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VOL. 50, NO. 8 TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

EAMD Women's Appreciation Luncheon Thursday March 12

Join East Aldine District for a special afternoon celebrating the strength, resilience, and achievements of women in our community. Help us celebrate in style by wearing pink or purple.

En honor del Día Internacional de la Mujer, acompáñenos para una celebración de la fortaleza, resiliencia y logros de las mujeres en nuestra comunidad. Ayúdanos a celebrar con estilo vistiendo de rosa o morado.

11:30 to 1:00 pm, Thursday March 12 at the East Aldine District Building. Registration Required at AldineDistrict.org/women. See more information on Page 8 of this issue.

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.

Hundreds attend Aldine ISD Job Fair

AISD job fair focused on critical teaching shortages

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Aldine Independent School District personnel spent their Saturday hosting an annual job fair at Davis High School drawing hundreds of job seekers eager to work in education and support services across the district. Representatives from every campus were on hand in the school cafeteria to interview candidates and collect résumés.

According to Marcy Herrera, the district's chief human resources officer, Aldine ISD is concentrating its hiring efforts on areas facing the greatest need.



The cafeteria was built out with tables for every campus and some special services. It was congested with job seekers most of the three-hour event.

"What we're looking for mainly are special education, bilingual and math teachers," Herrera said, noting that shortages in those areas are being felt nationwide. "There's a nationwide shortage for all three of those positions and competition to fill those slots is fierce." Herrera said Aldine ISD

remains competitive by offering a starting salary of \$64,000 for beginning teachers, along with several stipends.

"We also offer a \$5,500 bilingual stipend and a \$3,000 stipend for special education, ESL and other critical needs positions," she said. Teachers may also qual-

ify for additional compensation through the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA), which Herrera said is available to all Aldine teachers based on campus needs and designation level.

"We're one of the few districts in the state where all our teachers have a chance to qualify for the

TIA stipend, versus other districts where only STAAR teachers have that opportunity," Herrera said.

Despite recently closing six schools, Herrera said the district avoided layoffs by placing staff members at other campuses.

"We had no layoffs," she said. "We were able to find most of them places within the district."

The district is also proactively hiring for the upcoming school year, even though the exact number of resignations and retirements is not yet known.

"We are hiring for the next school year," Herrera said. "It's proactive that we build a bank of highly qualified applicants so when we get resignations,

Continued. See AISD JOB FAIR, Page 5

RECAP: District approves \$1.7m for WCID74 Water Project

East Aldine Board Approves \$1.7M Water Partnership, Advances Projects Aligned With Community Action Plan

The East Aldine Management District Board of Directors voted Tuesday to approve a \$1.7 million funding partnership with Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 74, advancing a critical water infrastructure project and reinforcing the district's long-standing commitment to priorities identified by residents nearly three decades ago.

The action aligns with the district's Aldine Service and Action Plan, which was developed from a 1998 Harris County study capturing the com-

munity's top concerns — including water and sewer infrastructure, transportation, public safety, neighborhood cleanup, environmental design and economic development.

\$1.7M approved partnership supports water infrastructure

The Harris County Water Control & Improvement District (WCID) #74 proposal drew significant public interest during Tuesday's meeting.

The project will help WCID #74 comply with Houston-Galveston Subsidence District regulations requiring a

conversion from groundwater to surface water. The effort includes construction of a 12-inch surface water transmission line and disinfection system upgrades, with total costs estimated at approximately \$4.48 million.

WCID #74 initially requested a 50/50 partnership valued at about \$2.24 million from each entity.

After discussion, the board unanimously voted to support the partnership at an amended amount of \$1.7 million with set parameters, and the motion was approved.

Residents urged approval, noting that funding the project solely through water bills could significantly impact elderly residents and households on fixed

incomes. The vote directly supports one of the Service and Action Plan's foundational goals: strengthening water and sewer infrastructure.

Public comments reflect community-driven priorities

Several speakers also raised concerns about a proposed apartment complex near Aldine Meadows, citing traffic, public safety and school capacity.

Among them was Jezebel Zavala, a Johnson Elementary student, who read a statement expressing concern about how additional development could affect her

Continued. See DISTRICT APPROVES PROJECTS, Page 5 Available in Spanish, See Page 7

Texas primary elections set up key runoffs

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

HOUSTON — Texas primary voters produced several high-profile runoffs Tuesday, including a closely watched congressional contest in the Houston area and competitive races for statewide offices.

In the newly redrawn 18th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Al Green and former Harris County District Attorney Chris Menefee advanced to a May runoff after finishing as the top two vote-getters. Green finished first in the multi-candidate field.

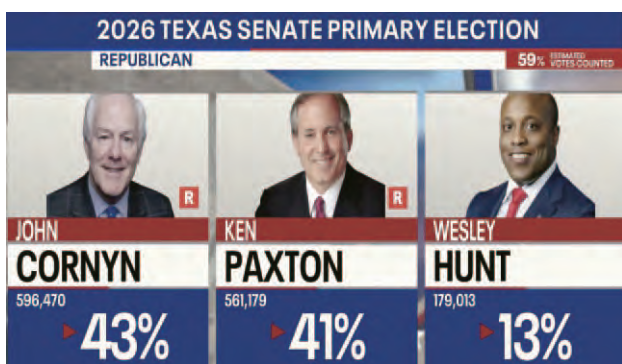
"We came in first. Now we finish the job," Green said in a social media post following the results.

Menefee, who was elected earlier this year to complete the remainder of the late Sylvester Turner's term, had about a month to introduce himself to voters following redistricting.

"The people of Harris County and Fort Bend County showed up for us and put our campaign in first place," Menefee said. "We have the momentum, and we are not taking anything for granted."

In another Houston-area contest, U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia avoided a runoff by securing 58.23% of the vote against former state Rep. and Houston City Council member Jarvis Johnson.

