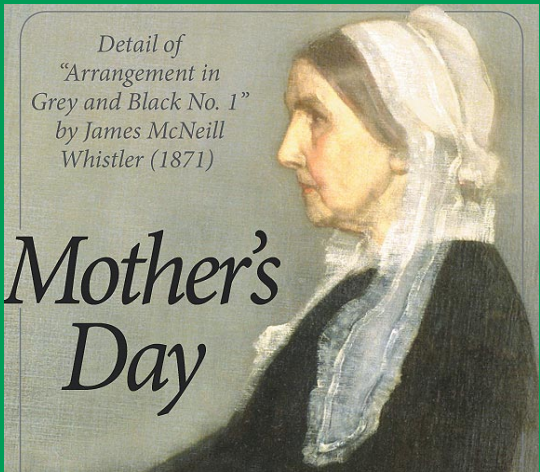


# NORTHEAST ★NEWS

*Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years*  
VOL. 42, NO. 19 TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 HOUSTON, TEXAS [www.nenewsroom.com](http://www.nenewsroom.com)



## NEWS NOTES

### Film & Photo Festival

The Aldine ISD Film & Photo Committee invite you to the third annual Film & Photo Festival. Aldine Education Foundation is again a sponsor of this amazing event showcasing student creativity. Friday, May 18, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender.

### Retirement Celebration

Retirement celebration in honor of Dr. Wanda Bamberg and Dr. Archie Blanson, Thursday, June 7, 2018, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. M.O. Campbell Education Center, 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032. Program starts at 4:15 p.m.

### Citizenship Workshop, Volunteers needed

Saturday, May 19, 2018. Volunteers who want to help neighbors achieve citizenship, should arrive by 8:00am at Hambrick Middle School located at 4600 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, TX 77039 Food and training will be provided for all. Parking is free and plentiful.  
OUR SERVICES:  
· Information Presentation and Volunteer Training  
· Pre-Screening for Legal Issues  
· Assistance Completing Naturalization Application for Eligible Participants  
· One on One Legal Assistance  
· Citizenship Classes Information  
YOU MUST BRING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE WORKSHOP:  
You may access this list by visiting [www.bondingagainstadversity.org](http://www.bondingagainstadversity.org).  
· Residence Card (Green Card), Driver's license or other ID and Social Security Card  
· DMV Driving Record (H-6

*See Citizenship  
Workshop, page 3*

## Grand Texas Theme Park sets opening for June 30, selling tickets now

NEW CANEY – The new theme park is set to open two more sections, on June 29th. When all seven activity areas are open, the theme park will be comparable to Astroworld, according to publicity sources.

Big Rivers Waterpark, and Gator Bayou Adventure Park are the next two sections scheduled to open in June.

Currently daily passes for future attendance are selling for \$29.99, and an annual pass is available



for \$59.95. Tickets are on sale at [bigriverswaterpark.com/admission/#prices](http://bigriverswaterpark.com/admission/#prices), or at the RV resort.

Big Rivers area will include a lazy river, a wave pool, waterslides, and a large interactive play structure.

Gator Bayou will include Wild Isle, an Alligator Exhibit, and Big Al's Fishing hole. It will also have zip lines, nature

*See THEME PARK,  
page 3*



The BIG RIVERS WATERPARK, and the GATOR BAYOU ADVENTURE PARK are two of the seven activity areas that will open in June. ABOVE: The RV Resort and SpeedSportz Racing Park are now open.

## Young Ladies of Elegance Hosts Prom Dress Giveaway for Aldine ISD Students

It's that time of year again where teens dress to impress. Yes, it's prom season. Some parents could end up spending big bucks when searching for the latest trends.

Searching for the perfect prom dress is not easy. Not only does the style matter but also the price tag. If you go to the store, dresses can cost hundreds of dollars. That can make going to the prom too expensive to consider.

"I wanted to lighten the load for some Aldine kids and their parents," said Dr. Kimberley Booker,

CEO and founder of Young Ladies Of Elegance (YLOE).

