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NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 50 Years
 VOL. 50, NO. 4 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Aldine FFA Livestock Sales top \$240,000

120 Livestock Exhibitors see Record individual sales, Record breaking total

AISD FFA show celebrates students, community spirit

By David Taylor
 Managing Editor

The Aldine ISD community gathered at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center from January 28-30, 2026, to celebrate the district's 67th annual FFA (Future Farmers of America) Livestock Show—one of the largest showcases for students in the Agriculture Science and Technology Education Program since its inception in 1959.

Serving over 1,000 students across five FFA chapters, the Aldine ISD FFA program offers a wide range of competitive and leadership experiences. This year's event featured more than 60 students in the welding contest, 130 livestock exhibitors, 50 agriscience fair projects, and nearly 100 students leading educational tours

for younger peers.

Building on last year's fundraising success—when the community raised \$209,815 to support students—all proceeds from the show go directly back to participants, helping fund their education or future projects.

This year, however, the buyers knocked the ball out of the park.

This year's total, so far, has reached \$242,000 making it a new all-time record for both live sales and grand total, according to an excited Jennifer Gonzalez, program director of career and technical education, who expressed optimism for continued community involvement.

"This year's Aldine ISD Livestock Show was bigger and better. The barns are full, the students were ready, and our community saw an exciting event that celebrates dedication, agriculture, and student success. As a former Aldine



Carmella Espinoza from MacArthur High School won the Grand Champion steer and earned \$15,000 from buyers First Construction. (Photos by Andy Adams, AISD)

ISD FFA member and agriculture teacher, my goal remains to make this show more successful each year," Gonzalez said.

For many students, the livestock show is the culmination of a year's hard work. MacArthur High School senior Hugo Campa, Jr., shared his journey.

"I've been raising animals for about three years. I started my sophomore year doing chickens and lambs and ended up placing with my chickens and not my lambs. Going on to my junior year, I did chickens and lambs again and I

placed for both of them and I got grand champion showmanship for my lamb last year. Then this year I didn't do chickens and I put all my time into my lamb and I got grand champion market," he said excitedly.

He was so in the moment; he didn't even remember how much the lamb sold for. It was \$4,250 before any add-ons. Campa plans to use his winnings for college tuition as he heads to Texas A&M to major in ecology and conservation biology. He credits his love for animals to his grandparents' ranch and describes the daily dedication required.

"I just love going to the barn every day, putting my work and dedication into those animals and really just building a bond and a connection between both animal and me, and it's just, it's really enjoyable," he said enthusiastically.

His routine starts before sunrise, feeding animals before classes, followed by band practice and evening care for his lamb, Flaca (which means skinny). Campa's innovative training methods and care

Continued. See Aldine FFA Livestock Sale, Page 5

Students Exhibit Rodeo Art; 4 Advance to HLS&R

By Leticia Fehling
 AISD

In late January, Aldine ISD students were honored at a district awards reception for their achievements in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Contest. Some of their artworks will move on to the auction at the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, also known as RODEOHOUSTON®.

The Aldine ISD Visual

Arts Department hosted the ceremony, bringing together students, families, teachers, and community members to celebrate student achievements in visual arts. District winners were chosen after the Rodeo's School Art Committee visited and judged entries from schools across Houston.

HoustonRodeo-School-Art-Contest-2026-Jamar-Lockhart-600x750.png ~

"This is an incredible moment for our students



and our program," said Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD director of visual arts. "Having multiple students advance to the School Art Auction, with every high school grade level represented, is something we are extremely proud of."

Every student who enters the contest receives a red, white, or blue ribbon. Judges then select Best of Show, Gold Medal, and

Continued. See ALDINE STUDENT RODEO ART, Page 8

Vouchers: Texas Opens Application Website until March 17

Texas Opens Applications For Texas Education Freedom Accounts

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott today highlighted that families can now apply for the Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) program. Administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock, the TEFA program gives parents greater freedom and flexibility in choosing the best educational environment for their children.

"With Texas Education Freedom Accounts, more

parents can choose the learning environment that's best for their child and more students will be able to reach their unique potential," said Governor Abbott. "I encourage Texas families to apply for the program which puts parents in the driver's seat of their child's education. This program puts Texas on the pathway to become the No. 1 state for education."

"Governor Abbott's unwavering leadership made this moment possible for Texas families," said Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock. "The Texas Education Freedom Account program puts parents firmly in charge of their children's education, ensuring families have real

options and the flexibility to choose the educational path that best meets their child's needs, setting students across Texas up for success."

In May, Governor Abbott signed into law Senate Bill 2 (Creighton/Buckley), establishing the TEFA program which allows eligible students to direct funding toward their choice of preapproved educational providers and services such as private school tuition, instructional materials, and educational therapies. With \$1 billion in funding for the 2026-2027 school year, the program will be the larg-

Continued. See VOUCHER WEBSITE NOW OPEN, Page 2

Keith-Wiess Park operation transferred to County Pct. 2

HOUSTON — This month Commissioner Adrian Garcia spoke at Houston City Council to celebrate a new partnership between Precinct 2 and the city to operate and maintain Moody Park and Keith-Wiess Park. Keith-Wiess Park has been a city park before this.

Garcia said "This collaboration is a powerful example of the City and County working together for the benefit of our shared residents. The more than 600,000 people of Precinct 2 who live inside the City of Houston deserve great parks, and this new partnership will bring outstanding experiences to these important green spaces. A special thanks to



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks to Houston City Council in regard to the transfer of operation of Keith-Wiess Park

Mayor John Whitmire for bringing this item forward, Councilperson Mario Castillo and Houston City Councilperson Tarsha Jackson. Thanks to District B commitment to caring for our parks, and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for their work in placing this item on the agenda."

Precinct 2 has already begun working on cleaning and repairs to the parks.