"I was faced with a challenge when Texas Repub-



licans bent their knees to Trump's mid-decade redistricting scheme," Garcia said in a Facebook post. "Houstonians know that I am a fighter and that I fight for them daily in Congress."

In the newly created 9th Congressional District, state Rep. Briscoe Cain

advanced to a runoff with Alex Mealer. Cain, who received backing from Gov. Greg Abbott, finished second in the closely contested race.

"Washington insiders and California-led special interests spent millions on dishonest attacks against me to try and buy this seat,

but they failed," Cain said after the vote.

In statewide races, Abbott easily won the Republican primary for governor and will face Democrat Gina Hinojosa, who secured 58.5% of the Democratic vote.

Republican Dan Patrick advanced in the lieutenant governor's race and will face Democrat Vikki Goodwin in the general election.

The U.S. Senate race will feature a Republican runoff between Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. On the Democratic side, James Talarico defeated U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett with 52.4% of the vote and will advance to the general election.

In the Republican attorney general's contest, state Rep. Mayes Middleton and U.S. Rep. Chip Roy advanced to a runoff. Middleton led the field with 39.1% of the vote. Democrats Nathan Johnson and Joe Jaworski will also meet in a runoff after no candidate surpassed 50%.

Republican Don Huffines won the comptroller's race outright with 57.4% of the vote and will face Democrat Sarah Eckhardt in November.

In the Republican primary for Harris County judge, former county treasurer and ex-Houston City

Continued. See PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS IN RUNOFFS, Page 2

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NORTHEAST NEWS

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Court Rejects Paxton's Attack on Harris County Immigrant Legal Aid

Houston, Texas – Former Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee has announced that a court has ruled in favor of Harris County, denying Attorney General Ken Paxton's request to enjoin the county's Immigrant Legal Services Fund. The ruling represents a significant victory for Harris County's authority to serve all its residents.

"This is a clear defeat for Ken Paxton and his manufactured attack on our community," said Christian Menefee. "The court saw this lawsuit for exactly what it was: a cheap political stunt designed to score headlines. Harris County will not be intimidated or pushed around by state officials who are more interested

in pandering than governing."

Paxton filed suit last month, accusing the County's immigrant legal services program, which has been operating successfully and legally for years, of violating the Texas Constitution. His lawsuit targeted funding that helps immigrants access legal representation in immigration proceedings, a basic due-process protection recognized under federal law.

"This program has a clear public purpose, and Paxton knows it," Menefee added. "These are people who live here, work here, pay taxes, and contribute every single day to Harris County. Making sure they can resolve their immigration status strengthens our economy, keeps families together, and makes our community safer. Paxton's alternative is to let people sit in detention centers indefinitely because he'd rather chase headlines than support real solutions."

The program partners with trusted area non-profits to provide legal representation and assistance to eligible residents. Harris County's contracts include strict performance standards, oversight, and compliance requirements - facts Paxton ignored to advance his political narrative.

"We're going to keep showing up for the people of Harris County," Menefee said. "And if the Attorney General wants to keep wasting taxpayer dollars attacking programs that make our community stronger, he can keep losing in court."

"For several years, providing legal support to immigrants who are try-

ing to 'do it the right way' was never a concern to the Attorney General's Office. That is, until Ken Paxton decided to run for higher office. I'm pleased the court agreed to allow the program to continue, and I'm thankful to County Attorney Menefee and his team for their work in this case. Enough of these frivolous wastes of taxpayer resources," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

"Today's ruling proves what we already knew: The Attorney General's lawsuit is designed to win him support in an election year, not to succeed in the merits of the law. The Immigrant Legal Services Fund has been running successfully and under the law in Harris County for more than four years, and similar programs are operating in communities across the state. The fund allows immigrants to present their legal case. Judges determine whether or not they are deported, based on each individual's particular circumstances. It is fundamentally unfair to ask them—sometimes children—to face the court without an attorney," said Judge Lina Hidalgo

"This decision affirms Harris County's authority to protect the dignity and due process rights of all residents, regardless of citizenship status. The Attorney General's lawsuit lacked merit, and the court recognized that. I'm proud that we remain committed to supporting families, strengthening community trust, and upholding the fundamental fairness our justice system relies on. I appreciate the County Attorney's Office for their vital work defending our values," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

Primary Election Results,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Signs were planted all over the polling locations across the Harris County area supporting hopeful candidates.

Council member Orlando Sanchez led a six-candidate field with 26.5%. Warren Howell and Houston firefighters' union leader Marty Lancton followed closely.

On the Democratic side, former Houston Mayor

Annise Parker and Houston City Council member Letitia Plummer advanced to a May runoff after Parker led the field with 46.62% of the vote.

To see all of the results from the March election, visit <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Election-Results/Democratic-Primary-Election>

for Democratic candidates and <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Election-Results/Republican-Primary-Election>.

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HOUSTON, TX 77039
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

9 11:30 AM INTRO ESL
11:30 AM FABLES AND FUN

MAR

3:30 PM WHY YOU SHOULD READ?
11 AM DANCE TO LEARN
10 12:45 PM ESL INTERMIDO
3 PM POKEMON CLUB
4PM COMPUTER BASIC
11 12 PM FUTURE U
3 PM TOON CAFE
3:30 PM KRAFTY KIDS
5PM AVENTURAS EN LECTURAS
12 11:AM CITIZENSHIP CLASS
12:45 PM ESL INTERMIDO
3:00PM TEEN LOUNGE
4 PM MICROSOFT WORD BASIC
13 3:00PM TOON CAFE
14 11:AM ESL CLASS LEVEL 1

SPECIAL NEWS

THE HELP YOU NEED, THE COMMUNITY WE BUILD
MARCH 21ST @ 1:30 PM
WHAT EXACTLY IS SOCIAL WORK, AND HOW CAN IT WORK FOR YOU? JOIN US FOR AN EMPOWERING AFTERNOON DEDICATED TO THE EAST ALDINE COMMUNITY. WE'RE BRINGING TOGETHER EXPERTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN, BAKERRIPLEY, AVENUE, AND OUR OWN HIGH MEADOWS STAFF

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TOON CAFE
JOIN YOUR FRIENDS WITH SOME CARTOONS AND SNACKS

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AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

UNEARTH A STORY - AN ART EXHIBITION
All day, Wednesday, March 11 to Thursday, April 30
Description
"I like kids' work more than work by real artists any day." - Jean Michel Basquiat
In collaboration with Impact Leadership Academy, Aldine library presents "Unearth a Story: an Art Exhibition." The talented and wonderful students of Impact Leadership Academy at Hill, under the guidance of Mr. McCraw, have created works of art to share with the library community. This special exhibit will only be available for a limited time in the Aldine Library until the end of April 2026. Don't miss it!

