

NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years
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NEWS NOTES

Citizenship Workshop

Bonding Against Adversity's first Citizenship Workshop in this new year is Saturday, January 13th at St. Bartholomew The Apostle Catholic Church, with the goal of assisting Lawful Permanent Residents apply for U.S. Citizenships. They are in need of more volunteers than ever to help meet the demand for naturalization assistance. Training will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. Registration at 9:00 am, 5356 11th St. Katy, Tx 77493. Bonding Against Adversity serves our communities with the mission of "Helping Others Help Themselves". Kindly reserve via email your confirmation at marianas@bondingagainstadversity.org

Aldine Library Open House

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

Many Candidates competing for Green's Congressional Seat

The March 6th Primary election will see a large number of candidates competing for open Congressional seats. In Texas alone, eight seats are open, and the ones of most interest in this area area TX29, Gene Green's seat, and TX2, Ted Poe's seat.

Green is a Democrat, but seven Democrats and four Republicans will be on the ballot in March for this position.

Poe is a Republican, and

Continued on page 8



GENE GREEN



SYLVIA GARCIA



DOMINIQUE GARCIA



ROEL GARCIA



TAHIR JAVED



HECTOR MORALES

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.7 Billion in December

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.75 billion in December, 12.3 percent more than in December 2016.

"Double-digit growth in sales tax revenue was fueled by collections from oil- and gas-related sectors as well-drilling and completion continued to rebound," Hegar said. "But growth in tax receipts was notable across

all major economic sectors, including retail trade and restaurants."

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

See Tax Revenue, Page 3

January proclaimed School Board Recognition Month

January 2018 is School Board Recognition Month—a great time to focus on the crucial role Aldine ISD Trustees play in the community and Aldine schools.

The Texas Association of School Boards' (TASB) theme for this year's School Board Recognition Month is, "Helping Kids Soar to Success."

Plan now to show AISD school board members you appreciate their dedication and hard work. They are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing Aldine ISD. Their actions and deci-



Pictured is the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees, along with Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg.

sions affect the present and future lives of Aldine's children.

"Our Board works tirelessly and devotes hundreds of hours to lead our students to success," said Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg. "Setting aside time in January is one small way to celebrate their service to our community and say thanks for caring so much about the future of every child in Aldine.

"School Board Members shoulder critical responsibilities as advocates for our children. They face difficult challenges and make hard decisions with the overall goal of promoting student achievement," Dr. Bamberg said. "They serve as the passionate voice for public education and help ensure the future of our state and nation. We truly ap-

See Board Recognition Month, Page 3



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FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 2018

•SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2018
PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 1999 TOMBALL PARKWAY HOUSTON, TX 77070

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

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

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

•SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 TO MAR 24
ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)
2131 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77039

•THURSDAY APRIL 5 TO MAY 24
LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPPOINT CENTER
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EVERY THURSDAY - 8 WEEKS)
250 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY E, HOUSTON, TX 77060

•SATURDAY APR. 14 TO MAY 26
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)
501 TIDWELL RD. HOUSTON, TX 77022

•SATURDAY APRIL 14 TO JUNE 2ND
EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS)
5333 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039

•FRIDAY APRIL 19, 2018 TO JUNE 1ST.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CHURCH
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EVERY FRIDAY - 8 WEEKS)
5356 11TH. ST. KATY, TX 77493

•SATURDAY MAY 12 TO JUNE 16
ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 6 WEEKS)
2131 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77039

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'Tis the Season Essay Contest at Hambrick Middle School



Cassandra Castillo (holding trophy) accepts her prizes from various sponsors at the award ceremony for the 'Tis the Season Essay Contest at Hambrick Middle School on December 19. Castillo was one of 109 students who participated in the contest this month.

On December 19 Hambrick's auditorium was filled with the family and friends of the 109 students who took place in the 'Tis the Season Essay Contest. The essay contest, which is coordinated each year by Valencia Dotson of 'Tis The Season With A Special Kind Of Reason, Inc., gives the students the opportunity to express how they feel based on the given topic in relation to family, friends, etc. in writing. The number of students who participated is the largest since the contest began. These impressive numbers were very encouraging as the students showcased many of the (writing) skills that they have been mastering in their language arts class along with their sincerity in writing to the

given topic. Participation in the essay contest is also great practice for when the students are in high school and must write essays for university and potential scholarship applications. Ms. Dotson was able to secure several sponsors to provide the prizes and awards for the students who participated and/or won the essay contest.

1st Place
Cassandra Castillo
\$100.00 Visa Gift Card/ Chrome Book/Trophy/ Christmas Dinner

2nd Place
Yurely Pineda
\$50.00 Visa Gift Card/ Chrome Book /Trophy/ Christmas Dinner

3rd Place
Brandon Carrillo
\$25.00 Visa Gift Card/ Chrome Book /Trophy/

Christmas Dinner
Honorable Mention
Destiny Vargus
Jay Hernandez
Aimee Mahindaratne
Heidy Guerrero
Jessica Tapia
Catherine Knox
Jaime Martinez
Yesenia Salgado
Jose Orozco
Yoana Fuentes

Gold Star Medal for Self-Expression
Carolyn Umo
Melissa Avellaneda
Gabriel Franco
Jorge Rodriguez
Yulliane Gonzalez
Isaiah Gray
Yordi Hernandez
Genesis Machado
John Adam Moyes
Brenda Rodriguez

'Tis the Season Essay Contest Sponsors

- James & Autumn Rosemond - Christmas gifts for the families
- Bruce & Valerie Meshell & Dustin Creager manager of 249/Tomball Wal-Mart - 20 Turkeys
- Dr. J. Moran, DPM, CWS & Michelle Varnes of The Foot & Ankle Clinic of Tomball - Visa gift cards.
- The Pink Apron - complete Christmas dinners for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners
- Valencia Dotson - Chrome books and other prizes
- Bryant Robertson, manager of Target on Grand Parkway and employees (Kaylin Sealy, Andrew LaPlante, Carl Herrera & Alejandra Bonilla-Santiago) assisted with the students throughout ceremony.

