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NORTHEAST NEWS

Carver Groundbreaking



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Goffney takes over the big shovel at the Groundbreaking. Story Below

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VOL. 50, NO. 9 TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Groundbreaking for New Carver High School

Future-Focused New Campus will Replace and Preserve Historical Carver Legacy

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

With shovels in hand and decades of memories behind them, the George Washington Carver High School community officially launched a new era as construction began on a long-awaited replacement campus in Acres Homes.

Students, alumni, district leaders, and community members gathered to mark the groundbreaking of the new school, a project made possible through the 2023 bond and identified as the first major rebuild in Aldine ISD's long-term construction plan.

The new campus, scheduled to open in fall 2028, will rise on the same historic grounds where Carver has stood since 1954, preserving the school's leg-

acy while expanding opportunities for future generations.

"This new Carver campus will not erase our past, it will carry it forward," said Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, superintendent of Aldine ISD. "We are designing a school that honors identity while creating space for innovation, creativity, and limitless potential."

Designed for Learning, Arts, and Opportunity

Plans call for a three-story, 260,000-square-foot facility capable of serving up to 1,300 students. The campus will feature modern academic spaces along with specialized areas for fine arts and career pathways.

Key components of the



design include a performing arts center, black box theater, dance studios, mariachi rehearsal spaces, and visual arts classrooms

Continued. See NEW CARVER HIGH SCHOOL, Page 5

School officials, board members, and dignitaries from the community gathered together on March 9, 2026 to break ground on the beautiful new George Washington Carver High School.

An artist's rendition of the new George Washington Carver High School in Aldine ISD as done by architect Parul Vyas, principal of Stantec. The front elevation boasts the name of the school and a beautiful modern look that will bring pride to the students and community.

NEWS NOTES

East Aldine EGGSTRAVAGANZA Saturday March 28

You and your Family are invited to the Free Eggstravaganza epic Egg Hung from 10am to 1pm at the East Aldine Amphitheatre, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive. Presented by East Aldine District, and BakerRipley. Bring your basket to fill. **5K RUN** starts at 9:30am. See Ad on Page 8 for more information and sponsors.

New Mental Health Facility announced by Rep. Senfronia Thompson for Northeast Houston

State Representative Senfronia Thompson & The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD hold Groundbreaking for the New Youth and Family Wellness Center, Replacing Flood-Prone Facility

HOUSTON — The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD today broke ground on the Youth and Family Wellness Center, a new facility that will replace the existing Northeast Community Center, whose building sits in a floodplain and has experi-

enced repeated flooding during major rain events.

The project reflects strong collaboration between state and local leaders. State Representative Senfronia Thompson played a key role in securing \$10.5 million in funding to help make the project possible.

"Investments like this strengthen communities and ensure families have access to the resources they need to thrive," said Representative Senfronia Thompson (District 141). "This center will serve as

an important hub of support for all citizens in Northeast Houston, and I am proud to have helped bring this investment to the community."

The new center will provide a safer, more resilient home for behavioral health services and the staff that provide them, while expanding access to care and family supports for youth and families across Northeast Houston.

"This project represents more than a new building — it represents our commitment to ensuring fami-

lies can access critical behavioral health services in a safe, reliable, and welcoming environment," said Wayne Young, CEO of The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD. "Replacing a facility that has faced repeated flooding with a modern, resilient center allows us to better serve youth and families today while preparing for the needs of our growing community."

Once completed, the Youth and Family Wellness Center will expand The Harris Center's ability to provide behavioral

health care, prevention programs, and family support services designed to strengthen families and improve outcomes for citizens in the region. The center will offer accessible behavioral health care for people of all ages, health and wellness classes and resources, a large community room for events, and expanded space to better serve the growing number of residents in need of support.

Located on East Little

Continued. See New Mental Health Facility, Page 5

Field Trip to Washington DC for Lone Star College students



Trip to nation's capital opens doors, brings learning to life for Lone Star College System students

HOUSTON (Feb. 25, 2026) — U.S. history and the federal government

became more real for dozens of Lone Star College System students as they stepped away from the classroom to explore the nation's capital and discover future career possibilities this February.

The inaugural LSC in

D.C. Civic Engagement Learning Experience allowed students to swap lectures about the Founding Fathers for walks through their homes and memorial

Continued. See LSC STUDENTS IN WASH DC, Page 2

New Industrial Developments Bring a Boost to North Houston District



Panelmatic Relocating its Headquarters

Panelmatic Electrical Solutions has leased the entire 728,080-square-foot WestPoint 45 distribution center. This 10-year lease marks a major expansion of the company's U.S.

headquarters and production operations. The facility, located at 410 West Road near Pinto Business Park in the southwest quadrant, will ultimately

Continued. See NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT, Page 5

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LSC Students in Washington DC,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Cybersecurity Students from Lone Star College in Washington DC.

sites. Meanwhile, cybersecurity students learned about potential post-graduation career pathways available through federal agencies.

“Being in Washington, D.C., made everything feel real—the decisions, the responsibility and the historical weight behind the institutions that shape this country,” said Alexa Quinn, LSC-Kingwood student. “It reminded me that meaningful change requires presence, awareness and the courage to step into the spaces where those conversations are happening. Standing in the U.S. Supreme Court, where so many decisions have been made that directly affect my rights and the lives of people in my community, made the connection between policy and personal reality undeniable.”