SHRED IT YOURSELF!
Wednesday, March 11, 9:00am-12:00pm
Description
DESIGN. BUILD. SKATE!
Join us March 10-13! Build, learn to skate, and keep your very own skateboard for FREE!
Sign up now!
Ages 6-16.
Must be able to attend all days.
Attendees must arrange their own transportation to and from the event.
Limited spots available!

WIGGLE WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, March 11, 11:00am-12:00pm
Description
Come Move and Groove with Us!
Join us for a fun-filled session of reading, sing-

ing, 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!

DANCE TO LEARN - HOUSTON BALLET
Wednesday, March 11, 11:00am-12:00pm
Description
A teaching artist from the Houston Ballet is visiting us at Aldine Library.
DANCE TO LEARN is a movement integration program that approaches academic curriculum from a kinesthetic perspective. Houston Ballet teaching artists work together with teachers to create lessons that address TEKS in multiple subject areas while building Social Emotional Skills.
For Preschool-aged kids. Limit: 15-20 kids

COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISOR
Wednesday, March 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 Butler Future U Advisor Phone: (832) 311-0069 Email: lolita.butler@hcpl.net

HOMESCHOOL HELP/AYUDA CON TAREA
Thursday, March 12, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Description

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

TEEN CLUB
Thursday, March 12, 5:00pm-5:30pm
Description
Join us on Thursday March 12th for a fun craft! We will make lucky bracelets with beads and elastic thread. See you there!

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP
Saturday, March 14, 10:00am-12:00pm
Description
Join us for a free class to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and civics test. You must complete an English placement assessment to join the class. Taking this class will not grant citizenship or pay for any application fees. Registration is required as space is limited.

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

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Finalists Announced for 2025–2026 Teachers of the Year

As excitement builds for one of the district’s biggest celebrations, the Aldine ISD Teachers of the Year Committee proudly announces six outstanding educators as finalists for the 2025–2026 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year awards.

The top two honorees will be triumphantly announced at the festive Aldine ISD Educators of the Year Breakfast on Friday, March 27, 2026, at the Community Center. The district will proudly name one Elementary Teacher of the Year and one Secondary Teacher of the Year. This year’s theme, inspired by the Kentucky Derby, will celebrate educational excellence with the spirit of “Run for the Roses.” Finalists are eagerly preparing to cross the finish line in honor.

The committee selected the six finalists from this year’s Campus Teachers of the Year, bringing together educators and district leaders with diverse perspectives. The 2026 Teachers of the Year Committee included Dr. Keena Bradley, AISD HR executive director of employee relations and classified staffing; Adriana Patino (a 2025 Teacher of the Finalist), Spence Elementary; Tony Payne, 5th grade teacher at Jones Elementary; Cynthia McKibbin, science teacher at Houston Academy; Arlynn Castillo-Garza, English as a second language (ESL) math teacher at Stovall Middle; Janice Blades Miller (a 2025 Teacher of the Finalist), physical therapy assistant teacher at Blanson CTE High School; and Dr. Charlotte Davis, Immediate Past President & VP of Development of the Aldine Education Foundation.

Now, let’s meet the finalists for Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year.

2026 Elementary Teacher of the Year Finalists

Michael Jackson, Anderson Academy
4th Grade Reading and Social Studies



With nine years of experience, Jackson’s path to education is deeply personal. He was once a special education student on a behavior plan. He credits a fourth-grade teacher with changing his life. Today, he strives to be that transformative presence for his own students.

Jackson holds degrees from Tyler Junior College and Prairie View A&M University. He builds his classroom on high expectations, literacy engagement, and leadership development. His novel “Accelerate 2.0: Operation Room at Intervention Hospital” made reading intervention hands-on and student-led. This resulted in significant growth on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and STAAR. Beyond the classroom, he mentors students through Anderson Academy’s Students Needing a Pat and a Push (SNAPP) program. He has also led professional

development focused on equity, trauma-informed approaches, and culturally responsive teaching.

Alicia Kellem, Ogden Elementary
5th Grade Math and Science



Kellem is an Aldine ISD graduate and Nimitz High School alumna. She returned to the district to give back to the community that shaped her. With eight years of experience, she is known for creating inclusive, engaging classrooms where math connects to real life.

Kellem uses hands-on learning and technology in her instruction. She helps students grasp the relevance of fractions and decimals through activities such as recipe conversions and budgeting scenarios. As a “Distinguished” T-TESS educator, she has led district and campus professional development on emergent bilingual strategies, math intervention tools, and multiple intelligences. She also serves on the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Committee and mentors fellow educators.

Kirsten Kurtz, Worsham Elementary
Grades 1–5 Music For Kurtz



Music is more than a subject — it is a pathway to confidence and belonging. A former shy student who found her voice through music, she now ensures every child at Worsham Elementary has the opportunity to shine.

With 10 years of experience, Kurtz designs campuswide musical productions that demonstrate authentic student learning. She helped start the Worsham Orff Ensemble and Choir. Kurtz also leads the Wildcat Nation Celebration Committee, which fosters staff morale and unity. Her performances, with original scripts and set designs, give every student a moment in the spotlight. She believes that access to fine arts is essential to whole-child development.

