

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years VOL. 42, NO. 07 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



NEWS NOTES

Texas Central picks high-speed rail train station site at Northwest Mall

WEDNESDAY



Sheriff's Safety Forum, Feb. 13

Please join Captain K. Melancon and his staff for the HCSO District II Sheriff's Safety Forum. This forum presents an opportunity to meet and develop relationships with local Law Enforcement Officials in a question and answer discussion on local crime issues.

Tissues.
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 7 P.M. - 8 P.M. at East Aldine Management District, 5333 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, TX. 77039. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Lady Falcons earn 6A basketball playoff spot

The Davis High Lady
Falcons basketball team
will face Klein Oak in the
first round of the Class 6A
girls' state basketball
playoffs. The Lady Falcons,
under the direction of
head coach Monique
Everett, and Klein Oak will
meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13
at Klein Cain High School.
Tip off is at 7 p.m. Tickets
are \$2 for students and \$3
for adults.

Hawthorne Civic Club Meeting

The Club is looking for volunteers to step up and help move forward in 2018 and beyond.

If you are interested in helping, please let them brown

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



They said the terminal will be ideally located in a high-growth area, with easy access to employment centers, including the Galleria, the Energy Corridor and downtown. The station not only will be a catalyst for economic growth

See Bullet Train, More on pages 3 & 6



Houston Bullet Train Station Rendering. The High Speed Rail from Dallas to Houston is planned to cut travel time to 90 minutes, and cost less than airplane fare.

Aldine FFA art show winners

The 59th Annual FFA Sale of Champions on February 2nd included awards to six artists. The grand champion artwork was produced by Autumn Taylor of Nimitz and was purchased by the Curriculum and Instruction Group, with Dr. Sara Ptomey, and Dr. Michaelann Kelley for \$3,750.

The reserve grand champion artwork was produced by Beatriz Cabrera of MacArthur and purchased by TCCA for \$4,500.

Other winners included 3rd Place Isabel Rivas, Nimitz, purchased by the Superintendents Group for \$2000; 4th Place Janet Gonzalez, MacArthur purchased by MacArthur Vertical for \$3500; 5th Place Angel Salgado, Davis 9th Grade, purchased by First Construction for \$\$3250; and 6th Place Michell Madonado of Carver, purchased by TCCA for \$3500.

The money earned by FFA students can be used for college scholarships or to fund projects for the 2019 Livestock Show.



Grand Champion Art Winner Autumn Taylor, entitled Round Lip



Reserve Champion Art Winner Beatriz Cabrera, entitled Stars and Spines.

Congress votes to keep government offices open



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

WASHINGTON, DC – February 9, 2018 – Representatives Gene Green (TX-29), Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), Henrv Cuellar (TX-28), Al Green (TX-9), Filemon Vela (TX-34), and Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15) issued the following statement regarding their support of the continuing resolution that contains a bipartisan budget agreement, funds the government through March 23 and provides relief for Hurricane Harvey



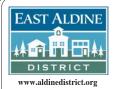
Congressman Gene Green

"Communities in our districts and along the Texas Gulf Coast have waited for more than five months for Congress to pass a comprehensive relief bill aimed at funding recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Today's legislation will deliver \$89 billion in hurricane relief for Texas and other states impacted by last year's major disasters, allowing our communities to continue

See Keep Government Open, Page 8

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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 2018

SATURDAY FEB. 3 TO ST. CHARLES BOR-ROMEO 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY – 8 WEEKS) 501 TIDWELLL 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.

■THURSDAY APRIL 5 TO MAY 24 LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPOINT CENTER 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM (EVERY THURSDAY – 8 WEEKS) 250 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY E, HOUSTON, TX

77060 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY INC. 281-799-9076 & 713-471-5832.

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

■HOSANNA LUTHERAN SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM 16526 ELLA BLVD, HOUS-TON, TX 77090 HAMBRICK MIDDLE **SCHOOL** SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM 4600 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039 ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH SATURDAY MARCH 24, REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM 501 TIDWELL RD. HOUS-TON, TX 77022.

•LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPOINT CENTER THURSDAY MARCH 29, 2018 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00 PM 250 N SAM HOUSTON

PARKWAY E, HOUSTON, TX

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Aldine FFA students, art students earn \$224,007 at annual Livestock Show

The Aldine community once again came through in grand fashion and rewarded Aldine ISD FFA (Future Farmers of America) students and AISD art students for their hard work during the 59th annual Livestock Show and Country Fair, held Jan. 29-Feb. 2 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The 2018 Sale of Champions art auction and resales brought in \$224,007.

