

NORTHEAST NEWS

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Armando Walle's son Jaquin was with Gene Green and his dad at the College Workshop. But he will have to wait a few years.

NEWS NOTES

Crime stats reviewed at Aldine Safety Forum

Community Meeting to Discuss 2016 Flood Recovery

On April 17 to 30, 2016 and May 22, 2016 to June 24, 2016, Harris County sustained significant damage from two major flooding events that resulted from severe storms and flooding. As a result, both flooding events were Presidentially Declared as Disasters in Harris County, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated the State of Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funding for 2016 disaster recovery. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is the CDBG-DR administrator of the State's allocation. The amount allocated to Harris County by the GLO is \$19,044,584 for infrastructure projects. Harris County and Harris County Flood Control District is hosting a meeting and seeking community input on damage, unmet needs and possible projects to address damage from the 2016 Presidentially declared disasters. The community meeting will occur at the following:

North East Community Center
10918 - Bentley St.,
Houston, TX 77093
Thursday, February 22, 2018
6:30PM - 8:00 PM

Congressional District 29 Candidate Forum

The High Meadows, Green Forest, Castlewood Civic Clubs and the East Aldine Community Empowerment Team invite the community to a Candidates Forum, Wednesday, February 21, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at East Aldine District Office, 5333 Aldine Mail Rt. This forum will allow the candidates to introduce themselves and provide the opportunity for each to explain their position.



These Sheriff's Deputies, including Patrol officers and Command Staff, were present at the District II Patrol Bureau. Also in the photo are some of the Citizen's Police Academy. The event was organized by Sgt. C. Adolph at right, and the main presenter was Captain Ken Melancon, at center in the second row.

East Aldine offices were the venue for a meeting last Tuesday night, between the Aldine community and many of the deputies that patrol District II. Captain Ken

Melancon welcomed that audience, and moderated the presentation. He explained that Sheriff Ed Gonzales intended for these meetings to be on a regular basis, throughout

the County. Melancon noted that his District is responsible to cover 290 square miles, with 500,000

See Safety Forum, Page 8

Students receive scholarships at Green's College workshop



Students who attended Congressman Green's College Financial Aid Workshop were eligible for a drawing for scholarships. These students received the awarded scholarships. At the front are Congressman Gene Green and State Senator Sylvia Garcia.

College aspiring students from schools throughout Congressional District Texas-29 attended Congressman Gene Green's annual "Paying for College Workshop" held last Monday night, February 22nd at MacArthur High School in Aldine.

Sponsors of the work-

shop were Congressman Green, Project GRAD Houston, and the Sallie Mae Fund.

At the free college preparation seminar, students learned about the federal financial aid process, scholarships, loans and other ways of paying for college. Speaking to stu-

dents and families who had gathered in the auditorium were Sergio Gonzales, of Fannie Mae, and Romero Franseco of CafeCollege.

In addition to the speakers who provided valuable information, several local

See College Workshop, Page 8

County Commissioner Ellis applauds 5th Circuit ruling on bail case

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis applauded a federal appeals court that ruled Wednesday the county's wealth-based bail policy violates the Constitution because it jails misdemeanor defendants simply because they cannot pay money bail.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals largely ruled against Harris County in an appeal that the county brought in O'Donnell v. Harris County. In an opinion drafted by Judge Edith Brown Clement, the appellate court held, "We are satisfied that the court had sufficient evidence to conclude that Harris County's use of secured bail violated equal protection." The



Harris County Comm. Rodney Ellis

panel also dismissed Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez from the lawsuit

See Bail Case, Page 3

U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady to speak at Lone Star College-Small Business Town Hall

HOUSTON (Feb. 13, 2018) - The recent tax bill signed into law by President Trump resulted in the most sweeping overhaul of our nation's tax code in 31 years. Small-business owners now face making new decisions including determining what qualifies as business income.

U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, a key architect of the new tax bill, will address the questions small-business owners have during a special Small Business Town Hall Feb. 22 hosted by the Lone Star College-Small Business Development Center.

"Today's economy is full of opportunities and Lone Star College is helping small-business owners seize the moment and compete," said Brady. "This is a tremendous opportunity for all of our local small businesses and I am looking forward to being part of it."



U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady

The Small Business Town Hall with U.S. Rep. Brady will take place Thursday, Feb. 22, from 4 - 5 p.m. at the Lone Star Community Building located at the Lone Star College System Office in The Woodlands. The event is free to the public.

See Town Hall, Page 3

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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

•HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
16526 ELLA BLVD, HOUSTON, TX 77090

•HAMBRIK MIDDLE SCHOOL
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
4600 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039

•ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH
SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX 77022.

•LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPPOINT CENTER
THURSDAY MARCH 29, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00 PM
250 N SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY E, HOUSTON, TX 77060
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Muffins with Mom



On February 14, 2018 Mendel Elementary held their last annual Moms and Muffins workshop. Moms and students were taught many creative ways to use items to improve their handwriting skill while eating muffins. They were also able to create a handwriting notebook book and given materials they are able to use to practice their handwriting at home. Mendel's Moms and Muffins was a huge success as always with approximately 70 parents attending.