2026 Secondary Teacher of the Year Finalists

Sheree Stubblefield, Avalos P-TECH School
9th Grade English I



Stubblefield began teaching in 2021 after a career in retail management and nonprofit leadership. She earned Rookie Teacher of the Year (2021) honors. Since then, her students have achieved consistent STAAR growth ratings of Mastery and Exemplary.

Her student-driven Socratic Seminars put critical thinking at the center of instruction. The seminars encourage ninth graders to analyze texts, defend claims, and discover their voices. She is the founding sponsor of the Avalos yearbook and the African American Cultural Heritage Alliance (AACHA), which have strengthened campus culture and community partnerships. Stubblefield also leads professional development in instructional technology and literacy interventions, supporting colleagues in data-driven practice.

Shawn Bingham, Blanson CTE High School
Distribution and Logistics Grades 9-12



Bingham is a former U.S. Army logistics professional who brings real-world experience to the classroom. In his six years at Blanson, he created Blamazon, a student-run warehouse. This warehouse enables students to manage inventory and fulfill campus supply orders, gaining real-world experience in the process.

Bingham also started an on-campus Leadership Conference, giving students free access to career-readiness experiences. He formed partnerships with Port Houston and the Port of Houston Partners in Maritime Education (PHPME). His students attend maritime expos, receive mentorship, and take part in an annual program graduation. He uses a hands-on approach to help students graduate not only with certifications but also with the communication and leadership skills employers want.

Stephen Posada, Hambrick Middle School
8th Grade Algebra I



Posada, an eight-year veteran of Aldine ISD, combines rigorous instruction with an emphasis on inclusion and representation. He has maintained a 100% passing rate in Algebra I for three years. Posada emphasizes conceptual understanding and student-centered learning. He often transforms hallways into interactive coordinate planes, bringing math to life.

Apart from academics, Posada founded HEART (Hawks Embracing Acts of Random Thoughtfulness) of the Brick. This service organization centers on kindness, environmental stewardship, and community outreach. Posada leads beautification projects and fundraising efforts and partners with local groups. Through these activities, students develop leadership and empathy, as well as academic skills. Posada also leads professional development in data tracking

and instructional strategies to support colleagues districtwide.

—Together, these six finalists represent the wealth of talent across Aldine ISD campuses. Their inspiring stories highlight a spectrum of excellence — from literacy labs and math innovation, to fine arts performances, CTE warehouses, Socratic seminars, and service-driven leadership. Each one exemplifies the district’s unwavering celebration of instructional excellence and student achievement.

As the thrilling March 27 breakfast approaches, the finalists stand poised at the starting gate. When the roses are awarded and the winners triumphantly announced, Aldine ISD will joyfully honor not only two top educators but also the collective strength and dedication of teachers across the district and principals who ensure every student’s success.

While the race may culminate at the breakfast, the inspiring influence of these educators continues far beyond the finish line — shaping countless student journeys and futures with pride.

National School Breakfast Week Highlights

Aldine ISD celebrated National School Breakfast Week from March 2-6 with a medieval twist, recognizing the role a healthy breakfast played in student success while spotlighting the work of the district’s Child Nutrition Department. That year’s theme, “Quest for School Breakfast,” featured knights and castles as campuses encouraged students to start their day with a nutritious meal.

Throughout the week, primary and elementary campuses hosted themed activities to promote participation.

Monday: Coloring sheets were distributed to all breakfast participants.

Tuesday: Students who ate breakfast received stickers.

Wednesday: Small prizes were awarded to randomly selected winners during the morning meal service.

Thursday: Students who submitted completed coloring sheets received stickers.

Friday: Winners of the coloring contest were announced and presented with prizes.

As part of the celebration, the Child Nutrition Department scheduled special visits to eight campuses. On Tuesday, staff visited Ogden Elementary School, Johnson Elementary School, Keeble Primary School, and Griggs Primary School. On Wednesday, visits were held at Stehlik Elementary School, Goodman Elementary School, Escamilla Elementary School, and Dunn Elementary School.

Child Nutrition Director Susan D’Amico said the purpose of the week was to encourage students to eat breakfast daily and understand the benefits of starting the day with a healthy meal.

“Studies showed that kids who ate breakfast had better test scores, fewer behavioral problems, and fewer visits to the



nurse’s office,” D’Amico said. “We wanted to make sure every kid had every advantage to be successful, and a good day started with breakfast.”

Aldine ISD provided free meals to all students, ensuring access to meals regardless of household income. Students were offered choices, including healthier options that met federal nutrition guidelines. For example, the cereals served in Aldine schools contained less sugar with more whole grains compared to many store-brand varieties.

The Child Nutrition Department had also partnered with Eat Real, an award-winning K-12 certification program that supported school districts in creating menus that were nutritious, appealing, and environmentally sustainable. The initiative began that semester, and Aldine Child Nutrition was developing a new menu set to launch the following school year.

Through engaging activities and continued improvements to meal quality, National School Breakfast Week served as a reminder that fueling students each morning was essential to academic achievement and overall well-being.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Primary Election Results

There are many important takeaways from yesterday's primary election results. Perhaps the most telling is that about 100,000 more people voted in the Democratic primary than in the Republican primary in Texas. The last time this happened was in 2008, when Obama and Clinton competed. Obama went on to lose the general election to John McCain by 12 points. So, primary turnout is not an automatic predictor of general election success, but when taken with polling showing that every statewide Republican is underwater, and a spattering of local and special elections where Democrats have overperformed, it is a clear warning sign for Republicans.

In Harris County, the relative turnout in the two primaries was even more lopsided, with about 335,000 voting in the Democratic primary and only 192,000 in the Republican primary. This is much more consequential for predicting outcomes in the November election, as this year appears to be shaping up much like the 2018 midterms, when Democrats swept countywide elections.

