

# NORTHEAST NEWS

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VOL. 42, NO. 01 TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



## HISD Board of Education approves plan to rebuild four Harvey-damaged schools

Dec. 14, 2017 – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education during its December meeting on Thursday approved a plan to rebuild four elementary schools that sustained the most severe flood damage as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

Facilities assessments of the four elementary schools — Braeburn, Scarborough, Kolter, and Mitchell — found significant property damage, as well as a strong need to raise the elevation of the buildings to prevent potential future flood damage.

The cost to replace the four schools is estimated at \$126 million, which will be funded by a combination of Operations reserves and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) funds.

“The damage to these four buildings was



Scarborough Elementary school, one of the 4 four Houston ISD most damaged schools by Harvey to be rebuilt.

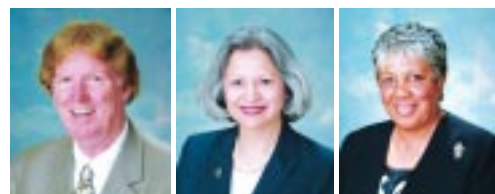
See *Rebuilding Schools*, Page 3

## AISD Board honors four individuals By naming schools in their honor

During the Dec. 19 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees honored two current Trustees, one former trustee and a former administrator by naming schools in their honor.

Those honored were current Trustees Dr. Viola M. Garcia and Steve Mead, former Trustee Marine Jones and former administrator Lou Vardeman.

The new middle school on West Mount Houston Road will be named after Dr. Garcia, the new



Steve Mead Viola Garcia Marine Jones

middle school on Lauder Road will be named after Mr. Mead, the new EC/Pre-K Center on Lauder Road will be named after Ms. Vardeman and the new middle school on

Townsend Blvd. will be named after Mrs. Jones.

Dr. Garcia has served on the Board since her appointment to the Position 7 seat in 1992. She has held all four board offices and has served on numerous committees. Dr. Garcia has been a visible and active board member, attending numerous district

See *Trustees Honored*, Page 2

## Livingston, Simpson share Co-Defensive Players of Year honors

By Mike Keeney  
Contributing Writer

Aldine ISD had two outstanding defensive players prowling the field during the 2017 football season.

MacArthur High School senior linebacker Jacoby Simpson and Davis High School senior defensive tackle Dominic Livingston dominated at their respective positions during the season and because of their outstanding senior sea-



Davis High School senior defensive tackle Dominic Livingston was named the 2017 Northeast News' Co-Defensive Player of the Year.



MacArthur High School senior linebacker Jacoby Simpson was named the 2017 Northeast News' Co-Defensive Player of the Year.

See *Defensive Players of the Year*, Page 5

## Year in Review 2017

From the compiled files of the Northeast News

### JANUARY

Aldine Community distributed toys and bikes to 300 needy families. A store located at Crosstimbers shut down for selling Kush. New Travel Plaza on Beltway 8 boots economy in the area. Merlin Griggs, Aldine ISD board member dies. Macy's announced closing of store at Greenspoint Mall. Democrats fought to save Obamacare. Aldine FFA took place, grand champion sold for \$14,000.

### FEBRUARY

North Houston District recognized Community Champions. Noble Energy donates \$750,000 to Aldine Education Foundation. Congressman Gene Green proposed an Amendment to abolish Electoral College vote. Harris County combated animal overpopulation, spaying and neutering dogs and cats. District Attorney announced there will be no prosecution of low amounts of marijuana.

### MARCH

East Aldine District hold a community workshop to advance ideas and goals for the New Town Center that is being planned on a 61 acre site on Aldine Mail Rt. Aldine ISD named Mariangela Garcia and Lester Morrow as Teachers of the Year.

### APRIL

MacArthur High School hold its 2nd Annual Car Show to raise funds and support livestock projects for the students. Sheriff Ed Gonzalez met with community in Aldine to update on jail and office status. A fire destroyed apartment building on Aldine Mail Rt. and JFK Blvd, the building was unoccupied. Castlewood Civic Club hosted Spring Fest.

### MAY

A massive fire destroyed Charlie's BBQ on Airline, Aldine Family Hope Center celebrated its 27th anniversary. Aldine Education Foundation awarded 264 scholarships to high school seniors. Aldine ISD announced the reconfiguration of all schools in 2018; Trustees approved "District of Innovation" and school closing plan.

### JUNE

Memorial Herman Northeast Hospital held groundbreaking of new tower. Trail improvements for W.E. Bill Crowley Park took place under Harris County Pct. 2. Aldine ISD recognized partners at the annual Business Partners Appreciation Luncheon. Gov. Abbott vetoes 50 Bills. UT Physicians opened new clinic serving the Aldine and Jensen Communities. Bonding Against Adversity held its annual scholarship ceremony.

### JULY

Harris County Pct. 2 began construction from Lillja to Sweeney Rd. on Aldine Mail Rt. Castlewood Civic Club celebrated 4th of July with parade. Harris County Emergency Corps received Lifeline EMS Recognition award. Houston Community College established footprint in Acres Homes. Legislature held a Special Session.

See *Year in Review*, Page 4

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CHRISTMAS EVE NO LAST SHOWS;  
CHRISTMAS DAY OPEN AT 1:45

## PREMIERE CINEMAS

TUESDAY-THURSDAY 12/26-12/28

* <b>DOWNSIZING (R)</b> 12:10pm, 3:10pm, 6:10pm, 9:10pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>FERDINAND 3D (PG)</b> 2:30pm, 7:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>FATHER FIGURES (R)</b> 12:40pm, 3:40pm, 6:40pm, 9:40pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>STAR WARS: The Last Jedi (PG-13)</b> 12:00pm, 3:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm, 10:15pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>PITCH PERFECT 3 (PG-13)</b> 12:00pm, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 10:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>STAR WARS: The Last Jedi (PG-13)</b> 11:30am, 6:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG)</b> 12:10pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>STAR WARS: The Last Jedi 3D (PG-13)</b> 12:15pm, 6:45pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>JUMANJI: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13)</b> 12:30pm, 3:50pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>STAR WARS: The Last Jedi 3D (PG-13)</b> 2:45pm, 9:30pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>FERDINAND (PG)</b> 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>COCO (PG)</b> 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>FERDINAND (PG)</b> 11:30am, 4:30pm, 9:30pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>COCO (PG)</b> 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption
* <b>FERDINAND 3D (PG)</b> 2:00pm, 7:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption	* <b>DADDY'S HOME 2 (PG-13)</b> 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating; CC-Closed Caption

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# SCHOOL / COMMUNITY NEWS

## Jingle Bell run at Mendel Elementary



Students at Mendel Elementary participated in a Jingle Bell Run during the Mendel Physical Education Classes. This is Mendel's Second Jingle Bell Run that Coach Linda Nigro implemented at Mendel. Each grade received a winning T-Shirt for their performance. Students tried to improve their previous race time from the November Race! Pictured are the 3rd Grade Winners!

