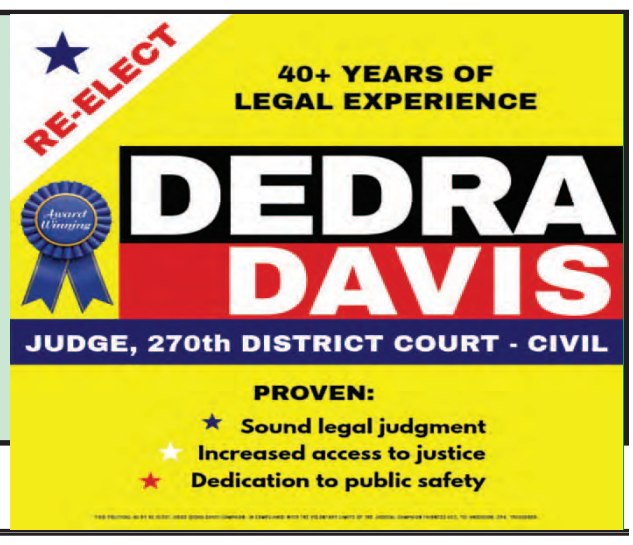
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VOL. 50, NO. 40 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



NEWS NOTES

Scholarship Application

Spring 2027: The semester for which the Lone Star College Foundation scholarships are being awarded.
When: Nov. 1: The deadline to submit the scholarship application.
-Lone Star College Foundation Scholarship Application. Students can apply online at LONESTAR.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt at LSC-East Aldine Center

Description: Gather your friends and sharpen your wits for a scavenger hunt filled with cryptic riddles, eerie surprises, and haunting challenges. Can you solve every clue before the day is over?
Date: Friday, October 30
Location: LSC-East Aldine Center

Free Math TSI Tutoring Available at LSC-East Aldine Center

Description: Need help passing the Math TSI? Lone Star College is offering free practice and on-campus tutoring to help you build confidence before the test. The program includes a free ALEKS practice platform, step-by-step support from friendly math tutors, and self-paced learning. It is open to new LSC students, those preparing for the TSI, and anyone looking for extra math practice.
Start practicing Fall 2026
· Mondays: 2–5 p.m.
· Tuesdays: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
· Wednesdays: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Place: LSC-East Aldine Center (Check in at the front desk) for more information thi.tran@LoneStar.edu

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

Avalos P-Tech Fall Festival

Food | Games | Trunk-or-Treat | Car Show
Time: 4-7pm
Location; 2430 Aldine Mail RTE RD.
Houston, TX 77039
Free entry

Talarico Visits North Houston With Local Leaders

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITE

HARRIS COUNTY, — Texas Senate candidate James Talarico made a campaign stop in North Houston, where Houston Mayor John Whitmire and U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia greeted him during an afternoon of last October 21, visit to Garcia's home.

The visit was part of a day of campaign appearances across the Houston area as Talarico continued reaching out to voters ahead of the election.



From Left to Right - U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, Houston Mayor John Whitmire, and U.S. Senate Democrat candidate Jame Talarico.

Garcia, who represents a Houston-area congressional district, and Whitmire joined Talarico during the stop, bringing together local and state political figures as the Senate campaign gained attention in the region.

Talarico, a Democratic state representative, is campaigning for the U.S. Senate seat in Texas. His Houston-area appearances come as candidates work to connect with voters and discuss issues affecting communities throughout the state.

The North Houston stop placed the campaign in a community that is part of the broader Houston metropolitan area, where issues such as the cost of living, health care, public services and economic opportunity are important topics for many residents.

The visit was one of several campaign activities scheduled across the Houston region on past October 21..

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Named to District Administration's 2026–27 DA 100

By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

National recognition reflects a student-centered leadership approach as Aldine ISD continues sustained academic growth and expands opportunities for students

About District Administration's DA 100

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney has been named to District Administration magazine's 2026–27 DA 100, which recognizes K-12 leaders focused on improving student outcomes and driving change through ideas, insight and action.


Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Announced Oct. 20, the recognition comes as Aldine ISD continues to build on measurable academic gains and strengthen opportunities for students across the district.

"I am honored to be recognized among the DA 100, but this recognition reflects the people who make a difference for students every day," Goffney said. "In Aldine, teachers, campus leaders, staff, families and community partners work together to ensure students have the strong instruction, support and opportunities they need to succeed. Our progress belongs to them and, most importantly, to our students. We will keep building on what is working and creating mean-

Continued. See GOFFNEY EARNS NATIONAL, Page 8

Newly Constructed HPD Station Opens in October

NORTH HOUSTON - The City of Houston will celebrate the grand opening of the Houston Police Department's North Belt Station on October 27, 2026.

The new 27,000-square-foot station, located on Gears Road in the District's northwest quadrant, will be home to the North Belt Division, as well as other HPD units that serve the area. The land for the station, which is located next door to Houston Fire Department Station 84, was purchased and donated to the City by the N. Houston Development Corp/TIRZ 11



The new 27,000 sq. ft. station will be home to the North Belt Division and other HPD units that serve the area.

(NHDC). NHDC also provided $12 million towards the construction of the facility.This project marks the first time in City of Houston history that a joint HPD & HFD base of operations has been established, saving re-

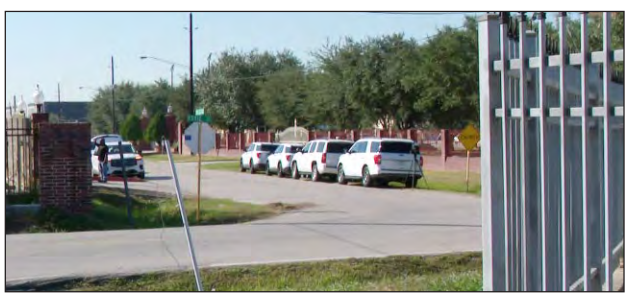
Continued. See NEW HPD NORTH BELTSTATION OPENS, Page 2

Conflicting accounts emerge after ICE-Involved crash in NorthWest Harris

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON — Authorities are investigating a crash involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and a pickup truck driver after conflicting accounts emerged about how the incident occurred early Tuesday, October 22.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded at approximately 6:41 a.m. to the 12400 block of Old Foltin Road in Northwest Harris County.



The driver, identified as 52-year-old Luis Eduardo Villanueva Loredo, was taken into custody following the incident. According to reporting by KPRC 2, he is being held at the Montgomery ICE Processing Center.

Villanueva Loredo's family provided an account of the incident that differs from the version given by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Through a translator, Patricia Hernandez, Vil-

Continued. See FAMILY, FEDERAL OFFICIALS DISPUTE, Page 2

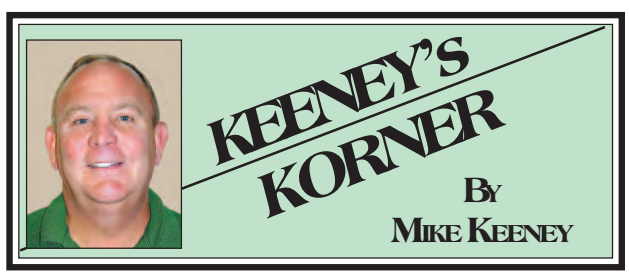
SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 9

Surging Texans get week off to set up second-half run: Slumping Cowboys need home win against Cardinals

After losing their first four games of the season, the Houston Texans won two straight (they hosted the beatable New York Giants last Sunday) to get in the AFC playoff hunt.

This week, DeMeco Ryan's team gets a much-needed week off to rest and heal up as they look to finish strong in the second half of the season.

While the Texans appear to be on the rise, the Dallas Cowboys continue to struggle. Two weeks ago, the vaunted Dallas offense was held to 13 points by an average Green Bay defense en route to a 23-13 loss. This week, Dallas hosts the Arizona Cardinals, who two weeks ago upset the Los Angeles Rams in LA's Sofi Stadium. The Cowboys aren't dead in the water yet, thanks to the fact that they play in a terrible division. The Giants are the only team with a winning record, while the Eagles went to 2-4 with a home loss to Carolina two weeks ago and also have lost starting QB Jalen Hurts for the season after he was diagnosed



Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

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New HPD north belt station opens Oct. 27,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sources and tax dollars by consolidating fueling and washing facilities, along with parking.

HPD established the North Belt Division in 2018 to better serve four beats located

adjacent to Beltway 8 on the north side of Houston, which were previously served by three patrol divisions: Northwest, North, and Northeast. The North Belt Division covers Willowbrook, George Bush Intercontinental Airport, and the TIRZ 11/North Houston District area. Until the completion of the new facility, the Division operated out of a leased space at 100 Glenborough, also in the District's northwest quadrant.

