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# NORTHEAST NEWS

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## NEWS NOTES

### Bond Against Adversity Volunteer

Thanks to everyone who volunteers each year with Bonding Against Adversity (BAA), the organization can continue supporting the community with free citizenship classes and workshops where legal permanent residents receive help with their citizenship applications and the process. BBAA would like to thank the community!



This year, Eduardo Soto, right, receives "Volunteer of the Year" recognition; pictured with him are COO Mariana Sanchez (middle) and Board Member Marina Flores Sugg.

### 2026 Football Conference 6A D1, Region II, Regional Semi-Final Round



Aldine Davis (10-2) vs. Duncanville (8-4), at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 28, Hutto Memorial Stadium, 573 Chris Kelley Blvd. in Hutto.

# FALCONS FLY HIGH: Davis HS Makes History with First Area-round Playoff Win

By Andy Adams
Aldine ISD Communications

History has been made, and the Davis High School Falcons are not done yet.

One week after securing the program's first-ever playoff victory, the Falcons etched another line into the record books, defeating Cypress Lakes 21-14 on Friday night at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium to claim their first area-round playoff win in school history.

The Class 6A Division I area round clash saw the Falcons establish control early. Larry McCaroll and Kobe Miles powered the ground game, each rushing for touchdowns in the first half to give Davis momentum. The defense then provided a highlight-reel moment just before the break when Dreshawn Taylor made a leaping, one-handed interception in the end zone to halt a Cypress Lakes drive. Ce'Darion Caddell added another interception to keep the opposing offense at bay.

Coming out of the locker room, Davis delivered the decisive blow in the third quarter. Travell Johnson hauled in a massive 74-yard catch to set up the offense, paving the way for Ken'Darius Howard's 3-yard touchdown run. That score would hold up as the game-winner, cementing the victory for Head Coach Kelvin Chatham and his squad.



Pic 1 Junior Dreshawn Taylor's leaping, one-handed interception in the end zone before halftime was one of the big plays that got the Falcons into playoffs. (Photos by Andy Adams / Aldine ISD Communications)

The win marks a monumental step for the Davis program, which continues to rewrite its record book with every snap.

Congratulations go out to Coach Chatham, the Falcons, and every family and fan who made the trip to support the team.

Now, the Falcons turn their attention to the next challenge. Davis will face off against Duncanville in

Continued. See FALCONS MAKE HISTORY, SET SIGHTS, Page 8

# North Houston District Debuts Second Public Safety Vehicle

The North Houston District has debuted a new patrol car to support and enhance public safety throughout the area. An all-wheel-drive, pursuit-rated Ford Interceptor, the vehicle will help off-duty officers efficiently cover the District's 12 square miles, increasing patrol visibility, which is a key component of crime prevention.







The patrol car is the same model used by the Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff's Office. The North Houston District opted to install an upgraded roof-mounted lightbar, additional exterior lights, and graphics to inform the public that it is a law enforcement vehicle operated by a Texas-licensed peace officer.

Director of Public Safety, Asdrubal "Dru" Gutierrez, said the new vehicle is part of the planned growth of the North Houston District's public safety programming. "The vehicle is equipped with a "pursuit mode" which improves drivability and power delivery when needed, and will join our existing Dodge Charger police cruiser on patrols of the area," Gutierrez explained.

The vehicle was purchased at Chastang Ford, a local Houston-based dealership, which has the Ford Interceptor model under contract through BuyBoard, a local government purchasing cooperative created to increase the purchasing power of government entities. The purchase was fully funded by the North Houston District's Public Safety budget and approved by the NHD Board of Directors.

"Additionally, our patrol officers will carry special treats for interactions with local kids to continue to build relationships within the community. A little wave to our guys could get kiddos a special treat!" Gutierrez added.

Expanding Off-Duty Officer Program & Patrol Fleet

The District currently employs six off-duty officers and deputies who routinely patrol major corridors in the District along with apartment communities, with plans to expand to 12 officers once the new patrol car is

Continued. See NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT ENHANCING, Page 2

### SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 13

# Thanksgiving weekend brings us a football feast with traditional rivalries




It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is here and that means we will be visiting with family and friends, feasting on turkey, dressing and other goodies and also feasting on football!

Ah yes, Thanksgiving would not be Thanksgiving without football and with its traditional college rivalries and a number of key NFL games that begin Wednesday night and runs until Monday Night Football.

What a great country?

In college action, we get Texas visiting Texas A&M on Friday (ABC, 6:30 p.m.) as the Longhorns look to solidify their College Football Playoff (CFP) hopes, while the Aggies would like nothing more to make their season by upsetting their long-time rivals. The Aggies have suffered through a tough season and probably won't qualify for a bowl game this season. An upset over No. 6-ranked UT would make their season.

Week 13 of the college season kicks off on Thursday night at p.m. on ESPN when No. 11-ranked Texas Tech hopes to keep its Big 12 and CFP chances alive when it closes out its regular season against a TCU team that has struggled this year and may be looking for a new head coach after all is said and done.

On Saturday, traditional rivals Ohio State and Michigan meet in Columbus, with nothing at stake by bragging rights. OSU is out of the CFP picture and the Wolverines are looking to get to six wins to become bowl eligible.

While those two play things out, there's a bigger

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

# Healthy Fall Festival Draws Families for Turkeys

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

Families gathered at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center last Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, for the sixth annual Healthy Fall Festival & Turkey Giveaway, a community event that combined holiday food assistance with student entertainment.

Attendees filled out lottery cards and collected stamps throughout the event; after five stamps, families received a free turkey along with fresh vegetables. Guests also enjoyed student presentations from the "Por La Cultura" dance group at Davis High School and students from Reece Academy, as well as giveaways.





The festival offered families a festive way to prepare for the holidays while celebrating local student talent and community support. (Information for this report was provided by Julieta Paita, a volunteer with Bonding Against Adversity.)

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# Lone Star College nationally recognized for nonpartisan student voter turnout efforts




HOUSTON – The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) has recognized Lone Star College System as a 2026 ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting.

LSCS is one of 272 colleges and universities recognized nationwide for outstanding efforts to increase nonpartisan student voter participation.

"The Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning at Lone Star College System empowers students to be informed voters, advocate for their communities and participate in other civic activities," said Mark Thorsby, Ph.D., LSC-CyFair philosophy professor and Civic Engagement faculty director. "We are honored to receive this designation as a college system where we are committed to engaging our students in the community and fostering the next generation of leaders."

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. Campuses that join ALL IN complete a set of action items to help make nonpartisan civic learning and voter participation a defining feature of campus life.

More than 1,065 campuses collectively serving nearly 11 million students are part of ALL IN, including more than 275 community colleges.

"Our Most Engaged Campus honorees prove that when institutions invest in nonpartisan campus voter turnout, students will show up at the ballot box in a big way," said Jen Domagal-Goldman, Ph.D., ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge executive director. "ALL IN celebrates these colleges and universities for their commitment and for the long-term efforts they have implemented to make civic engagement not just a defining feature of campus life this year, but a long-term habit for students to carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Learn more about LSCS civic engagement opportunities at LoneStar.edu/CivicEngagement.

About Lone Star College System

With 100,000 students and counting, Lone Star College System provides transformational educational opportunities that help individuals get from where they are to where they want to be.

Under Chancellor Mario K. Castillo, J.D., the System's priorities are guided by its strategic plan, which focuses on financial resilience, academic excellence, talent development and bridges to prosperity. Lone Star College System, recognized as a 2026 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, has eight main campuses and more than 20 locations in the Houston area. Learn more at LoneStar.edu.

