

MALL-O-WEEEN
OCT. 31, SEE PAGE 8

NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years
VOL. 41, NO. 42 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



NEWS NOTES

Dr. Wanda Bamberg, Dr. Archie Blanson announce their retirements

Fun Fall Fest set for Oct. 28

East Aldine District will host its annual Fun Fall Fest on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10 am - 1 pm at Keith Wiess Park located at 12300 Aldine Westfield. Free goodies, games, face painting music and much more.

Mall-O-Ween at Mall on Oct. 31

Trick or Treat at Greenspoint Mall-O-Ween, October 31, 6-8 pm. Mall wide. Costume Contest. Kids 12 and under: pick up your free Halloween bag in the former Macy's wing. While supplies last.

Teddy Bear Drive

Ongoing Teddy Bear Drive at American Legion Post 578, 3415 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX 77039. New medium size teddy bears to warm a child's heart when they need it the most. For information or for donations, please call Steven Adame Sr. 713-876-0098

Aldine EF Golf Tournament

Fourth Annual Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) Golf Tournament, Friday, Oct. 27 at Oakhurst Golf Club. Shotgun at 8:30 a.m. Registration and breakfast at 7 a.m. Oakhurst Golf Club is located at 20700 Mills Branch in Porter. For more information or to register, contact Irma Rodriguez with AEF at (281) 985-7989.

AISD students to receive free meals through Oct. 31

Due to the impact of Hurricane Harvey, Aldine ISD has been granted an extension from the Texas Department of Agriculture to serve free meals (breakfast and lunch) to all Aldine ISD students through October 31.

During the Oct. 17 Board of Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson announced their retirements, effective at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Dr. Bamberg is in her 11th year as superintendent and has devoted 36 of her 41 years in education to Aldine ISD.

In her letter to the Board, she thanked them for their support during



Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg



Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson

her tenure as AISD's superintendent.

"It has been my honor to serve as Aldine ISD's superintendent for the last 10 years. I have been blessed with the support of an outstanding school board with a focus on students," she said in her letter. "I have had the honor of working with an experienced administrative team, the cabinet, whose expertise and commitment, have allowed me to do my job well. I have also

enjoyed the incredible support of great instructional and operational leaders throughout the district. As a team, we have accomplished good things for Aldine ISD students.

"This year, 2017-18, marks for me 41 total years of service, 36 years in Aldine and 11 as superintendent of schools. The 2018-19 school year marks the beginning of new op-

See Retirements, Page 8

Jensen community enjoys annual Jubilee

Rebuild, Renew, Restore theme

NORTHEAST - The annual Jensen Jubilee was held last Saturday, and it was more than a street fair.

Organizers David Smith of New Bethlehem Church, and Fred Russell of Greater Jerusalem Church are planning on rejuvenating a once thriving neighborhood, and breathing life into it with family friendly events such as this Jubilee. The overall theme is "Taking Jensen Back" and the organization is the Houston Northeast CDC.



UT Physician's Marlin Stewart, second from right, presents \$1500 scholarships to Jubilee King Jose Perez, and Queen Madelaine Rojas, as Pastor David Smith, Armando Walle, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Yuroba Harris participate.



Crowds took advantage of the nice weather to view the parade and booths.



Organizer Pastor David Smith, with Congressman Gene Green.

To help them in this endeavor, they had many government leaders, civic organizations, and businesses participating in the Jubilee. This included Congress persons Gene Green and Sheila Jackson Lee, State Representative Armando Walle, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, City Councilwoman Karla Cisneros, Sheriff Ed Gonzales, and others.

The event sponsor was UT Physicians, See JUBILEE, page 3

State of District Breakfast starts transition

By Gilbert Hoffman

Aldine ISD's annual State of the District breakfast is looked forward to by the district staff and the public, to hear updates on accomplishments and plans for the future.

But this year was a bit different, as only a week before, two superintendents had announced their retirement plans, leaving the school board with the job of filling the top posts with someone with a new vision and skills.

Bamberg quipped in her opening remarks, that it had taken her 10 years to learn that the students could present the factual report better than she could, so they proceeded to do that.

Among the facts of in-



RETIRING ALDINE ISD SUPERINTENDENTS WANDA BAMBERG, AND ARCHIE BLANSON, pose for a final photo with school board members Patricia Ann Bourgeois, Dr. Kimberley Booker, Connie Esparza, Paul Shanklin, Rose Avalos, Steve Mead, and Dr. Viola Garcia.


terest were total enrollment, which has decreased from 69,768 to 67,374, and a budget for the years 2017-2018 of \$622 million. They noted that income will not cover the expenditures, and \$44 million will come from reserves.

The racial mix of the district is now 73% Hispanic, and the graduation rate has risen to 83%. Two campuses have been removed from the state's "Improvement Required" scholastic ratings, but three still remain.

A major impact on the district this year was Hurricane Harvey, with flooding impacting staff, students and buildings. Two shelters were established in AISD buildings,

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SCHOOL NEWS

Students selected to sing at Aldine Children's Honor Choir



Congratulations to Mendel Elementary and Greenspoint Elementary students! Zanoah Garcia and Zuri Torres from Mendel and Janeth Flores, Lucita Venegas, y Melissa Garza from Greenspoint were selected to be in the award winning 2017 – 2018 Aldine Children's Honor Choir. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students in over forty-five schools in Aldine ISD auditioned for this very prestigious choir.

Felicitaciones a estudiantes de Mendel Elementary y Greenspoint Elementary! Zanoah Garcia y Zuri Torres (Mendel) y Janeth Flores, Lucita Venegas, y Melissa Garza (Greenspoint) fueron seleccionados para cantar en el premio 2017 – 2018 Aldine Children's Honor Coro. Los estudiantes de tercer, cuarto, y quinto grado en más de 45 escuelas de audición para este prestigioso coro.

Is Blanson Career and Technical Education High School an option for your teen?



Blanson Career and Technical Education High School

The campus, set to open in fall 2018, will offer a state-of-the-art learning and training environment.

For eighth grade teens that desire a unique learning experience, Blanson Career and Technical Education High School's programs may be a good fit.

Students can study a skill or trade, such as animation, diesel technology, dental assistant, industrial robotics and much more. They learn a trade while completing academic core requirements.

The programs at Blanson Career and Technical High School will prepare a teen for a job directly out of high school.

This will appeal to students attracted to having a career once they leave school.

