

NEWS
NOTES

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Aldine ISD Board of Trustees Approves 2026-27 Tax Rate at September Board Meeting

By Ashley Brown
ALDINE ISD,

During its Sept. 15 meeting, the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to adopt a tax rate of \$1.0144 per \$100 of assessed property value for the 2026-27 school year. The tax rate includes \$0.7119 for the Maintenance and Operations Fund (M&O), which covers the district's day-to-day operations, and \$0.3025 for the Interest and Sinking Fund (I&S), which is used to repay debt, such as voter-approved bonds. This rate is lower than the June proposal. However, the board could not officially adopt it until the Harris



Central Appraisal District released the certified tax roll in August.

While the district's tax rate determines how much Aldine ISD collects per \$100 of taxable property value, individual property tax bills may vary based on a home's appraised value. The Harris Central Appraisal District, not Aldi-

ne ISD, is responsible for determining property values.

Public Hearing on SB 12 Certification

The Board held a public hearing regarding Aldine ISD's compliance with Senate Bill 12. The law requires the superintendent to certify to the Texas Education Agency that the

district complies with provisions of the Texas Education Code prohibiting certain diversity, equity and inclusion duties and activities. During the hearing, district officials outlined policy updates and steps taken to inform employees, contractors, students and families of the requirements.

Spotlight on Teaching, Learning and Leading

Interim Chief of Transformation Gabriela Sierra recognized eight students who recently participated in the School Board Members for Latino Equity (MASBA) Our Voice, Our Future ("Nuestra Voz, Nuestro Futuro") contest. This year's theme encouraged students to see themselves as storytellers and changemakers. Aldine ISD students earned the top three prizes in the contest.

- First place: Sophia Gomez, Garcia Middle School — "Reality of the Passing Grades"

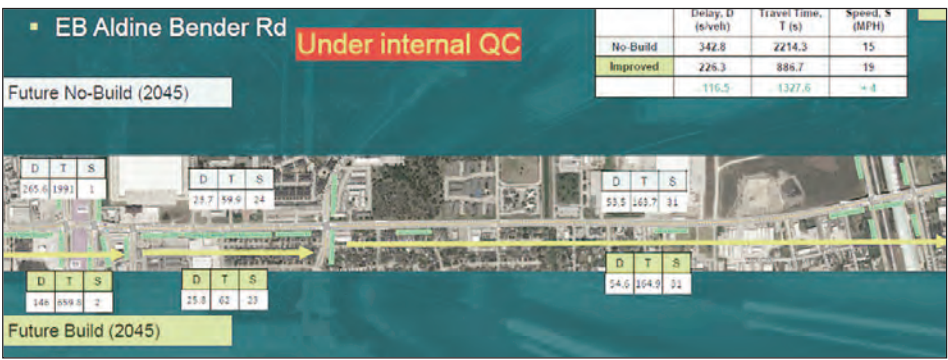
Continued. See ALDINE ISD BOARD APPROVES 2026-27 TAX, Page 8

Traffic Study Offers New Insights for Transportation in the District

The North Houston District has recently completed a comprehensive traffic study of the area to manage the increase in large commercial trucks on local roadways. The influx of shipping and distribution vehicles within the District coordinates with the booming warehouse and manufacturing sector in the area.

NHD Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, Robert Fiederlein, shared insights from the recent traffic study, which aims to address mobility issues now and in the future.

In November 2025, the North Houston District be-



Example for improved traffic flow: Aldine Bender Road

gan a large-scale traffic study to assess traffic flow and safety issues that have developed as the area has shifted from an office-dominant local economy to a logistics and manufacturing powerhouse.

The resulting abundance of logistics and distribution businesses has introduced more trucks and traffic to local roadways.

The traffic study, which will be completed by October

2026, includes data collection at 31 intersections and along two major corridors in the District—Aldine Bender Rd. and West Rd.

"We've not done a traffic and mobility study in over 20

years. We know the area has transformed during this time from a commuter-based center to a logistics and warehouse hub with fewer cars and more trucks. Our infrastructure must be updated to reflect this change," Robert Fiederlein, NHD Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, said.

The District invested \$300,000 in the project, contracting with AECOM for the study. AECOM is a national engineering firm that also completed the modeling for intersections for the North

Continued. See NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT TRAFFIC, Page 8

Constitution Day celebrated in Aldine

By Julieta Paita

For the fifth consecutive year, Bonding Against Adversity celebrated Constitution Day in the Aldine area.

This year took place at the M.O. Educational Center located on Aldine Bender Rd. during a Oath of Allegiance ceremony where more than 1,100 people became American citizens.

The sworn in of these 1,100 new citizens is a work in conjunction with 20 more organizations and partners that provided services with citizenship application process.

This day was a day of arts, music and celebration. Art pieces representing the Constitution Day drawn from MacArthur, Aldine and Nimitz High Schools students were on exhibition and judged. The three first winners received a prize. And the High School of the first winner, Bonding Against Adversity grants a \$500 prize for its art program. First and second



US Army among those taking Oath for USA Citizenship at M.O. Campbell Center on Sep. 15, 2026. ALL photos by Houston Endowment.

places winners are from Aldine High School, Karen Martinez and Veronica Ayala; the third place goes to Amy Orea from Nimitz High School.

Honorable Judge Keith P. Ellison officiated the ceremony of Oath. Other guests speakers and VIPs were Grace Olivares, Univision Televisa Senior; Elisa Villanueva Beard, President and CEO from Houston Endowment; Carlos Silva, Chairman of the East Aldine Management District; Able Garza, Assistant Superintendent of Government and Constituent Services of Aldine ISD; Rey-



Maximiliano Lara one of the many who became American citizen attending classes at Bonding Against Adversity

Continued. See OVER 1,100 NEW CITIZENS SWORN IN, Page 2

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 5
Texans host Cowboys in Texas shootout:
Ohio State faces another tough road game at Iowa

Week 4 in the NFL brings us a Lone Star showdown as the Cowboys head to Houston to take on the Texans.

Both teams have struggled out of the gate as the Texans dropped their first two games and the Cowboys split with the Giants and Commanders.

This should be an interesting matchup as Dallas' high-powered offense takes on a Texans defense that has yet to assert itself thus far.

DeMeco Ryans' team needs to get it going, or they could be left behind in an AFC that is loaded with good teams.

There are a number of other interesting games on the Week 4 schedule as AFC South rival Jacksonville visits Cincinnati, while the LA Rams head east to take on the Eagles.

There's a big one in the

KEENEY'S
KORNER

By
MIKE KEENEY

AFC East as New England visits Buffalo, while Denver visits a 49ers team that has looked very solid in its first two games.

The defending Super Bowl champs, the Seattle Seahawks, host one of the Los Angeles Chargers, who have been one of the biggest disappointments in the first month of the season. Jim Harbaugh's dropped back-to-back home games to Arizona and Las Vegas, not exactly the cream of the NFL crop.

There's an interesting one on Sunday Night Football as Detroit visits

Carolina, in what could turn into an offensive shootout.