The District advocated for the Division to be located within the District's boundaries, and

to make it happen, committed to funding the temporary lease at Glenborough through an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston, spending more than $1.8 million since 2018

Family, federal officials dispute ICE crash accounts,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lanueva Loredo's sister-in-law, told KPRC 2 that the family spoke with him by phone after the crash.

According to the family's account, Villanueva Loredo was leaving home for work when he noticed two or three vehicles following him without their lights on. The family said he became suspicious and believed he might be in danger.

Hernandez said the family was told that an ICE vehicle struck the pickup from behind, causing the driver to lose control and enter a ditch.

DHS provided a different account of the encounter.

According to an ICE spokesperson, agents activated their emergency lights and sirens before attempting to stop Villanueva Loredo. The agency said he drove into a ditch while attempting to evade law enforcement.

Federal officials said agents stopped because they believed the pickup was stuck. According to DHS, the truck then came out of the ditch and struck the front driver's side of the ICE vehicle.

The agency further stated that Villanueva Loredo left the truck and ran from the scene before officers apprehended him following a brief foot chase.

The Sheriff's Office confirmed that the pickup entered a ditch during the pursuit and that the vehicles made contact after the truck came back onto the road. Investigators reported damage to a taillight on the pickup.

Driver Taken to Hospital

While at the scene, Villanueva Loredo complained of chest pain, according to the report. Emergency medical personnel evaluated him and transported him to a local hospital as a precaution. He was expected to recover.

DHS also said Villanueva Loredo is a Mexican national who entered the United States unlawfully and had previously been granted a voluntary return to Mexico on March 26, 2007.

His family disputes the federal government's account regarding prior deportation orders.

Investigation Continues

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is investigating the crash in consultation with the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

The investigation is expected to help establish the circumstances surrounding the collision. The accounts provided by the family and federal officials differ on how the encounter began and how the vehicles came into contact.

No final determination of fault was included in the reports available at the time of publication.

Source: KPRC 2 News and the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

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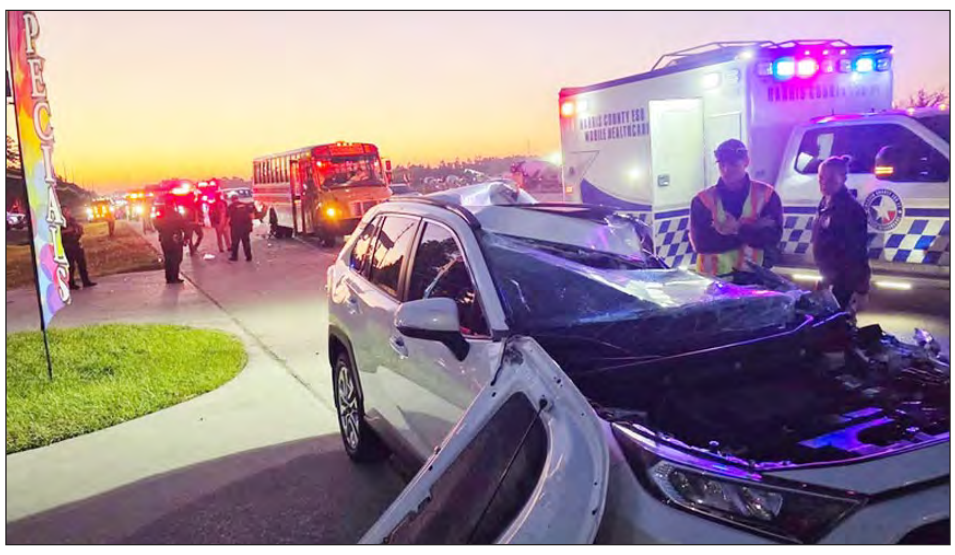
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COMMUNITY WATCH

Driver cited after rear-ending Aldine ISD bus with 2 students aboard



Courtesy of Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's OfficeCourtesy of Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

A driver was cited Friday morning after crashing into the back of an Aldine ISD school bus in north Harris County, officials said.

Harris County Precinct 4 deputies responded to the crash near FM 1960 Road and Aldine Westfield Road around 7 a.m. Firefighters and emergency medical services personnel also responded.

Aldine ISD said the bus had stopped to pick up other students when a vehicle struck it from behind. Two students were on board at the time.

The bus driver and the two students were evaluated by EMS, and no injuries were reported, according to the district.

The driver of the other vehicle was issued a citation for failing to control speed.

In a statement, Aldine ISD said: "The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority."

Harris County Precinct 2, Hispanic Health Coalition Host 8th Latino Health Summit at Rice University

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER





HOUSTON — Harris County Precinct 2, in partnership with the Hispanic Health Coalition, successfully hosted the 8th Annual Latino Health Summit at Rice University, bringing together community members, healthcare professionals, and advocates for a day of dialogue and action.

The summit served as a collaborative forum to explore strategies for improving healthcare access for Latino communities across the region. Attendees participated in discussions aimed at addressing barriers to care and identifying solutions to better serve one of Houston's fastest-growing populations.

Organizers highlighted the event as an opportunity to spotlight local initiatives already making a tangible difference for families throughout greater Houston. From community health programs to outreach efforts, the summit showcased efforts underway to close gaps in healthcare access and improve outcomes for Latino residents.

The Latino Health Summit has grown into a key annual gathering for healthcare stakeholders dedicated to advancing health equity. This year's event at Rice University underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration in addressing the unique health challenges facing Latino communities.

For more information about future events and initiatives, residents are encouraged to contact Harris County Precinct 2 or the Hispanic Health Coalition.





SCHOOL PAGE

Bridging For Tomorrow Donates 360 Pairs of New Shoes to Aldine ISD Students

By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

Annual shoe drive supports students and families at eight Aldine ISD campuses.

A new pair of shoes can help a student begin the school year feeling confident, prepared, and ready to learn. For a family preparing several children for school, it can also mean one less expense.

Bridging For Tomorrow donated 360 pairs of new shoes to students at seven Aldine ISD campuses this school year. The nonprofit works with school counselors and family navigators to identify the sizes and quantities most useful to students and families.

"We saw an opportunity to step in and help ease one small but meaningful part of that burden," said Bernice McKenzie, director of education and family programs at Bridging For Tomorrow. "If providing a new pair of shoes means one less expense for a family to carry as they prepare their children for school, then that is something we want to help make possible."

A Donation Guided by Campus Needs

Bridging For Tomorrow has provided shoes to Aldine students for more than five years. Each participating campus receives at least 30 pairs, with additional shoes distributed when available inventory matches an identified need. The number and sizes vary each year based on campus requests and the shoes collected through the annual drive.

This year's donations supported students at:

Aldine High School
Carmichael Elementary School
Carter Academy
Eisenhower Ninth Grade School
Eisenhower High School
Kujawa Elementary School
Stehlik Elementary School
Worsham Elementary School

For families with multiple school-age children, the savings can add up quickly. McKenzie said parents have shared that school supplies, clothing, shoes, and other back-to-school necessities can strain a household budget.

In some cases, new shoes for multiple children can save a family about $200 or more — money that can instead go toward groceries, school supplies, or another household need.

"We want students to receive something that feels special, truly their own, and something they can look forward to wearing as they start a new school year," McKenzie said. "A new pair of shoes may seem like a small thing, but it can help a student walk into school feeling confident, prepared, and included."



Bridging For Tomorrow staff deliver shoes to Aldine High School. Showing off the shoes are (l-r) Shanae Templeton, BFT student pathway manager; school support specialist Kimberly Robertson-James, and Bernice McKenzie, director of education and family programs at BFT.



Bridging For Tomorrow staff deliver shoes to Stehlik Elementary. Among those holding shoes are (l-r) Shanae Templeton, BFT student pathway manager; school counselor Carla Smith, Assistant Principal Dr. Norma Sibrian, and Bernice McKenzie, BFT director of education and family programs.

A Consistent Community Partner

School counselor Carla Smith has seen the partnership's impact firsthand. Before joining Stehlik Elementary School, she served as a counselor at Kujawa Elementary School, where Bridging For Tomorrow has supported students for five years.

"As a former counselor at Kujawa Elementary, I witnessed the meaningful impact Bridging For Tomorrow had on our students and families," Smith said. "These donated shoes provide more than a basic need — they give students confidence, dignity and a reminder that their community cares."