**Jingle Bell Winners 2017**  
1st Grade: Indoor  
Boys: Italia Ramirez .34  
Girls: Bethany DeAlejandro .37  
Outside:  
Zion Fowler .64  
Esli Cano .74

2nd Grade Indoor  
Boys: Anthony Lazaro .31  
Girls: Aliza Ortiz .35  
Outside:  
Boys: Steven Martinez 61  
Girls: Jasmine Cervantes 67  
3rd Grade Outside

Boys: Adrian Valtierra , Alberto Cadena, Anthony Torres, Jose Cobio, 62  
Girls: Zoe Padierna 76, Victoria Torres 78

## Christmas Music Program at Mendel

This fall Mendel Elementary in Aldine ISD flooded during Hurricane Harvey and we moved to Greenspoint Elementary School where we are sharing their space for the year. We have received so much support over the past few months. In fact, our school was adopted by Dansville Central School District located on the east coast of the United States. Students from Dansville, New York filled a school bus with presents for our children here in Houston. On Monday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m., our students and their families gathered at Escamilla Intermediate school. We had a brief program of Christmas songs, a catered dinner for our families served by Aldine ISD Human Resources De-



partment, a surprise visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and hundreds of Christmas presents given to our Mendel Elementary children. Fox26 News was part of their celebration with a

lovely news clip broadcast to the Greater Houston Area later that evening and again the next morning. Mendel Elementary Wishes everyone many blessings for New Year.

## Perfect attendance at Hinojosa EC/PK Center

As part of the Attendance Committee at Hinojosa EC/PK Center, Principal Denise Meister hands out "High Five" Ribbons for having 10 days of perfect attendance to one of the Bilingual Rooms.

Ms. Meister wanted to increase student attendance this year so she incorporated incentives to the students and teachers.

The students are offered ribbons, pencils and popcorn parties if they meet

the goals of 10 days of attendance. "We want our students to get excited about coming to school every day and how perfect attendance can be rewarding," she said.



**HIGH FIVE:** Ms. Meister wears her Dr. Seuss hat as part of the celebration for 10 days of perfect attendance. She and attendance clerk Mrs. Letty Mejia surprised Mrs. Crystal Albarran's Class by using noise makers as they enter the classroom. Here she is giving the students a choice of which color of ribbon he/she wants.



Mrs. Albarran's class celebrates! (l-r) Mrs. Albarran, Ms. Meister and Mrs. Mejia.

## Trustees Honored,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and community events to visit with students, parents and community members. In her role as a professor at the University of Houston Downtown, she has promoted Aldine programs and students by training future teachers for local school districts including Aldine. As a Master Trustee, Dr. Garcia is a member of the Mexican American School Board Members Association and has served as that group's president. She has also served as a regional director, secretary-treasurer, president and past president of the Texas Association of School Boards. She is currently serving at the national level as a regional director for the National School Board Association. Dr. Garcia and her husband Jorge have three daughters who attended Aldine schools and graduated from Eisenhower High School.

Mr. Mead was elected to the Position 5 seat in May 2004. He has held all four board offices and chaired numerous committees. Mr. Mead, a graduate of Aldine High School, has lived and worked in the MacArthur community for more than 50 years. He is the owner of Component Sales and Service, a geotechnical lab equipment company, located in the Aldine community. Mr. Mead has been active in a number of civic organizations, serving on the boards of Aldine YOUTH, the Aldine Noon Optimist Club, the

Aldine Scholarship Foundation and the Aldine Improvement District. Mr. Mead is known throughout the community for his service and generosity. He personally volunteers with many organizations that support causes in the Aldine area. Each year the Aldine Noon Optimist Club donates bikes for children at each Aldine elementary school and they donate food to many families at Thanksgiving. Mr. Mead attends many athletic games and events in the community and district. Mr. Mead and his wife Jill have three daughters, all of whom attended Aldine ISD schools and graduated from MacArthur High School. His daughter April currently serves as Dyslexia Specialist at Mendel Elementary School.

Mrs. Jones served on the Board for 10 years. She was appointed in February 2002 and elected in May of that same year. Prior to becoming a Board member, Mrs. Jones devoted 38 years in Aldine ISD as a school secretary, teacher, librarian and counselor. Mrs. Jones has lived in the Aldine community for more than 50 years. During her 10-year tenure as a Trustee, she held all four board offices and served on numerous committees. Mrs. Jones has always had a heart for all children. Over the years, she has unofficially "adopted" many children who have considered her a mentor and a caring and encourag-

ing friend. Mrs. Jones' daughter Marcie attended Aldine schools and now works for the district as an assistant principal at Davis High School.

Ms. Vardeman was a longtime resident and employee of Aldine ISD. She served 46 years before she retired in January 2000. Ms. Vardeman was a teacher and assistant principal before becoming the Primary Language Arts Program Director. In that role, she trained teachers, and facilitated curriculum writing and textbook selection with numerous teachers. Ms. Vardeman was instrumental in developing Aldine's Pre-K program. She worked to equip our first EC/Pre-K centers like Hinojosa. Ms. Vardeman worked closely with the elementary principals to ensure that the district's youngest students were getting a great start in Aldine. Ms. Vardeman was known across the state as a language arts expert with her close friend and co-worker Pat Stevens, who was the elementary language arts program director. Together they developed training sessions, invited nationally known speakers to Aldine and they were both instrumental in writing the grant in the early 1990s that began the magnet program. Ms. Vardeman lived in the community on Chrisman Road for many years. Her niece Nita Pestlen and her husband Pat also worked for Aldine ISD.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Aldine Noon Optimist Christmas Meal Boxes 2017



The Aldine Noon Optimist met on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to prepare 72 boxes of nonperishable food, fresh produce and household products to help 2 families from every Elementary School in Aldine ISD. (Pictured from left to right) Shirley Reed, Judy Hoya, Stacey Smith, Debra Foster, Rocky Brashear and Steve Mead.