The college schedule is so-so this week, with the best two games coming in the SEC and Big 10. No. 8-ranked Alabama visits a Mississippi State team that won its first three games by averaging 47 points per game and has an electrifying QB in Kamario Taylor. You had better believe that the cowbells will be loud and proud in Starkville on Saturday.

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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Over 1,100 new citizens sworn in at Aldine’s Constitution Day celebration,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

na Tippetts, Dean of Lone Star College - East Aldine District; Priscila True, Board President of League of Women Voters.

During this year’s Constitution Day celebration, MacArthur High School choir performed the National Anthem and patriotic songs; moreover, Carver High School presented folkloric dances representing different latin countries. Other countries represented during the celebration included India, Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Vietnam and the African continent.

At the end of the celebration, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services distributed certificates to the new sworn in citizens.

“It’s important to become citizen, if you are a legal permanent resident and qualifies to receive citizenship, there are organizations that provide free help and assistance, emphasizes Mariana Sanchez, Bonding Against Adversity Chief Operating Officer.

This year, United States celebrates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and “what a better day to celebrate it than becoming an American citizen,” concluded Mariana Sanchez.

Overview of Constitution Day

Constitution Day (celebrated every September 17th) marks the moment the U.S. Constitution was signed. In 1787, 39 delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the founding document. In the 1940s, a holiday called “I Am an American Day” was created to celebrate citizens. A determined Ohio housewife named Olga T. Weber campaigned heavily to change the holiday to September 17th to honor the exact day the Constitution was created. Her ef-



People sworn in as American citizens at M.O. Campbell Center.



Huong Xua Band directed by Hai Yen representing Vietnam.



Left to Right: Abel Garza, Aldine ISD Assistant Superintendent of Government Relations; Grace Olivares, Univision Senior Director; Marina Flores Sugg, Chairman of Bonding Against Adversity Board; Mariana Sanchez, Chief Operating Officer; Hon. Judge Keith P. Ellison; Elisa Villanueva Beard, President and CEO of Houston Endowment; Reyna Tippetts, Dean of Lone Star College-East Aldine Center; Priscila True, Board President of League of Women Voters; Claudia Ortega Hogue, Board member and Carlos Sylva, Chairman of the East Aldine Management District Board. Photo by Houston Endowment.

orts paid off when Congress officially established Citizenship Day in 1952. [National Flag Foundation].

Becoming “Constitution Day”: In 2004, a federal law officially renamed it Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. It also required all schools and federally funded institutions to teach about the Constitution on or near Sep-

tember 17th.

Today, it serves as an annual reminder of the country’s founding rules, individual freedoms, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

It’s also a dual purpose; it serves as Citizenship Day, honoring individuals who were born in the United States or became naturalized citizens.



Visual Arts teacher, Floyd Mayne, and 1st and 2nd place art student winners Karen Martinez and Veronica Ayala from Aldine High School receiving grant from Mariana, Bonding Against Adversity COO, for their arts program.



RB Bollywood Dance directed by Richa Bhanot representing India.



Carver High School “Baile Folklorico” directed by Veronica Flores representing Mexico

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Greens Parkway Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Greens Parkway Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 8, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)** at 14950 Heathrow Forest Parkway, Suite 125, Houston, Texas 77032. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: John Sims, Mark Ivy, Thomas L. Brummett, R. Shawn Emerick & Randy Thibodeaux

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2025 Last Year \$0.25/\$100 Adopted	2026 This Year \$0.24/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.01/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ -	\$ -
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)		
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ -	\$ -
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ -	\$ -
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0.00%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Griggs Primary School Celebrates International Dot Day



From left: Chief Communications Officer Sheila Adams, Principal Sherree Johnson, Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, and Information Literacy Specialist Kara Cooper

By David Early

Griggs Primary School students celebrated International Dot Day, a global event inspired by the children's book, "The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. The day encourages students to embrace creativity, courage and collaboration. "The goal is to promote literacy, but also to promote creativity," said Information Literacy Specialist Kara Cooper. "And for each student to take their own uniqueness and run with it and make their own mark on the world."

Students Make Their

Mark

To celebrate, students tapped into their creative side at arts-and-crafts tables inside the library. They colored fall leaves, used magic water paints and made their own Dot Day headbands. Students and staff were also encouraged to wear their most spirited dot-themed attire. Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney and other district leaders participated in the festivities by visiting classrooms and reading "The Dot" aloud to students. "The Dot" tells the story of a young girl who builds the confidence and

courage to overcome her self-doubt and "make her mark" as an artist. After the teacher Terry Shay introduced the book to his students in 2009, International Dot Day spread from classroom to classroom, becoming a globally recognized observance where students and adults alike set aside their insecurities and embrace their innate ability to create and inspire. This year, Sept. 15 marked the fifth annual International Dot Day celebration at Griggs EC/PK/K School.



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A Message From The Superintendent, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Dear Aldine ISD Community,
Last week, our team took part in a community walk, visiting families, listening to their stories, answering questions, and helping remove barriers that may stand between students and school. One moment has stayed with me. A student looked at our team and said, "Y'all really care about me." Yes, we do. That simple exchange captures what I believe is at the heart of public education and at the heart of Aldine ISD. Every student deserves to be seen, known, and supported — not only when they are excelling, but also when they need encouragement, resources, a trusted adult, or a reminder that their future matters. That is what #ChooseAldine means to me. It is more than a hashtag. It is a shared commitment to choose our students, choose one another, and choose the meaningful work of creating choices and opportunities for every child. Across Aldine, I see that commitment in classrooms, on campuses, in homes, and throughout our community. I see it in the teacher who helps a student find their voice, the counselor who helps a young person envision a path after graduation, the family member who asks one more question, the staff member who notices a need, and the community partner who steps forward to help. Every connection creates opportunity. When Students Are Seen, They Can Thrive. One of my greatest joys as superintendent is being in our schools. During recent visits to Anderson Academy, Hill Elementary School, Goodman Elementary School, Aldine Middle School, Jones Middle School and Lewis Middle School, I saw students who were engaged, focused, and excited about learning. I also saw the dedicated teachers and leaders who create the conditions for that learning to happen every day. Belonging Is Part of a Great Education. Students thrive when they see themselves, their families, and their cultures reflected and valued in their schools. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I am proud of the many ways our campuses are honoring the history, creativity, contributions, and lived experiences that strengthen the Aldine community. Our students' talents are being recognized in many ways. Aldine middle-school students swept the first three places in the 2026 Mexican American School Boards Association art contest. At