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Texas School Choice Program Launch Shatters Records

Texans made their enthusiasm for school choice crystal clear Wednesday when they turned out in force to apply for the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program. More than 35,000 applications were submitted by Wednesday evening, making it the largest day-one school choice program launch to date.

Thousands of applications poured in within an hour of the TEFA application window's opening. By noon, the program had logged more than 20,000 applications, Acting

Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a press release.

TEFA accounts can cover tuition, tutoring, therapies, instructional materials, and other expenses. Most students will be awarded \$10,474, with up to \$30,000 for students with special needs. The billion-dollar program is the largest day-one, state-based school choice program in the country.

AFC encourages families who have not yet applied to do so as soon as possible. Applying takes roughly 15 minutes, even

for families with multiple children.

Families can apply through March 17. The program is not first-come, first-served, and those who apply early in the application window will have the same chance as those who apply later.

Statement from Nathan Cunneen, Texas State Director, American Federation for Children:

"The Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program launched in true Texas style, with application figures eclipsing those of other states. This extraordinary response underscores Texans' demand for school choice. If you have not yet applied for TEFA, please do so today by visiting education.freedom.texas.gov."

Voucher Website now open,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

est day-one launch in the country.

The TEFA program is accepting online applications from February 4 through March 17, 2026. All Texas children are eligible to apply if they live in Texas and are a United States citizen or

were lawfully admitted into the U.S. This is not a first-come, first-served program. Families can apply any time during the application window without affecting their child's chances of receiving funding.

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11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN

4 FEB 4 PM CREATION STATION

11:30 AM TODDLER TIME

10 FEB 12:45 PM ESL INTERMIDO

3 PM POKEMON CLUB

4PM COMPUTER BASIC

11 FEB 12 PM FUTURE U

3 PM TOON CAFE

3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS

12 FEB 11:AM CITIZENSHIP CLASS

12:45 PM ESL INTERMIDO

3:00PM TEEN LOUNGE

4 PM MICROSOFT WORD BASIC

13 FEB 3:00PM TOON CAFE

14 FEB 11:AM ESL CLASS LEVEL 1

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Upcoming Events at Aldine Branch Library

WIGGLE WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 11, 11:00am–12:00pm
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!

ESL - LEVEL 2
Wednesday, February 11, 1:00pm–2:00pm
Description
Are you interested in continuing your English learning past the basics? Come to the Aldine Branch Library for a free English class for advanced beginner speakers.
Class is once a week on Wednesdays from 1 - 2 p.m.
It is an 8 week session from January 14th to March 4th, 2026.
Registration is required in order to attend.
To register, visit us

on a registration date to take a placement exam and confirm your spot in a class.

COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISOR
Wednesday, February 11, 2:00pm–3:00pm
Description
Connect with a Future U advisor! Discover the college and career resources around you. To make an appointment, please click on the link below or call. Virtual appointments are also available.
<https://hcpl.net/futureU/Lolita>
R. Butler FutureU Advisor
Phone: (832) 310-0694
Email: lolita.butler@hcpl.net

TWEEN SPARK SHRINKY DINKS
Wednesday, February 11, 4:00pm–6:00pm
Description
Make fun charms with shrinky dink paper! We'll provide a range of patterns to choose from and the supplies; all you gotta do is provide the creativity and have fun
Snacks will be provided.
This program is best for 6th-9th graders

OLDWAYS - BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Thursday, February 12, 3:00pm–4:00pm
Description
Celebrate Black History Month at Aldine Branch Library with a cooking demo! We will be making a black-eyed pea salad and learning a bit about African

American heritage cuisine.

Oldways educates and celebrates cultural heritage diets to promote the healthy, sustainable joys of the "old ways" of eating—heritage-based diets high in taste, nourishment, sustainability, and joy.

No registration needed, but supplies are limited so first come first served.

VALENTINE'S CARD CRAFT
Thursday, February 12, 5:30pm–6:30pm
Description
Join us at the Aldine Branch Library to make Valentine's Day Cards! Whether it's for one person or all your friends and family, we'll provide everything you need to make cards they'll love.

¡Acompáñenos en la Biblioteca Aldine Branch para crear tarjetas de San Valentín! Ya sea para una persona o para todos sus amigos y familiares, le proporcionaremos todo lo necesario para crear tarjetas que les encantarán.

Bert Barron
Adult Program Specialist
Aldine Branch Library
11331 Airline Dr.
Houston, TX 77037
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

2 Aldine ISD Academic Decathlon Teams Earn State Competition Berths



MacArthur High School's Academic Decathlon team placed second — for a second consecutive year — overall in the Large School Division in the region. MacArthur and Avalos P-TECH School, which placed first in the Small School Division, will compete in the state event set for Feb. 26 through March 1.



Avalos P-TECH School's Academic Decathlon team, which placed first in the Small School Division, will compete in the state event.

Aldine ISD students are heading to the state stage after strong performances at the Texas Academic Decathlon Region 6 competition, marking the first time the district will be represented by two teams at the state level in the same year.

Teams from MacArthur High School and Avalos P-TECH School earned state competition berths based on their overall team scores in their respective divisions. The regional contest was held Jan. 24 in Houston and included schools from across the region competing for limited state spots.

MacArthur High School placed second — for a second consecutive year — overall in the Large School Division with a team score of 26,855.3, finishing behind only one school in the region in its category. Avalos P-TECH School captured first place in the Small School Division with a score of 19,420.8, leading a highly competitive field that included several Aldine ISD campuses.

Victory Early College High School and Carver High School also delivered excellent performances in the Small School Division,

finishing second and third, respectively. Blanson Career and Technical Education (CTE) High School and La Promesa rounded out the district's strong showing, underscoring the depth of academic talent across Aldine ISD.

In addition to team success, Aldine ISD students earned numerous individual medals across honor, scholastic, and varsity categories. Among the top individual finishers were Logan Haagenson Jiménez of MacArthur High School, who placed third overall in the Large School Honor division, and Nicolás Díaz of MacArthur, who earned first place in Large School Varsity.

