

## North Forest celebrates transition to new high school with ceremonial walk

Hundreds of North Forest High School students followed Principal Darryl Henson across Mesa Road on Monday, coming together to formally mark their transition into their new school.

The \$59.5 million campus is the first new high school built in the North Forest community in almost 50 years.

"It's important to show our students that we are coming over into a new environment that was built just for them," Henson said, talking about the importance of the ceremonial walk from the old building to the new one. "I



North Forest High School's new building while it was under construction. Recently, the transition to the new renovated building took place on Mesa Road.

See New North Forest High School, page 8

## Sylvia Garcia for Congress opens Campaign office



PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL

Senator Sylvia Garcia in the center, holding her campaign for Congress yard with Congressman Gene Green and supporters.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Saturday, January 6, 2018 Senator Sylvia Garcia had a Campaign For Congress Open House reception at her first campaign office. Supporters of all ethnicity turned out in large numbers to fill the building to capacity.

Congressman Gene Green opened the event by stating why he's enthusiastically supporting Garcia.

He said, "it's important we elect Sylvia because she the most qualified candidate and because she knows the communities and the leaders of our communities in the district. We don't need to let someone who's recently moved in and is wealthy, who's spending lots of money to buy the position and yet hasn't ever done anything for our communities and

doesn't know our leaders." Green stated Sylvia's has a long record of achievements and experience in service to citizens and experience matters.

Senator Garcia spoke and said, "I promised to be a representative for all, no matter where you live, your income level, your race, who you know or who you love, we need to reject discrimination in every form. We need more candi-

dates who will bravely stand up for women and the expansion of their opportunities. My campaign is about putting people first, I'll listen to your needs and eagerly go to work for you. Together we can restore the promise of America."

The office is at 7121 Harrisburg Blvd, Houston, will be open daily from 9am-8pm and can be called at 832-869-7529.

CLIP AND SAVE

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FEBRUARY 28



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MARCH 2



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MARCH 3

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MARCH 4



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MARCH 5

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MARCH 6



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MARCH 7

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MARCH 8

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MARCH 9

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MARCH 10

Cody Johnson



MARCH 11



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MARCH 12



Zac Brown Band

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# SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Aldine Library Open House

Aldine Branch Library will host an open house, Friday, January 19, 2018, 3pm - 5pm. Fun for all ages, games, food, prizes and book sales. The library is located at 11331 Airline Dr., Houston, TX. 77037. 832-927-5410. WWW.HCPL.NET.

### Hawthorne Civic Club Meeting

As reported in November, Bobby Alexander stepped down as President, since he and his wife were moving to Friendswood. The Club is looking for volunteers to step up and help them move forward in 2018 and beyond. Hawthorne has always been a strong Civic Club, fighting and winning many issues for the community, and they need to continue that legacy. If you are interested in helping, please let them know.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH  
For more information, please contact Paula Parshall at pparshall@independentplastic.com

### CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 2018

•THURSDAY JANUARY 18 TO MARCH 22  
LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPRING CENTER  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EVERY THURSDAY - 8 WEEKS)  
250 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY E, HOUSTON, TX 77060

•SATURDAY FEB. 3 TO MARCH 17  
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)  
501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX 77022

•SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD. TO MARCH 31ST  
EAST ALDINE DISTRICT  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)  
5333 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039

•SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 TO MAR 24  
ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)  
2131 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77039  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY INC. 281-799-9076 & 713-471-5832.

### CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

•ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH  
SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2018  
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
901 ROSELANE ST. HOUSTON, TX 77037  
•EAST ALDINE DISTRICT  
SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2018  
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
5333 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77039  
•HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2018  
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
16526 ELLA BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77090  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY INC. 281-799-9076 & 713-471-5832.