Smith said students can "light up with excitement and pride" when they receive a new pair of shoes. For families, the donation can provide financial relief; for students, it can mean feeling confident and ready to learn.

For LaTashia Abrams, executive director of Aldine ISD's Family and Community Engagement Department, the partnership works because it responds to needs identified by the people who know students and families best.

"The FACE Department serves as the connector, but the schools are the ones who know the needs of their students and families — their strengths, challenges, and circumstances," Abrams said. "When a community organization works directly with a school, it can respond to what is actually known rather than making assumptions about what families need."

Abrams said Bridging For Tomorrow's consistency, responsiveness, and trust have made it a dependable partner for Aldine ISD. In addition to the annual shoe donation, the organization has supported Aldine families with groceries through its food pantry.

"Five years of engagement means their partnership isn't simply a one-time donation," Abrams said. "Bridging For Tomorrow is a consistent and dependable partner to Aldine ISD."

Supporting Families Beyond the Shoe Drive

The shoe donation is one part of Bridging For Tomorrow's (BFT) broader work with families in northwest Houston. The nonprofit provides food assistance through its food pantry, educational support and mentoring for children and teens, adult education classes, and family support services.

"Partnerships like BFT's expand the network of support available to our students and families beyond what the school district can provide on its own," Abrams said. "Trusted relationships with community partners can make resources more accessible for our families."

Bridging For Tomorrow's annual shoe drive brings together individuals, businesses, churches, and other community partners who choose to give.

"We hope every pair of shoes communicates something simple to a student and their family: your community sees you, cares about you, and is here to support you," McKenzie said.

Growing a Greener Future: Kujawa Elementary Students Help Plant 27 Trees



Kujawa Elementary students and staff join Aldine ISD district staff and community volunteers during the H-E-B Trees for Texans tree-planting event on Oct. 6.

By Ashley Brown
Aldine ISD

Kujawa Elementary School students, staff and volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty as they came together to plant 27 trees on campus Oct. 6, creating greener outdoor spaces for students to enjoy.

The tree planting was made possible through H-E-B's Trees for Texans program, which provides native trees to schools near newly opened H-E-B stores. Kujawa Elementary was selected following the opening of a nearby Joe V's Smart Shop last fall.

Emma Shamon, with H-E-B Environmental Affairs, shared the company's commitment to giving back to local schools and creating spaces where students can learn and play.

"Trees are the gifts that keep on giving," Shamon said. "We're here to help promote healthier schools and cooler schools. We're going to have more shade for the kids to play under, and it's going to have a great impact on the school and community."

For Kujawa Elementary Principal Delilah St. Julian, the addition of the trees represents more than an improvement to the campus. It is an investment in the students and their learning environment.

"We are so grateful for H-E-B's generous donation and investment in our students and school," St. Julian said. "The trees will provide not only beauty but also shade for our students. Just like the trees, we will get to watch our students grow and thrive."

Before students began planting, Jaden Kelly, with the Texas A&M Forest Service, demonstrated how to properly plant and care for trees. He also discussed the importance of planting trees and their lasting impact on school communities.

"This is something we get to be a part of that will have an impact on generations to come," Kelly said. "We are doing this for the hundreds, if not thousands, of students who will come through this school in the future."

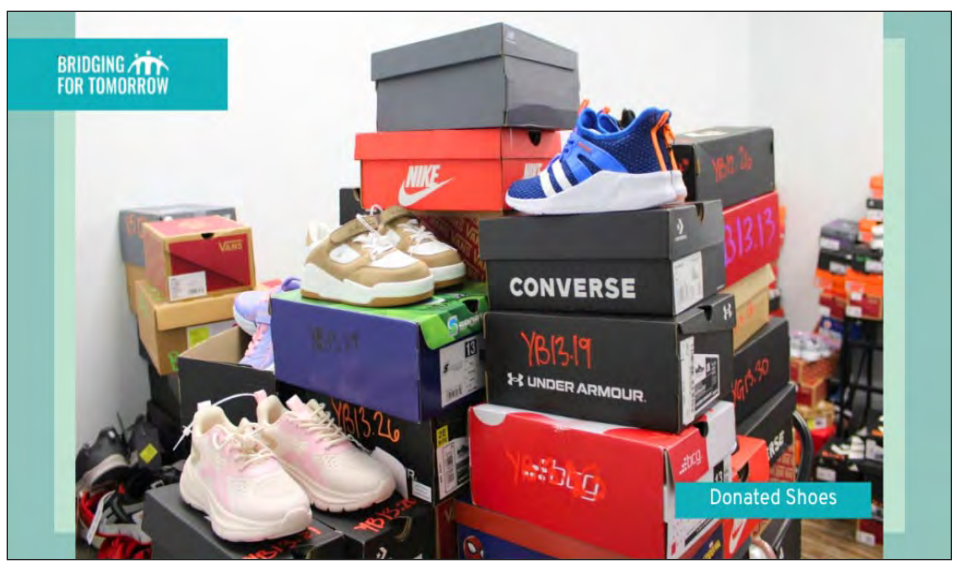
For Kujawa Elementary fourth grader Stoni Charles, the event was an opportunity to learn something new while helping improve the school's playground.

"I'm really excited because we didn't have that many trees on our playground last year," Charles said. "Now we'll have shade, and we can read books under the trees. I also loved learning how to plant a tree."

Second grader Maxcell Spriggs was ready to get to work. After watching the tree-planting demonstration, he was excited to put what he learned into practice and plant as many trees as he could.

"It's fun learning how to plant trees, and I'm going to plant 100," Spriggs said.





Aldine ISD Celebrates Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23–31



Aldine ISD students and staff will join communities nationwide in celebrating Red Ribbon Week, the nation's longest-running drug prevention campaign. This year's theme, "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free," encourages students to make healthy choices and take an active role in building a drug-free future.

Throughout the week, schools across Aldine ISD will engage students in activities that promote drug prevention and raise awareness about the importance of healthy, drug-free choices. Families and students are also invited to participate in the fun by dressing according to each day's theme.

Show Your Red Ribbon Week Spirit

Here's how students and staff can participate each day:

Monday, Oct. 26 — *I Choose to Be Drug Free*: Wear red or a Red Ribbon Week T-shirt.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 — *Peace Out to Drugs*: Wear tie-dye or clothing inspired by the 1960s and 1970s.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 — *Being Drug Free Is My Superpower*: Wear a superhero shirt.

Thursday, Oct. 29 — *United Against Drugs*: Wear red, gold, or black to show that Aldine ISD stands together against drugs.

Friday, Oct. 30 — *Team Up Against Drugs*: Wear gear representing your favorite sports team.

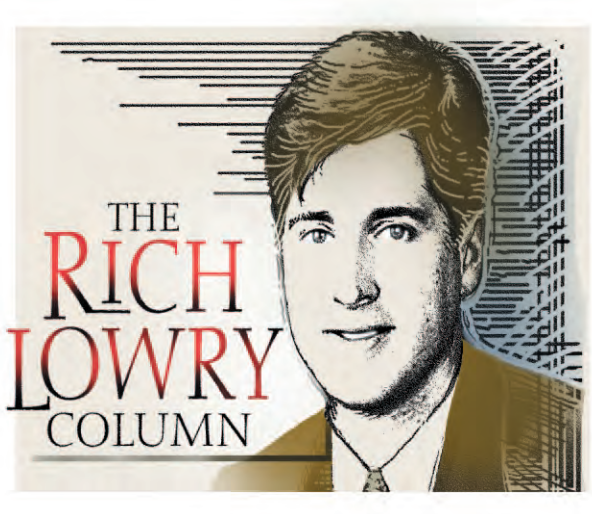
Grassroots Beginnings

Red Ribbon Week began as a tribute to Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent who lost his life in Mexico in 1985. In his memory, friends and neighbors began wearing red satin badges, inspiring parents and community members to organize coalitions dedicated to preventing drug use.

Those efforts grew into a national movement built on the belief that one person can make a difference. Today, the red ribbon symbolizes communities coming together to educate young people and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Join Aldine ISD in celebrating Red Ribbon Week and reinforcing our shared commitment to helping students make healthy choices and build a safe, drug-free future.

☆ OPINION PAGE ☆



The Anti-French revolt in France

"All my life," Charles de Gaulle famously said, "I have had a certain idea of France." This, though, was presumably not what he had in mind. France has been wracked by riots targeting public buildings and symbols of the nation, as well as ordinary commercial concerns.