Connect with LSCS: Facebook | Instagram | X | LinkedIn | YouTube.

**About the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge**

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student civic engagement. Through an intentionally designed program that provides structure, support and recognition, ALL IN works to improve civic learning, voter participation and ongoing engagement in our democracy at more than 1,065 campuses nationwide. ALL IN believes higher education should play a role in developing an active and informed citizenry by educating students, motivating them to engage in American democracy, and instilling the value of lifelong participation. ALL IN is an initiative of Civic Nation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Learn more here.

**About Civic Nation**

Civic Nation is an impact hub for ideas, leaders and initiatives that strengthen civic culture, power and participation. Rooted in purpose and powered by people, Civic Nation brings together individuals, grassroots organizers, industry leaders, brands and influencers to take on the biggest issues of our time. Civic Nation is home to five national initiatives: ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, Change Collective, It's On Us, We The Action and When We All Vote. Learn more here.

# North Houston enhancing public safety throughout the area,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fully operational.

The officers work five to six days a week at various times during the daytime and evening. They provide a high-visibility patrol throughout the area, focusing on commercial, retail, and multi-family properties within the District's boundaries.

A second vehicle allows two patrol vehicles to be operated at the same time when needed, and provides coverage if one vehicle is out for maintenance. "The expansion will allow us to double our visibility and patrols of area retail, businesses, restaurants, office space, and District parks. We will have a combination of morning, afternoon, and occasional night shift patrols," Gutierrez shared.

This new vehicle represents a continued commitment to investing in, maintaining, and enhancing public safety across the District.

"The expansion will allow us to double our visibility and patrols of area retail, businesses, restaurants, office space, and District parks." Asdrubal "Dru" Gutierrez, Director of Public Safety

Other Safety & Security Patrols in the Area

Separate from public safety patrol efforts, approximately 130 officers are assigned to the Houston Police Department's North Belt Division, which provides primary police response throughout the NHD area.

Additionally, the District contracts with the Harris County Sheriff's Office to provide proactive policing and trained private security officers to provide routine patrols throughout District parks.

Seasonally during the summer, North Houston District partners with the Houston Police Department's Bike Patrol to add an extra layer of security for our parks, trails, and common areas.

With patrols from local law enforcement, including HPD's North Belt Division and HCSO, supplemented by NHD's Off-Duty Officer patrols and private security patrols, the North Houston District area benefits from many layers of safety and security efforts.




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# SCHOOL PAGE




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



Aldine ISD's HR Department hosted first-year international teachers for their first Thanksgiving luncheon.

*These incredible educators have traveled from around the world to share their talents, experiences, and love for teaching with our Aldine ISD students. We are so grateful they chose to be part of our Aldine family! –* Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Dear Aldine ISD Community,

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday and holds a special place in my heart. Although I was raised in poverty, Thanksgiving was a time when we always had plenty, the food was delicious, and we were surrounded by family and love. I feel so blessed to live in a country that dedicates an entire holiday to giving thanks.

I was able to share this holiday early with our first-year international teachers, who enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner provided by our HR department. I loved experiencing Thanksgiving through their eyes. It's hard to explain what's actually in dressing and why we even call it dressing. Cranberry sauce was a new experience for them, too.

These educators have traveled from around the world to share their talents with our children. For our Aldine family, it was a chance to tell them thank you for choosing Aldine.

**Helping Students see a Future That Fits**

At our recent Choice Schools Expo, families explored programs that connect learning with their children's interests and strengths. Choosing a school is about more than selecting a program. It is about finding a place where a child can grow, discover a talent and begin to imagine what comes next.

This week, College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) Week is encouraging those conversations across our campuses. Our students deserve to understand the options ahead of them — and the steps and support that can help them get there.

Davis High School senior Edmundo Juárez offered a powerful example after our College Boundevent. He arrived with a college list and left asking whether a school's name was the main reason he wanted to attend. He began thinking more deeply about cost, community and where he would thrive.

That is the kind of thinking we want to encourage. Preparing for the future is not simply about choosing a destination. It is about learning to make informed decisions about your own life.

We must also keep expanding who can see college as a possibility. Beginning in 2027-28, Ellen B. Lane School and Lone Star College-Houston North plan to offer a supported logistics management pathway for eligible students with disabilities who have completed their high school graduation requirements. College coursework, hands-on training and individualized support will help students build toward greater independence and a workforce credential.

This is Students First, a priority of our *Accelerate* strategic plan, in practice: high expectations paired with the support students need to pursue them.

Making Room for Curiosity, Confidence, and Joy

Our children also need opportunities to discover what they love.

Through the Aldine A-List Reading Challenge, students from early childhood through 12th grade can explore books and bring their thinking to life through creative projects. One Hambrick Middle School seventh grader who checked out "Invisible" saw herself reflected in the story, according to our Library Services team.

Think about what that means for a child — to open a book and feel that your experience matters.

I want our students to find that connection and carry it into conversations with their families, classrooms and communities. Over the break, ask a child what they are reading. Listen to what interests them. There is no need to turn the conversation into an assignment. Enjoy discovering something together.

That same joy and confidence are taking shape in our arts programs, on our athletic fields and through experiences such as our Spanish Spelling Bee. Congratulations to our Davis Falcons on their first playoff victory in school history! I am proud of our students and the educators, coaches and families who help them prepare, persevere and represent their schools with pride.

Thank you for the work we see — and the work we do not

Some contributions bring applause. Others happen quietly, long before a student arrives or after the last classroom empties. All of them matter.

Our Child Nutrition Services team recently earned the USDA's Silver Turnip the Beet Award for a 2025 summer program that served 102,465 meals. Behind that number are people who planned, prepared and served nutritious food so children could keep eating well when school was out.

**To our teachers, principals, counselors, school psychologists, librarians and substitute educators:** Thank you for helping students feel known, supported and challenged.

**To our education support professionals** — in transportation, child nutrition, custodial services, maintenance, technology, school offices, safety and every part of our district: Thank you. Our schools could not do this work without you.

**To the veterans** in our Aldine community, including those who continue serving through their work in our schools: Thank you for your service.

**And to our families and community partners:** Thank you for your trust, your voices and your willingness to work alongside us. From listening to parents to building college partnerships and supporting students' well-being, we are stronger when we do this work together.

At our State of the District celebration, I asked what gives people hope for Aldine's future. My answer is the people who keep choosing to invest in our children. You give me reasons for gratitude — and confidence in the work ahead.

**Thank you for continuing to #ChooseAldine** through the care you give, the partnerships you build and the possibilities you help our students see.

Thanksgiving Break is Nov. 23-27, and we look forward to welcoming students back Monday, Nov. 30. I hope the week brings rest, connection and time with the people who matter to you.

To our students: We are grateful for you.

To everyone who helps them learn and grow: Your work matters, even when you cannot yet see its full impact.

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for making the decision to #ChooseAldine.

