes to have QB C.J. Stroud (1,702 yards, 11 TDs) back for this game after he missed the last three recovering from a concussion. If he's back, look for him to make plays downfield to wide receiver Nico Collins (49 receptions, 642 yards, 4 TDs). I think the Colts offense will be the difference maker in this game as the Texans' playoff hopes take a big hit. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Houston 23

Los Angeles Rams at Carolina

The Panthers are one of the pleasant surprises of the '25 season. Two weeks ago, they improved to 6-5 with a road win at Atlanta and remained in contention for the NFC South title. They face a tough task this Sunday when they face a Rams team that is loaded on offense, led by QB Matthew Stafford (2,557 yards, 27 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (750 yards, 6 total TDs) and big-play wideouts Puka Nacua (73 receptions, 850 yards, 4 TDs) and Davante Adams (43 receptions, 569 yards, 10 TDs). The Panthers will look for

another big game from QB Bryce Young (1,962 yards, 14 TDs), running back Rico Dowdle (833 yards, 5 TDs) and sensational rookie wide receiver Tetairoa McMillan (54 receptions, 748 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Rams experience to be the deciding factor in this game. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 31, Carolina 24

Buffalo at Pittsburgh

The Bills head to Pittsburgh to take on a Steelers team that could be without starting QB Aaron Rodgers (1,969 yards, 19 TDs). Rodgers sustained a broken wrist two weeks ago in the Steelers home win over the Bengals, and if he's out, Pittsburgh could be in trouble, especially when its defense has to take on Bills QB Josh Allen (2,454 passing yards, 18 TDs/351 rushing yards, 10 TDs). Two weeks ago in their 44-32 win over Tampa Bay, Allen ran for three TDs and passed for another three. He will get help from running back James Cook (968 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (46 receptions, 454 yards, 3 TDs). The Bills need this one to keep pace with the Patriots in the AFC East, so look for Buffalo to pick up a big road win on Sunday. My pick, Buffalo 30, Pittsburgh 23

Denver at Washington

This week's Sunday Night Football game is sort of blah as the high-flying Broncos visit the struggling Commanders. Washington has been beset by key injuries, none bigger than the dislocated elbow starting QB Jaden Daniels suffered three weeks ago. Denver has been playing well on defense and doing just enough to sit atop the AFC West standings. Look for QB Bo Nix (2,421 passing yards, 18 TDs/213 rushing yards, 3 TDs) to have a big night against a suspect Washington defense. He will get help from rookie running back RJ Harvey (244 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Courtland Sutton (45 receptions, 659 yards, 4 TDs). My pick, Denver 26, Washington 12

New York Giants at New England

Week 13 concludes with Monday Night Football as a bad Giants team heads to Foxborough to take on the Patriots, who have become THE surprise team this season. NE leads the AFC West with a 9-2 record and looks like a very good football team on both sides of the football. Second-year QB Drake Maye (2,836 yards, 20 TDs/285 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is having a breakout season and he's getting help from rookie running back TreVeyon Henderson (492 yards, 6 total TDs) and veteran wideout Stefan Diggs (59 receptions, 659 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the NE defense to make it a long night for rookie QB Jaxson Dart (1,417 passing yards, 10 TDs/317 rushing yards, 7 TDs) as the Pats roll to another win. My pick, New England 33, New York Giants 12

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalms 38:19b-20

those who hate me without reason are numerous. Those who repay my good with evil lodge accusations against me, though I seek only to do what is good.

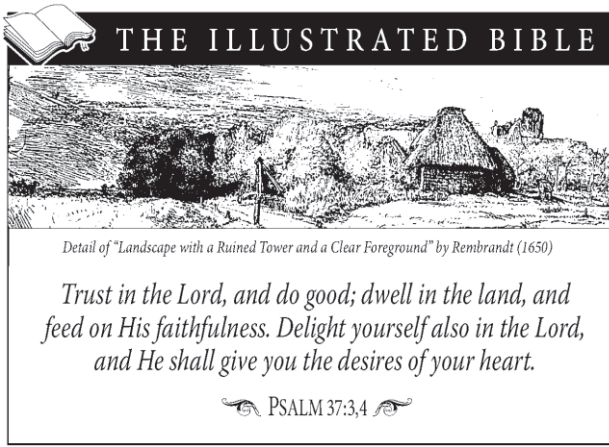
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 N O G S R T G G M J
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Todah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who wrote in Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"? Matthew, Peter, Paul, Jude
3. From Psalms 107:1 and 118:1, why should we give thanks to the Lord, because He is ...? Evermore, Good, Watching, Hopeful
4. Which book of the Bible mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
5. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people
6. In Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant

