

# NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years  
VOL. 41, NO. 10 TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## Trail Rides mark Rodeo Time



The Spanish Trail Ride spent the night at Sears' parking lot on Shepherd Rd. last Thursday before going to Memorial Park Friday morning, where all Trail Rides gathered for the Houston Rodeo parade. The Rodeo takes place at NRG Stadium from March 7 to March 26. See TRAIL RIDES, page 8

SUNDAY  
Daylight Saving Time begins Mar. 12

## NEWS NOTES

### MacArthur FFA Annual Car Show

MacArthur FFA will be hosting its 2nd Annual Car Show and fundraiser at MacArthur High School, on Saturday April 1, 2017 from 11 am - 4 pm. Funds are being raised to purchase and support livestock projects for the students. In order to make the fundraiser a success, they are asking for donations of the following items:

- Can Cokes
- Plates
- Water Bottles
- Bowls
- Hot Dogs
- Hot Dog Buns
- Hamburger Buns
- Individual Bags of Chips
- Chili -Prize Items (for games)
- Cheese
- Raffle Items
- Nachos
- Gift Certificates
- Jalapenos
- Sliced cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions - candy.

They would gratefully appreciate any and all donations to help the students reach their goal. For more information, please contact Amy C. Nealy-Car Show Organizer 281-827-3700.

### CORRECTION:

Last week's Northeast News incorrectly stated that the new board member for Aldine ISD, Ms. Connie Esparza, was a co-founder of Aldine Y.O.U.T.H., now known as Buckner/Aldine Family Hope Center. This information came to us from Aldine ISD. Ms. Connie Esparza, one of two new board members of Aldine ISD, is co-founder of H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Equally). She is not affiliated with the Aldine Family HOPE Center. We apologize for the confusion.

## Galleria may "move" to Aldine

Texas school finance law, Houston vote mandate tax transfer

Several school districts, including Aldine ISD and Houston ISD, were notified last week by the TEA (Texas Education Agency) that a law regarding the funding of school districts in Texas requires property wealthy districts to share taxes with property poor districts.

Last year, the state determined that Houston ISD would have to share its tax money with others, and a ballot item in November asked voters if they preferred sending dollars to the state, or transferring taxable property to



The assessed valuation of the Galleria and surrounding buildings is about \$1.5 billion. This is only one of dozens of buildings to be transferred to the Aldine tax rolls.

other districts, instead. Voters said keep the money and transfer the taxable property. The amount to be sent in cash to the state would have been about \$162 million.

Therefore, in a letter dated February 23, 2017 the Texas Education Commissioner notified these two school districts of the required property tax transfer, which can be implemented by the state without local action.

Included in the transfer are the Galleria, Greenway Plaza, and landmark office towers in downtown Hous-

ton and Post Oak Boulevard. The total to be transferred comes to around \$8 billion dollars.

However, the matter is not settled yet, and Aldine may end up not getting the tax money, according to experts in the field. There is another election on the subject scheduled for May, and voters will have a second chance to decide. If they again say no cash transfer, then the buildings would go on Aldine's

See TAX TRANSFER, page 2

## Houston needs 500m Gallons a day from Trinity River

Houston Mayor says "We have another Chicago moving here"

The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor, City of Houston, Wayne Klotz, President, Coastal Water Authority, Bech Bruun, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board all spoke at the dedication and ground breaking of the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project (LBITP) on Feb. 24.

The event was hosted by the Coastal Water Authority and the Texas Water Development Board.

The Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project (LBITP) is a \$381 Million



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner spoke on the growing water needs of the City of Houston. Engineer Wayne Klotz is seen at right.

dollar water supply project, including a pump station located on the banks of the Trinity River, 3 miles of dual 96-inch diameter pipeline, and approximately 23.6 miles of earthen canal. The canal will run from Liberty County through eastern Harris County and outfall into the lower reaches of Luce Bayou. The project will deliver up to 500 million gallons of water per day to Lake Houston and the Northeast Water Purification Plant.

The ceremony was held at the I.T. May Park in-

Huffman.

The Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project represents the culmination of more than 50 years of effort by local leaders to ensure water supply keeps pace with ever-growing demand generated by business and residential development.

Ranked the highest project of the Texas Water Development Board, the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project is consid-

See Houston Water, Page 3

## City pursues strategies for homeless, panhandlers

HOUSTON, TX. - March 2, 2017 - Mayor Sylvester Turner today announced a more holistic approach to reducing homelessness and invited the community to help implement it. The mayor's plan involves expedited efforts to permanently house the homeless, more shelter beds, new public health and safety regulations and an anti-panhandling awareness campaign.

"Houston has achieved significant reductions in homelessness in recent years, but I am committed to doing even more," said Mayor Turner. "It is simply not acceptable for people to live on the streets; it is not

good for them, and it is not good for the city. We will tackle this complicated issue, and we will do it humanely with a meaningful approach that balances the needs of the homeless and the concerns of neighborhoods they impact. We will need everyone's patience and help to make it work."

At the center of the mayor's plan is expansion of The Way Home, the coordinated housing initiative of 100 public and private organizations that has reduced overall homelessness by 57 percent over the last five years. Another 500 chronically homeless individuals will be placed in permanent



supportive housing within six months. Coupled with this aggressive goal, the community, often with direct city support, is continuing to invest in new

permanent supportive housing units, but more apartments are still needed. The mayor is calling upon apartment owners and landlords with vacant units to step for-

ward and be part of the solution.

Another 215 shelter beds will come online in August when the new Star of Hope campus on Reed Road is finished. In addition, the city is pursuing creation of one or more secure and professionally managed covered outdoor spaces with restroom facilities where up to 75 individuals could stay temporarily.