Thanks to a grant and financial support from LSCS, 32 students were selected from 300 applicants to visit Washington, D.C. Most of the attendees were first-generation college students, and many had never traveled outside of Texas.

From reading the names on the documents that formed America’s government 250 years ago to speaking with Houston legislators currently serving the U.S. Congress,

meaningful moments throughout the week expanded students’ perspectives.

“They got to see that these people were real, and they developed our government within these spaces in a very purposeful way,” said Cassandra Khatri, LSC-University Park political science professor. “When we talk to students about political participation and the role of government, it seems sort of distanced, but they made that connection to people who are part of the conversations that structure the world we know today.”

Highlights of the Civic Engagement trip included:

--Seeing the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights in person at the National Archives and Records Administration

--Touring the homes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison

--Researching the stories of individuals from the LSCS service area at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

--Witnessing Buddhist monks conclude their 2,300-mile Walk for Peace

--Perusing Smithsonian museums, including the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of American History, and the

National Museum of African American History and Culture

--Visiting the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol and the Library of Congress

“Students got to see that there’s more opportunity out there than what they thought,” said Cory Colby, LSC-Tomball political science professor. “They’re talking about pursuing internships, furthering their education and future careers in D.C. After this experience, they can see themselves belonging there.”

At the same time, nine cybersecurity students from LSC-Westway Park Technology Center’s cybersecurity associate and bachelor’s degree programs engaged directly with federal agencies to explore cybersecurity at the national and global levels.

During their visit, students met with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to gain insight into the evolving cybersecurity landscape and the critical role technical professionals play in safeguarding national security. The experience also included tours of the White House, the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon, providing students

with a firsthand view of federal operations and the scope of cybersecurity activity at the highest levels of government.

U.S. Rep. Morgan Luttrell, who represents a portion of the LSCS service area, personally invited these students to Washington, D.C., following discussions about the college’s cybersecurity programs during his visit to LSC-CyFair last fall.

“Cybersecurity is one of the fastest-growing industries in the global economy, and Lone Star College System is leading the way in preparing highly skilled technical professionals to serve on the frontlines of cyber defense,” said Kimberly Hubbard, Ph.D., LSC-Westway Park Technology Center dean. “While compliance is an important component of cybersecurity, many institutions emphasize regulatory frameworks over deep technical training. Our programs are intentionally designed to address that gap. During our meetings with federal agencies, students heard firsthand about the urgent demand

for individuals with advanced technical expertise who can help maintain our nation’s global competitive edge in the cyber domain.”

Lone Star College System offers more than 200 degree and certification programs, including four bachelor’s degrees. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Programs-Of-Study](https://www.lonestar.edu/Programs-Of-Study).

Lone Star College System enrolls over 90,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSCS is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSCS, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2025 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education. LSCS consists of eight colleges, six centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit [LoneStar.edu](https://www.lonestar.edu).

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HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

KRAFTY KIDS

Wednesday, March 18, 3:30pm-4:30pm View all dates

Description
Krafty Kids offers a fantastic chance for your children to unleash their creativity while having a great time in a safe and inviting space. Whether it’s painting, drawing, sculpting, or other activities, there’s something for every budding artist to delight in.

AVENTURAS EN LECTURAS | ADVENTURES IN READING

Wednesday, March 18, 5:00pm-5:30pm

Description
Experience the magic of two languages at our Bilingual Storytime, specially designed for children ages 5 to 8 years old. Each week features a fresh, exciting theme—from high-tech Robots to mythical Dragons. We go beyond the book with interactive games and hands-on instrument play to keep older kids engaged and moving. It’s the perfect blend of literacy, culture, and high-energy fun.

CITIZENSHIP CLASS | CLASE DE CIUDADANÍA

Thursday, March 19, 11:00am-12:30pm

Description
Join us for a free class to help you prepare for your naturalization interview and civics test. An English assessment must be taken for class admittance. Taking this class does not grant citizenship or pay for any application fees. Registration is required as space is limited.

Únase a nosotros en un curso gratuito para ayudarle a prepararse para su entrevista de naturalización y examen de educación cívica. Es necesario realizar una evaluación de inglés para ser admitido. Este curso no otorga la ciudadanía ni cubre ninguna tarifa de solicitud. Es necesario inscribirse, ya que el cupo es limitado.

CAREER AND COLLEGE HELP | AYUDA PARA BUSCA DE EMPLEO O CARRERAS

Thursday, March 19, 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.

ESL LEVEL 1 CLASS

Saturday, March 21, 11:00am-12:00pm

Description
Please join us for an English introduction class every Saturday!

This class is designed for students who are interested in learning and /or practicing speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills in English. Classes are free, and all materials are provided

¡Por favor, únase a nosotros para una clase de introducción Inglés todos los sábados!

Esta clase está diseñada para los estudiantes que están interesados en aprender y / o practicar hablar, escuchar, escribir y leer en Inglés. Las clases son gratuitas y se proporcionan todos los materiales

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

EXCITING FLAVORS!

Tuesday, March 17, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Description
Want to taste something new?

Join us for Exciting Flavors! a new program where we make and taste new recipes.

*Registration is required*We will be making our very own fresh Mango Pico de Gallo.

WIGGLE WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 18, 11:00am-12:00pm

Description
Come Move and Groove with Us!