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

•ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
SATURDAY JANUARY 13, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
5356 11TH ST, KATY, TX 77493

•ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
901 ROSELANE ST, HOUSTON, TX 77037

•EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2018
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM
5333 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77039

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

•HAMBRICK 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.

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

HEALTH

5 'Healthy' New Year's Resolutions Worth Giving Up

(StatePoint) While most New Year's resolutions are well-intentioned, sometimes they look better on paper than in practice, actually doing more harm than good. Here are five so-called "healthy" resolutions worth giving up in 2018, as well as better solutions.

Resolution 1: I'm going to take up permanent residence in the gym. Working out is an important piece of the weight loss puzzle, but moderation is key. Studies suggest that too much exercise can lead to a number of issues like hormonal imbalance, fatigue, insomnia and even depression. Many people also report experiencing a

drastic increase in appetite after extreme bouts of physical activity, which can lead to overeating and negate the weight-related benefits. Plus, if you exercise so intensely that you're injured or sore for days, it will be difficult to sustain this otherwise healthy habit.

Resolution 2: I'm saying goodbye to fats completely. Fatty foods have gotten a bad rap. The reality is there are good fats and bad fats. In humans, fat helps support normal growth and development, provides energy, allows for proper cellular function, provides protective cushioning for organs, and helps with absorption of certain vitamins. Bad fats are found in foods like meat, butter, lard, cream and trans fats (found in baked goods, fried foods and margarine) and can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. Aim to replace these with good fats, which are associated with a decreased risk of chronic disease. Good fats include plant-based oils like olive and canola, avocados, nuts,

seeds, and dairy, since these also offer the nutrition your body needs.

Resolution 3: I'm going to skip breakfast to cut calories. According to The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, if you're skipping breakfast, you're doing some-



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Drobot Dean/stock.Adobe.com

Investigation into fatal shooting at 5404 Nordling

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man found at 5404 Nordling about 11 p.m. on Friday (December 29). HPD Homicide Division Sergeant R. Rodriguez and Detective M. Condon reported: Cameron Lherault, 19, was found deceased inside a vehicle parked in a convenience store parking lot. He had suffered at least one gunshot wound. At this time, there are no known witnesses nor suspects. Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

See New Year's Resolution, Page 3

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HOME

How to find an affordable home in today's market

(StatePoint) Affordable housing is in high demand in cities and counties nationwide. Experts say that areas grappling with affordable housing issues may find factory-built homes to be a powerful tool in addressing this need.



Built in a factory and delivered to home sites, this efficient process translates into lower production costs that are passed on to the consumer. The good news is while manufactured homes cost less than site-built homes they are just as high quality. The average new manufactured home costs around \$70,600. The cost for a smaller new single-section home can be as low as \$20,000. In 2016, manufactured homes accounted for 80 percent of all new homes sold under \$150,000.

Unfortunately, when many people think of manufactured housing, the old stereotype of a run-down trailer park enters their minds. However, most of the more than 37,000 manufactured housing communities in the U.S. are a far cry from that negative image, boasting amenities like community centers, organized activities and children's play areas. Other benefits may include:

- The option to rent an existing home in the community or place your own home in the community.
- Provided services, which often include professional property management, care and maintenance of common grounds, as well as resources and amenities like trash removal, community centers, playgrounds, storage and laundry facilities.
- The possibility of not paying real estate taxes. While it varies state-to-state, residents of land-

lease manufactured home communities often don't pay real estate taxes, but rather, pay a personal-property tax, offsetting the cost of land-lease rents for the homeowner.

- Affordable homeownership, along with many of its benefits, including control over home and yard improvements, as well as convenient parking.
- A sense of community. In many communities, there are social or activity clubs, fitness amenities, and friendly and caring neighbors. Indeed, "sense of belonging" is among the most frequent responses about why residents enjoy living in a land-lease community.

Newer manufactured homes come in a variety of architectural styles and exterior finishes that will suit most any buyer's desires, as well as customization opportunities, including interior features like vaulted ceilings, fireplaces and state-of-the-art kitchens and baths.

They also feature enhanced energy efficiency in an era of rising energy costs, thanks to upgraded insulation and more efficient heating and cooling

systems than homes from decades ago.

Smart buyers also are turning to ENERGY STAR-labeled manufactured homes for additional savings.

Modern manufactured homes are among the safest housing choices today, as homes must adhere to strict federal building standards. All aspects of construction are continually inspected by professionally trained third-parties, and homes feature smoke detectors, and limited combustible materials around furnaces, water heaters and kitchen ranges, as well as wind resistance in areas prone to hurricane-force winds.

"The need for quality, affordable housing has never been greater. However, today's manufactured homes are high-quality and cost up to 50 percent less per square foot than conventional site-built homes," says Richard Jenison, president and CEO of the Manufactured Housing Institute. "These savings are allowing more Americans to own a home in the face of an ever-widening housing affordability gap."

QUITPLAN:

Five Tips To Help You Quit Smoking

(NAPSI)—According to Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey (MATS) data, 14 percent of Minnesota adults smoke. More than half of adult Minnesotans who smoke every day have attempted to quit for at least one day, according to MATS.

Even better news is that 63 percent of Minnesota adults who have ever smoked have quit already. If you or someone you care about would like to be among them, here are five steps from the experts at QUITPLAN@Services, a free program that can help you quit smoking with as little or as much support as you would like:

1. Set a quit date. Commit yourself to picking a date and mark it on your calendar. Give yourself a few weeks to prepare for this big day and treat your quit date with the same level of importance as other life-changing events.

