

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- BAA Citizenship Classes .. 2
- Library News 2
- Workout Classes 2
- Aldine ISD News 3
- State of the City 4
- Church Page 6
- Dental Insurance 6
- Alaskan Cruise 8
- LSC Close to Home 8
- Dr. Goffney Award 8
- Tour Route 66 8

NORTHEAST NEWS

State of the City



Mayor John Whitmire - See Page 4

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 50 Years
 VOL. 50, NO. 6 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Teague MS set for Closure

School Board will vote this month; Declining student population factor in decision

By David Taylor
 Managing Editor

Aldine Independent School District is considering the closure of Teague Middle School as part of its ongoing Optimization 2026 initiative, a sweeping effort to address a dramatic decline in student enrollment and mounting budget pressures. The district, which has already shuttered nine campuses since 2024, is now reviewing the fate of Teague Middle and potentially three

more elementary schools, as leaders grapple with the realities of fewer students, reduced state funding, and rising operational costs.

At a recent community meeting, district officials, including Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney, outlined the challenges facing Teague Middle School. Enrollment has plummeted by 60 percent over five years, leaving the campus at just 42 percent capacity with only 487 students and 682 vacant seats. If the closure is approved, students



Teague Middle School is on the chopping block for closure due to declining enrollment. They aren't the only ones this year to meet the fate of shuttering.

would be rezoned to Jones and Aldine Middle Schools, though temporary arrangements may be necessary due to ongoing construction.

The district's optimization plan is driven by several factors: declining birth rates, a lack of affordable housing, fewer new home developments, and the rise

of alternative education options such as charter schools and homeschooling. These trends have led to a 26 percent drop in enrollment since 2015-16,

forcing Aldine ISD to consolidate resources and close underutilized campuses.

The potential closure of additional elementary schools is also under review. In the past two years, Aldine ISD has closed Smith, Eckert, Stovall E.C./P-K/K, De Santiago E.C./P-K/K, Oleson, Raymond, Conley, Sammons, and Gray Elementary Schools. The district cites the same reasons: declining enrollment, budget shortfalls, and decreased state funding for these decisions. The closures are expected to save millions of dollars, as much as \$25 million last year, and allow

Continued. See TEAGUE MS CLOSURE, Page 5

NEWS NOTES

New: We-Cycle Wednesdays at East Aldine Recycling Center

Every third Wednesday of the Month, the East Aldine Recycling Center will accept All East Aldine Residents without an appointment.

You will need to bring a photo ID, as well as a water, electric, or gas bill as proof of residency in East Aldine. LOCATION: 2789 Hopper Road, Houston 77093.

East Aldine and BAA celebrate Presidents' Day at the JFK Statue

Bonding Against Adversity hosted a patriotic celebration of Presidents' Day, last Monday February 16 at the JFK Memorial. In the photo below, East Aldine Board chairman Carlos Silva addresses the crowd with remarks about the District, and the importance of the JFK Memorial and JFK Boulevard in the District.

One observer, Ruben Salazar, said: "It is really special to be here with residents who are in the process of becoming citizens or who just recently took the oath. Moments like this remind us what this country is all about."



East Aldine Board chair Carlos Silva, at right, addresses the crowd.



East Aldine District and Bonding Against Adversity members gather at the JFK statue to observe President's Day.

Aldine ISD Celebrates National Signing Day



MacArthur Athletes at Signing Day

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 col-

legiate level, underscoring the district's emphasis on being a student first and an athlete second.

Continued. See NATIONAL SIGNING DAY, Page 2

FIFA World Cup will bring Local Business Opportunities

By David Taylor
 Managing Editor

North Channel Chamber members were excited to hear from Kim Scates, the vice president of commercial partnership at the FIFA World Cup '26 Houston Host Committee and how they might be able to participate with their own businesses. Scates leads sponsorship sales and serves on the leadership team for the host event. "This summer, the biggest sporting event in the world is coming to Houston. Any soccer fans in the crowd? Who are you



FIFA's Kim Scates, center, with NC Chamber officials at luncheon talk.

rooting for this summer?" she asked enthusiastically.

Houston is gearing up for a summer unlike any other as the FIFA Men's

World Cup, the world's largest and most presti-

Continued. See FIFA WORLD CUP, Page 5

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

Unlimited Possibilities

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE
 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr. #200 - 77039
 713-595-1232 | info@aldinedistrict.org

improving public safety
 mejorando la seguridad pública

advancing commerce
 avanzando el comercio

beautifying the area
 embelleciendo el area

posibilidades ilimitadas AldineDistrict.org

EAST ALDINE NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORY & RECYCLING CENTER

NEW HOURS
 Tuesday - Saturday
9AM-4:30PM
 nuevo horario | martes - sábado

APPOINTMENT ONLY | SOLO CON CITA

713.454.7185
 keeping it "real"ycled
 AldineDistrict.org/Recycle

AVAILABLE Your Ad Here

Your marketing Ad in this newspaper generates income for your business and the community.

Thank you.
NORTHEAST NEWS
 713-266-3444

Marina Sugg's Workout Classes at Almendarez Community Center



Monday 2/16/26 - Great class today. 33 total, and not everyone that was in class on Friday was there today!

Today's 60-minute non-stop class included 3 sessions of cardio, 1 of upper-body toning without weights, 2 of upper body toning with weights, 2 of lower-body strength-building, 1 of abs, 1 of cool-down, 1 of balancing, and 1 of stretching.

Sometimes I throw in a little joking. This is not an easy class, y'all, but these ladies and gentlemen are not looking for easy. They're looking for feeling more energetic, for pain-relief, and for cutting down on meds. Many have given testimony of the benefits they've gotten from exercise. Hearing their testimony is my reward, my payment, for giving this class as a volunteer. Love my class

Aldine ISD Celebrates National Signing Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MacArthur Athletes at Signing Day

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 College), and Gabriel Nunez (Redlands Community College). Jeylin Espinal Ordenez 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), Breyawna 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, Caedyn 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.

THE NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN

Bonding Against Adversity
Helping Others Help Themselves

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES – FEBRUARY 2026

<p>JANUARY 10 – APRIL 4 EVERY SATURDAY 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM (English Only) NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3320 Cypress Creek Parkway Houston, TX 77068 Youth Building</p>	<p>JANUARY 18 – MAY 30 EVERY SUNDAY 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (English and Spanish) PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH 18222 Tomball Parkway Houston, TX 77070 St. Joseph Center</p>	<p>JANUARY 15 – APRIL 9 EVERY THURSDAY 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (English Only) LOVE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH 250 N. Sam Houston Parkway E. Houston, TX 77060 Room 306</p>
<p>JANUARY 24 – MAY 2 EVERY SATURDAY (English and Spanish) ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH 2151 Lauder Rd. Houston, TX 77039 St. Felipe Center</p>	<p>JANUARY 24 – APRIL 25 EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM (English and Spanish) ST. CHARLES DOMEREO CATHOLIC CHURCH 501 Tidwell Rd. Houston, TX 77022 Room 7,8,9,10</p>	<p>JANUARY 24 – APRIL 25 EVERY SATURDAY 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM (English Only) LOVE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER 2430 Aldine Mail Route Houston, TX 77039 Room 202</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 28 – MAY 30 EVERY SATURDAY 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM (English and Spanish) ST. ROMANUS OF LOPEDA CATHOLIC CHURCH 7818 Cypresswood Dr. Spring, TX 77379 Xavier Center</p>		

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 281-799-9076
OR TEXT 832-996-4234

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY IS AVAILABLE IN THREE OFFICES

LOVE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH
250 N Sam Houston Parkway E.
Houston, TX 77060

LOVE STAR COLLEGE KINGWOOD
20000 Kingwood Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77339

LOVE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER
2430 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, TX 77039

PREREGISTER AT: WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG

IMMIGRATION - INTEGRATION - EDUCATION

BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a program of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Access Programs.

