

NEWS
NOTES

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Former Greenspoint Mall site slated for \$150 million industrial redevelopment

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

HOUSTON — The former Greenspoint Mall site in north Houston is set to become a \$150 million industrial park under plans announced by Lincoln and New York Life Investment Management.

The companies acquired the roughly 80-acre property at 12300 North Free-way, near the northeast corner of Interstate 45 and Beltway 8, for an undisclosed price. Their proposed CityNorth Industrial Park would include 1.2 million square feet of cross-dock and rear-load industrial buildings,



as well as retail and service space.

Demolition of the mall is expected to begin in October. The first phase of the redevelopment is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2028.

Lincoln estimates construction will support

about 300 jobs. Once the project is fully developed and occupied, its buildings could accommodate about 1,200 full-time workers. The developers have not announced any prospective tenants.

The complex is expected to serve large logistics and

distribution companies as well as smaller businesses seeking access to Interstate 45, Beltway 8 and the Hardy Toll Road.

“CityNorth Industrial Park will return a prominent property to productive use and support the continued growth of the Greenspoint community,” Kevin Wyatt, an executive vice president at Lincoln, said in a statement.

Fitness Connection, which continues to operate at the site, will remain as part of the redevelopment. Plans call for the gym to move into a new 45,500-square-foot build-to-suit facility.

Greenspoint Mall

opened in the 1970s and operated for nearly five decades before closing in 2024. The property had faced years of decline and unsuccessful redevelopment efforts.

The project is expected to receive support from the Greater Greenspoint Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, which the city of Houston created to help finance infrastructure, mobility projects and other public improvements in the area. The developers did not disclose details of any public funding.

Mayor John Whitmire

Continued. See GREENSPPOINT SITE SET FOR REDEVELOPMENT, Page 2

Harris County Sheriff Welcomes 64 New Deputies

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HARRIS COUNTY — A week that began with a Harris County deputy being shot in East Harris County ended with an arrest, expressions of gratitude and the graduation of 64 new deputies, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said.

On Wednesday evening, a sheriff’s deputy was shot while responding to a family disturbance in the 1100 block of Bayou Drive near the East Freeway in the Channelview area. The deputy was hospitalized and is expected to recover.

The shooting prompted a Blue Alert and an overnight search for the suspect.

On Thursday morning,



a resident who let dogs outside noticed them barking toward a shed near a wooded area and contacted authorities. The information

helped deputies locate the suspect, who was taken into custody without further incident. (KPRC)

Gonzalez credited the

community for its vigilance and thanked residents and public safety agencies that assisted in the search.

“Thank you for your vig-

ilance, your support and your prayers,” Gonzalez

Continued. See 64 NEW DEPUTIES TAKE OATH, Page 8

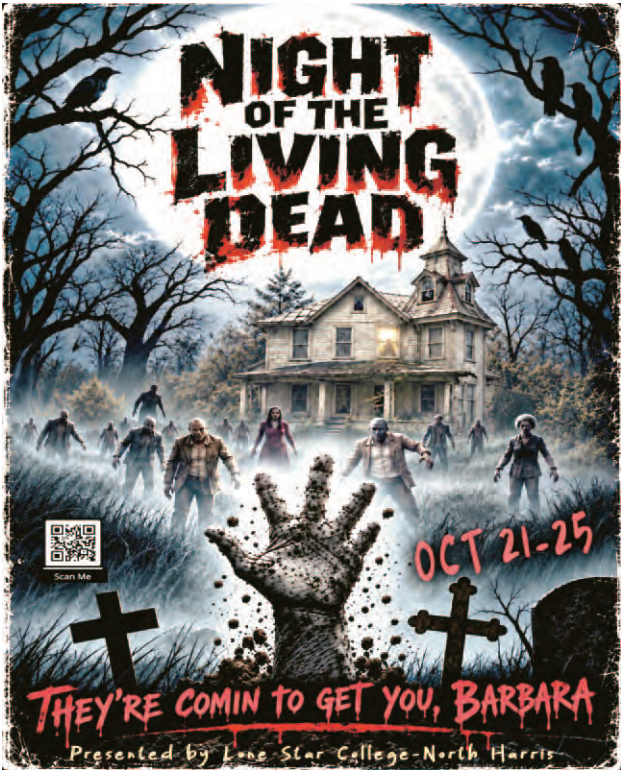
LSC-North Harris Theatre Brings ‘Night of the Living Dead’ to the Stage Oct. 21-25

HOUSTON (Sept. 23, 2026) — “They’re coming to get you, Barbara!”

The chilling warning that helped define a horror classic will take on new life when Lone Star College-North Harris Theatre presents “Night of the Living Dead” Oct. 21-25, bringing five performances filled with suspense, dark humor, and flesh-eating zombies to the stage.

“Night of the Living Dead” follows seven people trapped in an isolated farmhouse as the dead mysteriously return to life and begin attacking the living.

The nightmare begins after fallout from a satellite probe sent to Venus returns to Earth carrying mysterious radiation that transforms the dead into flesh-eating zombies. As the group struggles to sur-



Continued. See “NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD”, Page 2

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6
Texans look to get back on track against Titans:
No. 2 Georgia faces No. 7 Alabama in key SEC tilt

This could be a very interesting weekend in college football and the NFL as a number of key matchups are planned for the second week of October.

All eyes will be on Tuscaloosa, AL on Saturday night in prime time (6:30 p.m. on ABC) as No. 2-ranked Georgia visits No. 7-ranked Alabama. The winner of this one might pretty much assure itself of a berth in the College Football Playoff (CFP) and take a leg up in the SEC rankings.

While those two do battle on Saturday night, No. 1-ranked Texas will face arch rival Oklahoma in the Red River Rivalry in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Two weeks ago, Steve Sarkisian’s team picked up a huge road win with a 20-17 win at Tennessee, while the Sooners were routed at Georgia, 41-13. Things are not going well in Norman,



KEENEY’S
KORNER

By
MIKE KEENEY

but an upset win over their long-time rival could save their season. We shall see.

There’s another good one in the SEC at No. 11-ranked LSU takes on No. 24-ranked Kentucky, one of the surprise teams thus far this season. The Wildcats have an explosive offense and would like nothing more than to hand Tiger head coach Lane Kiffin his second loss of the season.

There’s also a good one in the Big 10 as No. 23-ranked UCLA, another surprise team so far, takes on No. 15 Oregon in a

conference elimination game for both teams.

Week 5 of the NFL season begins with Thursday Night Football as two desperate teams meet at Jerry World in Arlington as Tampa Bay, which lost its first three games and will be without starting QB Baker Mayfield (thumb injury) take on the Cowboys, who dropped two of their first three games. The loser of this one can pretty much kiss their playoff hopes goodbye.

Continued. See KEENEY’S KORNER, Page 5

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Mead Middle School briefly placed on secure status

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

NORTH HOUSTON — Mead Middle School was briefly placed on secure status Thursday after a report of a person in the surrounding neighborhood displaying a firearm, according to Aldine ISD.

The Aldine ISD Police Department responded to the area and conducted a sweep near the campus. Officers confirmed that the individual had a firearm, the district said.

The secure status was later lifted after the area was cleared. Aldine ISD reported that all students



and staff remained safe during the incident.

A secure status is used when a potential threat is reported outside a school. Under the response procedure, exterior doors are secured while normal activities inside the build-

ing continue.

The district has not released the identity of the individual involved or provided information about whether an arrest was made.

The incident remains under investigation.

Greenspoint site set for redevelopment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



told the Houston Chronicle the redevelopment would help restore the property while bringing jobs and businesses to Greenspoint and the Aldine Independent School District community. He cited the

planned Houston Police Department North Belt Station and Fire Station 84 as additional investments in the area.

Powers Brown Architecture is designing the project, Kimley-Horn is

serving as civil engineer and E.E. Reed Construction is the general contractor. Northmarq advised on the partnership between Lincoln and New York Life, while Moody Rambin provided brokerage services.

