

East Aldine Marks Historic Milestones

4th of July Celebration Honors District's 25th Anniversary and America's 250th with Parade, Music and EPIC Fireworks

By Gerardo Hernandez,
STAFF WRITER

EAST ALDINE — Thousands of residents gathered Friday, July 3, at the East Aldine Amphitheatre to celebrate Independence Day while marking two historic milestones as the East Aldine Management District celebrated its 25th anniversary and joined communities across the nation in commemorating America's 250th anniversary with an evening of patriotic festivities, live music and an EPIC fireworks show.

The celebration began at 5 p.m. with the East Aldine Parade, which traveled from U.S. Highway 59 along Aldine Mail Route, drawing families and spectators who lined the



The Spectacular EPIC fireworks show illuminated the night sky of East Aldine. (Photo credit EAMD)



East Aldine Parade, which traveled from U.S. Highway 59 along Aldine Mail Route. (Photo credit EAMD)

streets to watch decorated vehicles, community organizations and participants make their way toward the amphitheater.

Following the parade, visitors filled the East Aldine Amphitheatre grounds at 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive, where lawn chairs and blankets quickly covered the green space. Food trucks, ven-

dor booths, face painting, moonwalks, games, giveaways and a food-eating contest kept families entertained throughout the

Continued. See EPIC FIREWORKS CAP HISTORIC, Page 2

NEWS NOTES

East Aldine Offers Free Community Walking Group

Residents looking for a fun and healthy way to stay active are invited to join the East Aldine FREE Walking Group, a community fitness program that offers regularly scheduled group walks throughout the week.

The walking group meets every **Wednesday at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday at 7 a.m.** at the **East Aldine District Amphitheater**, located at **2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive, Houston, TX 77039**.

The free program encourages participants of all fitness levels to enjoy outdoor exercise while connecting with neighbors in a welcoming community setting. The initiative aims to make healthy living accessible to East Aldine residents.

The walking group is part of the **Fit Houston** initiative and is supported by several community partners, including **Hope Clinic, REACH, BakerRipley**, the **East Aldine Management District**, **Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia**, and **H-E-B**.

Residents are encouraged to simply show up at the scheduled meeting times and enjoy a free walk with friends and neighbors.

Magician to Perform at High Meadows Library

ALDINE - Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of magic and entertainment when magician **John O'Bryant** presents a free magic show at the **High Meadows Branch Library** on **Monday, July 21, at 2 p.m.**

The "John O'Bryant Magic Show/Espectáculo de Magia," will be held at the High Meadows branch library, located at **4500 Aldine Mail Route Road**.

For more information, contact the library at **hm@hcpl.net**.

Nimitz HEAL Students Dive Into Healthcare Training at Summer Infusion Experience

By Leticia Fehling

EAST ALDINE - Through Aldine ISD's partnership with Memorial Hermann, the Summer Infusion Experience introduced HEAL students to healthcare pathways, emergency response, wellness, hospital operations, and simulated patient care while giving upper-grade students opportunities to lead.

The patient was a 16-year-old student athlete with a knee injury. The healthcare team had to move quickly — and carefully — from admission to assessment, preparation, surgery, and recovery.



Nimitz HEAL Students at the Summer Infusion Experience

For Aldine ISD Health Education And Learning (HEAL) students at Nimitz High School, the scenario was simulated. The learning was real.

The patient-care simulation was one part of the 2026 HEAL Summer Infusion Experience, a hands-

on series of learning opportunities provided through Aldine ISD's partnership with Memorial Hermann. The experience gives students early exposure to healthcare careers, hospital-based learning, professional expectations, and the teamwork required to support safe, high-quality patient care.

This year's Summer Infusion activities included pathway exploration, emergency response training, wellness and communication sessions, immersive hospital-based learning, student volunteer leadership opportunities, and a patient-care flow simulation in the new wing of the HEAL program at Nimitz High School.

Continued. See SUMMER PROGRAM BOOST HEALTHCARE, Page 5

East Aldine Unveils Vibrant New Soccer Mural Celebrating FIFA World Cup Tournament

By Gerardo Hernandez,
STAFF WRITER

EAST ALDINE — The East Aldine Management District officially unveiled its newest landmark this week: a massive, colorful mural dedicated to the "beautiful game." Located prominently for travelers along Highway 59 North, the artwork celebrates the current international soccer tournament in Houston.

Carlos Silva, a member of the East Aldine Management District Board of Directors, led the unveiling ceremony, expressing his excitement for the project's impact on the local landscape.

"We are so excited to be here at the official unveiling of our newest mural in East Aldine," Silva said. "In celebration of this wonderful soccer tournament that came to Houston, we asked one of our very own communi-



Members of the East Aldine Board of Directors Carlos Silva and Ruben Salazar, community leaders, residents and soccer supporters gather in East Aldine to celebrate the unveiling of a new soccer-themed mural honoring the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

ty artists, Primo, to put something very special together—and boy, did he deliver."

The mural, painted by local artist Primo, serves as a tribute to the unity of the three host nations: the United States, Mexico, and Canada. In addition to the national flags and symbols, the artwork features the striking profiles of four of the greatest soccer stars in the history of the sport.

The project is part of a larger effort by the Management District to beautify the community and highlight East Aldine's cultural connection to the global sports stage. With Houston serving as a key host city for the FIFA World Cup games, the mural acts as a "welcome sign" for the thousands of fans expected to pass through the area.

"We couldn't be more excited to have this mural in this community to welcome everyone and anyone who's coming by 59 North to come check it out," Silva added. "We're very grateful."

Residents and soccer fans are encouraged to visit the site and take in the new addition to East Aldine's growing collection of public art.