Texas' marquee U.S. Senate race, currently held by John Cornyn, tracked with recent polling. Cornyn and Paxton ended up in a virtual tie and will head to a run-off, and Talarico easily defeated Crockett (53-46). This sets up the worst possible scenario for Republicans with scandal-plagued Paxton facing Talarico. The best case for Republicans in that scenario is that they will have to spend many millions to defend the seat. The worst case is that Talarico wins and perhaps shifts control of the Senate. The big question here is whether Trump will come off the sidelines and endorse Cornyn in the run-off.

Probably the biggest shocker last night was that Texas House Representative Steve Toth upset Dan Crenshaw by 16 points. This race was dominated by conspiracy theories propagated by right-wing influencers and the Byzantine politics of Montgomery County. The loss of Crenshaw on the Energy and Commerce and Select Intelligence Committees will be acutely felt in Texas. Also, he had developed a deep understanding of and contacts in the U.S. efforts to dismantle the cartels. Unfortunately, these considerations carry little weight among Republican primary voters.

Congressman Al Green defied the polling and ended up in a virtual tie with newcomer Congressman Christian Menefee. They will face off in a run-off where turnout will be very low. Green got off to a slow start but closed strong. My sense is that Green has the momentum going into the run-off. One bizarre aspect of this race was that the crypto industry poured millions into supporting Menefee. That is something that deserves more scrutiny.

There will be run-offs in both parties for County Judge. Annise Parker easily outdistanced Letita Plummer (47-37) but fell short of closing out the race. Anything can happen in a run-off, but Parker should have a leg up. However, the run-off in CD18 will be a tailwind for Plummer.

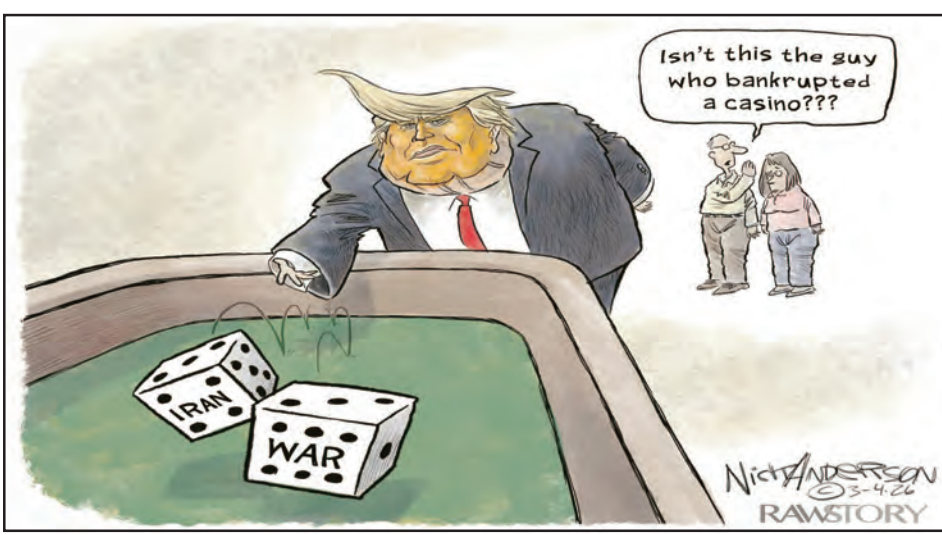
On the Republican side, Orlando Sanchez made the run-off as expected. But in another shocker, firefighter union chief Marty Lancton did not make the run-off, despite a string of high-profile endorsements, including Gregg Abbott. Instead of Lancton, long-time Republican activist Warren Howell made the run-off.

Lots of other interesting details from last night's results. I will be writing more on this and, of course, we will be digging into the details at our Readers Conference on March 28.

Hope to see you all on March 28!

Register for the March 28 Bill King Blog Readers' Conference

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THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

Still Family



I've always known I was lucky when it came to family. I saw classmates who had impossible siblings, and I knew my curly-headed younger sister was a catch. I knew people who really hated spending time with their parents, and I always had fun with mine—and I still do.

I grew up with 36 cousins, 34 of whom were on my mother's side. It was a lot easier to keep track of my father's side of the family, but I always felt somehow rich, having so many cousins spread over so much of the country.

When I married, I acquired another family, a boisterous Catholic family who laughed and drank and cussed more than my own. I immediately loved my mother-in-law who stayed up well past midnight with me, discussing big ideas, and my father-in-law who would listen in for a few minutes, shake his head and say, "I'm going to bed!"

When I divorced, one of the hardest things to accept was that I was going to lose this family I had been given in marriage, a family I had grown steadily closer to for more than 22 years. But that turned out not to be the case.

I've now been divorced and remarried for many years, and those former in-laws are still my family. It was their choice, of course, and possibly not an easy one—to remain close to a former daughter-in-law or sister-in-law. But my former mother-in-law, who has since passed, set the tone and let me know I'd always have a place in her heart, and her children followed suit. And I know I am enormously lucky.

Last week, I got to spend time with a couple of them. My former brother- and sister-in-law, Jason and Mandy, came to visit and celebrate their birthdays, and once again, I was reminded of how fortunate I was. My husband, Peter, went hiking with Jason and, as usual, met some friends on the way.

"Was it awkward, introducing Jason to friends?" I asked. "No, he just introduced himself as your former brother-in-law," Peter said. It was not a big deal—not to Peter, not to Jason, not to anyone.

But it is a big deal. It is a very big deal for me to still have a strong relationship with these people I love, after the loss of a marriage changed the landscape. I have lost some good friends in the past, and I still feel those losses. To lose an entire family would be terrible. And I have not.

We did not spend much time together. I was busy with a writers' conference and had less time than I would have liked. But when we were together, we shared funny stories of things we had done years ago, stories of things we are doing today, and stories from our childhoods, before we even knew one another. Of course, my ex-husband was woven into many of these stories, but so were people who had died—Mandy's wonderful husband, my father- and mother-in-law. Circumstances constantly change. But love survives.