In the Small School Division, Cielo Hernández of Victory Early College High School earned first place in Honor, while Kenny Nguyen of Victory placed third. Carver High School students also made the podium, including Nataly Mazariogis with a fourth-place Honor finish and Erika Newton, who placed third in Varsity. Additional medalists included students from Avalos P-TECH, Blanson CTE, and Victory Early College, with multiple first-, second-, and

third-place finishes across categories.

"Having two Aldine ISD teams advance to state competition in the same year is a major milestone for our district," said Susan Pelezo, Aldine ISD executive director of advanced academics. "It reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of their coaches, and the challenging academic opportunities available across our campuses."

Avalos P-TECH School will compete in the Small School Division state competition in Corpus Christi, coached by Michelle Palmer. MacArthur High School will represent Aldine ISD in the Large School Division state competition in Frisco, led by coaches Park Van and Stephanie Debettignies. The state competition is scheduled for Feb. 26 through March 1.

The Texas Academic Decathlon challenges students across 10 subject areas, blending academic discipline, teamwork, and problem-solving. Aldine ISD's strong regional showing spotlights the district's continued commitment to scholastic excellence and student achievement.

Aldine ISD Celebrates National Signing Day Success



Student-athletes from across Aldine ISD took the next step in their academic and athletic journeys Wednesday as all five district high schools that compete in year-round athletics were represented during National Signing Day.

In total, 33 Aldine ISD student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their careers at the collegiate level, underscoring the district's emphasis on being a student first and an athlete second.

MacArthur High School was represented by four signees, including girls soccer standout Emily Arriazola, who signed with Prairie View A&M. On the football side, Tre Allen signed with Trinity Valley Community College, Jaedyn Luna with Eureka College, and Quan Reynolds with Texas Wesleyan University.

Aldine High School celebrated six signees, led by five baseball players: Alberto Gonzalez and Alexander Martinez (Central Christian), Jansyel Otwell Barbosa (Alvin Community College), Raul Careaga (Richland Community Col-

lege), and Gabriel Nunez (Redlands Community College). Jeylin Espinal Ordonez signed with Dallas College North Lake for girls soccer.

Eisenhower High School's class featured five football players: Braylon Alvis (Morgan State), EJ Durst (Virginia University of Lynchburg), Isaiah Jackson (Texas A&M Texarkana), Marcus Potts (Schreiner University), and Jason Washington (Butler Community College).

In his first season leading the Eagles, Eisenhower head football coach Padriac McGinnis reflected on a promise made to his program at the start of the year.

"Education is the number one goal, to use athletics as a pathway to getting a free education," McGinnis said. "I was one of those kids who needed the coaches and scholarships to get to the point where I am in life, and it feels good following through on that promise."

Nimitz High School was highlighted by Malachi Augustus, the 2025 district

MVP, who signed with Alcorn State University. Fellow football players Sincere Williams (William Penn University) and Albert Brown (Texas College) also signed.

Davis High School led the district with 13 signees across multiple sports, including football, swimming, and volleyball. The class included Mckinley Blackshire (Alcorn State), Kyra Brown (Brandeis University, swimming), Breyawanna Noland (Elizabeth City State, volleyball) and Nicholas Tramble, the 2025 offensive MVP, who signed with Prairie View A&M. Additional football signees included Michael Castro, Cae'dyn Daughtry, Kayden Gilbert, Christian Hutchins, Maximus Jackson, Keith Lundy, Re-Char Johnson, Michael Taylor and Brandon Turner.

National Signing Day served as a reminder of what is possible when academic commitment, athletic discipline, and leadership align — paving the way not only for this class, but for the next generation of Aldine ISD student-athletes.

Carver HS Mariachi Acero Earns Sweepstakes, Advances to UIL State Contest



Students from Carver High School continue to make history for Aldine Independent School District, as Mariachi Acero earned the highest possible rating at a recent University Interscholastic League mariachi competition.

Mariachi Acero received a Sweepstakes rating — scores of 1, 1, and 1 from three adjudicators — at the 2026 Coastal Bend University Interscholastic League Mariachi Contest held Jan. 28 at Tomball High School. The achievement automatically advanced the group to the UIL Mariachi State Contest scheduled for Feb. 21.

The contest featured 17 high school mariachi programs from across the Houston area, including Klein,

Houston ISD, Tomball, Humble, Katy, The Woodlands, Channelview, and Texas City.

Under the direction of Jaime Alanís, Mariachi Acero has earned State Bound status every year since 2022. The program is currently Aldine ISD's only high school mariachi ensemble and continues to represent the district at the highest level across Texas.

"This is history being made in Aldine ISD's mariachi program," Alanís said. "Our students' dedication and pride in their craft continue to open doors and set new standards for excellence."

The Sweepstakes honor marks another milestone in the ongoing #AldineStory of

student achievement through the arts.

Aldine ISD Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney said the success of Mariachi Acero reflects years of intentional planning and belief in student opportunity.

"I could not be more proud of our Carver mariachi group, Acero, for earning Sweepstakes — straight 1s — at the recent UIL contest," Goffney said. "This journey began in 2019, fueled by a vision to bring this opportunity to our students. We launched the program in 2020 with a small, dedicated group, and seeing it grow into an award-winning, state-bound program is the result of our team's hard work. From a spark of an idea to state-level success, this is the #AldineStory."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating - A Century of Black History Commemorations

2026 marks 100 years since the establishment of Black History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

OPINION PAGE

VOTERS GUIDE
By League of Women Voters of Texas

LWV Texas Launches Nonpartisan 2026 Primary Voters Guide on VOTE411

AUSTIN, TX — Ahead of the 2026 Primary Election, the League of Women Voters of Texas has released its nonpartisan 2026 Primary Election Voters Guide, available online at VOTE411.org and at LWVTexas.org.

Through VOTE411, Texas voters can enter their address to view the races and candidates appearing on their ballot, compare candidates' responses to unbiased questions prepared by the League, and create a personalized ballot to take to the polls.

