

Elderly & Disabled Housing, Page 3

# NORTHEAST NEWS

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VOL. 43, NO. 06 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## Artist's Showcase:



24x30 oil on canvas by mei hoffman  
713-977-2555 please visit: paintingsbyme.com

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## Aldine ISD holds 60th FFA Livestock Show

ALDINE – A spirited livestock auction was held last Friday night at Campbell Center. The FFA students from all five high schools held their 60th Annual Livestock Show and Sale of Champions, with sales at approximately \$180,000, down from last year's total of \$224,000.

There were 63 lots, including artwork, buckles, cakes, and the animals that the students raised all year.

The top grand champion steer was raised by Nick Cain, and sold for \$14,000. Cain also raised the GC steer last year. The buyer was First Construction Group.

Other notable sales were grand champion pig, raised by Zarius Johnson, and sold for \$9000, an increase of \$2000 over the previous year. The buyer was the Optimist Club.

The grand champion

Continued on Page 8

## 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.



The Grand Champion Steer was exhibited by Nick Cain, seen at right, and purchased by the First Construction Group for \$14,000. MORE photos on Page 8.

## Rep. Sylvia Garcia appointed to powerful House Financial Services and Judiciary Committees

By Allan Jamail



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia

January 16 – Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia of the 29th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives was recently appointed on two of the House's most influential committees.

To get appointed on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Judiciary Committee for the 116th Congress is a testament to her many accomplishments as a public servant.

"These assignments are vital to the Houston region, the State of Texas, and the nation. I've always fought for working families, and my appointments will allow me to use that experience to continue these efforts," Garcia said. "It is an honor to serve on two impactful Committees."

The Financial Services

Committee has jurisdiction over issues pertaining to the economy, consumer financial services, housing, insurance, monetary policy, and banking. The Committee also has jurisdiction

See Appointment, Page 8

## Northwood Plaza Center on Aldine Mail Rt. sold



Brixmor Property Group Inc., a New York City-based shopping center Real State Investment Trust (REIT) has purchased Northwood Plaza, a shopping center located at 5160-5420 Aldine Mail Rt. and anchored by Food City grocery store. The shopping center sits on 10.9 acres on Aldine Mail Rt and Highway 59. The 136,747 sq. ft. retail center was 91 percent leased at the time of the sale, other tenants include Melrose, Subway, Family Dollar, Pan Riko Bakery, Supreme Beauty Supply, Discount Tire, WingStop, Vision Source, Burger King, High Star Cleaner and other businesses.

## Harris County Judge Hidalgo launches community-wide survey on local government

Survey is a key component of Judge Hidalgo's signature civic engagement program, talking transition: Harris County



Harris County Judge Hidalgo

Harris County, TX - January 28, 2019 – Judge Lina Hidalgo announced today that she is launching a community-wide survey online as part of Talking Transition: Harris County, a civic engagement program designed to help shape the first year of her administration.

The first program of its kind in Harris County, Talking Transition will provide a forum for residents to discuss the issues that matter most to them,

learn about the county government and budget, and weigh in on pressing public policy matters.

See Community-Wide Survey, Page 2

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**PREMIERE CINEMAS**  
FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 2/1-2/6

Opens THURSDAY, Feb. 7

- \* LEGO MOVIE 2 (PG) 4:00 6:30 9:00 Stadium Seating
- \* COLD PURSUIT (R) 7:00 9:45
- \* THE PRODIGY (R) 7:00 9:30
- \* WHAT MEN WANT (R) 7:00 9:45

**AQUAMAN (PG-13) - 4:00pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **AQUAMAN 3D (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 7:30pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **BUMBLEBEE (PG-13) - 3:35pm, 9:15pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **BUMBLEBEE (PG-13) - 3:10pm, 8:30pm**  
SPA-Spanish Dubbed: Stadium Seating

\* **BUMBLEBEE in 3D (PG-13) - 1:00pm, 6:30pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **BUMBLEBEE in 3D (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 5:45pm**  
SPA-Spanish Dubbed: Stadium Seating