Aldine ISD hosts Partner Appreciation Luncheon



Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg thanks business and community partners at the luncheon.

February 6, 2018 - The District recently celebrated the Partner Appreciation Luncheon. Each year, the event provides an opportunity to recognize dedicated community and business partners for their support.

Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg spoke about the impact partners have on kids' lives. She lauded their extraordinary support of students, teachers and schools.

Approximately 300 hundred people attended. They included school administrators, community leaders, business partners/volunteers, School Board members and community involvement coordinators.

Michele McGovern, director of the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF), also took a moment to thank supporters. The

Foundation works with the volunteer board of directors from across the community to seek new partners to support Aldine ISD.

Individuals, companies, and other organizations have helped AEF deliver \$4.2 million to Aldine ISD through scholarships for graduating seniors and teacher grants to strengthen classroom learning, and programs to recognize and reward excellence for both students and educators.

For more information about volunteering in AISD schools, contact Abel Garza, assistant superintendent of community and governmental relations, at (281) 985-6202. If you would like to support the Aldine Education Foundation, visit the website or call Director Michele McGovern at (281) 985-7989.

Mendel Elementary School celebrates 63rd Anniversary

Mendel Elementary School celebrated 63 years of "being" the best educator of children in Aldine Independent School District. The Mendel community -- parents, former students, administrators, and teachers were treated to a musical performance by the first and second grade Mendel Bees on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Over 70 children sang and danced "bee-utifully" to a packed house with standing room only. Punch and cake were served for all to enjoy. The building was filled with memory books, pictures, and amazing stories from the past 63 years. Aldine ISD announced that another educational facility will be named in honor of Ernest F. Mendel.



The Mendel Family.



Mendel Bees singing.

Aldine ISD winners, Marina Ly and Miguel González, advance to compete in Houston PBS 2018 Spelling Bee

Some of Aldine's best spellers faced off last month in the District Spelling Bee. Students competed for a spot to advance to the Houston Public Media 2018 Spelling Bee.

Marina from Hill Intermediate School earned the Champion title. The sixth-grader underwent an intense 23 rounds before winning with the word unlaut.

The Runner-Up title went to seventh grade student Miguel González. The speller from Drew Academy beat his competitors. This is not the first time Miguel wins a top spot at the District-level competition. He was the District Runner-Up in 2017 and the District 2015 Champion.

Only campus winners advanced to the District event that took place Feb. 7 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Contestants must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before Feb. 1, 2018.



Miguel González (left) and Marina Ly show off their trophies after winning the AISD 2018 Spelling Bee.

As the top two District winners, Marina and Miguel advance to the next level of competition. The Houston Public Media 2018 Spelling Bee set for April 7 and will stream live on Channel 8.

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ANNIHILATION (R) 7:00 9:45

* BLACK PANTHER (PG-13)
12:30pm, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm, 12:00pm, 6:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* BLACK PANTHER in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 3:30pm, 9:30pm, 3:00pm, 9:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* BLACK PANTHER (PG-13)
12:00pm, 6:00pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* BLACK PANTHER in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 3:00pm, 9:00pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* THE FEMALE BRAIN (NR) 12:25pm, 3:25pm, 6:25pm, 9:25pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* EARLY MAN (PG) 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* LOOKING GLASS (R) 12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* SAMSON (PG-13)
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* THE 15:17 TO PARIS (PG-13)
12:15pm, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

* FIFTY SHADES FREED (R) 12:10pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
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, 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 Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

WINCHESTER (PG-13) 1:00pm, 7:00pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

MAZE RUNNER: The Death Cure (PG-13) 12:00pm, 3:05pm, 6:10pm, 9:15pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

DEN OF THIEVES (R) 3:45pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13) 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm
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COMMUNITY PAGE

HCC places two women on magazine's most influential list

HOUSTON [Feb. 12, 2018] – Houston Woman Magazine has selected Houston Community College's Melissa Gonzalez and Liz Carreño as two of the city's 50 most influential women of 2017.

Gonzalez is the interim president of HCC's Southeast College and Carreño is the outreach director for the HCC Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program.

"Those selected are individuals with vast networks of social and professional connections," said Beverly Denver, publisher of the magazine. "They have earned an enviable reputation for their expertise in a particular field or arena. They are knowledgeable, credible and worthy of trust and admiration."

Gonzalez said, "I am honored to be on the list



with so many other accomplished women in Houston. I want to thank Houston Woman Magazine for recognizing our contributions to the community."

According to Carreño, "The opportunities provided to women by HCC are awesome. I am thrilled to be part of the Goldman Sachs program that offers

women and men the chance to reach their potential."

The 50 women were honored during an event February 11 at the Junior League of Houston. The magazine has published its annual keepsake edition recognizing the 2017 honorees and it is being mailed to subscribers.