"In this city, we are not going to abandon our most vulnerable," said Turner.

See Homeless Strategies, Page 3

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Dr. Seuss birthday celebration



Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration at Mendel Elementary. Teachers and Students celebrate Dr. Seuss at Mendel Elementary!

## LSC-North Harris offers 8-week late start classes starting Mar. 20

HOUSTON (March 3, 2017) – Lone Star College-North Harris is offering eight-week Late Start courses starting March 20. Take advantage of this great opportunity and register today!

The Late Start courses are an additional opportunity for students to pursue certifications and associate degrees, or prepare for university transfer.

Late Start classes are available at LSC-North Harris, LSC-Greenspoint Center and LSC-Victory Center, as well as in on-line and hybrid formats. Stu-

dents can sign up for classes in: accounting, biology communication, diesel technology, economics, government, history, machining, philosophy, welding and more!

Due to demand, those interested in Late Start courses should register as soon as possible to ensure the best selection of classes. Current and recently enrolled students can register online at my.LoneStar.edu. New students can apply for admission online, at the LSC-North Harris campus, or at either of its two cen-

ters. For a complete listing of available classes, visit LoneStar.edu/class-search. Once you have selected your term and location, click on the "session" drop down menu, and select "Late Start."

Lone Star College-North Harris is located at 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, one-half mile south of FM 1960 East, between Aldine-Westfield and Hardy Roads. For more information about the college, call 281.618.5400 or visit LoneStar.edu/NorthHarris.

## Aldine ISD Children's Honor Choir performs at TMEA Convention



Aldine ISD Children's Honor Choir.

On Friday, February 10, the Aldine Children's Honor Choir was honored to perform at the 2017 Texas Music Educators' Association Convention in San Antonio. The choir was selected as one of two outstanding district choirs in the State of Texas. The children rehearsed including a few Saturday rehearsals in preparation for this concert. The hard work was evident by their outstanding concert themed "Peace and Unity."

The children represented all of the 44 elementary and intermediate schools in Aldine ISD. The 94-

member choir was directed by Kitty Amshoff, former Teague Middle School choir director, and Samantha Mansour, Kuja-wa Elementary music teacher. The Aldine Children's Honor Choir was organized under the leadership of Colleen Riddle, Director of Music Education and accompanied on the piano by Courtney Holiday, Drew Academy choir director. Percussion accompaniment was by Jonathan Roberson, the Cypresswood Elementary music teacher. Assistants for the Honor Choir were David Dalton, Stephens

Elementary music teacher, Mary Stevens, Mendel Elementary music teacher, and Jackie Spears, former Magrill Elementary music teacher.

"The Aldine Children's Honor Choir would like to thank the Aldine ISD music teachers for their dedication to fine music-making, parents of the choristers for their commitment to arts education, and the Aldine ISD Administrators and School Board for supporting extraordinary opportunities for our Aldine ISD children to become the "Nation's Best," Riddle said.

## Aldine Families earning up to \$58,000 can benefit from Free Tax Preparation

With just under two months until the April 18 tax deadline, hardworking Houston families can take advantage of high quality, free tax preparation services offered by BakerRipley (formerly known as Neighborhood Centers), through the generous support of United Way of Greater Houston.

Families and individuals earning up to \$58,000 a year are eligible to visit any of BakerRipley's 12 Houston-area tax centers to have their taxes prepared and filed by IRS-certified volunteers. The goal is to help families retain every dollar of their refund and save the average \$200 cost of professional tax preparation services.

While the word "free" is used by many paid preparers, clients are often subject to staggering interest rates on predatory loans

offered as "refund advances." Through BakerRipley, families avoid paying these high fees and can access United Way SAVE, a matched savings account program that enables them to set aside part of all of their tax refund right away and get a 25% match.

Aldine families have two Free Tax Centers in their neighborhood:

- Aldine Branch Library, 11331 Arline Dr, Houston, TX 77037. Hours: Monday, Wednesday 11am -7pm; Thursday 11am - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 2pm

- Aldine ISD Resource Ctr/Tax Office, 14909 Aldine Westfield, Houston, TX 77032. Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11 am - 6 pm; Saturday 10 am - 2pm

In addition to helping clients file taxes for the 2016 year, BakerRipley

can prepare prior returns and amendments back to the 2011 tax year for free. Since the program started in 2009, BakerRipley has prepared over 251,000 tax returns and claimed \$339 million in tax credits and refunds for our community.

Important documents that taxpayers must bring include:

- Photo ID, Social Security cards or ITIN letters for everyone on the tax return
- Proof of income (W2, 1099, etc.)
- 1095 form: Health coverage statement
- Check with bank account and routing number for direct deposit of your refund

For more information on all locations and hours, visit [www.freetaxcenters.org](http://www.freetaxcenters.org) or call the 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE.

## Aldine ISD pursues 'District of Innovation' Designation

The "District of Innovation" designation aims to give school districts in Texas more local control. The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees at the Oct. 18 meeting unanimously passed a resolution to start the research process.

The state created the District of Innovation (DoI) program during the 2015 legislative session under House Bill 1842.

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the designation allows districts more flexibility in a number of items including educator certification, teacher contracts, school calendars and class sizes.

For example, having the DoI designation could allow the District to hire professionals with industry experience but without a teaching certification.

"This would allow individuals with a lot of practical experience in industry to help teach students who are enrolled in one of the Career and Technical Education programs," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Wanda Bamberg. "This is something we couldn't do before. If someone has 10, 15, 20 years of experience, that should be as notable as a certification or a degree. Individuals thinking of going into teaching now can definitely consider this an option. And this would be a win for our students."