## Dansville (NY) School District delivers Christmas toys to Mendel students



Pictured are members of Aldine ISD's Human Resources Department preparing the toys prior to distributing to Mendel students.

Students at Mendel Elementary who were displaced by Hurricane Harvey were treated to an early Christmas when each student received Christmas toys thanks to Dansville School District in Dansville, New York. Mendel students had to be moved to new campuses (Garzia-Leza and Green-

point Elementary) after their school was closed due to the damage sustained by Hurricane Harvey. Dansville Superintendent Dr. Paul Alioto heard about their situation and reached out to Mendel principal Karen Wilkerson. Mrs. Wilkerson, along with the district's Human Resources Department, worked with Dans-

ville to get the toys from New York to Houston. The Dansville community loaded up a school bus full of toys, which were then delivered by UPS. The toys were distributed to Mendel students on December 18 during a holiday celebration at Escamilla Intermediate School.

## Lone Star College students impacted by Hurricane Harvey receive special assistance

Houston (Dec. 12, 2017) – The impact of Hurricane Harvey will be felt for years, but thanks to the Scholarship America Foundation and the Lone Star College Foundation, 40 Lone Star College students were able to continue their education this fall. In all, the LSC Foundation provided more than \$950,000 in relief to over 2,000 LSC students who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

"We know many of our students needed extra financial support after the hurricane," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "The money provided by Scholarship America will have a positive impact on our community for years to come."

Scholarship America is a nonprofit organization with a mission to mobilize America through scholarships and other educational support to make postsecondary success possible for all. The LSC Foundation received \$20,000 and awarded 40 students

\$500 each for fall 2017. "The risk of dropping out altogether escalates exponentially when a natural disaster like a hurricane strikes their school or family," said Robert C. Ballard, Scholarship America president and CEO. "Scholarship America's goal is to help ensure students are not forced to interrupt their education because of financial hardships created by natural disasters."

Students applied for the scholarships through the LSC Foundation. Part of the application process included detailing the impact Hurricane Harvey had on them. Here are some samples:

- I am unable to afford my textbooks this semester. I was evacuated from my residence due to flooding and have received word from my complex that I might be unable to return for up to two months. – Y. Gonzalez
- My family and I only

have one car and it was lost due to the flooding. Any little thing helps and would be very much appreciated. – M. Gibbons

• I take welding classes and some of my tools and safety equipment got damaged with the water because it reached all the way into the trunk and the water got inside into my toolbox. – E. Vasquez

Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private sector scholarship organization, pledged to donate \$200,000 to help college students affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"We are so grateful to Scholarship America and the Lone Star College Foundation for supporting our students" said Alicia Harvey-Smith, Ph.D., LSC executive vice chancellor, Academic and Student Success. "Lone Star College is committed helping students overcome obstacles to access, and attainment."

## Rebuilding Schools,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

catastrophic," Superintendent Richard Carranza said. "Our Chief Operating Officer and his team looked at them and believed it would be the most effective use of HISD resources to tear down and rebuild. We look forward to getting these students back into their home campuses that will be better equipped to sustain major storms in the future."

The proposal trustees approved calls for the four schools to be demolished and rebuilt at their current sites. The plan requires the students and staff to remain in their current temporary locations until new facilities can be reconstructed at their original location. Those new facilities could be completed and open to students in 2020.

Three additional HISD schools — Robinson and Hilliard elementary schools and Liberty High School — were also relocated as a result of the damage sustained during Hurricane Harvey.

Renovations at the original Robinson Elementary are wrapping up this month, and students are expected to return to their home campus when they return from winter break on Jan. 8. Renovations at Hilliard are ongoing. District officials opted to renovate both schools because of the age and sustainability of both buildings.

Liberty High School had been located in a facility leased but not owned by HISD. The school was temporarily relocated to Sharpstown International School. District adminis-

trators now are reviewing long-term relocation options for the campus.

Also during the December meeting, the HISD Foundation announced a \$4.7 million grant from Aramco Services Company for Harvey relief. The gift is designated for seven schools: Robinson, Scarborough, Hilliard, Braeburn, Kolter, and Mitchell elementary schools and Liberty High School.

Each school will receive a tech package worth \$400,000 that includes laptops, iPads, and more. As part of the grant, Aramco will also fund needs for each school up to \$300,000. Those needs include, but are not limited to books, instructional supplies, tutoring services, and professional development for teachers.

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<b>Their Price</b> Actonel™ \$735.28 <small>Typical US Brand Price for 30mg x 12</small>	<b>VS</b>	<b>Their Price</b> Risedronate* \$48.00 <small>Generic Price for 30mg x 12</small>
<b>Their Price</b> Abilify™ \$2,936.61 <small>Typical US Brand Price for 15mg x 90</small>	<b>VS</b>	<b>Their Price</b> Aripiprazole* \$75.90 <small>Generic Price for 15mg x 90</small>
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OPINION PAGE

### Texas' Unemployment Rate Falls to New Record Low 3.8 percent

AUSTIN — Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent, setting a new record for the lowest unemployment rate recorded in four decades. The Texas economy added 54,500 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in November. Annual employment growth for Texas increased to 2.7 percent in 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 TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "The Texas economy offers employers access to a competitive workforce and provides job seekers with career options in a variety of growing Texas industries."

Nine of eleven major industries showed increased growth in November, including Professional and Business Services with 14,700 jobs added and Construction which added 8,200 positions. Leisure and Hospitality employment continued to grow by adding 8,000 jobs in November.

Employment in Education and Health Services increased by 8,200 positions. Over the year, this industry has gained 40,400 jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment grew by 8,200 jobs, and Manufacturing industry jobs increased by 2,700 positions.

