

NORTHEAST NEWS

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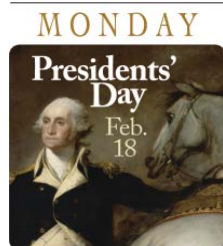
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NEWS NOTES

Nutrition Classes

Harris County Public Health presents Nutrition classes. Learn how to make delicious, healthy, and easy recipes. 4-session course. Some of the topics covered include: myplate, proteins, dairy, whole grains.

Join Harris County Public Health every Thursday starting March 14 - April 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Harris County Emergency Corps located at 2800 Aldine Bender Rd., Houston, TX 77032.

Each interactive lesson held will be taught by health professionals and nutrition experts.

Green Forest Civic Club Meeting

The next meeting will be Tues. 02/26/19, 6:30pm at the American Legion Hall, 3415 Aldine-Mail Rte. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Marina Flores Sugg at 281-684-9751.

East Aldine progress report on the Town Center development



AERIAL VIEW of the new East Aldine Town Center as taken by a drone. Aldine Mail Route is in the foreground, Keith Wiess Park beyond, and on the horizon downtown Houston. The center includes the Harris County 9-1-1 Call Center, at left, the BakerRipley complex at the center, and the Lone Star College-North Harris campus at right, with an Aldine ISD early college program. The cleared land at left will be a commercial development, including a Joe V's supermarket. The land beyond BakerRipley will have new offices for the East Aldine District, and a public amphitheater and children's park. (Photo by ev1). READ MORE ON PAGE 8.

Harris County Judge Linda Hidalgo launches Civic Engagement Plan

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas - Last weekend Judge Linda Hidalgo kicked off the first Civic Saturday event as part of "Talking Transition: Harris County", a program designed to promote the public's involvement in shaping the county's future.

Talking Transition: Harris County

This initiative of the newly-elect Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo will bring together thousands of Harris County residents from all walks of life to

See Civic Engagement, Page 8

Harris County Public Health confirms three measles cases in Harris County

Health authorities recommends individuals to get protected through vaccination

HOUSTON - Harris County Public Health (HCPH) confirms three measles cases in Harris County. The patients, whose identities will remain confidential, are two boys (under the age of 2) and a 25 - 35 year-old woman. All three patients reside in northwest Harris County.

"Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus, which spreads to others through coughing and sneezing," said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director for HCPH. "However, it is easily preventable. Parents and caregivers have the power to protect their children and themselves from this disease by getting vaccinated."

The last confirmed report of a measles case in Harris County was by the City of Houston in 2018. This year, there are currently six confirmed reports of measles cases in the state of Texas.

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children. Measles is an airborne virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms of measles are a high fever, runny nose, cough, red, watery eyes and sore throat that is followed by a rash breakout 3-5 days after symptoms begin.

Measles is highly contagious, and if one person has it, 9 out of 10 people around that person will also become infected if they're not yet vaccinated. About 1 out of 4 people who

get measles will be hospitalized. Measles is prevented through the combination MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children get two doses in order to be fully protected:

- The first dose at 12 through 15 months of age
- The second dose at 4 through 6 years of age

The best way to protect yourself and your family against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases is by immunization. HCPH encourages individuals to contact their health care provider if they show signs and symptoms of measles. For a list of recommended vaccines, please visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/ or speak to your health care provider.

MetroNext Meetings lead to new transit plan

New lines to Airports included

METRO is working on the development of a regional transit plan, MetroNext, that will identify major capital investments and other improvements needed to meet the mobility challenges of the next 20 years. As part of this process, METRO held a series of community open houses to give the public an opportunity to share ideas on future transit needs throughout the Houston region. The results of that public input are the foundation for a draft "Moving Forward" plan that they want to get your input on.

In addition to expanded park-and-ride service, METRO is also looking for better public transit access to both major Houston airports.

The MetroNext plan proposes an I-45 North Bus Rapid Transport line downtown to George Bush

Intercontinental Airport, which would provide station-to-station service similar to a Light Rail Transit system, while accommodating multiple routes. The plan also includes two proposed Light Rail Transit route extensions to William P. Hobby Airport.

If you didn't attend one of these meetings, there will be additional opportunities to learn about METRONext through online meetings and telephone townhalls.

Visit METRONEXT.org for updates on upcoming meetings and activities, and to submit your ideas.



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Opens WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13
* **HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U** (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35

MISS BALA (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm
MISS BALA (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed;
GLASS (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm
THE UPSIDE (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:45pm, 5:45pm, 8:45pm
ESCAPE ROOM (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 2:45pm
AQUAMAN (PG-13) - 4:00pm
* **AQUAMAN 3D (PG-13)** - 12:30pm, 7:30pm
BUMBLEBEE (PG-13) - 3:35pm, 9:15pm
* **BUMBLEBEE in 3D (PG-13)** - 1:00pm, 6:30pm
THE MULE (R) - 12:20pm, 3:25pm, 6:25pm, 9:10pm
SPIDER-MAN: Into the Spider-Verse (PG) - 12:40pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm
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Capt. Ken Melancon
District II

SCHOOL NEWS

Eisenhower High School hosts Options Fair for eighth graders



Eisenhower HS IB@ students share their experience in the program with current eighth-grade students.

It may be the spring semester, but Eisenhower High School administrators are already looking at the 2019-2020 school year. Aquilla Aubrey, the administrator of college initiatives at Eisenhower HS, coordinated the event that took place January 25.

Students from Drew Academy, Garcia Middle School, Hoffman MS, and Shotwell MS explored a variety of options to consider such as career and technical education (CTE) programs, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and iASPIRE.

- CTE Programs @ Eisenhower HS
- Engineering
 - Pharmacy tech
 - Health science
 - Culinary arts
 - Welding
 - Agriculture (Future Farmers of America (FFA))
 - Fashion Merchandising & Design

iASPIRE College-Readiness Initiative

The future Eagles also learned about iASPIRE and International Baccalaureate (IB@) Diploma Program. iASPIRE is a college-readiness initiative that begins freshman year. All iASPIRE classes are held at the senior campus. The main goal is to prepare

students to succeed in college. According to Aubrey, most of the students that take part in the iASPIRE program are the first in their families to attend college. In the iASPIRE class, there is a strong focus on academics, time management, critical thinking, organization, and community service. Students in iASPIRE begin to apply for scholarship opportunities as a freshman and continue through their senior year. Current eighth graders at the middle schools that feed into Eisenhower can apply now to be admitted into the iASPIRE program.