ANSWERS: 1) Neither (Hebrew for thank you), 2) Paul, 3) Good, 4) Psalms, 5) Unthankful people, 6) At your own will

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreaon.com/trivia

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

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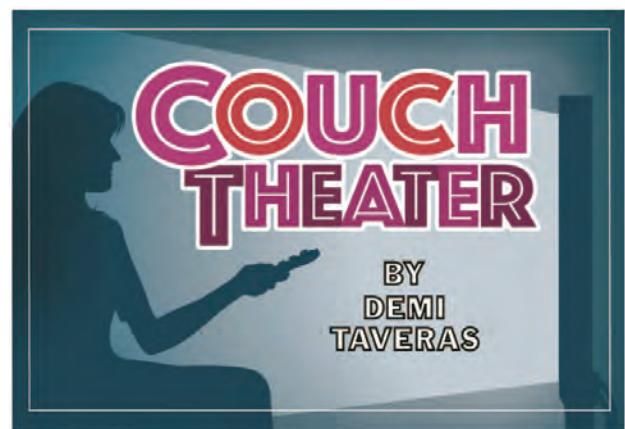
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From left, Gaten Matarazzo, Finn Wolfhard, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp star in "Stranger Things: Season 5."

"Stranger Things: Season 5"

"STRANGER THINGS: SEASON 5, VOLUME 1" (TV-14) — The hit Netflix series that began in 2016 is finally reaching its culmination with its fifth season, which premieres on Nov. 26. Although the season will be released in volumes, with the second volume premiering Christmas Day and the finale on New Year's Eve, fans are excited to see how their favorite characters' stories will conclude after so many years of being invested in the series. Picking up a year after the events of the fourth season, the season starts during the fall of 1987 after the "Rifts" have been opened in Hawkins, and our favorite group of misfits are preparing for battle against Vecna. Meanwhile, the military seeks to capture Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) again in Hawkins. Get ready for lots of action, tense scenes, and heart-

ache. Let's see how "Stranger Things" ends! (Netflix)

"MALICE" (TV-MA) — This new psychological-thriller series starring Jack Whitehall ("Robots") and David Duchovny ("Adam the First") just premiered its first season, and all six episodes are out now to binge! Whitehall plays Adam Healey, a tutor/nanny who signs on to accompany a wealthy family during their vacation. Although Adam seems kind, nurturing and helpful in the beginning, his aura puts some of the family on edge as they can't seem to figure him out. But when the patriarch of the family, Jamie (Duchovny), watches his life begin to unravel, he realizes that somebody is out to get him. What he doesn't realize is that the culprit might be under his own roof. (Amazon Prime Video)

"BRIDE HARD" (R) — Rebel Wilson ("Juliet & Romeo") and Anna Camp ("A Little Prayer") are teaming up together again after their "Pitch Perfect" days together for this action-comedy film releasing on Nov. 28. The film picks up as maid of honor Sam (Wilson) is trying her best to fulfill her duties to her best friend, Betsy (Camp), but neither her best friend nor the bridal party know that Sam is actually a secret agent. Sam's hidden secret-agent activities cause tension with the rest of the bridal party, but even after her planned bachelorette party goes wrong, Sam still wants to support Betsy. Fast forward to the wedding, where killer mercenaries show up to steal from Betsy's fiance's family, and Sam might be the only one who could save her best friend's wedding day. This pick is perfect for a night in with the girls or those looking for an easy watch. (Hulu)

"THE FAMILY PLAN 2" (PG-13) — Surprisingly, Mark Wahlberg's 2023 film "The Family Plan" was greenlit for a sequel with Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus") returning, as well as Zoe Colletti and Van Crosby, who portray Wahlberg and Monaghan's children in the movie. Similar to the first movie, the Morgan family are attempting to live a normal life amid Dan's (Wahlberg) past as an assassin. They travel to London for Christmas so that they can spend the holidays with their daughter who is abroad, but Dan encounters someone from his past — a man named Aidan (Kit Harrington) who is determined to take over the network of assassins that Dan's father built. So, it's time for the Morgans to once again put their family plans on hold and get down to some dirty business. Out now. (Apple TV+)