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EPIC fireworks cap historic celebration at East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



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evening as the community celebrated the Fourth of July together. The Ole Lonesome Band opened the evening's entertainment at 6 p.m., performing country favorites for the growing crowd. DJ Jam-min Jesse kept the energy high between performances before Southern County Line Band took the stage at 8 p.m., continuing the patriotic celebration with live music. An aerial view of the event showed hundreds of residents gathered in front of the amphitheater stage, while many more spread across the lawn enjoying the family-friendly festivities as dusk settled over East Aldine. The evening culminated at 9 p.m. when a spectacular EPIC fireworks show illuminated the night sky in honor of Independence Day and as a special tribute to **America's 250th anniversary**, capping off a celebration that also recognized **25 years of impact by the East Aldine Management District**. The free community event brought together residents of all ages to celebrate the nation's birth-

day, reflect on 250 years of American history and recognize the East Aldine Management District's 25 years of service, investment and community pride.

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SUV Stolen With Children Inside Recovered, Suspect Arrested

By Gerardo Hernandez,

ALDINE — A frightening early morning carjacking in the Aldine area ended safely after Harris County deputies and Humble police recovered a stolen SUV with two young children inside and arrested a suspect.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the incident happened shortly after 1 a.m. Monday, July 6, in the 700 block of Aldine Mail Route Road. Deputies said a woman left her SUV while she went inside a nearby store, leaving her three daughters — ages 1, 3 and 10 — inside the vehicle.

Investigators said a suspect entered the SUV and drove away, prompting the mother to call 911.

During the investigation, deputies tracked a phone that was inside the vehicle, but authorities said the suspect discarded the phone while driving away. Officials said the 10-year-old child was able to get out of the vehicle shortly after it was stolen and



Suspect, 22-year-old Xavion Starks

was later found walking along Aldine Bender Road. She was taken to a hospital and was expected to be OK.

The search continued with assistance from the Humble Police Department, which located the stolen SUV near the 23000 block of the Eastex Freeway. Officers

conducted a traffic stop and arrested the suspect.

The two younger children were safely recovered and were not injured, authorities said.

The suspect, identified as 22-year-old Xavion Starks, was arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail. He faces charges including aggravated kidnapping and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, according to officials.

Authorities credited the quick response by deputies and assisting agencies for helping bring the incident to a safe conclusion.

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Celebrates Teaching Excellence Through Teacher Incentive Allotment Program

By Leticia Fehling,

EAST ALDINE - Aldine ISD celebrated hundreds of educators on May 28 at the 2026 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Celebration at the district's Community Center.

Due to the large number of honorees this year, Aldine ISD's Human Resources Department hosted two recognition sessions. The first honored high school and elementary school educators, while the second recognized middle school and primary/early childhood educators. Together, these sessions celebrated both newly designated teachers and educators advancing to higher TIA designation levels, highlighting the program's growing impact.

Aldine ISD recognized 536 newly designated teachers or teachers who have moved up a designation: 85 at the Master level, 189 at the Exemplary level, and 262 at the Recognized level. As part of the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program, \$13 million will be distributed to Aldine ISD teachers this year. Since 2022, nearly \$31 million has been distributed to teachers earning TIA designations.

The Teacher Incentive Allotment is a state program created to reward, retain, and recruit highly effective teachers. To maximize the program's reach, Aldine ISD leaders have worked to make the opportunity available to nearly all teachers, including those in both tested and non-tested subjects.

The celebration began with remarks from Alisha Sewall, Aldine ISD performance management project analyst and TIA manager, who thanked district leaders and honorees while emphasizing that TIA centers on excellence in teaching.

Building on this theme, Sewall noted that Aldine ISD's approach to TIA reflects the district's belief that excellent teaching happens across all classrooms and content areas—from reading, math, science, and social studies to fine arts, physical education, career and technical education, bilingual education, special education, and early childhood.

"This celebration recognizes Teacher Incentive Allotment teachers for their dedication, instructional excellence, and impact on student achievement across Aldine ISD," Sewall said.

Chief Human Resources Officer Marcia Herrera said the district's inclusive approach is intentional.

Herrera shared that 98% of Aldine ISD teachers are eligible to apply for the TIA designation.

"All teachers are important," Herrera said. "It doesn't matter if you teach social studies or PE. Our students deserve the very best all day, from the first class to the last class of the day."

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney echoed this sense of pride as she addressed honorees, stating she was delighted to see so many Aldine ISD educators recognized that the district needed two events to celebrate them.

"Look around the room. Sheer brilliance and talent," Dr. Goffney said, expressing pride in the honorees.

Goffney said the growth of Aldine ISD's TIA program is a reflection of the district's commitment to teacher excellence and student success.

"Excellence is at the center of our work," Goffney said. "Because of you, students are reading



on grade level. More students are gaining complex math concepts. More students are walking across the stage with more than a diploma—they are graduating with choices and opportunities."

As she spoke those final words, many educators in the room joined her, repeating a phrase that has become familiar throughout Aldine ISD: "choices and opportunities."

Returning to the larger narrative, Goffney explained that the work of TIA-designated teachers contributes to the district's larger #AldineStory—one of growth, purpose, and collective impact.

"Our #AldineStory is written every day in classrooms across this district," Goffney said. "It is written when teachers help students believe in themselves, when they accelerate growth, and when they open doors to choices and opportunities. This recognition is more than a bonus. It is a game-changer for teachers, for students, and for the future of Aldine ISD."

Goffney also compared the work of educators to an orchestra, reminding honorees that even the strongest musician is more powerful when joined by every section.

"We cannot do this work alone or in silos," Goffney said. "It takes all of us."

She closed her remarks with the image of a lighthouse—a reminder that teachers guide students through challenges and help them find their way forward.

"You are the lighthouses for our students. Thank you for guiding students and choosing Aldine ISD," Goffney said.

Adding another perspective, Kelechi Bradley, Aldine ISD executive director of data analytics and state reporting in human resources, said the program represents more than a designation system.