Students must apply to attend Blanson CTEHS. Applicants are considered based on a combination of factors including attendance, behavior and academics.

Once at the school, they can choose from more than a dozen vocational programs, including audio/video production, collision repair, computer programming and game design, dental assisting, hospital-ity services, HVAC and refrigeration, instrumentation and process control technology, machining, personal care technician, physical therapy and welding.

There is demand in industry for skilled workers in these fields.

Blanson CTEHS representatives will be available to talk with parents and students at middle school

campuses on Open House Night.

Current Aldine ISD eighth grade students can apply to attend in fall 2018.

The deadline to apply for the 2018-2019 school year is December 15, 2017.

Parents should consider a career and tech pathway for their child if the child has a particular interest in a career field. This will give them an advantage upon graduation.

"They not only get the work-based experience, they get the soft skills training for employability," said Ben Ibarra, principal of Blanson CTEHS.

The campus may be an ideal option for kids who don't like a traditional school environment. Blanson CTEHS programs can provide them with the motivation to succeed.

Lone Star College welcomes record number of students

HOUSTON (Oct. 20, 2017) – Lone Star College opened its doors to a record 89,413 credit students for fall 2017, representing a 4.4 percent increase in credit student enrollment over fall 2016.

"Education is even more critical today as our area continues to recover from Hurricane Harvey," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "We are honored so many students selected Lone Star College for their higher education needs."

LSC has grown its student population from 49,267 to 89,413 over the past 10 years, representing a 81 percent increase. Enrollment figures are recorded each fall on "Official Day," 10 days after the start of fall semester classes. This year's official day numbers were impacted by Hurricane Harvey due to LSC-Kingwood delaying the start of fall semester classes at that campus.

LSC-Montgomery and LSC-University Park recorded the largest percentage of increase – 10 percent – welcoming

15,914 and 13,273 students respectively. LSC-CyFair continues to be the largest LSC with 22,125 students enrolled for fall 2017 classes.

LSC-Kingwood, which had six of its nine buildings destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, registered a 5 percent increase year to year, helping 12,950 students start close and go far.

"I want to personally thank everyone at Lone Star College-Kingwood for the tremendous work they did helping their students adjust to attending classes at alternative locations, including sister Lone Star colleges, taking late start classes or moving to online classes," said Head. "Our focus this semester was to help make sure our students were able to continue their education and stay enrolled."

Other official day enrollment figures at LSC were: LSC-North Harris – 15,845; and LSC-Tomball – 9,306 students.

The LSC student population mirrors the commu-

nity it serves. This fall, Hispanics represented the largest demographic group with 38.7 percent of credit students or 34,609 students. In addition, 27,983 students (31.3 percent) are white; 14,014 (15.7 percent) are black; and 6,729 (7.5 percent) are Asian. The remaining students are identified as American Indian, multi-ethnic or did not specify their ethnicity.

In fall 2017, nearly 8,000 area high school seniors selected LSC as their first choice the fall after they graduated from high school. LSC also has many non-typical college students – 29.7 percent are age 25 and older and 68.5 percent attend part-time. LSC also welcomed 3,229 international students in fall 2017 from more than 100 countries.

LSC now has a total student population of nearly 99,000 students, when including non-credit workforce and community education students, making it the second largest community college in the nation

Jensen Jubilee, State of District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

providing scholarships of \$1500 each for two students crowned King and Queen.

The Jubilee started with a parade down Jensen from Trout Street, ending at the parking lot next to Greater Jerusalem church. There about 20 booths were set up, plus a stage with sound equipment courtesy of Robinson Entertainment.

Pct. 1 County Commissioner provided free hot dogs, and a kid zone had a bounce house, games, and a train ride. A photo booth to commemorate the day was set up in the church.

The mistress of ceremonies was Yuroba Harris from Gene Green's office. Also present were Rebecca Reyna of the Greater Northside Management Distric and Myriam Saldivar of Armando Walle's office.

Yuroba Harris announced that the King and Queen of the Jubilee had been chosen, and would receive \$1500 scholarships, courtesy of UT Physicians. They are King Jose Perez, and Queen Madelaine Rojas.

Organizations or businesses that had information booths included Lone Star College, UT Physicians, Red Cross, FEMA, St. Hope, Harris County Sheriff's office, HCC Northeast, United Healthcare, METRO, and several others.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

serving about 1900 for several weeks with sleeping quarters and food. Bill Ginder, president of the Aldine Education Foundation, said that they had raised over \$300,000 to help with relief to affected individuals.

The students also reported on the status of funds from the 2015 \$798 million bond referendum. Construction was started on eight new schools, construction of a Northside Transportation Center, and renovations and conversion of nine intermediate schools into elementary. This change will facilitate a "re-configuration" plan to go into affect in 2018.

Other noteworthy building plans include the opening of an Early College High School named for Rose Avalos, as part of the new Lone Star College in East Aldine. Also, a new Career and Technical High School, to serve 1500 students, is under construction on West Road, and will be named for Dr. Archie Blanson.

Two new trustees joined the board this year, Connie Esparza to replace the retiring Rick Ogden, and Dr. Kimberly Booker to fill the seat of deceased Merlin Griggs.

Superintendent Bamberg reported that Aldine had become a District of Innovation, providing flexibilities in curriculum and programs similar to state charter schools.

The breakfast included music from the Eisenhower jaza band, presentation of colors by the MacArthur JROTC, and factual presentations from eleven students from all the various high schools.