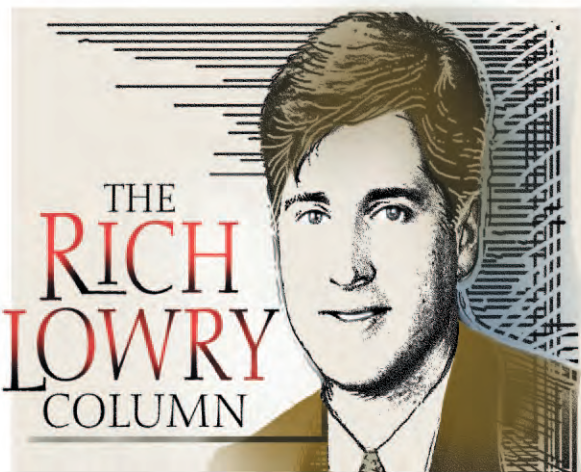
Griggs EC/PreK/K School, International Dot Day reminded students that a small mark can begin a bigger story. At Avalos P-TECH School, students and staff honored the legacy of Ms. Rose M. Avalos with poetry, speeches, and music — a beautiful reminder that excellence is not only something we pursue; it is something we inherit, honor, and extend. This is the spirit of the Portrait of a Graduate. We want Aldine students to leave us as confident communicators, creative thinkers, collaborators, and leaders who understand both who they are and how they can contribute to the world around them. Every Pathway Should Lead to Possibility. Our responsibility is to help students see a future that is larger than the circumstances they may face today. That is why Aldine continues to expand pathways to college, career, and life. This month, approximately 176 high-achieving students began their journey in the Ascend Scholars Program, receiving additional support as they plan for college and pursue ambitious goals. Across our high schools, 46% of students are enrolled in at least one advanced course, including UT OnRamps, Advanced Placement, and dual credit opportunities. These experiences allow students to challenge themselves, earn valuable credit, and begin to imagine themselves in places they may not have considered before. Career-connected learning is equally important. Through the Robotics Design Challenge, our students are using creativity, engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving to bring ideas to life. At the Transition Expo in October and through BridgeYear career exploration experiences, students and families are learning more about post-high school options and the steps required to reach them. Our AVID students are building the academic habits, confidence, and leadership skills that support college and career readiness. At Avalos P-TECH, we also celebrate Jesús Valadez, a finalist for the Posse Foundation Scholarship, whose achievement reflects the power of student ambition paired with strong support. The message to every Aldine student is this: your future is not a distant idea. It is being shaped now — through your questions, your effort, your choices, and the adults who are walking beside you. Families and Community Make Us Stronger. No school district can fulfill its mission alone. Students are most successful when families, schools, and community partners move in the same direction. I am encouraged by the strong beginning to this year's Family and Community University. In its first three sessions, more than 300 parents and caregivers have gathered to learn, connect, and grow as

partners in their children's education. This year, we are also expanding the experience through Next Chapter Academy, a new pathway for Family and Community University graduates to strengthen their skills in parent leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, and community impact. Our Human Resources team continues to collaborate with US PREP and regional education partners to strengthen educator pipelines and address critical workforce needs. This work matters because great teaching and learning begin with attracting, developing, and retaining talented people who are committed to our students. It also means advocating for the resources that keep our schools connected, safe, and operational. E-Rate funding helps districts maintain the technology and connectivity that support teaching, learning, communication, and safety. For Aldine, that federal support represents approximately \$11 million over five years. As policy conversations continue at the federal level, we must stay informed and keep speaking up for the resources our students and staff rely on every day. This is what it means to build Aligned Systems and Thriving Teams through Accelerate. It means being thoughtful stewards of resources, listening to those closest to the work, and ensuring that the systems behind the scenes help students succeed in the classroom. Choose Connection. Choose Opportunity. Choose Aldine. The student who told us, "Y'all really care about me," reminded us why our work matters. Every home visit, every classroom conversation, every family workshop, every arts performance, every health resource, and every pathway to college or career is an opportunity to show students that they are not alone. Our work is urgent, but it is also hopeful. We will continue to strengthen instruction, build partnerships, expand opportunities, and create learning environments where every student can grow, lead, and thrive. I invite every member of the Aldine community to stay connected: ask questions, attend school events, celebrate student growth, communicate with your child's school, and encourage young people to dream boldly. Together, we can continue building a district where every connection creates opportunity, and every student knows that they are seen, valued, and capable of great things. Thank you for the trust, energy, and heart you bring to our schools and community each day. With Aldine pride, Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendent of Schools, Aldine Independent School District

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OPINION PAGE

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The lynching epidemic that wasn't

Even paranoiacs have enemies, they say, but sometimes they are just paranoid. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, a founding member of the Squad, organized 59 fellow Democrats to co-sign a letter demanding a federal investigation of a spate of supposed lynchings that never happened.

The document pronounced its signatories “extremely alarmed by reports of Black people found hanging from trees in numerous states throughout our country.” “The series of deaths,” the letter continues, “raises significant suspicion of foul play given the role of lynching in our nation’s history.” Pressley and her colleagues call for a federal investigation of every hanging death of a black person in the U.S., and insist that “inaction by the federal government is tantamount to complicity.” The letter deems all of this “a national crisis.”

In a post on X, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said how proud she was to sign the missive. She noted that “this year, there have already been 10 reported hangings of Black people in the U.S.,” and how we must “address these widespread modern-day lynchings and put a stop to this racial terror.”

It apparently didn’t occur to AOC or any of the other signers to do Google searches of local news stories about the hangings. If they had, they would have learned that most of them were acts of suicide — awful in their own right, but not evidence that we are once again living in the Deep South circa 1892. These news stories invariably recount how the local police have concluded a person found hanging on a tree died by suicide — as well as all the speculation on social media that something more insidious must have been at play.

In one horrifying case, a young African-American woman was found hanging from a tree outside an abandoned house in Jackson, Mississippi, and her death was indeed ruled a murder. A CNN report several days ago related the heightened scrutiny around the crime given “Mississippi’s long history of racial violence involving hangings.” The police have now arrested a 51-year-old suspect and charged him with murder, although he doesn’t advance the narrative of the Pressley letter — since he, too, is African American.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention figures, more than 11,000 people in the United States died by suicide by hanging or a related means in 2024 — or, on average, more than 30 a day. Hundreds of these people were African Americans. In this context, a handful of black suicides by hanging occurring outdoors over the course of half a year or more wouldn’t necessarily be shocking.

The will to believe the worst, though, is very strong among the people who signed the Pressley letter. They are perpetually convinced that the KKK is on the verge of riding again and making the U.S. the equivalent of the Reconstruction-era South.

One line in the Pressley letter says that black people have been found hanging from trees in places as dispersed as “Mississippi, Michigan and New York.” The geographic randomness suggests a widely dispersed social phenomenon; the signatories conclude instead that there are racist murderers seeded throughout the country, all carrying out brutal, symbolically resonant killings.

This is a terrible thing to believe of one’s own country — not just of its people, but of all the law-enforcement authorities who must be suppressing evidence of systematic racial violence. No matter. The Squad and its ilk have a dim view of the United States and — as racial obsessives who consider themselves fearless crusaders for justice — must find great emotional satisfaction in the notion that they are fighting the same battle as, say, the legendary scourge of lynching Ida B. Wells.