With gratitude,

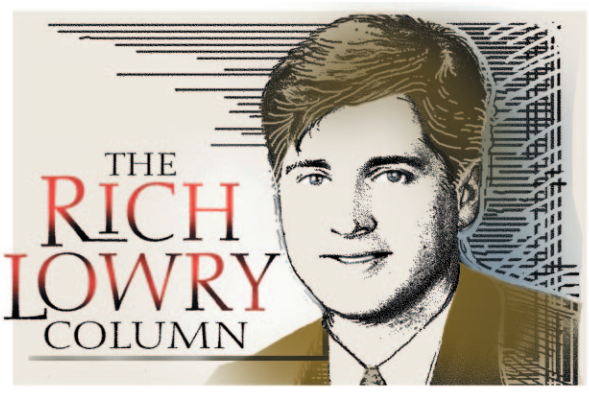
Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Superintendent of Schools






# ☆ OPINION PAGE ☆




## *Thank you, Specialist Thomas Iglesias*

The Secretary of Defense visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day, and yet the true voice of military authority on this occasion was an Army specialist.

When the group with Pete Hegseth laughed and began to chatter after taking a photo, the voice of Specialist Thomas Iglesias rang out, "All visitors will maintain an atmosphere of silence and respect at all times!"

It was a stunning moment. We aren't used to high-level officials getting so publicly and starkly upbraided by their underlings, but Iglesias, as part of the Old Guard, or 3rd Infantry Regiment, is a different breed.

The Old Guard stands vigil over the Tomb of the Unknown, 24 hours a day, rain or shine, in heat and cold, and protects it from any indignities, whether from thoughtless tourists or the briefly voluble entourage of the secretary of defense.

There was much tsk-tsking about the episode in the media, which relishes any opportunity to make Hegseth look bad. The secretary, though, cleverly and appropriately embraced the moment. He invited Iglesias and his colleagues to the Pentagon the next day and pinned a Joint Service Commendation Medal on him.

It's been a rocky tenure for Hegseth at the department, but there's no doubting his bond with the troops and his positive influence on recruiting. His handling of this matter showed why. "We love soldiers. We love standards. Well done, Specialist," Hegseth wrote in a social-media post.

Beyond the media commentary and jostling over Hegseth — who narrowly escaped impeachment the day before — the episode tells us something about America's egalitarian spirit, and about the sacred status of the Tomb of the Unknown and the amazing fidelity of the Old Guard.

Despite all the talk of inequality in America, we are still a culture that appreciates challenges to status and hierarchy — think Hank Morgan in "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," disdaining all aristocratic trappings.

An analogue to the Hegseth episode is the famous story of Abraham Lincoln going to witness a battle outside of Washington, D.C., at Fort Stevens in 1864. He supposedly exposed himself to enemy fire and a soldier yelled, "Get down, you damn fool!" The president indeed took cover.

Of course, Specialist Thomas Iglesias wasn't seeking to defy authority, but rather to uphold his duty to see that the Tomb is afforded respect at all times. Established after World War I and containing the remains of war dead from World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the Tomb symbolizes the bond of the nation to its citizen-warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice. "HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD," reads the inscription.

The Tomb has been continuously guarded since 1937, and since 1948 by the Old Guard. Its standard for carrying out its mission is nothing less than perfection. Every movement is precise and fraught with meaning. For instance, the sentinel's 21 steps walking in front of the tomb and then the 21-second pause before turning and walking back again is a reference to the high honor of the 21-gun salute. The inspection of the rifle during the changing of the guard is a strange and wondrous thing to behold, as elaborate and punctilious as a well-choreographed ballet.

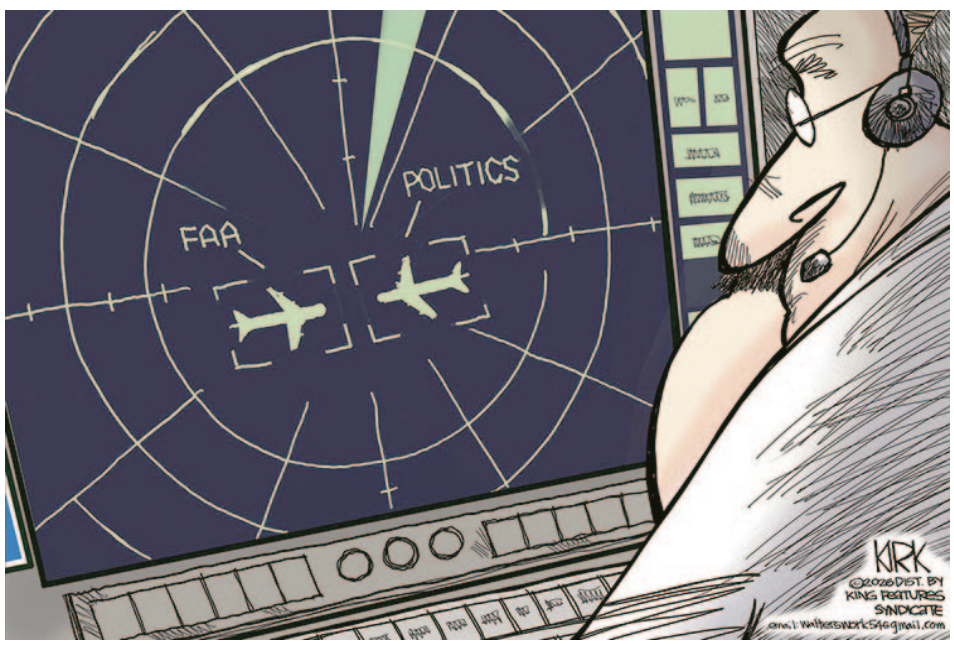
It all betokens the nation's profound gratitude to its fallen, known and unknown, of whatever rank and from whichever walk of life. In his book about the Old Guard, Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, who served with the Guard, includes an anecdote about a foreign military dignitary visiting Arlington Cemetery and commenting, "Now I know why your soldiers fight so hard. You take better care of your dead than we do our living."

Specialist Thomas Iglesias had so imbibed this ethic that he didn't hesitate to shout his admonition to a group of highfalutin visitors, a sterling example of duty and honor worthy of the 3rd Infantry Regiment he serves.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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




## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

**By Gary Borders**



## *Bill filing begins for 2027 legislative session*

Texas lawmakers began filing bills last week in advance of the 90th legislative session, which starts in January. The Texas Standard reported that proposals so far include bills to repeal school vouchers, place new restrictions on data centers, legalize recreational marijuana, and change immigration enforcement policies.

More than a thousand bills were filed in the first week after Democrats flipped all statewide races and took control of the Texas House for the first time in 25 years, 82-64. Republicans maintain control of the Senate by a 19-12 margin.

Among the bills are HB 257, which would require independent audits of Operation Lone Star, the multi-billion-dollar border security initiative launched under outgoing Gov. Greg Abbott, and a House bill that would allow adults 21 and older to legally possess and purchase marijuana.

Another proposal would repeal the state's private school voucher program, a campaign promise of Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa.

The Texas Legislature convenes on Jan. 12, 2027, with lawmakers having until March 12 to file most bills.

### THOMPSON POISED TO BECOME NEXT HOUSE SPEAKER

Houston Democrat Senfronia Thompson says she has secured bipartisan support and is poised to become the next House Speaker, The Dallas Morning News reported. She would be the first woman and first Black person to assume the role.

The election of the speaker will be held on the first day of the session.

The speaker is one of the three most powerful positions in state politics, along with the governor and lieutenant governor. Thompson would have the authority to assign committee chairs, set budget and legislative priorities, oversee floor debate, and manage procedure on the House floor.

Thompson, who holds multiple degrees, including a law degree and two master's degrees, has served in the Legislature since 1973 and has never lost a race. She is known for building relationships with conservative lawmakers across the aisle. Her legislation has targeted human trafficking and addressed hate crimes and equal health coverage for women.