'Night of the Living Dead' presented by LSC-North Harris,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



vive inside the farmhouse, tensions rise and fear takes hold. With ravenous monsters closing in outside, the survivors increasingly turn on one another inside.

Presented by Lone Star College-North Harris Theatre, the production brings the terror of the cult classic to life while blending gripping horror with touches of dark humor. The audience is drawn into the action as the characters fight for survival, leading to a shocking theatrical ending.

Performances will take place at Lone Star College-North Harris, 2700 W.W. Thorne Blvd. in Houston. The performance schedule is:

Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$15. Audience members can also add an **Undead Treat Bag** for \$5. Limited to 10 per performance, the spooky treat bag is filled with sweet surprises for horror fans looking to add a little extra Halloween fun to their theater experience.

The production has an approximate runtime of one hour and 15 minutes and is recommended for audiences ages 16 and older.

Photography and video recording are not permitted during performances.

For more information about "Night of the Living Dead," visit <https://www.purplepass.com/events/386136-night-of-the-living-dead-oct-21st-2026>

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Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The East Aldine Mgmt District Defined Area will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at **2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive, Suite 200, Houston, Texas, 77039.**

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.

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.

FOR the proposal:	Bob Beasley	Sherry Curl
	Carlos Silva	Rocio Witte
	Reyes Garcia	Abel Garza
	Flor Zarzoza	

AGAINST the proposal:	
PRESENT and not voting:	
ABSENT:	Ruben A Salazar

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.

	Last Year \$1.2500 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.2500 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.0000 /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	0.00 %	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$269,801	\$284,306
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$269,801	\$284,306
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,372.51	\$3,553.83
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$181.31	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	5.38%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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

Aldine ISD Pharmacy Technician Program Opens a Career Path for Nimitz Graduate

By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

Aldine ISD’s pharmacy technician program helps students build health science knowledge and apply it through real-world experience at CVS.

When Kaitlynn Brown first heard about the program during her senior year at Nimitz High School, she knew very little about the profession.

A friend from the previous graduating class recommended the program, telling Kaitlynn it was fun and could lead to both a certification and a job after high school.

By her senior year, Kaitlynn had completed the coursework required for high school graduation and her associate degree. She had also progressed through Health Science coursework throughout high school and was ready for the pharmacy practicum.

So, she thought, “Why not?” That simple decision introduced her to a career she had never considered — and ultimately helped shape her plans for the future.

Today, the former Nimitz student is a second-year student at The University of Texas at Dallas, where she is majoring in biology and minoring in healthcare management. She plans to attend pharmacy school and earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree, with aspirations of becoming a medical liaison.

For Kaitlynn, it all began with an Aldine Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunity that let her take what she learned in the classroom into a real pharmacy through Aldine ISD’s partnership with CVS.

What Do Students Learn in Aldine ISD’s Pharmacy Technician Program? The pharmacy technician pathway is part of Aldine ISD’s health science offerings, giving students an opportunity to build foundational knowledge before applying those skills in a real-world health care setting.

Students can begin exploring health science and pharmacy-related careers as early as ninth grade. The pharmacy technician pathway begins with Principles of Health Science. It continues through a coherent sequence of Health Science courses that build the knowledge and skills needed for a pharmacy technician career. More focused pharmacy technician coursework and career preparation occur in upper-level courses during the junior and senior years.

During their senior year, eligible students can enroll in Practicum in Health Science – Pharmacy. The course provides pharmacy-specific instruction and the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through clinical hours at CVS.

Kaitlynn’s Health Science coursework progressed throughout high school: Principles of Health Science in ninth grade, Health Science Theory in 10th grade, Dual Credit Anatomy & Physiology in 11th grade, and the pharmacy practicum during her senior year.

Before entering the CVS experience, students learn about medical terminology, pharmacology, medication safety, infection control, professionalism, communication, and patient care. They also learn about pharmacy technicians’ responsibilities and the importance of accuracy and confidentiality.

“The greatest value is authenticity,” said Stephen James, Aldine ISD program director of career and technical education. “A classroom can teach students the knowledge and skills associated with pharmacy, but a real pharmacy allows students to see those skills being used with actual patients, professionals, technology, and workplace procedures.”

Through the CVS experience, students can see how the concepts they learn in health science courses translate into the day-to-day operations of a pharmacy.

They also gain exposure to pharmacy professionals and develop skills such as professional communication, customer service, organization, attention to detail, inventory management, and teamwork.

Just as importantly, the experience introduces students to health care workplace expectations.

“Students gain a better understanding of communication, teamwork, accountability and customer service,” James said. “Perhaps most importantly, they can determine whether pharmacy is truly a career they want to pursue.”

‘Pharmacy Elves’ Become a Career Possibility

When Kaitlynn began the program, she admits she had a limited understanding of what pharmacy technicians actually did.

“I honestly had no idea what pharmacy technicians did before starting the program,” she said.

A friend jokingly described pharmacy technicians as “pharmacy elves” — the pharmacist’s version of Santa’s little helpers.

That description may have given Kaitlynn a starting point, but her experience at CVS — some of her peers gained their experience at Walgreens — quickly gave her a much deeper understanding of the profession.

What surprised her most was the organization behind a busy pharmacy.

“There are so many moving parts in a pharmacy, but I learned how important teamwork, communication, and organization are to keeping everything running efficiently,” she said.

The experience also taught Kaitlynn lessons students cannot learn solely from a textbook.

Working alongside pharmacy staff required her to become accountable and independent. She learned to ask questions, support her fellow technicians, step in when someone needed help, and understand how her actions could affect the workplace and the patient experience.

“Textbook work is essential for learning the basics,” Kaitlynn said, “but actually working at CVS in person allowed me to be hands-on, grasp a deeper understanding of what was learned in the classroom, and put words on a page into action.”

Discovering a Future She Hadn’t Planned

Before entering the pharmacy technician program, Kaitlynn had been interested in anesthesia since her first year of high school.

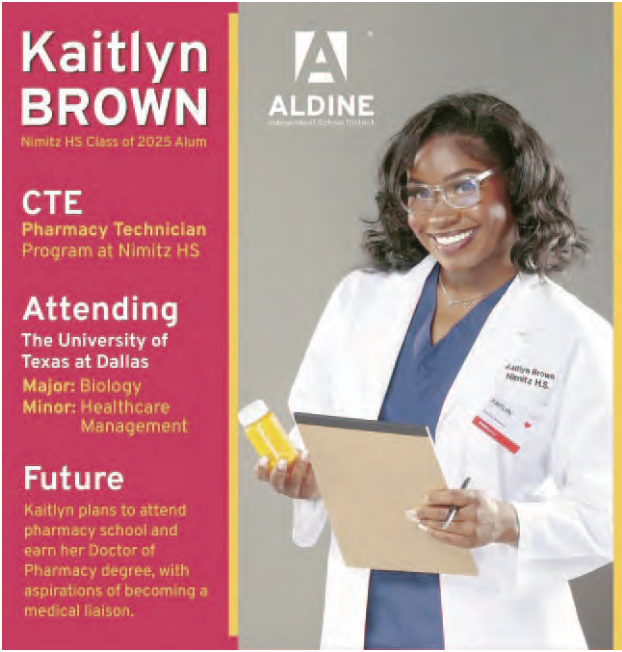
By her senior year, however, she wasn’t sure what she wanted to pursue.

Then she stepped into the pharmacy.

“Working in the pharmacy (CVS), learning the material, and everything in between sparked a passion in me that I never knew was there,” Kaitlynn said. “I genuinely enjoyed the process, and this program planted the seed that grew into my interest in pursuing a future in pharmacy and healthcare.”

For James, Kaitlynn’s experience illustrates one benefit of giving students opportunities to explore careers before they graduate.

“Kaitlyn is one student who stands out to me because she entered the program not knowing much about pharmacy,” James said. “She completed the program, earned her pharmacy technician certification, and gained hands-on experience with CVS. That experience helped her discover a real passion for pharmacy.”