To ensure the Guide reaches as many voters as possible, LWV Texas is offering the information in multiple formats and languages. VOTE411.org presents information on statewide races in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

With many Texas districts heavily favoring one political party, primary elections often determine who will represent the state in Congress and who will govern Texas.

"The upcoming primary elections are extremely important for Texas," said Joyce LeBombard, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Publishing the trusted, nonpartisan Voters Guide is central to the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

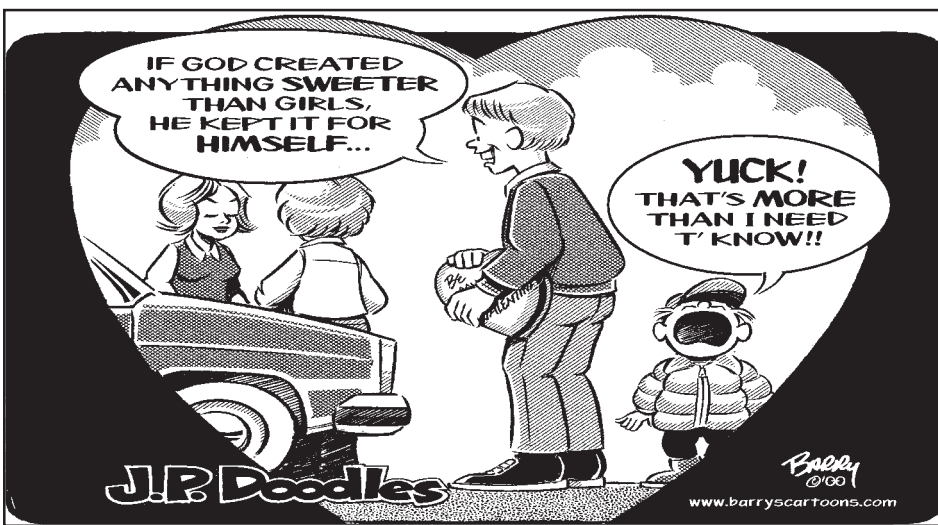
"We urge our fellow Texans to use this resource," LeBombard added. "And we encourage our supporters and partner organizations to share the Voters Guide with their communities across Texas."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.

Art By Mei



This Artwork is on Display at the Silos Studio of Mei Hoffman, 1502 Sawyer Street. 713-906-4585



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Seek the Good



There's a reason I don't write about current events. The news flies at me faster than I can absorb. I cannot make sense of it all, and it feels as if I should always be doing something more, knowing more, helping more than I am.

The parable in the Bible that made the biggest impact on me as a child was the story Jesus told of how, when the master went away, he gave his servants talents to safeguard.

I didn't want to be that servant who stuck his talents in the ground and did nothing with them. Those talents didn't do any good. They didn't grow. They didn't help anyone.

In the years since I was eight or nine, I've come to realize this is not as easy as it sounds. Every single person has more talents than they know what to do with.

Every day, I see a multitude of people who seem to be doing a lot more than I do. And this morning, again, I wondered if I was doing enough to make the world more livable, more kind, more loving.

So I went to church. It was cold and gray, and I was grumpy. But I figured those were good reasons to go to church rather than stay at home.

"We will seek the good," the benediction said. It said a few other things, but that phrase, "seek the good," stuck with me because, for the first time in several days, I felt as if maybe there was something I could do.

I could seek the good—in every person I encounter, in every interaction I have, with the hearts and minds of the folks I might not agree with. I can seek the good.

It doesn't sound like a lot. It seems like a pretty simple thing, actually, not a serious job assignment. It doesn't sound entirely sensible, and it certainly doesn't sound pragmatic. But I'm going to seek the good because this morning, it suddenly seemed to me that making a practice of seeking the good is a lot harder than it seems.

It is so easy to lose hope. It is so easy to become deeply cynical. It's easy to explain what is wrong with others and what is wrong with ourselves, and there are a lot of people who do that well.

But right now, when there is no shortage of anger or fear or cynicism, I'm going to try to seek the good instead—the good I know is all around me—sometimes in plain sight, sometimes in places I forget to look.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



At Least 11 Dead in State After Winter Storm

At least 11 people have died in Texas, nearly half of them children, after Winter Storm Fern swept the state last week, the Texas Standard reported.

Several unhoused people died of exposure in Austin, Houston and Fort Worth, according to reports. Nationally, the storm has killed at least 50 people.

Nearly five years after Winter Storm Uri overwhelmed the state's power grid and left millions without electricity, officials with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas noted the grid held, though localized outages were reported, especially in East Texas.

The storm forced nearly 2,400 flight cancellations at airports in Dallas, Houston and Austin.

NO NEW H-1B VISAS FOR UNIVERSITIES, AGENCIES

Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered universities and state agencies to stop asking for new H-1B visas until next year, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Abbott said the H-1B program has "too often been used to fill jobs that otherwise could — and should — have been filled by Texans."

The order is in effect at least until the Texas Legislature meets next January, when it is expected to consider "guardrails" for the program.

Charles Foster, a Houston immigration attorney, said the visas are used to recruit top talent in competitive technical and medical fields.

"You cut off the H-1B, you cut off the line by which the best and the brightest can immigrate," he said. "We're



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

just hurting ourselves."

STATE'S POPULATION GROWS AT SLOWER RATE

Census data released last week shows the state's population growth slowed significantly, though Texas still led the country in adding new residents, The Texas Tribune reported.

Much of the slowdown comes from a steep reduction in the number of immigrants moving to Texas, driven in part by the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

"I think the implication is our economic growth isn't probably going to be as hearty as what we've seen historically," said Lloyd Potter, the state demographer.

Texas ranked fourth in pace of population growth in 2025, trailing South Carolina, Idaho and North Carolina.