If you find yourself ready to make the move to tobacco-free living but "don't really know when," you can talk with former tobacco users about what they did and get support from QUITPLAN Services.

2. Get support. Quitting can be difficult to do alone. Getting help and support

from a trained coach or counselor can make a big difference. Research shows that counseling increases your chances of quitting. Support can come from friends and family, your health care provider or from QUITPLAN Services. These provide text messages, e-mail support, a downloadable quit guide and free "starter kits," which include a two-week supply of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. In addition, tobacco users can speak to a quit coach over the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week for support and help in quitting.

3. Make a list of triggers and alternatives. Identifying the situations and experiences that make you want to light up is important. Coming up with distractions or substitutes can help you overcome your cravings in these situations. Cravings will happen as your body weans off nicotine but if you're prepared and know what to do, you can beat them. Change it up; put a wrench in the routine that tried to suck you into smoking—whether it's going somewhere different, doing something different, or just taking a few moments to collect yourself.

4. Look in your wallet. Quitting isn't just good for your health. It's good for your wealth, too. You'll save money from your first tobacco-free day. You might be amazed how much you'll save when you aren't buying cigarettes every week. You can find out from the quit smoking calculator at www.quitplan.com. If you smoke a pack a day, you would save nearly \$3,000 in just one year and more than \$14,000 in five years. Quitting can even help you win money. QUITPLAN Services offers monthly Mini-Quit Mondays, when Minnesotans can win \$100 for participating, and the chance to win a grand prize of \$5,000.

5. Remember WHY. No one can tell you your own personal reasons for quitting but reminding yourself why you're quitting can help keep you on track. Whether you're quitting for your health, your future, family and friends, savings or just so you won't have to stand out in the cold for a smoke break, think about that reason and keep reminding yourself you can do this because you have your eye on the prize that is your "why."

Tax Revenue,

Continued from page 1

Board Recognition Month,

Continued from page 1

Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuels and oil and natural gas production also rose in December 2017:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$414.3 million, up 16.1 percent from December 2016 (vehicle purchases to replace cars damaged by Hurricane Harvey continued to boost those tax collections);
- motor fuel taxes — \$303.7 million, up 4.9 percent from December 2016; and
- oil and natural gas production taxes — \$396.4 million, up 73.4 percent from December 2016.

precipitate every Board Member for voluntarily tackling the enormous job of governing our local school district."

Aldine ISD's Board of Education consists of President Steve Mead (serving since 2004), Vice-President Paul Shanklin (serving since 2014), Secretary Rose Avalos (serving since 2006), Assistant Secretary Connie Esparza (serving since 2017) and Members Dr. Viola M. Garcia (serving since 1992), Patricia Ann Bourgeois (serving since 2014) and Dr. Kimberley Booker (serving since 2017).

Under the Board's leadership, Aldine ISD was named the Broad Prize for Urban Education winner in 2009. In the fall of 2013, Aldine

ISD's Board of Trustees was named one of five Honor Boards in the State of Texas and in the spring of 2013 the Board was named the Region 4 Outstanding School Board.

Recognizing Aldine ISD's Trustees for their commitment and sacrifice takes a combined effort on the part of all those they serve: administrators, school staff, students, and the community. Even though showing appreciation should be a year-round process, taking advantage of the designated School Board Recognition Month in January ensures that these important people receive some of the thanks they deserve.

New Year's Resolution,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing wrong. Research shows breakfast helps support brain function, energy and mood. And research suggests that people who eat breakfast consume fewer calories throughout the day, weigh less and have fewer risk factors for heart disease. Just a few reasons to load up in the a.m.

Resolution 4: I'll just crash diet to lose the weight. Crash diets don't work and many people who do them end up just gaining the weight back.

"Sustainable weight loss should not involve

hunger or deprivation," says Mandi Knowles, dietitian for South Beach Diet. "Your weight loss efforts should include sensible changes that are easy to follow."

Find a weight loss plan that's convenient and lets you know with confidence that you are losing weight the healthy way. Plans like South Beach Diet teach portion control through a low-carb, high-protein approach with meals delivered to your door.

Resolution 5: I'm going to stop snacking. Snacks can account for more than

a quarter of one's daily calories. But if you munch on nutrient-dense foods (high in vitamins, minerals and fiber and low in calories), you're more likely to maintain a healthy weight, according to the "National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey." So, snack wisely.

For more weight loss tips, visit palm.southbeachdiet.com.

In the new year, ditch extreme diets and exercise schemes. You'll find more success with sustainable health and wellness habits.

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| | |
|--|--|
| <p>* INSIDIOUS: The Last Key (PG-13) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>DOWNIZING (R) 12:10pm, 3:10pm, 6:10pm, 9:10pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>FATHER FIGURES (R) 12:40pm, 3:40pm, 6:40pm, 9:40pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>PITCH PERFECT 3 (PG-13) 12:00pm, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG) 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13) 1:00pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>* JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle 3D (PG-13) 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>FERDINAND (PG) 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 10:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>FERDINAND (PG) 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> | <p>* FERDINAND 3D (PG) 2:30pm, 7:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>* FERDINAND 3D (PG) 2:30pm, 7:30pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>STAR WARS: The Last Jedi (PG-13) 12:00pm, 3:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:45pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>* STAR WARS: The Last Jedi 3D (PG-13) 12:15pm, 6:45pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>COCO (PG) 12:30pm, 3:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>COCO (PG) 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>JUSTICE LEAGUE (PG-13) 5:30pm, 8:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p>DADDY'S HOME 2 (PG-13) 12:10pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> |
|--|--|

*No passes on these movies ** No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies.
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OPINION PAGE

Five reasons to pursue a cybersecurity career In 2018

(NAPSI)—Cybersecurity, as an industry, is one of the highest-paying, fastest-growing and most in demand in the U.S., yet there are not enough skilled professionals in the pipeline to fill open positions, leading to a sizable skills gap. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) finds that the demand for information security analysts who can prevent data breaches is expected to be very high over the next decade. From 2016-2026, BLS projects employment to grow 28 percent, with 28,400 additional jobs added by 2026.