Join us for a fun-filled session of reading, singing, and playful movement!It’s the perfect way to introduce toddlers to the joy of books and reading while building important motor skills. Through music, movement, and play, we’ll help support your child’s growth in a joyful, engaging way—because play is essential to every part of toddler development!!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, March 18, 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/futureuLolitaR.ButlerFutureUAdvisor-Phone>:

(832)310-0694
Email: lolita.butler@hcpl.net

FUTURE U! REVISE RESUME

Wednesday, March 18, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Description
Ready to Enhance your Resume? and Cover Letter? Take your resume and cover letter to the next level with a Future U advisor who can help you with great insight on how to attract top-notch employers and get their attention. Get great tips on crafting your resume and cover letter to be tailor-made with your skills, qualifications, and experiences. Have one on one talks with Future U advisor about today’s job market and how to prepare and what to look for.

TWEEN SPARK LEGOS

Wednesday, March 18, 4:30pm-5:30pm

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

TEEN CLUB

Thursday, March 19, 5:00pm-5:30pm

Description

Join us every Thursday for a fun hour full of crafts and workshops.

Relax, have a snack in a safe and welcoming space!

TIE-DYE BUTTERFLIES

Thursday, March 19, 5:30pm-6:30pm

Description
Join us at the Aldine Branch Library for a spring-themed craft! We’ll be making tie-dye butterflies, an easy craft for the whole family

¡Acompáñenos en la Biblioteca Aldine Branch para hacer una manualidad divertida de primavera! Crearemos mariposas con la técnica tie-dye, una actividad fácil y perfecta para toda la familia.

PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

Saturday, March 21, 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 Education Foundation Awards \$4,000 in Innovative Teaching Grants

The Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) surprised four educators with \$1,000 Innovative Teaching Grants during its annual Prize Posse celebration Friday, Feb. 20.

The awards recognize innovative classroom projects that bring new instructional strategies directly to students across Aldine ISD. The Innovative Teaching Grant program provides seed funding to help teachers pilot unique ideas that align with district priorities, enhance student engagement and academic achievement throughout the district.

For more than a decade, AEF grants have helped launch projects across various subject areas. This year's recipients represent four campuses and a range of subject areas, from literacy and financial education to STEM and fine arts, demonstrating the foundation's long-standing support of teacher-led innovation.

"Our educators continue to redefine what's possible for students," said Jermani Atkinson, director of the Aldine Education Foundation. "These grants empower teachers to create meaningful, real-world learning experiences that elevate student success."

All four educators said the moment the Prize Posse arrived was both unexpected and emotional, describing feelings of surprise, gratitude and honor that their ideas had been recognized and supported. While the celebration highlighted their dedication as educators, their first thoughts quickly turned to their students and the new opportunities these grants would create. The teachers emphasized that the funding will allow them to bring innovative lessons to life in ways that will meaningfully impact their classrooms.

2026 Grant Recipients

Elisabet De Miguel – Griggs EC/PK/K School (Sponsored by Whataburger)
 "TEK by TEK, Preparing Students for Success in the Real World"
 Focused on strengthening data analysis and financial literacy skills for bilingual learners.

De Miguel, a bilingual kindergarten teacher said the grant will allow students to explore real-world learning through hands-on experiences.



"Through projects like running a fictional restaurant, students will build skills in math, data analysis, and financial literacy in a way that is engaging and meaningful," she said. "My goal is to help students not only love learning but also feel prepared for the real world."

Elizabeth Gilbert – Eisenhower Ninth Grade School

"Removing Barriers to Books: A Book Festival Grant for Eisenhower 9 and Big Ike Students."

Gilbert's project gives 100 students the opportunity to attend Teen Book Con and engage with authors and literary workshops.

"Seeing the Prize Posse walk in meant the financial barriers were officially gone," she said. "Our students will meet YA (Young Adult) authors and begin building their personal libraries. Opportunities like this help students see that their voices and stories matter."

Apsara Ajithan – Aldine High School (Sponsored by Whataburger)

"Eyes in the Sky: Drone-Based Air Quality Monitoring at Aldine High School"

A hands-on STEM initiative applying physics, robotics and engineering to real-world environmental challenges. Ajithan said the grant will bring meaningful STEM experiences directly into the classroom.



"It will give my engineering design students the opportunity to explore coding, programming, and applied physics through hands-on projects like working with drones," she said. "Experiences like this help students connect their learning to real-world applications."

Eun Sung Kim – Carter Academy

"Strings in Motion: An Immersive Exploration of the Science of Sound"
 Integrating music, visual arts, and science to explore sound, vibration, and performance. Kim said the project will allow students to explore the connection between music and science through creativity and collaboration.



"Students will design and build recycled instruments while learning about vibration, pitch, and resonance," she said. "It's a hands-on way for them to see themselves not only as musicians but also as scientists and creators."

This year's Prize Posse representatives included AEF board members President Jana Anders-Gonzales, Judy Hoya, Sidney Brewer, and Pastor David Smith, as well as AEF Director, Jermani Atkinson.

Through programs like the Innovative Teaching Grants, the Aldine Education Foundation continues to support educators who bring creative ideas into the classroom. These projects help create engaging learning experiences that inspire students and support their academic success.

MacArthur HS Academic Decathlon Team Finishes Top 10 at State Competition



Pictured is the MacArthur High School Academic Decathlon team.

Students from MacArthur HS and Avalos P-TECH earned state awards.

