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# NORTHEAST NEWS

**Cinco de Mayo**



Deputies enjoyed the Festivities of Cinco de Mayo at East Aldine District. Story & More Photos on Pages 1, 5 and 8

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 50 Years  
VOL. 50, NO. 17 TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

**New: We-Cycle Wednesdays at East Aldine Recycling Center**

Every third Wednesday of the Month, the East Aldine Recycling Center will accept All East Aldine Residents without an appointment.  
LOCATION: 2789 Hopper Road, Houston 77093.

Additional Photos in Color are available for most stories, at our website: www.nenewsroom.com

## East Aldine Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo celebration draws crowd for family fun

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Multitudes of residents gathered May 2 evening, at East Aldine Town Center for a Cinco de Mayo celebration hosted by the East Aldine Management District, a free community event that paired live regional music with children's activities, food, and a message about neighborhood investment. Organizers estimated attendance at 1,000 to 1,500 people despite stormy weather earlier in the weekend.

Board member Rocio Witte said the event was meant to reflect the culture of the community



Festive Banners, and the Photo Booth, at the East Aldine building.



Several bands played during the Cinco de Mayo event. (Photos by ev1pro)

while creating a safe place for families to gather close to home.

"We wanted to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and just bring good food, good music to the community," Witte said. "The community has really looked forward to these types of events with live music in a family-friendly environment.

And they know that it's a safe space."

Children rotated through soccer, basketball, ring toss, lotería, bowling, face painting, balloons and train rides while families visited food trucks and watched the performances. Witte said keeping the event free was essential.

"All the events that we

do are free and open to the public," she said. "The district pays for everything."

District staff spent months planning the celebration, coordinating entertainment, vendors and weather contingencies. Witte said the event still drew a solid crowd.

"It wasn't our largest turnout because some of

our other events are more well known," she said. "But I would say it was about 1,000 to 1,500 maybe in attendance. That's still a good turnout."

She said that matters in East Aldine, where some residents may not regular-

Continued. SEE EAMD CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION, Pages 5, 8

## International Arts Festival set for May 16

Celebrating the Diverse Cultures in East Aldine at Town Centre

EAST ALDINE – The District will host their second annual International Arts Festival on Saturday, May 16 from 5pm to 9pm, at the Town Centre. This will be a showcase for the Multi-cultural nature of the District, taking full advantage of the many ethnicities that live or work in the area. The Festival is free, and will have all types of art, from performing to dancing, to visual and participatory, and meditation and poetry.

Event Coordinator Emily Erreguin and marketing manager Monica Campos have planned a

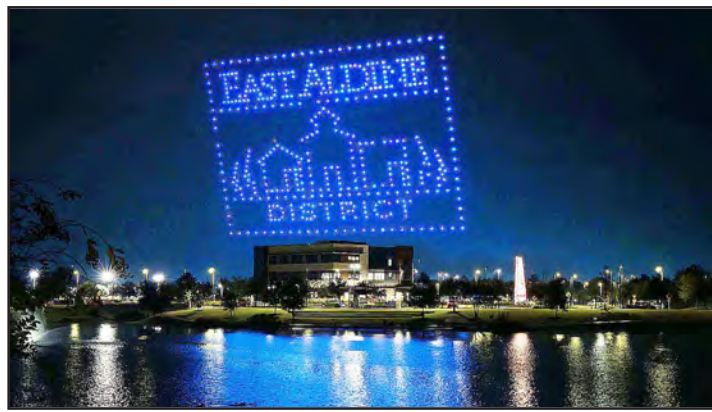


Scenes from last year's International Arts Festival.

full evening of art, dance, displays, classes, games, and more.

Local as well as city-wide groups will partici-

pate. There will be face painting, arts and crafts booths, moonwalk, train rides for the kids, and food trucks and more.



A Drone Show over Town Centre will be part of the spectacular evening.s

A great Family Event, only in East Aldine District!

In commenting on the International Art Festival,

Monica Campos said "Join us for an extraordinary celebration of creativity and culture at our International Arts Festival on May

16th! We invite you to this vibrant event where we will kick off the festivities with an incredible lineup of performances and attractions.

It's a fun-filled evening packed with arts, culture, and community spirit. Come one, come all, and let the East Aldine District Town Center be your canvas for a special time of pure artistic bliss. See you soon!"

Sponsors of the free event include the East Aldine District, Aldine ISD, Lone Star College-EA, HCSO, BakerRipley, and East Aldine Arts Council.

## Community Gathers for Walle's Birthday Fundraiser on Jensen Drive



NORTHEAST - At the end of April, Rep. Walle hosted a belated birthday celebration and fundraiser supporting his re-election campaign for House District 140. The event was held at Fusion Food Truck Park on Jensen Drive.

Walle said "I Appreciate all the love and support from family, friends, and neighbors at our community event at Fusion Food Park on Jensen Drive. I love serving our community and honored to be their representative." Rep. Armando Walle said.

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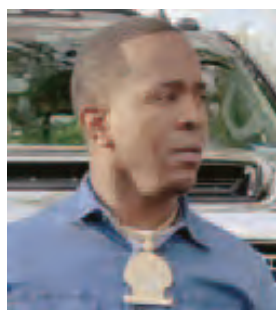


**COMMUNITY WATCH**

**Crime Stoppers Reward for killer of Floydrick Washington on Laura Koppe**

**HOUSTON – Reward of up to \$5,000 leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) involved in this case.**

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Homicide Division are asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect(s) responsible for the murder of Floydrick Washington.



ble for his death.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the location and arrest of the suspects featured. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at [www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org) or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. All tipsters remain anonymous. **Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.**

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at approximately 8:40 p.m., Floydrick Washington was driving in the 4200 block of Laura Koppe Road in Houston, Texas, when unknown suspect(s) opened fire on his vehicle. Multiple rounds were discharged, striking Mr. Washington. He suffered critical gunshot wounds and was later pronounced deceased.