Despite the growing need, a University of Phoenix College of Information Systems and Technology survey found that only 18 percent of the 2,016 U.S. adults surveyed were interested in pursuing a cybersecurity education or profession. Cybersecurity can be a rewarding career, especially for those who want to help organizations or be part of a dynamic industry.

Maurice Gibson, assistant dean at University of Phoenix, shares five reasons to pursue a cybersecurity career in 2018.

1. Cybersecurity Careers Are Here to Stay

With the rise of technology comes increases in cybercrime, according to data from Cybersecurity Ventures. Gibson believes technology has converged with nearly all industries, meaning more companies will need trained professionals to combat hackers in the future. In fact, LinkedIn listed network information security as the sixth most in-demand skill for today's digitally advanced working world. Cybersecurity spending is expected to exceed \$1 trillion between 2017 and 2021, finds Cybersecurity Ventures, driving the need for more qualified professionals.

2. Job Opportunities Across Nearly All Industries

As technology converges with business, Gibson says nearly all companies will soon become tech companies, providing

cybersecurity professionals with myriad job opportunities across numerous industries. Cybersecurity jobs are no longer shoehorned into only the government, finance or technology industries. From retail and health care to media and start-ups, cybersecurity professionals may have the option to choose an industry they most want to work in.

3. Competition for Jobs Remains Low

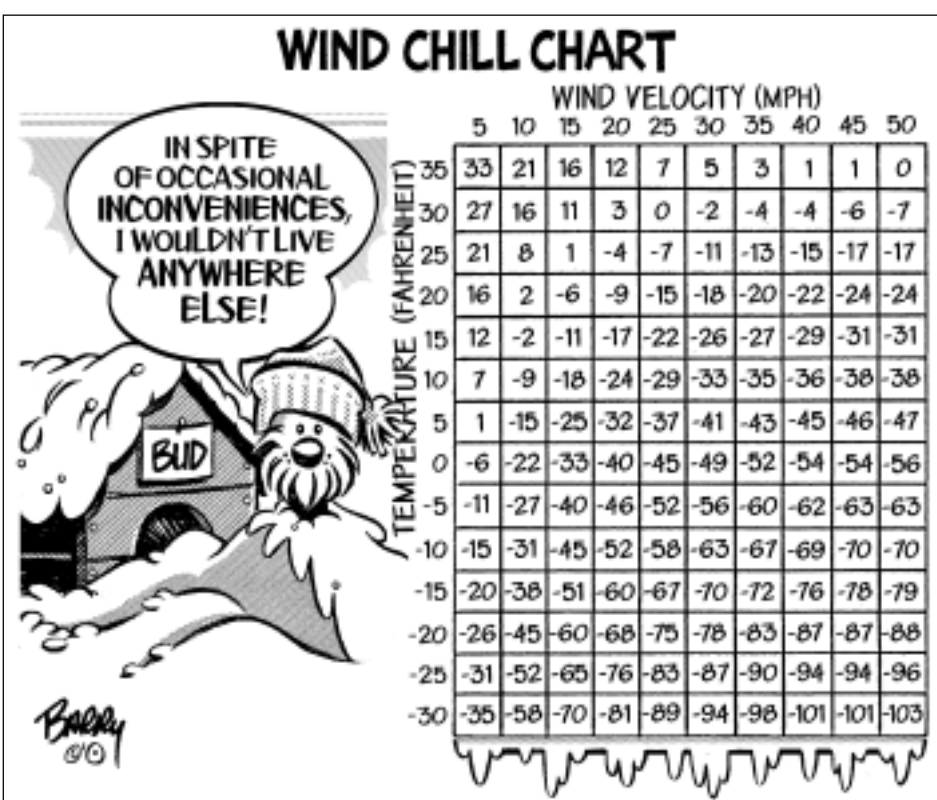
With more open jobs than people to fill them, competition continues to remain low in the cybersecurity workforce. The BLS projects employment of information security analysts to grow 28 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Gibson says individuals seeking a growing career with plenty of job opportunities should look no further than cybersecurity.

4. Near Top in Compensation

For many Americans, a good salary is vital for job satisfaction. Glassdoor found that nearly 70 percent of people say that compensation is among their top considerations when pursuing a job. High salaries is another reason to pursue these careers, according to Gibson. BLS reports the median annual wage of an information security analyst is \$92,600. Salaries can even exceed six figures in top markets as companies compete for skilled professionals.

5. Skill Set Is Transferable to a Number of Industries

With a deficit of skilled cybersecurity professionals in today's workforce, IT employees may be expected to help manage system security and infrastructure. For this reason, Gibson suggests that having cybersecurity experience can help when changing careers. He says many of the IT skill sets that cybersecurity professionals possess—such as coding, systems administration and data analytics—can be useful résumé additions for just about any job in the tech industry.



Texas waits for Senate agreement on disaster aid funding

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 21 released a statement applauding the U.S. House of Representatives' preliminary passage of \$81 billion in disaster aid to Texas, several other states and Puerto Rico.

Abbott called the House's 251-169 vote in favor of the aid package "a step in the right direction" but added that "more needs to be done to ensure the funds Congress provides address the critical needs Texans are enduring from the largest natural disaster in our state's history. We look forward to working with the Senate to improve the disaster funding to ensure it addresses the acute needs of Texans."