Earning a ninth-place finish at the 2026 Texas Academic Decathlon State Competition, MacArthur High School's Academic Decathlon team ranked among the top large high schools across the state.

Top teams from Texas competed at Collin College in Frisco on Feb. 28. Representing MacArthur, students took part in 10 events: Art, Economics, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science, Essay, Speech, and Interview.

In the large school division, MacArthur accumulated a total score of 35,768 points.

Among the team's individual accolades, Andrés Juárez earned first in Speech as well as second in Essay.

Other MacArthur students earning individual medals included:

*Yareli Escobedo, sec-

ond place in Music and third place in Literature

*Samuel Moreno, third place in Mathematics and third place in Literature (tie)

*Nayenci Rodríguez, third place in Literature (tie)

This strong overall performance, combined with individual honors, propelled MacArthur to finish ninth out of 20 large high schools at the state level.

Logan Haagenson-Jiménez, Jacqueline Alfaro, José Sosa, Andrés Juárez, Nayenci Rodríguez, Kati Castillo, Nicolás Díaz, Yareli Escobedo, and Samuel Moreno represented MacArthur at the competition. The team is coached by Park Van, a mathematics teacher, and Stephanie Debettignies, a speech teacher.

The 2026 theme, "The Roaring '20s," asked students to explore the decade's history, culture, and innovations across disciplines.

MacArthur's success continues a milestone year for Aldine ISD Academic Decathlon programs. Earlier this year, for the first time in district history, two AISD teams — MacArthur and Avalos P-TECH School — advanced to the state competition.

Avalos P-TECH senior Vanessa Cerrillo also earned an individual first-place finish in the Interview competition during the state event.

The Academic Decathlon challenges students to master college-level material across multiple subject areas while also demonstrating strong communication skills through speech, essay, and interview events.

The students' performance reflects Aldine ISD's commitment to expanding academic opportunities and preparing students to think critically, communicate effectively, and compete at the highest levels.

La Promesa High School Students Qualify for National Future Educators Competition



La Promesa High School students have distinguished themselves as standout future educators, demonstrating readiness to lead tomorrow's classrooms.

Twenty-six students from the CTE Education/Teaching and Training Program recently represented Aldine ISD at the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) State Competition on Feb. 26 in Dallas. Led by teacher and sponsor María Zúñiga, students competed in English and Spanish events, showcasing their creativity, instructional skills, and passion for teaching.

Their preparation and dedication paid off.

All participating La Promesa students qualified for June's national competition in Portland — a milestone for aspiring educators.

TAFE competitions challenge prospective educators to apply teaching skills in events focused on planning, communication, and leader-

ship. Judges evaluate projects on creativity, accuracy, and engagement with learners.

At the state competition, La Promesa students earned recognition in several categories, including Inside Our School, Children's Literature, and Lesson Plans.

Several students also received scholarships for outstanding performance.

The achievement highlights the students' and teachers' commitment to preparing future educators.

Teaching and Learning CTE lets students explore education careers and gain practical experience in lesson planning, leadership, and classroom engagement. Through TAFE, students also build confidence and

professional skills and connect with peers who share a passion for teaching.

With their state success, La Promesa students will represent Aldine ISD nationally in Oregon this summer.

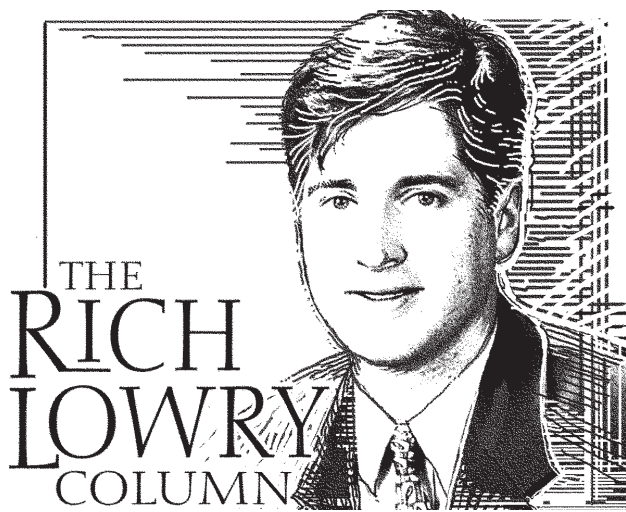
Their accomplishment highlights Aldine ISD's growing pipeline of future educators who are preparing to inspire the next generation.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) associations like TAFE are ways Aldine ISD continues to Accelerate student opportunities and leadership pathways.

"La Promesa's future educators show the value of investing in students today so they can shape tomorrow's classrooms," said Zúñiga. "That is one chapter in the #AldineStory."



OPINION PAGE



Kristi Noem rides off into the Sunset

Kristi Noem rides off into the sunset
At times, you could be forgiven for having thought that Kristi Noem wanted to be a uniformed DHS officer rather than the secretary of the department.
Now, the cabinet member most inclined to glamour shots out in the field is going to have to go back to wearing civilian clothes.
For all his trademark firings during "The Apprentice" and the rapid turnover of his first term, President Trump has been loath to oust top officials this time around. Kristi Noem is the exception, and she's earned the dubious distinction. Incompetent and preposterously self-promoting, Noem took a serious role and made it like something out of the HBO political spoof "Veep."