The designation does not allow districts to exempt in certain areas, including student assessments, curriculum, federal requirements or financial operations. TEA will monitor long-term results. In addition, districts must remain in good academic standing.

"This is an opportunity to shape the future of Aldine," said Board of Education President Dr. Viola M. Garcia.



Aldine students at STEAM Lab Class.

To become a District of Innovation, the school board held a public hearing and appointed an Innovation Plan Committee to write a comprehensive education plan for the AISD. The plan will include any changes allowed by the designation that the District wants.

Aldine ISD engaged the community to take part in planning of the DoI. The group of nearly 50 was comprised of parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators and business partners. The group held the final DoI community meeting on Feb. 21. The next steps are to have both the District advisory committee and the Board review the District of Innovation plans.

The plan would need to be sent to the Texas education commissioner. The adoption process requires posting the DoI plan for community feedback, majority approval by the committee and two-thirds majority approval by the school board. If approved, the DoI plan would be in effect for up to five years.

The DoI designation, if approved, will allow Aldine ISD more flexibility in class size, teacher certification, school attendance and the teacher appraisal system.

More than 95 school districts in the state have notified TEA that they have adopted a local innovation plan and are designated as Innovation District. "This is exciting," said Bamberg. "The Innovation District designation could create incredible opportunities for our students. And that is really the bottom line. We are making decisions about what is best for students."

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Teacher of the Year Breakfast March 10

Aldine ISD and the Aldine Education Foundation will hold their annual Teacher of the Year Awards Breakfast on Friday, March 10 at 7:30 a.m. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel North. 425 North Sam Houston Parkway East.

### Citizenship Classes

- SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017, ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS), 2131 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77039.
  - FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2017, ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CHURCH, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EVERY FRIDAY - 8 WEEKS), 5356 11TH. ST. KATY, TX 77493.
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## HISD Tax Transfer to Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tax rolls as planned. However, that doesn't settle the matter. Texas school funding law, known as Robin Hood, says that if Aldine ISD gets the revenue from the transferred property, they will probably lose other tax money the state was planning to send them. Therefore, the transfer may not benefit the overall Aldine ISD budget very much.

Other considerations that have the experts and government officials taking notice are a higher tax rate in Aldine, meaning that these properties would pay more taxes. For example, the Galleria could end up paying an additional \$1 million in school taxes each year. And another problem is that if the properties move to the Aldine tax rolls, they may never come back to Houston ISD under current law. This transfer could mean that all property owners in Houston ISD end up paying higher taxes.

Both school districts are waiting to see the outcome of the May election. Aldine ISD issued the following statement:

"Aldine ISD has been contacted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding the Chapter 41 detachment and annexation of commercial property from the Houston Independent School District.

Aldine ISD will be working collaboratively with the TEA and all other entities involved to ensure adherence to all statutory guidelines regarding the required annexation. As more details regarding this

process become available, this information will be made available at [www.aldineisd.org](http://www.aldineisd.org)."

Spokesperson Mike Keeney indicated to the *Northeast News* that the Aldine District was not sure what dollar amount is represented by the transfer, and how it will affect any other support from the

state. This is one of the issues to be clarified after the May election.

Considering what is at stake, it is expected that organizations like the Greater Houston Partnership, Central Houston, and Houston ISD will be hoping for a different outcome from the voters.

SUNDAY-THU 3/5-3/9

**PREMIERE CINEMAS**

Starts Thursday 3/9: \*3D-KONG:SKULL ISLAND (PG13) CC 7:00 9:45

<p><b>Before I Fall (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 39 mins. 12:10 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Logan (R)</b> - 2 hr. 21 mins. 11:30am, 3:00 6:30 9:35 CC-Closed Caption;</p> <p><b>SUBTITULADA;Stadium Seating</b></p> <p><b>Logan (R)</b> - 2 hr. 21 mins. 12:30 1:00 3:30 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:00 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>The Shack (PG-13)</b> - 2 hr. 12 mins. 12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Collide (Autobahn) (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 38 mins. 9:40 CC-Closed Caption; Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Get Out (R)</b> - 1 hr. 43 mins. 1:30 4:30 7:00 10:00 CC-Closed Caption; Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Rock Dog (PG)</b> - 1 hr. 20 mins. 11:30am, 1:50 4:10 6:35 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Everybody Loves Somebody (Todos queremos a alguien) (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 30 mins. 11:45am, 2:20 4:55 7:25 9:50 CC-Closed Caption; Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>First Fight (R)</b> - 1 hr. 31 mins. 12:30 3:00 5:25 7:40 9:50 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p>	<p><b>The Great Wall 3D (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 44 mins. 4:15 9:45 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>The Great Wall (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 44 mins. 1:15 7:15 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>John Wick: Chapter 2 (R)</b> - 2 hr. 2 mins. 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>The Lego Batman Movie 3D (PG)</b> - 1 hr. 44 mins. 3:30 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>The Lego Batman Movie (PG)</b> - 1 hr. 44 mins. 12:00 12:45 2:45 5:45 6:30 8:45 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Rings (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 57 mins. 11:40am, 2:15 4:40 7:15 9:45 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p> <p><b>Split (PG-13)</b> - 1 hr. 57 mins. 12:30 3:25 6:25 9:20 CC-Closed Caption;Stadium Seating</p>
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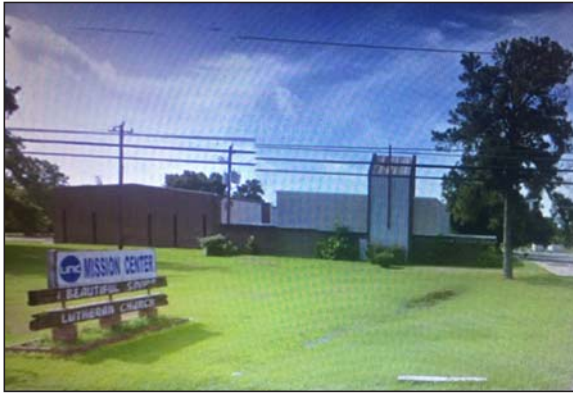
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Two-Alarm Fire damages church in Airline neighborhood