## Hambrick Middle School rewards student attendance

December was a great month for the students at Hambrick Middle School. Administrators implemented an attendance incentive that gave every student the opportunity to win prizes for themselves and some that their whole family could enjoy during the holiday season. Each Monday students were able to put their names into a raffle which was held on Friday. The student whose name was pulled received a 5 foot tall, pre-lit Christmas tree along with decorations. The trees were donated by Valencia Dotson, of 'Tis the Season with a Special Kind of Reason, Inc. In addition to the Christmas trees, during each of the lunches 4 other students' names were pulled for smaller daily prizes. Some of the exciting daily prizes given away included coupons to Luby's, Chick-Fil-A, and other local eateries along with a variety of additional goodies. And just before the district's winter break, two students received the grand prize of a 6 \_ foot Christmas tree along with decorations. The students were excited and looked forward to the daily drawings. In order to claim their prizes the students had to be in attendance on the



Dr. Rebecca Sanford (left) is pictured with Xavier Reyna (right), one of the many winners of the Christmas tree and decorations during Hambrick's Attendance Incentive for the month of December.

day of the drawing. The students were ecstatic to receive these prizes and some were especially grateful because their families are still in the midst of recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

The entire team at Hambrick Middle School would like to send a big "Thank You" to Mrs. Dotson. For the past few years she has been a great sponsor and guardian to the students at Hambrick. She has sponsored an essay competition for both Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas where the winning students received a turkey and other items. She also secured funds so that 100 of our students could go on a Christmas Shopping Spree at a local Target. Her commitment to our school and students is truly invaluable!

Bolstered by the success of this program during the month of December, to promote student attendance, and to give back to the students Hambrick Middle School will continue this initiative through the month of January.

## Keeble EC/PK Center's December Report

### ABC Club, December 1st

ABC Club offered parents and students an opportunity to acquire tips on how to deal with holiday stress, a story, and make-n-take item. Ms. Baptiste, Keeble's Information Literacy Specialist, read Pete the Cat Saves Christmas to enthusiastic families. After the story, parents worked together with their child to create their very own Pete the Cat character.

### Goodman Choir, December 7th

Goodman Choir graced Keeble students with their gentle voices of holiday cheer. The school-children put on a splendid performance at Keeble EC/PK and the audience enjoyed their caroling.



### Christmas Party, December 8th

Keeble administrators invited their early childhood staff to share in a little holiday fun for their 'Emerald City Formal' as well as the voting results of Keeble Teacher and Paraprofessional of the Year. Pictured above are Mrs. Staples, Teacher of the Year, and Mrs. Garza, Paraprofessional of the Year. The night was filled with fun, games, and joyful staff who danced the night away.

### Region 1 Principal Luncheon, December 12th

Area Superintendent Dr. Rodriguez invited elementary and early childhood principals from the Aldine vertical to share in important district matters sprinkled with a little holiday fun. After a hefty agenda of items to discuss, the principal's meeting was highlighted by class performances, exciting games and a Christmas gift exchange to remember. Their hard work and leadership is truly valued.



### Christmas Carols with Yes Prep, December 12th

Choir members from Yes Prep sang Christmas carols to the students at Keeble. The students loved listening to the singers and their soothing voices.



### Christmas shows, December 13th -15th

What's December without holiday cheer? Keeble students worked together with their teachers over the course of a month to create festive performances for Keeble's Christmas celebrations. Students performed to standing-room only crowds as families piled into the cafeteria to view the elaborate productions. Mrs. Dixon's and Mrs. Pearson's class, pictured above, wowed the crowd with their eventful performance.

### Donation, Gulf Coast Functional, December 14th

Keeble is truly thankful to have such generous business partners. A BIG thank you goes out to Gulf Coast Functional Testing, LLC. A delightful donation of bicycles will help boost student attendance all year long.

### Keeble Community Luncheon, December 19th

Volunteers make Keeble events, programs and lessons go above and beyond. So it seemed only fitting that Keeble staff take the time to serve those who graciously devote their time to our school. All staff members brought in meals to create a bountiful potluck that volunteers enjoyed while eating with the child's teacher.

### Christmas Cheer Donations, December 19th

Students were surprised to share in a holiday gift exchange this month at school. Keeble teachers kindly sent the campus counselor, Mrs. Redsun, the names of students who, without staff generosity, may not have a lot to look forward to on Christmas morning. These students for economic reasons are likely to experience less than others over the holidays. Thanks to all the staff who generously took a name of one of our Keeble children off the 'Christmas Cheer' Tree in the Teacher lounge, these students will receive a small gift this Christmas.

## Hinojosa students get "Big smiles"



The Hinojosa student counts how many cubes of sugar are in each candy bar and realizes how bad candy can be to his teeth if eaten in large quantities.