The Wall Street Journal recently published a devastating report on her time at the department, which she ran in close partnership with the man she's been rumored to be having an affair with, former Trump consultant Corey Lewandowski (she dismisses such reports as tabloid trash). It was a little like Antony and Cleopatra on the Potomac, except the empire was a sprawling bureaucracy and as farce rather than tragedy.

According to the Journal, Lewandowski fired a Coast Guard pilot who left Noem's blanket behind on another plane, and then, when they reached their destination, reinstated him because there wasn't anyone else to fly them home.

Reportedly, Noem tracked how often Tom Homan, the border czar who supplanted her in Minneapolis, was on TV and sought to outpace him.

The Journal related that Lewandowski was desperate to get a federally issued gun and badge and exacted retribution against those who didn't cooperate (he failed to get the gun, but apparently got the badge).

DHS officials denied much of the Journal story, but even if a fraction of it was true, it was still damning.

The two were turfy, sharp-elbowed bureaucratic players, not a new or unusual offense in Washington. But their enemies tended to be people who knew what they were doing, with Tom Homan high on the list.

Noem and Lewandowski raised eyebrows by taking an unusual amount of control over the department's spending. Self-dealing played a direct role in Noem's defenestration. The department approved a \$220 million contract — funneled in part through firms run by Noem and Lewandowski allies — for an ad campaign encouraging illegal immigrants to go home.

The ad starred — who else? — Kristi Noem. She was on horseback and in chaps. The implicit message was that if illegal immigrants didn't leave on their own, she'd immediately form a posse and run them over the border. It was a production worthy of a spaghetti western, or — more to the point, given her political ambitions — a commercial for a 2028 presidential campaign.

Noem couldn't defend the sketchy spending decisions, or the blatantly self-glorifying ad, or much of anything else, in brutal back-to-back House and Senate congressional hearings that precipitated her doom. She'd already been taken down a notch after the Minneapolis ICE operation went sideways. Not working with copious supplies of credibility to begin with, she tossed away whatever she had by instantly labeling both agitators shot by DHS agents "domestic terrorists."

All of this said, it was Trump who hired Noem despite her manifest deficiencies, including no notable experience in immigration enforcement. She was camera-ready and loyal, so why not? Her designated replacement, Oklahoma senator Markwayne Mullin, also doesn't have a background in immigration policy. One hopes, though, that he won't interfere with the professionals and will continue the Homan-backed approach of focusing on apprehending illegal immigrants who have committed other criminal offenses and received final orders of removal, and ramping up worksite enforcement.

The French World War I-era statesman Georges Clemenceau once said, "War is too important to be left to the generals." By the same token, immigration enforcement is too important to be left to self-serving glory hounds who are focused more on the main chance than the underlying mission.

Trump's first firing was the right one.
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Primary Turnout Smashes Recent Midterm Records

Nearly 4.5 million Texans voted in the Democratic and Republican primaries, according to The Texas Tribune, surpassing recent turnout numbers. A total of 2.3 million ballots were cast in the Democratic primary and 2.2 million in the Republican primary, marking the first time Democratic turnout was higher since 2020. Texas has approximately 18.7 million registered voters, so turnout was just under 25%.

Voters in both parties can return to the polls in May to decide primary winners in several runoff elections where no candidate garnered a majority:

- U.S. Sen. John Cornyn faces challenger Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Cornyn received 41.9% of the GOP vote to 40.7% for Paxton in the March 3 primary.
- State Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston faces U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin for the Republican nomination for Texas Attorney General. Middleton led in the primary with 39.1%, while Roy had 31.6%.

- On the Democratic side for attorney general, state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, faces former Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski. Johnson fell just short of winning a majority with 48.1% in the primary, while Jaworski earned 26.4% of the vote.
- Two Democrats are headed for a runoff for lieutenant governor. State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, finished well ahead of Marcos Velez, a Houston labor leader, with 48% of the vote. Velez received 31.5% of the primary vote. The winner will face incumbent GOP Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

There are also several runoffs slated in congressional and state house races. The runoffs will be held May 26, with early voting running from May 18-22. Voters cannot cross over to vote in a runoff, meaning if they voted in the Democratic primary, they cannot vote in a GOP runoff, and vice versa. Voters who didn't cast ballots in either March primary can participate in the runoff of either party.

GAS PRICES SPIKE SHARPLY IN WAKE OF IRAN WAR

The price of gasoline rose nearly a dollar per gallon in some cities after the joint U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran last week. The Dallas Morning News reported gas prices are now at their highest



level since President Trump took office in January 2025. Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have been largely stalled, greatly reducing production by Asian refiners.

U.S. crude oil prices topped \$89 late last week. Since the Friday before the attacks, Brent crude oil, the global benchmark for oil prices, has increased by 24%.

Trump said Friday there will not be a deal to end the U.S.-Iran war without an "unconditional surrender" by Iran.

HUFFINES SAYS HE WOULD NOT CHANGE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Former state Sen. Don Huffines, who handily beat Gov. Greg Abbott's hand-picked candidate for state comptroller in the GOP primary, said he does not intend to change the state's \$1 billion voucher program if he wins election in November. Huffines, who challenged Abbott for the governorship in 2022, praised the current handling of the program, according to the Houston Chronicle.

"We're not here to be disruptive," Huffines said. "I don't see a big disruption in the process that's already started, as long as it's going smoothly and being run effectively and managed."