"Private-sector employers added 52,000 jobs in November and have accounted for the addition of 294,600 positions in Texas over the past year," said TWC Commissioner Ruth R. Hughs. "I am encouraged by the growth

across a variety of industries and commend our employers for their investment in our Texas workforce."

The Amarillo and Midland Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) recorded the month's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.6 percent, followed by the Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs with a rate of 2.7 percent. The San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA registered a rate of 3.0 percent for November.

"Employment demand continues to be high in well-paying industries such as Manufacturing, Construction, and Mining and Logging," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "I encourage career exploration in these and other industries that are growing in Texas. TWC's labor market information tools and products are designed to inform, prepare and advance our Texas workforce. Visit a Workforce Solutions Office to find out more about the latest employment opportunities available."

Audio downloads with comments from Commissioner Hughs on the latest labor market data are available on the TWC website press release page. Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit [tracer2.com](http://tracer2.com).

The Texas Labor Market & Career Information Data for December is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. (CDT).



### Officials name members to school finance commission

AUSTIN — Top state officials last week named members to the Texas Public School Finance Commission, an agency created by legislation passed last summer during a special session of the 85th Texas Legislature.

Gov. Greg Abbott named Scott Brister of Waco, a former justice of the Texas Supreme Court, as chair of the commission.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick named his appointees to the commission:

- Senate Education Chairman Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood;
- Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston;
- Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas; and
- Doug Killian, Pflugerville Independent School District superintendent.

House Speaker Joe Straus announced his appointees:

- House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston;
- Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio;
- Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian; and
- Nicole Conley Johnson, chief financial officer, Austin Independent School District.

"Reforming the school finance system in order to give schools more resources and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers has been and will continue to be a priority of the Texas House," Straus said.

"Establishing the School Finance Commission was landmark legislation in the special session. This will be the first school reform commission since the Perot Commission in 1984," Patrick said.

The commission is tasked with developing recommendations related to:

- (1) The purpose of the public school finance system and the relationship between state and local funding in that system;
- (2) The appropriate levels of taxes for local maintenance and operations, plus interest and sinking funds, necessary to implement a public school finance system that complies with the requirements under the Texas Constitution; and
- (3) Policy changes to the public school finance system necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic diversity in the state.

The deadline for the commission to make its recommendations is Dec. 31, 2018.

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

#### Gov extends declaration

Gov. Abbott on Dec. 18 issued a proclamation extending the State Disaster Declaration for Texas counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

The proclamation ensures that the 60 counties included in the disaster declaration continue to be eligible for assistance as they recover and rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. State Disaster Declarations must be renewed every 30 days for assistance to remain available.

#### Tax amnesty program set

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 21 announced a temporary tax amnesty program to give certain delinquent taxpayers "a chance to make their accounts compliant with state tax law without incurring penalties and interest on tax due."

The Texas Tax Amnesty Program, set to run from May 1 to June 29, 2018, applies to periods prior to Jan. 1, 2018, and only includes liabilities that have not been previously reported to the Office of the Comptroller.

Passed by the Texas Legislature in 2017, Senate Bill 1 required the Office of the Comptroller to establish the program to encourage voluntary reporting by:

- Delinquent taxpayers who do not have a Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit, or are not registered for a tax or fee administered by the



Comptroller's Office; and

- Taxpayers who have a permit, but may have underreported or owe additional taxes or fees.

#### Hegar unveils website

Comptroller Hegar on Dec. 18 announced the Unclaimed Property Division's new and improved website, [ClaimitTexas.org](http://ClaimitTexas.org), a way for Texans to search for their unclaimed money.

"I am proud of our unclaimed property program, which has returned about \$800 million to its rightful owners since I've been comptroller," Hegar said. "The newly redesigned website makes it even easier for users to search for unclaimed property and I encourage everyone to go online, take a look around and see if there is money waiting for you or your loved ones."

More than \$2 billion in unclaimed property has been returned to rightful owners since the program began in 1962. People without Internet service may call 800-321-2274 to check for unclaimed property in their name.

**OPINION**

By  
Congressman  
Gene  
Green

### Rep. Green Statement on the Republican Tax Bill

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Gene Green issued the following statement after the House of Representatives voted to advance a partisan tax bill that will negatively impact middle-class Americans:

"This bill will do more harm than good for middle-class families and individuals who live paycheck-to-paycheck. It's a shame that the Republican majority used a closed legislative process to rush this bill through instead of including Democrats in the discussions to work on a bipartisan bill. Republican leadership chose a partisan path that will raise taxes on 86 million middle-class households and give 83 percent of its tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent

The American public won't be fooled by Republicans' disingenuous claims about tax increases. What Republicans aren't mentioning is that the benefits they boast about only go until 2025. The corporate tax cuts, on the other hand, are permanent. The cost of those cuts to the American people will be with us long past 2025. The tax bill may result in significant cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and will cause 13 million people to lose their health insurance. This bill is fiscally irresponsible and will saddle future generations with \$2 trillion added to our deficit.

The last time America's tax system was overhauled was in 1986, but it was done on a bipartisan basis and was completely transparent. The Republicans this time around decided to jam a strictly partisan bill and shutout Democrats from the entire process. Americans deserve A Better Deal."

### Governor Abbott Statement On Final Passage Of Tax Reform Bill

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott issued a statement following the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:

"Any law that reduces the money the federal government takes from taxpayers is a good law," said Governor Abbott. "In addition to helping working Texans keep more of their paycheck, the law encourages employers to issue more paychecks to more employees. The law should create even more jobs in Texas and allow employees to take home more of their hard earned money."

### Year in Review 2017,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

#### AUGUST

Water Utility services crisis for four neighborhoods near resolution. Campus Carry law took effect at Lone Star College. Aldine ISD held Family Engagement Expo for back to school. Congressman Gene Green hosted 22nd annual immunization day. Group of people announced the buying of Greenspoint Mall, plan to redevelop as mixed use project. HURRICANE HARVEY RAVAGED TEXAS; thousands rescued from flood homes, auto and hospitals; it delayed the opening of many schools that were flooded.

#### SEPTEMBER

Countless volunteers help in the path to recovery after Harvey; victims received help at different distribution centers. Houston ISD approved extended school day to make up time due to Harvey. Aldine ISD provided free meals to all students during September due to Harvey. Aerial mosquito spraying began after flood.