Booker, who is an Aldine ISD Trustee, organized the event. She first dug into her own closet before putting out the call to action among AISD staff and community members to assist with the cause. She and some special ladies collected more than 70 dresses and other items. Among the groups that donated to the event was the

*See Prom Dress  
Giveaway, page 2*



A lucky student found "the" dress and takes a moment to pose with YLOE and a few other fairy godmothers in her Cinderella story.

## Harris County encourages residents to prepare ahead of Hurricane Season

Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 6-12

(Houston, TX) - Harris County Commissioners Court has designated May 6-12, 2018 as Hurricane Preparedness Week. This year, Commissioners Court presented the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) and representatives from the Texas

Harris County Commissioners Court designate May 6-12 as Hurricane Preparedness Week. HCOHSEM and representatives from the TGR VOAD were presented with proclamation on May 1, 2018.  
(L to R: Commissioner Pct. 1 Steve Radack, Commissioner Pct. 2 Jack Morman, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Matt Johns, Paula Jemison, Francisco Sánchez, Commissioner Pct. 1 Rodney Ellis, Commissioner Pct. 4 R. Jack Cagle)



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FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,  
FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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**713-595-1232**  
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Houston, TX. 77039

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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOPS

- HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SATURDAY MAY 12, 2018. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
5601 WEST LOOP S. HOUSTON, TX 77081
- HAMBRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL, SATURDAY MAY 19, 2018. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
4600 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039
- LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPPOINT CENTER, THURSDAY MAY 31ST., 2018. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00 PM  
250 N SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY E, HOUSTON, TX 77060
- ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH, SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2018. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
5356 11TH ST, KATY, TX 77493
- PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, SATURDAY JUNE 16, 2018 REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
19222 TOMBALL PARKWAY, HOUSTON, TX 77070
- CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH, SATURDAY JUNE 30, 2018. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 AM  
18511 KLEIN CHURCH RD. SPRING, TX 77379

(PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED CALL (281) 799- 9076)

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 2018

- SATURDAY MAY 12 TO JUNE 16  
ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY – 6 WEEKS)  
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Choir winners



Congratulations to the Mendel-Greenspoint Choir for their special award at the Houston Children's Music Festival on April 27, Friday at MO Campbell Ed Center. Out of 70 choirs, they were selected to receive the Gold Cup Award for Most Outstanding Choral Piece "Sakura," a Japanese folk song. Way to go! Three "Buzzes" for the Choir! Buzz... Buzz... Buzz.... Thank you to all for supporting our students. A special "Thank You" to Mrs. Wilkerson, Mendel's principal for attending our performance.

Comcast Cares Day impacts Stephens Elementary School



Comcast Cares Day projects included creating a community garden at Stephens Elementary School. Nearly 100 volunteers, including Comcast NBCUniversal employees, cleaned and helped beautify Stephens Elementary School on Saturday, April 21. Volunteers worked on numerous projects including landscape, painting, and the beautification of the grounds of the campus. This Comcast Cares Day, Comcast NBCUniversal will engage its 1 millionth volunteer as we make change happen in hundreds of communities across the country and around the world making it America's largest single-day corporate volunteer effort.

Hurricane Preparedness,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gulf Coast Regional Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TGCR VOAD) with a proclamation for their efforts to promote preparedness during hurricane season.

“Our ability to collaborate before, during and after a crisis is a major strength in our region,” said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. “As we continue to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, I encourage residents to prepare in advance of the next storm.”

Early predictions for 2018 call for another above-average hurricane season. According to forecasters 12 to 14 tropical storms could develop between June 1 and November 30, six to eight of which may become hurricanes - three to five major hurricanes.

“Regardless of the number of hurricanes predicted, I would remind our residents that it only takes one to devastate a community,” added Judge Emmett. “Be assured that the county will continue to work to prepare our communities, but it is up to each individual to prepare themselves and their families.”