WWW.BAATEXAS.ORG

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

• UTILITIES & APPLIANCES FURNISHED

ELIGIBILITY:

- Age 62 or older
- Disabled
- Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment

CALL **713-692-8541**

APPLY TO:

W. Leo Daniels Tower 8826 Harrell

Off Jensen between Berry Road & Aldine Westfield

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

CAREER AND COLLEGE HELP | AYUDA PARA BUSCA DE EMPLEO O CARRERAS
Wednesday, February 25, 12:00pm-6:00pm
Description
Ready to re-enter today's workforce with confidence? Join us for a practical, empowering one-on-one meeting designed to help you take the next step in your career journey!
Connect with a Future U advisor! Discover the college and career resources around you.
What we offer:
* Built professional resumes
* Prepare for all types of interviews by discovering key elements.
* Access free online career resources from our Harris County libraries to continue developing your career skills and confidence.
Please click on the link below or call. Virtual appointments are also available.

LOVE YOUR HEART : HEALTH DROP-IN SESSIONS | AMA TU CORAZÓN : SESIONES DE SALUD SIN CITA PREVIA
Wednesday, February 25, 3:30pm-5:30pm
Description
Join Harris County Public Health (HCPH) at the High Meadows Branch Library this February for two special sessions dedicated to keeping your heart in top shape. No appointment is necessary—just drop in and take charge of your health!
Session 1: Heart Health Basics
Date: Wednesday, February 18
Topic: Learn the "Know Your Numbers" essentials, including tips for managing blood pressure and main-

taining a heart-healthy lifestyle.
Session 2: Quitting for Good
Date: Wednesday, February 25
Topic: Focused on Tobacco & Vaping Cessation. HCPH specialists will provide resources, education, and support to help you or a loved one quit smoking—one of the best things you can do for your heart.

BOOK BUDDIES @ HIGH MEADOWS
Wednesday, February 25, 4:15pm-5:00pm
Description
Book Buddies is a FREE literacy program that brings child and teens together to share the joy of reading. It pairs trained teen volunteers (Big Buddies) with children in K-3rd grades (Little Buddies).
Each Wednesday for 10 weeks, Big Buddies and Little Buddies will meet to read together and create positive experiences surrounding literacy. By the end of the session, we aspire that all Little Buddies will learn to love to read and form positive associations with reading.
Applications to be a Little Buddy or Big Buddy are available at the High Meadows Library until capacity is reached!
Teen volunteers (Big Buddies) must attend a Big Buddy training to participate in the program.

AVENTURAS EN LECTURAS | ADVENTURES IN READING
Wednesday, February 25, 5:00pm-5:30pm
Description
Join us for our bilingual Storytime! Every week new story themes like Robots, Superheroes, Dragons, and more! Also, play some instruments with us and interactive games between the tales. ¡Acompañanos en nuestra hora del cuento bilingüe! Cada semana, nuevos temas de cuentos como robots, superhéroes, dragones y mucho más. También, toca algunos instrumentos con nosotros y participa en juegos interactivos entre los cuentos.

CAREER AND COLLEGE HELP | AYUDA PARA BUSCA DE EMPLEO O CARRERAS
Thursday, February 26, 12:00pm-6:00pm
Description
Ready to re-enter today's workforce with confidence? Join us for a practical, empowering one-on-one meeting designed to help you take the next step in your career journey!
Connect with a Future U advisor! Discover the college and career resources around you.
What we offer:
* Built professional resumes
* Prepare for all types of interviews by discovering key elements.
4.* Access free online career resources from our Harris County libraries to continue developing your career skills and confidence.
1. Please click on the link below or call. Virtual appointments are also available.

MICROSOFT WORD BASICS
Thursday, February 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm
Description
This class is for people who already know a little about using a computer and want to learn Microsoft Word. Over 6 weeks, we will practice typing, saving documents, changing text, adding pictures, and using Word tools like spell check and templates. The class meets one hour per week and is hands-on and beginner-friendly.
Registration is not required, but please keep in mind that you should try to attend every class in order to build your skills.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

WIGGLE WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Come Move and Groove with Us!
Join us for a fun-filled session of reading, singing, and playful movement!
It's the perfect way to introduce toddlers to the joy of books and reading while building important motor skills. Through music, movement, and play, we'll help support your child's growth in a joyful, engaging way—because play is essential to every part of toddler development!
¡Ven a moverte y bailar con nosotros!
¡Están invitados para una divertida sesión de lectura, canto y movimiento lúdico!
Es la manera perfecta de introducir a los niños pequeños al placer de los libros y la lectura, a la vez que desarrollan importantes habilidades motoras. A través de la música, el movimiento y el juego, apoyaremos el crecimiento de tu hijo de una manera divertida y atractiva, ¡Porque el juego es esencial para cada etapa del desarrollo infantil!

COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISOR
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Connect with a Future U advisor! Discover the college and career resources around you. To make an appoint-

ment, 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 GAME NIGHT
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Join us at Aldine for a game night! Whether you want to play Smash Bros on the Switch or fight over Uno, we'll have the game for you. Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders

TEEN CLUB
Thursday, February 26, 2026 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Join us every Thursday for a fun hour full of crafts and workshops.
Relax, have a snack in a safe and welcoming space!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Thursday, February 26, 2026 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Join Aldine Branch Library for a movie night! Eat some popcorn and watch a fun movie with the whole family
¡Únete a la biblioteca Aldine Branch Library para una noche de cine! Come palomitas y disfruta de una divertida película con toda la familia

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP
Saturday, February 28, 2026 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us for a free class to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and civics test. You must complete an English placement

assessment to join the class. Taking this class will not grant citizenship or pay for any application fees. Registration is required as space is limited.

PASSPORTS
Do have plans to travel out of the country? You need to get your passport in order! Current routine processing is estimated at 4-6 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 2-3 weeks. You can **make an appointment** for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services> Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on most Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, check/money order, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. **Sign-in starts at 1pm.**

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Three Teachers, One Promise: The Hoffman Middle School Team Turning Readers Into Believers



Hoffman Middle School eighth-grade reading team members Durriyyah Drummond, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Francesca Lee were named Aldine ISD Bright Spot in Literacy recipients.

Somewhere in the middle of the school year, when eighth grade feels heavy and books feel harder than before, a student whispers something teachers hear more often than people think: "I'm just not good at reading." It is a small sentence. But it carries years of doubt. It is also the sentence teachers spend months trying to rewrite. At Hoffman Middle School, three teachers refuse to let that sentence be the end of the story. Durriyyah Drummond, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Francesca Lee — the school's eighth-grade reading team — have been recognized by Aldine ISD as Bright Spot in Literacy recipients, not for one lesson or one moment, but for the steady collaboration that helps students grow into confident readers.