Nick Cain of Eisenhower High School raised the grand champion steer. First Construction Group purchased it for \$20,000. The reserve grand champion steer was raised by Lemia Richardson of Eisenhower High School and was purchased by the Operations Group for

The grand champion pig was raised by Ravone Gooden of Davis High School and was purchased by the Operations Group for \$8,000. The reserve grand champion pig was raised by Briana Faulk of Davis High School and was purchased by the Texas Teachers Group for \$4,500.



Eisenhower High School student Nick Cain poses with his grand champion steer. Cain took top honors in the steer division during the 59th annual Livestock Show and Country Fair held Jan. 29-Feb. 2 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

The grand champion goat was raised by Alondra Lara of Davis High School and was purchased by the Superintendent's Group for \$7,000. The reserve grand champion goat was raised by Ja'Dyn Fonteneaux of Eisenhower High School and was purchased

by Caldwell Companies for \$4,250.

The grand champion lamb was raised by Kyera White of Nimitz High School and was purchased by the Aldine Optimist Club for \$7,500. The reserve grand champion lamb was raised by Shel-

by Clark of Nimitz High School and was purchased by the Nimitz Vertical Group for \$6,000.

The grand champion turkey was raised by Lemia Richardson of Eisenhower High School and was purchased by Beasley Tires for \$4,000. The

reserve grand champion turkey was raised by Fernando Gonzales of Davis High School and was purchased by the Aldine Buyer's Group for \$3,000.

The grand champion broilers were raised by Nick Cain of Eisenhower High School and were purchased by the Aldine Buy-er's Group for \$4,000. The reserve grand champion broilers were raised by Esteban Rodriguez of Eisenhower High School and were purchased by the Eisenhower Vertical Group for \$2,000.

The scholarship cake was produced by the Aldine FFA and was purchased by the Aldine Vertical Group for \$1,400.

The grand champion artwork was produced by Autumn Taylor and was purchased by the C&I Group for \$3,750. The reserve grand champion artwork was produced by Beatriz Cabrera and was purchased by TCCA for \$4.500.

The money earned by FFA students can be used for college scholarships or to fund projects for the 2019 Livestock Show.

H.U.D.

Efficiency/

Houston ISD hosting community meetings on Improvement Required campuses

Feb 4, 2018-HISD Board of Education President Trustee Rhonda Skillern-Jones, Trustee Jolanda Jones, and Trustee Wanda Adams are hosting a series of community meetings at schools currently in "improvement required" status, or IR, as designated by the Texas

Education Agency. Ten HISD campuses have struggled academically for four or more years and must meet all state standards this year. HISD is recommending changes at these 10 schools as well as at four additional lowperforming campuses. State law says if any school currently in IR for the fourth year or more does not meet state standards this year, the state will close it, appoint a Board of Managers to run the school district, or order alternate

management for these campuses

Senate Bill 1882 provides options that could prevent these sanctions: forming an outside partnership or closing and restarting a campus. The current recommen-

dation is for eight schools to be managed by outside organizations such as a nonprofit or an institution of higher education. They are Dogan and Mading elementary schools, Henry Middle School, and Kash mere, Madison, North For-Wheatley and Worthing high schools. The remaining six-Blackshear, Highland Heights, Hilliard and Wesley elementary schools, Cullen Middle School and Woodson PK-8 - would be closed and reopened to serve lim-

HISD trustees and

administrators_will discuss the recommendations during this series of community meetings on campotentially be affected. All meetings will begin

• Wednesday, Feb. 14 Cullen Middle School

6900 Scott St. •Thursday, Feb. 15 Highland Heights Ele-

entary School 865 Paul Quinn St. •Tuesday, Feb. 20 Madison High School 13719 White Heather

•Wednesday, Feb. 21 Mading Elementary

8511 Crestmont St. •Tuesday, Feb. 27

Wesley Elementary School 800 Dillard St. •Tuesday, Feb. 27 Blackshear Elementary

2900 Holman Ave. •Wednesday, Feb. 28 Kashmere Gardens Elementary School

4901 Lockwood Dr. •Thursday, March. 1 Dogan Elementary School

4202 Liberty Rd. •Tuesday, March 6 North Forest High

School $10725~\mathrm{Mesa~Dr}.$ •Tuesday, March 20 Henry Middle School

 $1070\overset{\circ}{2}$ E Hardy Rd. •Wednesday, March 21 Hilliard Elementary

10719 Seneca St.
• Wednesday, March 21 Worthing High School 9215 Scott St. *Both Worthing High School and Woodson PK-8

will be discussed at this

meeting

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FRIDAY-THURSDAY 2/9-2/14

Opens THURSDAY, February 15 BLACK PANTHER 2D (R) 7:00 10:00 BLACK PANTHER 3D (R) 7:00 10:00