U.S. Airman J. Taylor completes military training

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Clint J. Taylor graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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 as-



sociate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Taylor is the son of Jodi Taylor of Spring, Texas. He is also the husband of Magaly Taylor.

The airman graduated in 2011 from Aldine High School, Houston, Texas, and earned an associate degree in 2013 from Lone Star College, Houston, Texas.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Investigation into fatal crash at West Little York

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 4300 West Little York Road about 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14. According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant F. Briones and Officer D. Rodriguez, the victim was operating an orange Suzuki GSX 1300 motorcycle westbound on

West Little York Road. The driver of a red Toyota Rav4 was traveling southbound on Arbor Oak Lane, failed to yield right-of-way leaving a stop sign at the intersection of West Little York and was struck by the motorcycle. The victim died at the scene. The female driver of the Toyota,

who remained at the scene, showed no immediate signs of intoxication.

No charges have been filed at this time, as the investigation is continuing.

The identity of the male victim, 40, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Two charged in fatal shooting at Crosstimbers

Charges have been filed against two women arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 525 Crosstimbers about 1 p.m. on December 17, 2017.

Kaila Alexine Nelson, 23, is charged with capital murder and Dinesha Renee Jackson, 23, is charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon.

The women are accused in the killing of Dequan Donte Anderson, 20, who was pronounced dead at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital.

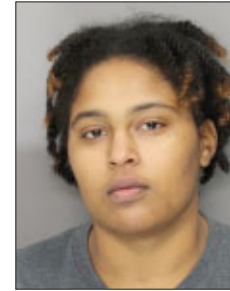
According to Houston Police Officials, Mr. Anderson got into his car at his place of employment and was taking a money bag from the store to the bank when he was approached by an unknown suspect. The suspect opened Anderson's car door and tried to grab the money bag. The

suspect then pulled out a pistol and fired multiple rounds into the vehicle, striking Anderson multiple times. Anderson attempted to drive away and crashed his car into a nearby median. He was transported to LBJ Hospital where he later died from his wounds.

Multiple witnesses stated the suspect ran north on Oxford and got into a dark blue Dodge Avenger, which then fled the scene.

Further investigation led to the identities of Nelson and Jackson as suspects in this case. Nelson was identified as the shooter and was arrested in Marietta, Georgia, on February 7. She confessed to her role in the incident.

On February 14, investigators arrested Jackson in Houston. Jackson confessed to her role in the robbery/shooting.



Kaila Alexine Nelson



Dinesha Renee Jackson

Bail Case,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and directed U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal to craft a narrower injunction. However, the appeals court judges held that the county must follow Judge Rosenthal's injunctive procedures until she crafts new procedures that more directly address the constitutional violations.

"With this decision, the conservative 5th Circuit is telling Harris County that it's unconstitutional to have two justice systems: one for the rich and one for the poor," Commissioner Ellis said. "Yet Harris County has already spent more than \$5 million defending a morally and legally indefensible bail system that violates the Constitution and punishes people simply because they are poor. The ruling is a significant victory for justice and offers further proof that it is time for Harris County to settle this lawsuit and enact meaningful reforms that treat all people equally and fairly under the law."

Judge Rosenthal entered a preliminary injunction against Harris County last April after finding that the county treats indigent misdemeanor defendants

unequally solely because they cannot afford money bail. She further found that Harris County's pretrial detention procedures for misdemeanor cases lack due process because defendants are not informed of the significance of being able to afford money bail. Her preliminary injunction required Sheriff Gonzalez to release indigent misdemeanor defendants within 24 hours of arrest if they could not afford to post a money bond.

The bail lawsuit was brought in May 2016 by Maranda Lynn O'Donnell, who spent more than two days in jail because she could not afford \$2,500 bond after being arrested on charges of driving with an invalid license. Her lawsuit was merged with another lawsuit filed by two misdemeanor defendants, Loetha Shanta McGruder and Robert Ryan Ford, who were locked up when they could not afford money bail. Last year, Commissioner Ellis filed an amicus brief in Judge Rosenthal's court that discussed Harris County's history of discriminatory treatment of poor defen-

dants of color and that agreed with the O'Donnell plaintiffs' assertions that the bail scheme is unconstitutional.

In addition to Judge Clement, the three-judge panel that ruled on the county's appeal also consisted of Edward Prado and Catharina Haynes. The county now can seek permission for rehearing of its appeal by that panel or to have its appeal heard by all the judges on the 5th Circuit. It also can seek permission to have the 5th-Circuit's decision reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Rosenthal stated in her April order that she would schedule a trial on the merits of the lawsuit, but also warned that the plaintiffs have a great likelihood of winning that trial. The trial is expected to be scheduled soon.

Commissioner Ellis stated, "With regard to the remedy, I am confident that once additional evidence has been presented, the federal courts will implement a bail system in Harris County that protects the constitutional rights of everyone."