The Bright Spots Initiative



The Bright Spots initiative began with a simple belief inside Aldine ISD: before changing a system, recognize the educators already strengthening it. Created by the Teaching and Learning Department, the Bright Spot in Literacy Award honors teachers who implement curriculum effectively and support colleagues across their campuses so more students experience strong literacy instruction. At Hoffman Middle School, Principal Tyam Richard saw that work happening every day. "This team collaborates intentionally," Richard said. "They study student work together, plan together and support one another so every student benefits from strong literacy instruction."

A Team That Works as One

The eighth-grade reading team — Drummond, Franklin and Lee — shares a commitment that goes beyond individual classrooms. They reflect together on student needs. They align instruction so students experience consistency. They share strategies and support one another in reaching learners who need extra encouragement. Their collaboration is built on trust. Over time, that trust creates something powerful for students: clarity. Students know what is expected. They know their teachers are working together. They know help is there when reading feels difficult. Principal Richard has seen the results in the way students approach learning. "Students are more willing to engage with challenging texts," she said. "They show more confidence because they know their teachers are there to support them."

Confidence Before Scores

Literacy growth is often measured in numbers. But teachers know the first change is quieter. A student who raises a hand. A student who tries again after a difficult passage. A student who begins to believe effort matters. Across Hoffman Middle School, Richard has watched that confidence grow. The reading team's collaboration has helped create stronger discussions, clearer expectations and a shared approach to literacy that benefits students across classrooms. "They model instructional excellence and teamwork," Richard said. "Their practices can inspire other campuses."

Why Bright Spots Matter



Photos from Aldine ISD leaders' visit to Hoffman Middle School, where they surprised staff members Francesca Lee, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Durriyyah Drummond with the Aldine Literacy Bright Spot Award on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 19, 2026.

The Bright Spots initiative honors educators who bring curriculum to life and support colleagues across the district. But behind every recognition is something simpler: Teachers choosing to stay a little longer. Teachers sharing what works instead of keeping it. Teachers believing that no student is "just not good at reading." At Hoffman Middle School, that belief lives in the work of Durriyyah Drummond, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Francesca Lee. Because of them, students are discovering that difficult texts can be understood, ideas can be expressed and confidence can be rebuilt one sentence at a time. Sometimes, a student who once whispered, "I'm not good at reading," looks up from a page and says something new: "I think I got it." That moment — quiet, fragile and full of possibility — is why Aldine ISD calls them a Bright Spot in Literacy. And why their work will echo far beyond eighth grade. Caps1 Hoffman Middle School eighth-grade reading team members Durriyyah Drummond, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Francesca Lee were named Aldine ISD Bright Spot in Literacy recipients. Caps4 Photos from Aldine ISD leaders' visit to Hoffman Middle School, where they surprised staff members Francesca Lee, Ja'Mielle Franklin and Durriyyah Drummond with the Aldine Literacy Bright Spot Award on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 19, 2026.

Aldine ISD's Georgina Foroi Named 2026 Distinguished Educator of the Year

- 21 years of dedicated service to Aldine ISD
- From paraprofessional to executive director — a true "grow your own" leader
- Champion for family and community engagement
- Developer of districtwide leadership and professional learning systems
- Honored as a 2026 Distinguished Educator of the Year by Sam Houston State University

Georgina Foroi ('10)

From paraprofessional to principal to district executive director, Georgina Foroi's 21-year journey in Aldine Independent School District has come full circle — and now, statewide recognition is following. Foroi, Aldine ISD's executive director of professional learning and leadership development, has been named one of six 2026 Distinguished Educators of the Year by the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) College of Education. The Distinguished Educator of the Year (DEOY) Award is the highest honor the college bestows upon its alumni.

The university will honor Foroi and five other recipients during the DEOY Gala on March 28 at SHSU's Lowman Student Center in Huntsville. "This recognition is a powerful chapter in the #AldineStory," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "Mrs. Foroi's leadership reflects what we believe in Aldine ISD — investing in people, growing leaders from within, and ensuring that every student and family has access to opportunity. Her journey is an exemplification of the impact of commitment, heart, and hard work."

Foroi said the honor represents more than her own journey, but the collective work of the Aldine community. "I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this recognition from Sam Houston State University," Foroi said. "Aldine ISD is home. It's where I learned, where I grew, and where I have been blessed to serve for more than two decades. This award reflects the mentors who poured into me, the teams I've worked alongside, and the families who trust us with their children each day. Leadership, to me, is about service — and I remain committed to developing leaders who will continue advancing opportunities for every Aldine student."

A Career Built in Aldine
Foroi's professional story began in Aldine ISD as a paraprofessional. Over the next two decades, she served as a bilingual teacher, reading specialist, campus behavior coordinator, assistant principal, and principal before moving into district leadership. In 2023, she was named executive director of the district's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department. Under her leadership, FACE expanded partnerships with families, community organizations, and business leaders to strengthen student success across the district. Through initiatives such as Family and Community University (FCU), the department implemented English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for adults, Spanish conversation classes, citizenship courses, and empowerment-based workshops for families. The initiative earned Aldine ISD the Promising Practice Award from Region 16.

In 2025, Foroi transitioned into her current role as executive director of professional learning and leadership development, where she now supports leadership growth and instructional excellence across the district. She also serves on the Superintendent's Executive Leadership Impact Team. Her leadership goes beyond Aldine. Foroi is a member of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) Superintendent Leadership Academy, serves on the Association of Latinx Leaders in Aldine Board, and is a cohort member of Holdsworth Leadership Development. She is also a doctoral and superintendent candidate in the Educational Leadership program at SHSU. **Honoring Leadership That Transcends the Classroom**
According to SHSU's College of Education, this year's honorees "exemplify leadership which transcends the classroom" and are shaping the future of education while inspiring future generations. For Aldine ISD, that description resonates deeply. Foroi's work has steadily centered on strengthening connections among schools, families, and the community — ensuring that leadership development and professional learning translate directly into improved learner outcomes. Her commendation by SHSU underscores Aldine ISD's commitment to growing its own leaders and aligning professional development with the district's strategic priorities. As Aldine continues to accelerate opportunities for students and staff alike, Foroi's journey is a reminder that leadership is not only about titles — it's about service, growth, and lasting impact. And in Aldine ISD, that story is still being written.

High School SAT SCHOOL DAY

11th Grade JUNIORS

Aldine ISD 2026 SAT School Day Window: March 25, 26, and 27; FREE during the school day

CollegeBoard SAT connect to college success™

ALDINE Independent School District

OPINION PAGE

STATE OF THE CITY
By MAYOR JOHN WHITMIRE

The State of the City is Strong

HOUSTON - Mayor John Whitmire delivered his annual State of the City address before a sold-out audience of business and civic leaders, sharing a message focused on no new taxes, honest government that works, and a city that is strong.

"Houston has challenges just like every major city. But we face them head on. Houston is strong, and we're getting stronger every day. Stronger because we work together, in collaboration," said the mayor.

This year's program began with a celebration of the city's cultural diversity. Mariachi Imperial performed, featuring Houston Police Officer Alvaro Olivera. The mayor also selected a special performance of "You'll Never Walk Alone" by Rev. Michael Gott and vocalist Kenneth Gayle from Unity of Houston.