#### OCTOBER

Rep. Walle held Town Hall, informed constituents on Legislature and Harvey Flood Relief. Greenspoint Mall became Disaster Relief Center; thousands lined-up to sign up for food assistance. Kroger on Aldine Mail Rt. closed. Aldine ISD Superintendent, Dr. Wanda Bamberg and Deputy Superintendent, Archie Blanson announced their retirement at the end of the school year. Aldine District held annual Fun Fall Fest.

#### NOVEMBER

ASTROS won World Series against Dodgers, city celebrated with parade. East Aldine District recognized for CERT Training. Aldine ISD Board of Trustees on ballot for Nov. 7 election. Veterans honored in Aldine with parade, festivities. Congressman Gene Green held Town Hall on flood issues; Rep. Green announced retirement, Sen. Garcia announced she will seek seat. East Aldine District approved new office design.

#### DECEMBER

Beasley Tire opened retread facility. State Rep. Senfronia Thompson filed for re-election. Aldine ISD approved search for new superintendent. Baker Ripley named new President and CEO, Claudia Aguirre-Vasquez. Aldine Christmas events included Aldine Family Hope Center Open House and Toy Drive, Nadine Kujawa Senior Citizen Gala and Bonding Against Adversity annual Green Community Holiday Dinner. East Aldine presented partners awards.

**NORTHEAST NEWS**

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Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com)

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## SPORTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# 2017 NFL season concludes on New Year's Eve: 2018 begins with CFP national semifinal games

We say good-bye to the 2017 NFL's regular season on New Year's Eve and begin 2018 with the two biggest college football games of the season, the College Football Playoff (CFP) national semifinal games.

No. 2-ranked Oklahoma will face No. 3-ranked Georgia in the Rose Bowl in the first CFP semifinal, followed by No. 1-ranked, and defending national champion, Clemson facing No. 4-ranked Alabama in the Sugar Bowl in the second semifinal game.

Before those two huge games are played, the NFL will conclude its 2017 regular season on New Year's Eve with 16 games, with a handful of teams still alive in the playoff hunt.

A majority of the divisions have been decided (Pittsburgh has clinched the AFC North, New England has clinched the AFC East, Jacksonville is one win away from clinching the AFC South and Kansas City is one win away from clinching the AFC West. Philadelphia has clinched the NFC East, Minnesota has clinched the NFC North, and the Rams are one win away from clinching the NFC West. The NFC South will go down to the final game as New Orleans and Carolina entered Week 16 tied atop the division).

A handful of teams are alive in both conferences for Wild Card slots. In the AFC, Baltimore, Buffalo, Tennessee and Los Angeles are battling for the two wild card spots heading into Week 17, while either New Orleans or Carolina, Seattle, Detroit, Dallas and Green Bay are battling for the two Wild Card spots in the NFC heading into their final regular season games.

While the season will end for all but 12 teams (six teams from each conference qualify for the playoffs), there could be a number of head coaches looking for new jobs in 2018. It appears there will definitely be a coaching change in Cincinnati, and New York (Giants) and maybe in Houston, Tampa Bay, Washington and Chicago. Texans head coach Bill O'Brien has one year left on his contract, but there are rumblings he may part ways with the team after the season. O'Brien deserves to return in 2018. His team was decimated by injuries to key players on both sides of the football (quarterback Deshaun Watson, defensive end J.J. Watt and linebacker Whitney Mercilus). Those are three of the 13 players Houston has placed on injured reserve this year.

If O'Brien parts ways with owner Bob McNair, he won't be out of work long. O'Brien is well respected in the league and is a solid coach. I'd like to see him back and have a full year with Watson.

As the NFL prepares for the post season, the CFP crank up on New Year's Day and both games should be outstanding. Three of the top four defenses will be featured (Alabama is No. 2 in total defense, Clemson is No. 3 and Georgia is No. 4) in the national semis as well as one of the most potent offenses in college football in the Oklahoma Sooners and Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Baker Mayfield.

The winners of the semifinals will meet on Monday, Jan. 8 in Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium in the CFP title game.

Before we take a look at the last week of the NFL and the two CFP semifinal games, let's review last week's record. It wasn't a good week for picking games as evidenced by the 4-8 record, which brought the season record to 118-74 (61%).

Now, onto this week's games.

## NFL

**Carolina at Atlanta** – The Panthers can clinch at worst a Wild Card berth with a win over the defending NFC champs in Atlanta on Sunday. Two weeks ago, Cam Newton threw four touchdown passes to lead the Panthers to a 31-24 victory over Green Bay. Atlanta has to probably win out (they played at New Orleans in Week 16) and that's a tall order for a team that has been inconsistent this season. Look for Newton (2,720 yards passing, 18 TDs; 585 yards rushing, 5 TDs) to out duel Matt Ryan (3,490 yards passing, 17 TDs) in this one as the Panthers return to the playoffs after a one-year hiatus. My pick, Carolina 31, Atlanta 27

**Dallas at Philadelphia** – The Cowboys need this game much more so than do the Eagles, who have clinched home field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. Two weeks ago, back-up quarterback Nick Foles threw for 237 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Eagles in their 34-29 win over the Giants. While the Eagles were winning at home, the Cowboys picked up a hard-earned 20-17 victory at Oakland. Quarterback Dak Prescott (2,752 yards passing, 21



## KEENEY'S KORNER

By  
MIKE KEENEY

TDs; 5 rushing TDs) will have running back Ezekiel Elliott (783 yards rushing, 7 TDs) back after the latter served his six-game suspension for domestic abuse. Elliott's return should be a big boost to the Dallas offense and if they can get into the playoffs, this could be a very dangerous team to deal with for the rest of the NFC. Look for Elliott to lead the way in Philly on Sunday as the Cowboys close fast and hope it's enough to earn a post-season berth. My pick, Dallas 23, Philadelphia 17

**Green Bay at Detroit** – The Packers could help the Cowboys by taking down the Lions on Sunday in the Motor City. GB quarterback Aaron Rodgers returned two weeks ago after missing eight weeks with a broken collarbone. Rodgers was a bit rusty in his return, throwing three interceptions and three touchdown passes in the Packers' 31-24 loss at Carolina. The Lions defeated the Bears 20-10 behind Matthew Stafford's two TD passes. If Green Bay is eliminated from the playoffs prior to this game, I could see Rodgers sitting, which would be a huge lift for the Lions. My pick, Detroit 26, Green Bay 20