Today, Kaitlynn is continuing to build on the foundation she developed at Nimitz, pursuing experiences that will prepare her for the next step in her pharmacy journey.

She said the experience has helped her narrow her goals and opened the door to additional opportunities, including studying abroad in the United Kingdom and preparing for an international shadowing experience.

For Kaitlynn, valedictorian of the Class of 2025, earning her pharmacy technician certification represents more than a credential.

“It means I am well-equipped with the skill set to maintain a career that assists in helping the world go around and open doors to opportunities in healthcare,” she said.

But more importantly, she said the accomplishment reminded her that she can take on difficult challenges and accomplish something meaningful through hard work and commitment.

‘Be All In’

Kaitlynn’s advice to current Aldine students considering the pharmacy technician pathway is simple:

“Be all in, and you won’t regret the outcome.”

Whether students ultimately pursue pharmacy or another career, she believes the experience gives them something valuable — knowledge, workplace skills, independence, teamwork, and a better understanding of what it means to work in healthcare.

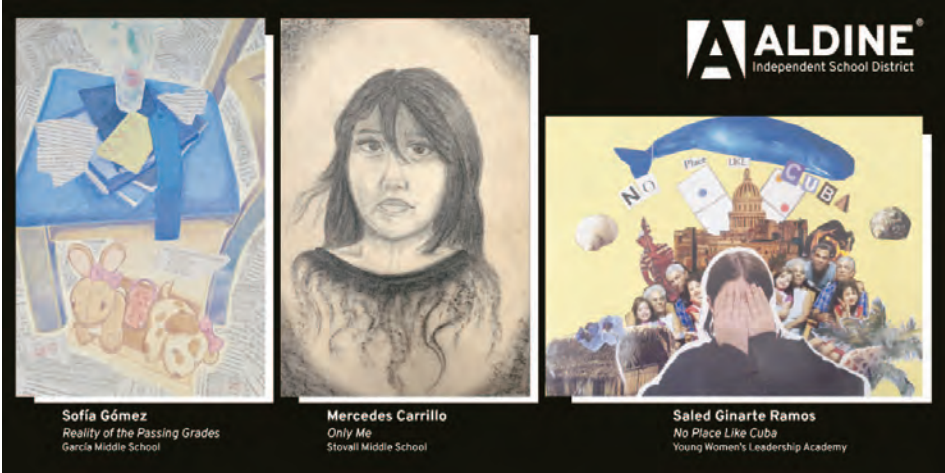
After completing the coursework required for high school graduation and her associate degree, Kaitlynn entered the pharmacy practicum ready to explore a new direction and thought, “Why not?”

She left with a certification, real-world experience, and something she didn’t expect to find: a clearer vision of her future.

“I accomplished a lot during my high school years, from graduating valedictorian with an associate’s degree, president of numerous clubs, an athlete, and so much more,” Kaitlynn said. “But amongst all those accolades, the one I might say I am most proud of is my pharmacy technician certification — and you will be too!”

Learn more about the Pharmacy Technician Program by visiting the Aldine ISD CTE Department website.

Aldine ISD Students Sweep Top Three Places in MASBA Art Competition



By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

Three Aldine ISD middle school students earned the top three awards in the 2026 Mexican American School Boards Association District Art Contest, receiving a combined \$2,250.

Three Aldine ISD middle school students earned the first-, second-, and third-place awards in the 2026 Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA) District Art Contest, showcasing the creativity and personal perspectives of Aldine student artists.

The annual competition, held alongside the MASBA Annual Conference in September, invites students to express their perspectives, identities, and stories through visual art. This year’s theme was “Nuestra Voz, Nuestro Futuro” — “Our Voice, Our Future.” This year’s conference took place in San Antonio, TX.

Aldine ISD submitted eight pieces to the competition. The three middle school winners received a combined \$2,250.

A Reflection on Growing Up
Sofia Gómez, an eighth grader at García Middle School when she submitted her artwork, earned first place and \$1,000 for Reality of the Passing Grades. Gómez is now a ninth grader.

Her mixed-media piece explores the dramatic change in workload students can experience as they move from elementary school into middle and high school.

Sofia said the work was inspired in part by her own transition into more demanding schoolwork.

A cardboard box filled with cartoon-like toys represents childhood, while a chair covered with books and school-related items represents the increasing demands of school. Sofia used warm colors for the childhood elements and cooler colors for the school-related items. The background is covered with school pa-

pers to reinforce the feeling of being overwhelmed by assignments.

Inspired by Henri Matisse’s use of bold, contrasting colors, Sofia said the artwork also reflects her own experience.

“I realized I have nostalgia for my childhood, despite being relatively young,” Sofia wrote in her artist statement.

Melinda Howard taught Sofia. A Portrait of Growing Up
Mercedes Carrillo, an eighth grader at Stovall Middle School, earned the second-place award and \$750 for Only Me, a charcoal self-portrait.

Mercedes used smoke-like imagery to represent the transition from childhood to adolescence.

“This is a charcoal self-portrait of me in the eighth grade,” Mercedes wrote. “The clothes are fading into smoke to represent me growing up and saying goodbye to the child I was.”

Mercedes’s teacher is Cherri Collins.

Nostalgia for Home
Saled Ginarte Ramos, a sixth grader at Aldine Young Women’s Leadership Academy, earned the third-place award and \$500 for No Place Like Cuba.

Saled created a collage using photographs and other materials to express her connection to Cuba, her culture, and her family. The piece reflects the nostalgia she feels for her home country and her desire for others to understand what Cuba means to her.

“My love for my country inspired me to do this artwork, showing the nostalgia I have toward Cuba,” Saled wrote.

Her teacher is Leida Vázquez.

Eight Students, Eight Perspectives

The three winning pieces came from eight artworks submitted by Aldine ISD students, each offering a different perspective.

Other student entries includ-

ed:

Valeria Hernández Hernández, an 11th grader at Aldine High School, created María Magdalena, a photograph reflecting her faith and connection to a religious tradition in San Luis Potosí. She said the candles in the photograph represent God’s trust in people and the light women bring to the world.

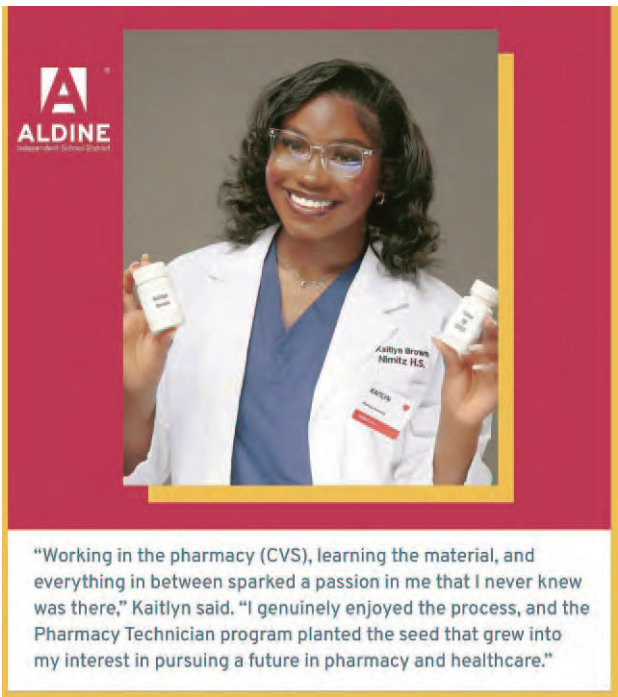
Lessly Uriás of Aldine Ninth Grade School created 6-Piece Woman, a Cubist-inspired work influenced by Pablo Picasso. The colorful exterior of the face represents how others see her, while the black-and-white interior represents how she feels inside.

Kimberly Rodríguez, an 11th grader at Carver High School, created Rhythm of a Blazing Heart, a linoleum print inspired by a friend’s passion for playing mariachi music. Kimberly used flowing and sharply angled lines, warm colors, and sheet music to capture the passion she sees when her friend performs.