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SUBURBICON (R) 7:00 pm 9:30 pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE (R) 7:00 pm 9:30

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MY LITTLE PONY: The Movie (PG)
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 9:50pm

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AMERICAN MADE (R)
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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FLATLINERS (PG-13)
12:35pm, 3:25pm, 6:25pm, 9:20pm

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FRIEND REQUEST (R) 12:25pm, 2:45pm, 5:10pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm

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KINGSMAN: The Golden Circle (R)
12:15pm, 3:20pm, 6:30pm, 9:40pm

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***The LEGO Ninjago Movie 3D (PG)**
2:00pm, 7:35pm

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The LEGO Ninjago Movie (PG)
12:00pm, 5:05pm, 10:00pm

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IT (R)
12:15pm, 3:20pm, 6:25pm, 9:30pm

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Do It Like An Hombre (Hazlo como hombre) (R) 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:25pm, 6:50pm, 9:20pm

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BLADE RUNNER 2049 (R)
1:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:00pm

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THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US (PG-13)
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

Extension of FEMA deadline for filling claims announced

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee released the following statement about the new deadline for applying for disaster assistance: “The announcement that FEMA has extended the deadline for filing disaster claims is welcome news to Houstonians struggling to get back on their feet. Houston was the epicenter of Hurricane Harvey and sustained the brunt of its destructive impact, with more than 100 thousand homes suffering severe damage and at least 40 thousand completely

destroyed. The storm dumped record amounts of rainfall that could fill 24,000 Astrodomes and supply the water for the raging Niagara Falls for 15 days. “That is why I asked the President to extend the deadline for filing disaster claims. Fortunately, that extension has now been granted. Harris County residents who suffered damage and losses from Hurricane Harvey now have until Friday, Nov. 24, 2017, to register for disaster assistance.” Survivors may register

for assistance the following ways:
 · Online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
 · Via the FEMA mobile app, available at fema.gov/mobile-app
 Phone (800) 621-3362 (711 or Video Relay Service) 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.daily, TTY (800) 462-7585.
 · Or at a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). Find your nearest DRC at fema.gov/drc.
 Survivors may also apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Congressman Gene Green holds 16th annual Northside Job Fair



U.S. Congressman Gene Green held his 16th annual Northside Job Fair on Monday, October 16 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. More than 40 businesses and organizations were represented at the event, including Aldine ISD’s Human Resources Department, Aldine ISD, Congressman Green’s office and Workforce Solutions sponsored the event. Pictured with Congressman Green, are, (l-r): Aldine ISD Trustee Connie Esparza, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg, and Russell Tomlin with Workforce Solutions.

Open House set for Northeast Water Purification Plant Expansion Project

Houston, TX - Houston City Council Member Dave Martin would like to invite residents to attend an informational open house on Wednesday, October 25 or Wednesday, November 15 to learn about the expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant (NEWPP). The meetings will be held at Woodcreek Middle School located at 14600 Woodson Park Drive, Houston, TX 77044. Both meetings will cover the same material, doors will open at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will conclude at 8:00 p.m. The NEWPP is expanding their existing 80 million-gallons-per-day (MGD) plant by 320 MGD through

the construction of a new plant adjacent to the existing facilities. The new plant, Plant 2, will be constructed within the property boundaries of the existing 152-acre treatment plant site. This expansion is a collaborative effort undertaken by the City of Houston in order to provide additional treated water capacity for the City and the four Authorities that will participate in the project in accordance with the second supplement to the water supply contracts water demands and the requirements of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District as well as the Fort Bend Subsidence District that restrict groundwater usage. The expansion is

expected to be completed in 2024. City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Staff will be on hand during the open house to explain the expansion project as well as answer any questions that you may have. The District E Office encourages you to attend one of these meetings as well as to visit www.GreaterHoustonWater.com. If you are unable to attend the meetings or would like to learn more please contact representatives from the water project at info@greaterhoustonwater.com or call (281) 520-3777. The District E office can be reached at (832) 393-3008 or via email at districte@houstontx.gov.

Lone Star College Board sets tax rate for 2017-18

Houston (Oct. 16, 2017) –The Lone Star College Board of Trustees voted to keep the tax rate at 10.78 cents per \$100 property evaluation for the 2017-18 tax year during a special meeting held Oct. 12. “We take our financial responsibility very seriously and are committed to being good stewards of the taxpayers’ money,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. LSC had the fifth lowest tax rate of the 50 community colleges in Texas for fiscal year 2017. A LSC homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000 would pay \$108 annually in taxes based on the 2017-2018 tax rate (not including potential additional exemptions which could lower the taxes further). Homeowners are eligi-

ble for a Homestead Exemption of \$5,000 or 1 percent of the value of the home (whichever is greater). Taxes are frozen for disabled residents and those over 65 years of age residing in the LSC service area as part of the college’s \$75,000 property tax exemption and tax freeze, where the actual dollar amount owed is frozen as of the date the taxpayer qualifies for the exemption – even if the property value increases. “We are grateful for the support we receive from the community,” Head added. “In addition to our strong academic transfer option, Lone Star College has several new workforce centers of excellence opening. We are very excited about the future.” Harris County accounts

for more than 75 percent of the LSC tax base. Montgomery County makes up the nearly 25 percent. Property taxes provide 40 percent of the funding sources for the 2017-18 LSC budget. Student tuition and fees account for 34 percent, the state of Texas contributes 21 percent, and 5 percent comes from other sources. “The average taxable value of residence homestead in the LSC district rose 2.9 percent from last year,” said Jennifer Olenick, LSC chief financial officer and executive vice chancellor Finance & Operations. “The strong economy within our service area also resulted in a significant increase in the number of new properties added to the tax rolls.”

SNAP, D-SNAP benefits to double at farmers' markets sponsored at five multi-service centers

People receiving SNAP and D-SNAP benefits can now buy double the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers’ markets organized at five Houston Health Department multi-service centers. The Houston Health Foundation is funding the Healthy Houston Bucks incentive program to double SNAP and D-SNAP benefits at the Get Moving Houston Farmers’ Markets

in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The funding allows the farmers’ markets to continue through November, extending a regular market season that runs April through September. Customers using SNAP and D-SNAP benefits to buy items at the markets will receive the dollar equivalent of their purchases in Healthy Houston Bucks to spend on

fruits and vegetables. A customer that spends \$10 in SNAP or D-SNAP benefits will receive an extra \$10 in Healthy Houston Bucks to spend at the markets. All farmers’ markets are set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Their locations and dates are:
 • Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, 6402 Market Street, Oct. 26 and Nov. 9,

- Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, 3810 W. Fuqua Street, Oct. 19 and Nov. 2,
- Northeast Multi-Service Center, 9720 Spaulding Street, Oct. 24 and Nov. 7,
- Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive, Oct. 31 and Nov. 14 and
- Acres Home Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery, Nov. 16.

SNAP, short for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, helps people buy food for good health. D-SNAP provides short-term food benefits for eligible families recovering from a disaster. The department started its farmers’ markets initiative in 2011 to provide easier access to affordable fruits and vegetables in Houston communities considered food deserts because they are underserved by grocery stores and other fresh food outlets. Fruits and vegetables help prevent and delay the start of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

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OPINION PAGE

YOUR LAWN
Do this fall yard work and reap springtime benefits

(NAPSI)—Lots of people think their family yards need less attention in the fall but autumn is no time to ignore your lawn and landscape.