More than ever, I realize how lucky I am when it comes to family. And I also realize how little biology or legalities have to do with what makes a family. We need people in our lives who know our stories from the past and are interested in our stories today. We need people who share our old jokes that other people won't ever fully understand. We need people who can accept us, along with the changes that are always a part of life—and remain family.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Four Texas Counties Report Measles Cases

Measles cases have been reported recently in four Texas counties: Frio, Bandera, Kendall and Lubbock. With five reported cases, Bandera had the most, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Lubbock was the center of last year's outbreak when people from surrounding counties with measles came there for hospital care.

The current outbreak of measles has been centered around South Carolina. Last year, Texas led the nation with more than 800 cases, mostly in West Texas.

Measles is highly contagious, spread by airborne particles. It has a 90% infection rate among unvaccinated people who are exposed to someone with measles. It can cause people to also lose their immune protection against other diseases.

PATRICK SEEKS TO BLOCK CAMP MYSTIC'S REOPENING

Texas should not renew the license for Camp Mystic this summer until necessary changes are made to ensure more lives aren't lost in a flood, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wrote in a letter to the state health commissioner, according to the Texas Standard.

"It would be naive to allow Camp Mystic to return to normal operations before all of the facts are known," Patrick wrote to Department of State Health Services Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Camp Mystic should have decided on their own to suspend operations this coming summer, but it appears they are planning for camp in 2026 and will likely be seeking your approval to operate with a renewed license."

Flooding last July 4 killed 25 campers, two counselors and the camp's executive director.

Parents of some of the campers who died have sued Shuford and other DSHS officials, claiming the state failed to follow Texas law when licensing the camp without ensuring it had adequate evacuation plans.



In the months following the flood, Camp Mystic has announced plans to reopen its Cypress Lake property, which it says is independent from the older Guadalupe River location where the girls died.

WILDFIRES POPPING UP ACROSS THE STATE

Dry conditions and brisk winds are fueling a rise in wildfires across the state. The Texas A&M Forest Service reported that forecast rain could lessen the wildfire risk in early March.

As of Sunday, the service reported two active wildfires: one in Orange County, in Southeast Texas, and the other in Schleicher County, in Central Texas. Most of the wildfires reported last week and now contained were in East Texas. Burn bans are in place in 184 of the state's 254 counties.

EDUCATION BOARD APPROVES 4,200 CURRICULUM CORRECTIONS

The State Board of Education last week approved roughly 4,200 corrections and revisions to its elementary and secondary school curriculum, The Texas Tribune reported. The cost of making the corrections and changes has not been determined, but it will come at taxpayer expense, since the Texas Education Agency developed the materials using state funding. A TEA official said the agency planned to determine the costs now that the changes and corrections have been approved. The vote

was delayed in January.

The state has been using the Bluebonnet Learning curriculum since November 2024. When unveiled, it attracted national attention for its references to the Bible and Christianity.

Approximately 1 in 4 school districts have indicated that they are using at least some portions of the reading curriculum, covering about 400,000 students. The materials come with a \$60 per-student incentive for districts.

TEA spokesperson Jake Kobersky said not all the changes to Bluebonnet are to fix errors.

"Some updates are simply improvements based on teacher feedback," Kobersky said. "Every change and/or edit made to the product must be submitted individually for SBOE approval, regardless of the nature of the change, hence the large number."

NEW STATE PARK OPEN AFTER YEARS OF DELAYS

The gates to the state's newest park are now open. Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, located about 75 miles west of Fort Worth, consists of 4,871 acres of former ranchland, according to The Dallas Morning News. It marks the first time in more than 25 years that a new state park has opened in North Texas.

"I am proud of the dedication of our [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department] team but also the unwavering support of the Texas Legislature and the voters of Texas that have brought us to this moment," Rodney Franklin, director of Texas state parks, said in a news release. "State park staff stand ready to welcome families far and wide to begin making memories at Texas' newest state park."

The park's planned opening in 2023 was postponed by safety concerns during construction. It has more than 16 miles of trails, a 90-acre lake and both recreational vehicle and tent-camping sites.

The site was purchased by the parks department in 2011. Funding for its construction came from a combination of legislative appropriation, the Sporting Goods Sales Tax, federal funding, and \$10 million in private philanthropy.

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.

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RECAP: East Aldine District Approves Projects,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school. Other residents thanked the board for its continued investment in neighborhood events and public spaces, including the recent Zydeco Festival.

Financial report shows strong start to 2026

The board approved January financial reports showing \$1,475,858.56 in total sources of funds and \$704,895.33 in total uses of funds, resulting in a monthly excess of \$770,963.23.

Executive Director Richard Cantú said revenues are trending more than \$235,000 above budget early in the year, averaging 11% to 14% above expectations — positioning the district to continue implementing Service and Action Plan priorities.

Investments span infrastructure, mobility, public safety and economic development

In addition to the WCID partnership, the board approved actions that touch nearly every major category of the Service and Action Plan:

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- Approved \$2,072.10 for the Hartwick Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.
- Approved \$63,008 in engineering invoices related to district projects.
- Authorized a Loan

Forgiveness Agreement through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund with the Texas Water Development Board.

- Approved issuance of \$11 million in Sales Tax Revenue Bonds to support capital improvements.

Transportation & Mobility

- Received updates on an \$850,000 federal grant for sidewalk improvements near Worsham Elementary.

• Advanced planning updates related to Keith-Wiess Park and additional street lighting phases.

Security & Public Safety

- Approved up to \$6,000 to support HCSO Explorer Post 42's participation in a statewide police explorer competition.
- Continued investment in street lighting, including approval of additional park lighting not to exceed \$51,000.

Neighborhood Cleanup & Environmental Design

- January crews collected more than 13,000 pounds of litter and removed 928 bandit signs.
- Approved a \$90,000 Town Center art installation and a \$16,000 student-led bollard art project to enhance community spaces.

Economic Development & Public Relations

- Approved a \$4,000 annual economic development data tool to help attract investors and site selectors.
- Approved sponsorship partnerships with the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Northside Chamber.
- Approved community event funding, including the district's first Annual Spring Festival and a four-show drone contract tied to major district events.