Of course, France has a long tradition of unrest on the streets. If someone isn't setting a car alight somewhere in the country in protest, you almost wonder what's gone wrong. In 1968, President de Gaulle himself briefly fled Paris for fear that student protesters were going to topple the government, before finding his nerve.

So, it's not unusual that things are getting wrecked and burned, but the disorder is portentous all the same. It started as demonstrations against underfunded schools and has morphed into a red-green campaign of mayhem ranging much more widely.

Palestinian flags and the slogan "Free Palestine" are ubiquitous. It's not clear what either of these things has to do with burning down the elegant, 19th-century town hall building in Limoges or looting a Louis Vuitton store. But the Palestinian banner has become the equivalent of the North Vietnamese flag in the 1970s — a symbol of resistance to the West, and in this case, fierce opposition to Zionism and so-called settler-colonialism.

The flag also speaks to the immigrant component of the riots. France has done a poor job of assimilating immigrants and their children, a large portion of whom are Muslims from North Africa, thanks to France's colonial history and, in particular, its incorporation of Algeria into France for a period of time (an insanely unrealistic project).

The problems that France has been creating for itself were foreseeable and, indeed, foreseen. As long ago as March 1959, de Gaulle is reported to have warned: "The Arabs are Arabs, the French are French. Do you think that the French can absorb 10 million Muslims who will tomorrow be 20 million and after tomorrow 40?"

One way to look at these riots is as Frantz Fanon's revenge. What the great mid-20th century theorist of anti-colonial resistance called "the wretched of the earth" are living in the downtrodden suburbs of Paris and, in effect, seeking to colonize the colonizers.

Make no mistake, though — white radicals, too, have taken a large hand in the disorder. Jean-Luc Melenchon, the leader of an ascendant left-wing party, has participated in the protests and condemned police for their supposedly brutish tactics. He celebrates the "creolization" of France and views immigrants and their children as part of a potential "bloc de rupture" that can revolutionize French politics and shift it radically to the left.

What's ultimately in play is French identity. The country has traditionally had a universalizing mission (whether advancing Christianity or evangelizing for enlightenment values, depending on the regime) joined to a deep pride in the French nation. The rioters, who are illiberal and unpatriotic, aren't much interested in either. Melenchon has said French identity cannot be "a tradition," but is "a creation in permanent evolution." And here, as has often happened in France's history, it is evolving in the streets.

The unrest also serves as a warning that should the French public reject this left-wing vision and turn to the nationalist Marine Le Pen in next year's election, the country will be made ungovernable. With the disorder spreading elsewhere, other Western European countries will also have to take note.

A key element of de Gaulle's "certain idea of France" was its inherent greatness. His beloved France, though, is already a second-rank power. Its debt-to-GDP ratio is 120%, while much of the public apparently believes it is living under intolerable austerity and there is no political will to pull back on spending. An overmatched President Emmanuel Macron, presiding over a restive country, represents an exhausted center that has done much to bring the nation to this point.

Whatever France's immediate future, greatness is not going to be part of the picture.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

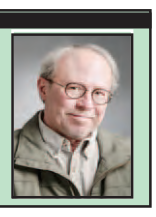
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Another software glitch in Texas voter rolls

A software error has caused another problem with Texas' voter registration logs, KUT radio's Texas Newsroom in Austin reported.

The glitch caused by "an extra address validation" affected Texans who updated their names and addresses on the state's government record portal, texas.gov, between Sept. 1 and last week, according to an email sent by the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Many of the updated records were still missing voters' new addresses, election officials said. As of Friday afternoon, those addresses are now showing up for Texas county election officials, according to an email from the Secretary of State's office.

Alicia Pierce, a spokesperson for the Secretary of State's office, said the agency sent 15,000 records back to counties. She said the problem has been resolved, and voters will still be able to cast a ballot.

This latest problem comes only days after Texas election officials said they cleared an earlier voter registration backlog. That issue was caused by an error prompted by a Texas Department of Public Safety software update. It impacted more than 500,000 voter registrations submitted since October 2025.



NEW POLLS: DEMS LEAD NEARLY ALL STATEWIDE RACES

A new poll from the University of Texas at Austin shows Democrats with narrow leads in nearly all statewide races, the Houston Chronicle reported. However, polling in each statewide race is within the margin of error. Only Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico polled positively with 50% of the voters.

James Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project, said Democratic competitiveness is driven by a sizable gap in enthusiasm between Democratic and Republican voters — at least 10 percentage points.

"That's really significant," Henson said. "That is going to be what the last two weeks of this campaign are about — it's about Republican campaigns trying to drive up Democratic negatives and trying to stir what is right now a pretty uninspired Republican electorate in the state."

No Democrat has won a statewide race since 1994.

STATE APPEALS ORDER REQUIRING AC IN PRISONS

Lawyers for the state have appealed a federal judge's order that all state prison cells be climate-controlled before 2030. The appeal was filed with the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Texas Standard reported. The state also asked U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman to suspend his order, arguing it could disrupt critical operations in the prison system while the appeal continues.

"Throwing chaos and confusion into TDCJ's ongoing plans to install complete air-conditioning, before the Fifth Circuit has a chance to rule, needlessly wastes finite resources, and frustrates TDCJ's efforts to acquire funding to address operational and life safety measures to protect its population while moving...expediently to install air conditioning," the filing said.

In September Pitman issued his ruling in a case filed by prison rights advocacy groups. The groups argued that forcing inmates to endure triple-digit temperatures inside prison cells was unconstitutional. Just more than a third of the state's prisons are climate-controlled, while 90,000 incarcerated Texans don't have air conditioning.

The legal fight began with a 2023 complaint filed by Bernie Tiede, a high-profile inmate featured in the film "Bernie."

COMPTROLLER HUFFINES PLANS $3M OFFICE RENOVATION

Republican Controller Don Huffines plans to use $3 million in funds from a state agency that manages and invests state funds to renovate his offices, according to The Dallas Morning News. Records obtained by the paper show that Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Co. would pay for the renovation of the comptroller's executive suite.

Huffines is the GOP nominee for comptroller and was appointed by Abbott to serve out an unexpired term. He faces state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, in November. She called the proposed use of trust company funds "highly inappropriate."

"The comptroller is supposed to keep those funds segregated," she said. "You can't raid it for operational expenses in the comptroller's office."

Since being appointed, Huffines has vowed to cut government spending; 41 comptroller employees were fired in recent weeks.

HOME, AUTO INSURANCE RATES TRENDING DOWN

Both homeowner and auto insurance companies have filed proposed premium rate decreases since July, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. The agency said the proposed decreases affect about 700,000 Texas policyholders. Homeowner rate changes have averaged a 4.3% decline over the past 90 days, according to TDI.

"Lower rate filings are an encouraging sign for Texas consumers, and we're pleased to see some relief beginning to reach the market," said Insurance Commissioner Amanda Crawford. "As rates moderate, Texans should take advantage of the competitive market, shop around, and make sure they're getting the best value for their coverage."

Nearly 160 companies sell auto and homeowners insurance in Texas.

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

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Every Cup



I have a tradition.

Like most traditions, it didn't start out as a tradition. I bought a beautiful coffee cup to sit on the little coffee heater on my desk while I wrote in San Miguel. I think having a beautiful coffee cup is as important as having fresh flowers on my desk while I'm writing. If I'm going to sit in one place for hours at a time, I need nice things to look at while I'm doing it.

If anyone asked me for advice on how to write a book, I wouldn't bother to talk to them about grammar or plot. I'd tell them they need a good place to write, because it's going to take a very long time. Sitting hunched up at the kitchen table where you have to pack up your stuff every time a meal is served is no good. It's important to have a place to do one's work—especially if the work you're doing doesn't really look like work much of the time. It's important to have fresh flowers and a beautiful coffee cup filled with coffee that is kept at precisely the right temperature, even if it is neglected for 15 minutes at a time.

So that is what I do. I find a nice cup, and I sit with it for several hours, seven days a week

But after I've used that cup for almost two months and it's time to go back to the U.S., I find I cannot bear to part with it. So I bring the cup home and I use it there. Then it comes time to return to Mexico, and of course I don't travel with a ceramic coffee cup. So when I get back to our apartment, I buy a lovely new cup. And again, I bond with it. And again, I bring it home.

You probably now have an idea of how my cupboard has filled with coffee cups.

This is a situation that bothers my husband, Peter. Peter is very conscious of clutter. In my defense, I am staunchly anti-clutter as well—I just don't regard my collection of beautiful coffee cups as clutter. (Because, by now, it is a collection.) I also don't see a way out of my conundrum.