“What you do now will determine the quality of your family yard next spring and summer,” explained Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), the international trade association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

“Every gardener knows to plant bulbs in the fall but autumn is also the time to mow, aerate, mulch, trim and patch your lawn,” said Kiser. He offers five tips to help you get your yard into top shape this fall and ready for more relaxing and fun outdoor activities next year.

Keep mowing. Grass still needs regular care to stay healthy. Grass that’s too high may attract lawn-damaging field mice. Shorter grass is more resistant to diseases and traps fewer falling leaves. Cutting the grass low lets more sun reach the crown of the grass, so less leaf will turn brown in the winter. However, cutting off too much at one time can be damaging, so never trim more than a third of the grass blades off in a single cutting. Put mower blades on the lowest settings for the last two cuts of the season.

Aerate your lawn. Compressed soil hurts grass health. Aerating punches holes into the soil and lets oxygen, water and nutrients into a lawn. Use a walk-behind aerator or get an attachment to pull behind a riding mower.

Mulch your leaves. Many mowers can mulch leaves with an

attachment. Since mulching with a mower can mix grass clippings with leaf particles, these nitrogen-rich grass particles and carbon-rich leaf particles will compost more quickly. Together, they return nutrients to the soil.

Trim and shore up trees and bushes. Use trimmers, chain saws or pole pruners to cut back trees, shrubs and plants. Make sure branches are safely trimmed back from overhead lines and not in danger of falling on a structure in rough weather. You may need to tie or brace limbs of upright evergreens or plants to prevent them from breaking in high winds or snow. Call a professional arborist for big trees or hard-to-reach spots.

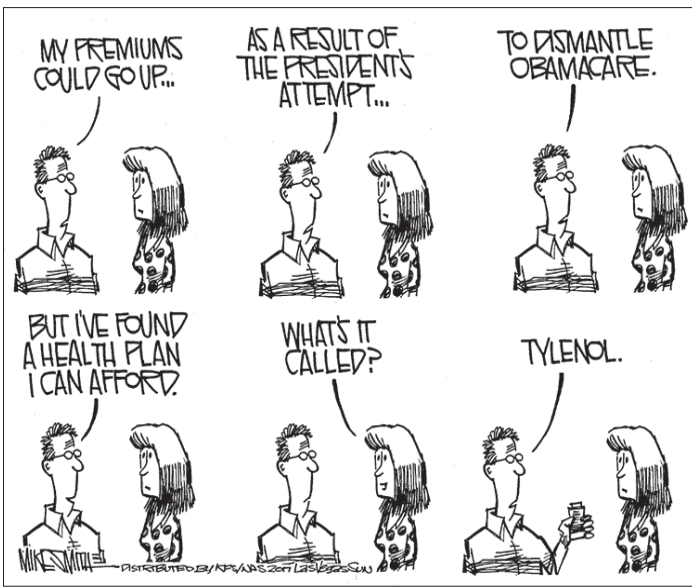
Repair bald spots. Fall is a great time to patch bald or thin spots in a lawn. The easiest way to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture (found at most garden shops and home centers). Use a garden rake or dethatcher to scratch loose the soil on the spot.

Kiser also added that it’s important to follow safety procedures whenever using outdoor power equipment. Read your owner’s manual. It will describe the individual requirements for your particular machine and provide directions on which fuels may be appropriate for your product. Fuels containing more than 10 percent ethanol should not be used unless directed in the owner’s manual.

He said, “You’ll also want to service and winterize your lawn mower, string trimmer, leaf blower and other outdoor power equipment.” And remember, most gas-fueled outdoor power equipment is warranted and designed to run on E10 (10 percent ethanol) fuel or less. There are fuel options available today that should not be used in your outdoor power equipment. Remember to “look before you pump” and make sure to drain the fuel tank before storing equipment for the winter. Safely dispose of any fuel that is more than 30 days old.

“Winterization is important for outdoor power equipment. When everything is growing again in the spring and you see how all your hard fall lawn work has paid off, the last thing you want to deal with is a malfunctioning mower,” said Kiser.

For information on safe fueling, go to www.LookBeforeYouPump.com. For tips on outdoor power equipment safety, go to www.opei.org.



State creates mental health task force for Harvey-affected schools

AUSTIN — Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on Oct. 11 announced the establishment of the Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports to deliver needed attention to schools and higher education institutions impacted by the storm.

The Texas Education Agency, acting on orders from Gov. Greg Abbott, is spearheading the effort in partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Health and Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. The task force will develop a list of tiered supports and resources that can be used by school leaders to address the mental health needs of affected staff, students and families.

“As I’ve traveled the state following Hurricane Harvey, it is evident that addressing the mental health needs of our students and educators is of the utmost importance,” Morath said. “This coordinated mental health response will allow our state agencies to coordinate local responses that reflect the specific needs of each individual community,” he added.

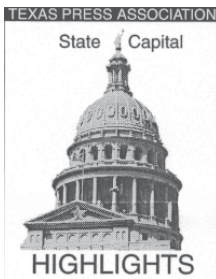
“The invisible wounds left behind after this storm are often the most difficult to recover from,” Abbott said.

Abbott, Sharp visit cities

Gov. Abbott on Oct. 11 visited the cities of Port Arthur, Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Kountze and Orange in southeast Texas during a three-day, 16-city tour of hurricane-impacted areas of the state.

Joining Abbott was John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, who serves as chair of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas. Abbott has delegated executive authority to Sharp to marshal state agency resources to rebuild

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



hurricane-damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, government buildings and other public facilities.

Abbott and Sharp visited with mayors, legislators, county judges and other officials “to ensure they are getting all the help they need in the recovery effort,” Abbott said.

Other cities hosting gubernatorial visits included Sugar Land, Wharton, Bay City, Angleton, and Dickinson on Oct. 10 and Aransas Pass, Port Aransas, Rockport, Refugio, Port Lavaca, and Victoria on Oct. 9.

Hegar distributes revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Oct. 11 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$660.4 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of October, 1.6 percent more than in October 2016.

Allocations are based on sales made in August by businesses that report tax monthly.

In other news, Hegar on Oct. 10 announced his office’s release of the Certification Revenue Estimate for fiscal biennium 2018-2019.