Amanda Negrete, an 11th grader at Aldine Young Women’s Leadership Academy, created Ave Maria, inspired by her faith and her desire for peace in a world affected by war, poverty, and pollution.

Elizabeth Brooks, an 11th grader at Aldine Young Women’s Leadership Academy, created The Family Blessing, inspired by family, Hispanic cultural traditions, and religious imagery, including La Virgen María and representations of Madonna and Child.

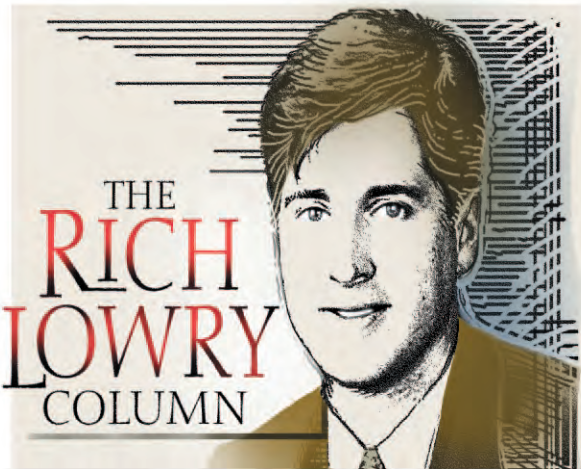
Together, the eight Aldine entries show how students use art to share personal stories — from the pressures of growing up and questions of identity to family, faith, music and cultural heritage. For Sofia, Mercedes and Saled, those stories earned the top three places in the middle school category. For all eight artists, the contest offered an opportunity to share their voices and visions for the future beyond their classrooms.



★

OPINION PAGE

★



The revolt against tariffs

In 2016, Donald Trump’s support for tariffs helped propel him to a shocking electoral victory. In 2026, his tariff policy may help tank Republicans in the midterms. This turnabout counts as a surprise of Trump’s second term, and an unwelcome one for the president and his party.

During his political ascent in 2015-2016, Trump exploited issues where there was a disconnect between popular and elite opinion, and trade was prominent among them. His protectionism — expressed in pungent and excoriating terms — poached traditional Democratic ideological territory and appealed to the working-class voters that allowed him to crash the traditional Democratic “Blue Wall” states. In sheer political terms, what could go wrong? Well, nothing — until he got his way.

It turns out that Liberation Day was the beginning of the end for any appreciable political support for his tariff policy. The assumption has usually been that the politics of tariffs favor protectionism — the benefits are very visible and focused for specific sectors and businesses, so they will be highly committed to maintaining them, while the costs are widely dispersed among people who won’t care so much.

The logic here has been turned on its head, though. The costs felt by all the people with no direct stake in protectionism are tanking support for the tariffs. On top of this, there’s the fact that Trump won the second time promising to reduce prices, whereas import duties increase them. The Yale Budget Lab estimates the costs to households as about \$1,000 a year. The shambolic and arbitrary rollout of the tariffs, as well as the dubious legal basis for many of them, hasn’t helped, either.

According to a poll that the libertarian Cato Institute conducted with Morning Consult, 74% of Americans say the tariffs increased the prices they pay, including 66% of Republicans. Fifty-three percent of the public says that the tariffs have weakened the economy, and 49% say they have hurt their quality of life. Regarding the latest trade spat with Canada, a Politico/Public First poll found that 56% of Americans think the tariffs against Canada were “wrong.” According to a CBS/YouGov survey, people prefer a candidate who opposes Trump’s tariffs over one who supports them, by 26 points.

Democratic Senate candidates are promising to reverse Trump’s tariffs, even the card-carrying protectionist Sherrod Brown is critical. And some Republican candidates in states with lots of trade with Canada have dissented from the trade war with Our Friendly Neighbor to the North.

The Midwest is a trouble spot for the GOP in the midterms, and it’s not hard to understand why. China cut its purchases of U.S. farm products in retaliation for Trump’s tariffs, and the farm sector has been slammed. Exports of wheat, cotton, beef and pork to China plummeted last year, and overall agricultural exports to China fell by 66%.

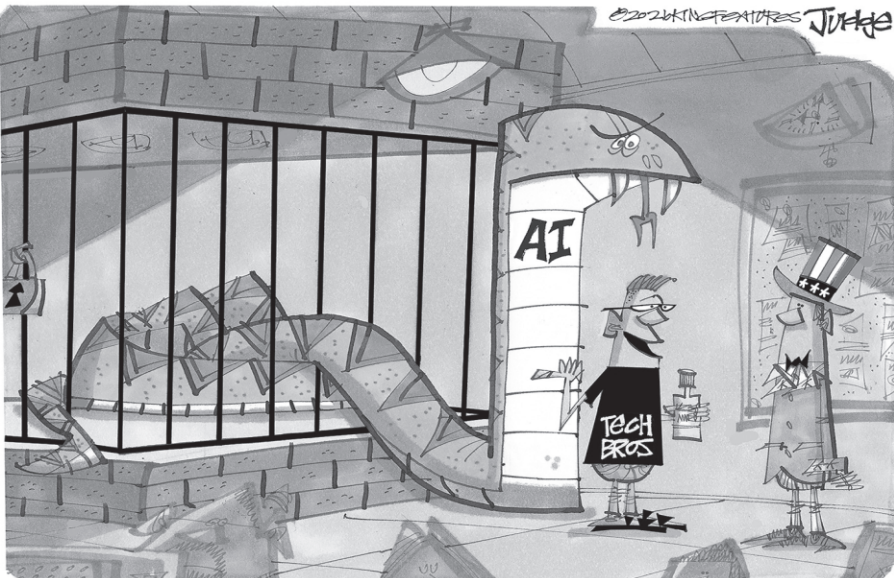
When you layer on top of this the price of diesel fuel jumping 80% and fertilizer increasing 15% because of the Iran war, it’s a formula for a revolt. The tariffs have led to a tangle a little more than a month before the election. Trying to address complaints about high grocery prices, the administration wants to relent on beef tariffs to help consumers, but farmers — hurt by other tariffs — are balking at a measure that will reduce prices at a time when they are struggling.

One way or another, someone is going to be unhappy. Even if Trump’s theory of the tariffs is correct — that higher import duties will lead to re-industrialization — the policy involves immediate disruption and increased costs in exchange for a protectionism-driven build-out that will take years to be fully achieved.

Long before then — indeed, by January — an opposition congressional majority hostile to the president and his tariffs may be entrenched in Washington. In politics, it’s often “careful what you wish for,” especially if it involves higher prices on an inflation-fatigued public.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voter Registration Deadline Nearing

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 general election is Oct. 5. Early voting starts Oct. 19 and runs through Oct. 30, according to the Texas Secretary of State’s office.

The last day for an application to vote by mail must be received by Friday, Oct. 23.

Voters can visit votetexas.gov to confirm they are registered to vote, see what is on the ballot where they live, and get other election-related information. That site is maintained by the Texas Secretary of State.

Meanwhile, [The Texas Tribune](#) reported that an unknown number of voter registration applications were delayed because of an error by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The agency failed to forward the applications, submitted online through its driver’s license portal, to county voter registrars.

Texas Democrats have called on Gov. Greg Abbott to investigate the problem.

With the Oct. 5 deadline approaching, the delayed registrations from DPS could add to processing backlogs at affected counties. A spokesperson for the secretary of state’s office said affected voters can still have their ballots counted as long as they submitted their registration before Oct. 5.

The DPS portal accounted for about 6 million voter registrations from 2020 to 2024. Texas has more than 18 million registered voters.

JUDGE: TEXAS MUST AIR-CONDITION ALL PRISONS BY END OF 2029

A federal judge has ordered the state to air-condition its entire prison system by the end of 2029, the [Austin American-Statesman](#) reported. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has estimated that could cost the state \$1.5 billion.

Nearly two-thirds of the 143,000 prisoners now held in Texas prisons do not have air-conditioning. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Robert Pittman said the prison agency had “minimized and misled” the court about the seriousness of the heat problem.