Town Hall,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We are very excited to have Congressman Brady speak and help the small-businesses in our area get a better understanding on how this new law may impact them," said Miguel Lopez, LSC-SBDC execu-

tive director. "This will be a great opportunity to ask questions directly to one of the authors of the law."

The event is free, but registration is required by emailing SBDC@LoneStar.edu.

U.S. Rep. Brady serves the 8th Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Spanning nine counties in the greater Houston area, the 8th District is home to a robust local economy driven by hardworking families, businesses of all sizes, and industries representing every sector of the U.S. economy.

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OPINION PAGE

Rep. Gene Green opposes Bill to undermine Americans with Disabilities Act

WASHINGTON, DC – February 15, 2018 – Representative Gene Green (TX-29), issued the following statement after voting against legislation that would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

“I am deeply disappointed that my Republican colleagues voted today to roll back basic rights for disabled Americans, taking a major step backwards as a country. Ensuring basic accommodations for all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, ought to be a biparti-

san issue. Despite being aimed at the very small number of abusive ADA suits brought by lawyers rather than disabled persons, this bill makes no attempt to distinguish between legitimate ADA suits and suits brought by non-disabled, repeat complainants. All it does is remove any incentive for businesses to proactively comply with ADA access requirements, and weaken the access standard under the ADA while having no effect on lawsuits that seek damages under state, not federal, laws.”

Reasons why hiring older employees is a smart decision

By Cathy K. Hayes

In the 2015 movie *The Intern*, Robert DeNiro starred as a 70-year-old widower who returns to the workforce as an under-appreciated and seemingly out-of-step intern working for a young boss played by Anne Hathaway.

Initially, Hathaway's character can't quite relate to this baby boomer who ditched retirement out of boredom, but by the film's finale she comes to appreciate his skills and experience.

In real life you're unlikely to encounter many septuagenarian interns, but it's not unusual for people to re-enter the labor market or launch new careers when they are well into what was once considered retirement age.

And that can be good for businesses that are willing to take advantage of all those decades of hard-earned experience, says Andrew Simon, a partner in Simon Associate Management Consultants (www.simonassociates.net) who himself is in his 70s..

“Starting a new career after 60 is not for everyone,” Simon says. “But it can be rewarding for those with energy and commitment levels that are high, and who are willing to learn new skills and keep up with the constantly evolving technology.”

The question is whether businesses will balk at hiring workers who, in many cases, are old enough to be the parents of the people supervising them. Sure there are downsides, Simon says, but the upsides can be tremendous when it's the right fit for the right person.

He says a few things businesses should keep in mind as they weigh whether to hire older workers include:

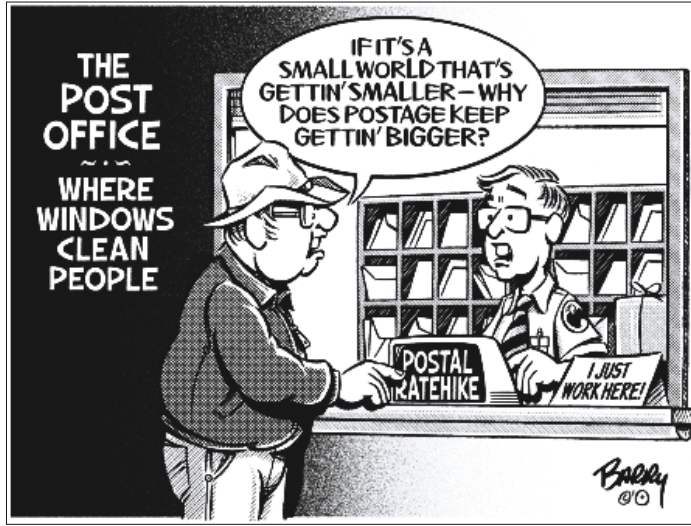
- Experience counts.

Baby boomers come to the table with a whole set of experiences, including 30 or 40 years of interpersonal people skills that make them more adept at dealing with unique situations or different types of people. “On the flip side,” Simon says, “some of them could lack the technical skills that we take for granted in today's workforce. So, be careful what you are asking them to do.”

- Self-motivation. The odds are older employees will be self-motivated. “If these potential workers would like to join an organization or start a new career after 60, they probably like the idea of work,” Simon says. “They need to do something every day. Perhaps they view their job as intellectually stimulating.” You do need to make sure of their motivation, though, he says. If they're just working for a paycheck, that might not cut it.

- Different age groups have their own behaviors. Baby boomers often have a very different set of values than millennials. “Different things motivate them,” Simon says. “The culture of an organization is very important and can be tricky. You want to make sure these older workers have an opportunity to thrive in your new environment.” While it's best to avoid stereotyping the generations too much, in general baby boomers tend to be productive, loyal to the company, willing to put in long hours to get the job done and prefer to have conversations in person.