**Houston at Indianapolis** – Talk about two teams playing out the string! This game features two of the most disappointing teams in the AFC and will be played strictly for pride. About the only intrigue in this one is how many passes and yards Houston wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins accumulates. Aside from that, there's no real reason to even watch this one, let alone devote much time to discussing it in this space. My pick, Indianapolis 13, Houston 12

**New Orleans at Tampa Bay** – The Saints will look to either win the NFC South or earn a Wild Card slot when they visit the disappointing Buccaneers on Sunday. Look for quarterback Drew Brees (3,569 yards passing, 19 TDs) and running backs

Mark Ingram (971 yards rushing, 9 TDs) and Alvin Kamara to pass and run over a weak TB defense. When the Saints are on defense, they will get after turnover-prone quarterback Jameis Winston and make it a long afternoon in TB for the third-year quarterback. My pick, New Orleans 33, Tampa Bay 16

**Kansas City at Denver** – The Chiefs turned their season around two weeks ago with a 30-13 win at home over the Los Angeles Chargers. They need to win one of their remaining two games to wrap up the AFC West title and should have little trouble against a Denver team that has been a huge disappointment this season. Quarterback Alex Smith (3,738 yards passing, 25 TDs) and running back Kareem Hunt (1,201 yards rushing, 6 TDs) looked like they did earlier in the season when they were lighting up the scoreboard in the win over the Chargers. Smith connected on a long touchdown pass to speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill (69 receptions, 1,074 yards receiving, 7 TDs) and Hunt rushed for 155 yards and a touchdown in the win over the Chargers. Look for the Chiefs offense to keep rolling against a beat-up Denver defense as they prepare for the post season. My pick, Kansas City 26, Denver 17

**Jacksonville at Tennessee** – The Jaguars could enter this game with the AFC South title wrapped up if they won at San Francisco in Week 16, or if the Titans lost at home to a very good Rams team in Week 16. I think there's a pretty good chance the Jags have the division title wrapped up by the time they arrive in Nashville, which means they could rest key starters and have them rested for the playoffs. Two weeks ago, the Titans suffered a big blow to their playoff chances when they lost at San Francisco, 25-23 on a last-second field goal. A win over the Jags might not be enough to get Tennessee into the playoffs, but

it could be a moral booster heading into the offseason. My pick, Tennessee 24, Jacksonville 16

## NCAA

**Cotton Bowl: Ohio State vs. USC** – This is the best of the non-CPF games as two of the most storied schools in NCAA history meet in Arlington at AT&T Stadium on Dec. 29. This game is going to feature future NFL players as both teams are loaded with talent on both sides of the football. The Trojans could have a top three pick in quarterback Sam Darnell (3,787 yards passing, 26 TDs), while the Buckeyes feature one of the top dual threat quarterbacks in J.T. Barrett (2,939 yards passing, 34 TDs; 732 yards rushing, 10 TDs). Darnell is a lock to play QB in the NFL, but Barrett may have to switch positions to play at the next level. Both teams also have strong running games as the Buckeyes are led by running back J.K. Dobbins (1,364 yards rushing, 7 TDs) and USC is led by speedy tailback Ronald Jones, II (1,486 yards rushing, 18 TDs). Darnell will look to speedy wide receiver Deontay Burnett (74 receptions, 974 yards receiving, 9 TDs), while Barrett has a host of talented receivers to throw to. This one should be a fun game to watch, but I'm going with the Buckeyes because I think they have the better defense. My pick, Ohio State 33, USC 30

**Rose Bowl: Georgia vs. Oklahoma** – This game will feature Oklahoma's high-powered offense against Georgia's 4th-ranked defense, so something has got to give. They say defense wins championships, but the Georgia defense will have its hands full with an OU team that can get it done passing with Baker Mayfield (4,340 yards passing, 41 TDs) and a host of talented receivers led by tight end Mark Andrews (58 receptions, 906 yards, 15 yards per reception, 8 TDs) and wide receivers Marquis Brown (49 receptions, 981 yards, 6 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (40 receptions, 741 yards, 7 TDs) and on ground with running back Rodney Anderson (960 yards rushing, 11 TDs). The Georgia defense is very good, but it is going to have its hands full with an OU offense that averaged 45 points per game and is ranked No. 1 in the country in total offense. The Bulldogs are no slouches on offense either led by a strong running game that has taken pressure off of true freshman quarterback Jake

Fromme (2,173 yards passing, 21 TDs). Look for the Bulldogs to give the OU defense a steady diet of Nick Chubb (1,175 yards rushing, 13 TDs), Sony Michel (948 yards rushing, 13 TDs) and D'Andre Swift (597 yards rushing, 3 TDs) to wear down the OU defense and chew up clock with hopes of keeping Mayfield off of the field. The Sooners will need another big day from Mayfield if they hope to advance to the title game. While the OU defense has been torched at times this season, that unit has improved as the season has gone along. I think OU's defense surprises folks in this one as the Sooners advance to the title game. My pick, Oklahoma 30, Georgia 27

**Sugar Bowl: Clemson vs. Alabama** – This is the third straight year Dabo Swiney's Tigers have faced Nick Saban's Crimson Tide in the CFP. Two years ago, Alabama defeated Clemson for the CFP title and Clemson returned the favor last year as Deshaun Watson threw a game-winning touchdown pass with one second left on the clock. Watson is gone, but sophomore Kelly Bryant (2,678 yards passing, 13 TDs; 646 yards rushing, 11 TDs) has filled in admirably as his replacement. We will see if Bryant has Watson's poise and calm demeanor in a game with so much at stake. Bryant will have his hands full going up against the No. 2-ranked defense in the country, but so will Alabama QB Jalen Hurts (1,940 yards passing, 15 TDs; 765 yards rushing, 8 TDs) when he faces the country's No. 6-ranked defense. Look for Alabama to give a very good Clemson front seven a steady dose of its running game led by speedy Damien Harris (906 yards rushing, 11 TDs) and the bullish Bo Scarbrough (549 yards rushing, 8 TDs). If Alabama can establish the run, that will give Hurts some shots at making plays down field to wide receiver Calvin Ridley (55 receptions, 896 yards receiving, 3 TDs). The 'Bama offense sputtered late in the season, but Saban and his staff had five weeks to prepare for this game. The Tide also should have back a number of defensive players who suffered injuries late in the season. I think Hurts' experience will be the deciding factor in this game as Saban and the Tide get revenge from last year's loss in the championship and go after their fifth national title under Saban's leadership. My pick, Alabama 26, Clemson 23

## Defensive Player of the Year,

Continued from page 1

sons, the two were named the Northeast News' Co-Defensive Players of the Year.