The Harris County Super Smile Savers Program visited Hinojosa EC/PK during the month of January. The program is designed to give the children important information about healthy teeth and gums.

Registered Dental Hygienists provided a free oral health assessment to each child who had parental approval at school.

"We thought this program was such a good idea to bring to our school as it provides families dental services at no cost. Our children already receive lessons on having a healthy body and to show them how to take care of their teeth is just a great addition for them to know," Ms. Laurie Fernandez, Hinojosa RN, said.



Smiles Savers Assistant shows one of the students how to brush three areas of her mouth: teeth, gums and tongue.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Spelling Bee winners at Mendel



Mendel Elementary school recently had the Campus Spelling Bee where 15 students competed for the championship. We would like to congratulate our first place winner Naomi Guerrero, second place winner Marlene Aguilar, and third place winner Francisco Tula. All three students worked very hard for the past few weeks for this competition. Naomi will go on to compete in the 2018 Annual District Spelling Bee that will be held on February 7th at the MO Campbell Center.

## EPA urges home Radon tests this January for National Radon Action Month

WASHINGTON (January 11, 2018) — Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that causes cancer, can build up to unsafe levels in any home at any time of year. With many Americans spending more time inside their homes during January, however, there is no better time to make sure our homes are radon-free. That is why EPA starts every new year encouraging Americans to get their homes tested for radon.

"If a high radon level is found, the good news is that this serious environmental risk can be reduced by using simple, proven techniques comparable to the cost of other minor home repair or improvement projects," said Bill

Wehrum, Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

Millions of homes in the United States have elevated levels of radon. Inhalation of radon damages lung cells and kills approximately 21,000 people annually, making radon the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

Because radon gas is invisible and odorless, the only way to know if a house, school or other building has a radon problem is to get the building tested.

Although testing for radon is easy and inexpensive, only one in five homeowners have tested their homes for radon. EPA and states are encouraging Americans to test their

homes for radon and to fix elevated levels during January as a common sense step to prevent lung cancer.

Radon test kits are available at hardware stores, home improvement centers, and online. Kits usually cost around \$20 and come with easy-to-use testing and mailing instructions. Qualified radon professionals can also perform tests and fix elevated levels.

Don't delay in testing your home during National Radon Action Month. A simple and low-cost radon test can help save a life in your family.

To learn more about radon, visit <https://epa.gov/radon>. Test, Fix and Save a Life.

## Mayor announces opening of eight more neighborhood restoration centers for flood victims

HOUSTON - Following a successful experiment with providing essential services to Hurricane Harvey flood victims at the grassroots level, Mayor Sylvester Turner today announced the opening of eight Neighborhood Restoration Centers throughout the city starting next week.

"We are taking a neighborhood by neighborhood approach to getting assistance to the many people who need it," the mayor said.

In November, the city and the BakerRipley nonprofit organization opened a pilot version of a Neighborhood Restoration Center at the Kashmere Multi-Service Center at 4802 Lockwood Drive on the northeast side.

The experiment was a success, with 700 Houstonians served there so far with disaster case management and vital services such as temporary housing assistance, legal aid, mental health and wellness care, home repair and rebuilding information and employment help.

The City is now joining with BakerRipley and Memorial Assistance Ministries to open eight more centers. With the continuing operations of the Kashmere center, the nine are:

- Acres Homes Multiservice

- Center 6719 W. Montgomery, Houston, TX 77091 Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (832) 393-4145

- Edgebrook 10727 Hartsook St, Houston, TX 77034 Open Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Served by a mobile bus in the Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church (for more information call 211)

- Greenspoint 159 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, TX 77060 Open every Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Served via a mobile bus unit in the Teloloapan Market (for more information call 211)

- Kashmere Gardens 4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, TX 77026 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (832) 393-5503

- Memorial Assistance Ministries Center 1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080 Open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Interested persons should email MAM at [harveyrelief@maministries.org](mailto:harveyrelief@maministries.org) OR call 713 468-4516 ext. 105 (English) or ext. 104(Spanish). Email is preferred as phone messages can take up to 2 days to return.