Mayor Whitmire recognized Unite Here Local 23 as his invited guests. The labor organization went on strike against the Hilton Hotel last year for higher wages. In support of organized labor members and their families, the mayor postponed his original State of the City address last September.

"Thank you for what you do to help make this a great city, and to your co-workers providing the service today. These workers knew they would never walk alone. I was down at City Hall working, but I had their backs covered, and they knew it," said Mayor Whitmire.

On the issues, Mayor Whitmire said during the State of the City that he is keeping his campaign commitment to fix Houston by:

- Removing conflicts of interest, eliminating waste, duplication, and corruption
• Balancing the budget without a tax increase
• Adding more Houston Police and Fire Department recruits
• Purchasing 54 new trucks and providing more resources for garbage pickup
• Investing in neighborhood and pocket parks, including a planned transformation of Tranquillity Park with Downtown Houston+
• Holding discussions about a possible METRO light rail connection to Bush Airport and future water taxi service on Buffalo Bayou.

On Infrastructure

- Replacing at least 200 miles of water pipes per year
• Paving 1,000 lane miles in 2026
• Investing \$500 million in drainage and road improvements
• Coordinating with other agencies to improve Houston's infrastructure
• Preparing Houston to be a premier city for residents and visitors ahead of the World Cup

"We are increasing public safety and transportation and offering shuttles between downtown and the airports. We're doing many things right in preparation for the World Cup. But, ladies and gentlemen, we have to treat Houstonians like they're our World Cup visitors as well," said Mayor Whitmire. "We're making progress. That's what I want to leave you with. I'm prepared to give six years, the remaining best years of my life to Houston, working 18-hour days with a team that is the best in America."

The Greater Houston Partnership and Houston First Corporation sponsored the State of the City.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Paxton, Crockett leading in primary poll

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton and Democratic U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett are leading their respective primary campaigns for U.S. Senate, according to a poll released last week by the University of Houston's Hobby School of Public Affairs, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Early voting began Feb. 17 and runs through Feb. 27.

Among Republicans, Paxton led incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn 38% to 31%. U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt polled at 17%, making it likely that race will go to a runoff in May if these margins hold. Among Democrats, Crockett led with 47% while state Rep. James Talarico was favored by 39% of respondents.

The margin of error for both parties was plus or minus 4 percentage points. The election is on March 3.

ROY LEADING IN POLLS IN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RACE

In the race to succeed Paxton as attorney general, U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, with 33% in the latest poll leads a crowded GOP field by 10 percentage points, with state Sen. Mayes Middleton in second at 23%. The Texas Tribune reported state Sen. Joan Huffman polled at 13%, and Aaron Reitz, a former federal assistant attorney general, trailed at 6%.

However, 25% of those polled remain undecided in that race.

On the Democratic side, state Sen. Nathan Johnson led with 25% of the 550 people polled, followed by former Galveston mayor Joe Jaworski at 22%. Attorney and former FBI agent Tony Box held 13%. A majority of those polled said they didn't know enough about any of the candidates to express a preference.

That poll was also conducted by the Hobby School of Public Affairs.

FED PREDICTS JOB GROWTH IN TEXAS IN 2026

A new employment forecast by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas predicts the state will add jobs in 2026, after a flat 2025, The Dallas Morning News reported. The bank's forecast predicts Texas employment will grow by 1.1%, or about 155,000 jobs. That is about half of job growth the state has experienced in recent years.

"We've run our models. We're going with the 1.1% growth, so that is a significant increase from zero, certainly," said Pia Orrenius, a senior



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

economist at the Dallas Fed.

The slower-than-normal employment growth is partly attributable to the Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies and enforcement operations, according to some economists. In a report published by the Fed in October, the authors said the immigration policies were negatively affecting one in five Texas businesses.

"The stepped-up visibility and intensity of enforcement have produced a chilling effect," the authors wrote. "As fear spreads in immigrant communities, foreign-born individuals are more likely to miss work or school and less likely to venture out to shops and restaurants."

STATE, FEDS PREPARE TO FIGHT SCREWORM INVASION

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Gov. Greg Abbott presided last week over the opening of new facility in Edinburg to produce sterile flies in order to combat a potential invasion of New World screwworms from Mexico that could threaten the nation's leader in cattle production, The Tribune reported.

Cases of the screwworm, which lays eggs in open wounds on cattle, have been detected in Mexico as close as 70 miles from the border.

"I don't want to underplay it because it is a big threat to our country, but I believe we're as prepared as we could possibly be, if that happens, to deal with it, to move toward eradication,"

Rollins said. Sterile flies were released last week in Northern Mexico and in Texas within 50 miles of the border as a precautionary measure.

Abbott has issued a disaster declaration to enable a newly formed response team to have adequate resources. The USDA plans to open its own production facility in Edinburg by the end of 2027. For now, the facility is using larvae produced in Panama and flown to

Texas.

ABBOTT BREAKS WITH TRUMP OVER NATIONALIZING ELECTIONS

The governor has broken with Trump over the president's call to nationalize elections in some parts of the country, kut.org reported. He was asked about Trump's suggestion at a recent campaign event.

"Listen, my understanding of the United States Constitution, and that is elections for state positions are to be conducted by states, and I don't think we should deviate from that," Abbott said.

Legal experts and some Trump allies highlight that the Constitution grants states the primary authority over elections, making any effort to nationalize the process both legally complicated and logistically challenging.

HIGH STAKES FOR ABBOTT IN COMPTROLLER'S RACE

As the Houston Chronicle reported, while Abbott is widely expected to win his primary reelection bid, the governor has a lot on the line in the Texas comptroller's race. Acting comptroller Kelly Hancock, appointed when Glenn Hegar left to become chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, faces a serious challenge from one of the governor's biggest political foes, former state Sen. Don Huffines — who ran and lost to Abbott in 2022. Also on the GOP primary ballot is Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick.

The winner of that race will oversee the state's new voucher program.

"Succession in Texas politics is on the ballot," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political scientist at the University of Houston. "There's a lot of jockeying for position for the future of the Republican Party in Texas."

Huffines spent heavily in 2022 in his unsuccessful bid to oust Abbott, calling him a "weak leader" and a "coward." Hancock has vowed to work closely with Abbott.

GALVESTON'S ELISSA SAILING TO NEW YORK FOR 250TH CELEBRATION

The 1877 "tall ship" Elissa, docked in Galveston Bay, will sail to New York City for the Fourth of July, the Texas Standard reported. The Galveston Historical Foundation purchased the ship in 1979, and it normally serves as a museum. Will Wright, creative director of the foundation, said the ship is one of only two of its kind in the world that can still actively sail.

"Elissa is still traditionally sailed," Wright said. "We benefit from a lot of the technological advances, but at the end of the day, the ship is a sailing ship."

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

My Plants love me



They say that some plants "thrive on neglect," and I never really believed it until now.

I have tried for years—decades really—to get things to grow, indoors and out, and I have pretty much failed at everything. Gardens languish without producing whatever they were supposed to produce. Houseplants die as they enter the house. The only plants I have success with are floral bouquets. (I am very good with cut flowers, but I acknowledge this does not count as gardening.)