### BILL WOULD DELIVER HINOJOSA'S $1,500 CHECKS

During the campaign, Hinojosa said that she would push for the state to pull $17 billion out of the state's rainy-day fund to deliver on a campaign promise — $1,500 checks for every Texas household.




Now that she has won the election, state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, has filed a bill that would direct the comptroller to send a "one-time emergency relief payment" to every household in the state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"I say, if you're not going to spend it, just send it back to the people," Hinojosa said at a rally on election night. "It doesn't belong to the politicians. It belongs to the people of Texas. Because right now Texans are struggling in a way I've never seen before."

The rainy-day fund now totals nearly $27 billion. Lawmakers have dipped into it in the past to pay for water projects, public education, and disaster relief. The payments would require approval from two-thirds of the GOP-controlled Senate and the House.

### STATE'S TOP APPEAL COURTS WILL NOW INCLUDE DEMOCRATS

For the first time since 1994, Democrats now hold seats on the state's top civil and criminal appeal courts, as the Texas Newsroom reported. That includes Maggie Ellis, an appeals court judge who will be sworn in as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court in January — much to her surprise.

"I was completely gobsmacked," Ellis said after the election. "I was shocked. And then I was fervently hitting refresh and going to the major counties and checking their election returns and thinking, 'oh my goodness, we might actually be able to do this.'"

Democrats flipped seven of the 18 seats on the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals — four on the former and three on the latter. While Republican jurists still hold a majority on both courts, Democrats can single-handedly set the Supreme Court's agenda because it takes only four justices to decide which cases to review.

The newly elected Democrats have avoided saying how they will rule on certain issues, as the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct requires.

### RRC TO REINSTATE PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS

The Texas Railroad Commission will reinstate general public comment at its meetings starting next month, The Texas Tribune reported. State Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, said the commission, which oversees the state's oil and gas industry, will reverse the decision made in August to eliminate public comment.

"As chair of the House Committee on Energy Resources, my job is not to cheerlead the industry or regulators, but to be a voice for my constituents and all Texans," Darby said. "After the change in August, numerous constituents called my office, expressing serious concerns with removal of the standalone comment period."

In August, commissioners voted to suspend the two-decade policy that allowed members of the public to testify before the commission on matters not on the agency's agenda. After that decision, Darby called for an oversight hearing on the issue.

### CDC CUTS $29 MILLION IN HIV PREVENTION IN TEXAS

The Centers for Disease Control has eliminated $29 million in funding to Texas health organizations that test thousands of people for HIV, The Tribune reported. Texas was the nation's largest recipient of the funding, with grant money going to 11 community-based organizations based primarily in urban areas.

"The front line in the testing portion of it really are the community-based organizations — they're the ones that are in their community," said Philip Keiser, a professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch who studies HIV. "These community groups are critically important in getting out there to reach their community and get people tested."

State lawmakers have started considering funding the program, according to state Rep. Venton Jones, D-Dallas, the first openly HIV-positive lawmaker to serve in the Legislature.

"This is a huge hit to our ability to respond to the epidemic," Jones said. "Ultimately, we want to make sure that those funds are put back by the federal government, by the CDC, because those are critical."

The CDC did not respond to a request for comment.

Two lawmakers seek to undo state's abortion bans

Two Austin-area Democrats are among legislators seeking to reverse the state's abortion bans and eliminate other restrictions tied to reproductive healthcare, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

State Rep. Donna Howard and state Rep.-elect Samantha Lopez-Resendez have filed similar measures to repeal two of the main recent abortion laws, including a law that makes it a felony to perform an abortion at any point in pregnancy.

Howard's bill would also ease other restrictions, including consent requirements for minors, mandatory waiting periods, and a 2023 ban on gender-affirming care for minors. Other lawmakers have filed similar measures, and more are expected to do so before the session begins.

*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**

## *"Plenty of Treats"*



In Mexico, I am the dog treat lady, once again.

Sometimes, it's hard to be the treat lady. There is no way of telling which owners will say, "No, no treats for my dog!" in Spanish or English. I have seen dogs that were clearly street dogs in a former life, now with a fancy collar and leash, and their owner insists they are on a special diet and cannot have random dog treats.

Some of these dogs look at me longingly, as if to say, "I need new representation!" But they know their person is calling the shots, and there will be no dog cookies from strangers.

In my defense, I'd like to point out that I buy very nice treats. They are healthy, according to the package, and popular, according to the reviews. But this doesn't mean they are a universal hit.

Sometimes, the owners allow their dog to have a snack, but the dog is not interested. The dog is distracted by a dog across the street. They are busy sniffing something in a flower bed. My treat does not smell like their usual treat, and they leave it lying on the paving stones.

I say, "No problem!" and I'm sure that abandoned treat is scarfed up minutes later by the next passing dog.

Small, nervous dogs are the most likely to leave a treat on the sidewalk. But one of my most enthusiastic repeat customers is a tiny, three-legged Chihuahua mix named Très, who swallows my treats whole; and another is a little pug mix, named Candy, whose owner draws eyebrows on his dog's face with a Sharpie. Candy starts to drool when she sees me a block away, and if you've never had anyone drool for you on sight, you don't know what you are missing.

My latest repeat customers are two stray dogs. I think they are littermates, although one is almost entirely black, and the other is almost all white. I see them every evening as I cross the bridge over the arroyo, a streambed that usually has a little water in it but flows briskly in the rainy season. There is a small island in the middle of the stream, and when I walk especially late, I see the two adolescent pups curled up together, black and white like a yin-yang sign, in the middle of the stream.

I give them treats when I walk by, but they are too timid to take them from my hand. I toss the treats just out of arm's reach, and they gobble them up, hoping there will be more.

They are being fed by residents living nearby. I met one the other night. He was walking his very dignified dog—who had certainly never been a street dog—named Remi.

"They are such nice pups!" I told Remi's owner.

"They are. I hope they get adopted."

The two dogs watched us as we talked. I do not think they suspected their future was being discussed. They were wondering if their future involved more treats. Remi was also watching me, wondering if he would get a treat.

"Would Remi like a treat?" I asked Remi's owner.

"Always," he replied.

Remi got his treat, and I carried on with my walk. The two pups, black and white, watched me as I walked away, and I felt my heart tug.

There are so few certainties in anyone's life. There are no certainties at all in the life of a street dog. But I wish these two well, and I hope they get plenty of treats.

Till next time,
Carrie

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 13

# Thanksgiving weekend brings us a football feast with traditional rivalries




game in the Big 10 as No. 4 UCLA, one of the major surprise teams this season, hosts cross-town rival USC (No. 18) in the Rose Bowl.

Week 12 of the NFL season starts with the first-ever Thanksgiving Eve game as Green Bay visits the Los Angeles Rams in a key game for both teams' playoff hopes.

Thanksgiving Day gives us a triple header with the traditional opener in Detroit as the Lions host the Bears in a key NFC North contest at 11 at noon on CBS. That game will be followed up by the Eagles visiting the Cowboys at 3:30 p.m. on FOX. The night ends with a huge one in the AFC as the Chiefs visit the Bills at 7:290 p.m. on NBC. The winner of this one could end up as the top seed in the AFC and earn a coveted bye in the first weekend of the playoffs.

On Black Friday, Denver visits Pittsburgh in an important game for both teams. On Sunday, the Texans will look to keep their fledgling playoff hopes alive when they host the Baltimore Ravens, while later that day there's a huge one in the NFC West as Seattle visits division-leader San Francisco.