HCOHSEM recommends the following:

- Discuss and practice an emergency plan with your family
- Sign up to receive weather and emergency alerts
- Assemble an emergency supplies kit that includes a NOAA weather radio
- Have an emergency bag ready to go with important documents in case you need to evacuate
- Keep your vehicle’s gas tank full
- Trim trees and branches that can easily fall on your home or vehicle
- Secure loose objects outside your house before severe weather moves in

HCOHSEM’s Ready-Harris app sends emergency alerts, provides a step-by-step guide for building a personalized family disaster plan, offers survival tip sheets, maps evacuation routes and locates local emergency services. Download this free app from the App Store or Google Play.

Residents can sign up to receive emergency alerts at [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) and can follow HCOHSEM on Facebook and Twitter.

Dress Prom Giveaway,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Aldine-American Federation of Teachers.

Girls looking for “the” dress — whether simple, glamorous, fitted or flowing — had a wide selection to choose from at the prom dress giveaway.

“We had dresses that had only been worn once or twice,” said Booker. “They were practically brand new.”

Once the senior high school ladies found their FREE perfect dress, they went to the accessory tables, which also had FREE items including shoes, purses and makeup.

Also on hand was Aldine ISD Trustee Patricia Bourgeois. Her Groom-a-Kid Foundation collected funds to purchase accessory jewelry from David’s Bridal to complete the students’ prom look. The jewelry set was free to students who found a dress. Bourgeois was also able to help some young men headed to the prom. The Groom-a-Kid Foundation received donations to provide rental tuxes to 25 male students at Carver HS and Davis HS.

“It really is a joy to see Aldine students lighting up when they find their outfit,” said Bourgeois. “The girls look beautiful in their dresses.”

Every time a girl said, “Yes to the dress,” everyone involved applauded and took a moment to take a picture.

“I hoped for and got to see a lot of smiles,” Booker said. “No one went away empty. I have to thank everyone who helped make this happen. We all wanted the same thing: To give students a memorable prom experience that they can carry for the rest of their life.”

A number of high school seniors and their moms took advantage of the giveaway. All students had to do was register before the giveaway date and bring a student I.D card.

Booker stated the YLOE Prom Dress Giveaway would be an annual event. If you would like to help Booker build her “Dress Closet,” visit the YLOE website: [youngladiesofelegance.com](http://youngladiesofelegance.com)

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FRIDAY–WEDNESDAY 5/4-5/9

<p>Opens <b>THURSDAY, May 10</b> <b>BREAKING IN (PG-13)</b> 7:00 9:30</p> <p><b>* BAD SAMARITAN (R)</b> 12:40pm, 3:40pm, 6:40pm, 9:40pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* OVERBOARD (PG-13)</b> 12:00pm, 2:40pm, 5:40pm, 8:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* OVERBOARD (PG-13)</b> 11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* AVENGERS: Infinity War (PG-13)</b> 11:30am, 12:15pm, 12:45pm, 2:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:00pm, 6:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* AVENGERS: Infinity War (PG-13)</b> 11:15am, 5:45pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* AVENGERS: Infinity War in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13)</b> 4:00pm, 10:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* AVENGERS: Infinity War in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13)</b> 2:30pm, 9:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p>	<p><b>I FEEL PRETTY (PG-13)</b> 11:50am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>TRAFFIK (R)</b> 11:45am, 2:00pm, 4:25pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>Blumhouse's TRUTH OR DARE (PG-13)</b> 12:10pm, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>RAMPAGE (PG-13)</b> 11:35am, 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>* RAMPAGE 3D (PG-13)</b> 2:30pm, 7:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>BLOCKERS (R)</b> 11:50am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>A QUIET PLACE (PG-13)</b> 12:15pm, 2:35pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>Tyler Perry's ACRIMONY (R)</b> 11:45am, 2:25pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p> <p><b>BLACK PANTHER (PG-13)</b> 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption</p>
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\*No passes on these movies \*\* No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies.  
\*New Releases, no passes accepted for the first two weeks \*\*\*Sorry No Passes CC CLOSED CAPTION  
\*\*Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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COMMUNITY PAGE

Aldine ISD High School student and teacher chosen as 2018 National JASON Learning Argonauts

The Argos will head to the Bahamas to experience a week-long adventure with researchers and educators.