The U.S. Senate went into recess on Dec. 22 without voting on disaster funding. The recess came after senators passed a continuing resolution to avoid a federal government shutdown for lack of a budget agreement.

'1115 Waiver' extended Gov. Abbott on Dec. 21 announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reached a hospital funding agreement for the next five years.

"The new 1115 (Demonstration) Waiver ensures that funding will remain available for hospitals to treat and serve people across our state who are in need of top-quality healthcare," Abbott said.

"We are a state that is committed to providing quality healthcare to our people," added Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner Charles Smith. "With this agreement, we will continue our innovative approach to providing healthcare to millions of Texas Medicaid clients. We're committed to delivering a sustainable healthcare system over the long term while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Safety-net hospital administrators cheered the extension.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to approve state experimental, pilot or demonstration projects that better serve Medicaid populations.

AG gives gun opinion

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, in an opinion released Dec. 21, said licensed handgun owners could carry loaded weapons into Texas churches that do not have posted signs banning weapons.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick requested the opinion on Dec. 1, asking Paxton to expedite his response "so that churches may know what legal options they have to improve security" in the aftermath of the Sutherland Springs tragedy, in which a lone gunman entered a church, killing 25 people and injuring 20 others on Nov. 5.

"If a church decides to exclude the concealed or open carrying of handguns on the premises of church property, it may provide the requisite notice, thereby making it an offense for a license holder to carry a handgun on those premises," wrote Paxton.

"However, churches may instead decide not to

provide notice and to allow the carrying of handguns on their premises. Unless a church provides effective oral or written notice prohibiting the carrying of handguns on its property, a license holder may carry a handgun onto the premises of church property as the law allows," Paxton added.

Unemployment rate falls

The Texas Workforce Commission on Dec. 22 announced the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent, the lowest unemployment rate recorded in four decades.

Also, the Texas economy added 54,500 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in November and annual statewide employment growth increased to 2.7 percent in the month of November, marking 91 consecutive months of annual growth.

"The addition of 330,600 jobs over the year demonstrates the consistency with which employers in our state create job opportunities for the highly skilled Texas workforce," said Texas Workforce Commission Chair Andres Alcantar.

Problem: Aging technology

The Office of the Comptroller, in its December-January issue of "Fiscal Notes," examines our state government's "aging information technology infrastructure and the challenges it faces in serving a population growing by nearly half a million residents a year."

Some state agencies are running on archaic programming language dating back to the 1950s, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "Each year, the state spends hundreds of millions of dollars on maintaining these outdated systems, and updating or replacing them would cost even more," Hegar added.

The state spends more than \$300 million annually on maintaining older hardware and software that no longer are supported by their makers, according to an estimate made by the Texas Department of Information Resources.

The Fiscal Notes publication is available online at comptroller.texas.gov.

Social Security Matters

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty - When Should I Apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 62 in 2018; birth date 9/24/1955. My husband is 77 and receiving Social Security. Longevity runs in my family. I have been self-employed all my life. I am still working and my husband collects a pension, Social Security and RMD from a traditional IRA, so there is no need for additional monies under my current circumstances. When should I start taking Social Security? Signed: Thinking about Retirement

Dear Thinking: The question of when to take Social Security normally gets an answer of "It depends on your health, your family history of longevity, and your need for the money". You've already addressed those items so I'll focus on your main question - when should you start taking Social Security?

Even though you'll be eligible to collect Social Security when you turn 62, if you do so you will only get 74.17% of the retirement benefit you would be entitled to at your full retirement age (FRA). Whenever you apply, you will be deemed to be filing not only for your own retirement benefit but also any spousal benefit you may be entitled to from your husband's work record. Similar to your SS retirement benefit, your spousal benefit would also be reduced because you took it early; instead of being 50% of your husband's benefit at your FRA, you would only get 35% at age 62 (if that is larger than your own retirement benefit). The point I'm making is that by claiming SS early, any benefit you're entitled to will be reduced from what you would get at your full retirement age.

Just as you are penalized for claiming before your full retirement age, you are rewarded for waiting beyond it to claim Social Security retirement benefits. In fact, for each year you wait beyond your full retirement age, your retirement benefit will be 8% higher than it would be at your FRA. That will continue up until you are 70 years old when your retirement benefit will be 30.67% higher than it would have been at your FRA. You stop earning additional credit at age 70, so there's no reason to wait beyond that to apply. Let's use an easy example to illustrate: If your FRA retirement benefit is \$1000, by applying at age 62 you would only get \$741 per month instead of \$1000. But if you wait until you are 70 to claim benefits, you would get \$1306 per month, nearly twice what you would get by applying at age 62.

There are two other factors you should incorporate into your thinking:

1) At your FRA, you will be entitled to 1/2 of your husband's benefit at his FRA. If your spousal benefit at your FRA is substantially more than your own retirement benefit, then applying at your FRA may be a good strategy, as opposed to waiting and earning delayed retirement credits.

2) Once you have reached your FRA you will be entitled to 100% of your husband's benefit amount if he should predecease you. If your eventual survivor's benefit would be more than your own FRA benefit amount, you might be better served by claiming your retirement benefit earlier than age 70.

As you can see, most of the answer to your question depends upon whether your benefits as a spouse or a survivor will be more than your benefit based upon your own work record. If not, then waiting beyond your FRA up to age 70 will yield you the maximum retirement benefit. But if your spouse and/or survivor's benefit will be more than your own retirement benefits, then applying at your full retirement age may be the best strategy. If you haven't already done so, I suggest you go to www.ssa.gov and set up your personal "My Social Security" account which will give you access to your currently estimated retirement benefit. Comparing that to your potential spousal and survivor benefits should give you the answer you're seeking.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government.