\* **SECOND ACT (PG-13) - 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **THE MULE (R) - 12:20pm, 3:25pm, 6:25pm, 9:10pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG) - 12:40pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **CREED II (PG-13) - 7:45pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) - 12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:15pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **MISS BALA (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **MISS BALA (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm**  
SPA-Spanish Dubbed: Stadium Seating

\* **The Kid Who Would Be King (PG) - 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:00pm, 9:10pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **SERENITY (R) - 1:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **GLASS (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **GLASS (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:50pm, 5:45pm, 8:45pm**  
SPA-Spanish Subtitles; Stadium Seating

\* **THE UPSIDE (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:45pm, 5:45pm, 8:45pm**  
Stadium Seating

\* **ESCAPE ROOM (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm**  
Stadium Seating

\*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 \*\*CLOSED CAPTION  
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# COMMUNITY & SCHOOL NEWS

## League of United Latin American Citizens to honor Aldine School Board Trustee Dr. Viola M. García

The Annual Scholarship Banquet Fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, February 21 at Minute Maid Park's Union Station. Contact LULAC Council 402 to purchase tickets.

In February, the League of United Latin American Citizens Council 402 will celebrate its 90th anniversary. LULAC is the oldest and most widely respected Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States.

For nearly 20 years, LULAC Council 402 celebrates by hosting a banquet that honors the accomplishments of local individuals and organizations. The proceeds from the banquet are contributed to the LULAC Council 402 scholarship program. Since 2002, the organization has provided more than \$500,000 to local graduating students that are continuing their education after high school.

Many of the scholarship recipients are the first in their families to attend college. Each year, the Scholarship Committee reviews more than 100 applications from high school and college students. Last year, LULAC Council 402 awarded \$30,000 to 48 deserving recipients.

The Annual Scholarship Banquet Fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, February 21. The banquet will take place from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Minute Maid Park's Union Station.

"I've had the good fortune to have taken advantage of great opportunities, and I urge others to stretch beyond their dreams and to do the same. I encourage our youth to maintain a curiosity for learning. They need to prepare for their



Dr. Viola M. García

future so that when the opportunity to 'step up' presents itself, they will be ready." — Dr. Viola M. García

García is one of four education and community champions to be recognized for their efforts and leadership. LULAC is honoring García for her lifetime achievement in education. The Honorable Gene Green, also well-known in the Aldine community, who after 26 years retired from Congress will be lauded at the banquet too for his public service.

Trustee García has served on the Aldine Board since 1992. During her 26 years of service, the Board has received numerous accolades including Region 4 Outstanding School Board, Texas Award for Performance Excellence from the Quality Texas Foundation, Magna Award from the American School Board Journal and Outstanding School Board Award from Texas Association of School Administrators. These awards celebrate public school professionals for their leadership and dedication as advocates for

children.

District leaders honored Dr. Viola M. García by naming a middle school in her honor in 2018. She is seen receiving a standing ovation during the dedication.

García's education activism is not limited to Aldine ISD. She is a retired faculty member of the University of Houston-Downtown. Dr. García has chaired and served on numerous committees at UH-Downtown. She has provided her expertise on a wide variety of topics ranging from academic policy to leadership. She also serves local community entities to develop partnerships with the AISD.

She is active in many organizations. Within these associations, she has taken on responsibilities and chaired numerous committees. Currently, she is a member of Kappa Delta Pi-Omega Chapter, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), Gulf Coast Association of School Boards, Mexican American School Board Members Association, Parent Teacher Association, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). She served as president of TASB in 2012-2013. Dr. García currently serves on the NSBA Board of Directors representing the Southern Region. She is director of the Bylaws Committee.

For more information about the banquet or to purchase tickets, contact Celia Valles at (713) 851-6219 or via email at celiavalles1921@gmail.com

## Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo hires Key Staff

Seasoned professionals to fill counsel, communications director, and community engagement director positions

HOUSTON, TX – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced today that she has filled three critical positions in her administration. Kathryn Kase will join her staff as Counsel, Kiran Khalid will be the Director of Communications, and DeVon Douglass will be the new Director of Community Engagement. These key roles were filled through a rigorous and thorough national search led by Judge Hidalgo's Talent Advisory Group.