A Two-Alarm fire caused significant damage to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in North Houston. The Houston Fire Department in mutual aid with Little York Fire Dept. responded to the fire last Thursday, March 2, -2017 at 5:26 p.m. at the church located at 161 West Rd. at Sweetwater Ln. in Houston. No injuries were reported however, the fire caused significant damage to structure. -The fire is under investigation by Houston Arson Bureau.

Precinct One youth and seniors programs receive federal grants totaling nearly \$150,000

Harris County Commissioners Court on Tuesday approved nearly \$150,000 in federal grants for Precinct One programs that assist young people and senior citizens. The nonprofit Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Inc. was awarded a \$42,024 Community Development Block Grant for the Harris County Aquatics Program, \$28,993 for Discovery Camp and \$58,502 for the Summer Games. The Seniors Drama Program received a \$20,000 grant. The program, directed by playwright Thomas Meloncon, provides acting and dance lessons. Seniors participate as actors, understudies and costume designers. Throughout the

year, they perform plays that raise awareness of crucial issues affecting seniors. Created in 1986, the Street Olympics implements and sustains year-round programs that provide training, support and resources that lead to healthy and productive lives for Houston-area youth. The Aquatics Program offers swimming lessons and competitive swimming for youth. In July, Learn-to-Swim students compete in a friendly competition at the Harris County Aquatics Center. Discovery Camp, which runs through the summer months, offers children ages 6-13 a one-day adventure that includes educational activities, games, crafts and projects that give them hands-on experience to help understand nature in natural settings at Challenger Seven Memorial and Deussen Parks. The Summer Games gives youth at participating agencies a chance to compete in traditional street games such as kickball, jacks, hopscotch, Hula Hoop and foot races. The best participants at the agencies - which include Houston Parks and Recreation Department sites, YMCAs, churches and other youth centers - earn the right to compete at the Final Event in August at NRG Arena, where they can win medals.

Husband shot to dead in front of pregnant wife

HOUSTON, Tx - A 21-year-old husband was killed in front of his wife during a road rage in North Houston. According to investigators, Oscar Reyes and his pregnant wife were driving on Aldine Westfield when they began to have car problems near Hartwick. A dark SUV behind the couple's car began to get impatient but Reyes was able to get their car off the road. At that moment the driver of



Oscar Reyes was killed in front of pregnant wife.

Reyes then exited the car and had words with the suspect driver. Then the suspect shot Reyes several times. Then a third driver in a white or silver truck ran over Reyes while he was down in the middle of the road, deputies reported. The truck did not stop and the suspect in the dark SUV also fled the scene, deputies said. Authorities are searching for both vehicles.

State Sales Tax Revenue totaled \$2.4 Billion in February

(AUSTIN) - Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.4 billion in February, 4.4 percent more than in February 2016. "Growth in sales tax revenue was due to increased collections from most sectors of the economy," Hegar said. "While tax collections from oil- and gas-mining remain subdued, receipts from telecommunications, construction, services and retail and wholesale trade increased significantly." Total sales tax revenue

for the three months ending in February 2017 was up by 2.8 percent compared with the same period of February 2016; motor vehicle sales and rental taxes - \$373.2 million, up 0.3 percent from February 2016; motor fuel taxes - \$289.7 million, up 1.1 percent from February 2016; and oil and natural gas production taxes - \$277.7 million, up 150 percent from February 2016. The increase is, in part, due to refunds that went to natural gas severance taxpayers in February 2016, which resulted in artificially low tax collections during that period. In February 2017, Texas collected the following revenue from those taxes:

Police seeks help finding driver in a bicycle hit and run

HOUSTON, Tx - Police is looking for witnesses in an accident where a bicyclist was seriously injured on Feb. 10. Houston Police said a 25-year-old man was riding a bicycle along Jense near Ber-

ry in the Eastex Freeway area around 1:30 a.m. He may be crossing the street or riding in the shoulder when a driver of a black four door car struck him and fled the scene. The bicyclist was taken

to a hospital seriously injured but he is expected to survive. Anyone with information in this case can contact Houston Police at 713-247-4072.

Homeless Strategies,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The goal is to get as many people as possible into permanent housing or shelters, but even with all of the assistance being offered, there will still be people who choose to stay on the streets. It would be wrong to tell these people they cannot be here or there without providing a suitable alternative. I am inviting the community and City Council to help identify locations in their districts we can use as temporary outdoor shelters and for feeding the hungry." The city will continue weekly cleanups of encampments to address health and safety concerns while the homeless are transitioning to shelters and permanent supportive housing. The Houston Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is expanding so there can be increased interaction and assistance for the homeless. Another component is a new ordinance outlawing tents on public property. This ordinance will prohibit people from putting up tents but will not make it illegal to sleep outdoors. There will be a 30-day transition period during which HPD's HOT team will work to compassionately redirect people in encampments to housing alternatives. "This is a best practice across the nation and is based on public health and