- Northeast Multi-Service Center (open 1/16) 9720 Spaulding Street, Houston, TX 77016 Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (832) 395-0470

- Pasadena at the ClevelandRipley Center 720 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504 Open Every Tuesday, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (713) 944-9186

- Memorial Assistance Ministries at Spring Branch Community Health Center (open 2/1) 7777 Westgreen Blvd, Cypress, TX 77433 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Interested persons should email MAM at [harveyrelief@maministries.org](mailto:harveyrelief@maministries.org) OR call 713 468-4516 ext. 105 (English) or ext. 104(Spanish). Email is preferred as phone messages can take up to 2 days to return.

- West End Multi-Service Center (open 1/16) 170 Heights Blvd, Houston, TX 77007 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (832) 393-5950

More information about the centers is at [HoustonRecovers.org](http://HoustonRecovers.org).

## USDA D-SNAP put food on the table for 1.7 million Texans after Harvey

Austin - New data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made public Friday illustrate the significant impact Hurricane Harvey had on food insecurity in Texas.

According to the USDA, by the end of October 1.7 Million Texans had applied for disaster food assistance through D-SNAP, a special nutrition program made available to families living in presidentially-declared disaster counties. In response, the program marshalled \$549 Million in federal funds to help these families weather temporary food insecurity brought on by job loss, property damage and relocation associated with the storm.

"These numbers illustrate how many Texans are on the brink of food inse-

curity," said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas. "Strong federal nutrition programs allow us to bridge the gaps created by unexpected disasters and make sure that no one goes hungry as they try to rebuild their lives."

The Texas numbers were part of a larger trend echoed in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands, in which a total of 3.6 million received temporary disaster benefits from SNAP following hurricanes. A separate survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 25% of Texas residents affected by Harvey had trouble affording food following the disaster.

The level of need was a sobering reminder of the vital importance of a strong federal nutrition

safety net. SNAP and other core nutrition programs are expected to come under Congressional review in 2018.

"Too many Texans are living on the edge, just one natural or man-made storm away from facing hunger," said Cole. "There is an obvious need to strengthen the nutrition programs that can scale up quickly to meet these needs."

The USDA data was released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Food Research and Action Center, and combined with other data obtained by Feeding Texas.

Feeding Texas leads a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. Learn more and find your local food bank at [www.feedingtexas.org](http://www.feedingtexas.org).

## Aldine ISD to hold public hearing on Annual Performance Report

The Aldine Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the district's Annual Performance Report (APR) on Tuesday, Jan. 23, during its Board of Education meeting.

The hearing will take place at 7 p.m. in the Board Room in the Central Office, located at 2520 W.W.

Thorne Drive.

The APR comprises the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) report, campus performance objectives, a report of violent or criminal incidents and information received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for each high school campus in the


district. The APR also includes staff information, budget information and tax information.

A copy of the APR will be made available to the public at each Aldine ISD campus, the Central Office, the Resource Center, and on the district's website at [www.aldineisd.org](http://www.aldineisd.org).

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* THE COMMUTER (PG-13) 12:40pm, 3:40pm, 6:40pm, 9:40pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption	* JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle 3D (PG-13) 3:15pm, 9:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
* CONDORITO: The Movie (Condorito: La pelicula) (PG) 12:10pm, 2:50pm, 5:15pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm	FERDINAND (PG) 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
* PADDINGTON 2 (PG) 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption	FERDINAND 3D (PG) 2:30pm, 7:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
* PADDINGTON 2 (PG) 12:15pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:45pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating	STAR WARS: The Last Jedi (PG-13) 12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
* PROUD MARY (R) 12:20pm, 3:00pm, 5:25pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption	JUSTICE LEAGUE (PG-13) 2:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:45pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
* INSIDIOUS: The Last Key (PG-13) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption	DADDY'S HOME 2 (PG-13) 12:10pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
PITCH PERFECT 3 (PG-13) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption	

\*No passes on these movies \*\* No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies. \*\*New Releases, no passes accepted for the first two weeks \*\*\*Sorry No Passes \*\*CLOSED CAPTION \*\*Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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OPINION PAGE

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar



Here is one I did back on the 47th day of 2003.

Me and the Mrs. went out to Bush country this past weekend (presidential, mesquite and tumble weed.)

Flew out to Midland, Texas and then drove on to Big Spring, Texas. Midland is the home of George Bush and we went by his old homestead; managed to get a couple of photos as well of the little house on the corner cross the street from the Methodist Church.