"We were fortunate to have several strong candidates interested in joining our administration," said Judge Hidalgo. "I am delighted to have these three highly-respected and experienced professionals join our staff. They not only share my vision of a more safe, fair, and resilient Harris County, but they embody the values that I plan to share with the people of our community. I look forward to working with them to deliver on my campaign pledges."

Attorney Kathryn Kase has nearly thirty years of experience as a criminal defense litigator. She previously served on Commissioner Rodney Ellis' Leadership team. She also served on the board of the

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and she is a past president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Kase is a faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College and NACDL's Capital Voir Dire College. In 2017, the Association of Women Attorneys named her a Premier Woman in Law.

Veteran journalist Kiran Khalid got her start more than 20 years ago at a CBS affiliate station in Corpus Christi where she became the first Pakistani-American woman on broadcast news. She subsequently produced news stories in New York for CNN and served as the executive producer of Shell Films in the Americas. In 2011, the American Immigration Lawyers Association presented her with its annual AILA Media Leadership Award in recognition of "the individual whose efforts in the media most accurately depict immigration and immigrants." Khalid grew up in Harris County and was one of thousands of residents impacted by the flooding of Hurricane Harvey.

DeVon Douglass is an attorney, analyst and activist currently serving as a top member of the administration of G.T. Bynum, Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma. In this role, she oversaw the development

of the resilience strategy for Tulsa, a comprehensive plan to address inequities in the city. Prior to her appointment, Douglass was the economic opportunity and poverty policy analyst for the Oklahoma Policy Institute and organized a series of community forums in Tulsa that led to city-wide changes in police practices. Douglass has also worked in the New Jersey office of the Attorney General. This is a new role for Harris County and directly reflects Judge Hidalgo's mission to create meaningful relationships with the community and build trust with local government.

"I am excited to build out a robust team with experience and deep roots in public service," said Judge Hidalgo. "More than that, they bring a commitment to social justice and economic opportunity."

The new administration officials join current Chief of Staff Joe Carlos Madden, a seasoned expert in public policy. Madden has built a career in public service where he has worked in various capacities for prominent county and state elected officials. The new members are all expected to be on board by early March.

Candidates are still being considered for several roles in Judge Hidalgo's historic administration. Information on open positions can be found online at [www.linahidalgo.com/jobs](http://www.linahidalgo.com/jobs).

## Community-Wide Survey,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Talking Transition is an initiative that invites Harris County residents to engage with their local government. We want residents to understand how Harris County government works and to feel connected to their county government," said Judge Hidalgo. "This is also an opportunity for my administration to learn from community members as we shape our policy agenda moving forward, so we can make sure our government works for everyone."

The survey is designed to elicit public feedback on several essential issues, such as the quality of early childhood education to the availability of reliable public transportation options. Harris County residents will also be able to express their opinions on how storm recovery resources should be prioritized.

The online survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Vietnamese. Additionally, teams of canvassers will spread out across Harris County with the survey starting Tuesday, January 29.

The survey launch is the first part of Judge Hidalgo's signature civic engagement program, which will feature a variety of ways for Harris County residents to interact with and learn more about their local government. Other core components include:

**Transparency Project:** Announcements throughout the County will provide easily-digestible information about how county government works along with statistics intended to make people eager to learn more.

Offered at a seven locations around Harris County, Civic Saturdays are a

series of full-day public events happening on consecutive Saturdays. The first Civic Saturday will take place early February and will be announced soon. Civic Saturdays will be comprised of:

- **Civic School:** Features classroom-style lessons where Harris County residents learn how County government works.

- **Town Halls:** A large gathering organized around a specific policy area that will give residents a chance to share new ideas for improving their communities and to hear from others.

- **Action Plan Workshops:** Smaller working groups for thought leaders and people who have devoted time to specific issues to focus on how to best realize community-driven ideas through County government.