“The data that TDCJ



does not collect also paints a picture of an agency that is not attempting to meaningfully understand or document the dangers and impacts of heat,” Pitman wrote.

A TDCJ spokesperson took issue with the judge’s characterization.

“TDCJ has robust heat mitigation efforts in place to protect the safety of its population and staff,” Amanda Hernandez said in an email.

The state will appeal the ruling.

CAMP MYSTIC UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Camp Mystic, the Hill Country girls’ summer camp where 28 people died in the July 2025 floods, is under criminal investigation by the Texas Rangers, [KUT.org](#) reported. Fourteen search warrants were executed against family and staff members who ran the camp. KUT News obtained a copy of the affidavit filed against Tweety Eastland, whose husband, Dick, was one of the 28 who died.

The affidavit states the Rangers have probable cause to believe the camp’s leaders committed a number of criminal offenses, including manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, injury to a child, deadly conduct, and abandoning or endangering a child.

“These offenses were committed against child campers—including both deceased victims and surviving campers of the flood event,” Brant Johnston, an investigator with the Texas Rangers, wrote in the document.

The affidavits are intended to allow the Rangers to obtain electronic data from Tweety and other members of the Eastland family that owns the camp,

as well as camp staff members. A Kerr County state district judge approved it earlier this month.

Camp Mystic’s owners are being sued in civil court by more than a dozen families.

LAND COMMISSIONER BACKS VIRTUAL BORDER WALL

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham told the [Houston Chronicle](#) that a virtual border wall makes “the most sense” for much of West Texas, where plans to build a physical wall have drawn considerable opposition.

“The bottom line is there are places where physical barriers make sense, and there are places where they don’t. And we just want the solution that’s best for Texas,” Buckingham said in an interview with the Chronicle’s editorial board. “I think especially when you get to West Texas, a virtual wall, in my opinion, makes the most sense for most of that area.”

The Trump administration is moving to build a border wall across the more than 13 million acres the state agency controls, most of which is in West Texas. Gov. Greg Abbott has previously questioned the logic of building a physical wall in “rugged, isolated areas like Big Bend.”

Buckingham sent a cease-and-desist letter in July to U.S. Customs and Border Protection after a contractor for the agency was discovered clearing state-controlled land without permission.

Buckingham is running for reelection against Democrat Ben Flores, a former Bay City council member.

RED TIDE REPORTED OFF THE COAST OF GALVESTON

Biologists with the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) have begun receiving reports of a red tide bloom off the coast of Galveston. They are monitoring fish kills and taking water samples around Crystal Beach and southern Galveston Island.

“Water samples indicate moderate to high concentrations of red tide cells, and beachgoers are reporting mild to severe respiratory irritation resulting from the bloom,” the news release said.

Red tide is a naturally occurring concentration of a microscopic alga that produces a toxin. Dense concentrations are known as “blooms” and kill fish by paralyzing their central nervous systems. This can result in dead fish washing up on Gulf beaches.

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

In the Library



Sometimes I have to give myself a talking-to.

I got back from my whirlwind library tour and had a lot to do. I tried to get things done and felt like I was spinning my wheels, leaving tire tracks on my office floor.

One of the things I had to do was record the comments made on the surveys handed out at my performances. This was something I was dreading. I suspected most of them would be nice—and there is nothing harder for me to do than read nice things written about me. I get embarrassed. I don’t want to do it. But recording those surveys was one of the things on my long to-do list. So I started.

People were not asked to provide their names, but the first survey was signed “Pearl.” I remembered Pearl. She had bright blue eyes. She told me she had recently moved into a senior assisted-living facility.

Pearl wrote, “It was very good and very interesting. I like hearing about books.” Pearl and I chatted after the show. She had come to the library with a walker because she had taken a bad fall that spring and broken both her femurs. I told her that sounded terribly painful. She told me she had almost lost her life numerous times, and now she thought she should write about that: how she had almost died several times but was still alive and well—with a walker—attending a presentation at her local library.

I talked a lot about optimism in my presentation, and a woman came up to me afterward and asked, “Do you think there is a difference between optimism and hope?”

I told her I wasn’t sure and asked her what she thought. She appeared thoughtful for a moment. She was going straight from the library to a fish fry to support a political candidate who probably will not win. But she felt he wanted to do the right things, so she was campaigning for him anyway.

“I think hope is what you do even if you know it won’t work out,” she said. “Because it might work out for your kids—or your grandkids.”

I liked that a lot. Another man told me he was turning 90 later this year. When he heard a character in my book had a passionate romance at 86, he said he thought 86 was kind of young. I promised him that the next romance I wrote would involve mature adults.

I kept reading surveys. “You inspired me so much! I was feeling old and down—not anymore. I’m not a writer but a painter, and I am going to try.”

I had no idea who this painter was. I wondered if they would start painting. I wished they had told me in person so I could have encouraged them.

“Loved your enthusiasm and can-do attitude. I left feeling good today. Thank you.”

“Very uplifting. Food for my soul.”

“You inspired me to write my story for family.”

And that was when I gave myself a talking-to.

I saw how foolish I was to be embarrassed. I have been given the chance to provide a little optimism, a little entertainment and maybe a little hope. It isn’t a big thing that I do, but maybe it helps. And that is enough.

“People keep telling me I should write my story down!” Pearl said, right before she left.

“You should!” I agreed.

Pearl nodded thoughtfully. “I might have to do that. I hear they’re starting up a writing group in the library.”

Till next time,
Carrie

SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6

Texans look to get back on track against Titans:
No. 2 Georgia faces No. 7 Alabama in key SEC tilt

Speaking of desperate teams, the Texans, who lost their first three games, will look to get back on track against a very beatable Tennessee team in Nashville. DeMeco Ryans' team can ill afford to lose to a bad Titans team.

There's a big one in the NFC West as San Francisco, who have opened with three straight wins, visits the defending Super Bowl champs Seattle, which was upset at Washington two weeks ago.

Week five concludes with a good one on Monday Night Football as Buffalo visits the Los Angeles Rams. The Bills also won their first three games behind the arm and legs of QB Josh Allen, while the Rams dropped two of their first three games. This is sort of a big game for the Rams.

In District 14-6A play, Eisenhower hosts Spring on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium, while Nimitz visits Westfield on Thursday at 7 at Randall Reed Stadium in Spring. On Friday, MacArthur takes on Aldine at 7 at Thorne Stadium, while Davis visits Dekaney at Randall Reed Stadium.

Before we take an in depth look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 7-5 week brought the season record to a very respectable 35-11 (78%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL Spring at Eisenhower - Padriac McGinnis' Eagles host the Spring Lions on Thursday at 7



p.m. in Thorne Stadium. The Eagles dropped their 14-6a opener to Westfield two weeks ago. Spring returns eight offensive and seven defensive starters from last year's 2-8 team. Ike will look for a big night from running back Elijah Dixon (307 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Eisenhower 26, Spring 20

Nimitz at Westfield - Cornelius Harmon's Cougars head to Spring on Thursday to take on Westfield at 7 p.m. at Randall Reed Stadium. The Cougars opened district play with a 61-0 win over Aldine two weeks ago, while Westfield opened with a 47-10 win over Eisenhower. Westfield returns five offensive and six defensive starters from last year's 6-5 team and are led by QB Zekedrick Love (218 passing yards). My pick, Westfield 33, Nimitz 18

MacArthur vs. Aldine - Blake Ware's Generals take on Charles Black's Mustangs as the oldest football rivalry in Aldine ISD is renewed on Friday at 7 p.m. in Thorne Stadium. MacArthur dropped its league opener to Davis two weeks ago, while Aldine fell to Nimitz. The Generals will look from big nights from QB Lance Nero (168 passing yards/276 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and running back

Korey Fisher (332 yards, 3 TDs). My pick, MacArthur 34, Aldine 10

Davis at Dekaney - Kelvin Chatman's Falcons head to Randall Reed Stadium in Spring at 7 p.m. on Friday. Davis opened district play by putting up 49 points against MacArthur. The Falcons high-scoring offense is led by QB Eddie Pineda (534 yards, 8 TDs), running back Kobe Miles (684 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver David Richardson (13 receptions, 152 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Davis 31, Dekaney 20