safety concerns," said Turner. "We cannot have people setting up tent cities where there are no restrooms or other accommodations to meet basic human needs. Not only is it unsanitary, but it also deters from the goal of getting people into permanent supportive housing." The Texas Department of Transportation is assisting by installing "no camping" signs at freeway underpasses and is working to allow the city to have access to the underpasses for parking and economic development, an idea Mayor Turner has wanted to pursue since seeing something similar during last year's trade mission to Mexico City. The mayor's plan also takes aim at panhandling with a new ordinance prohibiting obstruction of roadways and an anti-panhandling media campaign involving TV, radio, print and social media ads, street signage, billboards and a way to donate to service organizations via text and online giving. The campaign, which is being funded by 15 management districts, urges residents to help bring about "meaningful change" by donating their "spare change" directly to organizations that provide services. The public awareness campaign will be coupled with a pilot program to connect panhan-

dlers to employment opportunities. The signs and ads are expected to be up and running within a month. The mayor noted that a lot of homeless have mental health issues and have repeatedly fallen through the cracks of the social service system. He stressed the importance of increased funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and said that he had directed this issue to be added to the city's legislative priorities in Austin. "Our existing programs and the expanded ones I have outlined lead all major cities in dealing with a nationwide problem," said Turner. "This is a realistic, holistic approach that provides meaningful solutions. By offering multiple choices and a little bit of tough love, we hope to convince more of our street population to get off the streets. This plan also provides strategies for easing the pressure in neighborhoods. We will never totally eliminate homelessness, but with the entire community's help, we can reduce it even more." Six years ago, Houston had a homeless population of more than 8,500. Today, that number has dropped to around 3,600. Less than one-third of these people are living on the streets. The rest take advantage of shelter beds.

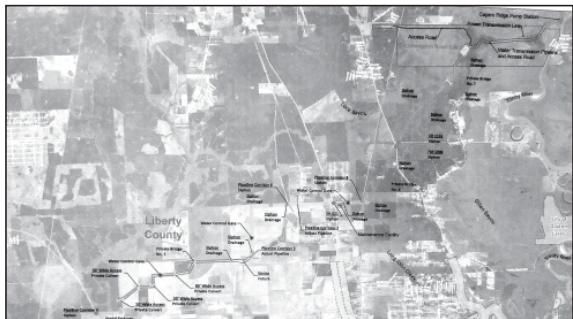
Houston Water

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ered the region's most important effort concerning water supply. The project, including a pump station on the banks of the Trinity River and

more than 25 miles of pipelines and earthen canals, will deliver up to 500 million gallons of water per day to Lake Houston and the Northeast Water Pur-

ification Plant. It is scheduled to be completed by 2019 at a projected cost of \$381 million. No word on impact on flood control.



The route of the Interbasin Transfer Project passes through Huffman from Liberty County.

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OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By Senator  
Sylvia Garcia



**Senator Garcia Files SB 1160 in Honor of Women's History Month**

AUSTIN, TX – In recognition of the start of Women's History Month, Senator Sylvia Garcia has filed SB 1160 to increase pay equity amongst all workers. SB 1160 seeks to shrink the wage gap by prohibiting an employer from asking about an applicant's wage history, whether through a question on an employment form, or by requesting that information from a previous employer. Basing a compensation offer off of an applicant's previous salary has the unintended effect of recycling wage disparities, historically experienced by women and people of color, throughout a person's entire career. Academic research demonstrates that pay inequity not only negatively affects the individual, but the economy as a whole. An

analysis by the Institute for Women's Policy Research showed that closing the gender wage gap would lower the poverty rates in every state. As such, SB 1160 will help every single job applicant in Texas, not just women.

"Salaries should be based on the requirements of the job and not how much an applicant previously earned. By asking for previous salary information, employers are likely to perpetuate past inequities. This bill seeks to make the negotiation of salaries about qualifications and the demands of a position," stated Senator Garcia.

*State Senator Sylvia R. Garcia represents Senate District 6 and serves as Chair of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus*



**Federal judge sides with plaintiffs in Planned Parenthood case**

AUSTIN — Texans who rely on Planned Parenthood as a medical care provider won't have to seek those services elsewhere, pending an upcoming trial.

In the lawsuit titled Planned Parenthood et al. v. Texas Health and Human Services Commission, U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin on Feb. 21 granted a preliminary injunction to prevent the Texas Department of Health and Human Services from eliminating funding for Planned Parenthood in the state's 2017-18 budget.

"There is no legitimate public interest in allowing Texas to complete its planned terminations (of funding) based on the current facts," wrote Sparks. "Instead, the public interest favors enforcing the individual plaintiffs' rights and avoiding disrupting the health care of some of Texas's most vulnerable individuals."

Sparks found that an injunction would ensure that Medicaid recipients in Texas "will continue to have access to medical care at their chosen providers" and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services' termination of Planned Parenthood's provider agreements likely violates federal law.

Sparks ordered the plaintiffs and defendants to work out a schedule for presenting arguments within 30 days. The court will then schedule a trial date.

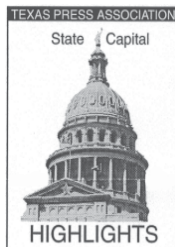
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton expressed disappointment in the ruling and said he plans to file an appeal.

**'Bathroom bill' continues**

The Trump administration has reversed last year's Obama administration move to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice.

The civil rights divisions for the federal justice and education departments on Feb. 22 issued a joint "Dear Colleague" guidance letter

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



any teacher on deferred adjudication for sexual misconduct or on the sex offender registry; and

- Require school districts to enact policies and training addressing contact between students and teachers on the Internet and social media.

**Legendary jurist dies**

Noted Texas jurist Jack Pope of Austin died at age 103 on Feb. 25.