HHSC ANNOUNCES \$44 MILLION FOR RURAL HOSPITALS

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has made \$44 million in grant funding available to hospitals that serve rural communities.

The Rural Health Financial Stabilization Grant provides support for rural hospitals determined by HHSC to be at moderate or high risk of financial instability.

"Rural hospitals are an integral part of the Texas health care infrastructure," HHSC Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth said. "These grants will strengthen long-term stability while expanding access to care and improving health outcomes in rural communities statewide."

SBOE TAKES UP BIBLE-INFUSED REQUIRED READING LIST

The State Board of Education last week tabled a proposed reading list presented by the Texas Education Agency, deciding instead to seek public input.

Board member Will Hickman of Houston proposed a pared-down version of the list, which the board will also consider after receiving public input.

The list would create a single required reading list for every public school in the state. TEA officials have said teachers would be free to add any texts they wish.

The matter will be taken up again at the board's April meeting.

IT'S GETTING MORE EXPENSIVE TO LIVE IN TEXAS

New census data indicates the state's housing costs have outpaced income growth, resulting in Texas homeowners and renters spending a larger share of their income for housing, The Tribune reported.

"Texas is in no position to be taking a victory lap right now on housing affordability," said Ben Martin, research director for Texas Housers.

More than half of the state's 4.1 million renters are considered "cost-burdened," meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent.

Lawmakers last year passed a slate of laws aimed at easing the state's housing shortage by making it easier to build new apartments and housing.

POLICE WRANGLE A RUNAWAY KANGAROO

Police in Cleveland, north of Houston, were kept hopping last week trying to catch a kangaroo spotted hopping down a road, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Texas is one of 13 states that allows people to own kangaroos.

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@texapress.com

NORTHEAST NEWS

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Aldine FFA Livestock Sales top \$240,000

Continued from Page 1

helped him win the grand champion market lamb, a testament to his perseverance and learning from experienced peers.

“At the progress shows, I was competing against those who had a lot more animal experience, and it was a learning time for me,” Campa reflected.

Looking ahead, Campa is excited to continue his academic journey and grateful for the support he’s received.

“I’m thankful for my parents. They helped me. They supported me. Without them, I wouldn’t be here. And I give it all to them, and to the Lord,” he concluded.



The choir from MacArthur High School began the auction with a stirring rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner.



Students cheered for their colleagues from each high school as the bidding for projects heated up.



MacArthur High School senior Hugo Campa, Jr. poses with his Grand Champion lamb Flaca, and buyers at the auction. His lamb sold for \$4,250 to the superintendent’s group of buyers, a great way for him to celebrate his birthday.



Carmella Espinoza from MacArthur High School won the Grand Champion steer and earned \$15,000 from buyers First Construction.



LOT	Student Name	School	Amount Sold for	Buyer
GC Artwork	Alicia Champion	Davis	\$ 4,250.00	Superintendents Group
GC Steer	Carmella Espinoza	MacArthur	\$ 15,000.00	First Construction Group
GC Pig	Emma Villafana	Mac	\$ 5,750.00	Superintendents Group
GC Goat	Meagan Hatter	Eisenhower	\$ 4,500.00	Optimist Group
Scholarship Banner	Eisenhower FFA Seniors	Eisenhower	\$ 1,100.00	Eisenhower Vertical
GC Lamb	Hugo Campa Jr.	MacArthur	\$ 4,250.00	Superintendents Group
GC Turkey	Kabarie Lee	Davis	\$ 3,250.00	Aldine Buyers Group
GC Broilers	Jackson Dodd	Nimitz	\$ 3,250.00	Beasley Tire
Scholarship Banner	Davis FFA Seniors	Davis	\$ 1,000.00	Davis Vertical
RGC Steer	Alyssa Martinez	MacArthur	\$ 11,000.00	East Aldine
RGC Pig	Riley Haiduk	Nimitz	\$ 4,250.00	Office of Transformation
RGC Goat	Brenda Reyna	Eisenhower	\$ 3,500.00	Optimist Group
RGC Lamb	Jayden Viera	MacArthur	\$ 3,000.00	Timothy Barnes
RGC Turkey	Leyah Nash	Eisenhower	\$ 3,250.00	First Construction Group
RGC Broilers	Lizbeth Padron	Eisenhower	\$ 2,200.00	Huckabee
RGC Artwork	Delilah Perez	Blanson	\$ 3,750.00	First Construction Group

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Late Hours Certificate by Aloft M-Group Bar, LLC, dba Double Tree by Hilton Houston Hobby Airport to be located at 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, Harris County, Texas. The manager of said LLC is Nitin Kasan.

3-2T

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 40:3-4a

He put a **new song** in my **mouth**, a **hymn of praise** to our **God**. Many **will see** and **fear the LORD** and put **their trust** in **him**. **Blessed** is the **one** who **trusts** in the **LORD**.

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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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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your nearest kin, that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

Proverbs 7: 4,5



Detail of "Eden Bar" by Max Beckmann (1923)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Romans (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Daniel 3, who saw four men walking in the fiery furnace? Solomon, Job, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar
3. In 2 Kings 9, who was thrown from a window and struck the ground dead? Hezekiah, Jezebel, Joash, Abner
4. With whom did Lot fully escape the city of Sodom? Wife, Two daughters, Son, Two friends
5. From the book of Genesis, who was the wife of Joseph? Tamar, Rebekah, Asenath, Taphanes
6. What does "Naomi" mean? Beautiful star, Holy woman, Pleasant, Righteous

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Nebuchadnezzar, 3) Jezebel, 4) Two daughters, 5) Asenath, 6) Pleasant
 Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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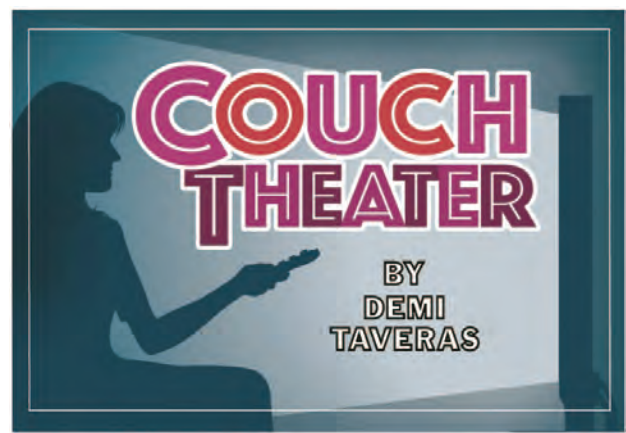
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Wagner Moura star in "The Secret Agent."