“Companies that pass on hiring older workers risk missing out on people who could become some of their most valuable employees,” Simon says. “Age shouldn't be the issue. Instead, as with any hire, the issue is what skills and experiences each of these people can bring to the workforce.”



Legislation passed by Congress includes hurricane relief funds

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 9 lauded Congress' passage of budget legislation that contains nearly \$90 billion in hurricane and wildfire disaster relief funding for Texas, Florida, California and Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Harvey pounded Texas from Aug. 25-31, resulting in disaster status for some 60 counties. The federal Office of Coastal Management has estimated the total cost of Harvey at \$125 billion. Cost estimates by various other organizations have reached as high as \$200 billion.

“Today's passage of disaster funding marks another crucial step forward as Texans continue to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of Harvey, and I thank the Texas delegation and leaders in Congress for taking action to pass this critical recovery package,” Abbott said.

“The much-needed funding included in the bill for flood mitigation projects, housing and infrastructure repairs will provide a meaningful benefit to Texas. While Texans will continue to struggle in Harvey's wake long after today's vote, our resilient spirit remains strong, and we will continue working at the federal, state and local levels to ensure we emerge from this disaster stronger than ever,” Abbott added.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, commented, saying: “While long overdue, this bill is a big step forward for Texans impacted by Hurricane Harvey up and down our coast. We know the recovery process is far from over, but these resources will go a long way for Texas families, small businesses and communities who are still rebuilding. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Gov. Abbott and our congressional delegation to ensure Texans impacted by this once-in-a-lifetime storm aren't left behind.”

Cornyn said the disaster relief part of the Bipartisan Budget Act:

- Ensures Texas will have increased access to Community Development

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds;

- Ensures that \$15 billion of U.S. Army Corps funding will go directly toward construction in high-priority areas impacted by flooding;

- Provides flexibility to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow them to carry out necessary projects in Texas;

- Includes funding to help Texas address lingering transportation issues resulting from Hurricane Harvey;

- Allows the Federal Transit Administration to distribute formula money using 2000 Census data for areas that temporarily fell below a population of 50,000 as a result of a major disaster (this applies to Galveston); and
- Authorizes \$10 million for the Ready Reserve Fleet port facility in Beaumont damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

On Feb. 8, Texas' junior U.S. senator, Republican Ted Cruz, commented: “After much consideration, I will reluctantly vote for this legislation. This bill contains major victories; if hurricane relief and restoring vital defense spending were the only elements of this bill, I would be supporting it energetically and enthusiastically. Unfortunately, in addition to funding those critical priorities, this bill also unnecessarily balloons the deficit.”

Comptroller to send revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 7 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$911.9 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of February.

The amount is 6.2 percent more than was distributed in February 2017. The allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2017 sales by businesses that report tax annually, Hegar said.

AG seeks election safeguards

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 5 sent a letter to state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Election Integrity, announcing a voter-fraud initiative.

The letter mentions the Office of the Attorney General's “brief investigative survey” of four counties where “165 unlawfully registered non-citizens had been removed from the voter rolls after casting 100 illegal votes in Texas elections in the last two years.”

And, after stating that the Office of the Attorney General “is unable to determine the scope of non-citizens voting across Texas,” Paxton refers to “the lack of safeguards in the voting system to detect ineligible voters.” He suggests additional measures to address mail-in ballot fraud and the use of public funds for political activity.

Accreditations are released

The Texas Education Agency on Feb. 9 released accreditation statuses for school districts and charter schools across the state.

These statuses are based on state academic accountability ratings, the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, data reporting, special program effectiveness and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Statuses for the 2017-2018 school year for 1,201 Texas school districts and charter schools are as follows: Accredited (1,185); Accredited-Warning (9); Accredited-Probation (2); Not Accredited-Revoked (4); and Pending (1).

JUDGE

EMMETT:

Passage of Congressional Disaster Relief Funding

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's statement on Congressional passage of a budget agreement containing funding for local disaster relief and flood mitigation projects:

“I am relieved and grateful that Congress has finally acted on our many requests to assist Harris County and Texas in rebuilding from one of the worst weather catastrophes in American history,” said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. “Unfortunately, recovery is a long, ongoing process, and I hope that the funds approved by Congress can be made available quickly.”

“And now that Congress has acted, we move on to the next stages, which is to request action from the State of Texas on our joint city-county request for at least \$200 million in aid to shore up our damaged flooding infrastructure. With that in hand, the county can finally move forward in funding its own mitigation and buy-back programs.”

Know the basics about virtual currencies

(NAPSI)—The recent run-up in price for Bitcoin and other virtual currencies has piqued investors' interest. However, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) advises investors to understand the risks that go with virtual currencies before adding them to their portfolios.

What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a convertible virtual currency. Virtual currency is a digital representation of value that may function as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and/or a store of value.

Is Bitcoin a commodity?

Yes, Bitcoin and other virtual currencies have been determined to be commodities under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA).

Does the CFTC oversee Bitcoin?