"TIA is more than a designation system," Bradley said. "It is the hours, persistence, and belief you have that every student can succeed. This work is about purpose, legacy, and changing lives every day."

To further illustrate TIA's impact, Bradley shared reflections from Aldine ISD teachers about what TIA has meant to them personally and professionally. Several themes emerged: validation, intentional instruction, financial stability, student growth, and the

pride of knowing their work is seen.

For some educators, the recognition affirmed the unseen hours they pour into planning, data analysis, small-group instruction, family communication, performances, competitions, and student support.

"Every lesson, every moment, every student connection counts," said Jamila Nichols, a language arts teacher at Hambrick Middle School, in a reflection collected by Sewall.

For other educators, the benefits have gone beyond recognition. For them, TIA has helped them continue growing in the profession while staying connected to the classroom.

Kimberly Addison, a theater arts teacher at Nimitz High School who

earned a Master designation, said TIA helps keep strong teachers where they can continue making a direct impact.

"What I appreciate most about TIA is that it finally creates a professional hierarchy that keeps talent inside the classroom," Addison said in a video shown during the celebration. "Usually, the only way to get any type of significant raise in education is to leave students and move to administration. What happens with TIA is that it keeps Master teachers like myself inside the classroom and able to feel financially free while doing what I love, which is actually teaching kids."

The celebration also spotlighted the journeys of teachers across different

designation levels and teaching pathways, deepening the program's narrative of wide-reaching success.

María E. Zúñiga, a CTE teacher at La Promesa who earned a Recognized designation, thanked her colleagues for their support and said she believes in every student's potential. She shared that the recognition allows her to continue shaping the future of students who may become future educators.

Dr. Julius Christopher L. Gonzales, a math teacher at Aldine High School who earned an Exemplary designation, reflected on his journey as an international teacher and the professional growth that came with adapting to a new education system. He credited intentional instruction, student data, consistent effort, and Aldine ISD's SHINE induction program with helping him support student success.

At each point in the program, Bradley asked teachers in the Recognized, Exemplary, and Master categories to stand and be applauded by their peers.

"The extra time matters," Bradley said. "The extra work matters."

Dr. Robin Williams, Aldine ISD executive director of performance management and development, closed the celebration by thanking teachers for choosing Aldine ISD and reminding them that their work creates more choices and opportunities for students.

"Because of you, all students have more choices and opportunities," Williams said. "While you are on break, we will be working hard to ensure we can continue to celebrate with you next year."

Beginning in fall 2026, Aldine ISD teachers will have another opportunity for recognition through the new Acknowledged designation, created by House Bill 2, which will expand TIA eligibility to educators in the top 50% statewide. The new designation joins the existing Recognized, Exemplary, and Master levels.

For Aldine ISD leaders, the continued growth of the TIA program reflects a larger commitment: investing in teachers so students benefit from excellent instruction in every classroom.

From 370 total TIA-designated teachers in the district's first year to 1,085 today (including both newly designated and advancing teachers), Aldine ISD's program continues to grow—and so does the impact of the educators behind it.

As Goffney told honorees, "Your success is our success."

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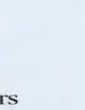
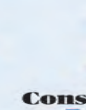
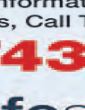


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Trump’s Three Retreats

President Trump has been musing about whether he’s the most powerful man in world history, and judging by the results lately, the answer is definitely “no.”

It’s certainly true that Trump has technical tools at his disposal that would have astounded famous pre-20th-century contenders for the title of most powerful man, whether Caesar, Alexander the Great, Charlemagne or Napoleon.

Trump’s power, though, isn’t defined by, say, the precision and explosive punch of the Tomahawk missile. As the leader of a constitutional republic that disperses power and depends ultimately on democratic consent, Trump is operating under constraints that routinely blunt his ambitions.

If the theme of the first year of his second term was aggression on all fronts, his second year has so far been defined by significant retreats.

Late last year, Trump surged DHS forces into Minneapolis, seeking to make an example of the Twin Cities after Somali immigrants were implicated in welfare fraud schemes. When the operation was met by fierce opposition from city and state leaders and resistance in the streets, the Trump administration steeled itself for a gargantuan test of wills — before Trump, realizing he was losing the battle of political optics, sent Tom Homan to Minneapolis to unwind the operation.

Last month, the Department of Justice settled Donald Trump’s \$10 billion suit against the IRS over the leak of his tax returns. The department agreed to create a \$1.8 billion fund for the compensation of victims of Democratic lawfare, a slush fund for his allies, presumably including Jan. 6 rioters. Faced with adverse legal rulings and opposition in the Senate, the administration abandoned the scheme that it had initially touted as a means to “right the wrongs that were previously done while ensuring this never happens again.”

Then, of course, Trump signed a ceasefire with Iran that wasn’t close to the “unconditional surrender” that he had once demanded. The 14-point agreement included more U.S. than Iranian concessions, and Trump admitted that the Iranian closure of the Strait of Hormuz had forced his hand.

TITLE: None of these were incidental initiatives. They all involved core commitments of this president — to mass deportation, to turning on its head the lawfare campaign against him and to denying the Iranian regime a nuclear weapon.

They were also overreaches that displayed a heedlessness born of hubris. Trump had already driven down overall migration when he surged into Minneapolis; already pardoned the Jan. 6 rioters when his DOJ created the weaponization fund; and already struck a punishing blow against the Iranian nuclear program via Midnight Hammer when he launched Operation Epic Fury.

Trump isn’t one for incremental progress toward an objective. He prefers the grand gesture and big gamble. He’s drawn to the bridge too far when a drive a couple of blocks down the street would do just fine.

The worry about Trump was that he’d be unconstrained in his second term, and indeed, he’s fashioned a team that is loath to tell him “no.” But he’s subject to checks from the other branches of government and, even more, from routine political pressures.