Eisenhower HS — World IB @ School

Aldine ISD offers the entire International Baccalaureate@ (IB@) continuum — Primary Years Program, Middle Years Program, and Diploma Program. The IB program provides a globally respected and highly recognized curriculum. The rigorous program challenges students to excel not only in their studies but also their personal growth. The District offers the IB@ Diploma Program at Eisenhower HS. This is a globally recognized hon-

ors curriculum. Many colleges and universities award credit upon exam results. During Bobby Mansour's presentation, he noted that the IB@ students present at the event were in the top 10 of their class. Mansour is the IB@ program coordinator at the campus.

Class of 2019 Inspires the Class of 2022

The eighth-graders got to hear from Ike students who shared how they benefitted from the various options Eisenhower HS offered.

One student, Hunena Badat, entered at Eisenhower HS under the iASPIRE program and completed the IB@ Diploma Program. She is the valedictorian of the Class of 2020. Badat recently received a full-ride scholarship to attend Rice University. Hunena intends to major in computer science.

Before the event ended, the staff lauded Aubrey for her work with college initiatives at Eisenhower HS.

If you have questions about college initiative programs at Eisenhower HS, contact Aubrey at (281) 878-0900 or via email at aaubrey@aldineisd.org.

Lone Star College receives grant to help address skilled workforce shortage



Lone Star College was awarded a \$968,537 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to help train and hire employees for Daikin Industries. Pictured (left to right) are Chris DeVault, Goodman Manufacturing vice president Human Resources; Paul Long, Daikin Industries director Learning & Development; Terrance Lindsey, Daikin Industries; Kristi Pittman, Daikin Industries vice president Human Resources; Ruth Hughs, Texas Workforce Commission chair and commissioner; Dr. Alton Smith, Lone Star College chair Board of Trustees; and Dr. Stephen C. Head, Lone Star College chancellor.

HOUSTON (Feb. 5, 2019) – Lone Star College has been awarded a \$968,537 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to focus on the skilled workforce shortage. The grant will be used to help Daikin Industries train 415 current employees and hire an additional 115 employees.

“Lone Star College is one of the leaders in workforce training and we understand the importance and impact our training has on the local economy,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “This relationship with Daikin Industries is very important to us.”

Daikin is the World's No. 1 air conditioning company and operates the Daikin Texas Technology Park, a major factory and office in Waller.

“The Texas Workforce Commission is working hard to invest in students to help fill these important jobs and put them on a solid career path,” said Ruth Hughs, TWC, chair and Commissioner Representing Employers. “We are truly excited to support this program.”

U.S. manufacturers like Daikin rely on Mechatronic Technicians who are

trained to work with equipment integrating electronics, mechanics, pneumatics, hydraulics and computer controls. LSC students are taught the skills necessary to earn a Mechatronics Pre-Apprentice Fast-track Certificate which provides training that relates to the design of systems, devices and products aimed at achieving an optimal balance between basic mechanical structure and its overall control.

“It's been a wonderful relationship over the last two years,” said Paul Long, Daikin Industries director Learning and Development. “We would not be where we are today without this collaboration.”

The partnership takes place with Lone Star Corporate College, which works with global corporations to provide customized training, open enrollment courses and professional seminars. It focuses on the energy, computer technology and advanced manufacturing sectors, but also provides training for retail, hospitality, school districts, health care organizations, nonprofits and many other industries.

“Lone Star College is one of the few colleges in America to have a Corporate College,” said Head.

Notable attendees at the ceremony included Dr. Alton Smith, Lone Star College Board of Trustees chair; Dr. Seelva Keshvala, LSC-CyFair president; Dr. Gerald Napoles, LSC-North Harris president; Chris DeVault, Goodman Manufacturing vice president Human Resources; Paul Long, Daikin Industries director Learning & Development; Terrance Lindsey, Daikin Industries; Kristi Pittman, Daikin Industries, vice president Human Resources; and Dr. Stephen Head, LSC chancellor.

The TWC projects Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R) jobs growing 28 percent from 2016 to 2020. The HVAC-R industry continues to experience increased demand from commercial construction projects and residential building in both urban and suburban areas of Texas. LSC also provides training that allows students to earn an HVAC-R Associate of Applied Science Degree to meet this growing demand.

Gold Medal Winner at Hambrick Middle School

Congratulations to Diego Morena on his accomplishments this weekend. Diego, who is a 7th grade student at Hambrick Middle School, participated in the Special Olympics the weekend of February 2 in Austin, Texas. His skill in the sport of bowling was on full display as he took home 2 Gold Medals in the sport. Diego was ecstatic about his win and shared his excitement with Principal Dr. Rebecca Sanford when he returned to school.



Aldine ISD to Celebrate ‘Go Texan Day’ on February 22

Show off your Lone Star pride and support of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, which starts Feb. 25.

District leaders invite staff, students and parents to celebrate Go Texan Day on Friday, February 22, by dressing up in their best Western outfit.

Go Texan Day has been a tradition since the 1950s and is celebrated across Houston each year the Friday before the rodeo parade. The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (HLSR) opens Monday, Feb. 25 and runs through March 17. Rodeo Houston, which attracts more than two million visitors each year, is one of the largest rodeos in the U.S.

By taking part in Go Texan Day, Aldine ISD is recognizing HLSR's significant contributions to AISD students and public education in Texas. In November 2018, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo officials approved an edu-



This AISD student is ready for Go Texan Day!

cati- onal commitment of \$27,174,610 to support Texas youth and statewide educational programs in 2019. A majority of the funds will be administered through more than 800 scholarships valued at

\$14,286,000. Take the opportunity to celebrate our Western heritage on Go Texan Day! Wear your best cowboy boots, jeans, hats and all things that represent the rodeo.

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

COMMUNITY NEWS

Judge Linda Hidalgo responds to Governor's Property Tax Bill

Issues letter urging State Senators to consider impact of restricting county funds

HARRIS COUNTY, TX — In a letter to members of the Senate Committee on Property Tax, Judge Lina Hidalgo rejected Governor Greg Abbott's revenue cap saying that the proposed legislation puts Harris County's storm recovery and preparedness at risk.