Huffines will face State Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, in the fall. The comptroller's office has been tasked with overseeing the voucher program, which is in its first year.

GONZALES ENDS REELECTION BID AFTER ADMITTING AFFAIR

U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-San Antonio, withdrew from his re-election race after admitting to an extramarital affair with an aide who later died by suicide, The News reported. "After deep reflection and with the support of my lov-

ing family, I have decided not to seek re-election while serving out the rest of this Congress with the same commitment I've always had to my district," Gonzales said in a statement posted on social media.

The House Ethics Committee announced a probe into his conduct after the primary ended. Gonzales finished second to challenger Brandon Herrera in the Republican primary for the state's 23rd congressional district, but the race was headed to a runoff until Gonzales withdrew.

Herrera will face Democrat Katy Padilla Stout, an attorney, in the general election.

SPACEX BEACH CLOSURE FIGHT REACHES TEXAS SUPREME COURT

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a fight over whether counties can temporarily close a beach for a space flight, The Tribune reported. Rio Grande Valley environmentalists and indigenous groups have sued over a 2013 law that allows some counties to close a beach.

The dispute primarily concerns SpaceX, which operates a launch site near Boca Chica Beach in Cameron County. The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized the company to launch rockets up to 25 times a year, prompting the closure of roughly eight miles of beach adjacent to the launch pad.

Attorneys representing the plaintiffs argued the Open Beaches Amendment to the state constitution grants the public an unrestricted right to use public beaches. The state contended that the amendment does not guarantee unlimited, unfettered access.

"It is a more limited right," said Beth Klusmann, deputy solicitor general for the Texas Attorney General's Office. "The question, of course, then is what are those limits."

DRUNK DRIVING CRASHES SPIKE IN SPRING

Spring break is upon us, and the Texas Department of Transportation is supporting community efforts across the state to stop impaired driving. The state last year saw a spike of drunk driving crashes in March, more than any other month.

There were 700 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes in the state during the 2025 spring break period, leading to 36 fatalities and 63 serious injuries. During that time, 51% of all alcohol-related crashes in Texas involved young drivers aged 17-30.

Drivers are urged to never drive after consuming any amount of alcohol or drugs and to arrange for a sober ride beforehand.

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

Sensible Shoes



Yesterday, I saw a woman trip on the pavement. She immediately turned to her husband and started to complain.

I couldn't hear all she was saying, but I was thinking there was really no point in complaining to your husband when you trip on the pavement. It might be your fault, or the fault of the pavement, or the fault of your shoes, but it almost certainly has nothing to do with your husband, and the odds are he is wearing sensible shoes.

San Miguel de Allende, where my husband, Peter, and I spend much of the winter, is a city that requires sensible shoes. The entire town is a World Heritage Site, which means that the things you see outside must look pretty much exactly as they did in the mid-1700s, unless there is some life-threatening reason to change them. Tripping on the pavement does not qualify as life-threatening.

Peter loudly lobbies for hiking poles. He says every person should be using at least one at all times and two if taking a hike of any length. Peter probably has a good point, but he is not going to win this argument with most women, who are going out to dinner and carrying a purse and taking photos with a phone and possibly holding an ice-cream cone or a churro. Adding hiking poles to the ensemble is not going to be an option for most—in spite of Peter's well-intentioned entreaties.

I have noticed that footwear varies greatly by age. Young women will wear chunky, practical sneakers with dresses and pull it off with ease and charm. Slightly older women will wear more fashionable footwear and risk falling on the slippery, uneven, (but historically accurate) pavement. Women who are older yet will revert to chunky sneakers very similar to the ones their young counterparts are wearing. I can see a convincing argument for skipping the fashionable shoe phase and jumping right to the chunky sneaker phase, but I'm not there yet. And neither, apparently, was the woman complaining to her husband.

Perhaps we are in no hurry to reach the "I'm wearing chunky sneakers for the rest of my life" phase. Or perhaps we somehow relish the challenge of navigating the rounded, irregular stones beneath our feet and making a triumphant entry into the restaurant, unscathed. Or perhaps we are slightly jealous of the women who come in from Mexico City who wear not just impractical shoes but shoes with towering narrow heels, and traipse about the city with a small dog under their arm as if there was no skill involved at all.

My suspicion is that there are women in parts of the world trained from a very early age to manage high-altitude heels and, like learning a foreign language, one will never master it effortlessly unless they begin young. This is surely true of women in Paris. My dearest girlfriend used to live in Paris, and I would fret over what to wear when I went to visit her. She told me before a visit in July, "Don't worry about what to wear. The streets are filled with tourists in ugly shoes."

Meanwhile, the men wear pretty much whatever they feel like wearing and manage the cobblestones much better. I agree it makes no sense. I believe my health and safety should come before anything as frivolous as fashion. I can imagine how effortless it would feel to walk after dark on slippery stones with a heavy rubber cushion beneath my feet.

But this does not mean that I'm ready for sensible shoes. Yet.

Till next time,
Carrie

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New Mental Health Facility,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

York in Harris County Precinct One, the center will serve residents across Northeast Houston and surrounding neighborhoods. The new facility will provide a modern, resilient environment designed to better meet the growing needs of families and ensure access to services that support mental health,

stability, and overall well-being.

About The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD is the public behavioral health authority for Harris County, providing mental health, substance use, and

intellectual and developmental disability services to more than 80,000 people each year across more than 80 service locations. The Harris Center works to improve the lives of individuals and families through accessible, high-quality care and community partnerships.