The family of Floydrick Washington is seeking answers and is asking the community to come forward with any information that could help identify those responsi-

All cases/warrants are active at the time this post was created and is subject to change. Crime Stoppers of Houston is not making any legal claims that this is the most current legal status.

HPD CASE #516754-26

**Pedestrian fatally hit by train near Hirsch Road in NE Houston**

**HOUSTON –** A deadly train incident is under investigation after a pedestrian was struck Sunday evening in northeast Houston.

According to the Houston Police Department Command Center, the call came in at approximately 6:15 p.m. reporting that a train had hit a person near the 9900 block of Hirsch Road.

Emergency responders were

dispatched to the scene, which was classified as a major crash involving a fatality.

Authorities have not yet released the identity of the victim.

Details about the circumstances leading up to the collision — including whether the pedestrian was on or near the tracks at the time — have not yet been confirmed.

The investigation is ongoing.

**High Gas Prices Eating into Texans' Budgets**



By Gary Borders,

**TEXAS -** The average price for a gallon of gasoline in Texas has risen from \$2.55 in early February to \$3.91 as of Sunday, according to AAA. Diesel prices hover around \$5 a gallon. The average Texan now spends \$233 a month on gasoline, according to a study reported in The Texas Tribune.

"It's all crazy," Victor Cortez, a 40-year-old Austin construction worker, said while filling up his pickup truck. "It depends on the day; some days I'm moving to three or four buildings and spending 100 bucks a day."

The steep climb in prices comes as a result of the war

with Iran, which began in February. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil passes, has caused a sharp increase in oil prices. The price of a barrel of Brent crude, the world benchmark, was \$114 on Sunday, up from about \$70 a barrel before the war began.

The rise in diesel prices, which averaged \$3.30 a gallon in early February, is affecting everything from shipping costs to farming operations. About half the truckers in Texas are independent operators who buy diesel at gas stations and truck stops and don't receive the discount that large companies with their own trucking yards get for buying in bulk.

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*You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)*

**HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS**



**HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY**

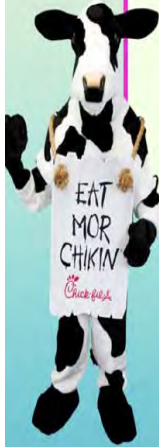
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MONDAY, JUNE 1ST  
11 AM - 5 PM**



**AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS**

**WIGGLE WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday, May 13, 11:00am-12:00pm

Come Move and Groove with Us!

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

**ESL 1**

Wednesday, May 13, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Description Start learning English for free at the library! This is an introductory English class for complete beginners.

•Class is once a week on Wednesdays from 1 - 2:30 p.m.

•It is an 8 week session from April 1st to May 20th, 2026

•Registration is required in order to attend. To register, visit us on a registration date to take a placement exam and confirm your spot in a class.

**TWEEN SPARK CARTOON MARATHON**

Wednesday, May 13, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Description Join us at Aldine for a cartoon marathon! Talk

about your favorite series and characters with others who like the same shows and check out a show you haven't seen before.

Snacks will be provided. This program is best for 6th-9th graders

**TOGETHER TIME**

Thursday, May 14, 11:00am-12:00pm

Description Join us for All Ages- Family Program every Thursday from 11-12pm.

Together Time Weekly Themes:

- May 7- Mother's Day Crafts
- MAY 14- APAHM Chinese lantern
- MAY 21- APAHM Blacklight Wave Art
- MAY 28- Rock Art

These programs will have use of scissors. Children must be supervised and with an adult at all times.

**TEEN CLUB**

Thursday, May 14, 5:00pm-6:00pm

Description Join us every Thursday for a fun hour full of crafts and workshops. Relax, have a snack in a safe and welcoming space!

**HOMEWORK HELP**

Thursday, May 14, 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.

¿Necesitas ayuda con las tareas? ¿Ven a tu biblioteca local y encuentra los recursos que necesitas para triunfar! La Biblioteca Aldine ofrecerá un espacio tranquilo para adolescentes y niños los jueves a las 5:30 p. m. Los bibliotecarios estarán disponibles para brindar asistencia.

La Biblioteca Pública del Condado de Harris ofrece una variedad de recursos gratuitos, incluyendo computadoras, impresoras y acceso a sitios web especiales de investigación disponibles con tu tarjeta de biblioteca.

Nota: Los bibliotecarios no harán los deberes ni pueden garantizar ninguna calificación; este programa está aquí para ofrecer ayuda respondiendo preguntas.

**Aldine Branch Library  
11331 Airline Dr.  
Houston, TX 77037  
Phone: 832-927-5410**

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

# Aldine ISD Honors Community Partners for Over 11,000 Volunteer Hours & Partners of Excellence at End of the Year Meeting

By Leticia Fehling,

Aldine ISD celebrated the lasting impact of community partnerships at the Superintendent's Community Partners and Partners of Excellence End-of-Year Meeting, held on April 28 at the Aldine ISD Community Center.

The annual event gathered district leaders, community partners, faith-based organizations, and families to review the school year, acknowledge supporters of Aldine ISD schools, and reinforce collaborations that help students and families thrive.

The event featured an inspiring year-in-review by FACE, heartfelt partner testimonials, meaningful district leadership updates, an uplifting awards ceremony, celebratory certificate presentations, group photos, and distribution of the third Community Partners Newsletter, highlighting powerful impact stories across the district.

Community partners



are essential to Aldine ISD, contributing nearly 11,000 volunteer hours this year—up from 9,000 last year—totaling over \$160,000 in support for students and families, according to LaTashia Abrams, executive director of Family and Community Engagement.