"My first priority is to keep Harris County resi-

dents safe. We are at a critical juncture in our road to recovery. This legislation is short-sighted and represents a setback to those efforts," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

By declaring property tax reform a state-wide priority, the Governor effectively fast-tracked the legislation which is now up for Senate consideration on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. This proposal has the potential to severely limit

Harris County's ability to keep residents safe and plan for the future.

"Our constituents care deeply about their property taxes, but this proposal will not lower their taxes. County taxes are one of the smallest portions of a resident's property tax bill. If we are unable to keep up with our growing population we will have to make difficult choices about the basic services we provide," added Judge Hidalgo.

Funds approved for additional flood response equipment

HOUSTON— Mayor Sylvester Turner and Houston City Council Members approved \$383 thousand to purchase emergency water rescue equipment for the Houston Fire Department.

"The administration is committed to acquiring the equipment needed by the Houston Fire Department, especially for emergency response. The assets will make firefighters' jobs easier and provide lifesaving resources for the public,"

Mayor Sylvester Turner said.

This award consists of equipment (dry suits, rescuer vests, boots, throw bags, safety glasses and other types of emergency water rescue equipment) to be used by the department's water strike and technical rescue teams to respond to flood events that occur citywide.

"I appreciate Mayor Turner and City Council's support in funding this latest round of equipment for

HFD," said HFD Fire Chief Sam Peña. "This budgetary approval, along with previous general fund allocations, represents the most significant investment in flood response assets in years. It will allow us to provide critical training, allow us to replace outdated equipment, acquire additional resources and better prepare for the anticipated risk in our community. In short, our city and our members will be safer."

Sales Tax Revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in January

(AUSTIN) — February 4, 2019 — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in January, 6 percent more than in January 2018.

"The growth in sales tax collections was primarily due to continued strong spending in oil- and gas-related sectors," Hegar said. "Remittances from restaurants also grew, while those from retail trade were flat relative to a year ago."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January 2019 was up 6.1 percent compared to the same period a year ago. The sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

In January 2019, Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- oil production taxes — \$274.5 million, down 3.3 percent from January

2018, the first such decline since December 2016. Also, monthly oil production tax revenues were the lowest since December 2017;

- natural gas production taxes — \$152.9 million, up 24.3 percent from January 2018;
- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$425.7 million, down 0.5 percent from January 2018; and
- motor fuel taxes — \$305.1 million, up 0.2 percent from January 2018.

North Houston District's infrastructure connects area businesses to worldwide clientele

International and national companies have numerous reasons to locate in the North Houston District, including its excellent transportation infrastructure that provides proximity to Bush Intercontinental Airport, area roads/ freeways and the Port of Houston.

The technology infrastructure is also a major asset in the North Houston District, which is at the crossroads of the region's fiber optic network. More than a dozen long-haul and last-mile carriers have available fiber optic cable here. This reliable connectivity is an important reason why several data companies, such as Digital Realty, Sungard AS, IBM Cloud (formerly Softlayer) and Data Foundry, can serve their worldwide clients from the North Houston District.

Data Foundry is an Austin-based company that offers wholesale and retail data center space and provides internet connection services. In 2013, it bought an 18-acre tract in the

Greens Crossing quadrant that gave it abundant real estate to construct a 350,000-square-foot purpose-built data center called Houston 2 with room for expansion.

According to Will Yokubaitis, Data Foundry's Vice President of Marketing, the company chose the North Houston District in part because of the technology infrastructure. "We moved to the area because it is fiber-rich and allows us to deliver 14-plus network carriers into our data center to create a competitive marketplace for network connectivity for our customers. Greenspoint also gives us reliable power with access to dual underground power feeds and underground power distribution," he said.

The reliability of the District's power and connectivity infrastructure has helped Data Foundry to expand its facilities.

"Our business is growing, and so is our data center. We're finishing out an additional 3,000 square feet of office space within

Houston 2, as we already filled up all of our current client leased office space," Yokubaitis said. "This space is scheduled to be ready by the end of Spring 2019. We are also starting construction on our second data hall in Houston 2, adding approximately five megawatts of power capacity and 25,000 square feet of space."

Data Foundry appreciates another unique aspect of the North Houston District, one that is important considering Houston's potential weather issues. "The site we chose sits above the 500-year floodplain, and we elevated the data center an additional three feet for safe measures. During Hurricane Harvey, our data center stayed dry, which allowed us to remain online without any incidences or outages," Yokubaitis said.

The success of Data Foundry and other companies in the North Houston District prove its infrastructure and location make it an excellent place to do business.

Rep. Walle: Tom Brokaw doesn't know what it means to be an American

HOUSTON, Texas — Feb. 1, 2019 — State Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston, at the State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

Photo: Erich Schlegel, Freelance / For the Chronicle

OPINION
By State Rep. Armando Walle



I was born and raised in North Houston, and I can still speak Spanish fluently. My kids, who live near the same neighborhoods where I grew up, can barely speak the native tongue of my grandparents. By Tom Brokaw's notions of being American, my kids are doing a much better job of assimilating than I.

On "Meet the Press" this past Sunday, he remarked that Latinos needed to "work harder at assimilation" and that children needed to learn to speak English. At best, these were xenophobic comments of a respected, but out of touch, semi-retired journalist ill-equipped to talk about a complex issue. At worst, the comments are a window into deeper prejudice and a fundamental misunderstanding of what it means to be an American.

Patriotism isn't tied to what language we speak. By Brokaw's notions of being American, I suspect if he heard me ordering food in Spanish to a waitress at Alma Latina on Aldine Mail Route in Houston, he would just assume I was one of those people he imagines stayed in their neighborhood of brown people and never learned English — when in fact I'm a six-term state representative.

Latinos like me know well that English proficiency has never been a safeguard against discrimination or racism; it has never been enough to satisfy racists.

There are millions of other Latinos and members of other immigrant groups who are unmistakably assimilated by Brokaw's standards — yet they are regarded as "un-American" by the simple act of donning a traditional garment of another country. Or by cooking unfamiliar foods from unfamiliar places. Or by playing music of lands a hemisphere away. Or, yes,

by speaking another language in public.

If that's all it takes for Brokaw or other like-minded folks to assess me or my fellow immigrant community members as un-American, then I'd suggest their notions of America are narrow and lacking the context of the contributions that immigrants made throughout American history and are still making to contemporary American culture.