Leadership & Community Engagement

- Approved \$75,000 for Bonding Against Adversity to support citizenship and civic engagement programs.
- Funded a field trip for approximately 100 special education students in recognition of academic growth.

Since adopting the Aldine Service and Action Plan, the board has taken direct action across each of these categories, translating resident priorities into funded projects and measurable improvements.

The meeting reflected that continued approach — pairing fiscal stewardship with infrastructure investment and community programming rooted in long-standing neighborhood input.

---EAMD Report

Aldine ISD Job Fair,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we can start filling those positions with great people we've already interviewed."

Herrera said the job fair attracted candidates at all levels, from elementary through high school, as well as applicants for non-instructional roles.

"We have prospects here from elementary to high school, plus ancillary positions like the police department, transportation and more," she said.

She added that Aldine ISD is also seeing interest from teachers in neighboring districts, like HISD, impacted by school closures.

"We're not closing near the number of schools that they are, so that gives us an additional bank of good people to pull from if we do have openings next year," Herrera said.

In addition to certified teachers, Aldine ISD continues to support future educators through partnerships with educator preparation and alternative certification programs, as well as its "Grow Your Own" initiative.

"Those are paraprofessionals already working in the district," Herrera said. "We help them complete their degrees, provide grants to cover costs, and support them through certification while they work alongside certified teachers."

Herrera said approximately 58 employees are currently enrolled in the Grow Your Own program.

"As far as law enforcement officers, we are full," said Officer David Green. "However, we are looking to fill cadet and dispatch positions," he said. Police officers, with no experience, have a starting pay of \$55,000.

"You can be certified as a peace officer in Texas and come over or with the cadet program, you get sent to the academy and



The front table in the narthex of Davis High School was the busiest table at the annual job fair. Ladies from the district greeted every single person attending the event.



The Aldine ISD Police Department was on hand signing up recruits. From left, officers Phylecia Lewis, Alexis Johnson, and David Green were present and inviting the public to join the Aldine ISD police department.



The Transportation Department was ready to hire more drivers. From left, Omar Rodriguez, assistant transportation director east; Tonya Smith-Davis, director of north transportation; Mironya Houston, training supervisor of the Academy of Transportation; Ester Hinojosa, lead specialist; and Vokisha Samuel, application processor.

the district will pay for your education if you sign a contract stating you'll stay with the district for a minimum of two years," he said.

For those who missed

the job fair, Herrera said it is not too late to apply.

"Please go to our website and look for human resources," she said. "We're always looking for great people to join Aldine ISD."

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 40:9-10a

I **proclaim** your saving **acts** in **the great** assembly; I do **not seal** my **lips**, **LORD**, as you **know**. I do not **hide** your righteousness in my **heart**; I **speak** of your faithfulness **and** your **saving help**.

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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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2 Corinthians 10:5

Detail of "Man in Thought" by Hanns Krulik (1929)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Boaz (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God"? 1 Timothy, Titus, James, 2 John
3. From Acts 16, what Asian city was the home of Lydia? Derbe, Thyatira, Samaria, Jericho
4. In John 2, where did Jesus work his first miracle? Ur, Cana, Antioch, Thessalonica
5. From 2 Samuel, who killed a giant having 12 fingers and 12 toes? Mephibosheth, Jambres, Abimelech, Jonathan
6. In John 11, what city was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus? Corinth, Gaza, Bethany, Sardis

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 1 Timothy, 3) Thyatira, 4) Cana, 5) Jonathan, 6) Bethany
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/wlcasey. (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers: 1) Neither, 2) 1 Timothy, 3) Thyatira, 4) Cana, 5) Jonathan, 6) Bethany

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SPANISH PAGE

RECAP: La Junta de East Aldine Management District aprueba una asociación hídrica de \$1.7 millones y avanza en proyectos alineados con el Plan de Acción Comunitario

La Junta Directiva del East Aldine Management District (Distrito de Gestión de East Aldine; EAMD, por sus siglas en inglés) votó el 24 de febrero para aprobar una asociación de financiación de \$1.7 millones de dólares con el Distrito de Control y Mejora del Agua n.º 74 del Condado de Harris, impulsando un proyecto crítico de infraestructura hídrica y reforzando el compromiso de larga data del distrito con las prioridades identificadas por los residentes hace casi tres décadas.

La acción se alinea con el Plan de Acción y Servicio de EAMD, desarrollado a partir de un estudio del Condado de Harris de 1998 que recogió las principales preocupaciones de la comunidad, incluidas la infraestructura de agua y alcantarillado, el transporte, la seguridad pública, la limpieza del vecindario, el diseño ambiental y el desarrollo económico.

Una asociación aprobada de \$1.7 millones apoya la infraestructura hídrica

La propuesta #74 del Distrito de Control y Mejora del Agua (WCID, por sus siglas en inglés) del Condado Harris atrajo un interés público significativo durante la reunión.

El proyecto ayudará al WCID n.º 74 a cumplir con las regulaciones del Distrito de Subsistencia de Houston-Galveston, que exigen la conversión de aguas subterráneas a aguas superficiales. El proyecto incluye la construcción de una línea de transmisión de aguas superficiales de 30 cm (12 pulgadas) y mejoras al sistema de desinfección, con un costo total estimado de aproximadamente \$4.48 millones.

El WCID n.º 74 solicitó inicialmente una asociación al 50% por un valor aproximado de \$2.24 millones de dólares para cada entidad. Tras un debate, la junta votó unánimemente a favor de la asociación por un monto modificado de \$1.7 millones de dólares, con parámetros establecidos, y la moción fue aprobada.

Los residentes pidieron la aprobación, señalando que financiar el proyecto únicamente mediante las facturas de agua podría afectar significativamente a los residentes de edad avanzada y a los hogares con ingresos fijos.

La votación respalda directamente uno de los objetivos fundamentales del Plan de Acción y Servicios: fortalecer la infraestructura de agua y alcantarillado.