"Partnerships are crucial for expanding academic support, connecting students and families to vital resources, and creating enrichment opportuni-

ties that inspire and uplift student achievement," said Nancy Gauthier, Aldine ISD Family and Community Engagement specialist, who manages external partnerships for the district. "Our partners are integral to the #AldineStory, and we deeply appreciate the profound impact they make in supporting our students and families."

Throughout the year, Aldine ISD hosted 529 district events, many of which featured community part-

nerships. Partners also aided families through effective outreach efforts. In November, Equality Health Foundation donated 1,000 turkeys and more than 400 pounds of produce to Aldine ISD families.

During the meeting, Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney and the Executive Leadership Team shared updates on the district's strategic priorities, optimization, budget, STAAR testing, and grad-

uation dates.

"Community and faith-based partners are vital to our students' journeys," Dr. Goffney said. "Together, we build trust that uplifts families, nurture opportunity, and foster student well-being. United, we help every child feel supported, valued, and ready to thrive."

The meeting highlighted the inspiring impact faith-based partnerships have on achieving the district's vision for student



success. Dr. Goffney emphasized that literacy opens doors to brighter futures. Bethel Tabernacle Church, a faith-based partner, demonstrates its heartfelt commitment by sending church members to participate in the district's virtual storytime initiative, led by Danielle Jones, FACE liaison.

The collaboration demonstrates Aldine ISD's ongoing dedication to cultivating meaningful connections among schools, families, and the broader community.

Aldine ISD deeply appreciates the heartfelt contributions of community partners, faith-based leaders, and families throughout the school year.

## District Students Earn Recognition at State VASE; One Student Earns Gold Seal

Aldine ISD had 19 student artwork entries at the State VASE event. Of those entries, 16 earned a Rating 4, and one received a Gold Seal.

State VASE was held April 24-25 at San Marcos High School in San Marcos. The event, hosted by the Texas Art Education Association, recognizes exemplary high school student artwork at the state level and is considered the pinnacle of artistic achievement in the VASE program.

Blanson CTE High School student Sarahi Orellana earned a prestigious Gold Seal Award at the 2026 State Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE), highlighting Aldine ISD's top recognition.

The Gold Seal is the highest honor awarded at State VASE. Across Texas, more than 32,000 artworks competed in regional high school VASE events. Of those entries, approximately 1,500 advanced to the state event, and only 164 earned Gold Seal recognition.

In Region 4 North, which includes Aldine, Humble, Klein, Spring, Spring Branch, and Tomball ISDs, only seven students received a Gold Seal Award.

"Earning a Gold Seal at State VASE is an extraordinary achievement and a reflection of Sarahi's creativity, technical skill, and powerful artistic voice," said Kaileigh Newman, Aldine ISD director of visual arts. "Through the visual arts, our students learn to communicate complex ideas, tell meaningful stories, and connect their personal experiences to the world around them. We are incredibly proud of Sarahi and all of our Aldine ISD artists who represented the district at the state level."

According to the Texas Art Education Association, students whose artwork receives a Rating 4 — Exemplary at the State VASE are named All-State Artists by TAEA and VASE and receive a state medallion, signifying their achievement as top student artists in Texas. Rating IV artworks may also be considered for the Gold Seal Award, which highlights outstanding student works demonstrating exceptional concept, technique, craftsmanship, and creativity.

The State VASE event gives students the opportunity to showcase their artwork, participate in hands-on workshops, and connect with other student artists from across Texas. Gold Seal artwork is displayed in a special exhibition during the State VASE event and travels to selected venues across the state, culminating with the Gold Seal Exhibition at the annual TAEA Fall Conference.

Aldine ISD congratulates Orellana and all district artists who represented their campuses at the state level.



## Nimitz High Senior Earns Associate Degree Through Dual Credit Program

By Leticia Fehling,

Nimitz High School student Sophia Villatoro earned her associate degree from Lone Star College before crossing the stage at her high school graduation. Dual credit is an opportunity for high school students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously, accelerating degree completion and saving on tuition.

Sophia Villatoro didn't wait until after high school to start college. She started as a sophomore.

The Nimitz High School senior student took advantage of Aldine ISD's dual credit program, enrolling in college courses through Lone Star College's North Harris Campus while still earning her high school diploma.

In a video produced by Lone Star College System, Sophia shares her experience in her own words — why she chose to pursue dual credit, what the program taught her, and what she is taking away from an experience that gave her a two-year head start on her college education.

"I started college in high school," she says — and her story proves exactly what that means in practice.

### What Is Dual Credit?

Dual credit — sometimes called dual enrollment — allows high school students to take college-level courses that count simultaneously toward their high school graduation requirements and a college degree or certificate. At Aldine ISD, eligible students can earn college credit at little or no cost while still in high school, giving them the opportunity to graduate ahead of schedule, reduce future tuition costs, and enter college or a career with real academic experience already under their belts.

The program is designed for students who are ready for a challenge — and it is more accessible than many families realize.

"This is exactly the kind of opportunity that makes the Accelerate strategic plan real," said Dr. Susan Pelezo, Aldine ISD executive director of advanced academics. "Sophia's story shows what is possible when a student leans into the programs available to them. She graduated with choices that most students don't have until years later. That is what we want for every Aldine ISD student."

### A Head Start That Changes Everything

Students who complete dual credit courses before graduating from high school gain more than just credits — they gain confidence, time, and a financial advantage. Depending on the courses completed, a student can enter college as a sophomore or even a junior, saving thousands of dollars in tuition and getting to their career faster.

For families who may wonder whether college is financially within reach, dual credit is one of the most powerful tools available — and it starts in high school.

Aldine ISD partners with Lone Star College, the University of Houston System, and other higher education institutions to offer dual credit opportunities across multiple campuses. Additionally, Houston City College and San Jacinto Community College offer dual credit at some specialty Choice School campuses like Carver High School, Blanson CTE High School, and the HEAL Program at Nimitz High School. Students interested in the program should speak with their high school counselor or visit the Aldine ISD Advanced Academics Department page for more information.