So imagine my surprise when I discovered that there is a plant that appears to love me and my style of plant husbandry—that is to say, no care whatsoever.

I work miracles with the jade plant.

Now, I hear someone snickering because growing a jade plant requires no skill at all and, of course, they would be right. But the same has been said about the Christmas cactus. My mother still has a Christmas cactus she smuggled home in her suitcase from a trip to Sweden in the 1970s—I have killed off every one I have ever had. I have killed philodendrons—plants known to flourish wrapped around the un-insulated windows of college apartments and neglected for semesters at a time. To assume that even the hardiest plant is safe from my ministrations would be to underestimate my total inability.

But my jade plants survive. In fact, my jade plants might be trying to take over my home.

Like a deeply dysfunctional relationship, my jade plants reward me for forgetting about them, neglecting them and treating them badly. A near total lack of care and the lowest possible emotional involvement are disproportionately rewarded with growth. The guiltier I feel, the larger they grow.

It was my husband, Peter, who suggested I put them outside in the summer. I started with one, and it did well, so I ended up with eight. I put them in little pots on the balcony. The wind was harsh. The sun was strong. Pigeons sat on them. I forgot to water them. And those jade plants flourished. I cut them back. I brought them into the living room before there was a hard freeze. When we went to Mexico, I asked someone to water them while we were away.

"How often?" he asked. Since I had completely neglected them all summer, I didn't want to frighten them with too much attention. "Every three weeks should be fine."

"How much water?"

"I don't think it matters."

When I got back from Mexico, I swear those plants had doubled in size. They were too big to be in the living room over Christmas, so I moved them to the bedroom and stuffed them into a dark corner. I completely forgot to water them over the holidays. They expanded until the plants in all eight pots had combined into one giant organism. I had trouble reaching the window shade.

"Well, this won't do!" I thought.

I took a bread knife and cut off branches until they could stand on their own. Within a day (I am not exaggerating) those plants filled in where the missing branches had been.

I see no point in ever growing any other kind of plant.

I will have jade plants in the house and jade plants on the balcony. My specialty has been made clear. I grow jade plants. I don't try to grow anything else. My jade plants love me.

But I leave for Mexico next week and, I admit, I'm a little afraid of what they will do while I'm away.

Till next time, Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS
5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188
email: nenewsroom@aol.com
website: www.nenewsroom.com
Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin
Gilbert Hoffman.....Editor & Publisher
Mei-Ing Hoffman.....Associate Publisher
David Taylor.....Managing Editor
Kristan Hoffman.....Website Editor
Julieta Paita.....Assignment Editor
Gerardo Hernandez.....Production Manager
Contributing Writers: Mike Keeney, Charlotte Jackson, Allan Jamail, Kristan Hoffman, Marina Flores Sugg
Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com
Founding Member North Houston Chamber (now Houston Intercontinental) Member Texas Press Association

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Document 00020

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 74 (District) is requesting bids for the rehabilitation of approximately 3,500 linear feet of sanitary sewer gravity pipes and 35 vertical feet of sanitary sewer manholes in several segmented locations throughout the Fairgreen Subdivision. The work to be performed under this project includes pipe bursting, manhole lining, point repairs and the removal/disposal of slip line carrier pipe.

Bids in duplicate copies must be sealed and marked "2023-2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements" and delivered at the District's Office located at 4901 Sandydale Lane, Houston, Texas 77039, to arrive no later than 10:00 A.M., local time, Wednesday, March 25, 2026. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 A.M., local time, Thursday, March 5, 2026 at the District's Office located at 4901 Sandydale Lane, Houston, Texas 77039.

The Pre-Bid Conference will also be made available by Microsoft Teams virtual video and phone conference. The following are directions for attending the pre-bid conference by telephone or computer:

1. Call the toll-free dial-in number or link below to access the virtual video and phone conference:
 - a. <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/28503321929591?p=DvcAy2nj41qPe6WAaW>
 - b. Meeting ID: 285 033 219 295 91
 - c. Passcode: eX2LE274
 - d. Phone: (833) 255-2803
 - e. Phone Conference ID: 317260437#
2. Once the meeting begins, you will need to mute your phone or microphone in order to limit background noise. This is in order to prevent disruption over the phone and to allow callers to listen to the meeting.
3. In order to keep record of attendees, please email your information in advance to Ryan Nokolby and Aaron Croley (Ryan.Nokolby@hdrinc.com and Aaron.Croley@hdrinc.com). A roll call will be initiated at the beginning of the pre-bid conference to confirm the phone conference attendees.

Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is non-mandatory.

Copies of Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com, search Harris County WCID #74 - 2023-2024 Sanitary Sewer Improvements. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download plans and specifications for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents from the website.

The Harris County Water Control and Improvement District #74 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bidding and to accept any bid which it deems advantageous to the District. Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the District, the Engineer, and their respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation or recommendation of any bid.

Bids may be held by the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District #74 for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

This project will be federally funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department through Harris County Housing & Community Development (HCHCD). Applicable requirements include, but are not limited to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, Federal Labor Standards, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, and contracting with small, minority, and disadvantaged firms, and the Build America Buy America (BABA) Act defined in 2CFR § 184.3, as detailed in the contract documents.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, and as Supplemental in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR part 60.

Teague MS Closure,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the district to redirect funds toward teacher salaries and improved programming.

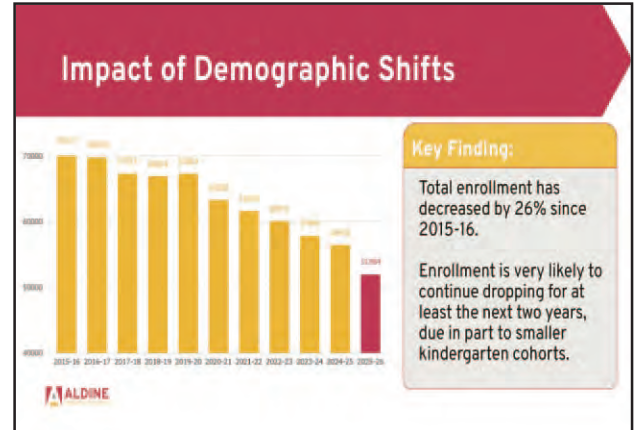
District leaders emphasize that these closures, while difficult, are necessary to ensure students have access to high-quality educational opportunities and robust programming. Each facility is being evaluated individually, with options ranging from repurposing to demolition or sale. Community engagement remains a priority, with meetings held to gather feedback and ensure transparency.

As Aldine ISD continues its optimization project, families are urged to monitor official communications for updates on school closures and rezoning plans. The district's commitment is to adapt to changing demographics and funding realities, striving to build a stronger foundation for the future of its schools and community.

"This is not a one-time effort but an ongoing process that evolves with the needs of our community, students, and families, according to the district. Over the next several years, the district will continue to assess enrollment trends, facility usage, and program effectiveness to make data-driven decisions that prioritize student success."

The district said they are committed to choice for students.

"In addition to their closest zoned campus, some Choice School options may be of interest to families. Please visit AldineISD.org to find out more about our district's various unique academic programs, campus and the enrollment process," the



website reads.

Aldine ISD is not alone in school closures. Houston ISD, the state's largest school district and neighbor to Aldine, is looking at a dozen or so closures this year alone.