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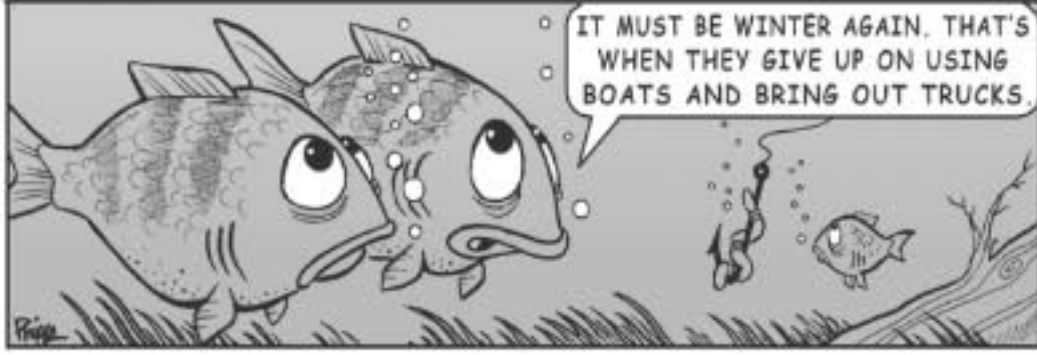
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COMICS & FUN

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



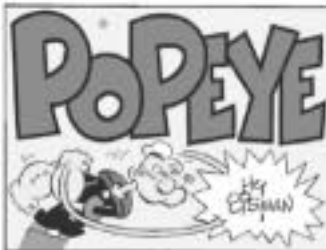
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



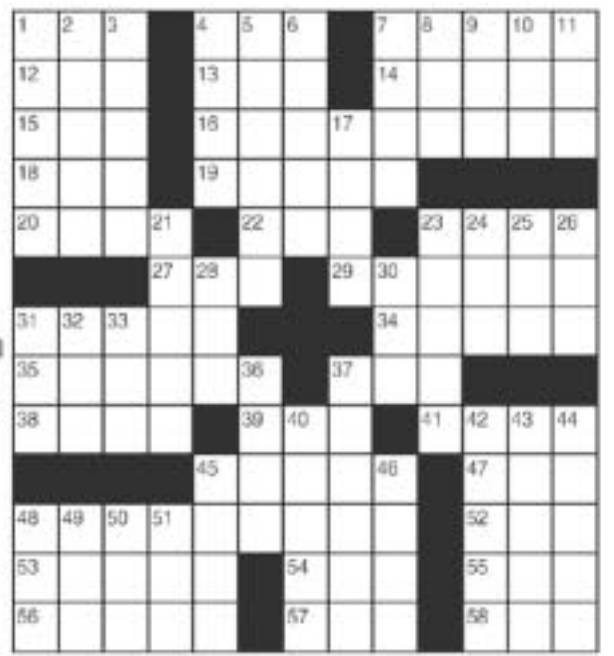
SCRAMBLERS: Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag! Words: CLANGE, SAUSER, ORIGEN, PASSER. Includes 'TODAY'S WORD' box.

Posting Date January 8, 2018

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gymnast's surface
4 Expert
7 Pops
12 Brewery output
13 Sleep phenomenon
14 Unmoving
15 Rotating part
16 Reason to call 911
18 Pump up the volume
19 Heathen
20 Lumber
22 Run-down horse
23 Blue hue
27 Toss in
29 Political refugee
31 Groan-inducing, maybe
34 Take as one's own
35 Overacted
37 Lingerie item
38 Church section
39 - Khan
41 Traditional tales
45 Pilfered
47 Chum
48 Too thin
52 Storm center



- 53 Automaton
54 A Kennedy
55 Sinbad's bird
56 Lessen
57 One or more
58 Pismire
9 Lair
10 Joan of -
11 Pigs' digs
17 Anger
21 'Inferno' writer
23 Type of wave
24 Swelled head
25 Dada artist
26 Say it's OK
28 Easter buy
30 Scratch
31 Shell game item
32 Diamond arboriter
33 Phone bk. info
36 Facts
37 Whalebone
40 Must, jocularly
42 Met performance
43 Silk alternative
44 Vote for
45 Locale
46 Vortex
48 Mound stat
49 Unruly bunch
50 Lawyers' org.
51 Barracks bed

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Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on geography, science, history, animal kingdom, general knowledge, movies, weather, autos, U.S. presidents, and money.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Kolthoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Another HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle with a different set of panels.

CryptoQuip puzzle: This is a word substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. Includes the ciphertext: JIZMMQJ MFEO ZGFCY...

Answers for the Trivia test: 1. Spain, 2. Amphibian, 3. 1936-1939, 4. A peahen, 5. Seven: red, yellow, orange, green, blue, indigo and violet, 6. Jasmine, 7. 74 mph, 8. Dodge, 9. Devils Tower, Wyoming, 10. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

King Crossword solution grid with answers filled in.

Weekly SUDOKU solution grid.

SCRAMBLERS solution: 1. Glance, 2. Assure, 3. Ignore, 4. Sparse. Today's Word: LASAGNA.

CryptoQuip answer: Classic song about somebody's French hand. Answer: 'Moon Over My Arm.'