New Carver High School,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with a dedicated exhibition area. Career and Technical Education offerings will expand through robotics, mechatronics, and a P-TECH interior design program.

A Carver Alumni Heritage Center will also be incorporated, showcasing the original G.W. Carver plaque as a permanent reminder of the school's roots in Acres Homes.

A Celebration of Past and Present

Throughout the ceremony, student performances and alumni reflections highlighted the deep bond between the school and its community. Musical selections from the Carver orchestra, choir, mariachi ensemble, and dance company filled the morning with pride and emotion.

Board President Dr. Kimberley N. Booker described the groundbreaking as more than a construction milestone.

"This moment repre-

sents a promise kept to our students, our alumni, and the Acres Homes community," Booker said.

Alumni speakers reflected on the education and support they received at Carver, crediting the school with preparing them for success beyond its walls. Among them was Willie Gaines, Class of 1978, who later spent 30 years working as an engineer at NASA.

"The building may change, but the spirit doesn't," Gaines said. "It's still Carver, just a new place to hold the same pride and determination."

Students at the Heart of the Vision

Current students were front and center during the celebration, symbolizing the future the new campus is meant to serve. Senior Ka Sean Francis, who plans to pursue musical theater in college, described Carver as a place of belonging.

"Carver has been the village I needed," Francis said. "It's where I found my identity, my confidence, and my family."

As construction begins, students and staff have been temporarily relocated to Eisenhower Ninth Grade School while the new campus takes shape.

Looking Ahead

As the final shovelfuls of dirt were turned, the message echoed throughout the ceremony: Carver's legacy is not being replaced it is being strengthened.

"This campus is being built because you matter," Goffney told students. "You deserve spaces that reflect your brilliance and amplify your potential."

When the doors open in 2028, the new George Washington Carver High School will stand as both a tribute to its storied past and a promise to the generations yet to come.

New Industrial Developments Boost North Houston District,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become the company's new corporate headquarters, employing approximately 1,000 employees and serving as a production hub and a showcase for customers.

Currently headquartered in Willowbrook, Panelmatic initially considered leasing only half the building but opted for the entire site to accommodate long-term growth. The West-Point 45 facility features 40-foot clear heights, 156 dock-high doors, and 180 trailer parking spaces. The facility also includes 50,000 square feet of office space for engineering and administrative staff.

Developed by Vigavi Realty and Principal Asset Management, construction was completed in April 2025 and represents one of Houston's largest industrial developments this year. The relocation is part of Panelmatic's broader North American growth strategy, which also includes ongoing operations in Conroe, Ohio, and Vancouver.

Seojin Global Chooses NHD for First Houston-area Home

Similarly, Seojin Global, a manufacturer of telecom equipment, recently acquired the 500 Northbelt facility at 500 N. Sam Houston Parkway from Brennan Investment

Group. The 10.8-acre property offers strategic access for the company and many amenities necessary for its operations. The building has 32-foot clear heights, 60 speed bays, 26 dock doors, and a 180-foot truck court, along with 36 trailer and 269 car parking spaces.

Seojin has registered a \$20 million build-out project with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to transform the facility into a manufacturing hub. The plans include 5,476 square feet of office space, 126,229 square feet for manufacturing space, and 28,110 square feet for warehouse storage.

Once completed, it will produce aluminum cases and cabinets for telecom equipment and will be Seojin's first Houston-area operation. However, production is not expected to begin until late 2026 due to the extensive build-out.

A District Transformed

The arrival of these two companies is the latest milestone in North Houston's evolution. The Seojin site was formerly home to a low-rise office building. After its purchase by the Brennan Investment Group in 2023, the vacant two-story building was razed to make room for

construction of the 150,000-square-foot warehouse shell.

Replacing office space with industrial flex space is a predictable trend for the area due to office vacancy rates and lower-than-average asking prices. Industrial space in the District now outnumbers office space by 2 to 1, and accounts for more than 20 million square feet of the District's commercial real estate.

We are very fortunate to be located at the intersection of I-45 North and the Sam Houston Parkway near the airport, and it's one reason Amazon, Coca-Cola, and Sysco are in the North Houston District, and why other employers are now opting to join them here.

However, North Houston District's VP of Planning and Infrastructure Robert Fiederlein explained that North Houston's urban location also provides a distinct advantage. Unlike other options further from Houston's core, North Houston offers an employment base for companies that need both large industrial spaces and a workforce to staff their operations. The ability to supply both benefits the entire District.

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Elizabeth Moss, Left, and Kerry Washington star in "Imperfect Women."

"Imperfect Women."