Whatever may explain Brokaw's words, they carry the implication that assimilating is the only way to be American, which speaks to an outdated understanding of American society. America's notions of a "melting pot" society are utopian ideas of a society that accepts cultural diversity only if it is appropriately watered down.

Assimilation is little more than a synonym for conformity, which clashes with Americans' core value of individualism. Rather than a "melting pot," it might be more appropriate to say that America is a "salad bowl" in which the ingredients are mixed up but necessarily distinct. It is the many cultures under the American umbrella that teach us the value of different cuisines, languages and celebrations. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, and that is our greatest asset. There is nothing that makes you feel quite as American as seeing an authentic Mexican restaurant right next door to the city's best pho spot.

It's not just misconceptions of American values that Brokaw misunderstands. The children of Latino immigrants are learning to speak English. A study conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine expert panel in 2015 which showed that second-generation immi-

grants are reaching English language proficiency at rates just as fast as any other period of migration into the United States. In fact, the same publication cited studies showing that even in the most highly concentrated communities of Spanish-speakers in Southern California, transition to English dominance was all but complete by the third generation, with only 4 percent still speaking Spanish at home.

By some, immigrant cultures are considered invasive to the American way of life — the fear of the weeds overtaking the garden. Unfortunately, Brokaw's idea of assimilation is the one America operates on so the pressure on immigrant communities to abandon their cultural identities is high. America's history with "assimilation" has functioned as a mechanism of oppression and we must change the rhetoric so immigrants and their children don't feel like they have to erase all traces of their cultural identities to be considered American.

The influence of immigrants is in fact a cornerstone of American culture. It seems to me that it is time to retire an idea implicit in many people's idea of Americanism: The subjugation of a native culture to the dominant culture. Instead, America should be a nation that welcomes the way it is enriched by immigrants' biculturalism.

After all, I can't think of anything more American than eating chips and guacamole with brisket tacos while rooting against the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl this Sunday.

Walle is serving his sixth term in the Texas House representing District 140, which includes northern portions of the city of Houston and unincorporated Harris County.

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By REP. DAN CRENSHAW



Salary Act of 2019

WASHINGTON, DC – January 29, 2019 – In response to the recent shutdown, Congressman Dan Crenshaw joined Congressmen Jared Golden (ME-02) and Max Rose (NY-11) in introducing the Solidarity in Salary Act of 2019. The bill, which is the first piece of legislation Crenshaw has introduced in Congress, would withhold the salaries of the president, vice president, and members of Congress for the entirety of a government shutdown. The legislation would ensure that those members of the federal government feel the same pain and uncertainty that our federal employees face during a shutdown.

“Federal employees should never have to carry the burden caused by a dysfunctional government; that’s why I’m proud to cosponsor this legislation,” said Crenshaw. “When a Congressional impasse causes federal employees to go unpaid, the President, Vice President and Members of Congress should have to withhold their pay. We should have to feel the very real effects of a shutdown, just as our fellow federal

employees are forced to do.”

“Federal workers don’t get paid during a government shutdown. Neither should politicians,” said Golden. “That’s just common sense. Our bill, the Solidarity in Salary Act withholds paychecks from the members of Congress, the President, and the Vice President during a shutdown. This legislation will help prevent the American people from being political pawns for party leaders and help return sanity to the task of funding the government. I thank Representatives Crenshaw and Rose for joining me to offer this important legislation.”

“Only in a town as broken as Washington do you still get paid when you don’t do your job,” said Rose. “That’s wrong, and it’s past time to make it right.”

The Solidarity in Salary Act of 2019 places the daily pay of the president, vice president, and members of Congress in escrow for each day a government shutdown was in effect. Once the government is reopened, the withheld pay is released.



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Social Security for couple with large age difference

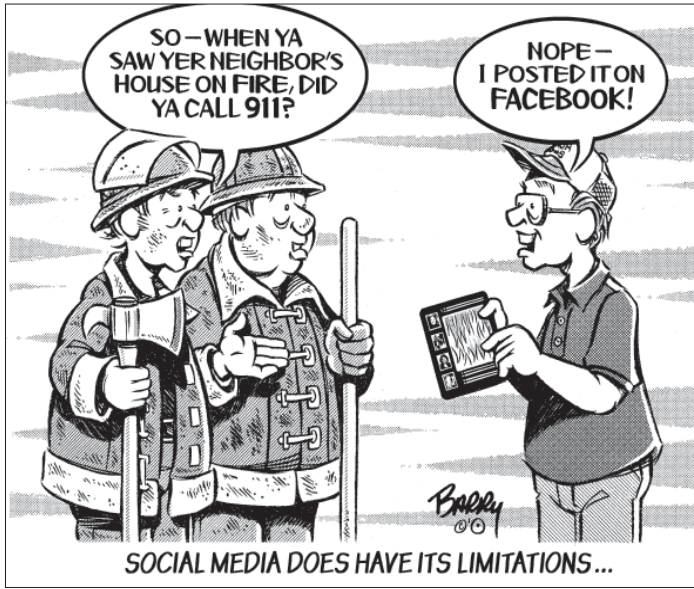
Dear Rusty: My wife is 63 and I’m 55. I’ve been the breadwinner for 37 years and draw almost \$2000 per month tax free from VA disability for life. I’m also still working until I’m 60 or 62, not sure yet, and will have a pension of about \$1900 per month. We have about \$300k put away in retirement accounts. Since I still have a few years I haven’t really looked much into retirement. Is there anything you can recommend on how to go about Social Security with the age difference? Signed: Younger Husband

Dear Younger: With your VA disability benefit, your expected pension from work, your savings and your eventual Social Security benefit you are positioned better than many for your later retirement. You didn’t say whether your wife is already collecting Social Security benefits on her own work record, and that can be a factor in deciding when you should apply. This is because (from what you’ve told me) your wife will eventually be entitled to spousal benefits from your record. To start, please note that your wife’s full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 2 months, while your full retirement age is 67. Your full retirement age is when you get 100% of what you have earned from a lifetime of working, but if you claim benefits earlier than your FRA, they will be reduced and if you wait beyond your FRA you can earn more. When to claim your Social Security should always take several things into account – your health, your current (and future) financial needs and your expected longevity. You cannot claim your Social Security until you are at least 62 years of age, but if you claim at 62 you will incur a 30% cut in the benefit you would be entitled to at age 67, and that is a permanent reduction.