The Comptroller’s Office expects revenue

available for general spending in 2018-19 to total about \$107.33 billion, an amount that would support the \$107.23 billion in general-purpose spending called for by the 85th Legislature and result in a final balance available for certification of \$94 million.

Market turbulence, energy price fluctuations, potential changes in national economic policy and the eventual cost of Hurricane Harvey contribute uncertainty to this estimate, Hegar said. Texas is in the early stages of storm recovery, and full impacts to the state’s economy and revenues have only begun to take shape and likely will change in the coming months, Hegar stressed.

Focus: school bus safety

With National School Bus Safety Week being observed Oct. 16-20, the Texas Department of Public Safety urges Texans to comply with laws prohibiting drivers from passing school buses.

It is illegal to pass any school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal, either flashing red lights or a stop sign. Drivers who violate the law could face fines as much as \$1,250.

“Motorists should always be alert and practice safe driving habits when traveling near school buses or anywhere school children gather, including bus stops,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “Texas parents can rest assured that DPS will not tolerate those who recklessly endanger children by ignoring the law.”

More than 42,000 school buses transport approximately 1.5 million Texas children every school day, according to an estimate by the Texas Education Agency.

AG cheers EPA law repeal

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Oct. 10 praised a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to repeal the Clean Power Plan, an Obama-era regulation that Texas, West Virginia and 22 other states opposed.

“The Clean Power Plan,” Paxton said, “would have subjected Americans to higher electricity costs and could have weakened the nation’s power grid.”

Five everyday reasons you need to know Math

(NAPSI)—Many people may shy away from the subject of math, but it is important to understand math as it plays an instrumental role in making good financial decisions. A new University of Phoenix survey found that 28 percent of respondents reported they were not confident that their current math skills are strong enough to succeed in planning for retirement and 24 percent stated they are not confident in their skills to succeed in understanding tuition assistance and save or pay for college. Additionally, 35 percent are not confident that their math skills were solid enough to start a business.

Susan Hadley, Ph.D., program dean for general education at University of Phoenix, says that people could be taking a financial hit as a result of not understanding basic math and the role it plays in financial decision making.

“Having a foundational knowledge of math helps people make informed purchases for major investments and expenses as well as everyday spending and saving decisions,” Dr. Hadley said. “Being comfortable with math is necessary and deeply relevant to our personal and professional lives. As a result, we’ve gone to great lengths to incorporate math into our undergraduate programs as it relates to everyday financial decisions.”

Dr. Hadley provides financial tips for areas where math skills are important:

1. Building a budget—A monthly budget helps allot money for fixed expenses like mortgage payments as well as how to plan for expenses that may vary from month to month, such as groceries. Also knowing how much to dedicate each month for long-term savings is helpful. Having this information can set the stage for making wise spending choices.
 2. Renting vs. buying a home—There is no one-size-fits-all answer on whether to purchase a home or rent. Research the real estate market in the area where you want to live. Determine the mortgage or rent payment and the impact both options have on your lifestyle and short- and long-term financial goals. Review your budget to understand the financial implications of each choice.
 3. Buying a car—People often assume that a vehicle is an investment. However, vehicles quickly depreciate. Be mindful of how much you are able to spend, financing options and, if you decide to take a loan to make the purchase, what you will pay in interest over the life of the loan.
 4. Saving for college tuition—Start planning early if you intend to send your child to college and will assume responsibility for the cost or if you’re planning on going back to school yourself. Knowing the tuition breakdown per semester, costs for materials and living expenses will help you factor them into your monthly budget and savings goals. Searching for scholarship and grant opportunities and researching student loan options will help with making sure you don’t overleverage and can repay those loans in full and on time.
 5. Planning for retirement—Review your budget regularly and determine what percentage of each paycheck you can contribute to a 401(k) or individual retirement account (IRA) to save for retirement. When determining the best strategy for building your retirement savings, consult a financial adviser.
- It’s Never Too Late
- Whether for business decisions or everyday life, it’s never too late to learn new things or refresh what you’ve already learned. Consider taking a course that reviews mathematical concepts, economics, accounting and finance applications for everyday life. Being comfortable with math will help you determine how you can better allocate your money to make it work for you while making better-informed decisions.

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

High-powered Texans offense faces test against Seattle 'D': No. 6. Ohio State looks to keep rolling against No. 2 Penn State

After having a wee off to rest up and prepare for the final 10 games of the season, the Texans and their high-powered offense travel to Seattle to face the Seahawks and their stout defense.

This will be a test of the Texans' blitz, against the Seahawks blitz.

Since head coach Bill O'Brien inserted rookie Deshaun Watson as the team's starting quarterback, Houston has scored 33, 57, 34 and 33 points in his four starts. This high-scoring offense is something new for Houston fans, who have grown accustomed to boring offensive football for the last 15 years.

Watson will go up against one of the league's top defenses when he and his teammates visit the Great Northwest on Sunday. He's been up to every challenge thus far, so don't be surprised if he has another big day on Sunday.

In other NFL games this weekend, the Cowboys play at Washington and should be without running back Ezekiel Elliott, who will be serving his six-game suspension and it could not come at a worse time for a struggling Dallas team.

The Steelers have another tough road game at Detroit, while Denver and Kansas City hook up on Monday Night Football in a key AFC West contest.

It's a huge weekend in college football as No. 2-ranked Penn State plays at No. 6-ranked Ohio State, while Oklahoma State hopes to remain in the Big 12 title hunt when it travels to West Virginia to take on the Mountaineers.

Before we take a look at this week's games, let's review last week's record, if we must. A 4-8 week (who thought the Giants would win at Denver?) brought the season record to 46-36 (57%).