The CFTC's jurisdiction is implicated when a virtual currency is used in a derivatives contract, such as futures or options contracts. The CFTC's oversight over commodity cash markets is limited. The CFTC maintains general anti-fraud and manipulation enforcement authority over virtual currency cash markets as a commodity in interstate commerce.

What risks come with virtual currencies?

While virtual currencies may have potential benefits, purchasing virtual currencies on the cash market—spending dollars to purchase Bitcoin for your personal wallet, for example—comes with a number of significant risks, including:

- Most cash markets are not regulated or supervised by a federal government agency.
- Platforms in the cash market may lack system safeguards, including customer protections.
- Cash market manipulation.
- Platforms selling from their own accounts and putting customers at a disadvantage.
- Price volatility risks.
- Cybersecurity risks.

What do I do if I suspect fraud?

To report suspicious activity, contact the CFTC at (866) 366-2382, consumers@cftc.gov, or visit SmartCheck.gov/SubmitTip.

For more information, visit www.cftc.gov/bitcoin.

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Eighteen Aldine ISD student-athletes sign national letters of intent



Eisenhower High School

Six Eisenhower High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college. Four football players, one basketball player and one softball player signed national letters of intent.



Davis High School

Pictured are the eight student-athletes at Davis High School who signed national letters of intent during a National Signing Day ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The student-athletes are pictured with their parents and grand parents. Seven football players and one soccer player signed letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college.



MacArthur High School

Three MacArthur High School football players signed national letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college. Pictured with them are, (back row, l-r): Aldine ISD Director of Athletics Dre' Thompson, MacArthur High School Principal Heather Peterson and MacArthur High head football coach Wayne Crawford.



Nimitz High School

Nimitz High School defensive lineman Mike McDonald, seated, signed a national letter of intent with Midwestern University on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Pictured with him are Nimitz High School head football coach Richard Slater, Nimitz High Principal Dr. Crystal Watson and Aldine ISD Director of Athletic Services Salvador Fernandez.

Eighteen Aldine ISD student-athletes signed national letters of intent during National Signing Day ceremonies at their respective schools on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Davis High School led the way with eight signings. The school had seven football players and one soccer player sign national letters of intent. The football players who signed were defensive lineman Dominic Livingston, who signed with LSU, defensive

lineman Malik Abdullah, who signed with Texas A&T College, linebacker Patrick Parnell who signed with Texas A&T College, wide receiver Gus Charles who signed with Kilgore College, offensive lineman Joshua McCulloch who signed with South Alabama, and running back Justin Wheatfall who signed with McMurray State University. Soccer

forward Juanna Plata signed with Lamar University.

The four Eisenhower football players who signed national letters of intent were defensive back Jordan Bullard who signed with McNeese State University, offensive lineman Johnny Robinson who signed with Concordia University in Nebraska, kicker/punter Pashas Charalambos who signed with Blinn College and linebacker Trayveon Dixon

who signed with Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma. Kayla Robinson signed a softball scholarship with Grambling State University and Derrick Vining signed a basketball scholarship with Wayland Baptist University.

Three MacArthur High School football players signed national letters of intent. Linebacker Jacoby Simpson signed with TCU, defensive back James Humber signed with McMurray State

University and offensive lineman Benny Todd also signed with McMurray State University.

Nimitz High School defensive lineman Mike McDonald signed with Midwestern State University.

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Posting Date February 19, 2018

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20			
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24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31				32				33		34
35				36				37		38
			39			40		41		
42	43					44		45		46
47						48		49		50
51						52		53		54
55						56		57		

ACROSS

1 See 12-Across
5 Scoundrel
8 Mine entrance
12 With 1-Across, have trouble
13 Bullring cheer
14 Pianist Peter
15 Fermi's bit
16 Time on Earth
18 Summer-house
20 Deviating off course
21 Albacore, e.g.
23 — Aviv
24 Help on " ... Millionaire"
28 Pealed
31 Commotion
32 Nuptial announcement
34 Dead heat
35 Legal wrong
37 Shipwreck aid
39 Bill and —
41 Sea eagle
42 Cover the cost up front
45 Adjective modifier
49 Organism
51 Concept
52 Finished
53 Regret
54 Whirlpool

DOWN

1 Carpet style
2 Silents
3 The gamut
4 Reproductive cell
5 House style
6 Boxer
7 Challenge
8 Reply
9 Remove hair
10 Persia, now
11 Chinatown gang
17 Dine
19 Closed-up tulip
22 Sandy's mistress
24 Long, crosser
25 "What can — for you?"
26 Made to consume
27 Put in a border, as a photo
29 Zero
30 Obtain
33 Remit
36 Drunkards
38 Groups of quail
40 LummoX
42 Winter truck attachment
43 Split
44 Bygone times
46 Icelandic epic
47 Cincinnati team
48 Chesapeake et al.
50 Scoot

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the word for "W" in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story titled "The Monkey's Paw"?
- GOVERNMENT: Which one of the amendments to the U.S. Constitution forbids double jeopardy?
- ROYALS: Who was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and King Henry VIII of England?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Minerva?
- TELEVISION: Which member of the "Our Gang" cast was shot to death in a dispute at age 31?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "prima facie" mean?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's official song is "Roll On, Columbia, Roll On"?
- GEOLOGY: What kind of gemstone is actually fossilized tree resin?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the modern name of the country of "Cymru"?