Assuming your wife will be eligible for a spousal benefit from your record, since she will have reached her FRA whenever you

claim benefits she can get up to 50% of the benefit amount you are due at your full retirement age. But if she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA, her spousal benefit will be somewhat reduced. Your wife cannot get her spousal benefit until you start collecting your Social Security so that may be a factor influencing the decision of when you should apply. While that might suggest you should apply as soon as you’re eligible, you should also remember you will take a cut in benefits by claiming earlier than your FRA. You can maximize your benefit by waiting beyond your FRA to apply and earning delayed retirement credits which would yield a benefit 8% higher for each year you delay, up to age 70 when you could get 24% more than you’ll get at age 67. However, delaying would mean your wife can’t collect her spousal benefit until you start your benefits, so you should weigh the loss of her spousal benefit against the increase you get by delaying (remembering that you would get the higher benefit for the rest of your life, which is where expected longevity comes into play). And one other point: if you claim before your FRA and continue to work, you will be subject to Social Security’s annual earnings limit until you reach your FRA (exceeding the annual limit will cause Social Security to withhold some of your benefits).

So, as you can see, there are numerous considerations when it comes to deciding when you should claim your Social Security. I suggest you get a Statement of Estimated Benefits from Social Security. You can do that by contacting your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator) or by creating your personal “My Social Security” online account at www.ssa.gov. Your Statement of Estimated Benefits will show your estimated benefit at ages 62, 67 and 70, and you can evaluate which of those amounts is most beneficial, considering your financial needs, your wife’s potential spousal benefit, and your anticipated longevity.



Senate committee starts work on property tax reform

AUSTIN — Voters would have the power to prevent their local governmental bodies from increasing property taxes by more than 2.5 percent per year under legislation introduced in the Texas Senate and House on Jan. 31.

Senate Bill 2 and identical House Bill 2, both 116 pages in length, propose to amend the current law, in which local taxing authorities may increase taxes up to 8 percent each year before a rollback election would be required. Cries for relief are widespread, given the leeway current law affords and the fact that county appraisal districts may increase the value of property at the same time.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, said, “People desperately need property tax reform, our businesses need property tax reform, and we have set out, on this date, early in session, with a major piece of legislation. We are setting the tone for the rest of the session on this issue,” Patrick added.

In the introduced versions of SB 2 and HB 2, taxing authorities that bring in less than \$15 million in annual revenue would be exempt from the new requirements.

Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, chair of the Senate Property Tax Committee, said, “The vexing problem facing taxpayers is that tax bills are going up at least two or three times faster than they can handle. I think that the concept of having a two and a half percent rollback rate across the board means there’s a universal solution.”

According to the Senate News Service, local elected officials have turned out in force to oppose caps on taxing growth, saying it harms their ability to deliver on needed services in their home communities. So far, those efforts have succeeded, as similar measures have failed to reach the governor’s desk in previous sessions.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Patrick said that while he hopes local officials will work with the state on this issue, ultimately property tax reform is coming. “We have been stopped time after time in the past by a total resistance to reform,” he said. “The days of saying, ‘No, we’re going to kill the bill because we don’t want change’ . . . that day is over.”

The Senate Property Tax Committee will meet this week to discuss SB 2. House Speaker Dennis Bonnen soon will assign HB 2 to a committee. HB 2 author Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, chairs the House Ways & Means Committee, which is scheduled to meet this week.

Advisory sparks lawsuits

LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, last week filed lawsuits alleging the violation of voting rights, voter suppression and voter intimidation over an election advisory dated Jan. 25 and addressed to county voter registrars by Texas Secretary of State David Whitley.

In the advisory, Whitley informed the registrars that some 95,000 individuals identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as non-U.S. citizens have matching voter registration records in Texas. Whitley said about 58,000 of those have voted in one or more Texas elections, and that those records would be turned over to the Texas Attorney General’s office for potential legal action.

MALDEF’s lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern

District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division. LULAC’s lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio. Both civil rights organizations seek to stop the state from removing registered voters, particularly those who are naturalized, from voter rolls. MALDEF’s lawsuit names as defendants Whitley, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Gov. Greg Abbott and Galveston County Tax Assessor and Collector Cheryl E. Johnson, in their official capacities. LULAC’s lawsuit names as defendants Whitley and Paxton.

Land Office sets deadline

Hurricane Harvey survivors living in temporary housing units provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Texas General Land Office need to solidify their housing plans leading up to a Feb. 25 deadline, Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced Jan. 30.

Those who continue to meet FEMA eligibility requirements may be approved to pay rent and remain in their current temporary housing units through Aug. 25. Others may be eligible to purchase their unit. However, these programs must be approved by local officials and may not be available in all areas, according to a General Land Office news release.

Hurricane Harvey hit coastal and inland counties of Texas from late August to early September 2017, directly or indirectly causing more than 100 deaths, displacing tens of thousands of citizens and causing monetary damages estimated at \$125 billion.

Advocates Praise Governor Abbott’s Call For Property Tax Reform

AUSTIN, Texas – February 5, 2019 – Texas Association Of Builders’ Robert Wood: “The Texas Association of Builders appreciates the leadership Governor Abbott has shown on the issue of addressing the rising property tax burden on Texas homeowners.” “The Texas Association of Builders appreciates the leadership Governor Abbott has shown on the issue of addressing the rising property tax burden on Texas homeowners. We look forward to continuing our work with the Governor, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen and the members of the Senate and House to help ensure that future generations of Texans can continue to attain the American Dream of home ownership.” (Robert Wood, President, Texas Association Of Builders, 2/5/19)

Texas Association Of Business’ James Hines: “We applaud the efforts of Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Bonnen to reduce the property tax burden and improve schools. Addressing funding for schools and property tax relief will take Texas’s legendary jobs and economic climate to an even greater level. TAB stands ready to help the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker make our schools, workforce and economy stronger than ever.” (James Hines, Senior Vice President Of Government Affairs And In-House Counsel, Texas Association Of Business, 2/5/19)