Congratulations to Carver HS junior student Keilah South and MacArthur HS science teacher Sean Doyle! They have been selected as Aldine ISD JASON Learning Argonauts. Both will be traveling to the Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI) in the Bahamas this summer.

Keilah, an 11th-grader at the magnet campus, had no idea what to expect when a small crowd of district-level administrators and her parents walked into her classroom. She was nearly in tears as she realized she had been selected as a 2018 Argo.

Just as surprised was Doyle, an aquatic science teacher at “Big” Mac. Both he and Keilah will work with researchers and educators to study sea turtles.

One of the most unique and exciting features of JASON Learning’s comprehensive approach to transforming K-12 STEM teaching and learning is the “Argonaut Program.” JASON’s Student and Teacher Argonauts—named after the band of explorers in Greek mythology who accompanied Jason in his quest to find the Golden Fleece—travel to



Sean Doyle, Aquatic Science Teacher at MacArthur HS.



Carver HS junior Keilah South poses with her parents, Michael and Raquel South. Olivia Boatner (far left), magnet school program director, and Xandra Williams-Earlle (far right), program director of secondary science, surprised Keilah with the news that she has been named a National JASON Learning Argonaut.

research locations around the world to work side-by-side with scientists and engineers, many of whom they’ve come to know through JASON’s curriculum.

Chevron sponsors the JASON Learning program

at more than 10 Houston-area school districts, including Aldine ISD. Funding provided by Chevron assures that all travel is covered for Houston-area Argos. This includes lodging, food, programming and equipment costs.

Man found shot during robbery died at hospital

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a male that occurred at 9090 Greens Road about 10 p.m. on Monday, April 30.

According to HPD Homicide Division Detectives A. Barr and M. Perez, about 10 p.m., the victim entered the Citgo gas station and robbed the two store clerks at gunpoint. He then fled the scene on foot eastbound on Greens Road.

Responding HPD patrol officers subsequently located him a few

minutes later at the corner of Greens Road and Seminar Drive where he had been shot. He was transported to Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center where he died from his wounds.

His identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Two men killed in illegal gambling

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of two men that occurred at 7700 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 2:10 a.m. on Monday, April 30.

The victims, Ezavian D. Stanley, 25, and Albert C. Venson, 29, were pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Houston Police investigators both victims were shot while participating in an illegal gambling operation inside a warehouse at the above address. They were pronounced dead at the scene by Houston Fire Department paramedics.

The investigation is continuing.

Parents of teen killed in car crash urge Texans to buckle up

AUSTIN – On the evening of Oct. 28, 2017, Kailee Mills was traveling with three friends to a Halloween party when the car she was riding in went out of control and flipped just 400 yards from her home. Kailee, the only one not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from the car and killed. Her friends escaped with minor injuries. Kailee’s parents, David and Wendy Mills of Spring, Texas, were devastated.

“We don’t know why Kailee had taken off her seat belt,” said David Mills. “She always wore it. We never thought this would happen to us — to our daughter. We know that if she had been wearing her seat belt, she’d still be here. Instead, the girl we called our ‘ray of sunshine’ is gone.”

“No family should have to grieve the loss of a loved one whose life was cut short,” said Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director James

Bass. “Last year, more than 900 people killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up, leaving countless families, friends and communities to deal with a tragic loss. Many of these deaths were preventable, but seat belts only work if you use them.”

Kailee Mills was a student at Klein Collins High School and planned to study medicine in college. To give meaning to their daughter’s death, her parents started working to build awareness about the importance of always using a seat belt. Now they’re joining with TxDOT to launch the state’s annual “Click It or Ticket” campaign in the hope they can help other families avoid what they’ve experienced.

Statewide seat belt use continues to increase, reaching nearly 92 percent for 2017, yet 929 unbuckled Texans still died in traffic crashes last year. TxDOT’s “Click It or Ticket” campaign reminds driv-

ers and passengers that wearing a seat belt is the single most effective step they can take to protect themselves in a crash. Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of dying in a crash by 45 percent. That number jumps to 60 percent for pickup trucks.