THE 15:17 TO PARIS (PG-13) 12:15pm, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 7:35pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption * FIFTY SHADES FREED (R) 12:10pm

**PITTY SHAUES THEED (N) 12:109
2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 1:0:00pm
Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
**LA BODA DE VALENTINA (R)
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption
**PETER RABBIT (PG) 12:30pm, 3:45pm, 5:10pm, 7:30pm, 9:45pm 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:45pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

PETER RABBIT (PG) 12:00pm 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:15pm SPA-Spanish Subtitles;Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
WINCHESTER (PG-13) 12:25pm,
2:45pm, 5:15pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm MAZE RUNNER: The Death Cure (PG 13) 12:00pm, 3:05pm, 6:10pm, 9:15pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption 12 STRONG (R)

DEN OF THIEVES (R)
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating: CC-Closed Caption
CONDORITO: The Movie (Condorito: La película) (PG) 12:10pm, 2:50pm, 5:15pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm PADDINGTON 2 (PG) 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating:CC-Closed Capti Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
INSIDIOUS: The Last Key (PG-13)
7:30pm, 10:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
PITCH PERFECT 3 (PG-13) 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

Stadium Seating:CC-Closed Caption
JUMANI: Welcome to the Jungle (PG13) 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm
Stadium Seating:CC-Closed Caption
FERDINAND (PG) 12:00pm, 5:00pm
Stadium Seating:CC-Closed Caption
FERDINAND 30 (PG)
Stadium Seating:CC-Closed Caption Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption * I, TONYA (R)

12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption COCO (PG) 12:20pm, 3:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

12:25nm 3:25nm 6:25nm 9:25nm

PRICES: Early Bird Special - First Show Mon-Fri: \$4.75 Children & Seniors \$5.50 • Matinee \$5.50 all shows before 6 pm General Admission \$7.50 • 3D additional \$2 Major Credit Cards Accepted BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 11:30 A.M.

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PAGE COMMUNITY



Airman Robert Rodriguez completes military training

Airman 1st Class Robert Rodriguez graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio,

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn

four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air

Rodriguez is the son of Robbie Cuellar, brother of George Rodriguez, Stephanie Cuellar and Daniel Vasquez, grandson of Yolanda Cuellar, and nephew of Domingo Cuellar, all of Houston, Texas.

He is a 2015 graduate of Aldine High School, Hous-



U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Robert Rodriguez graduated from basic military training.

Houston Police investigate death of woman found on West Tidwell

Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a woman found at 8000 West Tidwell about 5:10 p.m. on Friday, February 2.

The victim, Danielle Chaney, 20, was pronounced dead at an area

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Burrow and Officer M. Barrow report-

Ms. Chaney was found by her boyfriend lying on her bed inside her apartment at the above address. She had sustained a gunshot wound to the head. The boyfriend stated he brought Chaney outside to render aid before paramedics arrived and transported her to the hospital.

No charges have been filed and the investigation is continuing.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-

Bullet Train,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but it also will offer a convenient, efficient and direct network for passengers to and from local transit systems.

The selection comes about a month after federal regulators released an environmental analysis that said the 200-mph, Houston-to-North Texas train would alleviate the strain on the state's existing infrastructure and is needed to accommodate

growing demands.
"Houston continues to grow. Growing the smart way includes providing a wider choice of transportation options beyond more private vehicles and more roads. The Texas Bullet Train fits the transportation paradigm shift I have called for. And now with a preferred location for the Houston station, we are one big step closer to boarding for an exciting trip to the Brazos Valley and on to Dallas," Mayor Sylvester Turner said.

Texas Central, the high-

speed train developers, released maps and conceptual renderings - final designs are pending - that show a multi-level station on a 45-acre site. It will link seamlessly with other forms of transportation, including proposed travelerfriendly connections with the greater Houston re-

Houston business executive Drayton McLane Jr., chairman of the board of directors for Texas Central, said the company is looking forward to working with the city and the region on an innovative project that will help the economy, generate more local revenue and provide new job opportunities.