"We could get rid of our other cups," I suggested.

"I like our other cups," Peter said. "They are a nice size for company."

"We could use my Mexican cups when company comes."

Peter did not answer. I could tell he liked the idea of serving coffee at Christmas and on other occasions in the small, more practical matching cups we keep in an upper cupboard. They are nice cups, I admit. I just like my Mexico cups more. Those little matching cups never once helped me write a book.

So we are at an impasse. Yesterday, I bought my cup for this trip, and like every previous cup, I am convinced it is the best one ever. This cup has an orange handle and vertical columns that look like stained glass running up the sides. I know it is going to help me as I write. I know I will never want to part with it. And so, I worry.

I once saw a program on hoarding, where a psychologist was trying to help someone whose house was filled to overflowing. The psychologist pointed to a cupboard filled with dishes and more dishes piled on the counter.

"You just see coffee cups," she explained. "The hoarder sees individual experiences attached to every cup."

And that got me worried.

Till next time,

Carrie

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 9

Surging Texans get week off to set up second-half run: Slumping Cowboys need home win against Cardinals



with blood clots that have moved to his lungs. Star running back Saquon Barkley is also hobbled as he tries to come back from a hamstring injury he sustained in Week 3. If the Cowboys are going to get back in the playoff hunt, they need to start stringing some wins together.

Other interesting games in Week 8 features Carolina at Green Bay on Thursday Night Football. Baltimore visits Buffalo on Sunday, while there's a big one in the AFC North as the Browns visit the Steelers. There's also a big one in the AFC West as Kansas City visits an inconsistent Denver team and Week 8 concludes with Monday Night Football with the Bears visiting the Seahawks.

The college schedule is pretty blah this weekend and nothing like it was two weeks ago when five of the top seven teams lost, including No. 1-ranked Georgia and No. 2-ranked Notre Dame, along with No. 7 Texas, which lost at home to an unranked Florida team that started a true freshman QB.

This week, there's a good one in the Big 12 as No. 25 Arizona visits No. 8-ranked Texas Tech. Speaking of Georgia, the No. 5 Bulldogs take on No. 20 Florida in Atlanta. This game used to be played in Jacksonville and was known as the world's Biggest Cocktail Party, but this year's addition is being played at the Mercedes Benz Dome in Atlanta. There's a good one in the Big 10 as No. 3-ranked Ohio State visits LA to take on No. 16-ranked USC.

The District 14-6A season is winding down and has just two weeks left. It appears Westfield will earn the first seed, but AISD schools Nimitz (3-1), Davis (3-1) and MacArthur (2-2) are still in the playoff hunt. This week, Davis hosts Spring on Thursday night at 7 at Thorne Stadium, while Nimitz and MacArthur meet in a key game for both teams on Friday at 7 in Thorne Stadium. On Saturday at 2 p.m., Eisenhower will take on Aldine at Thorne Stadium.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, unfortunately we need to review last week's record. Another subpar week (6-6) brought the season record to a still respectable 55-28 record (66%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring at Davis - Kelvin Chatman's Falcons host Spring on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium. Two weeks ago, Davis' high-octane offense was held to 7 points against Westfield, but look for that unit to rebound this week behind QB Kobe Miles (18 TDs), running back Larry McCarroll and wideout David Richardson (23 receptions, 350 yards, 5 TDs). My pick, Davis 36, Spring 14

Nimitz vs. MacArthur - Cornelius Harmon's Cougars take on Blake Ware's Generals on Friday evening in a key district contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, Nimitz defeated Eisenhower, 35-21, while Mac defeated Spring 31-23. Nimitz will look for a big night from QB Jepreston Johson, while the Generals will look for more production from QB Lance Nero (1,478 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Trinidad Espinoza (1,132 yards, 9 TDs), who rushed for 127 yards and scored 4 TDs in the win over Spring. My pick, MacArthur 30, Nimitz 28

Eisenhower vs. Aldine - Padriac McGinnis' Eagles will take on Charles Black's Mustangs on Saturday afternoon in Thorne Stadium. Ike will look for a big day from running back Elijah Dixon (592 yards, 5 TDs) to wear down the Aldine defense. My pick, Eisenhower 34, Aldine 10

NCAA

Arizona at Texas Tech - No. 25 Arizona visits No. 8 Texas Tech in a big Big 12 game for both teams. The Wildcats entered the Top 25 two weeks ago after their 52-31 pasting of West Virginia. 'Zona has one of the league's top QBs in Noah Fifita (1,739 yards, 16 TDs), but he will be facing a Tech defense that is starting to find itself. Fifita will need help from running back Kedrick Reescano (262 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Isaiah Mizell (19 receptions, 359 yards, 4 TDs). Tech will look for another solid game from QB Will Hammond (1,334 yards, 6 TDs), running back J'Koby Williams (538 yards, 5 TDs) and wideouts Kenny Johnson (24 receptions, 418 yards, 1 TD) and Coy Eakin (19 receptions, 218 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Tech defense to be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Texas Tech 34, Arizona 20

Ohio State at USC - A big one in the Big 10 as No. 3 Ohio State visits No. 16 USC. Ryan Day's Buckeyes have proven they can win in tough places as evidenced by their win at No. 14 Iowa and at then No. 5 Indiana. They have another road test this week when they face the Trojans. The OSU offense is humming behind QB Julian Sayin (2,007 yards, 19 TDs), running back Bo Jackson (516 yards, 4 TDs) and Ja'Kobi Jackson (354 yards, 6 TDs) and star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (52 receptions, 984 yards, 12 TDs). The Trojans have some offensive weapons as well with QB Jayden Maiava (2,045 yards, 18 TDs), running back King Miller (595 yards, 4 TDs) and wideouts Kayden Dixon-Wyatt (27 receptions, 400 yards, 4 TDs) and Trent Mosley (22 receptions, 366 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Buckeyes defense to be the difference maker in this one as OSU sets its sights on the Big 10 title game. My pick, Ohio State 26, USC 20

Georgia vs. Florida - These two long-time rivals will meet at the Mercedes Benz Dome in Atlanta. This game is usually played in Jacksonville, but EverBank Stadium is undoing a massive reconstruction project, so the game was moved to Atlanta. Two weeks ago, the 'Dawgs lost at home on a last-second field goal to unranked Auburn, while Florida beat then No. 7 Texas in Austin behind freshman QB Tramell J Jones (407 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Georgia to be in a nasty mood come Saturday. Look for QB Gunner Stockton (1,570 passing yards, 16 TDs/160 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Dwight Phillips Jr. (348 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts Craig Dandridge (17 receptions, 310 yards, 1 TD) and Talyn Taylor (19 receptions, 283 yards, 3 TDs). Florida hopes to have starting QB Aaron Philo (1,341 passing yards, 9 TDs/104 rushing yards, 3 TDs) back for this one. The Gators will need a big day from running back Jadan Baugh (763 yards, 13 TDs) and wideout Dallas Wilson (29 receptions, 403 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Georgia defense to be too much for the Gators come Saturday. My pick, Georgia 31, Florida 18

NFL

Carolina at Green Bay - Week 8 begins with a good one for the Thursday Night Football crew as the Carolina Panthers visit the Green Bay Packers. Carolina won four of its first six games behind one of the league's best young QBs in Bryce Young (1,549 yards, 11 TDs). The Panthers also have a good young wideout in Tetairoa McMillan (32 receptions, 471 yards, 2 TDs) and a dependable back in Chubba Hubbard (426 yards, 4 TDs). The Packers also have a good young QB in Jordan Love (1,684 yards, 11 TDs) who may be having his best year yet. He's got two quality wide receivers to throw to in Christian Watkins (29 receptions, 538 yards, 6 TDs) and Matthew Golden (30 receptions, 501 yards, 3 TDs). The GB offense should get a boost with the return of starting running back Josh Jacobs, who was suspended for the first six games by the NFL for violating the league's domestic violence policy. The Packers could also get another boost if star edge rusher Micah Parsons returns after recovering from an ACL injury. My pick, Green Bay 31, Carolina 23