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- 1. Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
2. The Running Man (R) Glen Powell, Alyssa Bena
3. Predator: Badlands (PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrios Schuster-Koloamatangi
4. Regretting You (PG-13) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace
5. Black Phone 2 (R) Mason Thames, Ethan Hawke
6. Keeper (R) Tatiana Maslany, Rossif Sutherland
7. Nuremberg (PG-13) Russell Crowe, Michael Shannon
8. Sarah's Oil (PG-13) Zachary Levi, Naya Desir-Johnson
9. Bugonia (R) Jesse Plemons, Aidan Delbis
10. Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc (R) Kikunosuke Toya, Tomori Kusunoki



A happy Thanksgiving starts with pets' safety and comfort

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please remind your readers, as the holiday season begins, to keep a close eye on their pets. Many of our favorite foods at Thanksgiving and Christmas contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs and cats. Holiday gatherings with lots of family and friends can be really stressful for them, too. — Larry in Secaucus, New Jersey

DEAR LARRY: You're absolutely right, and thank you for sending this reminder along. Dogs and cats alike will be attracted to all of the delicious aromas coming from the kitchen this week. Turkey, gravy and lots of side dishes will smell irresistible.

But owners should know that it's not just chocolate that is dangerous for pets to ingest. Onions, garlic, chives, avocados, grapes (and raisins) can all be deadly. Sugar substitutes, especially xylitol, are also very dangerous. Coffee and caffeinated drinks, like chocolate, contain a chemical that causes illness, seizures and even death. A complete list can be found here: www.aspc.org/pet-care/aspc-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets.

Here are some ways to keep your pet safe during holiday preparation and gatherings.

Create a safe space for your pets: a quiet room away from all the bustle and noise. Fill it with their favorite toys, food and water, and a cozy place to curl up and relax. If you crate your dog, place their crate in this "safe room" a few days before the gathering. Wall off the kitchen: Put up baby gates in front of each entrance while you're preparing food.

Keep a close eye on pets: Have a family member monitor your pets while preparations are underway.

Give them attention and cuddles. Before and after the big gathering, spend time with your pets. They'll settle back into their home routine afterward much more easily.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



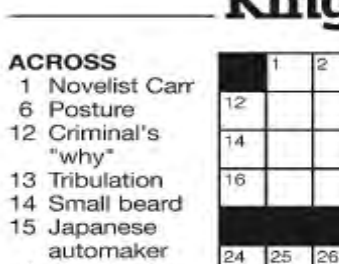
RELATIVES WILL BE VISITING AND ASKING FOR CHRISTMAS LISTS, SO SHOW ME ADORABILITY...



GIVE ME CUTE SMILES, BIG ENERGY AND WHEN ASKED, JUST TELL ALL OF THEM YOU'VE BEEN GOOD!



BEST TO GO OVER THIS OUT HERE STUFF SAID IN FRONT OF PARENTS! TENDS TO GET BACK TO SANTA



TIGER



HEY, THAT'S MY FAVORITE FAIL



HEY, TIGER!



WHAT'S A IDEA OF THROWING MY FAIL AWAY?



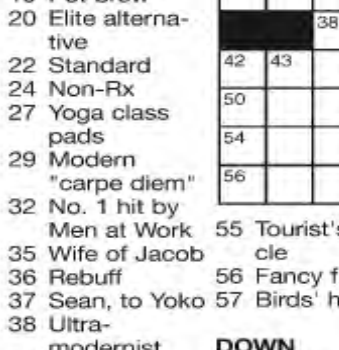
MY BIKE!



OUR MARRIAGE IS LIKE A WALK IN THE PARK...



"JURASSIC PARK!"



The Spats



OUR MARRIAGE IS LIKE A WALK IN THE PARK...



"JURASSIC PARK!"