Week 12 concludes on Monday Night Football as Carolina visits Tampa Bay in a key NFC South contest.

Before we look at his weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week upped the record to 88-43 (67%).

I want to wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving and I hope you have a good time spending quality time with family and friends.

Now, onto the holiday weekend games.

**NCAA**

**TCU at Texas Tech** - The final weekend of the regular season begins on Thanksgiving night when No. 11 Texas Tech hosts a struggling TCU team. Joey McGuire's team knows they have to win out to make it to a second straight Big 12 title game. They played an improved Baylor team in Waco last week and host the Horn Frogs Thursday night in Lubbock. TCU has had a tough season and needed to win one of their final two games to become bowl eligible. There are rumblings in Fort Worth that head coach Sonny Dykes' job could be on the line. It's would be rather ironic if his TCU run ends in Lubbock, where his father Spike revitalized the program in the 1980s. The Red Raiders have been rolling on offense since Thomas Castellanos (814 passing yards, 13 TDs/322 rushing yards, 3 TDs). Castellanos can rely on a strong running game led by J'Koby Williams ((1,078 yards, 8 TDs) and has solid targets in wideouts Kenny Johnson (43 receptions, 707 yards, 5 TDs) and Micah Hudson (17 receptions, 306 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Terrance Carter Jr. 27 receptions, 298 yards, 5 TDs). Look for McGuire to have his team ready for this one considering there's so much at stake. My pick, Texas Tech 36, TCU 18

**Texas at Texas A&M** - The No. 6-ranked Longhorns head to College Station for a Friday night (6:30 p.m. on ABC) to take on long-time rival Texas A&M. The Aggies have had a miserable season and would like nothing more than to spoil UT's CFP hopes. Texas has been rolling as of late and picked up two big road wins at Missouri and LSU this month. QB Arch Manning (2,198 passing yards, 19 TDs/148 rushing yards, 3 TDs). He's also getting help from running back Ralek Brown (572 yards, 9 total TDs) and wide receivers Ryan Wingo (48 receptions, 591 yards, 4 TDs), Emmett Mosley (34 receptions, 541 yards, 1 TD) and Cam Coleman (23 receptions, 409 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Texas defense to make it another long night for beleaguered Aggie QB Marcel Reed (1,712 yards, 8 TDs/9 interceptions). Texas won't make it to the SEC title game, but a 10-2 season with five Top 20 wins should be enough to earn them a spot in the CFP. My pick, Texas 31, Texas A&M 13

**Michigan at Ohio State** - This traditional Big 10 rivalry has lost a lot of its luster this year as both teams have struggled. Michigan could be looking at a six-loss season, while Ohio State has three losses and is probably out of the CFP picture. But don't forget these are two bitter rivals, so I expect a competitive game. The Wolverines are not a good offensive football team and have turned to true freshman Tommy Carr (686 yards, 2 TDs), with not much luck. Ohio State also has turned to a true freshman at QB as Luke Fahey (1,0244 yards, 8 TDs) has taken over for injured starter Julian Sayin. The Buckeyes have perhaps the best wide receiver in the country in Jeremiah Smith (80 receptions, 1,317 yards, 15 TDs). Look for Smith to have a big day in his final home game in Columbus. OSU will also get a big day out of running back Bo Jackson (799 yards, 8 TDs) as the Buckeyes roll on Saturday. My pick, Ohio State 30, Michigan 12

**USC at UCLA** - A big one in the Big 10 as No. 18 USC visits one of the biggest surprise teams in the country in No. 4-ranked UCLA. This traditional inner-city rivalry means a lot this year. A Bruins win should earn them a spot in the Big 10 title game, while USC would like nothing more than to spoil those plans. The Trojans will test a very good UCLA defense behind QB Jayden Maiava (2,836 yards, 21 TDs), running back King Miller (728 yards, 5 TDs) and big-play wideouts Trent Mosley (41 receptions, 642 yards, 6 TDs) and Kayden Dixon-Wyatt (33 receptions, 494 yards, 4 TDs). First-year Bruins coach Bob Chesney has done a masterful coaching job, especially with all of the injuries that have plagued the team this year. Back-up QB Ty Dieffenbach (1,218 yards, 8 TDs in six games) has done a nice job of keeping the offense humming, with help from running backs Wayne Knight (845 yards, 13 TDs) and Anthony Woods (540 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Semaj Morgan (41 receptions, 525 yards, 3 TDs) and speedy Aidan Mizell (15 receptions, 501 yards, a 33.4 yards per catch, and 4 TDs). Look for Chesney to have his team ready for this one as the Bruins head to Indianapolis for a date in the Big 10 title game. My pick, UCLA 31, USC 26

**NFL**

**Green Bay at Los Angeles Rams** - Week 12 begins on Thanksgiving Eve with a good matchup between the Packers and Rams. This is an important game for both team's NFC playoff hopes. Two weeks ago, the Packers looked dreadful at home against the Vikings and suffered a 30-10 beat down. QB Jordan Love (2,838 yards, 20 TDs) will be facing an improving LA defense, but playing on the fast turf in Sofi Stadium could be just the tonic he needs to make big plays downfield to wide receivers Christian Watkins (52 receptions, 916 yards, 7 TDs) and Matthew Golden (58 receptions, 853 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Tucker Kraft (37 receptions, 370 yards, 3 TDs). The Rams have lost their top two wide receivers, so the Rams have turned to their two-headed monster of a running game of Blake Corum (547 yards, 5 TDs) and Kyren Williams (616 yards, 6 TDs). LA still has Matthew Stafford (2,623 yards, 19 TDs) at QB and with Puka Nacua and Davante Adams out, he's been making plays to his tight ends and backup wide receivers. Look for the Rams to continue rolling as they pick up a big win on Wednesday night. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 30, Green Bay 23

**Chicago at Detroit** - The Thanksgiving Day triple header begins with a huge on the NFC North as division leaders Chicago and Detroit meet in the annual Thanksgiving Day game in the Motor City. Both teams entered last week's games with 7-2 records. The Bears played New Orleans, while the Lions took on Tampa Bay. The Bears have been rolling on offense behind third-year QB Caleb Williams (1,546 yards, 8 TDs in six games), running back D'Andre Swift (576 yards, 10 TDs) and wideouts Luther Burden III 49 receptions, 644 yards, 4 TDs) and Rome Odunze (32 receptions, 32 receptions, 528 yards, 1 TD). Detroit is loaded on offense as well behind QB Jared Goff (2,437 yards, 18 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (1,000 yards, 13 total TDs) and wide receivers Amon-Ra St. Brown (65 receptions, 755 yards, 7 TDs) and Jameson Williams (32 receptions, 518 yards, 5 TDs). I think playing at home will be a big advantage for the Lions who will celebrate a happy Thanksgiving with a huge division win. My pick, Detroit 32, Chicago 29

**Philadelphia at Dallas** - The 3:30 p.m. game pits to disappointing teams as the struggling Eagles visit the defensive-challenged Cowboys on FOX. Philly lost seven of its first nine games and injuries have decimated a team that two years ago won the Super Bowl. The Eagles hope running back Saquon Barkley (296 yards, 3 TDs) has a big day against a bad Cowboys run defense. The Dallas offense should have a big day, they did put up 40 points two weeks ago against the 49ers. Look for QB Dak Prescott (2,724 yards, 21 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (692 yards, 10 total TDs) and wide receivers CeeDee Lamb (77 receptions, 976 yards, 8 TDs) and George Pickens (50 receptions, 678 yards, 5 TDs) to have big days as Dallas adds to the Eagles misery. My pick, Dallas 34, Philadelphia 20