HOUSTON, TX (January 30, 2019) – Lone Star College-North Harris is committed to diversity and cultural inclusion of all members of its student populations. Throughout February, LSC-North Harris is celebrating Black History Month with a series of events and programs designed to highlight the notable contributions and progressive strides that African Americans have made in society. The events are free and open to the public.

LSC-North Harris will host the following Black History Month events:

- **Feb. 2019 – All Month African-Americans Pioneers: Then and Now**  
LSC-North Harris, Library Second Floor Display Cases

- **Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 Student Success Institute: Black History Movie Day**  
1 p.m.  
LSC-North Harris, Student Center, STSC 204

- **Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 The New Reverse Migration Presented by History Professor, JR Wilson**  
2 p.m.

LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

- **Monday, Feb. 11, 2019 African Attire Day & Drum Circle**  
11:30 a.m.  
LSC-Greenspoint Center, Room 103

- **Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 DIY: Building a Black Enterprise**  
Presented by serial entrepreneur, author, DJ, and Director of the LSC-North Houston Economic Development Center, Demetrius Walker  
Noon  
LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

- **Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 African Attire Day & Drum Circle**  
11:30 a.m.  
LSC-Victory Center, Lobby

- **Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 Diversity/Black and Brown Student Research Symposium**  
Presented by English Professors, Gemini Wahhaj and Dr. Brenda Bryant  
9 a.m.  
LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

- **Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019**

"Febteenth" Celebration  
Emancipation  
Featured Speaker, LSCS Board Member Alton Smith  
Noon  
LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

- **Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 The Power of the Protest: Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott**  
Presented by Librarian, Virginia Rigby  
11 a.m.  
LSC-Victory Center, Room 102

- **Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019 Spaces in the African-American Community: A Lecture and Information Reception**  
Presented by: Texas A&M at Galveston, Associate Professor of Liberal Studies, Dr. Carol Bunch Davis  
Noon  
LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

For more information on Black History Month events or LSC-North Harris' cultural diversity initiatives, email Cassandra Boyd at [Cassandra.D.Boyd@lonestaredu](mailto:Cassandra.D.Boyd@lonestaredu) or call 281.765.7936.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

## New opportunity to help Bonding Against Adversity

This is a reminder for volunteers and volunteers attorneys that the next Citizenship Workshop is coming soon. Bonding Against Adversity (BAA) depends on volunteers to help the lawful permanent residents of our community to apply for U.S. Citizenship. Your participation is valuable and very much appreciated by BAA, the applicants and our community.

Your next opportunity to serve is on **February 16, 2019 at Hosanna Lutheran Church (16526 Ella Blvd. Houston, TX 77090)** from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers need to attend the training scheduled for 8:30 a.m. (breakfast at 8:00 a.m.) the day and place of the workshop. Snacks and a light lunch will be served.

Also, Bonding Against Adversity and Hambrick Middle School are calling for dedicated volunteers to help at the Citizenship Workshop on Saturday, **February 23, 2019 and located at Hambrick Middle School (4600 Aldine Mail Route., Houston, TX 77039)** with the goal of assisting Lawful Permanent Residents apply for U.S. Citizenship. They need volunteers more than ever to help meet the demand for naturalization assistance.

"Over this past seven years we had help 8,575 new Legal Residents to become a Citizens with the help of volunteers."

Registration and breakfast start at 8:00 a.m.; training at 8:30 a.m.

Bonding Against Adversity serving the North Community with our Mission "Helping Others to Help Themselves."

Who qualifies for U.S. citizenship?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old and be a permanent legal resident, who has lived in the U.S. continuously for 5 years, or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen.

- Speak, read and write basic English, or be older than 55 years.

- Have no convictions for any felonies.

What information and documents you MUST BRING with you to the workshop?

To apply you MUST have the following:

- Your Green Card, Social Security Card, Driver's License, any other ID, passports issued after you obtained your Green Card.

- Family information, including children and/or spouse (current and former), with dates of birth, marriage, divorce, death, etc.