"The 98th Academy Awards" (TV-PG) — Award season has come to an end for the time being, and the race to the Oscars this year was one of the more interesting ones we've had in past years. With Jessie Buckley ("Hamnet") being the only obvious shoo-in for her respective category, the other categories have swung in every which way depending on the award show. What is certain is that Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," at 16 nominations, now holds the record of having the most noms in Oscar history, surpassing films like "Titanic" (1997) and "La La Land" (2016). Best Casting was a new category this year, and Conan O'Brien came back to host the ceremony for the second consecutive time. Stream the ceremony at your leisure now! (Hulu)

— Cillian Murphy is back in the breakout role that led him to stardom for this crime-drama film that premieres on March 20. Taking place in 1940, approximately seven years after where the series leaves off, the sequel picks up as the order of the Peaky Blinders is up and running again under the leadership of Thomas Shelby's (Murphy) chaotic son, Duke (Barry Keoghan). Although Thomas himself is living in "self-imposed exile" in the countryside, he returns to Birmingham after it's been bombed by the Nazis during World War II. Simultaneously, he's drawn back into the past he left behind for the sake of the war. Rebecca Ferguson ("Mercy") and Tim Roth ("260 Days") co-star. (Netflix)

"Imperfect Women" (TV-MA) — This new psychological thriller series premiering March 18

"Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" (R)

is led by three actresses who have each been in iconic TV shows throughout their careers: Elisabeth Moss ("The Handmaid's Tale"), Kerry Washington ("Scandal"), and Kate Mara ("House of Cards"). They play a trio of friends whose dynamic completely shifts when one of the women, Nancy (Mara), is found dead. With Nancy's mysterious and sudden death comes secrets from all parties that bubble up to the surface, including a not-so-platonic connection between her husband, Robert (Joel Kinnaman), and friend Eleanor (Washington). This is definitely not a girls' night you'd want to be a part of! The first two episodes are out now, with the following six releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+) "Young Sherlock" (TV-14) — Hero Fiennes Tiffin, most notably known for starring in the "After" romance films, takes on the role of the English detective we all know and love - but as the 19-year-old version of him. Not quite the seasoned detective we've seen Robert Downey Jr. or Henry Cavill play, this Sherlock Holmes is at Oxford University and swears that his days of larceny and stealing are truly behind him. Although Sherlock promises his mother that he'll stay out of trouble, it naturally finds him when he's found at the crime scene of a murder at his very university. So, he's forced to figure out a way to prove his innocence, which will undoubtedly sharpen his ingenious sleuthing skills. All eight episodes are available to stream now. (Amazon Prime Video)

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Photo Caption: Nikki Crawford ("Days of Our Lives")

Q: Is the actress playing Lexie on "Days of Our Lives" the same one who played her years ago? I know the character was killed off, but I'm thinking this is a different actress, too. — K.B.

A: Renee Jones played Lexie Carver on the daytime soap "Days of Our Lives" from 1993-2012 until she decided to retire from acting. The character was killed off until now, 24 years later, when Lexie was resurrected by Dr. Rolf (William Utay) for what is sure to be nefarious purposes. Her husband, Abe (James Reynolds), will be in for a big surprise whenever she does reveal herself, especially since he's now married to the town's mayor Paulina, who's played by Jackee Harry.

Nikki Crawford, a Tony-nominated actress who's had numerous guest-starring television credits over the years, has been cast in the role. She told TV Insider that the character's identity was kept secret when she auditioned for the role. Like many seasoned actors who take on their first daytime soap role, Crawford was impressed with the fast pace of filming but did find it daunting at first.

"Days" is now exclusively found on the streaming service Peacock after spending an impressive 57 years on NBC.

Q: I saw that Timothee Chalamet has upset artists and fans of ballet and opera with his lack of appreciation for it. They said that it will probably cost him the Oscar this year, but hadn't voting already ended at this point? — V.D.

A: The ballot deadline for this year's Academy Award nominees ended on March 5. The remarks that you're referring to aired on CNN during a town hall that was held at the University of Texas on Feb. 21, with special guests Matthew McConaughey and Timothee Chalamet. It definitely could have affected voters' opinions.

His remarks? Well, he shot himself in the foot when he said, "I don't want to be working in ballet or opera or things where it's like, 'Hey, keep this thing alive, even though like no one cares about this anymore.'"



Nikki Crawford ("Days of Our Lives")

Chalamet is a huge basketball and WWE wrestling fan, and these art forms just aren't his jam. He's allowed to have his opinion, but people are also allowed to not vote for him should they so choose.

Q: What ever happened to the "Community" movie? I thought it would have been out by now. — S.S.

A: The cult classic NBC comedy series "Community" ended a decade ago. Danny Pudi's character, Abed, famously once predicted that his favorite show, "The Cape," would have "six seasons and a movie." When "Community" itself ended after six seasons, this quote became the rallying cry of fans of the show, who wanted more after their beloved series was canceled.

According to Entertainment Weekly, in 2024, Peacock greenlit a "Community" movie. The writers' and actors' strikes that originally stalled the project are now over, too, but one of the actors' projects got in the way. This is likely to keep happening with such a talented cast that includes Joel McHale, Alison Brie and Donald Glover.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff

- Trivia Test Answers: 1. Bong Joon Ho; 2. Fermented soybean paste; 3. Heinrich and Catherine; 4. Manila, Philippines; 5. 1896 in Greece; 6. Illinois; 7. Arabian Peninsula; 8. Ares; 9. Richard Wagner; 10. Carbon Copy (once used in typewriters)

March 16, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

Crossword grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Who is the director of the Oscar-winning movie "Parasite"?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What is miso?
3. LITERATURE: What are the names of the romantic couple in "Wuthering Heights"?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city's nickname is "Pearl of the Orient"?
5. HISTORY: In what year were the first modern Olympic Games held?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Before becoming president, Barack Obama served as a senator from which state?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Which peninsula is the largest in the world?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek god of war?
9. MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Ring of Nibelung"?
10. ACRONYMS: In computer emails, what does the acronym "CC" stand for?

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