Wells, though, didn’t have to make up outrages, whereas the current crowd tends to give credence to every story based on a fake noose or a hate-crime hoax. Pressley and Co. clearly hoped to stir up a social panic, but the weakness and irrationality of their argument serve only to underline their own profound and disturbing racial paranoia.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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HEADLINE: Lynching Claims Face Scrutiny

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Medicaid funding restored to Texas hospitals

Nearly \$12 billion in Medicaid funding to Texas hospitals will be restored after a nearly year-long stalemate between the state and the federal government ended, the Texas Standard reported.

Gov. Greg Abbott hailed the end to the impasse.

“This funding is a major victory for Texas patients,” Abbott said in a statement. “It authorizes nearly \$12 billion for hospitals, physicians, rural clinics, nursing facilities, and behavioral health providers that serve patients in every region of our state.”

The funds were halted on Sept. 1, with some hospitals losing as much as \$27 million a day in Medicaid funding. The fund assists hospitals in closing the gap between what Medicaid pays them and actual costs incurred for treating low-income Texans.

The dispute began last year over concerns about how the state raises more than \$4.2 billion in taxes to access those federal funds. Abbott had previously referred to the hold-up as an economic “gun to the head.”

CORNYN, ROYE AMONG THOSE CONDEMNING FRENCH’S POST

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn denounced GOP Railroad Commission nominee Bo French after he disparaged the racial diversity of fans shown celebrating the University of Texas team’s comeback win over top-ranked Ohio State, The Dallas Morning News reported.

French, a former Tarrant County Republican Party chair, has doubled down on his remarks. The nominee has repeatedly faced backlash for posts targeting racial and religious groups, often decrying an influx of “foreigners.”

Meanwhile, longtime GOP political consultant Karl Rove said he would vote for Democrat Jon Rosenthal for railroad commissioner, only the second Democrat he has voted for. In an op-ed for *The Wall Street Journal*, he called French’s post



“raw, uncut bigotry.”

Cornyn was later joined by House Speaker Dustin Burrows and Republican state Reps. Jeff Leach and Lacey Hull in criticizing French.

PATRICK INTERVENES IN ERCOT CHIEF’S NEW CONTRACT

A multimillion-dollar contract extension for Pablo Vegas, the CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, was put on hold after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called the amount “shocking,” the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The six-year contract approved last week by the ERCOT board would provide Vegas with a base salary of \$1.16 million. With potential performance incentives and other benefits, the total annual compensation could approach \$6.5 million. Patrick took to X to express his displeasure.

“During a time of increasing utility costs, this is not the time to give the CEO of ERCOT a multimillion-dollar pay raise on the backs of ratepayers,” he posted. “I am against this increase, and I think the legislature will agree that the amount is shocking.”

Hours later, the grid operator’s board put the deal on hold. State rules require the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, to approve Vegas’s compensation.

LAWMAKER THREATENS TO ABOLISH RRC OVER PUBLIC COMMENT SPAT

The head of the House oversight committee for the Texas Railroad Commission threatened to abolish the agency after

Commissioner Wayne Christian refused to appear at a hearing, The News reported. He had been called to testify in response to the commission’s recent decision to eliminate public comment from its meetings.

Christian notified the committee’s head, state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, that a prior commitment precluded him from attending. Darby was not happy with Christian’s response.

“A sitting commissioner absconding from his agency’s oversight hearing is nothing more than a mockery of the Texas Legislature and the legislative process,” he said. He noted the Legislature could abolish the commission with a simple majority vote.

“The Legislature giveth and it taketh. That is not a threat. It is a fact,” Darby said. Christian called Darby’s comments “an attack on democracy.”

The commission decided in a split vote last August to remove public comment from its regular meetings. In its place, the staff would host “listening sessions.”

CRUZ FORGES AHEAD WITH COLLEGE SPORTS BILL

Despite being loudly booed during an ESPN “GameDay” interview at DKR stadium before the UT-Ohio State game, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz said he is pushing forward with his bill to limit player transfers and endorsement deals, a measure he predicts will pass the Senate.

The measure would allow athletes one “free” transfer during their collegiate careers. It would place limits on any additional transfers, with exceptions for circumstances such as a coach leaving or an athletic program being terminated. Cruz said it has been endorsed by 24 conferences and professional sports leagues across several sports.

Opponents of the bill say the talk of “chaos” is exaggerated and is being used to infringe on the rights of student-athletes while financially benefiting schools, conferences and business interests connected to college sports.

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.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Face to Face



I was driving back to my little motel after my first two talks of the week.

Earlier this year, I attended a national conference for librarians. My publisher wanted me to be there to sign free books, and I have never in my life seen people so excited to get a free book as those librarians.

I signed, “I love librarians!” on every book, except for a couple which I signed, “I love library administrators!” and “I love library assistants!” because I love everyone who has anything to do with keeping a library going.

So when I was asked if I’d drive up to the northwest corner of Minnesota and speak at a library, I said, “Absolutely!” Then they asked if I’d mind being up there for more than a day. “Not a problem!” I answered without hesitation. Then they sent me a schedule that showed me speaking at eight libraries in four days, most of them more than an hour’s drive apart.

That’s when I started to wonder if I was a little too enthusiastic.

But I love libraries and library patrons, and librarians, so I said I’d come. I rented a room in a little mom-and-pop-style motel on a lake that had a complete kitchen, so I wouldn’t have to look for a restaurant after doing all that talking and driving, and headed out the next morning.

Writers have always read their stuff aloud. The oldest stories in the world were preserved because people recited them until writing showed up and they could finally write them down. Charles Dickens and Mark Twain read their works all over the country, and many writers still do today. And while I am no Dickens or Twain, I can see the value of reading and speaking to a live audience. Writers who read their work aloud write sentences that sound like they should be read aloud. The two skills go hand in hand.

But it has made for some long days.

Driving home on Tuesday night, I drove through a patch of deep woods. There were very few cars on the road and a lot of deer. I drove slowly and counted five deer either crossing the road in front of me or standing, undecided, on the shoulder, looking like they might make a dash for it. Then I saw a giant furry rump heading off the road and into the ditch, and knew the only thing that big was a black bear.

But the worst was just before I made it back to my motel, when a whole family of raccoons came marching out across the highway. I hit the brakes and was sure I was going to hit at least one of them. The car slammed to a stop. My purse and the stool I brought with me and the muffin I was eating all flew to the ground, and I stopped a few feet in front of the last raccoon in the line.

The raccoon also stopped. He squinted into my headlights. “What the heck do you think you’re doing?!” he seemed to ask.

And I had to admit, I wasn’t entirely sure.

But the next day, when I spoke at yet another library, and someone told me how much my presentation meant to them, I remembered.

Sitting at my desk is all well and good. But nothing can compare to talking to the people who read the books—face to face.

“Thank you,” I said, again and again—that day and the next day and the day after that. “Thank you for this opportunity.”

Till next time,
Carrie
To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 5

Texans host Cowboys in Texas shootout:
Ohio State faces another tough road game at Iowa

In the Big 10, No. 7-ranked Ohio State visits No. 17-ranked Iowa in a game that yours truly will be attending. The Hawkeyes appear to have an offense that can cause problems this season for other teams. I'm definitely looking forward to being at Kinnick Stadium for this one.