Texas Retailers Association: “We applaud Governor Abbott and the state’s leadership for making both property tax reform and school finance major priorities for the 86th Legislative Session.” “The Texas Retailers Association represents all sectors and sizes of the retail industry in Texas. We applaud Governor Abbott and the state’s leadership for making both property tax reform and school finance major priorities for the 86th Legislative Session. TRA and its members depend on a business-friendly environment as well as a well-educated workforce for continued success in Texas. We understand the complex nature of these two very important issues and are committed to working with our state’s elected officials to make positive progress toward goals which are shared by our members, customers, and employees across the state.” (Texas Retailers Association, 2/5/19)

Texas Apartment Association’s Chris Newton: “The Texas Apartment Association applauds Gov. Greg Abbott’s call for more transparency and accountability in the property tax system.” “The Texas Apartment Association applauds Gov. Greg Abbott’s call for more transparency and accountability in the property tax system. Through his efforts and those of legislative leaders Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Speaker Dennis Bonnen, we are hopeful that the legislature will adopt meaningful reforms that will not only limit growth in property taxes and improve the overall valuation system but also provide more consistency and certainty.” (Chris Newton, Executive Vice President, Texas Apartment Association, 2/5/19)

Texas REALTORS® Tray Bates: “Texas REALTORS® thank Gov. Abbott for making property tax reform a priority issue for the 86th Texas Legislature.” “Texas REALTORS® thank Gov. Abbott for making property tax reform a priority issue for the 86th Texas Legislature. Texans deserve more clarity in the process that is leading to increasing tax burdens, and the Legislature must do everything in its power to ensure homeownership remains in reach of all Texans.” (Tray Bates, Chairman, Texas REALTORS®, 2/5/19)

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ENTERTAINMENT / SPORTS

Twenty-two AISD student-athletes sign national letters of intent

Twenty-two Aldine ISD student-athletes signed national letters of intent during National Signing Day ceremonies held at their respective schools on Wednesday, Feb. 6. The student-athletes signed with schools in Texas and across the

country. AISD had three sign with Division 1 schools. Eisenhower High School linebacker Tyrique Matthews signed with Texas Tech, while Davis High defensive back Reggie Ellis signed with the University of Tulsa and Davis High linebacker Jonzell Prudhomme signed with Army.

In December, Aldine High running back Jacorey Howard signed with Texas Southern University.



Two MacArthur student-athletes sign national letters of intent

Two MacArthur High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 6 during a National Signing Day ceremony held in their honor. The two who signed were Saul Hernandez, a defensive end who signed with McPherson College, and quarterback/safety Armando Ordenana who signed with Wayland Baptist University. Ordenana will also play baseball at Wayland Baptist. Pictured with the two student-athletes are MacArthur High Principal Heather Peterson, head football coach Wayne Crawford and members of the MacArthur High School athletic staff.



Seven Eisenhower student-athletes sign national letters of intent

Seven Eisenhower High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 6 during a National Signing Day ceremony held in their honor. Pictured are, front row, (l-r): athlete Deon Allen, who will sign with either Kilgore College or Navarro College, linebacker Tyrique Matthews, who signed with Texas Tech University and defensive back Robert Turner, who signed with Henderson State University. Back row, (l-r): defensive back SherWaun Butler, who signed with West Texas A&M University, Eisenhower High School Head Football Coach Eric Jackson, defensive lineman Ja'Dyn Fonteneaux, who signed with Midwestern State University, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, linebacker Allen Lino, who signed with West Texas State University, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa, offensive lineman J'onre Reed, who signed with Blinn College, Executive Director of Athletics Dre' Thompson and School Assistant Superintendent of High Schools Dr. Todd Davis.



Five Nimitz student-athletes sign national letters of intent

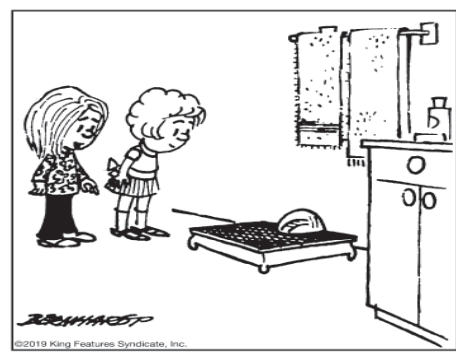
Five student-athletes at Nimitz High School signed national letters of intent during National Signing Day ceremonies held in their honor on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Pictured are, (l-r): defensive back Edwin Dearman, who signed with Northern Iowa University, defensive back Marsavious Hopkins, who signed with Bethany College (Kansas), wide receiver Anthony Johnson, who signed with Central Methodist (Missouri), wide receiver Karl Reynolds, who signed with Navarro College and wide receiver Timberland Sanders who signed with Navarro College. Pictured in the back row are, (l-r): School Assistant Superintendent of High School Dr. Todd Davis, Director of Athletic Services Salvador Fernandez, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Nimitz High Principal Dr. Crystal Watson, Executive Director of Athletics Dre' Thompson and Nimitz High Head Football Coach Richard Slater.



Seven Davis student-athletes sign national letters of intent

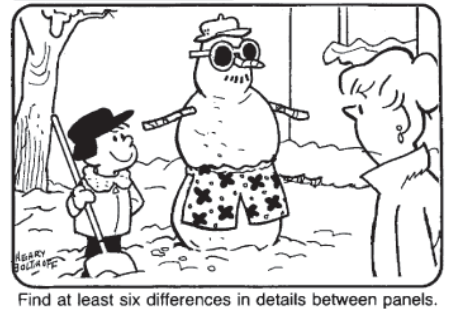
Seven Davis High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 6 during a National Signing Day ceremony at the school. Pictured are, front row, (l-r): offensive lineman Tavon Burrows, who signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville, linebacker Javian Lewis, who signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville, defensive lineman Xavier Henderson, who signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville, defensive back Xavier Bagley, who signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville, quarterback Decorie King, who signed with Texas College, defensive back Reggie Ellis, who signed with the University of Tulsa, and linebacker Jonzell Prudhomme, who signed with Army. Pictured in the back row are, (l-r): Davis High Defensive Coordinator Terence Brown, Davis High School Principal Anthony Watkins, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Aldine ISD Executive Director of Athletic Dre' Thompson and Aldine ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa.