NCAA UCLA at Oregon - This is an elimination game in the Big 10 as No. 23-ranked UCLA takes on No. 15-ranked Oregon. UCLA won three of its first four games and has put up some big offensive numbers under first-year head coach Bob Chesney. The Bruins are led by QB Nico Iamaleva (820 yards, 4 TDs), running back Wayne Knight (445 yards, 9 TDs) and wideout Semaj Morgan (14 receptions, 174 yards, 2 TDs). The Ducks may have saved their season two weeks ago with a blowout win over USC as QB Dante Moore (926 yards, 9 TDs) suffered a concussion after taking a cheap shot from a USC linebacker. Moore should

be cleared for this game and he will team with running back Jordan Davison (260 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers Evan Stewart (22 receptions, 278 yards, 3 TDs) and DaKorien Moore (14 receptions, 234 yards, 4 TDs) to outscore the Bruins. My pick, Oregon 36, UCLA 33

Texas vs. Oklahoma - No. 1-ranked Texas takes on arch rival Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas' Fair Park as the Red River Rivalry is renewed. Two weeks ago, the 'Horns picked up a huge road win with a 20-17 victory over then No. 14 Tennessee, while the Sooners were laylaid at Georgia, 41-13. OU is struggling on offense behind QB John Mateer (883 yards, 8 TDs/4 interceptions). Things may not get much better this week when he faces a UT defense that recorded 10 sacks against the Vols, led by defensive end Collin Simmons with five sacks. Simmons did hurt his team with a stupid unsportsmanlike penalty, but head coach Steve Sarkisian the issue has been resolved and won't happen again. We shall see. Look for UT QB Arch Manning (865 yards, 7 TDs), running backs Hollywood Smothers (198 yards, 2 TDs) and Ralek Brown (196 yards, 4 TDs) and wideouts Ryan Wingo (19 receptions, 239 yards, 2 TDs) and Cam Coleman (12 receptions, 208 yards, 4 TDs) to have big days as the 'Horns continue OU's miserable season. My pick, Texas 31, Oklahoma 13

LSU at Kentucky - This could be a good one in the SEC as No. 11 LSU visits No. 24 Kentucky, which has been one of the surprise teams thus far in the 2026 season under first-year head coach Will Stein. The Wildcats already own a road win at Texas A&M, while the Tigers also dispatched the Aggies, 35-6 two weeks ago. Kentucky is led by QB Kenny Minchey (876 yards, 8 TDs), running backs Jason Patterson (326 yards, 3 TDs) and CJ Baxter (313 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Kenny Darby (13 receptions, 226 yards, 2 TDs). LSU has some offensive firepower of its own behind QB Sam Leavitt (1,044 passing yards, 5 TDs)/220 rushing yards, 6 TDs). Leavitt injured his hamstring, so it's unknown if he will play in this game. Head coach Lane Kiffin has a capable backup in Landen Clark, who scored two rushing TDs in the rout of the Aggies. LSU also has a capable runner in Dillon Jones (348 yards, 4 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Jackson Harris (11 receptions, 280 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Kentucky to hang around in this game, but look for the LSU defense to make a few plays down the stretch to pick up a big road win. My pick, LSU 26, Kentucky 23

Georgia at Alabama - The Game of the Week in college football pits No. 2-ranked Georgia against No. 7 Alabama in prime

time (6:30 p.m., ABC). Last year, Kelon DeBoer's team picked up a big road win against Georgia so Kirby Smart's team would like to return the favor this time around in Tuscaloosa. Both teams have explosive offenses as Georgia has averaged 54 points in their first four games, while 'Bama has averaged 48 points in its first four games. The 'Dawgs also have a solid defense and have allowed just 13 points per game thus far, while the Crimson Tide has allowed 20.5 points per game. Both teams have effective QB as Georgia is led by Gunner Stockton (754 passing yards, 10 TDs/100 rushing yards), while 'Bama is led by sophomore Keelon Russell (1,129 passing yards, 8 TDs/168 rushing yards, 3 TDs). Both teams have solid runners in Georgia's Nate Frazier (202 yards, 5 TDs) and 'Bama has Daniel Hill (225 yards, 4 TDs) and both teams have big-play wide receivers as Craig Dandridge (8 receptions, 176 yards) and Talyn Taylor (9 receptions, 169 yards, 3 TDs), while the Tide will counter with Ryan Coleman-Williams (17 receptions, 333 yards, 3 TDs) and Lotzeir Brooks (17 receptions. 256 yards, 1 TD). This game could come down to the more experienced QB, and that would be Stockton. Let's see if the stage is too big for Russell. My pick, Georgia 26, Alabama 24

NFL Tampa Bay at Dallas - Week five begins with Thursday Night Football and will feature a couple of disappointing teams thus far this season as Tampa Bay visits Dallas. The Bucs lost their first three games and also starting QB Baker Mayfield, who is out three weeks with a dislocated thumb. Dallas, meanwhile, dropped two of its first three games, the most frustrating coming two weeks ago in Brazil when they gift wrapped a 34-31 last-second win by the Ravens with some questionable calls in the waning seconds of the game. There is little room for error for the Pokes, so look for QB Dak Prescott (780 yards, 7 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (169 yards, 3 total TDs) and wideouts CeeDee Lamb (20 receptions, 309 yards, 3 TDs) and George Pickens 16 receptions, 150 yards) to have big games as they take care of business on Thursday night. My pick, Dallas 33, Tampa Bay 16

Houston at Tennessee - Speaking of struggling teams, the Texans have been perhaps the biggest disappointment thus far as they lost their first three games to start the season. DeMeco Ryan's team needs to take care of business against a pretty bad Tennessee team. Look for QB C.J. Stroud (794 yards, 3 TDs) to get the offense going (about time) and it would help if running back David Montgomery (103 yards, 3

total TDs) could get going. It would also help to get big-play wide receiver Nico Collins back on the field after he missed a couple of games with yet another hamstringing injury. Look for the Houston defense to play better in this one as defensive end Will Anderson Jr. (4 sacks) makes it a long day for Tennessee second-year QB Cam Ward (504 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Houston 27, Tennessee 12

San Francisco at Seattle - A big early-season game in the NFC West pits the 49ers against the defending Super Bowl champs in Seattle. SF has been the hottest team out of the gates winning its first three behind a potent offense led by QB Brock Purdy (789 yards, 9 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (166 rushing yards, 3 TDs/13 receptions, 104 yards), wideout Deebo Samuel (9 receptions, 159 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (12 receptions, 174 yards, 3 TDs). That until will face a Seahawks defense that played well in its first two games, but gave up 33 points to an average Washington team two weeks ago that started backup QB Marcus Mariota two weeks ago. Seattle has some weapons of its own on offense and got starting QB Sam Darnold (392 yards, 4 TDs) back in the Washington game. He also has a solid running in rookie running back Jadarion Price (169 yards) and the best wide receiver in the game in Jaxon Smith-Njigba (27 receptions, 405 yards, 6 TDs). Look for Seattle to play well on both sides of the ball as they let the 49ers know they aren't going to give up their division title without a fight. My pick, Seattle 26, San Francisco 20

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams - Week 5 concludes with a good one as the Bills head cross country to take on the Rams in what could be a preview of SB 61. Buffalo won its first three games behind QB Josh Allen (786 passing yards, 5 TDs/114 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back James Cook (346 yards, 2 TDs), tight end Dalton Kincaid (14 receptions, 263 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver DJ Moore (11 receptions, 167 yards, 1 TD). The Rams lost two of their first three games and need to get going. QB Matthew Stafford (872 yards/6 TDs) has gotten off to a solid start. He's getting help on offense from running back Kyren Williams (214 rushing yards, 1 TD/11 receptions, 106 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Davante Adams (18 receptions, 358 yards, 2 TDs). It would help Stafford if star wide receiver Puca Nacua (5 receptions, 74 yards in one game) would return from a groin injury. Look for the Rams to put four quarters together as they win a wild one on Monday Night Football. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 33, Buffalo 31