"As our state grows, we're moving further apart as a result of travel time and increasing congestion. The Texas Bullet Train answers that. This will bring us closer together and fuel a super economy that rivals any in the world," McLane said.

"This is a new model for infrastructure improvements - it's transformational. Everyone along the route will benefit. The entire state, and especially all the counties and communities along the route, will see gains. That includes getting more in tax revenue from the train and from ticket sales and more local jobs and business for

those helping to build the project," McLane said. Jack Matthews, president of Matthews Southwest, will be developing the station project. "We look forward to helping create a new community that will also bring a transportation asset to all Houstonians," Matthews said "We are excited to work in an area with so much potential for vibrancy, including transit-oriented development."

The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) outlined three station options in northwest Houston. Studies show the center of

Continued Reading Bullet Train-PART II, Page 6

Award-winning production "Hand to God" returns for limited engagement at Lone Star College-North Harris

HOUSTON (February 7, 2018) - The award-win and to God" will return to the stage at Lone Star College-North Harris for a limited run this month. This production was recently selected as one of four productions to perform at the 2018 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Regional Festival in San Angelo, Texas, Feb. 27 through March 4. The winner of the regional festival will advance to the national festival held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.
The Kennedy Center

American College Theatre Regional Festival honors excellence of overall pro-duction and offers student artists' individual recognition through awards and scholarships in playwrit-ing, acting, criticism, di-recting and design.

According to Cash Car-

penter, artistic director for LSC-North Harris Theatre Department, "This is quite an honor for our theatre department. If we advance, we will be the first theatre program in the history of Lone Star College to re-ceive this national recogni-

Broadwayworld.com/ Houston also recognized "Hand to God" with several awards including the Irene Ryan Acting Award, given to Nick Vitela for his role as Jason/Tyrone; Jose Moreno for his role as Timothy; and Tatyana Ramirez for her role as Jessica; the Ensemble Acting Award; Excellence in Directing Award, given to Cash Car-penter; and Excellence in Scenic Design Award given to Cash Carpenter and Brandi Hargrove.



The award-winning production of "Hand to God" will return to the stage at Lone Star College-North Harris for a limited run Feb. 15-17.

Tickets are currently on sale for three additional, evening performances of "Hand to God." The evening performances are scheduled on Feb. 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the LSC-North Harris Performance Administration 2700 forming Arts Theatre, 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX 77073. Tickets cost \$10 for faculty, staff, students and senior citizens and \$15 for general admission and can be purchased online at LoneStar.edu/ drama-dept-nharris or by calling 281 765 7963 Reservations are recommend-

This dark comedy is intended for mature audiences only due to its adult context, language and

In "Hand to God" by Robert Asloms and directed by Carpenter, meek Jason, after the death of his father, finds an outlet for his anxiety at the Christian Puppet Ministry, in the devoutly religious, relatively quiet small town of Cypress, Texas. Jason's complicated relationships

with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door, and—most especially-his mother are thrown into upheaval when Jas-on's puppet, Tyrone, takes on a shocking and dangerously irreverent personality all its own. This dark comedy explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind us.

Carpenter graduated from University of New Orleans with a MFA in Di-recting. He has been the artistic director at Lone Star College-North Harris for fifteen years, and has been honored three times by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. for playwriting, directing, and technical design. He has been performing magic since he was six years old and has been a member of the Society of American

Magicians. Visit LoneStar.edu/artsnharris for more information and a complete listing of the college's upcoming





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OPINION PAGE

5 Ways digital technology is helping students learn



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) WavebreakmediaMicro/ stock.Adobe.com

(StatePoint) As classrooms are getting modern makeovers here are five ways new digital technology is helping students to better absorb the curriculum.

1. Tablets. Tablets in the classroom give students instant and portable access to research and resources. as well as educational games and videos -- all right at their fingertips. These devices can be used as collaborative tools, and can also accommodate all different types of learners, helping teachers address the needs of all their students

2. Keyboards.

Musicians who are just getting started can get an educational boost with new tech tools, such as Casio's LK-265 keyboards, which are outfitted with a Voice Fingering Guide and Step-up Lesson System. These features enable students to phase-by-phase, at their own pace. Additionally, the LCD display facilitates learning of both music notation and correct hand positioning, while its Scoring System evaluates performance, so users can track their progress. Another asset for students is the free compatible Chordana Play app, which automatically plays 50 songs, from pop to classical and more, and is expandable through MIDI files that can be downloaded from the internet

3. Virtual reality. Now students can go all over the world without a permission slip. Virtual field trips in classrooms using smartphone-based