- Your address, employment and/or schools history, including dates, for the last 5 years.

- Travel history for the last 5 years, including date of departure from and arrival to the U.S.

- Traffic Tickets or your DMV Driving Record, if

you have any.

- All the documentation of the arrests and/or convictions and dispositions, if you have any.

What services can you obtain from BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY at the workshop?

Bonding Against Adversity provides the following services:

- Information about the requirements and process to become a U.S. citizen.

- Assistance to complete the N-400 Application for U.S. Citizenship form, if you are eligible.

- Assistance to apply for a fee waiver, if you are eligible.

- Private legal consultation, by a volunteer attorney, or referral to attorneys at your cost. The legal services provided at this event are general information and are no replacement of private counsel.

- Information about Citizenship classes, ESL English classes, and other community resources.

- Study materials for a mock citizenship interview and the 100 Questions USCIS test.

- Information about future citizenship workshops and classes as well as other immigration issues.

- Appointments for private consultation at their office, if needed.

If you need additional information, you can text at 281-906-4214, or visit [www.bondingagainstadversity.org](http://www.bondingagainstadversity.org)

## Houston asks Feds for \$50 M. for 10 new flood gates on Lake Houston



The existing flood gates consist of two radial gates used to release high volumes of water and two flashboard gates to accurately affect water levels on Lake Houston.

HOUSTON The mayor and city council members agree that the most important flood prevention program in the Lake Houston Area is their request of \$50 Million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to add ten gates to the Lake Houston Dam.

Last year the City of Houston submitted grant applications for about \$50 Million dollars to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to ask FEMA for a grant to begin the work on installation of the flood gates. The Texas agency approved the request and the paper work went on through channels to FEMA. If FEMA approves, and as yet no response has been heard from the Federal agency, work could begin within months.

The 10 new gates would in effect allow the City of Houston to release water at a much higher rate prior to heavy rain, storms or emergency events. It would give the City of Houston more leeway to control lake levels.

According to Matt Zeve, Harris County Flood Control District Chief Operations Officer, the new gates could "act as a flood control mechanism."

Currently, other than the four gates there is a long spillway that overruns when the lake floods.

"This potential project is a major modification of the operation and purpose of Lake Houston," said Zeve.

When Lake Houston was built in 1954 the sole purpose was to create a reservoir to provide for

water for residents. However, since that time Lake Houston has fulfilled many useful purposes for local residents. At creation four flood gates were made to regulate water levels.

An engineering firm, Freese and Nichols had certified that with the four gates Lake Houston could release 10,000 cubic feet per second. Obviously, with ten gates it could release water much faster.

Previously, in response to Hurricane Harvey and other flooding events was to lower lake levels by two feet or more. The four gates are two radial gates used to release high volumes of water and two flash board gates to regulate the lake level according to the amounts of water coming from other sources.

## Pre-registration can save lives during emergencies and natural disasters

HCOHSEM, Judge Hidalgo urge residents to register with State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) Program

(Houston, TX) – The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo urge individuals who may require assistance during an emergency to register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR).

The STEAR program is a free registry that provides local emergency planners and responders additional information about community members who may have special needs or concerns during an emergency.

"We want to help residents learn about the services available in their communities should they need assistance in an emergency," said Judge

Hidalgo, Director of HCOHSEM. "There is no one-size-fits-all preparedness plan. Everyone has different needs, abilities and resources and we want to make sure our emergency professionals have identified folks who may need additional support in the event of an emergency."

While anyone can register with STEAR, the program is designed to help emergency officials quickly identify people with disabilities or access and functional needs, including those who:

- Have limited mobility barriers
- Have communication barriers

- Require additional medical assistance during an emergency

- Need transportation assistance

- Require personal care assistance

Registration is voluntary, and all information provided will remain confidential.

Residents can register online at <https://stear.dps.texas.gov/Services/STEAR/Login.aspx> or by calling 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 helpline is open year-round and offers assistance in 150 languages.