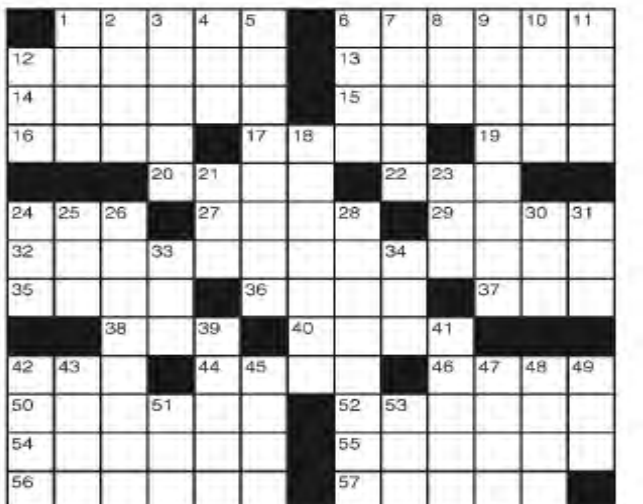


Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

November 24, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Novelist Carr 6 Posture 12 Criminal's "why" 13 Tribulation 14 Small beard 15 Japanese automaker 16 Queue after Q 17 500 sheets 19 Pot brew 20 Elite alternative 22 Standard 24 Non-Rx 27 Yoga class pads 29 Modern "carpe diem" 32 No. 1 hit by Men at Work 35 Wife of Jacob 36 Rebuff 37 Sean, to Yoko 38 Ultra-modernist 40 Recipe meas. 42 Paper Mate rival 44 Amorphous mass 46 "House" actor Omar 50 Surround with light 52 Woodwind player 54 Radio components



- DOWN 1 Dove calls 2 Rat — 3 Illuminated 4 Prior night 5 Six-pack units 6 Slugger Sammy 7 Surpass 8 Wood-shaping tool 9 Uncharged particles 10 Birthday cut-up? 11 Director Kazan 12 Store boss (Abbr.) 18 Corrode 21 "— Believer" 23 Sailor's assent 24 Barn bird 25 Commonest English word 26 One of a news show pair 28 Unwilling to budge 30 Privy 31 Have "Evita" narrator 34 Small ammo 39 Gawked at 41 Drudges 42 Hotel furniture 43 Monogram pt. 45 Privation 47 Brad of Hollywood 48 Unpaid TV ads 49 Cardinal cap letters 51 Nabokov novel 53 Spelldown

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. LITERATURE: What is the name of the dragon in "The Hobbit"? 2. MOVIES: Which holiday is being celebrated at the end of "When Harry Met Sally"? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the famous Angkor Wat Temple? 4. HISTORY: In which year did the Internet become available to the public? 5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which wrestler is known by the nickname "The Rock"? 6. LANGUAGE: What is cryptophobia? 7. TELEVISION: In which state was the sitcom "Newhart" set? 8. MATH: How many sides does a nonagon have? 9. MUSIC: Which singer/songwriter wrote the soundtrack for the animated movie "Tarzan"? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What is the essential spice in paella?

Answers to Trivia test: 1. Smaug 2. New Year's Eve 3. Cambodia 4. 1993 5. Dwayne Johnson 6. A unique language developed between twins 7. Vermont 8. Nine 9. Phil Collins 10. Saffron



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4TH ANNUAL

Christmas

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dec 5

» 6PM-9PM

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Students from Pre-K to 8th grade can explore school options in a festive and welcoming environment.

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- Parent Resource Center: to help with applications.
- Free refreshments.

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East Aldine District Housing Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he said, was to bring education and awareness to the prospective homebuyers. "There's not just a lot of need here, but a lot of opportunity," Silva said. "We're honored and pleased that from a management district perspective, we can be the convener of these things. We can be the place where people can come together. We can listen, and we can understand what the challenges are, and create some synergy amongst ourselves," he said. He also announced

that the board had commissioned a realty company to conduct a land inventory and label them either zoned, commercial, or residential. He also said that they would take that information and make decisions on whether to buy it as a district, then provide incentives for a developer to be able to buy the land for an affordable price so that the base rate starts low and then they can build their houses. "It's like Commissioner Garcia says, the dirt oftentimes is

the biggest challenge (and expense)," he repeated. He reemphasized that they're not interested in being a developer. "Our business is to provide a better quality of life for our residents and part of that is having better homes that they can move into," he said. The 'hot air' was important to Silva. "It is important to be able to share and to listen to each other and then the next steps are seeing what we can do tangibly," he said.



Keynote Speaker Commissioner Adrian Garcia, with East Aldine officers and board members. Photos courtesy East Aldine District, ev1Pro, and Ruben Salazar.



Participants at the East Aldine District Housing Forum.