Dual credit courses allow students to experience college-level academics while still in high school.

## Aldine ISD Hosts 11th Annual Physical Education Demonstration Show

Aldine ISD brought energy, excitement, and a focus on student wellness to the M.O. Campbell Center on Monday night as the district hosted the 11th Annual Physical Education Demonstration Show.

The free event, held from 6 to 7 p.m., featured interactive activities and health vendors and drew approximately 200 attendees. A total of 60 students from five campuses — Vardeman Primary, Spence Elementary, Greenspoint Elementary, Reece Academy and Black Elementary — participated in the showcase.

The annual event showcases the district's dedication to physical education and student health, providing young learners with a chance to demonstrate the skills they have developed throughout the school year. Kenneth Hernandez, coordinator of health and physical education for Aldine ISD, emphasized that the showcase plays a vital role in building students' self-belief while encouraging active lifestyles.

"Events like this are impor-



tant for highlighting our young Aldine students and allowing them to gain confidence," Hernandez said. "I love seeing the families come out to support the students, encouraging them to take pride in everything they do."

Throughout the evening, students performed coordinated routines and participated in activities designed to emphasize movement, teamwork and fitness. Families and community members filled the stands, cheering on participants and engaging with vendors focused on health and wellness.

The demonstration reflects a broader effort by Aldine ISD's Physical Education and Health Department to foster lifelong healthy habits. The program serves students from prekindergarten through 12th grade, aiming to create engaging environments that encourage physical activity and overall well-being.


The event concluded with smiles across the arena, highlighting the positive impact of physical education programs on student development and community engagement.



Sophia walks the Lone Star College commencement stage to receive her two-year degree.

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**

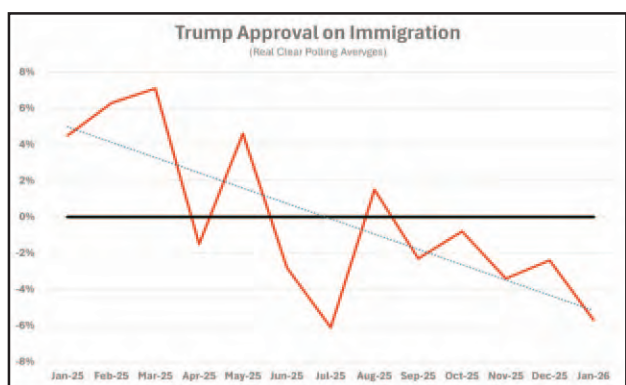


# Trump has Blown his Immigration Advantage

Exit polling from the 2024 election showed that voters were most drawn to Trump for his promises to lower prices and control immigration. For his first two months in office, Americans mostly liked what they saw as border crossings dropped to a trickle. During that time, polling consistently showed a favorable rating in the double digits for his handling of immigration.

But by late spring, Americans' mood began to change as Trump's immigration policies evolved from controlling the border to making good on his promise of mass deportations. Trump clearly promised to deport all immigrants who were in the country illegally. Most polling at the time found that about half of Americans agreed with that stance. But as the reality of mass deportations began to roll out, Americans started having second thoughts. **Gallup** found that support for deporting all immigrants in the country illegally fell from 47% in late 2024 to 38% by late last year.

The reality of mass deportations and the ham-handed way in which ICE has conducted them has steadily taken a toll on Trump's approval rating on the issue, dropping 13% from March 2025 to last month (+7%-6%).<sup>1</sup>



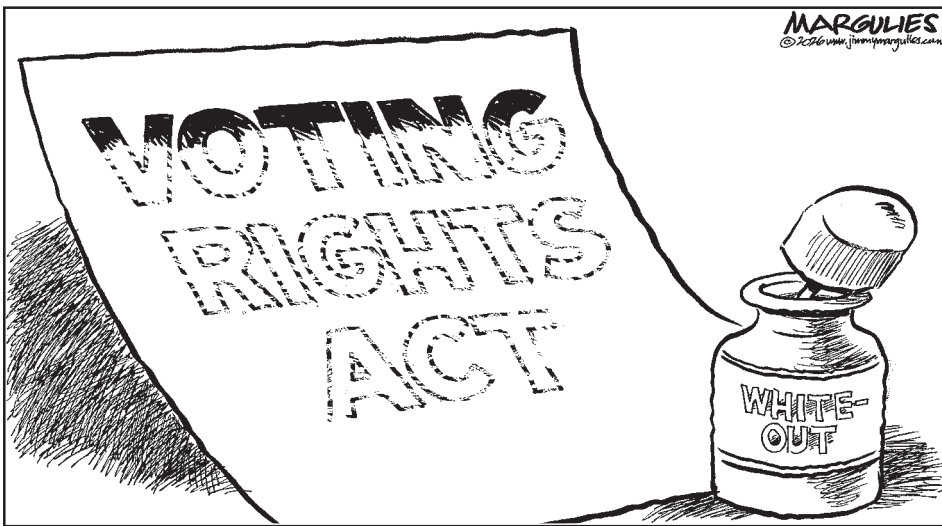
The drop-off is most dramatic with independents. According to polling by The Economist & YouGov, Trump's approval rating **today** on immigration among independents has fallen 40 points since **March 2025** (+15%-25%). Support for his immigration policies among Hispanics, a group that swung significantly to Trump in 2024, has dropped 24 points (-5%-19%). Last March, every age group had a positive view of Trump's immigration policies. As of last month, the only age group favoring his policies was the 45-64 age group. Ominously, for the first time, over-65s turned negative.

Americans have always had complicated views on immigration. Generally, they understandably recoil from people coming here illegally. However, few understand the complicated nuances of our immigration system, and when asked about specific situations, their views often soften. For example, the same Gallup poll found that 85% of Americans favor "allowing immigrants, who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, the chance to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over a period of time."