Registering with STEAR does not guarantee that residents will receive specific services during an emergency and should not be a replacement for an emergency plan. HCOHSEM recommends residents take steps to be self-sufficient until emergency services can reach them. Residents should remember to plan for pets.

In an emergency, all residents should ensure that they are getting accurate and timely information from reliable sources. Sign up to receive Harris County emergency alerts at [www.ReadyHarris.org](http://www.ReadyHarris.org) and follow Ready Harris on social media.

## Appointment,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over the Department of the Treasury and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

"We will use this assignment to protect consumers from predatory lending practices and further the practical, pro-consumer priorities laid out by Chairwoman Waters," Garcia said. "We must strengthen and expand the long-term stability of the National Flood Insurance Program and reform the Community Development Block

Grant Program."

The House Judiciary Committee oversees the administration of justice within the federal courts, administrative agencies, and Federal law enforcement entities, including immigration policy.

"The Judiciary Committee has crucial oversight on immigration issues that are important to our communities and the future of our nation," said Garcia. "My experience as a legal aid lawyer, judge, and leg-

islator has prepared me to advocate for immigrants, Dreamers, and the millions of people who pay American taxes and live under American laws, but do not enjoy the rights of citizenship. I look forward to pursuing these objectives under the leadership of Chairman Nadler."

The 29th District encompasses Houston, Pasadena, Galena Park, Jacinto City, South Houston, and Aldine.

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OPINION PAGE

**TEXAS SENATE NEWS**  
By Richard Lee

**LAWMAKERS UNVEIL PROPERTY TAX REFORM PLAN**

(Austin) Taxing entities, including local school districts, would have to get permission from voters to raise property taxes more than 2.5 percent annually under identical legislation filed in both chambers Thursday. Today, entities with taxing authority can increase taxes up to eight percent a year before voters can weigh in. These bills, SB2 and HB2, are the first step in fulfilling state leadership's promise to enact property tax relief for taxpayers in Texas, says Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. "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," he said. "We are setting the tone for the rest of the session on this issue." Under the proposal, only taxing authorities who bring in less than \$15 million in annual revenue would be exempt from the new requirements.

Shepherding this bill in the Senate will be Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt, who chairs the newly created Property Tax Committee. Property tax reform has been Bettencourt's signature issue as a legislator, and he said it's critical to deliver on this front. "The vexing problem facing taxpayers is that tax bills are going up at least two or three times faster than they can handle," he said. "I think that the concept of having a two and a half percent rollback rate across the board means there's a universal solution."

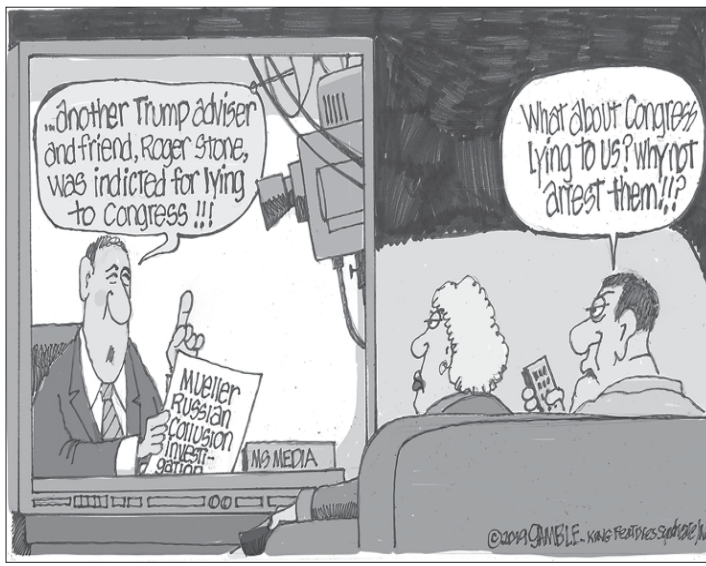
The bill would also change how tax ratification elections are conducted. Right now, if a taxing entity other than a school district adopts a property tax rate that exceeds the rollback rate, that eight percent cap on annual tax growth, then it's up to voters to collect enough signatures to trigger the election. Petitioners have 90 days from the adoption of the tax rate to submit the petition, which is valid if seven percent of registered voters in the taxing jurisdiction sign on. School district rollback elections are automatic, triggered when an adopted rate exceeds the

rollback rate, and SB 2 would make that the law for all taxing entities. Moreover, the election date would move to the uniform election date in November in order to increase participation. If a majority of voters reject the proposed rate, then 2.5 percent is the most the taxing authority could raise the rate.