For the 2026-2027 school year, HISD is closing 12 schools, including Alcott, Briscoe, Burrus, Cage, Franklin, Hobby, N.Q. Henderson, Port Houston, and Ross elementary schools, plus Fleming and McReynolds middle schools and Middle College High School.

Their reasoning for closure was also declining attendance, and some will be shuttered because of the condition of the buildings.

Spring ISD will close Link Elementary School and Dueitt Middle School beginning in the 2026-2027 school year as approved by the Board of

Trustees in December 2025 to address declining enrollment and budget deficits. Affected students will be rezoned to other district campuses, with the closures saving over \$4 million annually.

The district is facing a \$13 million budget shortfall and buildings operating at only 60 percent of capacity.

Several area charter schools have announced their closures by the end of this year. Students are attending their final semesters at Houston's Bloom Academy, Yellowstone College Preparatory, Two Dimensions Preparatory and Legacy School of Sport Sciences.

The Texas Education Agency confirmed that three additional charter schools throughout the state are due to close this year as well.

FIFA World Cup Business Opportunities,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gious sporting event, comes to the United States in 2026. For the first time, the tournament will span three countries—Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.—with 16 host cities, including Houston, which will welcome seven matches at the newly branded Houston Stadium, one of the many requirements for the games while FIFA is in town.

The expanded tournament will feature 48 teams and 104 matches, making it the largest World Cup ever. Houston will host five group stage matches and two knockout rounds, with the city's first match scheduled for June 14 and the last on July 4—a date marking the nation's 250th birthday. "Houston is one of two host cities that has a July 4th match. It's going to be a very big day as Houston and Philadelphia both host World Cup matches," Scates explained.

The city expects an influx of 500,000 visitors over the 39-day tournament. Among the teams

coming to Houston are three of the world's top ten: Germany, Portugal (with superstar Cristiano Ronaldo), and the Netherlands, whose fans are known for turning cities orange. Houston will also welcome first-time World Cup participants Cabo Verde, Uzbekistan, and Curacao, with two additional teams to be determined in March.

To ensure a memorable experience for all, Houston is launching a 39-day, free-to-the-public FIFA Fan Festival in East Downtown, branded as Football Fiesta. "You can watch every single match, all 104 of them live on the big screens, with the skyline in the background. It's going to be a really amazing experience," she said. The festival will feature local food vendors, youth soccer tournaments, clinics, and a talent search to highlight Houston's culture.

Organizers are recruiting 5,200 volunteers, with roles being assigned in February and training set to begin before the tournament. "To make the whole

thing go, we need 5,200 volunteers," Scates noted.

The economic impact is expected to be substantial. "The economic forecast that we did during the bid phase and that we've updated last year is estimating \$1.5 billion in economic impact to the region. The economic impact of that is about five Super Bowls. It's a very big deal. This event puts Houston on the global stage like we've never seen it before," she emphasized.

With robust transportation plans, medical partnerships, and a focus on community legacy, Houston is poised to shine as a global soccer destination. "We do hope that you'll feel the energy around the city. Getting tickets is pretty tricky...so we are committed to having the FIFA Fan Festival, where everyone can have a World Cup experience." To find out more about opportunities for local organizations or businesses to participate, please contact the chamber office at 713-450-3600.

SAVE \$155 ON 12 HOLIDAY WINES PLUS BONUS GIFTS

Pour The Perfect Sip Every Time

Our experts handpicked this highly acclaimed collection to pair perfectly with your favorite dishes from Omaha Steaks. Uncork 12 bottles with bonus gifts for just \$79.99 (plus shipping and tax) as your introduction to the Omaha Steaks Wine Club — saving you \$155.

Then, look forward to 12 new expert-curated selections every three months and enjoy a \$30 Omaha Steaks E-Reward Card with each future club case. You'll also save 10% on every 12+ bottle purchase and get free delivery every time you order. There's no commitment to continue and every bottle comes with our 100% guarantee.

OMAHA STEAKS WINE
POWERED BY LAITHWAITES

Go to GetOSWine.com/Sip456 or call 1.855.581.4275 and mention code AHNE001

Savings off retail price. Offer subject to availability and club enrollment. Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

Donate Your Car

Imagine the Difference You Can Make

- Every donated vehicle will be properly recycled, reducing waste and harmful emissions.
- Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

- ✓ a \$200 restaurant voucher
- ✓ a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations

Call 1-866-413-5094

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

CHURCH PAGE

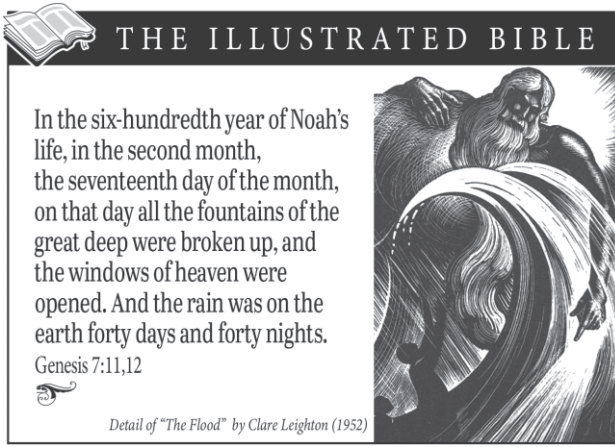
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 40:5b-6a

None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare. Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened—

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus"? Matthew, Luke, John, Acts
3. From Acts 9, where did Peter cure Aeneas? Tyre, Neapolis, Lydda, Gibeon
4. As found in Numbers 20, where did Aaron die? Mount of Olives, Pisgah, Mount Hor, Gilboa
5. From Acts 24, what was Felix's wife, Drusilla? Pharisee, Gentile, Greek, Jewess
6. In II Kings 1, what Philistine city worshipped Baalzebub? Ekron, Succoth, Gomorrah, Antipatris

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Acts, 3) Lydda, 4) Mount Hor, 5) Jewess, 6) Ekron

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Church Page Sponsors

If you would like to be a Church Page Sponsor, please call 713-266-3444

ALDINE FAMILY HOPE CENTER
4700 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, 77039
(Next to Hambrick Middle School)

After School Program Summer Program GED & ESL
Resource Center Resale Shop Counseling
Senior Program Food Pantry Computer Classes
Family Activities Teen Job Training Sports

281-449-4828 www.aldineyouth.org

First Baptist Church North Houston

Where Jesus Has the Priority And Everyone is Welcome

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

4422 Lauder Road, Houston, TX. 77039 281-449-7201

N O N E H T I W Y M
E R A L C E D O Q A
R S S A C B U T S N
I R P N O R O E D Y
W A E D M E P V E A
O E A M P R E A E H
U L K E A I N H D O
L N L R R S E L O D
D O K E E E D T I G
T T B W T D P D R Z

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

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Bonding Against Adversity

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

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

Mariana Sanchez, Director
Call: 281-799-9076
Text: 832-906-4214
marianas@baatexas.org

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

THE FRUGAL FROG

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

Cleaner, safer water for healthier living.

LeafHome Water Solutions

Reduce contaminants in your homes water and enjoy the benefits of whole home filtration.

- Softer, cleaner water.
- Removes over 99% of harmful contaminants.
- One-day installation.