There was nothing that formally compelled him to remove DHS forces from Minneapolis or to relieve the military pressure on Iran, both of which were within his legitimate powers. It was the poor polling and the potential damage to Republican prospects in the midterms that obliged Trump to declare victory and go home.

The president may enjoy thinking of how he can do things that a Roman emperor never would have imagined, yet Marcus Aurelius wasn’t hypersensitive to how stories were playing in the mass media, or to the latest public-opinion surveys.

As the creature of a democratic republic, Trump inherently is mindful of those considerations, which is one reason that it’s been a year of retreats. Trump, surely, doesn’t think of it that way. As Gen. Oliver Smith put it during the Korean War, he’s merely attacking in a different direction — although not the one he’d intended.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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A Tribute to America’s 250th Anniversary

As our community reflects on the celebration of Independence Day and the nation’s 250th anniversary, we pause to honor the courage, vision and sacrifice of those who dared to imagine a free nation.

On July 4, 1776, the founders adopted words that have inspired generations of Americans:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

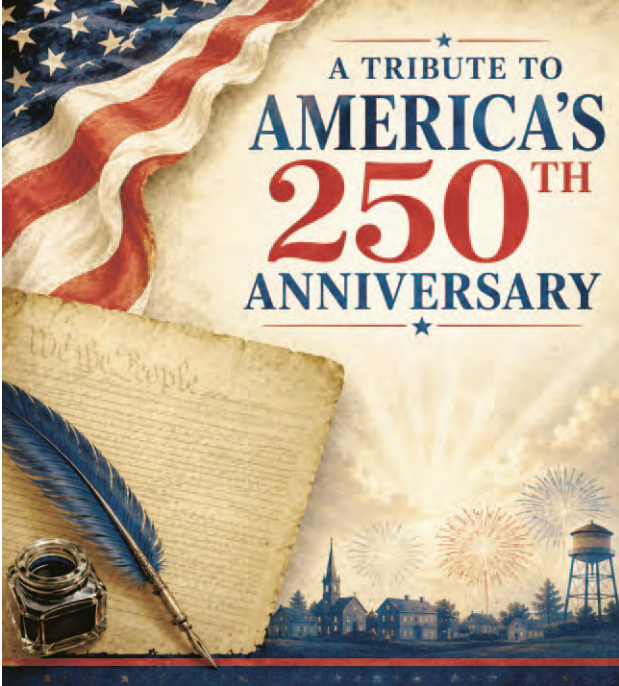
For two and a half centuries, those enduring principles have challenged each generation to preserve liberty, strengthen democracy and build a more perfect union. Freedom carries both privilege and responsibility.

As the fireworks fade and the celebrations conclude, the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence remain as meaningful today as they were in 1776. May we continue to honor those who have defended our liberties, strengthen our communities, and inspire future generations to uphold the values that unite us.

The celebration may have passed, but the promise of America—and the enduring pursuit of liberty, equality and opportunity—continues every day.

Happy 250th Anniversary, America.

-The North Channel Star Editorial Staff



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Home Insurers See Record Profits

Preliminary data indicates Texas home insurers earned a 22% profit on premiums collected last year, according to the Houston Chronicle. It was the best year insurers have had in two decades and follows several years of double-digit rate increases and flat or slightly negative returns for insurers due to increased natural disasters.

Insurance rates increased statewide by an average of 4.3% last year, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, which was significantly lower than the rate increases of preceding years. Homeowners were still paying about 80% more for home insurance in 2025 than they paid in 2020.

Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner Amanda Crawford said given the profits Texas insurers reaped last year, they should “strongly consider whether or not a rate decrease might be in order.” However, insurers can change their rates without getting state approval.

Rates in Texas are among the highest in the country.

TALARICO FAR OUTPACES OPPONENT IN FUNDRAISING

State Rep. James Talarico continues to dominate fundraising in the U.S. Senate race, raising \$30 million in the second quarter, according to The Dallas Morning News. Meanwhile, Paxton reported his strongest fundraising quarter so far, with his campaign saying most donations came after the attorney general ousted Sen. John Cornyn in a late-May runoff.

“We are uniting Texans onto one team to change this broken, corrupt political system and bring down costs for working families,” Talarico said in a statement.

The Paxton campaign said its increased fundraising success reflects donor enthusiasm to “send a proven conservative fighter” to the U.S. Senate.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS BID TO REVIVE TEXAS DREAM ACT

In a 2-1 decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals rejected an appeal of a 2025 ruling that struck down the decades-old Texas Dream Act,



which allowed Texas students without legal status to pay in-state college tuition, the Texas Standard reported.

Until the Texas Dream Act was overturned last summer, students without legal status qualified for in-state tuition if they lived in Texas for at least three years and graduated from a Texas high school or earned a GED. About 57,000 students without legal status were enrolled in Texas colleges in 2022.

The appeals court decision means affected students will continue to pay out-of-state tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities.

STATE LAUNCHES TEXAS CLASSROOM COMMISSION

A new teacher-led initiative, aimed at “putting Texas educators at the center of shaping the future of public education,” was launched last week. The Texas Classroom Commission will be led by Courtney Boswell MacDonald of Kerrville, a former teacher and current chair of the State Board for Educator Certification.

“The Texas Classroom Commission will bring together exemplary public-school educators to identify innovative solutions that help students succeed, improve the learning environment in classrooms, and strengthen our schools,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The commission will consist of current and retired public school classroom teachers. It will deliver recommendations to the Texas Legislature before the start of the 90th legislative session in January.

HISTORICALLY STRONG EL NIÑO LIKELY COMING THIS FALL

El Niño, one of the planet’s most powerful climate patterns, is quickly gaining

strength and has an 81% chance of reaching historic strength this fall, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That could mean cooler, wetter weather in Texas, according to meteorologist Mary Wasson.