There's a good one in the SEC as No. 21-ranked Florida visits No. 19-ranked Missouri.

In District 14-6A play, MacArthur and Eisenhower meet on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium, while on Friday Nimitz hosts Dekaney and on Saturday, Davis and Aldine do battle in Thorne Stadium.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. Another 10-2 week upped the record to 28-6 (82%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL
MacArthur vs. Eisenhower - Blake Ware's Generals take on Padriac McGinnis' Eagles on Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Thorne Stadium. MacArthur went 3-0 in non-district action, while Ike went 2-1. The Generals will look from quarter-back Lance Nero (6 TDs) and running back Kory Fisher (3 TDs), while the Eagles will look for a big night from running back Elijah Dixon (231 yards rushing, 2 TDs). My pick, MacArthur 23, Eisenhower 20

Dekaney at Nimitz - Cornelius Harmon's Nimitz Cougars host Dekaney on Friday night



at 7 p.m. in Thorne Stadium. Nimitz struggled in non-district play going 1-2, but will look to turn things around in league play. Dekaney returns eight offensive and eight defensive starters from last year's 3-7 team. They are led by running back Christopher Chizer. My pick, Nimitz 24, Dekaney 18

Aldine vs. Davis - Charles Black's Mustangs face off against Kelvin Chatman's Falcons on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Thorne Stadium. Aldine had a tough go in non-district action finishing 0-3, while the Falcons went 2-11 in non-league games. Davis has a high-octane offense led by QB Kobe Miles (194 yards, 7 TDs), running back Larry McCarrol (105 yards, 2 TDs) and wideout David Richardson (247 yards, 7 TDs). My pick, Davis 34, Aldine 10

NCAA
Alabama at Mississippi State - No. 8 Alabama heads to Starkville to take on a MSU team that has been one of THE surprise teams thus far this season winning their first three games and averaging 47 points along the way. The Bulldogs are led by dual-threat QB Kamario Taylor (822 passing yards, 11

TDs/178 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Fluff Bothwell (280 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Zion Ragins (8 receptions, 159 yards, 3 TDs). This will definitely be MSU's biggest test to date as they face a Crimson Tide team that has been rolling on offense behind sophomore QB Keelon Russell (764 passing yards, 4 TDs/133 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Daniel Hill (210 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Ryan Coleman-Williams (12 receptions, 235 yards, 1 TD). Look for the 'Bama defense to turn up the heat on Kamario in this one as Kalen DeBoer's team picks up a big road win a week before their showdown with No. 2-ranked Georgia. My pick, Alabama 27, Mississippi State 17

Florida at Missouri - No. 21-ranked Florida visits No. 19-ranked Missouri in a key SEC game for both teams. The Gators have been another surprise team as they too won their first three games behind an explosive offense, led by former Mizzu QB Aaron Philo (721 yards, 6 TDs), running back Jordan Baugh (488 yards, 8 TDs) and productive wide receivers Vernell Brown III (14 receptions, 246 yards, 2 TDs) and Dallas

Wilson (12 receptions, 225 yards, 2 TDs). The Tigers can score as well led by QB Austin Simmons (635 yards, 8 TDs), running back Jamal Roberts (300 yards, 3 TDs) and wideouts Darivan Olugbade (17 receptions, 268 yards, 4 TDs) and Cayden Lee (14 receptions, 230 yards, 2 TDs). The Tigers might get star running back Ahmad Harvey back for this game and that would be bad news for the Gators. My pick, Missouri 31, Florida 27

Ohio State at Iowa - No. 7-ranked Ohio State has a tough road test on Saturday when they take on No. 17-ranked Iowa. After their Week 2 loss at Texas, OSU head coach Ryan Day knows there is little room for error from here on out if they want to keep their College Football Playoff hopes alive. The Buckeyes will be facing a stout Hawkeyes defense that allowed 13 points in their first three games. That unit will get its first real test on Saturday when they face a loaded OSU offense led by QB Julian Sayin (839 yards, 6 TDs), running back Bo Jackson (230 yards, 2 TDs) and star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (21 receptions, 400 yards, 3 TDs). Iowa has some offensive weapons as well led by QB Hank Brown (473 yards, 3 TDs), running backs Kamari Moulton (240 yards, 2 TDs) and Xavier Williams (163 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Tony Diaz (17 receptions, 201 yards, 1 TD). I think Iowa hangs around in this one, but look for Sayin and Smith to hook up on a big play late to save the day for the Buckeyes. My pick, Ohio State 26, Iowa 23

NFL
Dallas at Houston - The Battle of the Lone Star State takes place at NRG Stadium at noon on Sunday on FOX as the Cowboys visit the Texans. Houston dropped its first two games of the season and needs to sort things out on offense after they were held to six points two weeks ago against the Bengals. This might be the week QB C.J. Stroud (627 yards, 2 TDs) and Co. get rolling on offense as they will face a Dallas defense that has had its issues in the first two weeks. Stroud will probably be without his top weapon as wide receiver Nico Collins is recovering from yet another hamstring injury. It seems Collins is hurt every year. If Collins is out, Houston will need the team's other receivers, along with tight end Dalton Schultz (16 receptions, 173 yards) and running back David Montgomery (70 yards, 3 TDs) to pick up the slack. The Houston defense will have its hands full with QB Dak Prescott (454 yards, 6 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (71 yards, 2 total TDs) and wideout CeeDee Lamb (13 receptions, 197 yards, 3 TDs). I think the Texans continue to struggle on

offense as the Cowboys pick up a big road win. My pick, Dallas 31, Houston 23

Jacksonville at Cincinnati - A good one in the AFC pits the Jaguars against the Bengals. Jacksonville split their first two games, while Cinci won their first two behind QB Joe Burrow (461 yards, 3 TDs), running back Chase Brown (136 yards, 1 TD) and wideouts Ja'Marr Chase (9 receptions, 87 yards, 2 TDs) and Tee Higgins (8 receptions, 154 yards). Jags QB Trevor Lawrence (434 yards, 4 TDs) will face a much improved Bengals defense, which means he must protect the ball and make plays to wide receiver Parker Washington (12 receptions, 181 yards, 1 TD). Look for the good times to continue in the Queen City as Burrow leads the Bengals to another early-season win. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Jacksonville 18

Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia - This should be a good one as the Rams head east to take on an Eagles team that won its first two games. Two weeks ago, the Rams picked up their first win of the season with a commanding 28-6 win over the Giants. QB Matthew Stafford (482 yards, 4 TDs) tossed four TDs in that game and it could get him going for more big things to come. He has plenty of help on offense with running back Kyren Williams (126 yards, 2 total TDs) and wideouts Puca Nacua and Davaante Adams (11 receptions, 221 yards, 2 TDs). Nacua missed the NY game, but should be back for this one. The Eagles will go as far as QB Jalen Hurts (467 yards passing 5 TDs/62 yards rushing) takes them. They need to get running back Saquon Barkley (92 yards) going. Barkley missed most of the Tennessee game two weeks ago with a shoulder stinger, but should be ready to go in this one. Hurts has has found success throwing to wide receiver DeVonta Smith (13 receptions, 1 TD). My pick, Los Angeles Rams 24, Philadelphia 20