While daytime seat belt usage continues to increase, nighttime use remains lower, leading to a higher rate of fatalities. Last year, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute found the number of drivers and front seat passengers observed in 18 cities not wearing seat belts increased by almost 50 percent from day to night. In 2017, 57 percent of all crashes where occupants died and weren’t wearing a seat belt happened at night (between 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m.).

Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly buckled up or face fines and court costs up to

Groom-A-Kid Foundation providing rental tuxes for Carver, Davis students



Aldine ISD Trustee Patricia Ann Bourgeois poses with students from Carver High School and Davis High School who will be receiving rental tuxes to attend their respective proms this spring. Ms. Bourgeois' Groom-A-Kid Foundation received donations from individuals and organizations to pay for the cost for the rental of a tux for approximately 25 male students at Carver and Davis high schools. Pictured with Ms. Bourgeois and the students is Jonathan Sequoia, far left, of Al's Formal Wear in Humble who fitted the students for their tuxes at Davis High School on April 20.

Grand Texas Theme Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trails, a seven story free fall tower, pony rides, and a petting zoo.

The theme park is located on 630 acres at US59 and Highway 292.

The development has had a difficult past, first announced in 2013, with

several attempts at funding the park. The most recent is 3 loans from the federal USDA rural development fund, totalling \$20 million. In the next phase, which will take about two years to construct, the Theme Park

and the Sportsplex will be built. When finished, the theme park will have five roller coasters.

A new Best Western hotel is nearing completion.

The new park, when complete, is expected to provide 300 jobs.



Citizenship Workshop,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

report) if you have moving violations in past 5 years  
· Information about your current marriage and previous marriages:  
Current spouse's full legal name, current address, date of birth, date of marriage, A# (if any). If your current spouse is a US citizen, bring date of citizenship certificate. If you or your current spouse were previously married, bring date of all previous marriages, date marriage(s) ended, and

how marriage ended (divorce/death/annulment papers).  
· List of residence addresses and employment and/or school addresses for the past five years, including with start and end dates.  
· List of all your trips out of the United States including departure and return dates during the last 5 years.  
· List of all your children: their full name, dates of

birth, residency cards A#, and addresses.  
· Documentation of all arrests and/or convictions, including reason for the arrest, date, place, and outcome/disposition. Bring ALL arrest and court documents, even if the charges were dropped.

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT



OPINION PAGE

DPS Reminder:  
Skip the trip to DL offices  
during busy summer months

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding residents that many customers can skip the trip to a driver license (DL) office altogether, which is especially convenient during the busy summer months. Most residents who are eligible to skip the trip are not taking advantage of the option to quickly renew their Texas DL or identification (ID) card online (or by phone). Address changes can also be taken care of online (or by mail) in many instances. Find out if you are eligible to renew online by visiting Texas.gov.

“Summer is one of the busiest times at Texas driver license offices, but taking advantage of technology options can save you time,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “If you qualify for online renewal, you can skip the trip to an office altogether. However, if you must go to an office in person, we encourage residents to visit a high-capacity Mega Center or to ‘get in line’ remotely before heading to the DL office, if those options are available.”

High-capacity DL Mega Centers are primarily available in major metropolitan areas. In addition, many offices across the state also leverage a queuing system that offers customers the convenient option of reserving a spot in line through the DPS website, by mobile phone or a landline before going to the office. For a list of the high-capacity Mega Centers, as well as the offices that offer the “Get in Line, Online” feature, visit <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/renewal.htm>. Another underutilized

option available to customers who are required to make an office visit is renewing their DL or ID card early, which allows customers to choose a convenient time that best fits their schedule, and potentially avoid the busiest times at DL offices. Did you know you can renew up to two years in advance of the expiration date on your current card if you go into an office, or up to one year in advance if you are renewing online? The new expiration date will remain the same – even if you renew early. Visit the DPS website to make sure you have the proper paperwork (including documents needed for residency requirements) before making a trip to the office.