**Kansas City at Buffalo** - The Thanksgiving Day triple header concludes in prime time on NBC with a great matchup as Kansas City visits Buffalo. Both teams are battling for the top seed in the AFC, so this should be a good one to watch. Both teams have star QBs as KC has Patrick Mahomes (2,385 yards, 13 TDs), while the Bills counter with Josh Allen (2,223 passing yards, 13 TDs/290 rushing yards, 14 TDs). Both teams also have star running backs as the Chiefs have gotten a very good year out of Kenneth Walker III (872 yards, 8 total TDs) and the Bills have gotten another solid season out of James Cook (971 yards, 9 TDs). KC added a weapon for Mahomes when it traded for Josh Downs, who had a nice debut two weeks ago with 4 catches for 80 yards and a touchdown in his team's win at Atlanta. KC also has Mr. Reliable in tight end Travis Kelce (35 receptions, 512 yards, 2 TDs). Buffalo has a solid tight end in Dalton Kincaid (32 receptions, 487 yards, 2 TDs). This should be a high-scoring game and I think Allen's running ability will be the difference maker come Thursday night. My pick, Buffalo 31, Kansas City 30

**Denver at Pittsburgh** - The Black Friday game will pit Denver at Pittsburgh in a key AFC game for both teams. Denver leads the AFC West, while the Steelers are looking up at the Bengals, who curb-stomped them two weeks ago in Cinci on Sunday Night Football, 38-18. Denver is getting better play from QB Bo Nix (1,730 yards, 11 TDs) and have found a new weapon in rookie running back Jonah Coleman (191 yards, 3 TDs). The Broncos need to get wide receiver Jaylen Waddle (30 receptions, 337 yards, 2 TDs) going, and that might be tough against a Steeler defense that wants to make up for its embarrassing performance two weeks ago against the Bengals. On offense, QB Aaron Rodgers (2,014 yards, 15 TDs) will look for help from running back Jaylen Warren (719 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (35 receptions, 432 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Steelers to pick up a big home win on Friday. My pick, Pittsburgh 24, Denver 20

**Baltimore at Houston** - The Texans have little room for error from here on out if they hope to earn a playoff spot. Two weeks ago, DeMeco Ryans' team blew a 17-0 lead at Cleveland and lost to the Browns and former QB Deshaun Watson. Baltimore has struggled as well this season and two weeks ago lost to a then winless Chargers team at home. New QB Jacoby Brissett (340 yards in his Ravens debut) is probably an upgrade at the position. Look for the Ravens to give the Texans defensive front a steady dose of Derrick Henry (699 yards, 10 TDs). The Texans will look for a big day from QB C.J. Stroud (2,462 yards, 19 TDs) and wide receiver Nico Collins (37 receptions, 478 yards, 5 TDs) as the Texans look to make a late-season run. My pick, Houston 24, Baltimore 16

**Seattle at San Francisco** - A key matchup in the NFC West as the Seahawks visit the division-leading 49ers. Seattle is three games behind in the division and can't afford to fall much further in the race. Seattle should have starting QB Sam Darnold (1,478 yards, 10 TDs/9 interceptions) back for this one. Seattle also has rookie running back Jadarian Price back, which should boost the offense. Darnold will look to make plays downfield to star wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba (79 receptions, 1,207 yards, 10 TDs). Seattle should be able to move the ball against a SF defense that gave up 40 points to Dallas two weeks ago. The 49ers offense did its part by putting up 46 points as QB Brock Purdy (2,369 yards, 20 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (519 rushing yards, 10 TDs/40 receptions, 431 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (44 receptions, 557 yards, 5 TDs) all had big days. It's desperation time for the Seahawks, so look for them to step up to the plate and win a big road game on Sunday. My pick, Seattle 26, San Francisco 23

**Carolina at Tampa Bay** - Week 12 concludes with Monday Night Football with a key NFC South contest as the Panthers visit the Bucs. Carolina is playing better on offense led by QB Bryce Young (2,397 yards, 16 TDs), running back Chubba Hubbard (711 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Tetairoa McMillan (49 receptions, 660 yards, 3 TDs). TB has struggled on offense due to banged up QB Baker Mayfield (922 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Bucs to feature running back Bucky Irving (825 yards 8 TDs) a lot on Monday night. My pick, Carolina 23, Tampa Bay 19




## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL

**Aldine Davis 21, Cypress Lakes 14**
**Bay City 70, Huffman Hargrave 28**
**College Station A&M 49, Goose Creek Memorial 32**
**Galena Park North Shore 52, Pearland 14**
**Sheldon C. E. King 62, Alvin Shadow Creek 18**



THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

**2026 Football Conference 6A D1, Region II, Regional Semi-Final Round**
**Aldine Davis (10-2) vs. Duncanville (8-4), at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 28, Hutto Memorial Stadium, 573 Chris Kelley Blvd. in Hutto.**

# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

**Psalm 45:13-15a**

All **glorious** is the **princess** within her **chamber**; her **gown** is **interwoven** with **gold**. In embroidered **garments** she is **led** to the **king**; her **virgin** companions **follow** her—those **brought** to be **with** her. Led in with **joy** and **gladness**,

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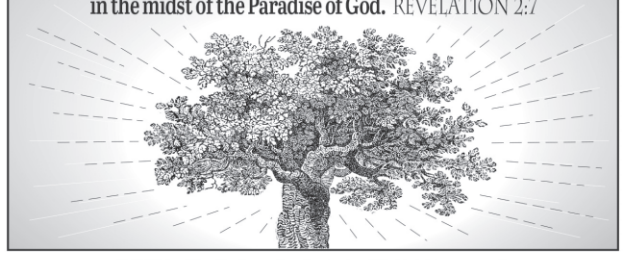
Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches: To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. REVELATION 2:7



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## BIBLE TRIVIA

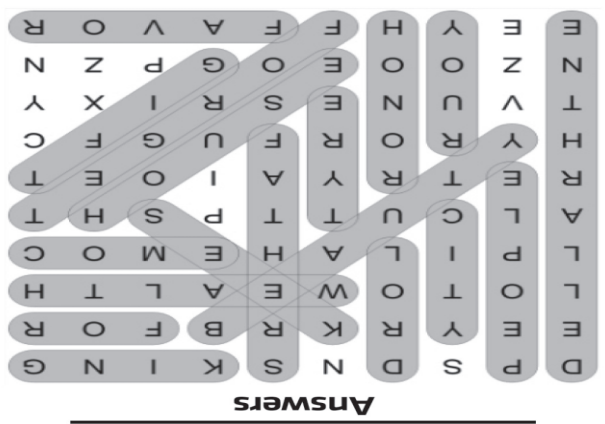
By Wilson Casey

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
2. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people
3. From Psalms 106:1, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for his ____ endureth for ever." Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit
4. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the ____ of God." Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail
5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ... Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant
6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish's belly

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH Answers

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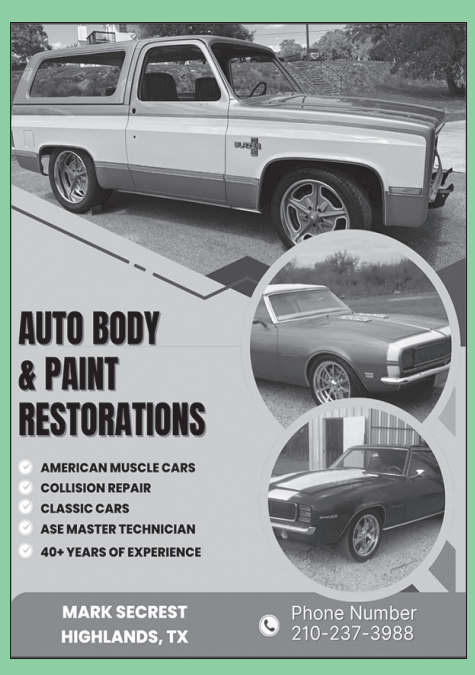
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Anthony Mackie stars in "12 12 12."