HIGH SCHOOL

Davis vs. MacArthur - James Showers' Falcons and Andy Garza's Generals open Week 5 of District 16-6A play on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium Two weeks ago, the Falcons lost a tough one to Spring, 35-28, while MacArthur had a long night in its loss to Westfield. Davis needs this one to remain in the playoff hunt and should get it done. My pick, Davis 33, MacArthur 20

Nimitz vs. Eisenhower - Richard Slater's Cougars will look to continue their winning ways in district play when they face Kerry Bamberg's Eagles on Friday night in Thorne Stadium. Two weeks ago, Nimitz defeated Aldine High 49-7 as Deontae Stanley scored three times and teammate Tobarick Kenney crossed the goal line twice. Nimitz rushed for 432 yards in the game. My pick, Nimitz 34, Eisenhower 28

Aldine vs. Westfield - Hank Semler's Mustangs host one of the league's top teams in Westfield on Saturday evening in Thorne Stadium. The Mustangs had a rough time two weeks ago against Nimitz and things won't get any easier this weekend against a high-scoring Westfield team. My picks, Westfield 34, Aldine 18

NCAA

Oklahoma State at West Virginia - This one may take five hours to play as both teams have prolific offenses and love to throw the ball down field. The Cowboys are led by quarterback Mason Rudolph (2,368 yards passing, 19 TDs) and wide receiver James Washington (34 receptions, 882 yards, 6 TDs), while the Mountaineers are led by quarterback Will Grier (2,092 yards passing, 21 TDs). Two weeks ago, OSU eased by Baylor, 59-16, while WVU overcame an 18-point second-half deficit against Texas Tech en route to a 46-35 victory. Grier threw five touchdown passes against the Red Raiders, but will face a much better defense this week when he faces OSU. This is going to be a wild one, but the edge goes to the Cowboys because they have the better defense. My pick, Oklahoma State 41, West Virginia 37



By MIKE KEENEY

NC State at Notre Dame - It can't be said that Notre Dame is playing a soft schedule in 2017. The Irish have already played No. 3-ranked Georgia, a solid Michigan State team and last week hosted USC. This week they face a very good NC State team and still have Miami, Navy and Stanford left to play. If Brian Kelly's team can run the table, and that's a tall order, ND has to be in play for one of the four CFP spots. The Wolfpack will give them a tough test on Saturday in South Bend. NC State has a balanced offense led by quarterback Ryan Finley (1,968 yards passing, 11 TDs) and running back Nyheim Hines (648 yards rushing, 6 TDs) and had an extra week to prepare for this game. NC State will enter the game with a 6-0 record and a stout defense. Notre Dame will need a big day from quarterback Brandon Wimshurst (782 yards passing, 6 TDs; 402 yards rushing, 8 TDs) and running back Josh Adams (776 yards rushing, 5 TDs) if they hope to keep their winning ways going. Look for the ND defense to be the difference maker in this one as they come up with a key turnover late to save the day for the Irish. My pick, Notre Dame 27, NC State 24

Georgia vs. Florida - The Bulldogs and Gators meet once again in Jacksonville in what some have dubbed as the "World's Largest Cocktail Party." While their fans may be there for the party, the players will be concentrating on nothing but football, especially the Bulldogs who have their sites set on the SEC East title and a spot in the SEC title game on December 2 in Atlanta. Georgia can get it done on the ground with its two-headed running game led by Nick Chubb (688 yards rushing, 8 TDs) and Sony Michel (492 yards rushing, 6 TDs) or through the air behind

freshman quarterback Jake Fromm (1,162 yards passing, 12 TDs). The 'Dawgs are also nasty on defense and should have little trouble against a Florida offense that struggles to score points. This is a rivalry game, so Florida will be up for it, but look for Georgia's running game to wear down the Gator defense to pull away late for a comfortable victory. My pick, Georgia 34, Florida 20

Penn State at Ohio State - The Game of the Week in college football pits No. 2-ranked Penn State against No. 6-ranked Ohio State in a nationally televised game on FOX at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Both teams have extraordinary offensive talent. Penn State is led by running back Saquon Barkley (649 yards rushing, 6 TDs; 29 receptions, 395 yards receiving, 2 TDs), and quarterback Todd McSorley (1,597 yards passing, 13 TDs). Barkley is the current Heisman Trophy favorite and a big day against the Buckeyes could solidify things even more. But he will face a very good and quick Ohio State defense that will be focused on slowing the speedy Barkley down. Speaking of offense, the Buckeyes have been rolling on that side of the ball since Big 10 play started. In their first three league games, Urban Myers team has scored 174 points (58 points per game), while giving up only 28 points. Ohio State knows it must win out to earn a CFP berth, so look for another big day from the Buckeyes as they continue to roll in conference play. My pick, Ohio State 33, Penn State 27

NFL

Carolina at Tampa Bay - Week 8 of the NFL season begins

on Thursday night when the Panthers visit the Buccaneers in an important NFC South contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, Carolina lost at home to Philadelphia, 28-23, while TB fell at Arizona, 38-26. The Bucs dug themselves into a 31-0 hole before rallying to get back in the game, but it was too little, too late for this inconsistent bunch. In that game, quarterback Jameis Winston sustained a shoulder injury to his throwing arm, but should be OK to play in this game. The Panthers hope their QB, Cam Newton, bounces back from his three interception performance against the Eagles. Go with the team with the better defense in this one, and that's the Panthers. My pick, Carolina 31, Tampa Bay 23

Houston at Seattle - The Texans take a long road trip to Seattle after their bye week to take on a Seattle team that is looking to get on a roll heading into the final 10 games of the season. Rookie QB Deshaun Watson will face a top-flight defense when he faces the Seahawks and he will be doing it in one of the loudest stadiums in the NFL. The Texans must prove they can run the ball against Seattle's talented front seven. If they can, that should give Watson time to make plays down field to wide receivers DeAndre Hopkins (37 receptions, 382 yards, 6 TDs) and the speedy Will Fuller (five touchdown passes in his first two games). The Houston offensive line has been OK thus far, but it will get tested from the Seattle pass rush. Defensively, the Texans will have their hands full with quarterback Russell Wilson, whose mobility could give them trouble on Sunday. My pick, Seattle 24, Houston 21

Dallas at Washington - Cowboy fans are going to see what life is like without Ezekiel Elliott, which means a lot of pressure will be placed on the shoulders of second-year quarterback Dak Prescott (1,192 yards passing, 11 TDs). Prescott has had a solid season thus far, but without Elliott in the backfield, defenses will begin to focus in on him. That will mean backup running back Alfred Morris and Darren McFadden must step up and provide help in the running game. Both are proven pros and it will help running behind one of the

best offensive lines in the NFL. The defense also needs to step up, but that might be asking too much. The Dallas secondary has been getting torched this year and could be in for another long day as Washington QB Kirk Cousins (1,334 yards passing, 9 TDs) will look to pick them apart. My pick, Washington, 27, Dallas 21