Arizona at Dallas - If the Cowboys are going to get back in the NFC East race, they must start putting some wins together and it had better start against the lowly Cardinals. For some reason, the Dallas offense, which started the season red hot, has floundered in its last two games. QB Dak Prescott (1,639 yards, 10 TDs) could use a boost from the running game, so look for Javonte Williams (317 yards, 8 total TDs) to get more touches starting this week. If Dallas can run the ball, that should open up the passing game for Prescott to make plays downfield to CeeDee Lamb (48 receptions, 577 yards, 4 TDs) and George Pickens (33 receptions, 428 yards, 1 TD). Cardinals QB Jacoby Brissett (1,328 yards, 9 TDs/6 interceptions) will look to attack a suspect Dallas defense with strikes to tight end Trey McBride (49 receptions, 361 yards, 3 TDs). Look for Jerry Jones' team to play much better this week because they know there is little room for error from here on out. My pick, Dallas 33, Arizona 23

Baltimore at Buffalo - A good one pits the Ravens against the Bills in Buffalo on Sunday. The Bills had an extra week to prepare for this one and had a chance to rest up. QB Josh Allen (1,504 passing yards, 9 TDs/240 rushing yards, 8 TDs) and he is getting help from running back James Cook (627 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (22 receptions, 290 yards, 1 TD). Baltimore is hoping to get star QB Lamar Jackson (967 passing yards, 6 TDs/144 rushing yards, 1 TD) back for this one after he missed two games with an ankle injury. If Jackson is unable to go again, look for the Ravens to give a suspect Buffalo defense a steady dose of running back Derrick Henry (534 yards, 7 TDs). My pick, Buffalo 31, Baltimore 27

Cleveland at Pittsburgh - A big one in the AFC North pits two bitter rivals as the Browns visit the Steelers. Many thought Pittsburgh and Baltimore would battle for the division title and few saw the Browns being in the mix. But after six games, Cleveland had a 4-2 record, just like the Ravens and Steelers. The Browns are getting it done with QB Deshaun Watson (1,174 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Denzel Boston (17 receptions, 345 yards, 3 TDs). The Steelers have been getting another solid season from Aaron Rodgers (1,487 yards, 12 TDs), running back Jaylen Warren (460 yards, 1 TD) and wideout DK Metcalf (30 receptions, 318 yards, 1 TD). In Week 4, the Browns beat the Steelers on a last second field goal. Look for Pittsburgh to get pay back this time around. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Cleveland 20

Kansas City at Denver - The Chiefs and Broncos meet up in a key AFC West contest on Sunday in Denver. KC won its first five games thanks to running back Kenneth Walker III (665 yards, 8 TDs). Walker's production has taken a lot of pressure off of star QB Patrick Mahomes (1,309 yards, 9 TDs). Look for Mahomes to make plays to tight end Travis Kelce (20 receptions, 299 yards, 2 TDs) early and often. Denver QB Bo Nix (1,049 yards, 6 TDs/3 interceptions) has struggled thus far, maybe because the Broncos can't run the ball. Nix needs to get wide receiver Jaylen Waddle going, but that might be tough to do against a solid KC secondary. My pick, Kansas City 26, Denver 23

Chicago at Seattle - Week 8 concludes on Monday Night Football when Chicago visits Seattle. Two weeks ago, the Bears offense got a huge boost when starting QB Caleb Williams (712 yards, 3 TDs in 3 games) returned after missing three games with a hamstring injury. Chicago has a solid runner in D'Andre Swift (398 yards, 6 TDs) and two dependable wideouts in Luther Burden III (31 receptions, 361 yards, 1 TD) and Rome Odunze (20 receptions, 312 yards). The Seahawks know they need to get things in gear, or SF will run away with the NFC West. Seattle needs more consistent play from QB Sam Darnold (1,033 yards, 7 TDs/7 interceptions). Look for Darnold to attack a suspect Chicago secondary as he goes to star wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (49 receptions, 717 yards, 7 TDs) early and often. My pick, Seattle 26, Chicago 18

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES



LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL
Aldine Davis 56, Aldine Eisenhower 6
Spring 28, Aldine Nimitz 17
Spring Dekaney 49, Aldine MacArthur 0
Spring Westfield 65, Aldine 0

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL
THURSDAY, OCT. 29
Davis vs Spring, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium

FRIDAY, OCT. 30
Nimitz at MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium

SATURDAY, OCT. 31
Aldine vs. Eisenhower, 2 p.m., Thorne Stadium

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 45:5-6

Let your sharp **arrows pierce** the **hearts** of the **king's enemies**; let the **nations fall beneath** your **feet**. Your **throne**, O **God**, will **last** for **ever** and ever; a **scepter** of **justice** will be **the** scepter of your **kingdom**.

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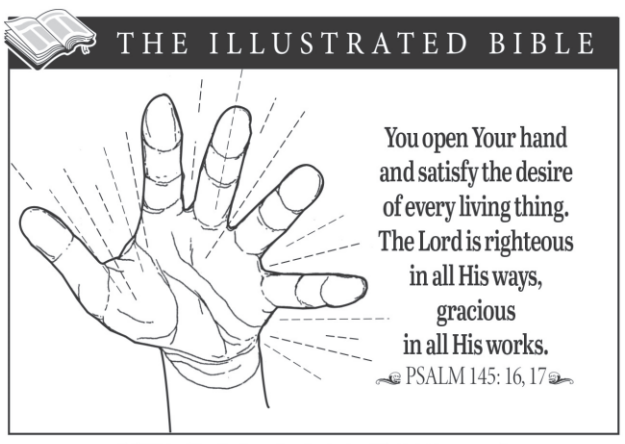
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F S M O D G N I K V

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

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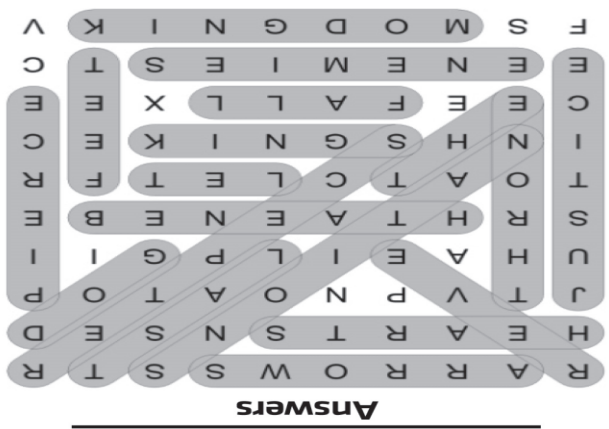
BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Beelzebub (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16
3. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter
4. In which book's 22:18 does it state, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"? Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews
5. From 1 Samuel 16, which king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? Solomon, David, Elah, Saul
6. What number of the beast comes from Revelation 13? 7, 333, 490, 666

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Seven, 3) Nahum, 4) Exodus, 5) Saul, 6) 666
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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BIBLE WORD SEARCH Answers



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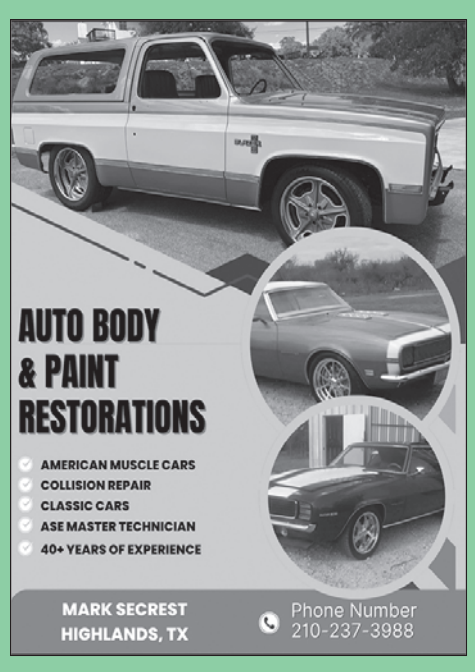
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Stephen Graham, left, and Liev Schreiber star in "Nocturne."