LIFESTYLE

Mercer Botanic Gardens announces programs for 2018

January
Lunch Bunch: Trees of Houston – How to Prepare for Spring Planting. Wednesday, Jan. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. Experts in tree care will offer advice on growing and acquiring beautiful, healthy trees for spring followed by a discussion with Ed Dolphin, an ISA-certified arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts. Attend this Lunch Bunch program to earn continuing education units from the International Society of Arboriculture, Harris County Master Gardeners, and Montgomery County Master Gardeners. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch Bunch is a free program offered at Mercer's

West Side Arboretum in the Cypress Pavilion that is recommended for participants ages 12 and older. To register or to receive additional information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.
Botanic Trips: Katz Coffee and Karbach Brewing Company. Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 9:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Everyone 50 and better is invited to be part of this botanically-themed adventure. Tour Katz Coffee and Karbach Brewing Company facilities, where master "mixologists" craft botanically infused drinks. Between tours, enjoy lunch at Karbach Restaurant + Patio. Harris County Precinct 4 provides bus transportation at no charge. Participants should bring

spending money for lunch, and dress for outdoor conditions. Closed-toed shoes are required. Meet at Mercer Botanic Gardens' East Side pedestrian entrance. Fee: \$4. Reservations must be made by Jan. 26. Register by calling Melodie Hill at 713-274-4160.
February
Lunch Bunch: Historical Texas Trees. Wednesday, Feb. 14 from noon to 2 p.m. Historical Texas trees form a vital link to unique moments in Texas history, such as the Battle of the Alamo and the Great Storm of 1900. Laura Carlton, a Harris County Precinct 4 arborist, will give a presentation that outlines Mercer's Historic and Champion Tree Project. Following the presentation, John Ross, an ISA-

certified arborist, will give an interactive walking tour through the West Side Arboretum to teach basic tree identification. Attend this Lunch Bunch program to earn continuing education units from the International Society of Arboriculture, Harris County Master Gardeners, and Montgomery County Master Gardeners. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch Bunch is a free program offered at Mercer's West Side Arboretum in the Cypress Pavilion that is recommended for participants ages 12 and older. To register or to receive additional information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.
Nature Explore Educator Workshops at Big Stone

Lodge. Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Arbor Day Foundation, Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, and Mercer Botanic Gardens proudly present two Nature Explore workshops designed to help children reconnect with nature. Workshops are \$40. Register for both workshops to receive a \$5 discount. Register online at www.natureexplore.org/workshops/educator-workshops. Registration deadline is Feb. 23. This Mercer Botanic Gardens event will be held at Big Stone Lodge: 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring.
 • Moving to Learn. 9 a.m. to noon. Discover effective techniques for providing indoor and outdoor

movement activities that help children develop body control, gain knowledge about the world, and enjoy an outlet for emotional expression.
 • Heart-Centered Teaching. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Heart-centered teaching begins with an appreciation for the wonders of the world, the people around us and ourselves. It honors individual gifts and helps children learn authentically. Discover a set of tools for cultivating a more joyful approach to teaching.
 Mercer Botanic Gardens is located one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. For more information, please call 713-274-4160.

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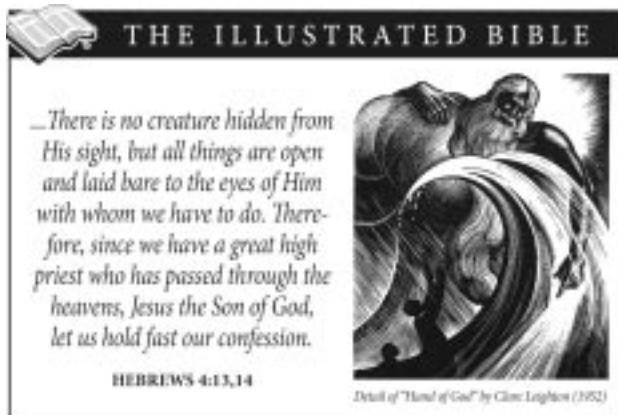
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Samaria in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Judges 11, what judge of Israel was a prostitute's son? Hosea, Jephthah, Samson, Lot
3. The 10 Commandments' tables (tablets) had writing on which sides? Front only, Both sides, Back only

4. From Esther 1, what king did Esther marry? Jehu, Omri, Ahasuerus, Zedekiah
5. Who asked, "If a man die, shall he live again"? Samuel, Judas, Job, Stephen
6. From 2 Kings 23, where was King Josiah killed? Megiddo, Anathoth, Philadelphia, Jericho

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Jephthah; 3) Both sides; 4) Ahasuerus; 5) Job; 6) Megiddo



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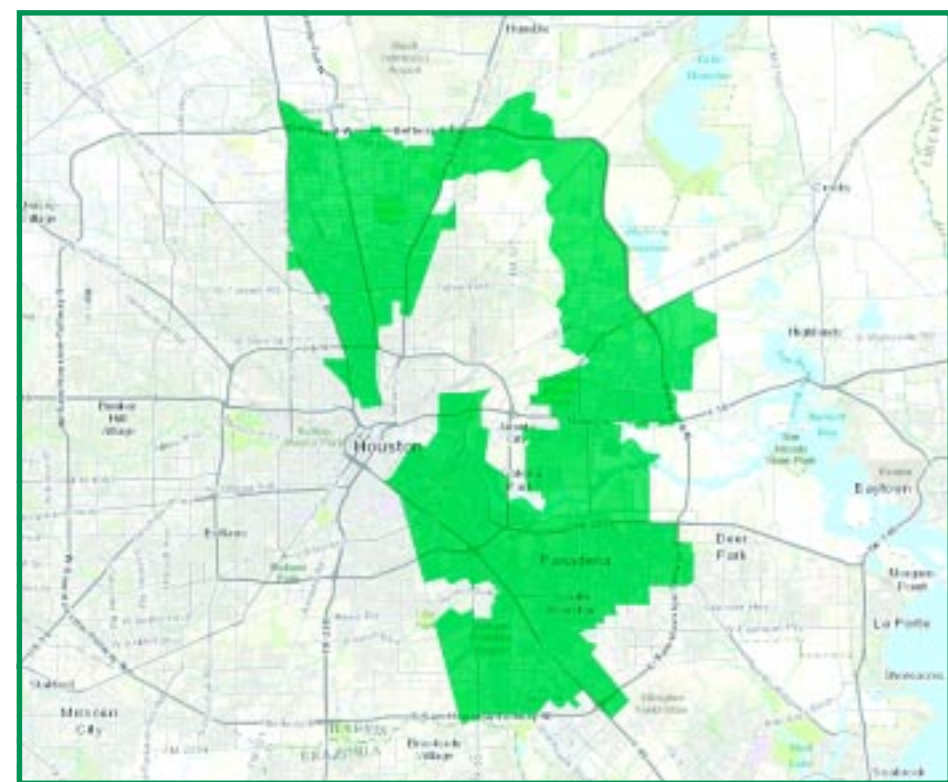
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Many Candidates Compete,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The 29th Congressional District of Texas runs in a circular manner, from North Houston, Aldine, through East Harris County communities such as Baytown, Galena Park, Jacinto City, Pasadena and South Houston.