The bills also contain a number of transparency and open government requirements, intended to better inform taxpayers about property tax rates, measures and history. The state would create and maintain a real time tax database, which would include a searchable index of properties, that includes the most recent appraisal value, the market value, and the taxable value of any given property. It would put strict requirements on public notices for tax adoption hearings, including the proposed tax rate, the rollback rate, formulas for how those rates are reached, and the average amount of tax levied on property in the jurisdiction. It also includes new rules about who can serve on appraisal review boards and includes more taxpayer protections in appraisal disputes.

In the past, 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. 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."

Hearings on this bill will begin next week, with Bettencourt saying that his committee will meet at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6th. The Senate will reconvene on Friday at 11 a.m. in order to refer this bill and others to committee.



**Senate Finance panel starts work on state budget**

AUSTIN — Jane Nelson, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, on Jan. 22 said she would follow an aggressive agenda to deliver a budget ready for floor debate by the end of February.

"There are a lot of things this committee and the full Senate will decide to add, subtract, change, before we actually recommend out of this committee a budget," she said. At the top of the list are school finance and property tax relief.

Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has chaired the powerful committee for three consecutive sessions. On Jan. 15, Nelson filed Senate Bill 1, a base budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, and scheduled daily meetings for the panel to consider the particulars that go into a document that typically exceeds 1,000 pages in length.

Important in the budget-writing process is the state comptroller's revenue estimate, an amount based on economic indicators and models that predict how much revenue the state will collect over the next two fiscal years. That number also serves as a constitutional cap on spending; the legislature cannot appropriate more in spending than the comptroller forecasts in revenue.

Comptroller Glenn Hegar estimated just over \$119 billion would be available in general non-dedicated revenue—nearly \$7 billion more than the \$112.2 billion in the Senate's base budget—in the upcoming fiscal biennium.

**Speaker names committees**

House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, after weeks of meetings with individual members, on Jan. 23 announced committee assignments for the 86th Texas Legislature and named Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, as speaker pro tempore.

Chairs and vice chairs are as follows:  
— Agriculture & Livestock: Drew Springer, R-Muenster, and Charles "Doc" Anderson, R-Waco;  
— Appropriations: John Zerwas, R-Richmond, and Oscar Longoria, D-La Feria;  
— Business & Industry: Trey Martinez-Fischer, D-San Antonio, and Drew Darby, R-San Angelo;  
— Calendars: Four Price, R-Amarillo, and Joe Moody;  
— Corrections: James White, R-Hillister, and Alma Allen, D-Houston;  
— County Affairs: Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, and Dwayne Bohac, R-Houston;  
— Criminal Jurisprudence: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth, and Bill Zedler, R-Arlington;  
— Culture, Recreation & Tourism: John Cyrier,