Trump could have been, and indeed could still be, "Nixon going to China" on immigration. Because of his strong views on immigration enforcement, he could forge a compromise on a rational immigration system that strictly controls who is allowed into the country but deals humanely with the millions enticed here by the American dream during a time when our immigration system was hopelessly broken. So far, he has shown little inclination to do so. But perhaps the electoral disaster that appears to be waiting for him in the fall will motivate him in that direction. It would be an enduring legacy.

Note 1 – There is an anomaly in the polling. **Morning Consult** has consistently found Trump's immigration rating significantly more positive than those of the other pollsters over the last year. They were the only pollster in the last month to find a positive approval rating. Because Morning Consult polls frequently, their results significantly skew the averages. For example, in January, without Morning Consult's polling, Trump's average would have been -8.3% instead of -5.7%.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Gary Borders**



# Talarico Leads Cornyn, Paxton in Latest Polls

A poll shows Democrat James Talarico leading both the Republicans who are locked in a fierce runoff to determine who will face him in November, the Houston Chronicle reported. Talarico led U.S. Sen. John Cornyn 40% to 33%, according to the University of Texas at Austin Politics Project survey. He holds a 42% to 34% advantage over Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. In both scenarios, 19% of voters said they were still undecided.

"While the Democratic candidate leading two established Republicans in these matchups is sure to raise some eyebrows," the pollsters wrote, the results "reveal a Republican electorate still registering the effects of the months-long, bruising, negative campaigning by Paxton and Cornyn, and the GOP divisions the race has exacerbated."

Paxton and Cornyn face each other in a May 26 runoff because neither secured a majority in the March primary. Early voting runs from May 18 to May 22. Voters who cast ballots in the Democratic primary cannot vote in the GOP runoff. Only voters who participated in the GOP primary or did not vote at all can vote in the GOP runoff.

## CAMP MYSTIC WILL NOT REOPEN THIS SUMMER

Camp Mystic announced last week that it had withdrawn its application for a camp license for this summer, according to the Austin American-Statesman. The decision followed a week of hearings before a joint Senate-House committee, which heard testimony from the loved ones of last summer's flood victims. The July 4 flooding along the Guadalupe River killed 25 children, two counselors and the camp's longtime owner, Richard "Dick" Eastland.

"No administrative process or summer season should move forward while families continue to grieve, while investi-



gations continue, and while so many Texans still carry the pain of last July's tragedy," the camp wrote in a statement.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, which is responsible for issuing camp licenses, conducted investigations. The camp has been planning to reopen its Cypress Lake campus, which was not damaged by the flash floods. More than 850 children have already registered to attend that camp.

Camp Mystic said it would continue to "fully cooperate with all ongoing investigations."

## \$56 MILLION IN FED FUNDING FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is making \$56 million in federal funding available to rural health care providers. The "Infrastructure and Capital Investments for Rural Texas" initiative will support modernization of rural health care delivery by funding new equipment and minor facility renovations.

Health care providers can use the funds to "update lab, CT scan, ultrasound, or mammography equipment; stretchers, wheelchairs, patient beds, telemetry units, nurse call systems, generators, defibrillators, crash carts, medication dispensing units, sleep labs, vital sign monitors, oxygen tanks, and other allowable equipment," according to the HHSC news release.

The state is expected to receive about \$1.4 billion in federal funding over the next five years through the program supporting rural health care.

## PATRICK AIMS TO CLOSE LOOPHOLE FOR PREDICTION MARKETS

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has directed state senators to explore ways to close gambling loopholes that allow online prediction markets to operate in Texas, according to The Tribune. He is concerned that state elections and sporting events could be manipulated for profit.

Prediction markets allow users to bet on outcomes of everything from sporting events to election winners, and even the weather. The Trump administration has blocked attempts by other states to regulate the prediction markets, such as Kalshi, claiming oversight belongs to federal agencies, not the states.

"We are regulated at the federal level, but of course, given now the popularity of prediction markets, we are doing a lot of educating on the state level," said Sara Slane of Kalshi. "That's the dialogue that we'll envision having, certainly, in the state of Texas."

While 39 state attorneys general signed on to a legal brief arguing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission doesn't have sole authority to regulate the prediction markets, Paxton declined to do so.

## TEXAS CITIES DOMINATE ANOTHER 'BEST' LIST

Several Texas cities dominated the top spots in Livability's new ranking of the most affordable, desirable cities to live in the U.S., according to the Statesman. The list includes only cities with populations between 75,000 and 500,000 and median home values of \$500,000 or less.

Factors considered included economy and housing; amenities and environment; safety, health and education; and transportation.

Texas cities in the top 10 were Sugar Land at No. 3; Plano at No. 5; Round Rock at No. 9; and New Braunfels at No. 10.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.

Email: [gborders@texapress.com](mailto:gborders@texapress.com)

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By **Carrie Classon**

# Cause for Celebration



Last week, we went out to celebrate with my oldest and most curmudgeonly friend, Andrew.

Andrew is a tax preparer, so even if I hadn't been in Mexico for the last three months, I still would not have seen much of him. He makes a good living by working insanely hard during the tax season and then teaching and taking a few classes the rest of the year. Andrew is very worn out by April 15<sup>th</sup>, so after he had recovered, my husband, Peter, and I took Andrew out to eat at a favorite Italian restaurant.

We had a lot to celebrate. Andrew had made it through another tax season. I had just signed the contract for "The Turnip House," and "Loon Point" was doing well. Peter gave me a small stuffed loon that calls when you press its belly.

"Whoo-hoo!" the loon said. "That is so great," I told Peter. "This will be my emotional support loon!"

"You are going to have to write more books," Andrew said, cleaning his plate, "so we can do this more often."