"Nocturne"

"Nocturne" (TV-MA) — Liev Schreiber ("Splinter Cell: Deathwatch") leads this six-episode crime-drama series premiering on Oct. 30. The series follows homicide detective Jonah Lynn (Schreiber), who gets pulled back into one of his previous cases after more victims start to go missing. At a loss as to how there could be more victims when the original perpetrator is behind bars, Jonah's FBI agent daughter, Saga (Zazie Beetz), volunteers to go undercover and get closer to the serial killer. But as determined as Saga and Jonah are, serial killer Jurek Walter (Stephen Graham) is a master manipulator and knows how to unearth the buried emotions inside those he has affected. (Apple TV)

In Case You Missed It

"Carrie" (TV-MA) — The 1974 novel "Carrie" by Stephen King has seen a few adaptations, including Brian De Palma's 1976 film, the 2013 version starring Chloe Grace Moretz, and now a 2026 eight-episode miniseries! Summer H. Howell ("Normal"), who began working in film and TV as a child actress, takes on the iconic role of the telekinetic Carrie White. Howell was undoubtedly in great hands under the direction of Mike Flanagan, who's known as the showrunner for horror series like "The Haunting of Hill House" and "The Fall of the House of Usher." Other notable names in the cast include Matthew Lillard ("Behemoth!") and Samantha Sloyan ("The Exorcist: Martyrs"). Stream it now before spooky season comes to a close! (Amazon Prime Video)

"East of Eden" (TV-MA) — Florence Pugh ("Dune: Part Three") is no stranger to period pieces, having starred as the well-mannered Amy March in Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" (2019). So, she's an excellent choice to portray Cathy Ames in this seven-episode TV adaptation of John Steinbeck's 1952 novel. Taking place in the late 1800s through World War I, the series tells a story that explores similar themes to the story of Cain and Abel in the Book of Genesis. It particularly focuses on the marriage between Cathy and her husband, Adam, her subsequently leaving her twin sons and husband, and the emotional turmoil it left behind to each of them. Mike Faist ("Challengers") and Christopher Abbott ("You Can See Everything") co-star alongside Pugh. The entire series is out now to stream. (Netflix)

"War" (TV-MA) — It's clearly a week for television, and this week's final pick is a sleek legal-drama series led by Dominic West ("The Crown") and Sienna Miller ("Horizon: An America Saga"). Since it's deemed an anthology series, the main characters will change as the seasons progress. This first season, which has already premiered its first four episodes, focuses on a divorce case between a tech mogul named Morgan (West) and an international actress named Carla (Miller). Each has the backing of a top London law firm, and although their intentions are to keep the proceedings as civilized as possible, war is sure to erupt between them and their lawyers once the case starts leaning too far in either direction. New episodes premiere every Thursday. (HBO Max)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Steve McQueen, who passed away in 1980 at 50, is making a major comeback ... of sorts! Two of his best films are being remade. "The Thomas Crown Affair" (1968) cost $4.3 million and grossed $14 million, with Faye Dunaway co-starring. The remake is due on March 5 and stars Michael B. Jordan, Kenneth Branagh, Adria Arjona and Lily Gladstone. Netflix is also developing a remake of "The Getaway" (1972), which originally starred Ali MacGraw alongside McQueen and grossed $36.7 million against its $3.3 million cost.

***

In 1968, at a star-studded celebrity screening, I was assaulted and battered by Elliott Gould as four of us invited photographers were shooting him with his wife, Barbra Streisand, while they ran out of the Directors Guild on Sunset Boulevard. After being treated at UCLA Medical Center for a dislocated shoulder and bruises, I sued him. Three years later, a judge in a Los Angeles Court found him guilty of two counts of battery ... but this is another story for another time.

***

Another trip down memory lane is the upcoming film "Playmates," starring Bill Pullman as Hugh Hefner and Jessica Biel and Lily-Rose Depp as Playboy Playmates at Hefner's mansion. I was invited to Hefner's mansion six times, and I'll never forget the long three-block driveway to the entrance.

I was greeted by Hefner and several Playmates, and at night, I'd end up in the dimly lit "grotto" pool, where I once witnessed the late Tom Smothers (of the Smothers Brothers) having his way with one of Hefner's bunnies! It didn't seem to bother them that I was there, and I tried not to watch their lovemaking. (Yeah, sure!) Talk about a gold-medal moment!

***

Hats off to Marion Ross, who was known as Marion Cunningham on "Happy Days" (1974-1984). Ross turned 97 on Oct. 25. She was the star of about



Bill Pullman (Set to star as Hugh Hefner in "Playmates")

50 films and had dozens of TV guest appearances. Her character, Emily, was wed to Captain Stubing (Gavin MacLEOd) on the last episode of "The Love Boat" in 1986. (I shot MacLEOd's real wedding to his second wife, Patti Kendig, in 1974.) Ross' last film was "Senior Entourage" (2021) before retiring at 92.

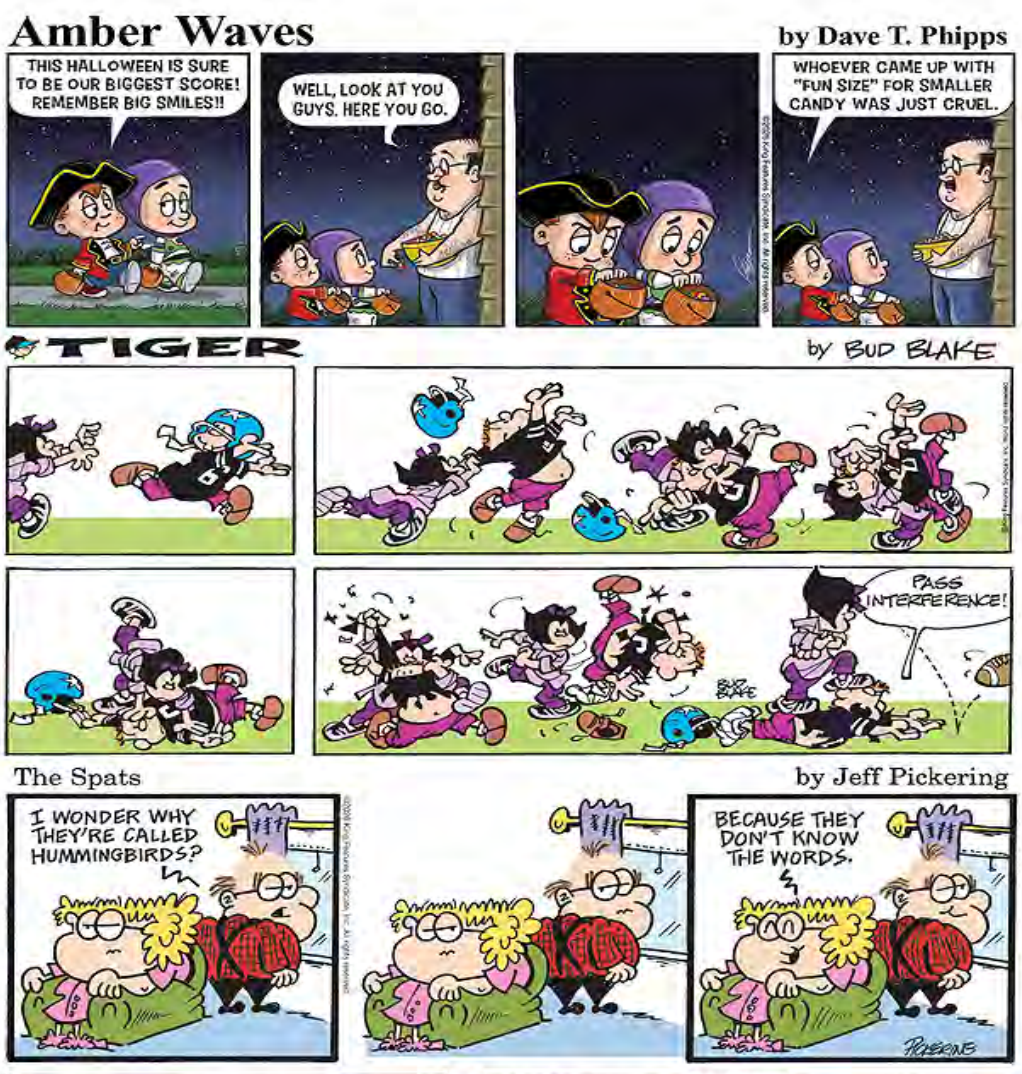
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Really, Tom Cruise, have you lost your mind? At 64, you look as handsome as the biggest movie star on the planet should! How could you think anyone would like seeing you as an unattractive old man? You've proven that you're a great actor, but hiding your good looks and sex appeal under a bush was a miscalculation! "Digger" has taken in $42 million so far, but it cost $180 million.

You'd think two-time Oscar-winning director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu would've known that hiding your sex appeal under a bushel was igniting a bomb!