## "12 12 12."

**"The Social Reckoning" (R)** — The sequel to "The Social Network" (2010), which put Oscar nominee Jesse Eisenberg ("A Real Pain") on the map, is officially available to rent starting Nov. 24! This sequel jumps from the original events of the first film that took place in 2003-2004 to 2019, with Jeremy Strong ("Succession") replacing Eisenberg as Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg. "The Social Reckoning" touches on the 2021 Facebook leak and the overall threat against user safety that the social media platform presented at the time. Oscar winner Mikey Madison ("Anora") portrays Frances Haugen, the whistleblower who leaked the company's internal documents, while "The Bear's" Jeremy Allen White takes on the role of Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz, who was heavily involved in breaking the news to the public. With mixed reviews from critics, the film unfortunately bombed at the box office, only earning $18.1 million against a budget of $42 million. (Amazon Prime Video)

**"The Altruists" (TV-MA) —** This series out now to binge is led by Julia Garner ("Weapons"), who looks almost unrecognizable without her signature blonde hair, and Anthony Boyle ("House of Guiness"). In just eight episodes, the series delves into the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, as well as its founders Sam Bankman-Fried (Boyle) and Caroline Ellison (Garner), emphasizing the fact that Bankman-Fried and Ellison were incredibly intelligent and hopeful with their company. But going "all in" on their dream results in a $36 billion fraudulent scheme that quickly turns their lives into a nightmare. Look out for comedian Matt Rife, who seems to be doing well after his recent controversies, Hudson Williams from "Heated Rivalry," and Jennifer Grey from "Dirty Dancing." (Netflix)

**"12 12 12" (TV-MA) —** Anthony Mackie ("Desert Warrior") trades his Captain America suit for an FBI badge in this heist series that co-stars Jamie Dornan ("The Tourist"). The series' title nods to its storytelling format, which is broken up into three stages: the 12 months of planning leading up to a huge banking heist in Zurich, the 12 hours executing the heist itself, and the 12 days following the heist. Paul (Dornan), the criminal mastermind behind the heist, obviously has his motivations for planning it, but what Paul doesn't know is that the FBI agent tasked with finding him also has personal reasons of his own. The first three episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Friday. (Apple TV)

**"Runner" (PG-13) —** This action-comedy film features Alan Ritchson ("War Machine") and Owen Wilson ("Focker-in-Law") in roles that aren't much different from anything else we've ever seen them in. Wilson plays a medical courier named Ben, who enlists the help of a runner/smuggler named Hank (Ritchson) to transport an organ for a little girl in a hospital. The problem? The organ donor has an extremely rare blood type, and the leader of a Colombian cartel also needs this specific organ for his dying mother. Luckily, Ben enlists the right person to help him complete his mission, because Hank's past as a soldier turns out to be quite useful to kick cartel butt! Premieres Nov. 27. (Hulu)

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## Celebrity extra by Dana Jackson

**Q: When is "The Pitt" coming back for its next season? I can't wait! —** T.S.

A:The Emmy-Award-winning (11 trophies so far) HBO medical drama returns for its third season in January 2027. While a specific date hasn't been announced, TVLine strongly believes that it'll be Thursday, Jan. 7.

The season takes place during one shift, with each episode representing one grueling hour of the shift. Last season took place over the 4th of July holiday in a hot and humid Pittsburgh. This year, the forecast strongly points to snow or, at the very least, parkas worn over scrubs with the shift starting on Nov. 12, 2026.

This is four months after Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch's (Noah Wyle) much-needed sabbatical. Dr. Robby has been ready to snap for two seasons now. Will we see a post-ayahuasca, relaxed and chill chief of emergency medicine upon his return?

Almost all of this past season's cast will be returning, except for Supriyah Ganesh as Dr. Mohan and possibly Irene Choi and Lucas Iverson as medical students Joy and Ogilvie, respectively. TVLine pointed out that Dr. Gloria Underwood, played by Michael Hyatt, hasn't been seen as chief medical officer since season one — and that actor Chris Diamantopoulos ("Dark Matter") has been cast as the new CMO.

***

**Q:Is "Doctor Who" going to have another season? I know it's always several years between seasons with a new actor in the role, but is anything in the works? —** M.D.

A:According to Deadline, the long-running BBC series "Doctor Who" is "going through a complete revamp, with the BBC evaluating bids" and new takes that would keep the series "relevant, surprising, brave and inspiring for both longstanding fans and new audiences."

Russell T. Davies, who stepped down as the most recent showrunner of "Doctor Who," could prove to be difficult to replace. The BBC is conducting a "competitive tender," and Deadline states that "Line of Duty" showrunner Jed Mercurio is a contender. Some speculate that we won't see a new season until at least


Chris Diamantopoulos (Upcoming in "The Pitt")

2028, while others believe that the next installment could coincide with the show's 70th anniversary in 2033!

***

**Q: What is actress Kelly Monaco doing? Is there a chance that she'll ever return to "General Hospital"? —** N.O.

A:After memorizing dialogue for more than 2,300 episodes as Sam on the daytime soap "General Hospital," actress Kelly Monaco has earned a break. She departed the show in 2024 and hasn't added any other projects to her IMDb page. Like popular former "GH" star Vanessa Marcil (Brenda) before her, it's probably just wishful thinking that these actresses will ever return to Port Charles.

Monaco still loves her fans, though. She'll be appearing alongside Greg Vaughan, who played Lucky on the soap from 2003-2009, at Uncle Vinnie's Comedy Club in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, on Dec. 13. Back in September, she posted on her Instagram page (@kelly_m23) a letter from a former friend and co-star — the late Billy Miller — and wished him a happy heavenly birthday.