Born in Abilene in 1913, Pope helped establish formal judicial education for Texas judges, fought for a voluntary judicial ethics code when judges had none and fought again to make that code mandatory and enforceable. He served for 38 years as a district court judge, court of appeals justice and on the Texas Supreme Court, the last two as chief justice. His judicial tenure, as a whole, was the longest of any Texas Supreme Court justice.

As a court of appeals justice, Pope's reassessment of water rights conveyed by Spanish and Mexican land grants changed Texas water law forever. As chief justice he forged a way to guarantee income to finance legal assistance for the poor. Concerned with double litigation in the same case, he won legislative support for statutory changes to thwart "forum shopping" for favorable judges.

**More students take exam**

Some 122,606 of Texas' 2016 high school graduates took at least one Advanced Placement Program exam during their high school careers, according to Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

Morath said the total amounts to 38.7 percent of Texas' graduating class. The national percentage is 36.2.

reversing the controversial move last May.

In late August, a Fort Worth federal district court enjoined nationwide enforcement of the Obama administration's directive.

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 6 by Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, is awaiting a hearing by the Texas Senate's State Affairs Committee.

The state legislation, considered a high priority by Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, would require transgender students to use facilities that match the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

**Senate panel hears bill**


The Senate Education Committee on Feb. 23 heard testimony on legislation that would prevent a teacher fired for sexual misconduct in one school district from getting hired by another district.

"We have to remove any possible obstacle to identify teachers or educators with this problem and pull their license," said Sen. Paul Bettencourt, author of Senate Bill 7.

SB 7 also would: - Create criminal penalties for any superintendent or principal who fails to notify the state of cases of sexual misconduct involving teachers;

- Automatically revoke the teaching certificate of

**OPINION**  
By Congresswoman  
Sheila Jackson Lee



**Congresswoman Jackson Lee calls on Trump to either force AG session to resign or fire him**

Jackson Lee: "As the chief legal officer, AG Sessions cannot maintain his position by breaching the law by giving false testimony, he has forfeited any right to remain as Attorney General of the United States of America."

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, joined with fellow members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus in demanding that Attorney General Jeff Sessions either resign or be fired.

Jackson Lee: "The Attorney General of the United States is the chief legal officer of the land. He is not the counsel to the President. The Attorney General's charge is to uphold the laws. His charge is to respect the most vulnerable. He is to fight for civil rights. He is to stand in the gap against hate

crimes. "And yet we have an individual in Jeff Sessions who gave false testimony under oath denying he ever met with Russian officials during the campaign. This is a potential breach of the law. As the chief legal officer, he cannot maintain his position by breaking the law. His false testimony forfeits any right he has to remain as Attorney General of the United States of America.

"We are constitutionally firm in our standing. We must speak for the American people who cannot speak for themselves. And as we watch someone who swore to uphold the laws of the United States of America caught in a web of deceit and false testimony, a true patriot would stand up, accept responsibility, and step down. In the alternative, we will be sending a letter to President Trump asking him to seek the resignation of his Attorney General or fire him on the spot. We are well beyond the point of recusal. AG Sessions must go."

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**TWO CENTS WORTH**  
By Charlie A. Farrar



**Spring near the corner**

Spring is so close one can smell it. That must be why all these sneezing fits have occurred. The neighbor's Arizona Ash tree is budding out and the other neighbor's pear tree will be in bloom once it gets a good drink of water as it is full of buds. Pear trees are so pretty full of white blossoms.

Spring will officially be here next month just after you turn your clock forward one hour. Looking forward to the time advance, although Spike cat will not know the difference as he likes to walk around the pillow before daylight so someone will go get his breakfast snack of Whiskas Temptations treats.

Spring Fever as defined by Ms Merriam-Webster is "a lazy or restless feeling often associated with the onset of spring". You can tell its spring when all the male dove start cooing to the nearest female dove. It is also time for the white perch AKA Crappie to bite. Actually the Crappie are already biting on Luce Bayou above Lake Houston.

Spring runs from March into May down here in Texas and at the end of spring is the beginning of hurricane season.

Spring is also the time to do your spring cleaning and, being the head janitor of the house the job has already begun. The biggest chore at the house is washing the fascia and eaves on the house; next biggest is the blinds and windows. Guess I'll have to turn the ceiling fans on high to dust. Don't care what she says, that's woman's work. About decided when she retires, I'm going back to work.

Drove to the fresh water pond in the big city last week to check out a crappie hole found over the web; hope to wet a hook this coming week, but weather forecast says it's going to be cold so Charlie might not make it.

Got a box of Jerusalem artichoke to plant one day this week, hope to have a pint or two of them pickled as Pop and Pearl Farrar grew them out at their place on the Liberty Hill Road. Pearl would pickle them and they were right tasty, crunchy too. Of course she would put a pod of red pepper in the jar for a bit of spice, hot but good.

We used to take the mattresses out each spring on a pretty day to air out; it was a job momma always had me help doing wrestling those heavy cotton mattresses out to the back yard for a day. Nowadays you have febreze.

Charlie Farrar can be reached via email at: xuseg@comcast.net

**Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!**

ENTERTAINMENT

COUCH THEATER — DVD PREVIEWS

By Sam Struckhoff

PICKS OF THE WEEK "Sing" (PG) -- A down-on-his-luck Koala...



Scene from "Sing" Photo Credit: Universal Pictures

Illumination Entertainment ("The Secret Life of Pets") makes another fun, high-energy entry...

"Miss Sloan" (R) -- Elizabeth Sloan (Jessica Chastain) is a redheaded viper of a lobbyist...

The movie had to make two points really stick: This is Jessica Chastain's vehicle, and the material is so relevant...