Weekly SUDOKU

S	V	S	S	O	N	E	N	D	S	M
A	O	G	H	E	R	V	E	L	A	O
B	O	G	I	F	E	F	E	R	I	T
A	T	O	E	R	A	V	A	R	E	T
T	R	I	F	E	L	L	E	T	E	R
L	I	N	N	V	A	C	O	C	I	T
H	A	N	D	E	L	L	E	T	E	R
G	A	Z	E	R	O	R	O			
A	T	A	T	E	L	L	E	T	E	R
S	N	A	G	A	D	A	T	E	R	

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. Whiskey; 2. W; 3. Jacobs; 4. Fifi; 5. Athena; 6. Carl Dean Switzer, who played "Arlita"; 7. Based on the first impression; 8. Washington; 9. Amber; 10. Wales

LIFESTYLE

NatureFest, Spring Break, and Easter games at Jones Park

First Saturday Birding: Saturday, March 3 at 7:45 a.m. Join volunteer bird guides Al Barr for a special Saturday morning bird walk to kick off NatureFest 2018.

NatureFest: Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join Jones Park for a day dedicated to nature. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet exhibitors, participate in a variety of hikes and tours, watch interactive demonstrations, and even try fishing in our catch and release fish tank.

Invasives Beware: Sunday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join Jones Park staff and the Jesse Jones Park (JJP) Eradicator's to assist in finding, documenting, and removing invasive plant and animal species as well as conducting other habitat management tasks in Jones Park.

Gardening Daze: Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 8:30 a.m. Join Horticultural Coordinator Matt Abernathy Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. for native plant landscaping and habitat restoration in the park.

after 10 a.m. Closed-toed shoes, gloves, a hat, sunscreen, and water are recommended.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 9 a.m. Interested in trying a new healthy outdoor activity? Doug Ebeling, volunteer Tai Chi instructor, leads this class based on the 24-step Yang form of Tai Chi.

Sewing Historical Costumes: Saturday, March 10 at 10 a.m. During this interactive program, visitors will discover how to accurately interpret clothing from several decades of the 1800s.

Second Saturday Settler: Spinning and Weaving: Saturday, March 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This interactive program led by Jones Park volunteers and staff will show how early settlers spun plant and animal fibers into thread and woven fabrics.

Stargazing: Saturday, March 10 at 7 p.m. Enjoy an evening learning about the moon, planets, and stars from members of the North Houston Astronomy Club.

With leadership from Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility located at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble. All programs are free of charge and open to the public.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 17, at what church was Paul accused of turning the world upside down? Antioch, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Galatia
3. How many days did it take Nehemiah to complete the wall around Jerusalem? 6, 52, 100, 1000

4. From Genesis 3:15, the snake is supposed to strike at what part of man? Throat, Hand, Heel, Eyes
5. Some were known by more than one name; what was Thomas' other name? Andrew, Didymus, Caleb, Zimri
6. From Revelation 12, what angel fights against Satan? Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, Cherubim, Michael

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Thessalonica; 3) 52; 4) Heel; 5) Didymus; 6) Michael

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. COLOSSIANS 2:13,14

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Safety Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

persons residing. He has 128 officers, who work 3 shifts and 7 days. More resources are needed, and the audience learned that 50 new police cars and 150 new officers are due in the County soon.

Melancon said that crime had been reduced in the last year, and there was a "huge difference."

However, he acknowledged that Aldine had problems with individuals being robbed, gang activity, loud noise, and celebratory shooting into the sky. He promised additional effort on these problems.

Melancon praised his department for their work during Hurricane Harvey, noting that they had made 3635 water rescues during the flooding.

He also said that his department has a very active Crisis Intervention Response Team, in partnership with Harris Health and their mental health unit. He introduced Officers Hudson and Kelly from this group. He said that they dealt with sui-



Captain Ken Melancon made the presentation to the Aldine community members present at the Safety Forum last Tuesday night. Melancon is in charge of all patrols in Sheriff's precinct II. His office is in the Courthouse annex on Will Rogers.

cide, Bipolar and other mental illness, and homeless individuals. He said that his department has a proactive approach to homeless people, helping them off the street and into safe dwellings, food, and other needs.

Melancon noted that the East Aldine District has a proactive patrol unit, to

stop crime before it happens. He urged the public to use an App known as Closewatch, to report suspicious crime activity.

He introduced his shift commanders, Lt. Gray on day shift, Lt. Batten on night shift. The number to call for Dispatch is 713-221-6000, and for his Station, 281-446-9155.