Might not be a big deal to you but I was out there to visit my Uncle J. C. from my hometown in Georgia who lives over in Big Spring, Texas. Ain't no S at the end of Spring.

Beautiful country out in West Texas and I must say it adds to the beauty of this great country. They don't get much rain out there but it is still pretty country with lots of sobbusters, retired oil field equipment and you name it.

Saw miles and miles of bare cotton, maize, wheat fields, and a lot of tractor riding; dry country out there now I'm telling you.

Uncle J. C. said he ain't had a crop in five years; lack of rain really hurts. That is cotton country for sure, 50 pound of seed per acre. You priced diesel fuel lately?

Riding out on the highway from here and yonder, I was admiring the zillion pieces of plastic snagged on the mesquite brush inside the fence line with lots of blue pieces from some store Uncle J. C. mentioned.

Lots of fence lines to look at out there when a gate came into view. There were two coyote strung out over the strands of barbwire on each side of the gate.

Uncle J. C. said they have their share of coyotes, prairie dogs and rattlesnakes.

Driving out to the barn we come across and scattered a bunch

of dove. I have never seen that many dove in one place at one time in my life. The dove broke and flew in a wide circle and came back to rest on a nearby fence line. Wish we had had the windows down now so I could have heard the drone from that many birds taking flight. Words cain't describe the view of that many birds and pleasure I had from seeing them. I got a shot at them with my camera.

Getting out on the country roads, many fence lines along the road are lined with dirt from the dust storms. These would make a good bunker and some of the dirt had drifted up near top of the fence posts.

Folks plant cedar bush and trees around the perimeter of the house to help block some of the dust from the storms.

Acres and acres of farmland all plowed up this time of year, they cut down 14 inches during plowing and rows are already formed. Some may have to plow again if a good dust storm comes up or so I heard.

There are so many oil pumping wells out in the Permian Basin and we was amongst them while riding out in the country.

An odor was noticed a couple of times out in the middle of nowhere but I kept my mouth shut but I sure looked at Uncle J. C.

The second time I gave him a hard look and he never said a thing even though he is hard of hearing. About a mile on down the rode to the turnoff, we had to turned around because the road was bad and could not travel down it.

Uncle J. C. asked, "You smell that sour gas?"

I had noticed signs that said poison gas as we rode by.

I told him "I thought it was you."

He looked at me and said, "I can do better than that."



FEMA clears way for public assistance to churches that aid in disasters

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Jan. 3 announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency's approval of their request to allow churches and religious organizations to receive the same public assistance available to other nonprofits aiding in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide previously offered assistance to private nonprofit organizations, including zoos, performing arts centers and museums, and excluded facilities established or primarily used for religious activities. The revised policy is in force for any major disaster declared on or after Aug. 23, 2017.

Abbott and Paxton sent a letter to President Donald Trump in September urging him to authorize this assistance.

"When Harvey moved across the Texas Gulf Coast, churches across the state opened their doors to those in need," Abbott said. "Churches and other houses of worship continue to play a vital role in the ongoing recovery effort, and their ability to receive the same assistance available to other nonprofits should never have been in doubt. I thank FEMA and the Administration for their commitment to helping Texans and the churches that have helped their communities throughout the recovery and rebuilding process."

"FEMA's policy change averts the federal government violating the constitutional rights of those who continue to play a vital role in helping Texans get back on their feet after Hurricane Harvey," Paxton said. "Many churches and other houses of worship suffered damage from Harvey, and now they can seek FEMA assistance so they can continue serving their communities."

Oaths are administered Now-former Texas Supreme Court Justice Don

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



R. Willett, nominated by President Trump and approved by the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy on the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and James Davis Blacklock, Willett's replacement on the Texas Supreme Court, both were sworn in on Jan. 2.

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht administered the oath to Willett, who served more than 12 years on the Texas Supreme Court. Willett will take his place on the Fifth Circuit, the New Orleans-based federal appellate court with jurisdiction over appeals from U.S. district courts in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Gov. Abbott swore in Blacklock, who he appointed to succeed Willett on the state's high court. Prior to the appointment, Blacklock served as the governor's general counsel.

2017 revenue is reported

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 3 reported that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.75 billion in December, 12.3 percent more than reported in December 2016.