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LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL
Aldine Eisenhower 37, Aldine MacArthur 16
Aldine 0, Aldine Davis 49
Aldine Nimitz 31, Spring Dekaney 14

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL
THURSDAY, OCT. 8
Eisenhower vs. Spring, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Nimitz at Westfield, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 9
Davis at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium
MacArthur at Aldine, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPT. 15-OCT. 15

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

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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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JOHN 5:39

"Woman Reading" by Rembrandt (1634)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lot (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which king wanted to see miracles when the arrested Jesus was before him? Pilate, Shishak, Herod, Solomon
3. From Judges 3, who was the left-handed Benjamite who killed Eglon? Geshem, Agag, Ehud, Joram
4. How many beasts rising out of the sea did Daniel have a dream about? 4, 7, 13, 20
5. From Judges 1:6, which king had his thumbs and toes cut off? David, Adoni-Bezek, Josiah, Herod
6. Whose biblical name meant "messenger"? Aaron, Moses, Samuel, Malachi

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Herod, 3) Ehud, 4) Four, 5) Adoni-Bezek, 6) Malachi

Hardcore trivia fans? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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From left, Arturo Castro, Jessica Biel, John Cena, Teyonah Parris and Sam Richardson star in "Matchbox: The Movie."

Matchbox: The Movie

"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" (PG-13) — The fourth installment in Tom Holland's "Spider-Man" film series is finally out to rent on Oct. 6 after its legendary run in theaters, where it became the third-highest-grossing film of all time! (Luckily, Marvel isn't holding back with on-demand streaming of the film, like Universal is with Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey.") Zendaya ("The Odyssey") and Jacob Batalon ("The Wrecking Crew") are back in their roles from the previous three films, while Jon Berthal's Punisher makes his first appearance in the series. More newcomers include Florence Pugh ("Thunderbolts"), who joins the cast as her MCU character Yelena Belova, and Sadie Sink ("Stranger Things") makes her debut in the MCU as Jean Grey. The film picks up four years after Dr. Strange's spell wipes Peter's (Holland) existence off the face of the

planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Animals" (R) — After teaming up with his long-time buddy Matt Damon for action-thriller film "The Rip," Ben Affleck is back on Netflix with this crime thriller, co-starring Kerry Washington ("Wake Up Dead Man") and Gillian Anderson ("The Julia Set"). "Animals" follows Los Angeles mayoral candidate Mark Kimball (Affleck), whose son suddenly gets kidnapped during his political campaign. The kidnapper demands a ransom, but with all his money spent on his campaign, Mark is forced to resort to more dangerous methods of getting his child back. In turn, amid the chaos, secrets from his and his wife's past emerge that they never expected to come to light. Steven Yeun ("The Rip") and Adriana Paz ("A Mouthful of Ash") round out the rest of the cast. Stream it on Oct. 9! (Netflix)

"Avatar: Seven Havens" (TV-PG) — If you have any Zillennials in your home, you know the chokehold that "Avatar: The Last Airbender" still has on them. It's long regarded as one of the best animated fantasy series of all time and introduced us to beloved characters like Aang, Katara, Zuko, Appa and more. Shortly after the original "Avatar" series ended, a sequel series, "The Legend of Korra," aired from 2012 to 2014. Now, 12 years later, a third series is set to premiere on Oct. 9, following Korra's Avatar successor, Pavi, who's also a reincarnation of Korra. Taking place 225 years after "Korra," Pavi and her twin sister, Nisha, team up to save the Seven Havens before an apocalyptic event destroys their world. (Paramount+)

"Matchbox: The Movie" (PG-13) — After the \$1 billion feat that "Barbie" (2023) achieved in theaters, Mattel had no choice but to wonder, "What if we made movies about every iconic toy we have?" However, because "Masters of the Universe" bombed, they decided to go for a streaming-only release for this action-comedy film based on the Matchbox toy cars. John Cena ("Coyote vs. Acme") leads the film as spy and former soldier Sean Walker, who reconnects with the childhood friends he used to play cars with. But while they're at the bar, the entire group gets drugged and kidnapped by a group of criminals who are searching for a nuclear warhead; and even though his past almost gets his old friends killed, they decide to help Sean in an attempt to steal the bomb and clear their names. Check it out on Oct. 9. (Apple TV)

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Q: Has Catherine Zeta-Jones retired from acting? Also, has she ever starred in anything with her husband, Michael Douglas? — R.B.

A: While Catherine Zeta-Jones' level of stardom isn't as high as it was during the earlier part of her career, when she starred in movies like "The Mask of Zorro" and "Chicago" (the latter of which she won an Oscar for), she's still acting — a lot. She currently plays Morticia Addams in the Netflix series "Wednesday," and right before this, she starred in two short-lived shows: "National Treasure: Edge of History" on Disney+ and "Prodigal Son" on Fox.

If you missed it, be sure to check out her portrayal of the late, great film star Olivia de Havilland in the TV miniseries "Feud" (on Hulu), opposite Jessica Lange's Joan Crawford. Even though she wasn't nominated for an Emmy, it's a series that's worth watching for its fabulous depiction of an on-set rivalry during Hollywood's Golden Age.

Also, Zeta-Jones isn't slowing down anytime soon. She's co-starring with Sir Anthony Hopkins in the upcoming movie "A Visit to Grandpa's," which takes place in her native Wales, and you can currently catch her in the new Amazon Prime Video series "Kill Jackie."

As for her hubby, Michael Douglas, they both starred in the Oscar-nominated film "Traffic" in 2000, but didn't share any scenes together. They actually had met two years earlier at a film festival and tied the knot a month before "Traffic" premiered.

Q: When's the new season of "The Last of Us" coming out? I'm still upset that Pedro Pascal isn't in it anymore. He's my favorite actor. — H.S.

A: While the third season of the hit HBO series "The Last of Us" was renewed back in April 2025, like most cable and streaming series these days, there can be years between a new set of episodes. According to HBO's CEO Casey Bloys, we do know that the magical year will be 2027 — but not before then.

Recently, it was announced that the great John Goodman ("The Righteous Gemstones") has joined the cast, along



Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones

with two new actors — Laura Bailey and Ian Alexander — who incidentally did voice work for the video-game version of "The Last of Us."

Q: I thought Ben Stiller's daughter was really good in "The Comeback." Is she going to be in anything else soon? — M.G.

A: Ben Stiller grew up with two hilarious actor parents — Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller, who formed their own comedy duo. The funny genes are strong in their family and in Ben's wife, Christine Taylor ("The Brady Bunch Movie"). So, it's no wonder that their daughter, Ella Stiller, appears to be a natural as well. She played Lisa Kudrow's accident-prone assistant in the HBO series "The Comeback" and also had a recurring role in "And Just Like That ..."

Next up for Ella is the CBS legal drama series "Cupertino," where she'll be a series regular alongside Mike Colter ("Luke Cage") and Busy Philipps ("Girls5eva").

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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. Word is different. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Shovel is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Back of stool is added. 6. Mouth is different.

October 5, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Use a squeegee
- 5 ACLU concerns
- 8 Oodles
- 12 Valhalla VIP
- 13 — Jima
- 14 Slightly
- 15 Reveals by accident
- 17 California valley
- 18 LAX and JFK overseer
- 19 Bad spell
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Young bloke
- 22 Used to be
- 23 Skewered Thai recipe
- 26 Beach robes
- 30 Four Corners st.
- 31 Gearwheel tooth
- 32 Barrett or Jaffe
- 33 Pond floater
- 35 Unclothed
- 36 Long lunch?
- 37 Tier
- 38 Teapot feature
- 41 Binge
- 42 Hiatus
- 45 Galley gear
- 46 Legendary gossip columnist
- 48 Vicinity
- 49 Soul, to Sartre
- 50 Eager
- 51 Drudge
- 52 PX patrons
- 53 Trawler gear
- 9 Final notice
- 10 Clock reading
- 11 Swizzle
- 16 Horse-drawn carriage
- 20 Klutz
- 21 Revolving tray
- 22 Witty one
- 23 Bando of baseball
- 24 "Exodus" hero
- 25 Up to
- 26 Massachusetts cape
- 27 Fine, to NASA
- 28 Compass dir.
- 29 Blue
- 31 Taxi
- 34 Impose
- 35 Egg drinks
- 37 Demolishes
- 38 Daytime drama
- 39 Rid of rind
- 40 Sweet sandwich
- 41 Rock's Hendrix
- 42 Donate
- 43 Bickering
- 44 Profs' degrees
- 46 Trail the pack
- 47 "Sheesh!"