"The Secret Agent"

"Super Bowl LX" (TV-PG) — Nowadays, we no longer have to set reminders to record our favorite TV programs, including NFL championship games and award shows, because everything's being aired on major streamers! We can rewatch these programs as many times as we want, which is something viewers will definitely want to do this year because of the halftime performance. The big game will be held at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, where the Seattle Seahawks square off against the New England Patriots. Charlie Puth delivers his rendition of our national anthem, while Bad Bunny — who just won Album of the Year at the Grammys — forces us up from our seats to dance along to his half-time show. Out now! (Peacock)

"Hamnet" (PG-13) — This historical tragedy film stars two powerhouse actors in the drama genre, Jessie Buckley

(**"Wicked Little Letters"**) and Paul Mescal (**"Gladiator II"**). Mescal and Buckley respectively play William Shakespeare and Agnes Hathaway, with the film recounting the story of their relationship as William becomes a successful playwright. William and Agnes marry quickly, with kids following shortly, including twins named Hamnet and Judith. But with the bubonic plague spreading its deadliness throughout Europe, it's a matter of time until someone catches the disease. And when the disease catches Hamnet at 11 years old, his poor parents are left to cope with the tragedy of his death. Chloe Zhao (**"Nomadland"**) directs this Oscar-nominated film that is out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Secret Agent" (R) — You might know Wagner Moura from his portrayal as Pablo Escobar in "Narcos" or his role in "Civil War," but his role in this political thrill-

er is what got him a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama) a month ago. Taking place in 1977 during the Brazilian dictatorship, the film picks up as professor and single father Armando (Moura) returns to his hometown of Recife, Brazil, hoping to reconnect with his son, Fernando, and find some semblance of peace. However, Armando shortly finds out that because of a previous political scuffle with a business executive, a contract killing for him has been ordered, leaving him with very few options and a murky, unknown future. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms" (TV-MA) — Fans of George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" franchise should be quite happy to receive a third TV-series adaptation based on Martin's immersive books. This new prequel series takes place 90 years before "Game of Thrones" and about 70-80 years after "House of the Dragon." Starring Peter Claffey (**"Bad Sisters"**) and Dexter Sol Ansell (**"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes"**), the series follows a lowborn hedge knight named Ser Duncan the Tall (aka Dunk) and his squire, Aegon "Egg" Targaryen. The odd duo wanders throughout Westeros, naturally getting themselves into trouble and into some great adventures indeed. The first four episodes are out now to stream. The remaining two will premiere during the last two Sundays of February. (HBO Max)

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Q: Is it true that Paul Bettany was supposed to be on "The Crown"? Who was he going to play, and who replaced him? — L.J.

A: Yes, this is true. In an interview with "Prima" magazine, actor Paul Bettany stated that before the third season of the popular Netflix series "The Crown" premiered, he was in talks to play Prince Philip opposite Oliva Colman's ("The Roses") Queen Elizabeth. However, due to scheduling conflicts, likely with his role as Vision on another popular show — Marvel's "WandaVision" — they couldn't come to an agreement. Instead, Tobias Menzies ("F1") was cast as the prince.

It all worked out for both actors. Menzies' exposure on "The Crown" led him to star in the recent Oscar-nominated film "F1," and Bettany is starring in "Vision-Quest," the upcoming limited series about Vision's path to recovering his memory and humanity. The final season of "The Crown," its sixth, aired in 2023, and the show boasts 24 Emmy Awards.

Q: I was sad to hear that Prue Leith has quit hosting "The Great British Bake Off." Will the show go on? Is Paul Hollywood still staying? — U.C.

A: Alas, Prue Leith and her colorful eyeglasses are retiring, but it's understandable since, as she explained, she's 85 years old! You might not remember this, but Leith also replaced one of the original judges Mary Berry. Both ladies were loved by audiences, and hopefully Preith's successor will be welcomed by audiences just as much.

Nigella Lawson has been tapped as the newest host in the big white tent. Lawson is familiar to American audiences for her shows on the Food Network such as "Nigella Bites" and her many cookbooks. She will join co-hosts Paul Hollywood, Alison Hammond and Noel Fielding on set when filming begins this April. Expect to see these episodes on Netflix later in 2026.

Q: I love Tracy Morgan's new comedy "The Fall and Rise of Reggie Dinkins." I don't know anyone else who watches it, and I'm worried that it'll get canceled. How are its ratings? —



Stana Katic in "Absentia"

L.D.
A: Gone are the days when NBC comedies drew ratings like "Friends" did back in the '90s with an average of 25-40 million viewers. This was before competition from streamers, so expectations are now much lower for network sitcoms. However, when comparing it to other new comedies, "The Fall and Rise of Reggie Dinkins" has started off quite well, drawing in 5.8 million viewers for its premiere episode. It also streams on Peacock, which certainly gives it another boost.

In comparison, "Stumble," another new NBC comedy that's a hidden gem, is unfortunately averaging less than 2 million viewers per week. Season two of "St. Denis Medical," also on NBC, hovers around 2.8 million watchers.

One big advantage that "Reggie Dinkins" has is that it was created by Robert Carlock and Sam Means, who are two writers and producers from hilarious sitcoms like "30 Rock" and "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt." Stars Tracy Morgan and Daniel Radcliffe (of the "Harry Potter" franchise) have been busy promoting the show, even attending New York Knicks games together.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

		1		7	4			8	3
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4				6					

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ Boo Boy!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Pocket is moved. 4. Log is different. 5. Ear flap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ears are moved.