College Workshop,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

colleges had booths in the lobby with specific information for their schools. These included Texas Southern University, Lone Star College, San Jacinto College, and the University of Houston.

These schools also provided scholarships to attendees. Through a drawing, the University of Houston awarded three \$1000 scholarships, TSU awarded three \$1000 scholarships, and San Jacinto College awarded one scholarship at \$250.

Speaker Romero Franesco gave a detailed overview of the CafeCollege, a resource for high school students from all schools. It has been set up in the Carnegie Library, on Quitman Street across from the Northside High School. It provides information and counseling to students interested in knowing more about individual colleges, and programs that they might pursue. No appointment is necessary, it is a "walk-in" facility, Francesco said.

Another speaker was



Information Booths were set up for consultations with prospective students, both before and after the formal talks in the auditorium of MacArthur High School.

Sergio Gonzales of Fannie Mae, who spoke about the various financial aid programs provided by the federal government. Some are scholarships, and some are loans. Well known programs include Pell grants, and others. Gonzales said that to apply for any federal grant or loan, you must first fill out and submit a form known as FAFSA. He

explained some of the requirements and preparation students must make to apply successfully.

Congressman Green, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, and State Representative Armando Walle were all present at the meeting. They indicated if a family needed assistance applying for college, they could call their office for help.

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The East Aldine Community Empowerment Team
Invite you to
Meet the Texas Congressional District - 29
CANDIDATES FORUM
Wednesday 6-8PM
Open Q&A @ 7pm
FEBRUARY 21ST
EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OFFICE
5333 Aldine Mail Rt

This forum will allow the candidates to introduce themselves and provide the opportunity for each to explain their position. Other candidates invited are Dominique Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, Pedro Valencia, Jaimy Blanco, and Robert Schafranek.

AldineDistrict.org
[fb/EastAldineDistrict.org](https://www.facebook.com/EastAldineDistrict.org) | [@AldineDistrict](https://twitter.com/AldineDistrict)

NORTHEAST NEWS

Pick-up Locations

Jed's Hardware & Paint
5415 Aldine Mail Rt
Greenspoint Mall
Greenspoint Drive
Lone Star College - Greenspoint
250 Sam Houston Pkwy E.
Sheriff's Storefront
5202 Aldine Mail Route
East Aldine Office
5333 Aldine Mail Route
RED BOX
5327 Aldine Mail Route
Dance Town USA Bingo
7214 Airline Drive
Pan Riko Bakery
Aldine Mail Rt
MacArthur High School
Aldine Mail Rt
High Meadows Branch Library
4550 Aldine Mail Rt
Prosperity Bank Eastex Fwy
3945 Little York
Prosperity Bank Little York
1615 Little York
Prosperity Bank Aldine
1906 Aldine Bender
Mobile Station
9140 Eastex Freeway
Texaco Food Mart
9225 Eastex Freeway
Conoco
11219 Eastex Freeway
Handy Plus #69
11420 Eastex Freeway
Hartz Chicken
12231 Eastex Freeway
Hair Authority Beauty Salon
10767 Eastex Freeway
Beasley Tire
Eastex Freeway
Dairy Queen
E. Mt. Houston @ Eastex Fwy
D'Bertha Hair Salon
4828A Mt. Houston
Ranchero King Buffet
North Freeway
Mi Rancho
11132 Aldine Westfield
Police Store Front
Little York @ 45
Aldine ISD Services Office
Aldine Westfield
Houston Discount Sales
101 Little York & Airline Drive
You & I Grocery
8009 Airline
Airline Grocery
8104 Airline
Quick Mart
8320 Airline
H.M.C. Clinic
Aldine Bender

Harris County Branch Library
11379 Airline
Medical Clinic
8002 Airline
Aldine High School
Airline @ West Rd
Las Banderas Meat Market
11381 Airline
Food Store
1700 Airline
Heart's Liquor
3801 Aldine Mail Rt
Pilgrim Place Apts
4655 Aldine Mail Rt
Aldine Y.O.U.T.H Comm. Ctr.
4700 Aldine Mail Rt
Chevron
8400 Irvington
Harris County Courthouse
Annex
Will Clayton Parkway
Harvest Time Church
Imperial Valley
World Food Mart
Greens Rd @ Imperial Valley
Green Way Washateria
917 Greens Rd
7&9 Grocery
330 Gulf Bank
K Stop Food Store
340 Gulf Bank
Office Building
Parker Road
HC Senior Center
Hardy Road
HC Senior Center
Bentley
HC Courthouse
Wil Clayton Parkway
METRO Park & Ride
Eastex Freeway
Stripes
Aldine Bender
Beltway 8 Travel Plaza
N. Sam Houston Pkwy
UT Health Clinic
Crosstimmers @ Jensen
Mannie's Seafood & Grille
E. Mt. Houston
Maxim's Seafood
Eastex Freeway
Rosita's
Bentley Drive

And more... call 281-328-9605 if you would like to be on the list.

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