"Double-digit growth in sales tax revenue was fueled by collections from oil and gas-related sectors as well drilling and completion continued to rebound, but growth in tax receipts was notable across all major economic sectors, including retail trade and

restaurants," Hegar said.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in December 2017 was up 10.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections.

Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuels and oil and natural gas production also rose in December 2017, according to the Office of the Comptroller.

For example, motor vehicle sales and rental taxes totaled \$414.3 million, up 16.1 percent from December 2016, and vehicle purchases to replace cars damaged by Hurricane Harvey continued to boost those tax collections, the agency noted.

Also, motor fuel taxes, at \$303.7 million, were up 4.9 percent from December 2016; and oil and natural gas production taxes, at \$396.4 million, were up 73.4 percent from December 2016.

Abbott issues proclamation

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 5 proclaimed January 2018 to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

"The State of Texas will not tolerate the inhumane practices carried out by coercive and manipulative criminals. We provide serious penalties for human traffickers, and we continuously look for ways to better serve the victims," Abbott states in the text of the proclamation.

Abbott urged Texans "to learn more about the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to do their part in helping end this atrocity."

Former first lady dies

Rita Crocker Clements, a force for decades in the Republican Party, died Jan. 6 at her home in Dallas. She was 86.

Clements was first lady of Texas twice, serving alongside her husband, Gov. Bill Clements, from 1979 to 1983, and again, from 1987 to 1991. Gov. Clements died in 2011 at age 94.

Mrs. Clements was noted for her role in renovating the governor's mansion in Austin, for her service on the boards of several major corporations and as a member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents.

When it's time to replace your water heater

(NAPSI)—The next time you find you have a too old or already broken water heater, these tools and advice from the U.S. EPA can help.

Water heaters typically last about 10 years. If your water heater is older than that, you could avoid a potentially costly and complicated emergency replacement by taking action now. In many places, utilities offer rebates on ENERGY STAR certified water heaters, up to as much as \$600. With or without a rebate, choosing a model that's earned the government's ENERGY STAR label can pay you back in energy bill savings.

Water heaters are the second highest energy user in the home, costing a household of four up to \$620 every year to run. Replacing your old, electric water heater with a heat pump water heater could put a significant dent in your energy costs. In fact, a family of four can save up to \$3,500 in energy costs over the water heater's lifetime.

Pointers On Heat Pumps

There are some installation considerations to keep in mind with heat pump water heaters, but if you already have an electric water heater, it could be an easy switch.

Will a Heat Pump Water Heater Work in My Home?

In many homes, a heat pump water heater can be installed right where your current water heater sits. Heat pump water heaters need:

Access To Air: They pull in air from the surroundings to heat water and release cold air, so they need access to plenty of air.

The water heater location should have a room air temperature greater than 40° F year-round and space that's at least 100 square ft. (10 ft. x 10 ft.) or a smaller space that can be fitted with louvered doors or ducted.

Head Room: Heat pump water heaters are a few inches to a foot taller than conventional electric water heaters and require a certain ceiling height based on the size of the water heater—which is dependent on household size.

The water heater location should have at least a 6-ft.-high ceiling for a household of fewer than six or at least a 7-ft.-high ceiling for a household of six or more.

Water Drainage: Heat pump water heaters require proper drainage, since—like air conditioners—they dehumidify air and produce condensate that must be removed via a nearby floor drain, or another outlet using a small condensate pump.

The heater location should have access to one of the following:

- Floor drain
• Utility sink
• Sump pump
• Existing drain pipe
• Outside (only for locations that are above freezing all year round).

Learn More

For further facts about ENERGY STAR certified heat pump water heaters, visit www.energystar.gov/waterheaters.