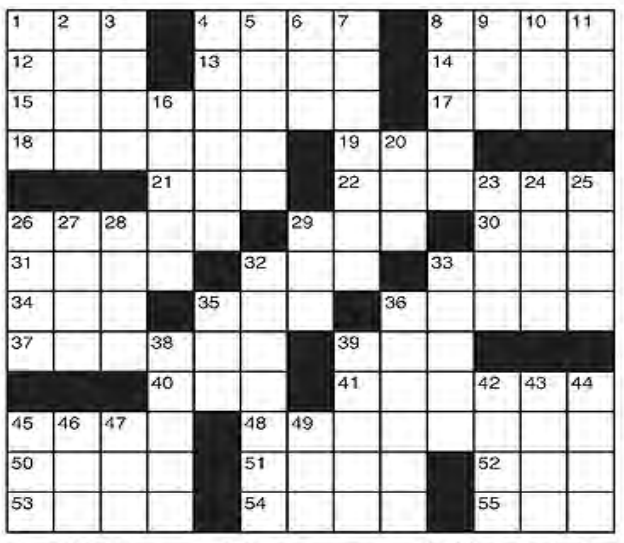
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ENTERTAINMENT



October 26, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Personal
4 Poi base
8 Fraud
12 Romance
13 — incline (tilted)
14 Unruly groups
15 Message from an admirer
17 Border on
18 On an angle
19 Vinyl records
21 Before
22 "Darn it!"
26 Scrabble pieces
29 Movie format
30 "Little piggie"
31 Rd. crossers
32 Grant's foe
33 1982 sci-fi film
34 "The Newsroom" actor Patel
35 Farm grazer
36 Resided
37 "I, Robot" author
39 Lanka lead-in
40 Storm center
41 Sculpted trunks
45 Sagan or Sandburg
48 Romantic Ella Fitzgerald song
50 Squad
51 — Stanley Gardner
52 PC linking system
53 Short cuts
54 Snitched
55 Vintage

DOWN

1 They give a hoot
2 Scarf material
3 De — (from the start)
4 Printer refills
5 Battery part
6 Squealer
7 Bob Marley hit song
8 Big hit
9 Corn core
10 — Dhabi
11 Rockies hrs.
16 Tools for duels
20 Third degree?
23 To be, in Tours
24 "Neato!"
25 Superman's alias
26 "There!"
27 Currier's partner
28 Jeans maker Strauss
29 Morning moisture
32 Mini-shutout at Wimbledon
33 Spin
35 Demure
36 Buzzed
38 Thaws
39 Unmoving
42 Aviator's milestone
43 Track shape
44 Email command
45 Young lion
46 Year in Spain
47 Chest bone
49 Granada gold

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

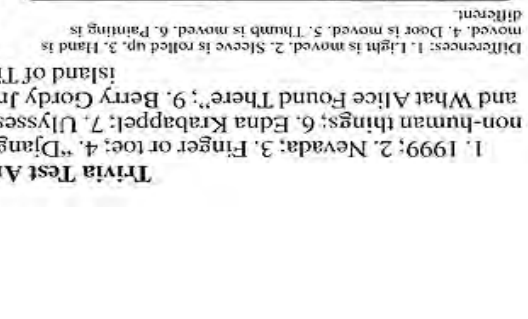
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Sleeve is rolled up. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Door is moved. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Painting is different.

— Weekly SUDOKU —

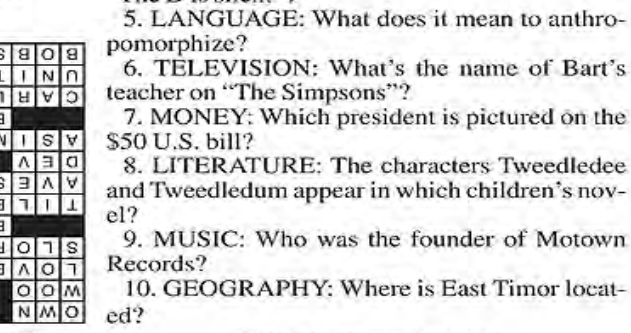
Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: In which year was the euro currency introduced?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state is the driest in the nation?
3. ANATOMY: A phalange refers to what in the human body?
4. MOVIES: Which 2012 movie has the tagline "The D is silent"?
5. LANGUAGE: What does it mean to anthropomorphize?
6. TELEVISION: What's the name of Bart's teacher on "The Simpsons"?
7. MONEY: Which president is pictured on the $50 U.S. bill?
8. LITERATURE: The characters Tweedledee and Tweedledum appear in which children's novel?
9. MUSIC: Who was the founder of Motown Records?
10. GEOGRAPHY: Where is East Timor located?

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— Trivia Test Answers —

1. 1999; 2. Nevada; 3. Finger or toe; 4. "Django Unchained"; 5. To give human traits to non-human things; 6. Edna Krabappel; 7. Ulysses S. Grant; 8. "Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There"; 9. Berry Gordy Jr.; 10. Southeast Asia, occupying half of the island of Timor

Goffney earns national recognition for school leadership,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1













ingful opportunities for every student."

Focused on Academic Growth

Since Goffney became superintendent in July 2018, Aldine ISD has maintained a sustained focus on improving student achievement through strong instruction, rigorous curriculum, teacher development and the use of student data to guide decisions.

That work is reflected in the district's recent academic results. Aldine ISD earned an overall Texas Education Agency accountability score of 79 in 2026, up 16 points from 63 in 2023. The district has recorded four consecutive years of growth under the state's accountability system.

Students also demonstrated growth across all five tested State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness end-of-course subjects over the past three years. From 2023 to 2026, performance at the Meets Grade Level standard or above increased 17 percentage points in Algebra 1, 21 points in biology and 10 points in English 2 — gains that outpaced statewide growth in each of these subjects.

The district's 2026 results also showed that 95% of Aldine ISD graduates were identified as college-, career- or military-ready, reflecting its commitment to preparing students with choices and opportunities after graduation.

The progress has drawn attention beyond the district. In a September 2025 Houston Chronicle report examining Aldine ISD's academic improvement, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath praised the district's progress and leadership under Goffney.

In the district's August accountability announcement, Goffney emphasized that the work continues:

"Four consecutive years of growth is worth celebrating, but we know our work is not finished," Goffney said. "We will continue building on this momentum and pursuing excellence for every student, in every school, every day."

Goffney's DA 100 recognition also comes during her tenure as the 2026–27 president of AASA, The School Superintendents Association, the nation's professional organization for school system leaders. Installed in July 2026, she is the 10th woman and the first African American woman to serve as president in AASA's 161-year history.

In that role, she continues to lead Aldine ISD while contributing to national conversations about district leadership, public education, equity, student achievement and the future of public education.

Aldine ISD Police to Host Free 4th Annual Trunk-or-Treat Spooktacular

By Leticia Fehling
Director of Internal Communications

The Aldine ISD Police Department (AISDPD) invites families to its fourth annual Trunk-or-Treat Spooktacular planned for later this month. The free, public event will feature decorated trunks, treats, games, entertainment and community partners coming together for an evening of fun. Families are encouraged to bring treat bags.

Trunk-or-Treat Spooktacular Details

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 20265-8 p.m.M.O. Campbell Educational Center1865 Aldine Bender Rd., Houston, TX 77073*Free and open to the public*

What Families Can Expect

The M.O. Campbell Educational Center parking area will transform into a festive gathering filled with treats, laughter and opportunities for families to connect with the community.

The mini-carnival experience will include games, a haunted house, face painting, a trackless train ride for children, a mechanical bull and music from DJ Tikki D. Families can also enjoy decorated trunks, photo opportunities and giveaways from local businesses and community partners. Food trucks will be on-site with items available for purchase.

Get Ready to Wow the Crowds — and the Judges!

The Aldine ISD Police Department will award prizes for Best Trunk, Best Costume and Best Aldine ISD Department Display.

A Community Effort to Celebrate

The East Aldine Management District returns as the event's title sponsor. Supporting sponsors include Aldine Votes, Aldine Education Foundation, Mi Tienda, North Houston District, Near Northwest Management District, Texas Children's Health Plan, Texas Gulf Coast Crime Prevention Association, and The Home Depot.

Community members, student groups, local businesses, and volunteers are helping bring the Spooktacular to life.

Help Make the Spooktacular a Success

The Aldine ISD Police Department is collecting candy and non-candy donations through Monday, Oct. 26. Community members interested in contributing can contact AISDPD Sgt. Jeffery McGowen:

Every contribution helps make the event a memorable experience for local children and families.

"Trunk-or-Treat is about more than candy and costumes — it is about creating a safe place for families to make memories together," said Sgt. McGowen. "When our community comes together, children see that the people and organizations around them care about their safety, their joy, and their future. We look forward to welcoming everyone."

Questions

For questions, donation information, or to get involved, contact McGowen at JPMcGowen@AldineISD.org.

Join Us for a Spooky Good Time on October 28!

Join the Aldine ISD Police Department on Oct. 28 for an evening of family fun, community connections and spooky-good memories!