Virtual Reality (VR) technology can expose students to places they wouldn't be able to see otherwise. Also, using VR in an educational setting can help students develop an understanding of the technology, which may be helpful down the line, as more industries adopt it for business

4. Calculators. Updated digital technology integrated into calculators enables students to learn math in a whole new way. line, the fx-CG50, teachers can use

For example, Casio's addition to its PRIZM offers an improved catalog function so that commands more easily and quickly, offering support to students. Expanded features include the ability to easily draw 3D graphs $\,$ such as planes, cylinders and spheres, and view them from various angles to better analyze their shapes. These features help ensure students are getting the most out of the educational tools in the classroom while enhancing their understanding of mathemat-5. Projectors. These days, new projector models are giving

educators a greater ability to project images, video and lessons wirelessly from their mobile devices and laptops. For example, Casio's Core Series LampFree Projector, which features a mercury-free laser and LED hybrid light, minimizes classroom downtime by reaching maximum brightness in as fast as five seconds. This technology can enhance lessons by enabling collaborative learning and communication.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Straus: Audit reveals need for stronger oversight at state agency

AUSTIN - House Speaker Joe Straus on Jan. 31 said a new state audit raises questions about the management of the state Health and Human Services Commission and illustrates the need for legislative hearings.

A report released last week by the State Auditor's Office found that HHSC allowed Superior Health Plan Inc. to report approximately \$29.6 million in bonus and incentive payments paid to affiliates' emplovees, even though those payments were not allowed under the state's contract with Superior. The state agency also approved Superior's request to report affiliate profits as costs without following the approval process contained in the state's contract with Superior.

"This audit highlights serious weaknesses in HHSC's oversight of its own contracts. Taxpayers have a right to expect that Commission will hold providers to contract requirements. Unfortunately, this isn't the first example of HHSC failing to properly enforce requirements in taxpayer-funded contracts. This audit shows that there is a lot of room for improvement at HHSC," Straus said.

Some \$80 billion of the state's \$217 billion budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal biennium is funding the Health and Human Services Commission and the agencies it oversees.

Revenue total

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 2 announced that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.67 billion in January, an amount 9.1 percent more than the total recorded for January 2017.

Sales tax revenue is the largest source of funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections. Growth in sales tax revenue occurred across all major economic sectors in January, led by collections from the mining, construction and wholesale trade sec-

Manufacturing, retail trade and restaurant sectors also saw strong gains. Hegar reported total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January was

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION State Capital

up 10.8 percent compared to the same period in 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuels and oil and natural gas production also rose in January. Notably, oil and natural gas production taxes, which totaled an estimated \$407 million for the month, were up 63.9 percent from January 2017.

Get ready to vote, **Texans**

Feb. 5 was the voter registration deadline.

On Jan. 31, Secretary of State Rolando Pablos reminded Texans to be ready to cast their vote in the March 6 Primary

Pablos encouraged eligible voters to ensure that they (1) are registered to vote in their county of residence; (2) need to bring to the polls in order to cast a ballot: and (3) contact their county elections office to (a) become familiar with their ballot; (b) locate their appropriate polling location; and (c) plan their trip to the polls.

"I commend all Texans who take responsibility for their civic duty by exercising their right to vote," Pablos said, adding: "Most importantly, I encourage all Texans to work together to ensure that our youngest generation is instilled with a tradition of voting and encouraged to make their voices heard at the ballot

Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea

Paxton hails court ruling

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised a Lubbock federal court's Feb. 1 ruling in his lawsuit seeking relief from obeying 2012 guidelines issued under President Obama by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The guidelines limit the ability of employers, including the state and its agencies, from categorically excluding convicted felons from certain employment positions.

In part of his multipronged order, Senior U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings ruled in partial agreement with the state's position, saying, "There are certainly many categories of employment for which specific criminal history profiles of applicants would be a poor fit and pose far too great a risk to the state of Texas and its citizens.'

However, Cummings added that "a categori-cal denial of employment opportunities to all job applicants convicted of a prior felony paints too broad a brush and denies meaningful opportunities of employment to many who could benefit greatly from such employment in certain positions."

Cummings ordered the EEOC to promulsubstantive rule.

Abbott comments on arrests

Gov. Greg Abbott released a statement following announcement by the Texas Department of Public Safety that the Texas Rangers on Feb. 1 had arrested four suspects on charges of misconduct at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

"Misconduct on the part of employees entrusted with the responsibility of protecting our youth will not be tolerated." Abbott said.