During the last super El Niño event, in 2015-2016, Central Texas, in particular, experienced two of its largest floods. However, a strengthening El Niño typically reduces the threat of tropical storms and hurricanes impacting the Texas Gulf Coast.

Above-normal rainfall is favored in West Texas this fall, with wetter conditions expanding statewide by December, Wasson wrote.

TEXAS’ ACA ENROLLMENT SHRINKS BY 4% AFTER TAX CREDIT EXPIRES

The number of Texans who paid for their first month of Affordable Care Act coverage dropped 4%, The Tribune reported. It was the state’s first year-over-year decline since 2019. The decrease comes after a pandemic-era subsidy of ACA premiums expired at the end of last year.

The enrollment decline was less steep in Texas than most other states, according to data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The state’s ACA population fell from 3.42 million in 2025 to 3.28 million in 2026 after the tax credit expire and premiums rose.

“We saw record growth in ACA enrollment when there was an enhanced premium tax credit,” said Justin Lo, a senior researcher for national health policy group KFF. “This is the first time we’ve seen a decrease in enrollment.”

RESEARCHERS TO LAUNCH TEXAS WINE GRAPES INTO SPACE

Researchers at Texas A&M AgriLife are getting ready to launch Texas wine grape seeds into space, the Texas Standard reported. The plants will be placed on TAMU-SPIRIT-1, an orbital research platform that will be flown above the International Space Station.

The grape seeds will orbit the Earth for six months before returning to be planted and examined.

Adrej Svyantek, an assistant professor and viticulture specialist at AgriLife, said the experiment could reveal what happens to the seeds when they are exposed to cosmic radiation. That could help guide which crops are grown aboard space platforms when long-term human occupation in space increases.

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

Raspberry Time



As far as I know, most of my people were farmers. On both my parents’ sides, my Scandinavian ancestors came across the ocean looking for better topsoil. I know immigrants came for many reasons—to start businesses and escape oppression and to avoid starvation. But, as far as I know, my ancestors were in search of better dirt. And they found it. A full foot of topsoil was a treasure beyond measure to these farmers who had tried to make a living on rocky soil.

Perhaps it is why I am not a gardener. I suspect I have a lot of my ancestors still in me. Perhaps I am rebelling against the work that was in my family’s life blood. But however I might feel about planting and weeding, I think there is something within me that recognizes the cycles of the seasons, the coming of summer and the pause that comes in the middle of the summer.

Every year, I try to celebrate the summer solstice. I start a new journal. I read my journal from the last six months. I take a long walk late in the evening. I try to make note of the fact that this is the longest day of the year to be more mindful of the passage of time. And since I grew up in a northern state, I always felt I should take advantage of the short, warm months.

It only occurred to me this year that the summer might be a good time to rest.

The seeds are in the ground. The harvest is months away. While a farmer never had the luxury of idleness, it is too late to do any more planting, this time of year. There comes a point when we have done all we can do, and we must wait for the harvest.

“Will you pick my raspberries?” my sister asked.

“Can I eat some of them?”

“Of course!”

“Then yes, I certainly will.”

My sister is going to Argentina with her husband and her son to meet her daughter, Isabelle, who has been working there for the past year. They will have a terrific time, with Isabelle as a tour guide. They will see a lot and do a lot and make amazing memories.

My sister is a teacher. She grabs the summer with a gusto that astonishes me every year. She flies out the door on the first day that school is out with more plans and activities than I would attempt in many months. She is a flurry of camping and gardening and traveling and home improvement, and she can never believe how soon September rolls around.

Meanwhile, I have no plans to go anywhere except “up north” to visit my parents all summer long. And I am not at all unhappy about it.

Because I finally realized that, for me, the summer is not about getting busier. The spring was busy. The fall will be busier. This time—right as the serious heat sets in and the first of the berries are ripe—this time is a good time to pause.

It’s not a long rest. We all know the harvest is coming.

But I am taking a moment to enjoy the summer’s heat. I feel the days are already growing shorter and the season will change before I know it, and it will be hard to remember what it felt like when I walked in the late evening and the air was still warm and heavy.

I’ll pick my sister’s raspberries, and I’ll eat more than a few.

Till next time,
Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com
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Summer program boosts healthcare careers at Nimitz HS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Exploring the Pathways
The experience began on June 8 with pathway-specific learning for freshman HEAL students. Students were introduced to the program’s five pathways — nursing, pharmacy, hospital business administration, medical imaging, and physical and occupational rehabilitation. They explored career roles, educational requirements, workplace expectations, and pathway-specific skills.

As part of the pathway activities, students reviewed information about each field, discussed what interested them, and worked in small groups to create recruitment posters showcasing a healthcare pathway. The activity encouraged students to imagine their futures and consider how a healthcare career could fit into those goals.

Learning to Respond and Lead
As Summer Infusion continued, students participated in rotations focused on Life Flight, Stop the Bleed, emergency services, and CPR fundamentals, where they explored emergency response systems and life-saving interventions through hands-on demonstrations and interactive learning.

Students learned foundational concepts connected to bleeding control, CPR principles, and emergency response procedures while gaining a better understanding of how emergency medical teams respond in critical situations.

The experience also emphasized wellness, communication and the connection between physical, mental and emotional health.

Students also participated in a Memorial Hermann experience designed to introduce hospital operations, healthcare professions, and workplace expectations, giving them a closer look at how healthcare teams work together in a real-world setting.

“Summer Infusion gives our students an opportunity to see healthcare beyond the classroom,” said Yrayda López-Silva, HEAL program leader at Nimitz High School. “They begin to understand that every role in healthcare matters and that patient care is built on teamwork, communication, and trust. It helps them see themselves in these careers and understand the impact they can have on others.”

The Summer Infusion Experience also included opportunities for students in grades 10 and 11 to serve as student volunteers. In those roles, students supported logistics, classroom operations, and participant engagement by organizing materials and learning spaces and modeling professionalism for younger students.