"Fire at Sea" (R) -- For many people, the little island off of Sicily called Lampedusa is a peaceful small town...

humanitarian crisis and the day-to-day life of the locals. It's a documentary...

"Assassin's Creed" (PG-13) -- Making a good or even passable movie out of a videogame is a challenge...

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- ABC has given the green light to "Household Name," which will bring Carol Burnett back to weekly television...

Carol, who turns 84 in April, is an American treasure, and this new series, developed by Amy Poehler...



Carol Burnett Photo credit: Depositphotos

She had great success with the DVDs of her original variety show and has toured the country the past two years...

Seasons 11 and 12 of "The Big Bang Theory" are a guaranteed lock, with its five original stars -- Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki, Kaley Cuoco, Simon Helberg and Kunal Nayyar -- again being paid \$1 million an episode...

Also guaranteed a 10-show run, at ABC, are Kyra Sedgwick ("The Closer" 2005-2013) and "Cosby" kid Malcolm-Jamal Warner in "Ten Days in the Valley," and Seth MacFarlane in the hour-long dramedy "Orville." There's also a spin-off from "The Gold-

berg's" starring Tim Meadows and Bryan Callen in the works, and "Desperate Housewives" Felicity Huffman will be married to "People vs O.J.'s" Courtney Vance in "Libby & Malcolm."

And get ready for a reboot of the hit nighttime soap "Dynasty" (1981-1989), still about the rivalry between the Carringtons and the Colbys. Crystal Carrington (played by Linda Evans) will be Hispanic this time and played by Nathalie Kelley (of "The Vampire Diaries" and "Body of Proof"). Crystal... Hispanic! At least she'll have the money to keep the ball from being built!

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Without help 5 \$ dispenser 8 MPs' quarry 12 Speedy steed 13 Meadow 14 Toy block name 15 Time rival 17 Dregs 18 Recipient 19 Brings forth 21 Feudal worker 24 Hooter 25 Isn't well 28 Hebrew month 30 Discoverer's cry 33 To and -- 34 Visit habitually 35 Zero 36 Coffee break hour 37 Leave out 38 On in years 39 Martini ingredient 41 Banish to Hades 43 Cultural, as some cuisines 46 Pass along 50 False god 51 Thin, as a fracture 54 Soft cheese 55 Kind

Grid for King Crossword with numbers 1-59.

- 10 Curved molding 11 Privation 16 Teeny 20 Electrical measure 22 Paper quantity 23 Liquid 25 Toward the stern 26 Anger 27 Classical music lover 29 "Do -- others ..." 31 Hasten 32 Ancient Saturday 34 " -- soit qui mal y pense" 38 Aviatrice Earhart 40 Bay, for one 42 Bobby of hockey 43 Recedes 44 Poi base 45 Item in a pot, maybe 47 MGM mascot 48 Con 49 Nays' undoers 52 Muhammad or Laila 53 Eisenhower

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is missing. 2. Dish is missing. 3. Fence is different. 4. Blossom is different. 5. Cat's tail is missing. 6. Carved heart is missing.

top 10 movies

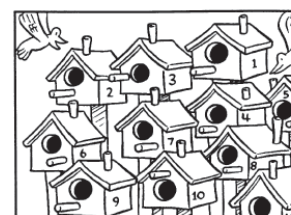
- 1. Get Out (R) Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams 2. The LEGO Batman Movie (PG) animated 3. John Wick: Chapter 2 (R) Keanu Reeves, Riccardo Scamarcio 4. The Great Wall (PG-13) Matt Damon, Tian Jing 5. Fifty Shades Darker (R) Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan 6. Fist Fight (R) Ice Cube, Charlie Day 7. Hidden Figures (PG) Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer 8. La La Land (PG-13) Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone 9. Split (PG-13) James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy 10. Lion (PG-13) Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman

Wishing Well

Wishing Well word search grid with letters and numbers.

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune.

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HOUSE HUNTERS! These two birds want to find two houses that are exactly alike. Can you spot them?

Answer: Houses 1 and 9.

ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE! In our AlphaMath puzzle, you must replace the letters with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem.

THE "D" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid show here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter.

Junior Whirl by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Junior Whirl word search grid with letters and numbers.

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left.

- DEFINITIONS: 1. A brief, informal letter. 2. Grinding your teeth. 3. To formally accuse. 4. What the horse did. 5. Little old ladies. 6. A string of words. 7. What a baker does. 8. Fierce medieval fighter. ANAGRAMS: anti + toon sing + hang cede + hang rein + snag cent + seen king + dean sane + morn

Answers: 1. Notelet 2. Grating 3. Denounce 4. Whinny 5. Gramercy 6. Sentence 7. Reading 8. Nostalgia

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First Baptist Church Kinwood, 5538 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3823
First Baptist Church N. Houston, 4422 Lauder Rd. 281-449-7201
First Unity Baptist Church, 2110 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-445-7379
Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 1823 Aldine Mail Route. 281-442-7137
Greater Purelight Missionary, 12330 Vickery St. 281-987-1980
Harmony Baptist Church, 1325 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3444
Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist, 4730 Church St. 281-442-2947
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Pillar of Glory, 14341 Lee Rd. 281-449-6404
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Phuc Vien Temple, 14101 East-ex Fwy. 281-449-1900
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LIFESTYLE

RECENT DEATHS

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Harell J. McRae  
Geneva Pearl Carter  
Odester Bailey  
Maria Luisa Rivera  
Gennevie Lorenza Govea

Mary Angela Consford  
Joseph Donald Bertrand  
Jack Sirman  
Emanuel Rivas  
Catherine Grawl  
Nirita Alanis  
Emanuel Rivas  
Chiziterem Sidney

BIBLE TRIVIA  
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who/what does "their eyes stand out with fatness" refer to in Psalms 73? Demons, Wicked rich, Serpents, Unholy
3. From 1 Kings 17, what was the widow's cruse mi-

raculously kept full of? Milk, Water, Oil, Light  
4. Who reaped a crop a hundred times the grain he sowed? Gideon, Isaac, Samson, Hanun  
5. Whose daughter was referred to as Talitha by Jesus? Zeresh, Jairus, Jeremiah, Shelomith  
6. From Acts 16, who sold purple cloth? Lydia, Zimri, Sisera, Hannah  
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Wicked rich; 3) Oil; 4) Isaac; 5) Jairus; 6) Lydia

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, coming down upon the edge of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing — life forever.