To be eligible to renew online, the cardholder must be a U.S. citizen and the expiration date on the card must be within one year. Additionally, in order to renew online, the card cannot have been expired for more than two years. Requirements for renewing online are available at Texas.gov, the official website of the State of Texas. Customers can also renew by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW (1-866-357-3639). The eligibility requirements for phone and online renewal are the same. The fee is the same for online, in-person and telephone renewals. Licenses must be renewed in person every 12 years, so a new photo can be taken and eyesight can be tested.

Customers may obtain a replacement DL or ID card online, if they are able to provide the 20-character code on the front of their current license or card.

An American  
Classic At Work

(NAPSI)—If you’ve ever served in the military, worked for the federal government, signed a visitors log in a federal building, or addressed a letter at a post office, chances are you’ve had your hands on an American classic.

That’s because you’ve probably used a SKIL-CRAFT® U.S. Government Pen. It’s really something to write home about. In fact, the pen can write continuously for a mile and in temperatures up to 160 degrees and down to 40 degrees below zero.

It all started 50 years ago, when National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and its associated nonprofit agencies met the government’s challenge of producing a jaw-dropping 70 million retractable ballpoint pens according to rigorous specifications.

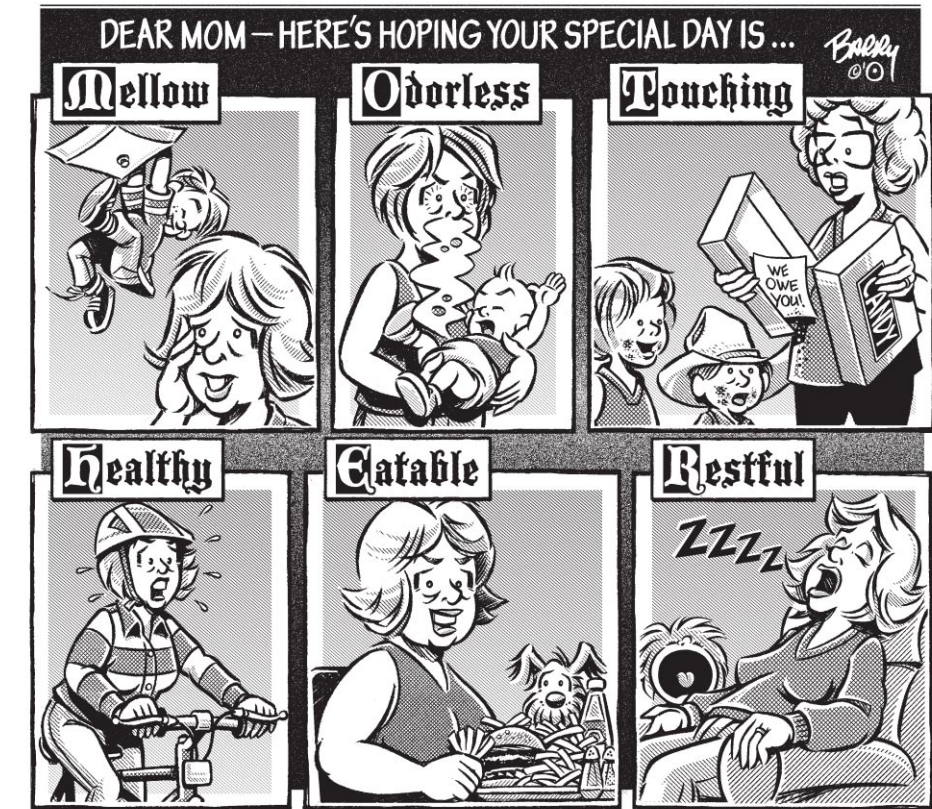
Today, manufacturing the pen sustains employment for more than 100 people who are blind at three NIB associated nonprofit agencies: AlphaPointe in Kansas City, Missouri; Industries for the Blind in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Industries of the Blind in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the pen

project was and remains the fact that this outstanding quality writing instrument is produced by people who are blind working at NIB associated agencies. The quality of the pen they produce has shifted perceptions about the capabilities of people who are blind and led to new products introduced over the decades. More than just a writing instrument, the pen symbolizes the strength of American manufacturing and the nearly limitless capabilities of people who are blind.