nine Republicans and five Democrats will try to win a spot on the November general election for this position.

Also contested in the primary and general election will be Senator Ted Cruz, up for re-election after his first six year term. He is opposed by four Republicans, and three Democrats including front-runner Beto O'Rourke from El Paso.

These elections have national significance, as the House and Senate could lose their Republican majorities in November.

Another interesting Texas race is the governor, where 10 Democrats are running in the primary to oppose Governor Greg Abbott, and two Republicans.

Because of the large numbers of candidates running in each of these races, it is anticipated that there will be a run-off election in some, which is scheduled for May 22.

Candidates for the TX29 seat given up by retiring Congressman Gene Green include Democratic front-runner State Senator Sylvia Garcia, real estate agent Dominique Garcia, Houston Attorney Roel

Garcia, school teacher Hector Morales, and Beaumont area businessman Tahir Javed.

The 29th District was originally set-up to represent the 77% Hispanic population in that area of Harris County, and runs from Greenspoint and Aldine through East Harris County and Pasadena. It includes all of the cities of Galena Park, Jacinto City, and South Houston, and parts of Baytown, Houston, and Pasadena. With all the Garcia-named candidates running, there is a strong possibility this year that an Hispanic will end up as the candidate. Up until now Gene Green, a non-Hispanic, has won the seat every 2 years since 1992, a testament to his responsiveness to his constituents and their needs. The first year, 1992, he won by only 180 votes out of 31,000 cast in a run-off, but since then he has had solid victories. The population of the 29th District is approximately 758,000 people.

Since all the Democratic candidates but Javed have Hispanic names and heritage, it is likely that this district will finally be

represented in Congress by a Hispanic, and perhaps a woman. State Senator Sylvia Garcia laughs at so many Garcias running, and says "You're talking to the real Garcia" when asked to comment. Green has endorsed Sylvia Garcia for the position shortly after announcing his retirement. One other possible candidate was State Representative Armando Walle, who worked for Green for several years, but Walle has decided to return to the State Legislature instead.

Two candidates will be on the Republican primary ballot, Robert Schafrank and Phillip Aronoff. However, the voters in the district are heavily Democratic.

In District 2, retiring Congressman Ted Poe's seat will be competed for by Rick Walker, Kathaleen Wall, David Balat, and six other Republicans and five Democrats.

Early voting for the Primary starts February 20th, earlier than most other states, and may determine the outcome. It is expected that nearly half the votes will be cast early.

Fire Department Urges Citizens to be Safe when using Heating Devices

With low temperatures, the Houston Fire Department urges citizens to be careful and follow some simple safety tips when using space heaters, fireplaces and other supplemental heating sources. Any shift away from the exclusive use of central heating presents an increased possibility for fire.

Citizens should always keep in mind that: Space Heaters Need Space. The Houston Fire Department recommends the following safety tips when using supplemental heating sources:

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.
- Never leave children unattended in a room with a space heater
- Children knock over space heaters especially if they are placed on top of wobbly tables or stools and near where the children play. Children may also stick paper or toys in the grates of the space heaters especially gas space heaters.

- Keep all combustible materials, including yourself at least 3 feet from the heater
- Open face heaters should have a screen
- Provide ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

- Vented Gas / Fired Heating Appliances Tips - Central heating units,

floor furnaces, recessed wall heaters, and vented space heaters.

- Inspect annually by a qualified service technician.
- Do not use these type units without a proper vent pipe. Vent pipes must exhaust to the outside!
- If your flame is not blue, it is not burning properly. It is producing Carbon Monoxide, which can't be seen, smelled or tasted. Turn it off.

- Use flexible metal tubing with threaded ends to connect the heater to the gas valve. There should be a cutoff valve for the heater at the wall. Never use a rubber hose to connect a space heater to the gas valve!
- Use soapy water to check all connections and valves for leaks. NEVER use a match to test for a gas leak!
- Look for the American Gas Association label and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper usage.

- Electric Heaters Tips
- Never overload outlets or breakers
- Don't use extension cords for the heater. If the cord is hot to the touch, turn off the heater and unplug it!
- Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed reg-

ularly. Lint and dust will burn!

- Fireplace safety from the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA)

According to the NFPA While fireplaces often conjure up images of warmth and comfort, they also represent a source of home heating fires. Creosote - a sticky, oily, combustible substance created when wood does not burn completely - rises into the chimney as a liquid and deposits on the chimney walls, and plays a role in nearly one-fourth (23%) of all home heating fires each year.

Just like a space heater, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from a fireplace, and create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room
- Never leave a fireplace fire unattended, particularly when children are present.
- Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, and kept at a safe distance from your home.
- Make sure you open your fireplace flue, if applicable. There have been several fires this month because citizens left the flue closed.

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