The arrests come after Abbott directed the Texas Rangers to investigate reports of sexual misconduct and inappropriate relationships at state youth detention facilities.

Hot tips to help you avoid home heating fires

(NAPSI)—Heating equipment is the second-leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year.

Following these Dos and Don'ts, however, can help protect your home and family:

Do have a qualified service professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to code and manufacturer's instructions and then have the system inspected annually.

Don't use your stove to heat your home or dry your clothes.

Do install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and test them monthly

Don't plug a space heater into an extension cord.

Do plug it directly into an electric outlet.

Don't leave any heating appliance unattended.

Do turn heaters off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Don't use a space heater or any appliance with a damaged cord.

Do place any heater at least three feet away from anything flamma-

Don't use old, worn heating pads or electric blankets with frayed cords. These cause almost 500 fires a year, almost all of them involving electric blankets that are more than 10 years old.

Do place heaters on level, flat surfaces on the floor, not on tables, shelves or chairs

Don't use both a heating pad-placed directly on the mat-–and an electric blanket at the same

Do keep heating pads and electric blankets uncovered when in use. When covered by anything, including other blankets or pets, electric blankets may overheat. Don't fold electric

blankets when in use Folded or tucked-in blankets could overheat and cause a fire.

Do keep a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

Don't use the wrong kind of fuel for fuelburning space heaters.

Do make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the

Don't be in too much of a hurry to shovel out the ashes. Let them cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps UH, WOW...THIS IS ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD

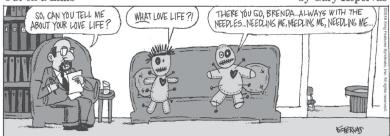




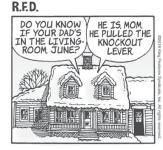
I'M CONFUSED. CHORES DONE, GOOD GRADES... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



by Mike Marland





The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





















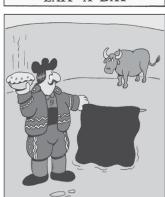


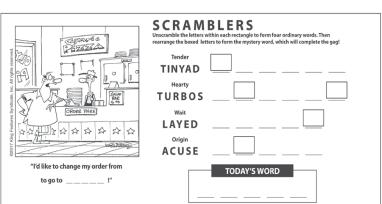


Just Like Cats & Dogs

LAFF-A-DAY

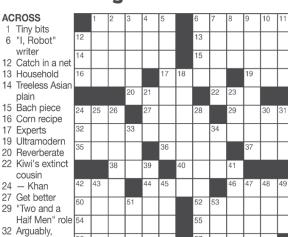






Posting Date February 12, 2018

King Crossword



Shakespeare 57 Leg parts 35 Still **DOWN**

best-known line from

- 36 Peacenik 37 Performance 38 Blushing
- 40 lodine source 42 Pitch 44 Spud's buds 46 Scored 100
- on 50 Hard to find
- 52 Guarantee 54 Yearly 55 Tradition, per-
- haps 56 Forward a
- 10 Curved molding

11 Kill a bill

25 Head of st.

26 Straying

- 1 Grooving 12 Sixth sense 18 Virginia city on 2 Portent 21 Comedian
- Margaret 3 Reservation 23 Feedbag residence 4 Nile slitherer tidbit 5 One often 24 Noshed
- seen with a crook? 6 Bullets etc.
- 7 Quake 8 Hostel 9 Hawaiian
- volcano
- 28 Smitten, maybe unre-
- quitedly 30 Jimmy Kimmel's
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- 31 Lepidopterist's prop 33 Away from WSW
- 34 Aviv 39 Sticker
- 41 Old hat 42 Despot
- 43 Dermatology subject 45 Holler
- 47 Adorable 48 Cupid's alias
- 49 Rep.'s rival 51 Regret
- 53 Sister

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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		8			2	9		
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	8				1			3
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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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2. MOVIES: Who played the lead in the 1980s movie "Moscow on the Hud-

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the official language of Mozambique?

6. TELEVISION: What is the subject matter of the drama called "Big Love"?

man Melville dedicate the novel "Moby-



Find at least six differences in details between nanels



CryptoQuip

IRFAEK-RY-OKC IRFCGN YQAIZ OHRTS MRFC IOSM SPOS OWC AFJAMP OEG JQONYTQ: "YWAMZN HTMAECMM."