Better Water in 3 Simple Steps

1. Schedule an appointment
2. Get a custom water analysis
3. One-day installation

Save up to **25% off** A custom whole-home water system*
Schedule your free in-home water test
1(844) 991-2369
Promo: 402 - Exp: 12/31/25

*Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ML 202510027, MN PC1790376, NC 1718221, ND 1718221, PA 1718221, TX 441002, WI 142390

★★★★★
"As a mom with two young daughters, and a doula who stresses the importance of hydration, providing my family and clients with safer, cleaner water is very important to me. I'm grateful for companies like LeafHome that understand my needs and can provide the right solutions."
Emmy Robins

DENTAL Insurance

Big dental bills? Get protection.

Get dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit
It's easy!
Call or scan today

1-855-402-1603
or go to Dental50Plus.com/Crosby

SCAN NOW!

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, KS, NV, NY, OR - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6370

CLASSIFIED WORD AD FORM

DEADLINE 12:00 NOON THURSDAY PRIOR

NORTHEAST NEWS

Call 713-266-3444

\$20.00 (20 WORDS) 2 WEEKS

Place one word per box					
					20.00
21.00	22.00	23.00	24.00	25.00	

GREAT VALUE • GREAT RESULTS

NO. OF WORDS IN AD: _____ NO. OF WEEKS TO RUN: _____
\$ AMOUNT PER WEEK: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT: _____
DESIRED CLASSIFICATION HEADING: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK or VISA MASTERCARD AM EX

CREDIT CARD NO.: _____ EXP. _____
NAME ON CARD: _____ SEC. NO. _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE: _____

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

Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!

Keep East Aldine COVID Safe

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

SCREENS AND SHADES

Beat the Heat!

Exterior Solar Screens and Insect Shades
Free Estimates
832-247-4581

BUSINESS ADVERTISING

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS

Ask about our Business Directory Package
13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260
Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package
Photo + Story + Web for \$260
713-266-3444

VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION

House Vehicle Inspection Station
Monday-Friday 8am-6pm
Gladys House-El
713-742-6995
gladys.house@gmail.com

CAR SERVICE

MOBILE MECHANIC+
IMPORT or DOMESTIC CARS & TRUCKS SINCE 1981
24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK
WE COME TO YOU

- General Repairs
- Computer Equipped Cars & Trucks
- Electrical Specialists
- Fuel Injector/Diesel • Engine Repairs
- A/C • Brakes • Tune-Ups
- Industrial Machinery & Motorized Equipment
- Refrigerated Trucks
- Transmissions
- Pre-Buy Inspection for Cars - Trucks - RVs & SUVs
- Repair of Recreational Vehicles & Big Trucks & Buses

713-465-7300
3515 Hillcroft
www.mobilemechanichouston.com
House Calls By Professional Mechanics

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



Priyanka Chopra Jonas star in 'The Bluff.'

'The Bluff.'

'Song Sung Blue' (PG-13) — This biographical musical-drama is based on the documentary film of the same name and stars Hugh Jackman ('Deadpool & Wolverine') and Kate Hudson ('Shell'). Jackman and Hudson respectively play Mike and Claire Sardina, who are performers in a Neil Diamond tribute band called Lightning & Thunder. You wouldn't imagine that there's much story to tell about a tribute band, but this one is different. The Sardinas had a tumultuous journey in life, not just with their band; heart attacks, psychotic episodes, and addiction are just some of what the couple and musical duo experienced. (Not to mention, a bad gig or two!) Hudson has re-

ceived glowing reviews for her performance in the film, and she also received Oscar and Golden Globe noms for Best Actress. It is out now to stream. (Peacock) 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' (R) — Hollywood producers must have thought that fans were desperate enough to fill seats for a new J.Lo movie, and boy, were they wrong! This musical drama film cost \$30 million to make, while only earning a mere \$2 million in theaters. It's a shame that it has an interesting premise! It is based on the 1992 stage musical of the same name, and besides Jennifer Lopez, it also stars Diego Luna ('Andor') and Tonatiuh ('Promised Land'). Set against a background of an Argentinian prison

at the end of the Dirty War, the film tells the story of a gay window dresser named Luis (Tonatiuh), who shares the same cell as a political prisoner named Valentin (Luna). When daily life in prison becomes difficult, Valentin encourages Luis to tell him the plot of his favorite movie — 'The Kiss of the Spider Woman,' starring Ingrid Luna (Lopez). Viewers get to see the movie themselves, right alongside Valentin, as Luis recounts the musical. Premieres Feb. 27. (Hulu)

'The Bluff' (R) — If you see Priyanka Chopra Jonas' name in the billing of a movie, expect an action-packed, direct-to-streaming film with splashes of comedic lines that we've definitely heard before. (Until she decides to surprise us, of course!) In this film, she portrays a former Caribbean pirate during the 19th century. When buccaneers invade her island and look to apprehend her, she must revert to her former ways in order to save her family — and herself — from certain death. Karl Urban ('The Boys') plays the vicious Captain Connor, who doesn't mind losing all of his men if it means getting revenge, along with Temuera Morrison ('Moana') as his second-in-command. All jokes aside, Chopra Jonas' action choreography in this film is nuts! Check it out on Feb. 25. (Amazon Prime Video)

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — The race for the Oscars is on! Tinseltown's buzzing that the Best Actor Oscar is between Timothee Chalmet (30) for 'Marty Supreme' and Ethan Hawke (55) for 'Blue Moon.' Chalmet is the fair-haired boy after only 25 films, while Hawke has an impressive 89 films under his belt.

Chalmet has 'Dune: Part Three' coming on Dec. 18. Hawke's 'Black Phone 2' rang into theaters on Sept. 20, 2025, and he also stars in the historical drama 'The Weight,' opposite Russell Crowe, which was screened at the Sundance Festival back in January. Hawke plays a prisoner who is involved in a gold-smuggling scheme.

Jacob Elordi, who nailed down a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination for 'Frankenstein,' wrapped director Ridley Scott's postapocalyptic sci-fi epic 'The Dog Stars' in June 2025. It was filmed in Bordano, Cansiglio, Avezzano and Rome, Italy. It's about the aftermath of a catastrophic flu virus. (COVID, is that you?) The film will be unleashed in August.

Not everybody's worried about the price of bananas and health insurance. Bob Iger, the outgoing CEO of Disney, received a parting package of \$45.8 million. The incoming CEO Josh D'Amaro will make \$2.5 million with a target incentive bonus of 250%, as well as long-term stock incentives of \$26.25 million for each fiscal year that he's CEO.

His second-in-command Dana Walden, the new president and chief creative officer, will have a base salary of \$3.75 million and an annual target bonus equal to 200% of this, as well as a long-term stock award of \$15.75 million for each fiscal year. Where did we go wrong?

The oldest living female Oscar winners are: Eva Marie Saint at 101 ('On the Waterfront'); Rita Moreno at 94 ('West Side Story'); Sophia Loren at 91 ('Two Women'); Judi Dench at 91



Timothee Chalmet for 'Marty Supreme.'

('Shakespeare in Love'); Julie Andrews at 90 ('Mary Poppins'); Vanessa Redgrave at 89 ('Julia'); and Jane Fonda at 88 ('Klute' and 'Coming Home'). Special mention for Carol Burnett, at 92, who never won an Oscar but won an impressive seven Emmys!