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COMICS & FUN

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



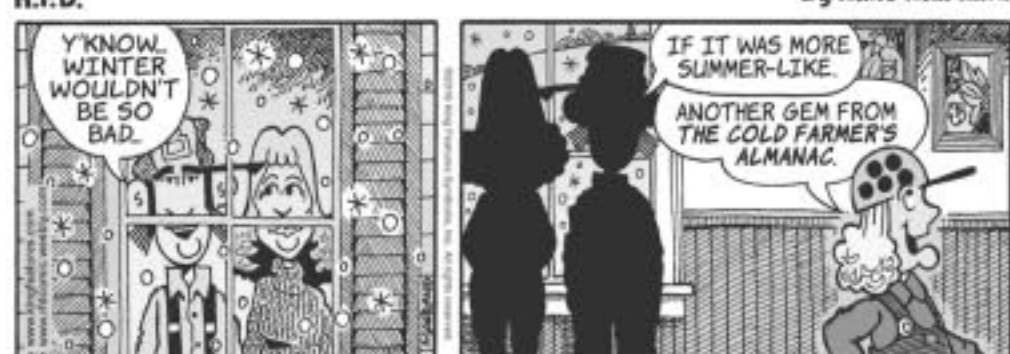
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

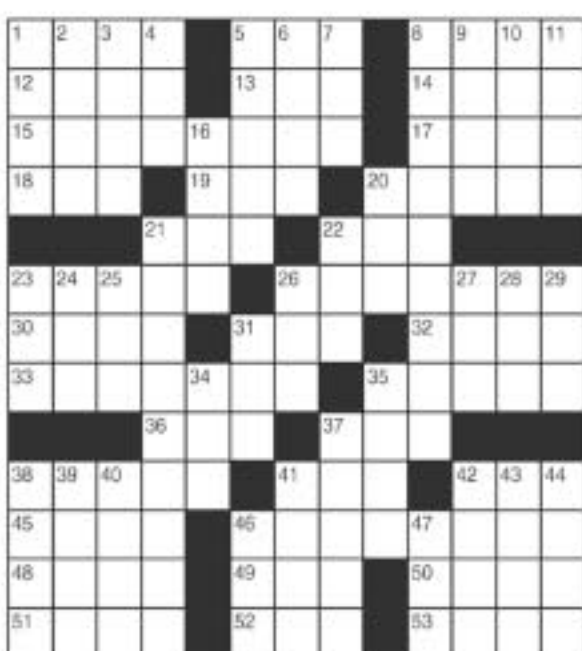
Scramblers puzzle with words: MADRE, SECURE, GAILE, HINT. Includes a 'TODAY'S WORD' box.

Posting Date January 15, 2018

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Nasty insect
5. Badly lit
8. Error
12. Chills and fever
13. Kreskin's claim
14. Docket entry
15. In reverie
17. Anger
18. Dine
19. Sternward
20. Dissuade
21. Firmament
22. Stop — dime
23. Augment
26. Firm
30. Needy
31. Hockey milieu
32. Concept
33. Get
35. Pry
36. Singer
37. Droop
38. Cut corners
41. Huge
42. Greek cross
45. Actress Gilpin
46. "... twilight's last ..."
48. Privy to
49. Boxer
50. Pedestal occupant
51. Chinatown gang
52. Witness



- 16. Shark variety
20. Modern-day evidence
21. Like some video on the Web
22. Praise in verse
23. Spring mo.
24. Buck's mate
25. One of the Seven Dwarfs
26. High card
27. Commotion
28. Modern (Pref.)
29. Spigot
31. Wall climber
34. Mischievous one
35. Long story
37. Prolonged attack
38. Skewer
39. Gambling game
40. Press agent?
41. Sad
42. Ocean motion
43. In due time
44. Homely
46. Navig. aid
47. Central

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. LITERATURE: Which 18th-century statesman and inventor sometimes used the pen name "Silence Dogood" in his writings?
2. GEOGRAPHY: How many emirates make up the United Arab Emirates?
3. AUTOS: What does the name Volkswagen mean in German?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first Roman Catholic to become vice president of the United States?
5. ARCHITECTURE: What is the location of the Pitti Palace, built mainly during the Renaissance?
6. MOVIES: What was the name of the monkey in the Disney movie "Aladdin"?
7. GOVERNMENT: Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees a speedy public trial for criminal offenses?
8. MUSIC: In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," what was the gift on the seventh day?
9. U.S. STATES: What is the smallest state in land area?
10. HISTORY: What Greek statesman was considered the greatest of all orators?

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BY HENRY BOLTWOOD



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Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers



Answer

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This is a cryptogram in which each letter used stands for another. If you think it equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: F equals T

UEIC WDLICD FVGIW BOGHFOA
AIFPIPW OC OUYTA ADF, H ZTIWV
VDT LHZEF BOAA EHL O WEHYFV
GIPWDC.