The volunteer component was designed to help upper-grade students strengthen communication, teamwork, leadership, and professional skills in a supervised environment while continuing to gain exposure to healthcare careers.

Following the Patient Journey

For HEAL students in grades 10 and 11, the second



week of Summer Infusion culminated in a large-scale patient-care simulation involving approximately 141 students across five rotating groups.

During the simulation, students followed one patient’s journey from the moment they entered a hospital through treatment, surgery, and recovery.

Students moved through stations focused on hospital business administration, pre-operative care, sterility, the operating room, post-anesthesia care, and rehabilitation. Along the way, they learned how healthcare professionals work together to provide safe, coordinated care.

At the first station, students explored the role of hospital business administration by reviewing how patients are welcomed, registered, and prepared for care. They discussed why accurate information, consent forms, insurance verification, and clear communication matter before treatment begins.

From there, students moved to clinical stations, where they assessed vital signs, pain levels, allergies, medications, safety checks, and patient education. They practiced thinking like members of a healthcare team, asking what information would be needed to safely care for an injured student-athlete.

In the sterility station, students learned about infection prevention, hand hygiene, scrubbing, and garbing. In the simulated operating room, they explored surgical instruments, sterile technique, room setup, and the importance of communication and attention to detail during a procedure.

The patient-care journey continued into recovery and rehabilitation. Students learned how post-anesthesia care, pain management, vital signs, medication guidance, physical therapy, and occupational therapy help

patients regain strength, mobility, and independence after surgery.

The rotations reinforced a central lesson of the HEAL program: healthcare is not a single job or a single department. It is a coordinated team effort. Every role matters to the patient’s success.

Launched in 2024, the HEAL program is supported by a \$31 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies — the largest private foundation grant in Aldine ISD history. The program was launched through a partnership among Aldine ISD, Memorial Hermann, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to prepare students for high-demand healthcare careers while helping address local workforce needs.

HEAL is being phased in over four academic years and is designed to serve approximately 760 students at capacity. The program currently serves freshmen through juniors and will welcome its first senior class during the 2027-2028 school year.

For students, Summer Infusion helps make the connection between classroom learning and patient care visible. Each activity gives them a clearer understanding of the expectations of the healthcare field while building confidence, curiosity, and a stronger sense of what is possible.

By the end of the experience, students had explored career pathways, practiced emergency response concepts, reflected on wellness and communication, experienced hospital-based learning, and followed a simulated patient from admission to recovery.

It was more than a summer program. It was a glimpse into the future HEAL students are already working toward — one pathway, one patient, and one #AldineStory at a time, with a clearer understanding of what that future can be.



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

EAST ALDINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Date: July 14, 2026

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids addressed to East Aldine Management District, Attention Carlos Silva, President, Board of Directors, will be received at the office of Buckson Landscape Architecture, 12337 Jones Rd. Ste. 200, Houston TX 77070, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, August 4, 2026, and then publicly opened and read for “Median Improvements Project for East Aldine Management District, Harris County, Texas.” In addition to the opening of sealed Bids at the address above, you may view the public opening of sealed Bids via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams the Meeting ID: 238 573 913 912 61 and Passcode: ng650C72

Scope of Work of the Contract Documents includes the following: **Improvements of fourteen (14) esplanades located within the district’s right-of-way to include paving, landscape, irrigation, lighting and signage installation.**

Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **remotely** July 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Local Time, via Microsoft Teams. To join via Microsoft Teams the Meeting ID: 227 122 185 464 856 and the Passcode: oS2ZC2vJ Representative at the pre-bid conference is **MANDATORY**, and no Bid will be opened unless the bidder or representative was present at the pre-bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid bond or a certified or cashier’s check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than two percent (2%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract Documents and execute the Bonds on the forms provided and provide the required insurance certificates and Bonds within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the successful bidder. If a certified or cashier’s check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the bid opening address, the *original* certified or cashier’s check within one (1) business day of receipt of the bid opening.

By submitting a Bid, Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the Contract Documents may be accepted, executed, or agreed to using an Electronic Signature, as defined by and in accordance with Owner’s Electronic Signature Rules for Construction Contracts.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from Buckson Landscape Architecture, 12337 Jones Rd. Ste. 400. Contact: Lauren Martinez lmartinez@bucksonla.com (281) 755-2018 for link. Bidders must register with Ms. Martinez to view and/or download specifications and plans for the Project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

Bidding documents may also be obtained by prospective bidders or suppliers upon payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) for each set of documents at 12337 Jones Rd. Ste. 400. Checks should be made payable to Buckson Landscape Architecture. No cash will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except the time for submitting a Bid. The successful bidder, if any, will be the responsible bidder, which in the Board’s judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and the bidder agrees that the Contract Documents can be terminated if the bidder knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.



CHURCH PAGE

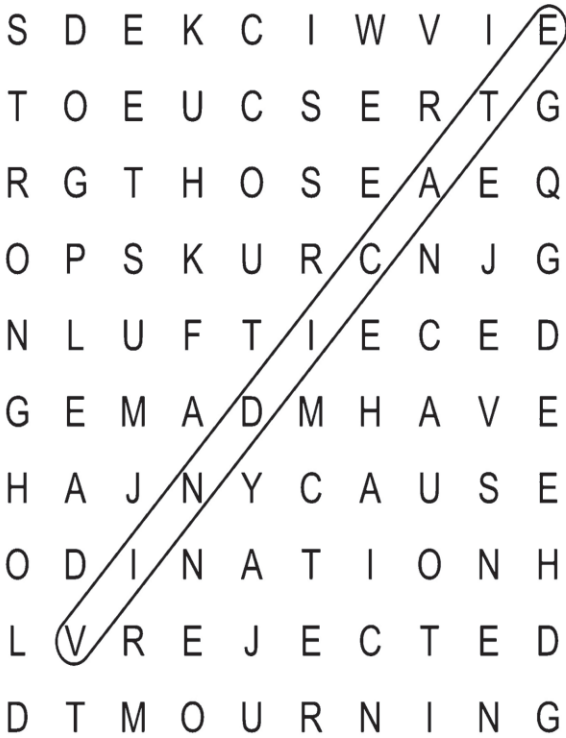
BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalms 43:1-2

Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

GALATIANS 3:27,28

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs
3. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? 3, 40, 100, 346
4. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul
5. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as "blessing"? Berakah, Chosson, Chumash, Duckett
6. How old was Abraham when he died? 75, 175, 202, 256

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stomach, 3) 40, 4) Philip, 5) Berakah, 6) 175
More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.
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Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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Molly Shannon, left, and Will Ferrell stars in 'The Hawk.'