Pittsburgh at Detroit - Two weeks ago, the Steelers picked up a huge road win at Kansas City as the defense rose to the occasion, while the offense road the hot hand of running back Le'Von Bell (179 yards rushing, 1 TD; 550 yards rushing for season, 5 TDs) to hand the Chiefs their first loss of the season. This week, the Steelers travel to Detroit to take on the up and down Lions. Two weeks ago, Detroit gave up three defensive touchdowns in its 52-38 loss at New Orleans. Quarterback Matthew Stafford (1,428 yards passing, 12 TDs) did throw three touchdown passes in that game, but they were nothing more than stat padders. Look for the Pittsburgh defense to deliver more misery to the Lions on Sunday Night Football as the Steelers look to get on a roll heading into the back half of the 2017 season. My pick, Pittsburgh 30, Detroit 20

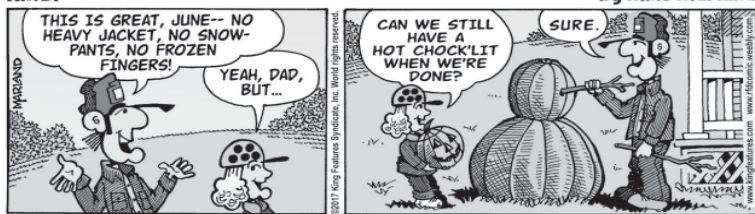
Denver at Kansas City - Week 8 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Broncos and Chiefs renew their heated AFC South rivalry. Two weeks ago, both teams suffered disappointing losses at home as the Chiefs saw their undefeated season spoiled by the Steelers, while the Broncos fell to the winless Giants in the Mile High City. The loss to the Giants exposed quarterback Trevor Siemian (1,264 yards passing 8 TDs/6 interceptions) as an average quarterback. Look for the KC defense to harass Siemian all night long and force a turnover or two that should turn the game in the Chiefs favor. Kansas City quarterback Alex Smith (1,637 yards passing, 12 TDs) and running back Kareem Hunt (630 yards rushing, 4 TDs) will look to rebound after their subpar performances against the Steelers. Smith was held to 246 yards passing and one TD pass, while Hunt was limited to 21 rushing yards in the Pittsburgh loss. Expect much better efforts from that duo on Monday night. My pick, Kansas City 24, Denver 20

Posting Date October 23, 2017

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a boy and girl in a tent. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

- ACROSS: 1 Dutch earthenware city, 6 Ado, 12 More blood-stained, 13 Unilateral, 14 Rhododendron cousin, 15 Busy, 16 Small plateau, 17 Rocketry org., 19 Started, 20 Group of actors, 22 Omega precursor, 24 Second person, 27 Church furniture, 29 Lecher's look, 32 Toady, 35 Transcending (Pref.), 36 Mine car, 37 Ball holder, 38 Hooter, 40 Sans escort, 42 Tablet, 44 Inauguration recitation, 46 Mine entrance, 50 Captivate, 52 Intertwine, 54 Swear (to), 55 Like thunder, 56 Prolonged, 10 Wash, 11 Watched, 12 School of whales, 18 If all else fails, 21 Zoo favorite, 23 "Help!", 24 Thanksgiving veggie, 25 Unclose apse, 26 Modern, 28 Spreads thickly, 30 Shelter, 31 Preceding, 33 Legislation, 34 "- Little Meyer series, 39 Untethered, 41 Greek consonant, 42 Carrots' partners, 43 Con, 45 - and letters, 47 Plastic user's concern, 48 Capri or Wight, 49 Biblical possessive, 51 "Family Guy" daughter, 53 Enthusiast

Answers to King Crossword. A grid with numbers and letters.



- 1. SCIENCE: What is the first element on the Periodic Table?
2. MYTHOLOGY: What was the name of King Arthur's sword?
3. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system has the most moons?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. state is host to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial?
5. CHEMISTRY: What two elements is the alloy bronze usually made of?
6. GAMES: In Scrabble, what is the value of the letter Z?
7. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Hawaii?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many time zones are in the world?
9. GOVERNMENT: How many electors are in the U.S. Electoral College?
10. INVENTIONS: Where was inventor Alexander Graham Bell born?

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Molech in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Revelation 12, when Satan was banned from heaven, he took what part of all the angels with him? Fourth, Third, Half, Tenth
3. How many times is the word "Bible" mentioned in the scripture of the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 3, 49, Over 1,000
4. In 1 Samuel 16:15, God allowed an evil spirit to trouble whom? Abaddon, Daniel, Saul, Sapphira
5. According to Jesus, what was Satan from the beginning? Deceiver, Evil, Thief, Murderer
6. Who was the first son of Moses and Zipporah? Haggai, Gershom, Mark, Zebudah

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Third; 3) Zero; 4) Saul; 5) Murderer; 6) Gershom

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SPORTS / LIFESTYLE

MacArthur wins second straight District 16-6A team tennis title



The MacArthur High School tennis team won its second straight District 16-6A team tennis title. Pictured are members of the team. Front row (l-r): Daisy Lara, Diana Castro Rodriguez, Ebony Lopez, Makayla Preston, Tatiana Hernandez, Juana Espinoza, Jennifer Salazar and Alyssa Davila. Back row, (l-r): AISD's Director of Athletic Services Sandra Mader, AISD's Director of Athletics Richard Delgado, Jacob Hands, Carlos Bonilla, Jose Rosette, Mark Cervantes, MacArthur High School Principal Heather Peterson, MacArthur Ninth Grade Principal D'Ann Delgado, Rey Ontiveros, Eduardo Daurte, Christian Cortez, Horacio Vences, Fabian Martinez, Head Coach Brandon Blake, Assistant Coach David Quintanilla, and Athletic Coordinator and Head Football Coach Andy Garza.

Mercer Botanic Gardens opens picnic area

The West Side of Mercer Botanic Gardens with a picnic and playground area opens Saturday, Oct. 21 at 8 a.m. The East Side gardens will remain closed until further notice.

Operating hours will be typical autumn and winter hours of 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Some trails on the West Side will remain temporarily closed until repairs can be made. Visitors are advised not to go around barricades.

With leadership from Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Mercer Botanic Gardens is a Harris County Precinct 4 Parks facility located one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. Harris County Precinct 4 programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, sex, religion, national origin, or physical ability. Anyone seeking additional information or requiring special assistance to participate in any program should contact Mercer at 713-274-4160 or online at www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer.