New England at Buffalo - A big one in the AFC East as the defending division champs visit the Bills on Sunday. Two weeks ago, Mike Vrabel's team road its defense to a 20-3 thumping at home over the Steelers, while Josh Allen (582 passing yards, 5 TDs/92 rushing yards, 4 TDs) led the Bills to a 41-31 win over Detroit. Look for NE QB Drake Maye (386 yards, 1 TD) to attack a suspect Buffalo defense and will rely on running backs Rhamadre Stevenson (94 yards) and TreVeon Henderson (76 yards, 1 TD) to get things done on the ground to open up the passing game for Maye. Allen is not a one-man offense. He has a solid running back in James Cook (192 yards, 1 TD), a solid tight end in Dalton

Kincaid (12 receptions, 225 yards, 1 TD) and a big-play wideout in DJ Moore. Look for the Bills to send a message to the Patriots that they are the team to beat in the AFC East this year. My pick, Buffalo 34, New England 23

Denver at San Francisco - The Broncos visit the 49ers on Sunday looking for a big road win. Two weeks ago, the Broncos picked up their first win of the season with a home win over the Jaguars, while the 49ers improved to 2-0 with a 35-6 thumping of the woeful Dolphins. Denver will need a big game from QB Bo Nix (419 yards, 2 TDs), running back Christian Coleman (39 yards) and wide receiver Jalen Waddle (9 receptions, 140 yards). The 49ers have some offensive firepower as well led by QB Brock Purdy (492 yards, 5 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (91 rushing yards, 2 TDs/9 receptions, 75 yard) and wideout Mike Evans (9 receptions, 103 yards, 1 TD). Look for the 49ers to continue their hot start with a win on Sunday. My pick, San Francisco 26, Denver 22

Los Angeles Chargers at Seattle - The Chargers have been one of the biggest disappointments in the early going losing back-to-back home games to Arizona and Las Vegas, while Seattle has looked solid with wins over the Patriots and Cardinals. Seattle has been getting it done with backup QB Drew Lock (422 yards, 4 TDs), rookie running back Jadarian Price (104 yards) and star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (17 receptions, 277 yards, 4 TDs). LA QB Justin Herbert (401 yards, 2 TDs/3 interceptions) will be facing one of the best defenses in football and I expect that unit will make things miserable for Herbert come Sunday. My pick, Seattle 31, Los Angeles Chargers 20

Detroit at Carolina - The Lions and Panthers meet on Sunday Night Football in what could be an offensive shootout. Detroit has a load of weapons on offense led by QB Jared Goff (533 yards, 6 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (208 rushing yards, 2 TDs/11 receptions, 91 yards, 1 TD), wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (19 receptions, 208 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end Sam LaPorta (11 receptions, 109 yards, 1 TD). The Panthers are led by QB Bryce Young (648 yards, 6 TDs), running back Chubba Hubbard (102 yards, 1 TD) and wideouts Jalen Coker (16 receptions, 207 yards, 2 TDs) and Tetairoa McMillian (10 receptions, 176 yards). This one could come down to the final possession and look for Gibbs to be the difference maker as the Lions pick up a nice road win. My pick, Detroit 34, Carolina 31

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL

THURSDAY

Aldine Davis 49, Aldine MacArthur 20
Aldine Nimitz 61, Aldine 0
Spring Westfield 47, Aldine Eisenhower 0

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, OCT. 1

Eisenhower vs. MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Nimitz at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

Aldine at Davis, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium



You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalms 44:22-23

Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.

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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

Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

— JOSHUA 23:14 —

Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua" by Marc Chagall (1956)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. From Acts 10, who said, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean?" Herod, Peter, Thomas, John the Baptist
- 3. In 1 Corinthians 11, because of "what" did Paul say women should have a "symbol of authority"? Life, Trust, Love, Angels
- 4. From Hebrews 7, which king was said to have neither mother nor father? Solomon, David, Melchizedek, Sargon
- 5. Whose four daughters were considered prophetesses? Gad's, Philip's, Jonah's, Noah's
- 6. What biblical name meant "God has helped"? Solomon, Paul, Lazarus, Amos

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Angels, 4) Melchizedek, 5) Philip's, 6) Lazarus

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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Nate Bargatze star in "The Bread winner."

The Bread winner.

"Tony" (R) — Dominic Sessa, who had his breakthrough role in the comedy-drama film "The Holdovers" (2023), leads this biographical coming-of-age film directed by Matt Johnson ("Nirvana the Band the Show the Movie"). Sessa plays the titular character Tony, aka Anthony Bourdain, but well before Bourdain ever became the celebrity chef many would come to know and love. Taking place in 1975, the film follows a 19-year-old Tony, who's a student in Vassar College with aspirations of being a writer. Life doesn't go exactly as planned, though, and he lands a job at a seafood restaurant in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Once there, however, Tony finds himself drawn to the atmosphere of the restaurant and starts working his way up, catching the attention of the head chef Jose (Antonio Banderas). "Tony" is out now to rent or purchase! (Amazon Prime Video)

"The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards" (TV-14) — As MTV has become less of a staple in music lovers' lives, their VMA award show has admittedly lost its touch. Still, MTV always aims to recapture the magic of past award shows, and this time, they're doing so by bringing Madonna back to the VMAs after 23 years! Not only is she the opening performer, but she also leads the pack with 13 nominations for her recent album "Confessions II." Naturally, Taylor Swift follows her with 11 nominations for "The Life of a Showgirl," and Sabrina Carpenter trails Swift with nine nominations for her hit album "Man's Best Friend." Additionally, Nirvana will be honored with the legendary Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. If you missed the live event, it's available to stream now! (Paramount+)

"Saturday Night Live: Season 52" (TV-MA) — It's crazy to think

that it's already been two years since "SNL 50," but here we are, welcoming in the 52nd season of Lorne Michaels' late-night sketch-comedy show. Two new cast members have been announced since Chloe Fineman's ("Love Language") departure from the show after seven seasons — the first being Saidah Belo-Osagie and Grace Reiter ("Run Amok"). Reiter is the first SNL cast member to be born in the 2000s. This season will feature hosts like New York Knicks MVP Jalen Brunson, "Obsession" star Inde Navarrete, and comedian Shane Gillis ("Madden"). Meanwhile, upcoming musical guests include girl group Katseye, Spanish singer and actress Rosalia ("Euphoria"), and pop star Gracie Abrams. The first episode is out now to stream! (Peacock)

"The Breadwinner" (PG) — This family-friendly comedy film was co-written by Nate Bargatze and also features the stand-up comedian in his first feature-length starring role. Bargatze plays a family man, also named Nate, and he's the top employee at his car dealership. Meanwhile, his wife, Katie (Mandy Moore), is a stay-at-home mom who tends to their three daughters. But when Katie invents a product that lands a successful deal on "Shark Tank," their roles get reversed, as Katie must travel to South Korea for two weeks. Nate now takes on the role of a stay-at-home parent, and he quickly realizes that it isn't an easy feat. Colin Jost ("Saturday Night Live"), Kumail Nanjiani ("See You When I See You"), and Will Forte ("The Four Seasons") co-star in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)

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Q:I recently discovered the series "Sweet Magnolias" on Netflix and binged all five seasons over the summer. Is there going to be a sixth one anytime soon? — J.I.