The oldest living male Oscar winners are: George Chakiris at 93 ('West Side Story'); Joel Grey at 93 ('Cabaret'); Michael Caine at 92 ('Hannah and Her Sisters' and 'The Cider House Rules'); Dustin Hoffman at 88 ('Kramer vs. Kramer' and 'Rain Man'); three-time Oscar winner Jack Nicholson at 88 ('One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' 'Terms of Endearment,' and 'As Good as It Gets'); Morgan Freeman at 88 ('Million Dollar Baby'); Anthony Hopkins at 83 ('The Silence of the Lambs' and 'The Father'); Christopher Walken at 82 ('The Deer Hunter'); Joe Pesci at 83 ('Goodfellas'); and Robert De Niro at 82 ('The Godfather Part II' and 'Raging Bull').

These living legends prove that Oscar gold never grows old!

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



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

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

February 23, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. © 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Setze the night, 2. Ronald Reagan, 3. Magne to, 4. Beltze, 5. 'Great Expectations', 6. Six, 7. 'The Good Place', 8. Louis XIV of France, 9. Washington, 10. The pancreas

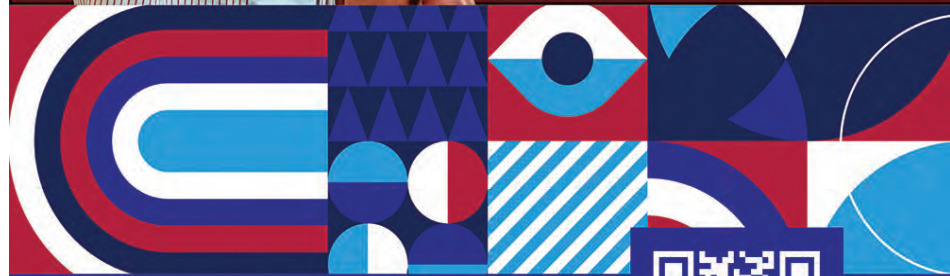
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase 'carpe noctem' mean in English? 2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a lifeguard in his earlier life and saved 77 people from drowning over a seven-year period? 3. MOVIES: Who is the primary nemesis of Professor X in 'X-Men'? 4. GEOGRAPHY: English is the official language in which Central American country? 5. LITERATURE: Which English novel features characters such as Pip, Miss Havisham and Estella? 6. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard guitar have? 7. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom stars a character named Eleanor Shellstrop? 8. HISTORY: Which European ruler is known as the Sun King? 9. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Mount St. Helens? 10. ANATOMY: Which human organ produces insulin? Solution time: 21 mins. © 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

CLOSE TO HOME. FAR FROM ORDINARY.

Explore the many workforce programs and degree plans that Lone Star College offers.



- Associate Degrees
- Healthcare
- Visual Communications
- Engineering
- Business
- Teaching
- Drama & Music
- Process Technology & Instrumentation Technology
- Welding & HVAC
- Inspection Technology
- and more!



Scan the QR code for a full list of classes.

LONESTAR.EDU/REGISTER



Healthy Brain Aging Conference at LSC Feb. 27



Lone Star College and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth will host a Healthy Brain Aging Conference at LSC-North Harris on February 27.

Healthy Brain Aging Conference Hosted by Lone Star College & McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston.

WHO: Lone Star College & McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston.

WHAT: A series of presentations by health-care providers on brain health.

WHEN: Friday, February 27, 10 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lone Star College-North Harris, 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX 77073.

WHY: The purpose of this presentation is to raise awareness on brain health and learn evidence-based insights from experts on strokes

and dementia. Medical professionals will educate the community about how nutrition affects brain health, and how modern technology and drugs affect brain health. The public will also learn how Lone Star College provides transformational educational opportunities that help individuals transform their future.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Goffney Honored with Leadership and Innovation Award

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffey, Superintendent of Aldine Independent School District, was honored with the Leading Through Innovation Award presented by Highland Electric Fleets this week in Nashville. The Leading Through Innovation Award demonstrates a commitment to clean energy, technology, and efficiency improvements, both in the classroom and in the community.



and communities. Earlier this year, Dr. Goffney was named President-Elect of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). In this role, she will help shape the future of superintendent leadership nationwide, elevating best practices and strengthening support for system leaders at scale.

Highland Electric Fleets, America's lead provider of Electrification As A Service, partnered with a distinguished selection committee of leaders in education, including former and current Superintendents from across the country to identify a winner. Selection criteria is based on depth of leadership experience, commitment to continuous improvement, and demonstrated student impact.

Goffney serves as Superintendent of Aldine Independent School District in Texas, leading one of the state's largest and most complex school systems. Her leadership has focused on strengthening student outcomes, expanding opportunity, and building durable systems that support educators, families,

Dr. Goffney was honored this past Thursday at an awards reception in Nashville, surrounded by education leaders and key stakeholders.

Dr. Goffney's career reflects a steady commitment to improvement — combining vision with execution and ensuring that innovation translates into meaningful results for students.

Collaborative Effort with Big Impact: Buckboard Park



HOUSTON - Buckboard Park, situated in the Southeast quadrant of the District, is a vital community space surrounded by schools, homes, and apartment complexes. Bart Baker, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the North Houston District, discussed the park's history and recent enhancements. The park's creation was a collaborative effort between the North Houston District and TIRZ 11, with both entities sharing ownership of its acreage.



funds upgrades.

Bart Baker highlighted the park's importance due to the lack of other parks in the area, serving the Airline Drive community's recreational needs. The District aims to provide safe, enjoyable spaces for families, as city and county parks are scarce in North Houston.

Dru Gutierrez, Director of Field Services, noted ongoing improvements over the past six years, including trail repairs, playground equipment updates, safety cushion pad replacements, tree plantings, and a new irrigation system. The Greens Bayou Coalition contrib-

uted to tree plantings, enhancing the area's beauty. Future plans include an updated pergola, new picnic tables, and bench replacements.

Buckboard Park also features public art, such as mosaics, bronze figures, and interactive sculptures. The Cornett Butterfly Garden honors John Cornett, a former TIRZ board member and community advocate, who played a crucial role in the park's development. Visitors are encouraged to explore these artistic elements at Buckboard Park, located at 70 Buckboard Drive.

YMT vacations SAVE \$250 ON ALL TOURS! MORE THAN 50 GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE



MUST BOOK BY 3/31

Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN STARTING AT \$3,549 ~~\$3,299*~~ BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Marvel at Alaska's natural beauty in Denali National Park
- Visit Alaska's the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- Travel through the legendary Inside Passage



MUST BOOK BY 3/12

Historic Route 66 – 100th Anniversary

16 DAYS STARTING AT \$4,099 ~~\$3,849*~~ BASED ON APR 18, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Visit must-see sights like the historic starting point of Route 66 in Chicago, the famous Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and the "End of the Trail" sign in Santa Monica
- Explore natural wonders of the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest National Park, and the Painted Desert
- Discover Seligman, known as the "historic birthplace of Route 66," and visit the vibrant Hotel El Rancho in Gallup, where Golden Age movie stars once stayed

CALL US: 1-888-926-8612

*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees. Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.