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Retirements,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opportunities for Aldine ISD, so with a grateful heart, I am submitting my letter of retirement from the district at the end of this school year. I am committed to ensuring that all our plans are in place to ensure the bright future we envision for each and every Aldine student and staff member."

Board President Dr. Viola M. Garcia thanked Dr. Bamberg for her years of dedicated service to Aldine ISD.

"Forty-one years in education is a remarkable accomplishment," Dr. Garcia said. "You served our district many years in a leadership role and you have taken our district to a new level. I want to sincerely thank you for your years of service."

Board Vice-President Rose Avalos, who served as an educator in Aldine for 33 years, said Dr. Bamberg's retirement will leave a void in the district.

"It's going to be hard for me to let you go," she said. "We've worked together for so many years. You have steered us in the right direction. I've learned a lot from you and I will really miss you."

Board Secretary Steve Mead lauded Dr. Bamberg for her reputation as a leader in curriculum and instruction across the state.

"It has been my pleasure to serve with our superintendent over these last 10 years," he said. "You are so well respected across the state and we have been fortunate to have you as our superintendent."

Assistant Board Secretary Paul Shanklin thanked Dr. Bamberg for her vision and leadership. "The state of the district is strong because of your leadership," he said.

The two newest board members, Dr. Kimberley Booker and Connie Esparza, said they both learned much about leadership during their time with Dr. Bamberg.

"I've been blessed to see up close and personally what leadership truly is," Ms. Esparza said. "We've only been together a short time (since February 2017), but I've learned so much from you."

"You've done a remarkable job as superintendent," Dr. Booker said. "I only wish we had more time to work together."

Dr. Bamberg received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Alabama in 1977, and her master's degree in secondary education from that same university in 1979. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University in 2004.

She began her teaching career in the Tuscaloosa County School District in 1977 where she taught junior high and high school English. In 1982, Dr. Bamberg moved to the Houston area and joined Aldine ISD. She was assigned to teach English and reading at Hoffman Middle School. In 1987, she moved to the curriculum department to work with middle school and intermediate school language arts. In January 1997, she was promoted to the position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction and became the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction in 1998. In July 2001, she was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and she became Superintendent of Schools in June 2007.

Under her leadership, Aldine ISD was awarded the Broad Prize for Urban Education in 2009.

Dr. Bamberg has presented sessions and served as a panelist at numerous conferences and meetings including the National School Board Association (NASB), the Texas School Board Association (TASB), the American Productivity & Quality Center (APQC), the Quality Texas Foundation, NBC's Education Nation, the Association for Supervision and Curri-

lum and Development (ASCD), Education Trust, the Institute of Education Services (IES) and various Broad Academies.

Dr. Bamberg serves on the board of the Aldine Greenspoint YMCA, the Quality Texas Foundation, the Equity Center, and All Kids Alliance.

Recent awards include the Dr. John Hoyle Educational Leadership Award from Texas A&M University and the Texas Association of School Administrators. Dr. Bamberg has also received the Outstanding Educator Award by the North Harris County American Association of University Women in the spring of 2011 and was named the Region 4 Superintendent of the Year in 2011. In the spring of 2017, Dr. Bamberg was awarded the Angel Award from the Be An Angel Foundation. The district's Resource and Staff Development Center will be renamed the Dr. Wanda Bamberg Resource and Staff Development Center.

Dr. Blanson devoted all of his 39 years in education to Aldine ISD. In his letter to the board, he also thanked them for their support.

"I have been honored to have served four superintendents over the course of my career," he said. "But I would like to extend a very special thanks to Dr. Wanda Bamberg for allowing me to serve as her Deputy Superintendent for the last 10 years. I also would like to thank the Board of Trustees for all of the opportunities given to me to serve the Aldine family. I have enjoyed working with the staff over the years in various capacities, and I will always have a special place in my heart for Aldine ISD. I will miss my co-workers and our workplace a great deal. I wish nothing but the best for this school district in the future."

Board members also thanked Dr. Blanson for his 39 years of dedicated service to Aldine ISD.

"You have been quite a leader in Aldine in many capacities," Dr. Garcia said. "You served in so many roles. You have been at the forefront of overseeing our growth and the construction of so many new schools and facilities."

"You are an honorable man," Ms. Avalos said. "You have been a problem solver and have always been there for us."

Mr. Shanklin thanked Dr. Blanson for his leadership in overseeing bond projects for a number of years.

"It has been a joy working with you on the various bond projects we have passed," he said. "You are well respected and have served this district in so many roles."

Trustee Patricia Bourgeois thanked Dr. Blanson for being a role model for students.

"I want to thank you for being a role model to young African-American men and students. You are someone people can look up to," she said.

"I never met a man I respected more than Archie Blanson," said Mr. Mead. "I am proud to call you my friend."

During his 39 years in Aldine, Dr. Blanson served as a teacher, assistant director of buildings and properties, director of buildings and properties, executive director of buildings and properties, director of human resources, assistant superintendent of human resources and deputy superintendent.

For the last 10 years, he has overseen the operations department and has been at the forefront in leading the district through growth, change and improvements. He has served on the bond committee for the last five successful bond referendums and has been responsible for the implementations of bond referendums.

In addition to his work in Aldine, Dr. Blanson has supported the community through leadership roles

with the Aldine Pathfinders and Gulf Coast Area Boy Scout troops. He served as president of the Gulf Coast Personnel Association and Gulf Coast M&O Association. He is an examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and serves on the board of the Quality Texas Award. He served as an adjunct professor for Sam Houston State University, Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M University. He has won numerous awards including the 2005 Trailblazer Award from the Houston

Livestock Show and Rodeo's Black Heritage Committee, the 2005 Outstanding Educator Award from the Dean's Roundtable at Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development and he was the 2003 Boss of the Year in Aldine ISD.

The district's new career and technical educational high school will be named the Dr. Archie L. Blanson Career and Technical Educational High School.

Man killed in a hit-and-run accident on Jensen

Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash at 10100 Jensen Drive about 7 a.m. on October 20.

According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant G. Lopez and Officer M. Tamez, witnesses stated a green Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck and a gray Chevrolet Suburban were traveling southbound. The victim, a pedestrian, failed to yield the right of way as he crossed Jensen Drive, not at a crosswalk. Both vehicles

struck the pedestrian and the drivers then fled the scene without stopping to render aid. Paramedics pronounced the pedestrian dead at the scene.

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

Anyone with information on the wanted vehicles or drivers is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4065 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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