February 9, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Canine cry
 - 4 Dalai —
 - 8 Sultry Horne
 - 12 Uncle, to Juan
 - 13 Bard's river
 - 14 401(k) relatives
 - 15 Provider of free groceries
 - 17 Lapel jewelry
 - 18 Fawn's mom
 - 19 Nome resident
 - 21 Nuanced
 - 24 English cathedral city
 - 25 100%
 - 26 Poseidon's realm
 - 28 Follow
 - 32 L-Q bridge
 - 34 Cover
 - 36 Gear teeth
 - 37 Avid
 - 39 Kauai souvenir
 - 41 Last (Abbr.)
 - 42 Conducted
 - 44 Justice Antonin
 - 46 Movie promo
 - 50 Sprite
 - 51 Campus mil. group
 - 52 Eats for para-keets
 - 56 Jazzy James
 - 57 Singer Braxton

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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46	47	48			49		50				
51					52		53			54	55
56							57			58	
59							60			61	

- DOWN**
- 1 Justice Dept. agency
 - 2 2016
 - 3 Gourmand's online journal
 - 4 File stickers
 - 5 Director DuVernay
 - 6 "— Lisa"
 - 7 Bracelet site
 - 8 Feign singing
 - 9 Composer Satie
 - 10 "Peter Pan" dog
 - 11 Professional gp.
 - 16 Speck
 - 20 Pub pint
 - 21 "Ditto"
 - 22 Forearm bone
 - 23 Snaky fish
 - 27 Be sick
 - 29 1997 Vanessa Williams film
 - 30 Hybrid fruit
 - 31 "Como — uted?"
 - 33 Louisiana symbol
 - 35 — Moines Seminary subj.
 - 40 Stranded during a blizzard
 - 43 Unpaid bills
 - 45 TV alien
 - 46 Not kosher
 - 47 Indian flatbread
 - 48 Envelope abbr.
 - 49 Funny person
 - 53 Genetic letters
 - 54 Wilder's "— Town"
 - 55 Insult, slangily

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- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Honduras?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?
- TELEVISION:** In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** What is the fear represented in the condition called arachibutyrophobia?
- MUSIC:** Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?
- MOVIES:** Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?
- LITERATURE:** "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?
- HISTORY:** Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?
- ANATOMY:** Which element is a primary component of bones?

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1. Tegucigalpa; 2. Poppin' Fresh; 3. Illinoi; 4. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth; 5. "Creep"; 6. Dr. Rene Bellog; 7. William Henry Harrison; 1 hour and 45 minutes; 8. South Africa; 9. International Committee of the Red Cross; 10. Calcium

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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Aldine Student Rodeo Art,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Special Merit awards from the blue-ribbon group at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. District winners and students moving on to the rodeo competition were formally recognized on January 24.

This year, more Aldine ISD high school students advanced to the School Art Auction than ever before during Newman's time as visual arts director. In past years, Aldine ISD artists have also received top honors, such as the Elementary Class Champion award in 2024.

District Award Recipients

- Best of Show Anderson Academy, Grade 4:** Jamar Lockhart, *Boots on the Ground* Teacher: Tony McMillian
- Jones Middle School, Grade 8:** Patience Rodríguez, *Bucking Beauty* Teacher: Cory Reeves
- Eisenhower High School, Grade 10:** Meylin Solorzano, *Whispers of the Lost Sunset* Teacher: Lacey LeBlanc
- Gold Medal Harris Elementary,**

- Grade 5:** Delilah Arciniega, *Blankets of Heritage* Teacher: Tammy Bui Hoffman
- Middle School, Grade 8:** Elisheba Cortés, *Desert Style Full of Color* Teacher: Margie Ellis
- Nimitz High School, Grade 12:** Kelly Iraheta, *Where Are We Going?* Teacher: Jorge Vazquez
- Nimitz High School, Grade 11:** Lizeth Vazquez, *A Bronze Day* Teacher: Jorge Vazquez
- Special Merit Blanson CTE High School, Grade 9:** Ángela Hernández, *Hold On Tight!* Teacher: William Brink
- Blanson CTE High School, Grade 10:** Victoria Chapala, *Bull Ride* Teacher: William Brink
- Carver High School, Grade 10:** Ariel Flores, *Chicharrón* Teacher: Christina Moreno
- MacArthur High School, Grade 12:** Marelly Santana, *Three Musketeers* Teacher: Abigail Smith
- Nimitz High School, Grade 11:** Ta'Mya Holmes, *Peace in the Pasture* Teacher: Jorge Vazquez