DOWN

- 1 Wild canine
- 2 Concept
- 3 Pocket bread
- 4 Em halves
- 5 Ticked off
- 6 Candy sold in twos
- 7 Soak (up)
- 8 Breaking point

Trivial Pursuit

1. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Invisible Man"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the Topkapi Palace located?

3. ASTRONOMY: How long is a year on the planet Mars?

4. MOVIES: What is the name of the sea witch in the animated film "The Little Mermaid"?

5. ANATOMY: What is the average lifespan of a red blood cell?

6. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMI?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the three secondary colors in traditional color theory?

8. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features the Bluth family?

9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of jellyfish commonly called?

10. GAMES: How many squares are on a checkerboard?

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Trivial Pursuit Answers: 1. H.G. Wells; 2. Istanbul, Turkey; 3. 687 Earth days; 4. Ursula; 5. 120 days; 6. 2,001; 7. Orange, green and purple; 8. "Arrested Development"; 9. A smack; 10. 64

64 new deputies take oath in Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



said. He also thanked HCSO personnel and public safety partners who worked through the night.

Less than 24 hours later, Gonzalez said he had the opportunity to take part in what he called his favorite part of the job — pinning badges on 64 new deputies from Basic Peace Officer Course Class B2-2025.

The class ranges in age from 22 to 51. Eight graduates are women, while 15 are military veterans. Many grew up in the Houston area, while others came from 12 other states, including Hawaii, California and New York.

The class also includes recruits from five countries outside the United States: Mexico, Estonia, Nigeria, Portugal and Afghanistan. Two graduates were sponsored by Precinct 4 partners.

Several graduates had badges pinned on them by family members, including a sister, brother or father who already serves in law enforcement.

Gonzalez said he was especially proud that every member of the class passed the state peace officer licensing examination on the first attempt. He said it was the fifth class to ac-



complish the feat, crediting both the recruits and academy instructors.

Notable graduates included:

- **Raymond Mosley** — Top Cadet and Valedictorian
 - **Justice Mosley** — Top Gun and Top Physical Fitness
 - **Brandon Arosell** — Completed the pursuit-driving course with no errors
 - **Chelsea Mayer** — Most Improved, increasing her sit-up total from nine to 56
- During the ceremony, Gonzalez asked the new deputies to picture the first person who will call them for help.
- “That could be you, or your mom, or the family down the street on a really bad day,” he said. “They

might only have a few minutes with that person, and those minutes matter a lot.”

Gonzalez also thanked the families who supported the graduates through early mornings, long training days and missed birthdays.

“Part of that badge is yours,” he told them.

He encouraged residents to introduce themselves to new deputies and to report suspicious activity.

For emergencies, residents should call 911. The Harris County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number is 713-221-6000.

“This week proved that one call can change everything,” Gonzalez said. “Take care of each other.” (Source: Harris County Sheriff's Office)

Aldine ISD P.E. Coach Ashton Brown to Join Prairie View A&M Sports Hall of Fame



By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

Goodman Elementary School Head P.E. Coach Ashton Brown, an Eisenhower High School graduate and Aldine ISD educator, will be inducted into Prairie View A&M University's Sports Hall of Fame in October as a member of the 2005 men's cross-country team.

For Brown, the upcoming honor is more than a celebration of athletic accomplishments from two decades ago. It is an opportunity to reconnect with teammates, remember the coaches who helped shape his life, and reflect on a journey that ultimately brought him back home to Aldine.

His first reaction? “Wow, 20 years ago? I'm getting old!”

The honor, however, quickly brought back memories of the brotherhood he shared with his teammates and the hard work that helped make the team special.

Brown graduated from Eisenhower High School in 2003, where he competed at the state level for two years and earned All-Greater Houston honors. He continued his athletic career at Prairie View A&M and graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. He later earned a master's degree in educational administration in 2009.

One of Brown's favorite Prairie View memories involves a 12-mile Sunday run on the back roads, with then-coach Clifton Gillard following the runners in his green pickup truck.

“I loved running, but that day I somehow ended up riding in the back of the truck!” Brown recalled with a laugh.

Coach Gillard, whom Brown describes as a father figure and a major reason he chose Prairie View A&M, has since passed away, making those memories even more meaningful.

“My teammates and I worked hard, and those experiences built a bond



and discipline I still carry today,” Brown said.

From Athlete to Aldine ISD Educator

Brown initially began college as a business major with a minor in communication. But as he reflected on his interests and his future, he realized his passion was working with children.

That realization eventually led him to education.

Brown began his Aldine ISD career at Thomas Gray Elementary School in 2008 as a P.E. assistant, working under Coach Gerome Wiltz, whom he credits as an important mentor. He has spent the past 15 years at Goodman Elementary, where he has found his purpose in helping students grow both physically and personally.

“Our students come from different backgrounds and face different challenges, and what I enjoy most is being able to support them, encourage them, and watch them grow,” Brown said. “Seeing a student gain confidence, learn something new, or realize they are capable of more than they thought is one of the most rewarding parts of what I do.”

Brown often returns to a question posed by Aldine ISD P.E. Coordinator Kenneth Hernández: “What is your why?”

“My ‘why’ is to mentor, guide young minds, and help students learn to value themselves mentally and physically,” Brown said.

For Brown, that purpose is especially meaningful because he understands the impact a coach or mentor can have on a young person.

“There have been times when I considered leaving education to pursue some of my other passions, but my students always remind me why I am here,” he said. “Realizing that I can be that person for a child reminds me that I am here for a reason.”

A Journey Back Home Brown hopes his students can see his journey as an example of what is possible.

“I hope my students see that where you start does not determine how far you can go,” he said.

The lessons he learned through athletics — commitment, hard work, discipline, perseverance and dedication — continue to guide him as an educator. He also wants his students to carry them beyond the gym.

Brown is proud to be an Aldine ISD graduate and now an Aldine educator.

“I want every student who walks through my gym to know that they are cared for, valued, and have the potential to do great things,” he said.

And if he could offer advice to the young Ashton Brown he was at Eisenhower, he would keep it simple: Stay true to yourself, keep moving forward, and trust the journey.

His journey has taken him from the halls of Eisenhower High School to the cross-country trails of Prairie View A&M, and ultimately back to the district that helped shape him — where he now spends his days helping the next generation discover just how far they can go.

Comptroller's office fires dozens of employees

By Gary Borders,

The Texas comptroller's office fired 41 employees recently, after agency leaders were told to submit lists of people to be terminated, [The Dallas Morning News](#) reported. Comptroller Don Huffines, appointed to the post by Abbott last summer and the Republican nominee in November, campaigned on shrinking the size of the state's government.

In a recent interview, Huffines defended how he is doing his job since taking the helm.

“You're going to hear a lot about how I'm changing the agency, consolidating different divisions,” he said. “I'm making it more efficient.”

The 41 terminations make up less than 2% of the agency's nearly 3,000 full-time employees.

Huffines faces Democratic nominee Sarah Eckhardt, a state senator from Austin. Eckhardt was critical of the firings, saying they would have a financial impact on the state's revenue.

“Not only does a reduction-in-force



Texas Comptroller Don Huffines

reduce the comptroller's ability to collect lawfully levied taxes, but a reduction in institutional knowledge and expertise also significantly reduces their ability to collect,” she said.

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