In eight games, Simpson recorded 116 solo tackles (an average of 14.5 per game), recorded four sacks, had 28 tackles for loss and intercepted two passes. The 6-0, 215-pounder has committed to Arizona State.

Livingston, 6-3, 360-pounds, recorded 41 total tackles, 13.5 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks, batted down 4 passes, forced 3 fumbles, recovered 2 fumbles, blocked one kick and blocked one punt. Livingston received 28 Division I offers. He originally committed to Texas A&M, but de-committed after head coach Kevin Sumlin was fired and replaced by former Florida State head coach Jimbo Fisher. He has since committed to LSU.

### JACOBY SIMPSON

Simpson received offers from Kansas State, Louisville, Kansas, the University of Houston, Colorado State, Arkansas and Memphis but chose Arizona State after making his official visit in the fall.

"I liked the way they had things organized for me," he said. "I felt good about the place after making my visit."

Simpson's head coach during his senior season was Andy Garza. Garza said Simpson was a four-

year starter for the Generals and let his play on the field set the tone for his teammates.

"Jacoby grew into a leader," Garza said. "Regardless of all the offers he received, he had his best season in the four years he was here. He could have breezed through the season after committing to Arizona State, but it seemed to motivate him to play even better. He turned into more of a vocal leader this year. He didn't have to say a lot, but when he spoke, his teammates listened to him."

Garza said Simpson's strength and speed are his two best assets and should serve him well at ASU.

"He's very explosive," Garza said. "When he hits you, you know you've been hit."

Garza said his four years of varsity experience allowed Simpson to serve as a coach on the field during games.

"We gave him more accountability because of his experience," Garza said. "He made a lot of calls for us during games."

While he was a hit on the field with his teammates, Simpson is also a hit with his classmates and teachers at MacArthur.

"His teammates and teachers like him," Garza said. "He takes care of his business. He's a blue collar kind of guy."

Garza believes Simpson

can contribute for ASU and their new head coach Herm Edwards as a freshman if given the opportunity to do so.

"I think he can contribute because of his football knowledge and the drive he has," Garza said. "I'm excited for him. Jacoby has a good worth ethic. He's physically strong and bench-presses 300 pounds. I'm going to miss him."

### DOMINIC LIVINGSTON

Livingston was a wanted man during his senior season, wanted by 28 Division I football programs because of his size and strength. Davis head football coach James Showers said Livingston wanted to play in the SEC and believes his star defensive tackle has the ability to play in the best football conference in the country.

"Dominic has tremendous strength and athletic ability," Shower said. "He's a very humble young man. I compare him to the character (Michael Clark Duncan) in the Green Mile. He has a sweet personality, but if you make him mad, he could tear down the building."

Livingston was a three-year letterman and a two-year starter for the Falcons, who earned a playoff berth in 2017.

Showers said he believes Livingston can play in the SEC, and he will

benefit from going to a top-flight program like LSU, which has a penchant for producing NFL-caliber defensive linemen. He has the strength to play in the SEC as evidenced by his bench press of 405 pounds and squat of 635 pounds.

"Once he gets to college and gets on their training table, they will slim him down and he will be able to go full speed. He needs to take between 30 and 40 pounds off, and once he takes the weight off, he will be unstoppable."

Showers said the likable Livingston is a run stopper and should be a two-down player early in his collegiate career and should evolve into a three-down player with more experience and work in the weight room.

"Dominic loves football and you'd better have a love for the game if you are going to play in the SEC," Showers said. "He will need to learn to work a little more at the next level because it was so easy for him in high school because of his size."

Showers said Livingston isn't a big talker, but he is considerate and kind to those around him. He's also a horse person.

"Dominic is a very good person," Showers said. "He loves horses. He rides in his spare time and can tell you anything you want to know about horses. I hope he keeps being the person he's always been. The world needs more people like Dominic in it. He's very considerate of everybody and he has a good heart. He hasn't let the hype get to him."

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Center of Life Baptist Church, 11250 Bentley St. 281-442-5433
De Priest Baptist Church, 5609 Mount Houston Rd. 281-449-0774
Esperanza Baptist Church, 14710 Mill Rd. 281-227-0123
First Baptist Church Kinwood, 5538 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3823
First Baptist Church N. Houston, 4422 Lauder Rd. 281-449-7201
First Unity Baptist Church, 2110 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-445-7379
Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 1823 Aldine Mail Route. 281-442-7137
Greater Purelight Missionary, 12330 Vickery St. 281-987-1980
Harmony Baptist Church, 1325 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3444
Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist, 4730 Gaston St. 281-442-2947
New Beginning Baptist Church, 10921 Foy Ln. 713-696-9249
New Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 4706 Mount Houston Rd. 281-227-6885
Parkwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 60143. 281-442-5359

- Sonrise Community Church, P.O. Box 111581. 281-449-0994
South Aldine Baptist Church, 2121 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-3124

- CATHOLIC:
St. Leo the Great Catholic, 2131 Lauder Rd. 281-449-2344

- CHRISTIAN
Faith Christian Center, 10118 Tidwell Rd. 281-459-1709

- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 65 Melbourne Street. 281-799-6289.

- CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE:
Woodsdale Church of the Nazarene, 4903 Hollybrook Ln. 281-442-4107

- JEHOVAH'S WITNESS:
Jehovah's Witnesses, 4416 Mohawk St. 281-442-1612

- LUTHERAN:
St Luke's Lutheran Church, 11025 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-442-2180
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 215 Rittenhouse. 281-445-2203
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 215 Rittenhouse. 713-694-7433

- METHODIST:
Aldine First United Methodist Church, 4623 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-442-4961
Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 4234 Mount Houston Rd. 281-442-7164
Love United Methodist Church, 11255 Eastex Fwy. 281-590-9294
El Mesias United Methodist Church, 406 E. Rittenhouse St. 713-699-8990

- PENTACOSTAL:
Calvary Pentecostal Church of God, 3122 Hopper Rd. 713-694-6112
Iglesia Pentecostal Unida, 2410 Bertrand St. 281-590-5187
Temple of Salvation, 4906 Haile St. 281-987-2655

- PRESBYTERIAN:
Westminster Church, 14050 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-442-7210

- SPANISH-SPEAKING:
El Monte Calvario Church, P.O. Box 11726. 281-987-1174
Iglesia de Dios Santidao, 11721 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-219-0707
La Iglesia de Dios Santa Sion, 2332 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-449-0536
Manantial de Vida, 2810 Lauder Rd. 281-442-7709
Primera Iglesia Bautista, 13380 Korenek St. 281-590-5642

- NON-DEMOMINATIONAL/ OTHER
Aldine Christian Church, 2233 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-9751
Apostolic Bible Ctr., P.O. Box 8569. 281-442-5171
Bethel Community Church, 2414 Lauder Rd. 281-449-1473
Church of the Living God, 4422 Hopper Rd. 281-219-3853
Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, 11268 E. Hardy Rd. 281-442-0303

- Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, 9407 Crofton St. 713-631-7339.
Emmanuel Deliverance Temple, 4718 Littlecrest Rd. 281-987-9166
Grace Restoration Church, 13223 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-449-5996
Houston Restoration Church, 1831 Hartwick Rd. 281-227-6260
Houston Revival Temple, 5801 Mary Francis Dr. 281-987-3305
Jesus Center, 11742 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-590-3216
Monument of Faith Church-God, 2233 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-2002
New Covenant Missionary Church, 2202 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-987-7170
North Central Assembly of God, 13703 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-907-6609
Pillar of Glory, 14341 Lee Rd. 281-449-6404
Sabbath Kingdom, 4034 Linder St. at Kelley and Hirsch Rd., Houston, 77026. 713-635-3025.
Temple de Poder, 10912 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-372-1060
Tomb of Jesus, 1301 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-987-1371

- Word of Deliverance Life Ctr, 4001 Darwin St. 281-227-0700
Phuc Vien Temple, 14101 Eastex Fwy. 281-449-1900
Gospel Shop, 14341 Lee Rd. 281-227-8898
Jimmie Guillory, 13120 Luthe Rd. 281-449-6016
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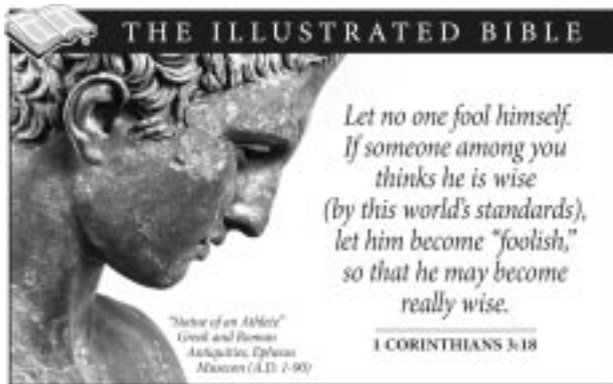
## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. For possible new year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be ..." ? Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful
2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 instructs us to, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to ..." ? Nurture, Pass, Action, Light
3. Which book proclaims the first day of the new year is for resting and a memorial sounding the

trumpet? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers  
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance  
5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th  
6. From James 1:5, what may one lack and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1) Established; 2) Pass; 3) Leviticus; 4) Moving forward; 5) 7th; 6) Wisdom



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¿Qué dicen Alexis y Tabbie?

Conoce a los ganadores de ¡Lánzate Houston!

¡Lánzate Houston!, el primer pitch competition realizado íntegramente en español en la ciudad de Houston, fue organizado por el programa de Conexión de Emprendedores de BakerRipley el pasado 2 de diciembre. Durante esta competencia, diez empresarios tomaron el escenario para presentar sus ideas de negocio y pequeños negocios ante un panel de jueces, medios de comunicación y la comunidad.

En preparación para esta competencia, los participantes asistieron a talleres sobre cómo diseñar una presentación convincente, presentar su historia de manera interesante y realizar su solicitud de inversión de capital. Muchos emprendedores aprovecharon esta oportunidad para reunirse con los business coaches del programa y obtener el asesoramiento especializado requerido.

La competencia fue dividida en dos categorías: 1) LANZAR – emprendedores que cuentan con una idea de negocios interesante y viable y 2) CRECER – pequeñas empresas ya establecidas que buscan crecer su negocio. ¡Lánzate Houston! fue sin duda una competencia feroz. Los siguientes tres ganadores



Alexis Rios y Tabbie Saenz son expertos en temas empresariales del Programa Conexión de Emprendedores de BakerRipley

de cada categoría fueron acreedores de más de 20,000 dólares en premios monetarios y en especie:

- Categoría CRECER**  
 - Sidia y Mario Guzman, Mandarin Coffee  
 - Nina Rios, Got Dirty Blinds  
 - Paola Marino y Daniel Dunaway, Beancycle

- Categoría LANZAR**  
 - Guillermo Barrera y Marco Morales, SOPLIX  
 - Patricia Slind, VINSS LLC  
 - Mary Gonzalez, Real Blooming

¡Este evento fue una prueba de que los hispanos en el Condado de Harris

son sin duda emprendedores apasionados! Como sabemos, el ganar de un evento como ¡Lánzate Houston! no es una garantía de éxito; sin embargo, el haber logrado poner a su empresa o idea de negocio en el escenario y obtener la exposición y atención temprana es definitivamente una manera de dar el primer salto hacia el éxito.

Para obtener más información sobre BakerRipley y cómo podemos ayudarle con su negocio en cualquier industria, comuníquese con el programa de Conexión de Emprendedores al teléfono 346-226-1591.



Los ganadores de ¡Lánzate Houston!



Participantes de la categoría LANZAR



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