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1 Woman has headband 2 Sunglasses are different 3 Boy's shirt has buttons 4 Tree is wider 5 Showman's arms are different 6 Boy is taller

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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50				51			52			
53				54			55			


- ACROSS
- 1 Departed
- 5 Id counterpart
- 8 Unclear view
- 12 Hebrew month
- 13 High-arc shot
- 14 Leak slowly
- 15 Wrinkly fruit
- 16 Biden, Cheney, etc.
- 17 Earth
- 18 Flood
- 20 Diner employee
- 22 Brains of the operation
- 26 Missteps
- 29 Individual
- 30 Neither mate
- 31 Apiece
- 32 Tin Man's prop
- 33 Old portico
- 34 Rd.
- 35 Nintendo console
- 36 Lost in reverie
- 37 Visa rival
- 40 Retain
- 41 Handy
- 45 Rivers or Collins
- 47 Make a choice
- 49 Oxen's onus
- 50 Doing
- 51 Pi follower
- 52 English river
- 10 Submachine gun
- 11 Kin (Abbr.)
- 19 Petrol
- 21 Raw rock
- 23 Poisonous
- 24 Midday
- 25 Small wagon
- 26 Line of fashion?
- 27 Volcanic outflow
- 28 Emulate
- Johnny Weir
- 32 Logan or LAX
- 33 Fizzy drink
- 35 Teensy
- 36 " — Doubtfire"
- 38 Barbershop quartet member
- 39 Cars
- 42 Sad
- 43 Misplace
- 44 Basin accessory
- 45 "Oklahoma!" baddie
- 46 Unclose, in verse
- 48 — Beta Kappa

CHURCH PAGE

RECENT DEATHS

Hno. Eusebio Guerrero
Martinez
Aianna Ortiz
LouEllis (Conley) Clemons
James Byron Roane

Melba Parker
Daniel Sandate
Ciriaco Alvarado Guzman
Demaree Jones



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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

We're Not Victims---

Veterans make up about one-third of the federal workforce. That means a lot of us were affected by the shutdown. Some in the mainstream press (as well as the government employees union) took that political opportunity to wring their hands about us poor veterans and how some of us might be driven to suicide because of a couple of missing paychecks. Department of

Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie was forced to address this in a terse letter to the president of the American Federation of Government Employees, telling him to stop promoting the "veteran as victim" mentality.

There are no guarantees of employment. If we're in a civilian job, they can let us go with no notice. If we're in a government job, we can be caught up in shutdowns. While most last only a few days, the one in 2013 went on for 16 days (blame the Affordable Care Act). In 1995, it was 21 days (the problem: balancing the budget). As politicians posture and snarl, we get caught in the crossfire.

However, there are ways we can take care of ourselves. Consider this a clip and save column for

how to survive a government shutdown ... or even a civilian layoff.

The best-advice financial rule is to have savings tucked away to cover six to nine months of living expenses, especially if you have a family. Do not buy that new car until you have that money. Do not buy a new anything until you have that money. Do a budget and pare it down to essentials, multiply that by six or nine, and that's how much you need to put away.

Consider taking on a part-time job, if only for a little while, and put that money in your stash.

No matter who we work for, anything can happen. Be ready.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey--

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Song of Solomon 8, what is so powerful that many waters cannot quench it? Hope, Love, Salvation, Peace
3. Thorns and what else grew from the ground that God cursed after Adam and Eve's sins? Vines, Ivy, Thistles, Weeds
4. According to Paul, in hardships Christians are "more than" what? Friends, Conquerors, Warriors, Innkeepers
5. From Luke 19, what town was home to Zacchaeus? Jericho, Tarsus, Thessalonica, Corinth
6. How many sons did Isaac have? 2, 4, 6, 8

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Love; 3) Thistles; 4) Conquerors; 5) Jericho; 6) 2 (Esau and Jacob)

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Answer

King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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		6			7		5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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2. Volkswagen
3. Daimler
4. General Motors
5. Ford Motor
6. Honda Motors
7. SAIC (China)
8. BMW
9. Nissan
10. Fiat Chrysler

* revenue, market cap
Source: MBASkoal

NatureFest Nurtures Outdoor Awareness at Jones Park

Harris County Precinct 4 invites the public to connect with nature while learning about the environment during NatureFest Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center.

More than 25 nature organizations, exhibitors, and speakers will offer family-friendly activities, including guided nature walks, pontoon boat tours, live animal exhibits, a children's catch-and-release fishing tank, crafts, and other interactive demonstrations.

Featured events include performances by the Chikawa Conroe Aztec

Dancers and the Downtown Aquarium along with a guided bird walk with local author Gary Clark and two photography walks with photographer Kathy Adams Clark. Other guided hikes will focus on pond ecology and locating wild edibles.

Participants can learn more about the natural world by visiting educational booths from exhibitors such as Mercer Botanic Gardens, Houston Zoo, Baytown Nature Center, Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens, wildlife rehabilitators, Jesse Jones Park Volunteers, and more. Discussions focusing on nature and conservation

efforts along the Spring Creek Greenway will also take place throughout the day.

With leadership from Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility located at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble. All programs are free of charge and open to the public. Jesse Jones Park Volunteers (JJPV) welcomes applications from interested participants. For more information about the park or any of the activities and programs offered, please call 281-446-8588 or visit the Jones Park website at www.hcp4.net/community/parks/jones.

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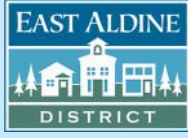
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Progress forges ahead on East Aldine Town Center



East Aldine District News Report

The \$100 million East Aldine Town Center project when complete will feature a Lone Star College campus, a Harris County 9-1-1 call center, the new home for BakerRipley Community Center (which has already been built), private commercial development, and the headquarters for the East Aldine Management District, and more importantly, it's about the community having a place to learn, visit, and enjoy.

According to Don Huml the District's Construction Manager for the development, there have been some unique challenges in getting the project off the ground. Or maybe more accurately,

getting the ground out of the way of the project.

When the 61-acre parcel was purchased in 2013, it had been serving as a site to place the extra dirt that the Harris County Flood Control District needed to excavate in order to create the detention basin (lakes) in the adjacent Keith-Wiess Park. Before construction could begin on the town center, that dirt had to be scooped up and hauled away, a task that cost millions of dollars and several years in time.