Today, people who are blind working at NIB associated agencies produce more than 7,000 different products for the federal government, including office supplies, cleaning supplies, hardware and paints, and a wide range of products to equip the U.S. military, such as uniforms, bedding and protective equipment.

Since 1938, NIB has focused on enhancing the opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment. NIB and its network of associated nonprofit agencies are the nation’s largest employer of people who are blind.



Abbott urges local officials  
to apply for Harvey funds

AUSTIN — Mayors, county judges and emergency management officials in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey received letters last week from Gov. Greg Abbott, urging them to take advantage of available funding.

Some \$500 million in funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are available now, Abbott said. These funds are in addition to the more than \$10 billion in Community Development Block Grant funds approved by Congress and awarded to Texas earlier this year.

“The hazard mitigation funds available today can provide immediate relief and resiliency to your community,” Abbott wrote. “As of today, the Texas Department of Emergency Management has received only seven complete applications from the entire region impacted by Hurricane Harvey. That means hundreds of millions of dollars that are available to Texas communities today are not being put to use.”

Abbott reminded the officials that local governments would not be obligated to pay the typical 25 percent local cost share for hazard mitigation grants and that \$600 million of additional hazard mitigation funds will become available in four months.

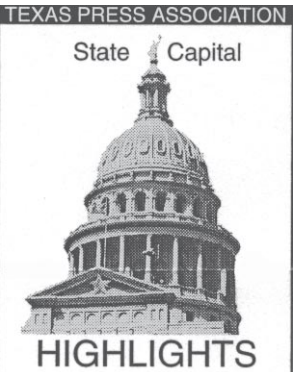
Hazard mitigation funds can be used for purposes such as:

- Buyouts and elevations of flood-prone properties;
- Drainage and reservoir projects that eliminate future flooding;
- Projects to lessen the frequency or severity of flooding;
- Flood risk reduction projects such as dams, retention basins, levees and flood walls; and
- Large-scale channeling of waterways.

Chiefs support  
proposal

The Texas Railroad Commission on April 26 joined the Texas Commission on Environmental

STATE CAPITAL  
HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling



Quality and the Public Utility Commission of Texas in submitting comments on a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan adopted under the Obama administration in 2015.

A letter signed by the executive directors of the three state agencies supports the EPA’s proposed repeal of “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Electric Utility Generating Units,” known as the Clean Power Plan.

On April 27, Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sent a joint letter to the EPA, praising its plan to repeal the plan. They said it “failed to produce evidence of greenhouse gases dangerous enough to necessitate federal regulation.”

Abbott says pay  
for it

Gov. Abbott on April 25 sent a letter to former U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold of Corpus Christi, demanding that he cover costs for an upcoming emergency special election for the 27th Congressional District of Texas.

Abbott ordered the election to fill the seat made vacant by Farenthold’s recent resignation.

“While you have publicly offered to reimburse the \$84,000 in taxpayer funds you wrongly used to settle

a sexual harassment claim, there is no legal recourse requiring you to give that money back to Congress,” Abbott wrote. “I am urging you to give those funds back to the counties in your district to cover the costs of the June 30, 2018, special election. This seat must be filled, and the counties and taxpayers in the 27th Congressional District should not again pay the price for your actions,” Abbott added.

Farenthold, whose tenure in U.S. House began in January 2011, resigned from office effective April 6.

Paxton welcomes  
ruling

Attorney General Paxton on April 27 applauded a 2-1 ruling by a three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit that upholds Senate Bill 5, Texas’ voter ID law.

“The court rightly recognized that when the Legislature passed Senate Bill 5 last session, it complied with every change the 5th Circuit ordered to the original voter ID law,” Attorney General Paxton said. “Safeguarding the integrity of our elections is essential to preserving our democracy. The revised voter ID law removes any burden on voters who cannot obtain a photo ID.”

SB 5 allows registered voters without one of the seven state-approved forms of photo identification to cast an in-person ballot by signing a sworn declaration of reasonable impediment stating why they could not obtain photo ID.

May is awareness  
month

The Texas Department of Transportation’s “Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles” campaign is urging drivers to watch for motorcycles, as crashes killed 501 and seriously injured another 2,101 motorcyclists in Texas last year.