Los comentarios públicos reflejan las prioridades impulsadas por la comunidad

Varios oradores también expresaron su preocupación por un complejo de apartamentos propuesto cerca de Aldine Meadows, al referirse al tráfico, a la seguridad pública y a la capacidad escolar.



Entre ellos se encontraba Jezebel Zavala, una alumna de la escuela primaria Johnson Elementary School, quien leyó una declaración en la que expresaba su preocupación por cómo el desarrollo adicional podría afectar a su colegio.

Otros residentes agradecieron a la junta por su continua inversión en eventos del vecindario y en espacios públicos, incluido el reciente Festival de Zydeco.

El informe financiero muestra un sólido comienzo para 2026

La junta aprobó los informes financieros de enero que muestran \$1,475,858.56 en fuentes totales de fondos y \$704,895.33 en usos totales de fondos, lo que da como resultado un excedente mensual de \$770,963.23.

El director ejecutivo Richard Cantú dijo que los ingresos tienden a superar los \$235,000 del presupuesto a principios de año, con un promedio entre el 11% y el 14% por encima de las expectativas, lo que

posiciona al distrito para continuar implementando las prioridades del Plan de Servicio y Acción.

Las inversiones abarcan infraestructura, movilidad, seguridad pública y desarrollo económico

Además de la asociación con WCID, la junta aprobó acciones que afectan a casi todas las categorías principales del Plan de Servicio y Acción:

Infraestructura de agua y alcantarillado

Se aprobaron \$2,072.10 para el Proyecto de Extensión del Alcantarillado Sanitario de Hartwick.

Se aprobaron \$63,008 en facturas de ingeniería relacionadas con proyectos del distrito.

Se autorizó un Acuerdo de Condonación de Préstamos mediante el Fondo Rotatorio Estatal de Agua Limpia con la Junta de Desarrollo Hídrico de Texas.

Se aprobó la emisión de \$11 millones en Bonos de Ingresos por Impuestos sobre las Ventas para financiar mejoras de capital. Transporte y movilidad

Recibí actualizaciones sobre una subvención federal por \$850,000 para mejorar las aceras cerca de la escuela primaria Worsham Elementary School.

Actualizaciones de planificación avanzada relacionadas con el parque Keith-Wiess y con fases adicionales de alumbrado público.

Seguridad y protección pública

Se aprobaron hasta \$6,000 para apoyar la participación del Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Explorer Post 42 en una competencia estatal de exploradores juveniles policiales.

Continuación de la inversión en alumbrado público, incluida la aprobación de iluminación adicional en parques que no supere los \$51,000.

Limpieza de vecindarios y diseño ambiental

Los equipos de enero recogieron más de 13 mil libras de basura y retiraron 928 anuncios ilegales o no autorizados.

Se aprobó una instalación de arte en el Town Center por \$90,000 y un proyecto de arte con bolderos esféricos, dirigido por alumnos, por \$16,000, para mejorar los espacios comunitarios.

Desarrollo económico y relaciones públicas

Se aprobó una herramienta anual de datos sobre el desarrollo económico por \$4,000 para ayudar a atraer inversores y selectores de sitios.

Asociaciones de patrocinio aprobadas para la Cámara de Comercio Hispana de Houston y la Cámara de Greater Northside.

Se aprobó la financiación de eventos comunitarios, incluido el primer Festival de Primavera Anual de EAMD, y un contrato de drones para cuatro espectáculos vinculados a los principales eventos del distrito.

Liderazgo y participación comunitaria

Se aprobaron \$75,000 para el programa Bonding Against Adversity, destinados a apoyar programas de ciudadanía y compromiso cívico.

Se financió una excursión para aproximadamente 100 alumnos de educación especial en reconocimiento al crecimiento académico.

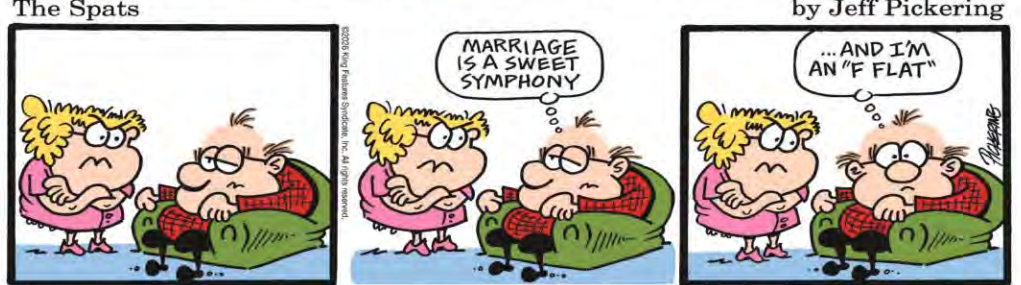
Desde que se adoptó el Plan de Acción y Servicio de East Aldine, la junta ha tomado medidas directas en cada una de estas categorías, traduciendo las prioridades de los residentes en proyectos financiados y mejoras mensurables.

La reunión reflejó ese enfoque continuo: combinar la administración fiscal con la inversión en infraestructura y la programación comunitaria basada en aportes de larga data del vecindario.

-EAMD Report

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle instructions and grid.

King Crossword puzzle grid and clues.

Trivia test questions and answers.



**THURSDAY
12
MARCH**
JUEVES, 12 DE MARZO
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us / Acompáñanos

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

East Aldine District Office • 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

Join us for a special afternoon celebrating the strength, resilience, and achievements of women in our community. Help us celebrate in style by wearing pink or purple.

En honor al Día Internacional de la Mujer, acompáñenos para una celebración de la fortaleza, resiliencia y logros de las mujeres en nuestra comunidad.

Ayúdanos a celebrar con estilo vistiendo de rosa o morado.



Limited seating, registration required by / registro requerido **March 9**

AldineDistrict.org/Women








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







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MUST BOOK BY 3/31

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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

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*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.

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