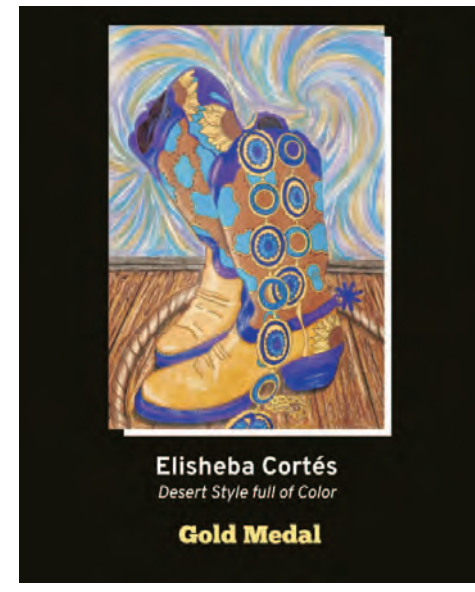
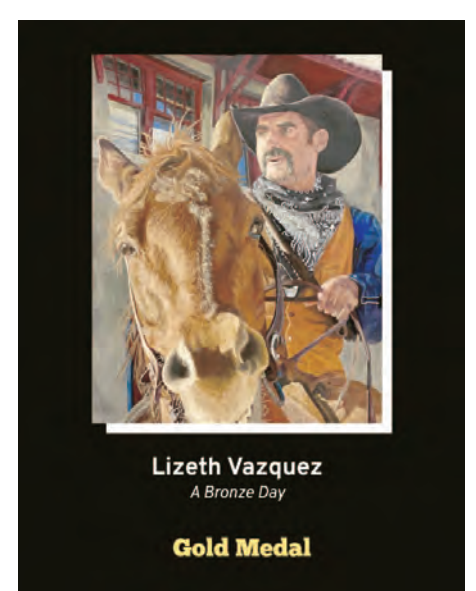
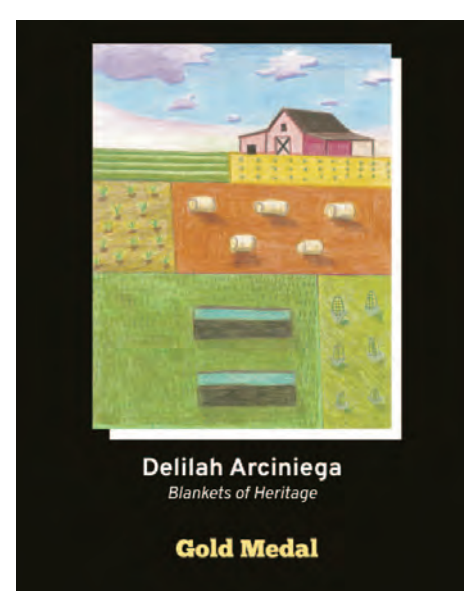
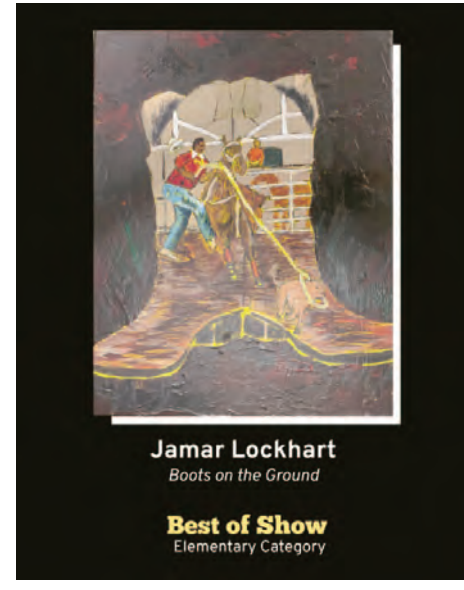
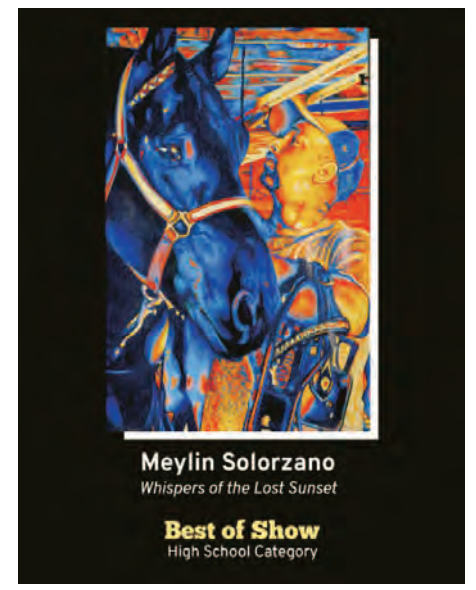
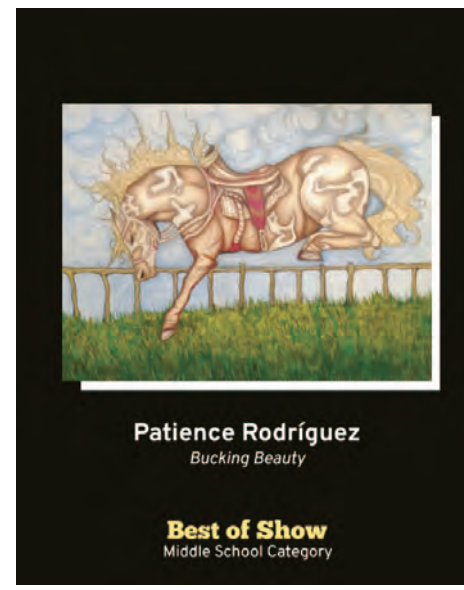
- Nimitz High School, Grade 12:** Brittany Rodríguez-García, *Bubblegum Piglet* Teacher: Jorge Vazquez

Advancing to the School Art Auction*

Four Aldine ISD high school artists will advance to the 2026 School Art Auction, which is the highest number of students to advance during Newman's time leading the department. These students are:

- Ángela Hernández
 - Ta'Mya Holmes
 - Keily Iraheta
 - Meylin Solorzano
- Money raised from the School Art Auction helps fund scholarships and educational programs, making this honor both an artistic and academic milestone for the students involved.

"Aldine ISD students keep showing that creativity, discipline, and strong teaching lead to great opportunities," Newman said. "We are excited to see their work on such a prestigious stage."



EAST ALDINE NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORY & RECYCLING CENTER

WE-CYCLE WEDNESDAYS

EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
CADA TERCER MIÉRCOLES DEL MES

On We-Cycle Wednesdays, the center will accept **ALL EAST ALDINE RESIDENTS** without an appointment. You will need to bring a photo ID, as well as a water, light, or gas bill, as **proof of residency**.

Los miércoles de reciclaje WE-Cycle, el centro de reciclaje atenderá a **TODOS LOS RESIDENTES DE EAST ALDINE** sin cita previa. Deberá presentar una identificación con fotografía, así como una factura de agua, luz o gas como **comprobante de domicilio**.

Location / Ubicación:
2789 Hopper Rd, Houston, TX 77093

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
unlimited possibilities