TxDOT’s campaign is part of National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May.

“Nobody wants to take a life in a crash or lose a loved one,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Motorcycles are small, they’re hard to see, and it can be difficult to judge their speed and distance. That’s why it’s critical that drivers take extra precautions to look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections.”

Home  
Country  
Slim  
Randles

It was like buzzards circling the body.

The Jones kid, Randy, was out in the Mule Barn parking lot with the hood up on his car. He was staring down into it the way a first-time parachutist would look out the airplane door. You never quite knew for sure what lay ahead.

“Looks like Randy’s got problems,” said Steve.

“Let’s have a look,” said Dud.

So coffee was left to get cold and the entire Supreme Court of All Things Mechanical – Steve, Dud, Doc, Herb and Dewey – trooped out to see what was going on.

They formed a powerful semi-circle of wisdom around the youth and his engine with folded arms and facial expressions that said, “It’s okay, Kid. We’re here.”

Dewey spoke first. “Having trouble, Randy?”

“Won’t start.”

Doc, who has the most initials after his name, said, “Give it a try.”

Randy ground the engine, but it wouldn’t kick over.

“Stop! Stop!” Doc yelled. “Don’t want to flood it.”

All Doc knows about flooding is that the animals went on board, two by two.

“Randy, I think it’s the solenoid,” said Steve, looking wise.

“Doesn’t have one, Steve,” Randy said.

“Sure it does. All cars have solenoids.”

“Not the new ones. Haven’t made solenoids in years.”

Steve’s expression said, “Young punks, what do they know?” But his voice said, “Well, what do you know about that?”

“Need a jump?” Dewey asked.

“Got plenty of spark,” Randy said.

Randy looked at the older men and then bent to the engine and smiled. His voice came floating up over the radiator. “Might be the junction fibrillator. Or it could be a malfunction of the Johnson switch. If I rerun the wire from the organ housing to the pump by-pass, that might get it done.”

When Randy looked up, all the men had gone back in for coffee. He smiled and called Triple A on his cell phone.

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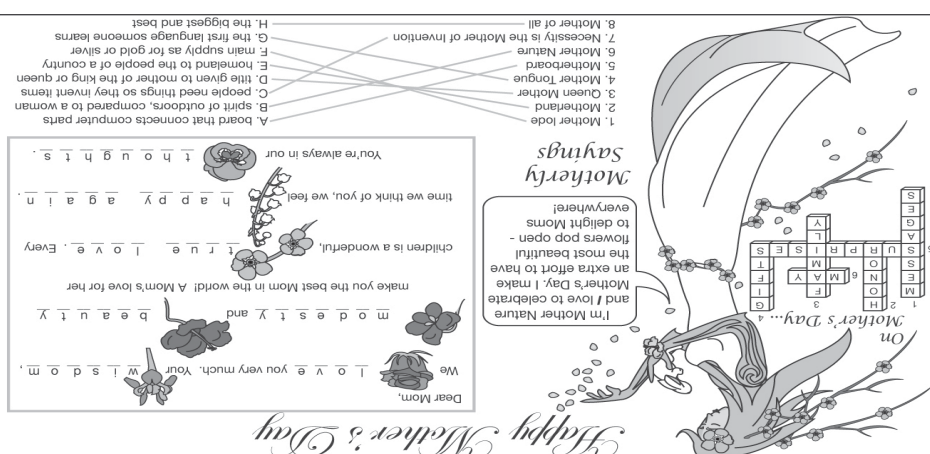
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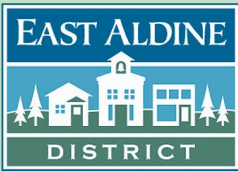


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*In their streets they have girded  
themselves with sackcloth; on  
their housetops and in their  
squares everyone is wailing,  
dissolved in tears. Heshbon and  
Elealeh also cry out, their voice is  
heard all the way to Jahaz; therefore the armed men of Moab  
cry aloud; his soul trembles within him. ISAIAH 15:3,4*

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