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YAGOT

Τοdαγ's Word 3. Delay; 4. Cause 1. Dainty; 2. Robust;

uomnjos SCRAMBLERS

Rodriguez 1. SCIENCE: What is the threadlike conductor in an incandescent lightbulb

anguage of Mozamolque?

4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a female swan called?

5. TRANSPORTATION: What airport would you be traveling through if the three-letter designation is LGW?

7. ANATOMY: A normal set of human teeth has how many incisors?
8. LITERATURE: To whom did Her-

9. GOVERNMENT: Which country's

parliament is called the Althing?

10. AD SLOGANS: What company advertised its products as "the best a man can get"?

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Solution time: 24 mins. **ANSWers**

King Crossword —

Z	ħ	7	9	6	8	3	ŀ	g
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19W2NA

Weekly SUDOKU

Coming-of-age comedy flick about some cata that are impish and playful:
"Frisky Business." CryptoQuip

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bullet Train-PART II,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Houston's population base is growing north and west of the Central Business District.

Texas Central said the mall site is preferred because of minimal enviconmental and community effects. And it allows the high-speed train largely to follow existing rights of way, while providing passengers with easy, efficient roadway access and connectivity with METRO's Northwest Transit Center and other op-

In mid-December, the FRA identified a single, preferred route for the train that does not extend into the downtown core. Doing so potentially would create significant effects on the community and property, including unfavorable impacts from construc-tion, higher costs and extended build-

Revitalizing the mall site,

spurring new growth
Texas Central, an investor-owned project, is not taking federal or state grants for construction or operations It has reached an agreement with owners of the mall property, which will be repurposed as a train and transit hub, creating a robust market for new shops, restaurants, entertainment, hotels, condominiums and other development.

The Texas Bullet Train will connect the state's two largest cities and half of the state's population ¬in 90 minutes in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.

Federal regulators, in their environmental report, cited the Houston station's many economic benefits, including an increase in property values within a half-mile of the terminal as a result of the train project. That's in addition to new and related tran-

sit-oriented development in the area. The FRA report says the train's preferred route mostly runs along transmission lines in a utility corridor between North Texas and Houston, with a midway stop in the $\ensuremath{\text{Brazos}}$

Valley to serve Huntsville, Bryan-College Station, Texas A&M University and others.

The report provides additional guidance as the project moves into its pre-construction phase, minimizing impacts on the environment and communities along the 240-mile path.

The project will create 10,000 jobs during each year of construction and about 1,500 full-time jobs when operations start.

Station design, local road improvements

According to the federal report, the Houston station's concourses will con $sist\ of\ public\ areas,\ restaurants,\ bars,$ seating areas, concessions and newsstands, along with pedestrian connec-

tions to an adjacent parking facility. Improvements also are planned for Post Oak Road at Hempstead Road, Post Oak Road at Old Katy Road and West 18th Street at Hempstead Road. These will be designed in part to alleviate current congestion and im-

prove traffic flow.

The FRA is taking public comments on the environmental report and will evaluate the preferred station site in advance of issuing a final

The station selection marks the latest train-related announcement for Texas Central and Houston, whose official seal boasts a train engine as a symbol of progress Houston once so dominated Texas rails that it was known as the place "where 17 railroads meet the sea."

In August, the two announced an economic development and jobs-creating plan related to the Texas Bullet Train. Under that agreement, Texas Central is committed to recruiting construction contractors, subcontractors and employees from the local job market for the construction of the project and its maintenance and op-

In addition, the city and Texas Central will participate in the study and design of "efficient multimodal connections" between the Houston station and the city's major activity centers.

The joint agreement says the project will have a "substantial and long-lasting positive impact on the city's economy, serve as a catalyst for future growth, create jobs and infuse tax revenue into the state and the local communities.'

It says the train will help cut traffic congestion and related air emissions, providing "sound, fast and comfortable transportation alternatives," using "world-class,

proven technology."