Peter and I used to have a neighbor, Joe, who made fun of us. "You two are always celebrating something!" Joe would say, and I knew he thought we were a little ridiculous.

But I think it's important to celebrate the milestones in life. I don't think a celebration needs to involve buying anything larger than a loon plush toy or anything fancier than a plate of spaghetti with an old friend, but I think it's important.

Peter and I married late. Peter is 10 years older than me, and even though he solemnly promised when we married to live to be 105, we know that time is uncertain, and we can never know how much of it we will have together. We've now been married 11 years, and we have found things to celebrate throughout the year, every year. No matter what Joe thinks about it, we will continue to look for reasons to celebrate.

Andrew's mother died right at the start of the tax season. I wrote to him and asked if it made it easier or harder for him, being so busy after such a big loss. He said it was good to be busy, but when a client came in who had just lost someone close to them, he said he would tell them about his own loss, and that was hard.

But most of Andrew's clients have been coming to him for years. Doing their taxes, as he does, Andrew knows a lot about their lives and the changes that have happened over the years. Sharing his own loss with these people who trust him with their finances seems appropriate—even if it is hard.

Next week, I will go to a celebration of life for Andrew's mother. It will be another celebration—if a sad one. She lived to be 94, and she had become more infirm in the last year. She had talked with Andrew about dying, and she knew the time was getting near.

We will get together and hear stories about her life from the people who cared about her. It will be a small affair, Andrew says, and nothing fancy. Andrew is bringing the food.

But I will be there for Andrew because he has been there for me. What Joe doesn't understand is that we celebrate everything—the good and the bad and the unusual, and the inevitable. We celebrate because, even if we live to be 105, life is short, and it is cause for celebration.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# Abbott Opens First New Texas State Park In Nearly Two Decades



Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, the first new state park to open in nearly two decades

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott today celebrated the grand opening of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, the first new state park to open in nearly two decades. Located between Abilene and Dallas-Fort Worth, the new park offers more than 4,800 acres of land for Texans to explore and enjoy.

“The Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is one of the most majestic of them all,” said Governor Abbott. “Preserving our lands is crucial. It allows communities to reconnect with the land that made Texas, Texas. We are going to live up to our commitment to preserve our state parks so that future generations have access to the beauty of Texas that was originally seen by Sam Houston and Davy Crockett.”

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Governor Abbott reflected on his childhood experiences ex-

ploring the outdoors and traveling to state parks with his Boy Scout Troop. He noted the importance of preserving Texas’ natural landscapes and beautiful wildlife for future generations of Texans. The Governor also emphasized that state parks not only protect the land and wildlife that define Texas, but also serve as powerful economic engines that support a thriving tourism industry in local communities and allow Texans and out-of-state visitors to experience the majesty of Texas’ beautiful landscapes.

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park is expected to draw visitors from across the state and nation to one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. The new park offers Texans expanded opportunities for camping, fishing, and exploring the natural beauty of Texas.

The opening of Palo Pin-

to Mountains State Park builds on Texas’ historic investment in outdoor recreation. In 2023, the Legislature passed and voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 14, creating the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, which appropriated \$1 billion to expand and improve state parks statewide.

**Editor’s Note: State Representative Armand Walle spearheaded the legislation that created the Park Fund.**

The Governor was joined at the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony by Secretary of State Jane Nelson, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission Chairman Emeritus Lee Bass, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation Chairman Michael Greene, TPWD Executive Director David Yoskowitz, and other state and local officials and outdoorsmen.

# Celebrating Cinco de Mayo at East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Color Connection Streamers decorated this pavilion.

ly travel to larger public venues elsewhere in Houston.

“Some of our community members, they don’t get an opportunity to go to Discovery Green or Miller Outdoor Theatre or some of these other public spaces, either due to transportation or they’re just not used to going outside of their community,” Witte said. “We want to make sure that we bring that same high-quality experience to this community.”

The music lineup blended established and regional acts. Headliner Costumbre, a Norteño/Tejano group formed by Manuel Edgar Luján and José Zamora Jr., broke out with its 1999 debut and later gained wide recognition for songs including “Y Ya Después,” “Quiero Decirte” and “Fantasia.”

Puro Zarpazo, a Houston-based group with an active local performance



Families enjoyed the Train Ride, and other rides and games.

circuit and online releases, brought a dance-driven set rooted in live cumbia and regional styles.

Chava Hernandez y El Cambio, a Monterrey-area group with roughly 15 years of trayectoria, is known for cumbia-forward arrangements, a multi-instrument stage show and songs such as “Plena que arrasa” and “Madrecita.”

Witte said the celebration also gave residents a visible example of how district resources are used.

“That is public money,” she said, referring to sales-tax revenue generated in the district. “I would definitely want the public to learn more about some of the other projects that we do to make improvements in the community.” She said the district hopes residents will continue attending events, following its work and seeing the Town Center as a place built for them.

See MORE on pages 1, 8



Governor Abbott speaks at the Park dedication, with a view of the park behind him.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 41:8-10

"A vile disease has afflicted him; he will never get up from the place where he lies." Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. But may you have mercy on me, Lord; raise me up, that I may repay them.

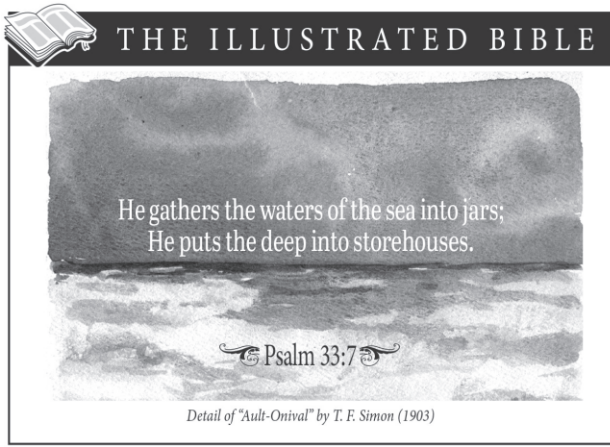
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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

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He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
 He puts the deep into storehouses.