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CALENDAR

Today's Word

3. Agile; 4. Thin

1. Dream; 2. Rescue;

solution

SCRAMBLERS

Weekly SUDOKU

When someone types capital letters on a keyboard, I guess you might call him a dilly person.

Answer

CryptoQuip

# LIFESTYLE

## Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program offers Shake Rattle & Roll Winter Concert

Harris County Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program invites everyone 50 years of age and better to enjoy the magical music of the '50s and '60s during the Shake Rattle & Roll Winter Concert Thursday, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m. at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble.

Winners of the largest Doo Wop contest ever held in Las Vegas, this all-female show group from East Texas boasts impressive vocal harmonies, synchronized moves, hula hooping, and comedy. Lose yourself in an unforgettable afternoon of great music and comedy that will take you back to a time of innocence. Light refreshments are included.

Harris County Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program provides transportation for individuals 50 years and better. Departure locations and times include the following:

- Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive in Houston, at 12:45 p.m.
- Champion Forest Baptist Church, 15555 Stuebner Airline in Houston, at 12:45 p.m.
- Church Without Walls, 5725 Queenston in Houston, at 12:30 p.m.
- Champion Forest Baptist Church Jersey Village, 16518 Jersey Drive in Jersey Village, at 12:45 p.m. Please park on the Highway 290 side.
- Kingwood Library, 4400 Ben's View Lane in



Seniors adults enjoy a concert at Humble Civic Center.

- Kingwood, at 1 p.m.
- Mangum-Howell Center, 2500 Frick Road in Houston, at 1 p.m.
- Spring Baptist Church, 1027 Spring Cypress Road in Spring, at 12:45 p.m.
- Tomball Regional Medical Center, 605 Holderrith Boulevard in Tomball, at 12:30 p.m. Please park in lot E off Medical Complex Drive.

Register online at [www.hcp4.net/sap/events](http://www.hcp4.net/sap/events) or call 281-893-3726 for assistance registering. A \$10 prepaid, non-refundable fee covers the cost of this event. Checks are payable to Fun4Seniors and should be mailed to 1731 Hugh Road, Houston, Texas 77067.

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# CHURCH PAGE

## RECENT DEATHS

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Lenearl Olene Graves  
Christina Jean Gonzalez  
Patsy Margarette Erdman  
Esther T. Resendez  
Michelle Kimberely Moody

Linda Dianne Lawson  
Reba Muriel George  
Rosendo Peralez  
Paul King McKeenan  
Jean H. Juneau  
Pamela Lizabeth Atchison

## Anointing Service

Join Pastor Roy Chapman for the Annual Anointing Service for Favor, Victory, and Miracles, Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Worship Tabernacle, 3006 East Richey Road at Aldine Westfield, Humble, Texas 77338, 281-443-2357 or visit [www.worshiptabernacle.tv](http://www.worshiptabernacle.tv) for additional information.

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*O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come.*

PSALM 71:17,18

Detail of "Bearded Man" by Hubert van Eyck (1480)

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# New North Forest High School,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Inside view: Students walk halls of new North Forest High School.

want the kids to feel a sense of pride and ownership."

Funded through money provided by the state, the new school accommodates 1,300 to 1,500 students.

It features flexible learning areas, a modern dining commons, and career training spaces, as well as large windows that provide ample natural lighting and open views to the prairie in front of the building and the forest in back.

"I think it's dynamic, incredible, and outstand-

ing to see the new facility that HISD has provided," said 1990 graduate Zano Bailey, who was one of several alumni that came to the new building to welcome students. "We need this new school."

The new North Forest also features a gymnasium, auditorium, dance studio, theater room, and a unique indoor running track – a first of its kind in HISD.

"I think it's so much better than the old building," junior Di'ja Ellis said, smiling as she looked at the


modern lighting and two-story cafeteria in the main lobby. "I love it."

North Forest 2018 Class President Damond Wiggins said he also loved the building and looked forward to seeing the athletic fields.

"It's a great feeling," Wiggins said.















Active construction is underway on roughly two dozen schools across HISD. Once all projects are complete, the district will boast of one of the most modern portfolios of urban high schools in the country.

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