The bullet train is expected to remove 14,630 cars daily from Interstate 45, which will save 8.5 million gallons of gas a year. Also, the train will be using the industry's safest technology, while I-45 is the second deadliest high-

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PAGE CHURCH

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by Wilson Casey

1. Is the Book of Darius in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In biblical times, how long did the journey of Ezra ordinarily take from Babylon to Jerusalem? 3 days, 4 months, 2 years, 5

years 3. From Philippians 4, what does the Apostle Paul instruct us to do rather than worry? Cry, Pray, Love, Talk 4. What creature(s) did the prophet Joel have a vision of? Locust, Flies, Viper,

Leeches
5. From John 18, who asked, "What is truth"? Moses, Paul, Pilate, David 6. In what were all of Job's children killed? Flood, Fire, Wind, Stampede

ANSWERS: 1) Neither: 2) 4 months; 3) Pray; 4) Locust; 5) Pilate; 6) Wind

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...It is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:18



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Commissioner Morman details status of Precinct 2

Speaking last week at the North Channel Chamber luncheon, Pct. 2 Commissioner Jack Morman discussed the ravages resulting from the floods after Hurricane Harvey, and a large range of projects that will be built in the next few years in East Harris County to keep pace with the population

Morman called it an Historic Flood, noting that in the past five years there have been three flood events in the county that exceeded the 100 year flood plans. In the county, over 30,000 homes were flooded, he said. Resources to help people were overwhelmed, and the county had to ask for the help of the general public for boats and evacuation rescues. He noted that Pct. 2 dump trucks were used as first responder emergency vehicles due to their high ground clearance.

Pct. 2 is now in the recovery phase. A total of 260,000 cubic yards of debris have been picked up and hauled away. The Lynchburg Ferry, closed due to damage to both



Pct. 2 Commissioner

landings, is being repaired and scheduled to re-open in March.

To alleviate future damage from floods, the county is implementing new regulations calling for buildings to be elevated higher. Home buyouts have also occurred, and will continue. So far \$20,000,000 has been allocated for this, and 21 homes have been purchased to date.

The county has requested funds from the federal government of \$10 Billion dollars for new projects, but so far the money has not been appropriated. The county is planning on

a bond issue in the fall, asking voters for 1 or 2 Billion dollars for Flood Control projects.

A major improvement in flood control is now being built, known as the Lauder Retention Basin in the Aldine area. This will alleviate flooding in Greens Major highway projects planned or under construction include a new Beltway 8 bridge over the ship channel, with 8 lanes and shoulders, and widening of the East Belt (E. Sam Houston Parkway) to 8 lanes and shoulders. These projects are underway, and completion is scheduled for 2022.

Another important project is an overpass on Federal Road, over the PTRR tracks. This \$20 million dollar project is expected to take 2 years to build, and will alleviate delays for traffic headed to the Washburn Tunnel and Galena Park.

A widening of the Crosby-Lynchburg Road is planned from Barrett Station to Highlands, to be completed in four phases. Phase 3 is south of Barrett is currently under construction, and will cost \$12 million. The final complete to Highlands will follow, at a cost of \$20 million.

Morman said that his office also has improvements planned in two major parks in the precinct, Juan Seguin Park near the San Jacinto Monument, and Riley Chambers Park in Barrett, which will get a new ball park and other improvements.

Morman noted that the EPA had made a Final Decision, to remove the toxic material in the Waste Pits along the San Jacinto River. He praised this action, saying it reflected the wishes of most of the communities nearby, and was the safest and most complete choice. It also is the most favorable if the possibility of Hurricane surges is considered. The removal will take about 2 and + years, and will not start until legal and engineering work is completed in the next year.

Ending on a positive note, Morman said he expected 2018 to be a better year, hopefully without hurricanes, floods, and toxic waste pits.

Keep Government Open,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rebuilding schools, businesses, and homes that suffered severe damage last August. This disaster relief package additionally includes \$15 billion for flood control projects through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Bipartisan Budget Act will very likely be the most significant bipartisan legislation to pass Congress this year. The health and well-being of families and children we represent are among our top priorities. By extending and increasing funding for critical programs like community health centers for the next two years, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for the next 10 years, and Medicaid provisions that allow our rural hospitals to continue to provide critical access to healthcare, we can give our constituents certainty that they have access to reliable and af $for dable\ health care\ -\ no$ matter their socioeconomic status. Families should never have to receive letters from the state informing them that they might lose their healthcare cov-

Additionally, the funding for our military in The $Bipartisan\ Budget\ Act\ will$ help address critical shortfalls in US Navy readiness, such as the tragic USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald collisions, the latter of which resulted in the death of Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, a South Texas na-

The funding portion of the Bipartisan Budget Act excludes border wall funding, signifying a victory for Texans along the US-Mexico border. We will continue to push so that landowners along the southern border can keep their property safe from seizure by the federal gov-

Our views align with those of a majority of Americans who favor pro $tections \ for \ DREAMers$ and we will not give up until the Republican majority opens debate on a permanent fix for DACA recipients. It is our hope that we can address immigration legislation in a fair, bipartisan manner and give certainty to our DREAMers."









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