Psalm 33:7

Detail of "Auld-Onival" by T. F. Simon (1903)

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 11, what judge of Israel was a prostitute's son? Hosea, Jephthah, Samson, Lot
3. Which prophet saw a valley full of dry bones come to life? Isaiah, Ezekiel, Elisha, Jeremiah
4. From Esther 1, what king did Esther marry? Jehu, Omri, Ahasuerus, Zedekiah
5. Who asked, "If a man die, shall he live again"? Samuel, Judas, Job, Stephen
6. From 2 Kings 23, where was King Josiah killed? Megiddo, Anathoth, Philadelphia, Jericho

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Jephthah, 3) Ezekiel, 4) Ahasuerus, 5) Job, 6) Megiddo



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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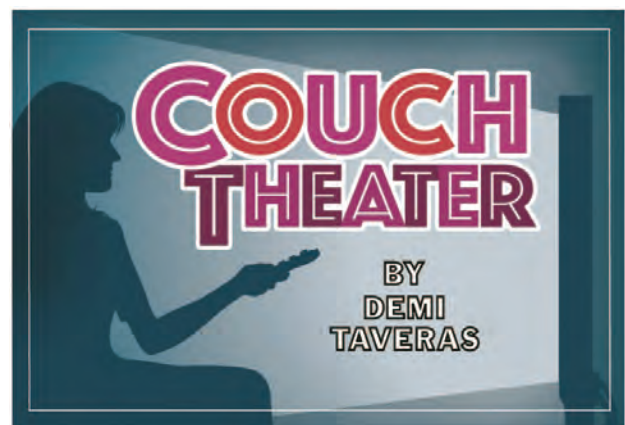
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Lewis Pullman, left, and Sally Field star in "Remarkably Bright Creatures."

### "Remarkably Bright Creatures"

**"Ready or Not 2" (R)** — The sequel to "Ready or Not" (2019), a comedy-horror film that catapulted Samara Weaving ("Borderline") into "scream queen" territory, is out now to rent after pulling in three times its budget in theaters. (Not bad!) Weaving reprises her role as Grace MacCaullay, and the sequel picks up moments after the events of the last film. Grace has just survived the ritual where she was supposed to meet her end and reunites with her younger sister, Faith (Kathryn Newton), while she recovers in the hospital. However, a council including six elite families hears wind of Grace's successful escape and manages to kidnap both Grace and her sister for another round of games. Sarah Michelle Gellar ("I Know What You Did Last Summer") and

Elijah Wood ("Yellowjackets") joined the cast this time around. (Apple TV+) **"Remarkably Bright Creatures" (PG-13)** — This film, led by Sally Field ("80 for Brady") and Lewis Pullman ("Wishful Thinking"), is based on the novel of the same name by Shelby Van Pelt. Although it's dubbed a "mystery drama," there's a heartwarming human element to the film due to Field's and Pullman's endearing performances, as well as the subject matter at hand. Field plays Tova, an elderly widow who works the night shift at her local aquarium. When a young man named Cameron (Pullman) begins working alongside her, they form an unlikely bond as she helps him to find his father. Colm Meaney ("The Panic") and Alfred Molina ("Harold and the Purple Crayon") co-star in the

film, which is out now to stream. (Netflix)

**"Lurker" (R)** — We have a bit of horror this week, and now we have this arthouse film starring Theodore Pellerin ("Beau Is Afraid") and Archie Madekwe ("Saltburn"). "Lurker" follows retail worker Matthew (Pellerin), who's working at a clothing store in Los Angeles when a popular musician named Oliver (Madekwe) wanders in. The two hit it off and become fast friends (not unlike the beginning of "A Star Is Born"), to the point that Oliver offers a spot to Matthew in his entourage as a documentarian. Infatuated with the idea of being adjacent to a celebrity, Matthew accepts, only to begin spiraling as Oliver's infatuation with him loses steam just as quickly as it started. Premieres May 15. (HBO Max)

**"Tucci in Italy: Season 2" (PG)** — Back for another season is this National Geographic series hosted by Stanley Tucci, which is perfect timing considering that Tucci is currently on a roll with a bunch of press for "The Devil Wears Prada 2." In this season, the 65-year-old actor explores five new regions in the country that his family has descended from, including Naples and Campania, Sicily, Le Marche, Sardinia, and Veneto. Tucci also visits the world's smallest kingdom on Tavolara Island, whose king owns a seafood restaurant called Da Tonino. Tucci told People magazine, "In Italy, food is never just food. It's memory, identity and, sometimes, a full-blown argument." All episodes are available to stream on May 12. (Disney+)

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Q: When is the "Yellowstone" sequel series starting, and will it be on regular cable or just streaming? — A.M.

A: The wait is over! There have been prequels and spin-offs of the smash hit series "Yellowstone," but the love story of Beth and Rip continues in the form of the new series "Dutton Ranch" on May 15. The two-episode premiere and remainder of the first season will air on both the traditional Paramount cable channel as well as the Paramount+ streaming package. The short season of just nine episodes will conclude with a season finale on July 3.

In the new series, Rip (Cole Hauser) and Beth (Kelly Reilly) relocate to South Texas, where they feud with a rival ranch owner played by Annette Bening ("Apples Never Fall"). According to Deadline, Ed Harris ("Westworld") will also star as "a weathered veteran and veterinarian who treats animals with compassion and understanding and possesses a good sense of humor."

Country/rock singer-songwriter Morgan Wade will play a bartender at a local watering hole, "described as a character who 'sees all.'" Wade follows in the footsteps of other singers like Lainey Wilson and Ryan Bingham who appeared on "Yellowstone."