A:Unfortunately, Netflix recently announced that there won't be any more new episodes of "Sweet Magnolias" after the fifth season concluded in June. This has come as a shock to the show's fans because one of the couples, namely Dana Sue (Brooke Elliott) and Ronnie (Brandon Quinn), appeared to be headed toward "Splitville."

JoAnna Garcia Swisher, who played Maddie, had nothing but kind words for the show, despite the bittersweet announcement of its cancellation. She stated, "'Sweet Magnolias' came into my world during a chapter that held some of my deepest loss [the death of both of her parents] and, somehow, some of my greatest joy."

The series is based on the "Sweet Magnolias" novels that were written by Sheryl Woods. Perhaps fans can find a proper conclusion for their favorite characters inside those pages. Netflix also recently announced that the show's executive producer and showrunner Sheryl J. Anderson is creating a new show for the streamer, called "Ladies of the House." Swisher's set to produce and possibly even star in it, too.

This new series is also based on a set of novels that feature three female central characters. The "Ladies of the House" books are written by Lauren Edmonson.

Q:Is there anywhere I can stream "Murphy Brown"? I've noticed it's missing on all the ones I subscribe to. — E.D.

A:According to TVLine, the original seasons of the Emmy-winning hit comedy series "Murphy Brown" have been unable to find a home on any of the streaming platforms due to music rights. It's the same reason why shows like NBC's "Homicide" weren't streamable for many years, until Peacock was able to secure the show with partial rights.

According to TVLine, "Murphy Brown" creator Diane English explained that the show "used one and sometimes two pieces of original music" when crafting unique



JoAnna Garcia Swisher as Maddie in "Sweet Magnolias"

opening sequences for each episode.

But here's a bit of good news: There was a "Murphy Brown" 13-episode revival series that was released in 2018, and you can find these episodes on the free streaming service Tubi.

Q: Is it true that Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan didn't want to work with Tom Hardy on "MobLand" anymore? — L.L.

A:While the Paramount+ series "MobLand" returned for its second season this September, it was rumored that star Tom Hardy wouldn't be returning for a third. His co-stars Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan recently denied that Hardy was a pill to deal with on set. Mirren stated that she loves working with Hardy, hopes to share more scenes with him in the future, and called him "the most amazing actor."

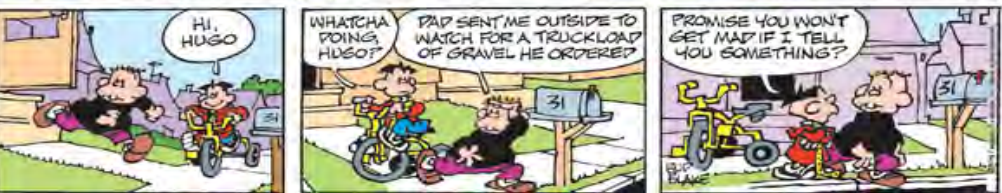
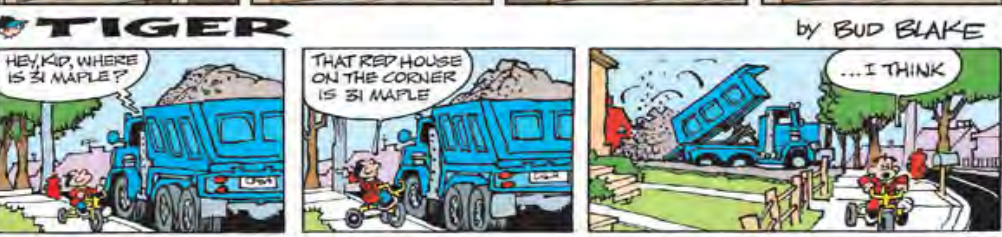
Some chatter on the internet includes theories that Paramount started the rumors of Hardy being difficult because they didn't want to pay him his worth. Fortunately, the two parties have come to some kind of agreement because Hardy will be back for season three.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Top rung of ladder is missing. 4. Bedpost in corner is not seen. 5. Headboard is missing. 6. Bedpost is taller. 7. Bedspread hangs down more. 8. Floor bedpost in corner is not seen.

September 28, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11			12		13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35			36		
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

1 Hot tub
4 Gore and Pacino
7 Poet Teasdale
11 Sod
13 Architect I.M.
14 Sty cry
15 Play opener
16 Up to
17 — Minor (bear constellation)
18 Bas-relief medium
20 Leave out
22 Grass shack
24 Paper fastener
28 Mosque tower
32 Florida game fish
33 Optimist's credo
34 Apprehend
36 pharmaceutical
37 Transmits
39 Baking potatoes
41 Orders of pancakes
43 "Don't Start Now" singer
44 Intimate
46 Tactics
50 "Star Wars" knight
53 Resistance unit

DOWN

1 Men-only
2 Brownish purple
3 — and crafts (Abbr.)
4 Likely

55 "East of Eden" twin
56 At the summit of
57 Pint-sized
58 Belafonte song
59 Orange vegetables
60 Matching pair
61 Arced tennis shot

5 Floral rings
6 Sari fabrics
7 Light lunch order
8 Televis
9 ICU pros
10 Rap sheet letters
12 Popular
13 British dish
19 Owned by us
21 The "I" of TGIF
23 Sawbuck
25 Skin opening
26 Lummo
27 Heart charts (Abbr.)
28 Avoid

29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
30 "Peter Pan" pooch
31 Roofing goo
35 Future flower
38 Enjoy Vail
40 "How's it goin'?"
42 Bamboozles
45 Biblical pronoun
47 Exam format
48 Vacillate
49 Elitist
50 Comic Leno
51 JFK info
52 — Perignon
54 Bumped into

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Almost 90% of the world's population lives in which hemisphere?
2. AD SLOGANS: Which major retailer uses the ad slogan, "Save money. Live better"?
3. MOVIES: Which district is Katniss from in "The Hunger Games"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What was singer Elvis Presley's favorite sandwich?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the poem "Paradise Lost"?
6. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is the only one with its own power grid?
7. TELEVISION: Where does Fred Flintstone work on the animated series "The Flintstones"?
8. MUSIC: Which band released the hit song "Don't Stop Believin'"?
9. HISTORY: What is the Code of Hammurabi?
10. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the two-faced Roman god?