~ Psalm 133 ~

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CALL 713-266-3444 to place your Business Card in our Directory. Thousands of Readers in this area will see your message.

Take Pride in our Community  
Keep it Clean

**EAST ALDINE DISTRICT**

# Houston Rodeo Trail Rides,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year the Spanish Trail Ride had 8 wagons and about 36 riders. They have participated for 57 years in this tradition.

They began their journey on February 24, 2017 from Shepherd, Texas and traveled 109 miles. There are a total of 12

trail rides and all participated in Downtown Rodeo Parade last Saturday morning.



Trail Boss Joe Cantrell is in his 40th year with the Spanish Trail Ride group.



Wagon #8 from The Spanish Trail Ride.



Pageantry with flags and wagons is part of the Trail Ride experience, as Trail Riders arrive in Houston.



Houston traffic patiently makes room for the Trail Riders as they approach Memorial Park for their Friday night ceremonies, prior to the Saturday downtown parade.



## East Aldine District

### 15th Anniversary Accomplishments

The following is a summary of services provided by the District and the budgetary investment in the community by service category.

**Over \$43M invested in Water & Sewer infrastructure including:**

- Development of Master Plan for infrastructure planning and improvements
- Secured Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist with funding
- Successfully negotiated with the City of Houston so Tasfield residents could access the City sewer system once the project was complete
- New service to over 1,336 homes and an estimated 3,600 residents
- Completed water and sewer upgrades in North Houston Heights
- Completed or have planned, 13 projects in "Service Zone 11" (Hirsch/East Mount Houston/Langley)

Of the \$43 million expended, approximately 60% (or \$26 million) is from CDBG and TWDB grants obtained by the District and Harris County and 40% (or \$17 million) has come from the District through its general fund or through bonds issued by the District.

**Over \$9.1M Invested in Public Safety & Security Programs:**

- County Contracted Public Safety Deputies
- Contracted Bicycle and Courtesy Patrols
- Public Safety (Storefront) Center Support
- County Attorney Nuisance Abatement Program
- Public Safety Youth Program – Explorers
- Mobile Hot Spot Surveillance Cameras
- Training & Supplies for Contracted Deputies

**Over \$4.4M invested in Business & Economic Development and Marketing & Public Relations programs designed to enhance the business climate and attract new investment in the community:**

- Business Retention, Expansion and Recruitment Plan to retain and assist current businesses in expansion efforts and attract new investment
- Comprehensive Communications Plan including website and social media
- Real Estate Advisory Services to assist site selectors and developers
- GIS Mapping & Demographic Services which provide insight into district growth and development

**Over \$6.1M invested in Mobility, Environmental & Urban Design**

- Street Light Installation and Outage Surveys
- Graffiti and Litter Abatement
- Support of Greens Bayou Corridor addressing flooding challenges and cleanup of bayous
- Median Maintenance, Water and Electric Usage Maintenance and Repair of District Branded Signage
- Mowing & Tire Recycling

**Over \$2.2M invested in the Community Development Fund, with over \$1.9M directly benefiting community youth:**

- 25 endowed scholarships annually through the Lone Star College Foundation for graduates of MacArthur High School to attend LSC.
- 9 endowed annual scholarships through the Aldine Education Foundation for MacArthur High School graduates to attend any college in the country.
- Support of community partner programs at: Aldine ISO, Aldine Youth, Bonding Against Adversity, Friends of Scouting, Aldine Greenspoint YMCA, Macedonia, Aldine Optimist Club, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Stony Creek Camp for Youth, and more.

These partner programs supported youth sports -cross country, soccer, volleyball, tennis and basketball, funded Project Graduation Honors Banquets, ACHIEVE and Project Prom programs, as well as the "Move Up to Mac" 9th grade drop-out prevention, back-to-school, teen business education, literacy, the C.H.I.C.K.E.N. Club anti-drug, and job training and one-on-one mentoring for at risk youth programs and much more.

**Over \$1.9M invested in Health & Neighborhood Services:**

- Community Health Programs
- Community Garden
- Community Clean Ups and Dumpster Program
- Mosquito Control
- SNAP/Pet Education
- Project HOPE - Home Repair Services
- Nuisance Abatement Outreach
- Art/Mural Project

**The East Aldine Town Center which will have:**

- Over \$100M in both public and private investment
- 300,000 sq. ft. of commercial and institutional space, including:
  - 100,000 sq. ft. of commercial retail and office space
  - Roadway and trail access to Keith-Wiess Park
  - New facility for the East Aldine District
  - Splashpads and play areas
  - Lone Star College East Aldine campus, including an early college high school
  - Facilities for Neighborhood Centers Inc., with an innovative "maker space" to assist in skill and business support for the East Aldine community
  - 9-1-1 call center for Harris County to replace aging downtown facility
  - Amphitheater and community green with a 1,500 person capacity
  - Stormwater detention serving as a large scale passive green space

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