Total construction will come to approximately 250,000 sq. ft. of commercial and institutional space, of which 100,000 sq. ft. will be commercial retail and office space, 64,500 sq. ft. will belong to Lone Star College's East Aldine campus (which will include an early college high school), and 24,000 sq. ft. to the management district's offices and 23,000 for the Harris County 9-1-1 call center. The remaining 33,500 sq. ft. is allocated to BakerRipley and includes a "maker space" to assist in skill and business support for the East Aldine community.



AERIAL VIEW FROM A DRONE shows the completed BakerRipley complex at the left, the Harris County 9-1-1 Call Center at the rear, and the Lone Star College-North Harris building at the right, under construction. (ev1 photo)

In addition to the institutions the town center will be hosting, there will also be both a retail component and amenities free to the general public, such as splash pads and a central park and playground area. The project will also include a Discovery Green/Miller Outdoor Theatre-style amphitheater with a capacity for 1,500 concertgoers. Area community leaders have formed the East Aldine Arts Council, which hopes to bring visual and performing arts to the Town Center grounds and facilities.

It is possible that the town center will also become the principal gateway to Keith-Wiess Park, supplementing the existing entryway on Aldine-Westfield. A future road access into Keith-Wiess Park as well as several trail

connections are planned in order to tie these two world class properties together. A future recreational/nature center is envisioned in the park which would complete the puzzle and put this 500-acre park and town center complex on the map of the Greater Houston region.

Huml says that the retail component will be anchored by a Joe V's Smart Shop, a community oriented grocery concept operated by H-E-B, and that the town center will eventually be home to restaurants, coffee shops, and more.

David Hawes, Executive Director of the East Aldine District, reflects back on the first meetings of the Board of Directors in 2001 noting that "while the Board of Directors was committed to ad-

ressing critical infrastructure needs, they accepted his recommendation to save their money during the first several years and focus on long range planning." This was advice that would serve them well in the years ahead. It was during this period that the board adopted a Long Range Strategic Plan for programed services. The plan addressed water and sewer infrastructure development, public safety and security, community development, mobility, environmental and urban design, business and economic development, and public health and neighborhood services.

By the end of 2016, the District's 15 Year Anniversary, all of the programed services had been funded with more than \$27,000,000 in General Fund reve-

nues. Additionally, another \$43,000,000 was invested in water and sewer projects and the district finalized plans for creation of the East Aldine Town Center with a planned investment of over \$100,000,000.

Hawes states "that none of the plans that have come to fruition, would have been possible without those first critical years of planning on the part of the Board of Directors. It has been a long and wonderful journey and we want to thank everyone who have given so much to the East Aldine community to help implement the vision from those very first meetings so many years ago. As we approach the completion of the Town Center in the next several years we hope that you will continue to work with us and continue the legacy of leadership and commitment that has made the East Aldine District a place of "Unlimited Possibilities"

Civic Engagement,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have our voices heard about issues that matter to us—from the education of our children to the fairness of our justice system—to share ideas, and to collectively inform the Judge's priorities for her first year.

We all know that there are no shortage of good ideas in our communities that can help improve our schools, our hospitals, our courts, and the rest of the ways that county government affects people's lives. The goal of this initiative is to make sure that all of us who want to improve our communities understand how county government works—and how we can change it.

It's not an accident that most people don't understand the workings of government—it's not easy or accessible because that's how those who have traditionally been in power have maintained it. But that's not how it should be. We want to make county government more open and more accessible to every single one of us that has the desire to participate. In other words, we want to make Harris County live up to the idea that democracy is government by us, for us. --Harris County Judge Office

Upcoming Civic Saturdays

A series of full-day public events will take place on several consecutive Saturdays throughout the County. Each Civic Saturday will consist of:

1. A large gathering organized around a specific theme (examples include education, health, and transportation) that will give people a chance to share new ideas for improving their communities and to hear from others;

2. Smaller working

groups for people who have devoted time to specific issues to focus on how to best realize community-driven ideas through county government; and

Civic Saturday # 2

This event is free and open to the public. Let us know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Transportation, Infrastructure, and Safety**

Date: Saturday, February 16

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown 6500 Rookin St, Houston, TX 77074

Opening Town Hall - What makes a well-connected, safe, accessible, and affordable transportation network so that all Harris County residents can access opportunities?

This assembly-style session will include the entirety of the participants present and ask us to think creatively about our transportation network and what is needed to make our communities well-connected through multiple transportation options.

Breakout Session - Accessibility How does the quality of infrastructure affect mobility? What role does the county play in addressing the ability of all people – regardless of size, age, or disability – to navigate and use transportation-related infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Affordable Transportation Options: Walking, Biking, and Transit What affordable transportation op-

tions are available to me? What role does the county play in investing and building such infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Hike and Bike trails What long-distance trail options are available to me to hike and bike throughout Harris County? What are the opportunities for the county to expand this type of infrastructure?

Breakout Session - Road Safety for All How can different county departments work together to make the road safer for everyone – rollers, walkers, bikers, commercial vehicle drivers, and personal vehicle drivers?

Breakout Session - County Civics: Transportation Edition This session will provide information around transportation initiatives, including road safety, that the county is responsible for. Participants will get a better idea of funding streams, policy initiatives, and opportunities for civic engagement and participation in those programs and departments.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST 9:00 AM. PROGRAM BEGINS 9:30 AM.

Civic Saturday # 3

This event is free and open to the public. Let us know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Resilience & Flood Mitigation**

Date: Saturday, February 23

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Baytown Community Center 2407 Market St, Baytown, TX 77520

Civic Saturday # 4

This event is free and

open to the public. Let us know that you're coming by registering here!

Topic: **Children & Early Education**

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Julia C. Hester House 2020 Solo St, Houston, TX 77020

Civic Saturday # 5

Topic: **Economic Opportunity & Housing**

Date: Saturday, March 9

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: BakerRipley East Aldine 3000 Aldine Mail Rte Rd, Houston, TX 77039

Civic Saturday # 6

Topic: **Criminal Justice**

Date: Saturday, March 16

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Emancipation Center 3018 Emancipation Ave, Houston, TX 77004

Civic Saturday # 7

Topic: **Resilience & Flood Mitigation**

Date: Saturday, March 23

Time: 9:30AM - 1PM (Doors open 9AM)

Location: Magnum-Howell Center 2500 Frick Rd, Houston, TX 77038.

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