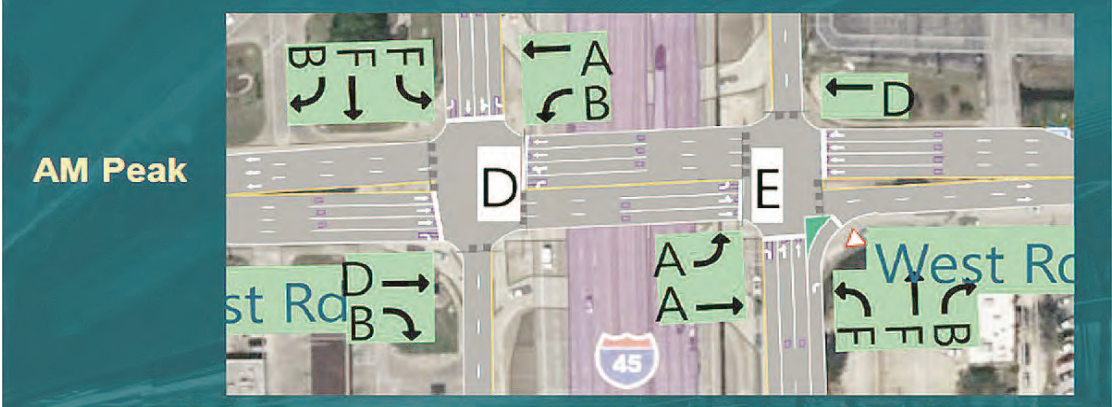
Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

North Houston District unveils traffic study to tackle truck surge and boost safety by 2026,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Example for improved traffic flow: West Road & Interstate 45

Houston Highway Improvement Program. The company was chosen for its familiarity with intersections in North Houston already, due to its prior work in the area.

“We’ve not done a traffic and mobility study in over 20 years. We know the area has transformed during this time from a commuter-based center to a logistics and warehouse hub with fewer cars and more trucks. Our infrastructure must be updated to reflect this change,” Robert Fiederlein, NHD Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure

What is a Traffic Study?

A traffic study typically looks to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians as well as traffic flow. With more commercial vehicles and box trucks in the District regularly, this study has looked at the area through a new lens to accommodate the current mix of vehicles and to get ahead of future issues as the area continues to grow.

Thanks to advanced modeling, the study includes recommendations to address projected growth from 2026 through 2045.

“Traffic demand modeling

gives us insights into the projected population and business growth in our area for the next 20 years, and how it will impact transportation and mobility. We’re addressing the needs of today and planning for tomorrow,” Fiederlein explained.

The traffic study also looked at crash data for the last five years involving pedestrians, cars, and commercial vehicles, which were analyzed to identify safety issues.

Planned Improvements

Fiederlein estimates that it will take 2-4 years to complete the improvements recommended by the traffic study. He says that the North Houston District will dedicate budget for the next several fiscal years toward projects born out of the study.

The SYNCHRO software assigns letter grades (A-F) to each intersection in the study depending on traffic flow and safety issues. Failing flow grades and hotspots for safety problems will be addressed as a first priority.

Currently, AECOM is finalizing a report with recommendations for each intersection included in the study.

Working Collaboratively to Improve Mobility in the

District

The North Houston District crosses over the City-County boundaries, so many intersections in the study are controlled by one of those two entities or TxDOT. When the study concludes, NHD will meet with relevant stakeholders to share findings of the study. These partners may choose to take on some of these projects themselves, or, if the potential timelines are too long, NHD may be able to complete the work faster.

In either case, the District will collaborate with the appropriate entities for approval and execution of all projects.

“We’re addressing the needs of today and planning for tomorrow.”

The Impact of Infrastructure Updates

The changes suggested in the study will benefit area businesses and residents by fixing traffic flow, resulting in fewer delays during the 7-9 a.m. peak and 4-6 p.m. peak. This means no long queues of trucks clogging the roadways and making people late to work, and fewer crashes, improving safety. Overall, the improvements will make the grid flow better as a system and in high-traffic areas.

“If you’re traveling down Aldine Bender or West Rd corridors, you’ll have five or six signals in a row along that stretch of road. We’re working to coordinate signals to flow better down those corridors. So, if you’re going the speed limit, you’ll hit green lights all the way down,” Fiederlein shared.

Without necessary infrastructure improvements, future industrial and manufacturing growth could be hampered. Fiederlein emphasizes that the North Houston area will continue to develop, and addressing traffic flow and safety now will help to future-proof the area and accommodate increased growth.

Great Colleges to Work For® recognizes Lone Star College



Lone Star College System has been recognized in the Great Colleges to Work For® program for the 10th consecutive year.

HOUSTON – Lone Star College System continues to be recognized as an elite higher education employer, earning a spot in the Great Colleges to Work For® program for the 10th consecutive year.

“Lone Star College System’s most valuable resource is its people,” said Patricia Woods, LSCS senior associate vice chancellor, Human Resources. “Together, our employees have built a culture of collaboration, support and growth. We are proud to once again be part of the Great Colleges to Work For® program.”

The annual list is a joint project between *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and ModernThink. Results are based on an employee survey and an institutional questionnaire that captures employment data and workplace policies. This year’s program highlighted 22 two-year institutions and 54 four-year institutions, with LSCS being recognized in the Compensation and Benefits category.

“This recognition affirms Lone Star College System’s commitment to ensuring all employees receive a livable wage and are compensated competitively within the higher education sector,” said Mario K. Castillo, J.D., LSCS chancellor. “Our faculty and staff show up every day to invest in and support our students, and we will continue to take care of them in this way.”

Financial resilience is one of four focus areas in LSCS’s 2025-2030 stra-

tegic plan. As higher education institutions across the nation consider layoffs and closures, LSCS remains fiscally stable. Last month, the LSCS Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget and across-the-board compensation increases for all employees.

“While the higher education headlines are frequently bleak these days, there’s good news and work to be celebrated in this year’s Great Colleges to Work For program,” said Richard K. Boyer, chief culture strategist and ModernThink. “These recognized institutions have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and resilience. They’ve stayed true to their values and met the moment with vision, purpose and care.”

LSCS received the Great Colleges to Work For® recognition in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. Learn more at GreatCollegesProgram.com.



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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT'S
LIVE NIGHT OUT
+ SPECTACULAR
DRONESHOW



Free - Gratis
LIVE ON STAGE



with DJ Jammin' Jesse

TUESDAY | MARTES
6PM- 9PM
ALDINEDISTRICT.ORG

OCT 6

EAST ALDINE AMPHITHEATRE
2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr.



BRING A CHAIR & JOIN US
acompañanos ~ traiga una silla



LONE STAR COLLEGE
EAST ALDINE CENTER



GIVEAWAYS
REGALOS



CAMIONES
DE COMIDA



GAMES
JUEGOS





LITE EM UP
COMPETITION COOKERS



MANNY'S
MEXICAN GRILL
SEAFOOD



REACH
REHABILITATION CENTER



HARRIS COUNTY
SHERIFFS OFFICE



EAST ALDINE
NEIGHBORHOOD
DEPOSITORY &
RECYCLING
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