"The Hawk."

"The Hawk" (TV-MA) — This absurd comedy series was co-created by and stars a comedic actor who's well-versed in absurdity, the fabulous Will Ferrell ("You're Cordially Invited"). Starring alongside another "Saturday Night Live" alum, Molly Shannon, Ferrell plays professional golfer Lonnie "The Hawk" Hawkins, aka 2004's top golfer. Determined that he has what it takes to get back to the top, Lonnie signs on for a PGA tour with his son, Lance (Jimmy Tatro). With his can-do attitude, good humor, and awful fashion sense, nothing can stop Lonnie from redeeming his golf legacy. All 10 episodes premiere on July 16. (Netflix)

"Tron: Ares" (PG-13) — The sequel to "Tron: Legacy" (2010) didn't quite make up its \$220 million budget in the-

aters, with only \$142.2 million recouped at the box office. It also failed to receive glowing reviews from critics, which is surprising considering its lead actor, Jared Leto ("Masters of the Universe"). Rounding out the rest of the cast are "The Morning Show's" Greta Lee, "Dahmer's" Evan Peters, and "The Abandons" Gillian Anderson. Taking place in 2025, the film follows two companies that are locked in a race to bring digital programs into the real world. One company, led by Julian Dillinger (Peters), introduces the "perfect expendable soldier" in his program Ares, but what Julian never expected is that Ares' self-awareness might overpower his expendability. Out now to stream! (Disney+)

"Reminders of Him" (PG-13) — Romance and

young adult novelist Colleen Hoover keeps cranking out books, and major studios keep adapting it into films for fans to enjoy! This latest adaptation out now is based on Hoover's 2022 novel and stars Maika Monroe ("Longlegs") as Kenna Rowan. After spending six years in prison for vehicular manslaughter that resulted in her boyfriend Scotty's (Rudy Pankow) death, Kenna plans to start anew in her hometown and meet the daughter she had while she was serving time. Coincidentally, she meets Ledger (Tyriq Withers), who just happens to be Scotty's lifelong best friend. The two have an instant connection, leaving them both with a choice to remain stuck in the horrors of the past or brave a different future together. (Peacock)

"Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro" (TV-PG) — This new spinoff of the longtime competition reality show "Dancing with the Stars" is set to premiere on July 14. As the title teases, the spinoff will focus on finding the next dancer who'll join the "DWTS" cast as a pro. Hosted by reigning mirror ball champ Robert Irwin, the series features 12 contestants who will live and train together in a "grueling audition process" for the length of the eight-episode show. Additionally, the charming mom-and-son duo Shirley and Mark Ballas serve as judges for these 12 contestants, which is a treat for anyone who's seen them (or dad Corky!) as pros on the original show. Contestants hail from all over the United States, as well as Ukraine, England and Canada. (Hulu)

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Q: Where can I watch reruns of the medical show "House," and what ever happened to actress Jennifer Morrison? I haven't seen her in anything in a while. — M.E.

A: Jennifer Morrison, who played Dr. Allison Cameron on the Fox series "House," departed the show after six seasons. She went on to star in the fairytale drama series "Once Upon a Time" on ABC, and most recently, she played the First Lady of the United States on Netflix's "The Night Agent." She's also developed quite a career as a director of episodic television shows like "Euphoria," "Dr. Death," and "The Five-Star Weekend."

If you have a subscription to Amazon Prime Video or Hulu, you can watch "House" on these platforms.

Q: When's the new movie about Facebook coming out, and why isn't Jesse Eisenberg playing Mark Zuckerberg in it? — E.P.

A: It's hard to believe that it's been over 15 years since Aaron Sorkin's "The Social Network" came out — the film that he wrote and directed about the early rise of Mark Zuckerberg's life as a student at Harvard and how Zuckerberg launched Facebook. Jesse Eisenberg could have easily reprised his Oscar-nominated role of the future billionaire in its upcoming sequel, "The Social Reckoning," but he declined.

Sorkin told Vanity Fair that he spent three days trying to change the actor's mind, but Eisenberg stated that he "simply did not want to be conflated with Mark Zuckerberg anymore" and that he has his problems with Zuckerberg.

In the sequel, which will hit theaters on Oct. 9, 2026, another Oscar-nominated actor, Jeremy Strong ("The Apprentice" and HBO's "Succession"), assumes the role of the billionaire. Why a sequel? After the trailer for the movie premiered recently at CinemaCon, Sorkin stated, "There isn't a life that Facebook's algorithm hasn't touched, and that influence has shaped everything. So, it's time to say more."



Jennifer Morrison as Dr. Allison Cameron on "House"

The film also stars Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear") as Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz and Oscar winner Mikey Madison ("Anora") as Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen.

Q: Was that really John Oliver I saw with jet-black hair on "General Hospital" recently? How did this happen? — M.C.

A: Yes, even though he's best known as the hilarious Emmy-winning host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight," he recently made his daytime soap debut on "General Hospital." Back in March, he had expressed a strong desire to appear on a soap during one of his "Last Week Tonight" segments. Not only did ABC's "GH" respond with a resounding "yes," but so did Peacock's "Days of Our Lives."