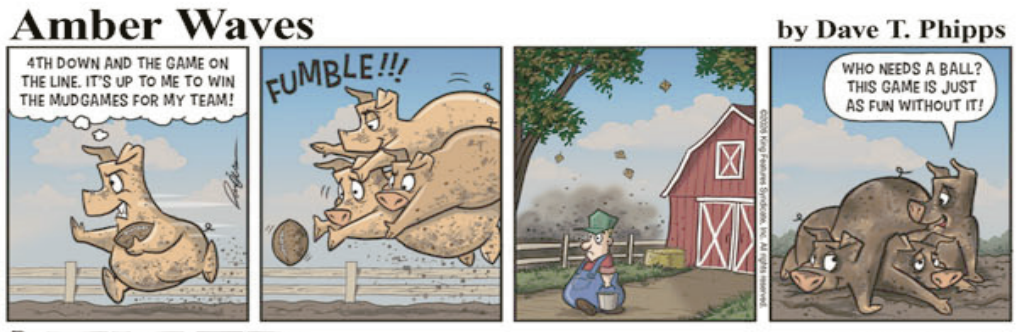
Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps




## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE




## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆**

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



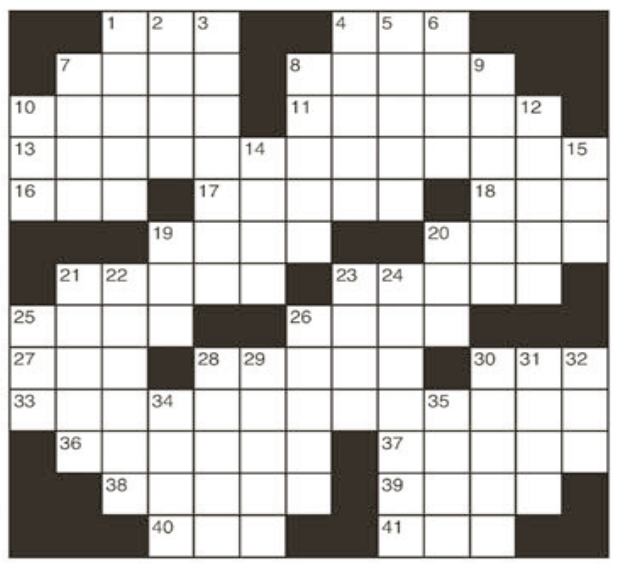

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Windowpanes are different. 6. Ear is smaller.

November 23, 2026 Posting Date

## King Crossword



**ACROSS**
1 Indent key
4 "Spring ahead" hrs.
7 Mentor
8 Japanese bedroll
10 Rock genre
11 European peninsula
13 1980 Lennon/Ono album
16 Mercedes-Benz models
17 Barbecue site
18 Scoundrel
19 Netting
20 Helps
21 Parisian river
23 Accra's country
25 Dumbstruck
26 Milne bruin
27 Standard
28 Hose woes
30 Cagers' gp.
33 Figure skater's jump
36 Wild scuffles
37 Unconventional
38 Actor McDowall
39 Gratis
40 Airport screening org.
41 Nourished

**DOWN**
1 Ballerinas' skirts
2 United — Emirates
3 Pitcher's warmup area
4 Persian Gulf emirate
5 Shorthand pro
6 Legal wrong
7 Earth sci.
8 Bourbon buy
9 B vitamin
10 ER workers
12 Carne — (Mexican dish)
14 Lighten
15 NFL measures
19 Prefix for "night" or "morning"
20 "That feels good!"
21 Honey bunch?
22 More spine-tingling
23 Type of dancer
24 Spray down with water
25 Suitable
26 Sucker
28 Winter coasters
29 "I — vacation!"
30 Famous
31 Drill
32 Chest-beating beast
34 Conspiracy
35 Entice

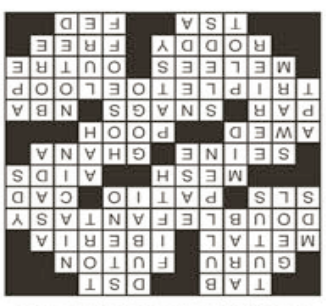
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## Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

## King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.



## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who does Dorothy's house land on and kill in "The Wizard of Oz"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country does Easter Island belong to?
3. MUSIC: In which city did The Beatles form?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Hippos are native to which continent?
5. ANATOMY: What is peristalsis?
6. MOVIES: What kind of animal is Donkey's wife in the animated movie "Shrek"?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the names of the two marble lion statues outside the main New York Public LIBRAry?
8. MEASUREMENTS: In physics, what is a jiffy?
9. TELEVISION: What is Bill Nye's nickname, based on his shows?
10. HISTORY: Where did the Anasazi native tribe live in modern America?

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## Trivia Test Answers

1. The Wicked Witch of the East; 2. Chile; 3. Liverpool, England; 4. Africa; 5. Muscular contractions that push food through the digestive system; 6. A dragon; 7. Patience and Fortitude; 8. The time it takes light to travel 1 centimeter in a vacuum; 9. The Science Guy; 10. Southwest United States

# Falcons make history, set sights on Duncanville,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Class 6A Division I Region II semifinals.

Join the Falcon Faithful

Bring your family and friends and help us cheer the Falcons on as they continue their historic run!

**Upcoming Game Details:**

· Matchup: Davis vs. Duncanville

· Round: Class 6A Division I Region II Semifinal

· Date: Saturday, Nov. 28

· Time: 3 p.m.

· Location: Hutto Memorial Stadium, Hutto, Texas

· Tickets: $8 presale / $10 on game day. (Ticket link to be posted upon release, keep in eye in Aldine ISD social media.)



(Photos by Andy Adams / Aldine ISD Communications)



Falcons players celebrating after the end of the game. (Photos by Andy Adams / Aldine ISD Communications)

# HCC grad sold his PlayStation to pay tuition to become firefighter

HOUSTON (Nov. 19, 2026) – Before Rafael Limas started emergency medical technician (EMT) classes at Houston City College (HCC), he sold his PlayStation to help pay for school. For about a month, he worked early-morning shifts at FedEx, clocking in around 3 a.m. and finishing around 5 a.m.

Limas said he had about $80 to his name when he started working as a firefighter for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12. A year into the job, he had bought a home of his own.

In high school, Limas worked in fast food, including at McDonald's. He wanted a hands-on job that would keep him learning, and he hoped to set an example for his sisters, nieces and nephews. He told his high school counselor he felt lost about what to do after graduation.

Limas, 21, found his calling close to home. He regularly drove past HCC's Northeast Campus. One day, he saw fire academy cadets training together. What he saw inspired him and he wanted to be part of that community.

Furr High School required Limas to apply to college, which gave him the push to act. About a week after his high school graduation, he started at the HCC Firefighting Academy.

"It's a job that wouldn't let me get complacent," Limas said of firefighting. "I had to stay on my A-game."

Limas said the academy took about four months. He earned Firefighter I and II certifications and credentials in hazardous materials awareness and operations. He returned to HCC for EMT training, which he completed in March 2025. The PlayStation sale and the FedEx shifts helped cover the cost of that next step.

When he talked about buying his home in Channelview Limas returned to how little money he had when he started with the district. "And now I'm in a house that I bought," he said. "So, it's just, it's been amazing."

Limas marked his first year with the district on Nov. 3. He said the academy gave him a foundation, and the training he does with his fellow crew members has helped him put it to work on calls.

"All the training that we do, it just falls into place once the alarms go off," Limas said.

He has started driving the fire engine and is considering taking a promotional exam for a driver position. When someone asks him about becoming a firefighter, he says points them toward resources for applying to college and seeking financial aid.

Limas wanted his younger relatives to see what was possible. As it turned out, someone else in the family was paying attention. His aunt, Rebekah Limas, went to his graduation to celebrate with him. While she was there, she saw a brochure about emergency dispatcher training. Attending his graduation inspired her to go back to school, and she went on to complete her own HCC program.



Limas posing at his fire station.



(L-R) Fire crew members Astryd Torres, top left; Harold Aguilar, bottom left, Anthony Magnier, bottom right, and Limas at the fire station.

When she told him what she planned to do, Limas pictured what it might be like to hear her voice over the radio on the job. When she graduated, he was there to watch.

"It was just awesome to see my experience inspire other people," Limas says.

Reflecting on his own experience at HCC, Limas said, "It was a big part of my life, and it led me to where I'm at right now."

Learn more about the HCC Basic Firefighter program at hccs.edu/fire.