Q: I just saw a headline about Denzel Washington and Ellen Pompeo arguing on the set of "Grey's Anatomy." I don't recall him being on the show, and he's one of my favorite actors. — G.I.

A: Denzel Washington didn't play a character on the long-running ABC series but instead directed an episode. It was a pivotal one during season 12 titled "The Sound of Silence," where Pompeo's character, Dr. Meredith Grey, was viciously attacked by a patient. On her podcast "Tell Me with Ellen Pompeo," Washington scolded her after she improvised a line that wasn't in the script. Her hackles were raised, and she yelled back, "Listen, [expletive], this is my show. This is my set. Who are you telling?"

When asked by Variety about the incident, Washington said, "It's all good," but he hasn't been back to direct another ep-



Annette Bening as Beulah Jackson in "Dutton Ranch"

isode. It wasn't his first time directing — he had previously directed two feature films and would go on to direct two more: "Fences" and "A Journal for Jordan."

Washington got his start by playing a physician on one of the greatest medical dramas of all time — the multiple Emmy-Award-winning "St. Elsewhere." Meanwhile, "Grey's" has been renewed for its 23rd season on ABC.

Q: I read that there's going to be a new sports-themed version of "Jeopardy!" Will it be syndicated on regular TV like the original? — D.L.

A: "ESPN Jeopardy!" will be hosted by sports commentator Joe Buck sometime this summer on streamers Hulu and Disney+. An exact premiere date hasn't been announced. According to Deadline, the contestants will consist of "ESPN talent ... representing charities of their choice ... as they compete for a \$500,000 prize." Another spin-off "Pop Culture Jeopardy!" with host Colin Jost moves to Netflix for its second season, beginning May 11.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com. (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

6			7					3
	5				6	7		
		7	6		5			1
2				1	9	8	6	
		8	9	7	6	5		2
6	9	5				8		
		9					2	
		1			4	3		5
8		6	5	1	2			

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ Hoo Boy!

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Vacuum is moved. 3. Brinds are higher. 4. Driver is larger. 5. Back of chair is higher. 6. Bottom of chair is different.

### May 11, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cry
  - 4 Vault
  - 8 Daly and Allen
  - 12 Common title start
  - 13 Killer whale
  - 14 Web addresses
  - 15 Pithy joke
  - 17 Legume
  - 18 Suggests
  - 19 TV guide abbr.
  - 21 Wager
  - 22 Expulsion
  - 26 Errand runner
  - 29 Whatever number
  - 30 Hwy.
  - 31 Caspian Sea feeder
  - 32 Keats creation
  - 33 Go caroling
  - 34 Capitol VIP
  - 35 Year in Madrid
  - 36 Epic narratives
  - 37 On/off switch
  - 39 "You've got mail" co.
  - 40 Documentarian Burns
  - 41 Obligations
  - 45 Beige
  - 48 The whole crowd



- DOWN**
- 1 Halt
  - 2 "It can't be!"
  - 3 Hive population
  - 4 Hang around
  - 5 Painter Max
  - 6 Expert
  - 7 Series opener
  - 8 Big brass
  - 9 Rage
  - 10 Org. with a style manual
  - 11 Nine-digit ID
  - 16 Slander in print
  - 20 Purchase
  - 23 Advanced math
  - 24 Sicilian peak
  - 25 Bylaws, briefly
  - 26 Sudden wind
  - 27 Disc-shaped cookie
  - 28 Sharp tooth
  - 29 Commotion
  - 32 Penny
  - 33 Like seawater
  - 35 Boxing legend
  - 36 Turned bad
  - 38 Hog's "hello"
  - 39 "Hello" singer
  - 42 Illinois neighbor
  - 43 Wife of Geraint
  - 44 Fax
  - 45 Clean air org.
  - 46 Baseball fan's headwear
  - 47 Tear
  - 49 Compete

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Belarus?
- LITERATURE: Which Ken Kesey novel is set in an Oregon psychiatric hospital?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of discord?
- ANATOMY: What is the longest bone in the human body?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a commanding general in World War II?
- MATH: What kind of polygon has three sides?
- BIBLE: What is the last book in the Bible called?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is closest in size to Earth?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the newest element on the Periodic Table?
- MOVIES: Which Canadian actor/comedian starred in the movie "Uncle Buck" and died of a heart attack at 43?

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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

9	6	4	1	2	7	8	5	3
8	3	6	5	1	2	7	4	9
7	2	1	8	9	6	4	3	5
6	5	2	3	9	7	6	1	8
5	4	1	7	8	3	6	9	2
4	1	8	5	9	7	6	5	3
3	8	7	6	4	5	2	9	1
2	7	6	3	4	5	1	8	9
1	5	2	9	6	8	3	7	4
9	6	4	1	2	7	8	5	3

Trivia Test Answers

- Minsk; 2. "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"; 3. Eris; 4. Lemur; 5. Dwight Eisenhower; 6. Triangle; 7. The Book of Revelation; 8. Venus; 9. Oganesson (Og); 10. John Candy

# Music, dancing and Mexican culture unite East Aldine families,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Crowds enjoyed music performances all evening at the Amphitheater.



Give the East Aldine District a hand for putting together an outstanding Cinco de Mayo event. And also they reminded us that the District is celebrating its 25th Anniversary.



East Aldine board members Rocio Witte, Ruben Salazar, and Reyes Garcia pose with one of the music acts.

**international ARTS FESTIVAL AND SPECTACULAR DRONE SHOW**

5PM » 9PM SATURDAY ~ SÁBADO **free~gratis**

**may 16** EAST ALDINE AMPHITHEATRE  
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.

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**EAST ALDINE NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORY & RECYCLING CENTER**

**WE-CYCLE WEDNESDAYS**

EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
CADA TERCER MIÉRCOLES DEL MES

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

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

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

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