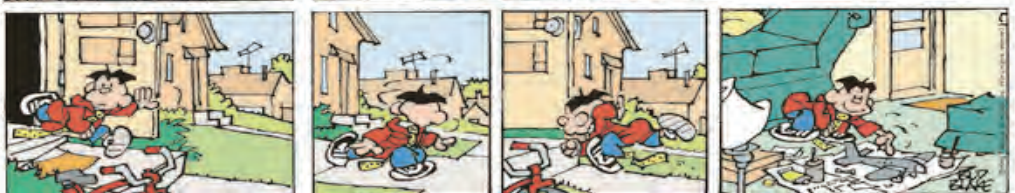
He will appear in three episodes of "GH" in July as the head of the WSB (World Security Bureau) and has a mystery role on "Days" for another three episodes, which will air on Aug. 11, 12 and 14.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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Place a number in each empty box in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-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.

10, 2006

July 13, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Valley
- 5 Unruly crowds
- 9 Dean's list stat
- 12 Pinnacle
- 13 Each
- 14 Science room
- 15 Show loyalty to
- 17 Mentalist Geller
- 18 Green land
- 19 Critic Roger
- 21 Finished
- 24 Love god
- 25 Parliamentarian
- 26 Raised children, say
- 30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
- 31 Desert haven
- 32 Call — day
- 33 Native of Yerevan
- 35 Read quickly
- 36 Mast
- 37 Bracelet site
- 38 Pocket breads
- 40 Japanese soup
- 42 Hindu honorific
- 43 Street game
- 48 Pouch
- 49 Actress Fisher
- 50 Party cheese
- 51 "For shame!"
- 52 Penn or Astin
- 53 Harvard rival
- 10 Henry VIII's Catherine
- 11 Slightly
- 16 Josh
- 20 "— voyage!"
- 21 First lady of scat
- 22 Dark film genre
- 23 Chicken choice
- 24 Actress Moran
- 26 Twosome
- 27 Botanist Gray
- 28 List-ending abbr.
- 29 "Great" dog
- 31 Jackie's Ari
- 34 Ecol. watch-dog
- 35 Stuck-up
- 37 Request
- 38 "Hey!"
- 39 Nest egg choices
- 40 "— 18" (Uris novel)
- 41 Optimist's credo
- 44 Mao — -tung
- 45 Celestial altar
- 46 Like Abner
- 47 Country music's Greenwood

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?
- HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?
- GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?
- TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?
- U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?
- ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?
- SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?
- MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

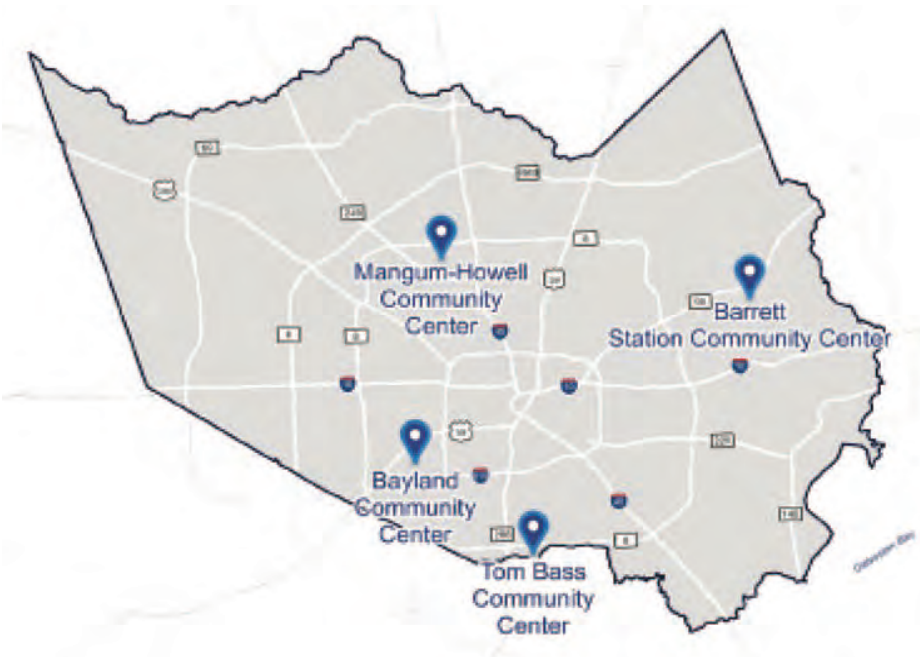
Solution time: 23 mins.

King Crossword

Answers

1. Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery; 2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776; 3. Africa; 4. "The Wonder Years"; 5. Bloomington, Minnesota; 6. Gluteus maximus; 7. About 97%; 8. 6 ounces; 9. A goshing; 10. 2006

Harris County Flood Resilience Meetings set for July



HARRIS COUNTY – As part of its ongoing efforts to battle localized flooding, Harris County Flood Resilience will host a series of public open houses throughout July to guide future mitigation efforts.

The drop-in meetings are designed to allow residents to review proposed flood resilience strategies and help set community priorities for upcoming projects. Officials noted that community input gathered over the past year has revealed the real challenges facing local neighborhoods.

The open houses will be held at four different locations across the county. All sessions will follow the same format and run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The schedule includes:

- Tuesday, July 14: Mangum-Howell Community Center, 2500 Frick Rd., Houston.
- Monday, July 20: Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St., Houston.
- Monday, July 27: Barrett Station Community Center, 808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby.
- Wednesday, July 29: Tom Bass Community Center, 15108 Cullen Blvd., Houston.

Translation services will be available on-site at all locations, including English Sign Language, Mandarin, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Residents seeking more information on the county’s resilience plan and updates can visit hcfloodresilience.net.

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