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling

R-Bastrop, and Armando Martinez, D-Weslaco;  
— Defense & Veterans' Affairs: Dan Flynn, R-Canton, and Tony Tinderrholt, R-Fort Worth;  
— Elections: Stephanie Klick, R-North Richland Hills, and Philip Cortez, D-San Antonio;  
— Energy Resources: Chris Paddie, R-Marschall, and Abel Herrero, D-Robstown;  
— Environmental Regulation: J.M. Lozano, R-Kingsville, and Ed Thompson, R-Pearland;  
— General Investigating: Morgan Meyer, R-Dallas, and Nicole Collier;  
— Higher Education: Chris Turner, D-Arlington, and Lynn Stucky, R-Sanger;  
— Homeland Security & Public Safety: Poncho Nevarez, D-Eagle Pass, and Dennis Paul, R-Webster;  
— House Administration: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, and Donna Howard, D-Austin;  
— Human Services: James Frank, R-Wichita Falls, and Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin;  
— Insurance: Eddie Lucio III, D-San Benito, and Tom Oliverson, R-Houston;  
— International Relations & Economic Development: Rafael Anchia, R-Dallas, and John Frullo, R-Lubbock;  
— Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence: Jeff Leach, R-Plano, and Jessica Farrar, D-Houston;  
— Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Harold Dutton, D-Houston, and Andrew Murr, R-Junction;  
— Land & Resource Management: Tom Cradick, R-Midland, and Sergio Munoz Jr., D-Mission;  
— Licensing & Administrative Procedures: Tracy King, D-Uvalde, and Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth;  
— Local & Consent Calendars: Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, and Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint;  
— Natural Resources: Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, and Will Metcalf, R-Conroe;  
— Pensions, Investments & Financial Services: Jim Murphy, R-Houston, and Hubert Vo, D-Alief;  
— Public Education: Dan Huberty, R-Houston, and Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio;  
— Public Health: Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, and John Wray, R-Waxahachie;  
— Redistricting: Phil King, R-Weatherford, and Chris Turner;  
— Resolutions Calen-

dars: Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City, and Rick Miller, R-Sugar Land;  
— State Affairs: Dade Phelan, R-Nederland, and Ana Hernandez, D-Houston;  
— Transportation: Terry Canales, D-Edinburg, and Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa;  
— Urban Affairs: Angie Chen Button, R-Richardson, and Matt Shaheen, R-Plano; and  
— Ways & Means: Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, and Ryan Guillen.

**Voter roll advisory issued**

Texas Secretary of State David Whitley, the state's chief elections officer, on Jan. 25 issued an advisory to county voter registrars regarding voter registration list maintenance activities.

In the advisory, Whitley said about 95,000 individuals identified by Texas Department of Public Safety as non-U.S. citizens have a matching voter registration record in Texas and about 58,000 of those have voted in one or more Texas elections.

Voting in an election in which the person knows he or she is not eligible to vote is a second-degree felony in Texas. Because the secretary of state has no statutory enforcement authority to investigate or prosecute alleged illegal activity in connection with an election, the matter has been referred to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the state's chief law enforcement officer.

**Higher Ed chief resigns**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Jan. 24 announced the resignation of Higher Education Commissioner Raymond A. Paredes after 15 years in the position. The resignation is effective Aug. 31.

Prior to joining the agency, Dr. Paredes spent most of his academic career at UCLA, where for 30 years he taught as a professor of English and also served 10 years as vice chancellor for academic development.

**Hurricane Harvey survivors living in temporary housing unit should make a plan to rent or buy**

Sales and extensions offered in participating jurisdictions

AUSTIN - Hurricane Harvey survivors living in temporary housing units (THUs) provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) need to solidify their housing plans leading up to Feb. 25. Those who continue to meet FEMA eligibility requirements may be approved to remain in their current THU through Aug. 25 by paying rent. 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.

The THU and direct-lease-apartment program was originally planned to run through Feb. 25, 2019. However, on Nov. 28, 2018, Commissioner George P. Bush announced FEMA granted his request for a six-month extension for Hurricane Harvey survivors still residing in federally funded manufactured housing units and travel trailers. Although the housing program has been extended through Aug. 25, 2019, those who remain in the program after Feb. 25 will be expected to pay rent to FEMA. Survivors who cannot afford fair-market rent are able to petition for a reduction by contacting FEMA.

Occupants who have questions about renting THUs can get more information and be connected with a case manager by emailing femadr4332xrent@fema.dhs.gov.

Also at the request of Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, FEMA granted a THU Sales to Occupants program for Hurricane Harvey survivors still residing in federally funded manufactured housing units and travel trailers. Now certain Harvey survivors in THUs have been offered the opportunity to purchase their current unit. The sales offer is only good for 30 days after the notification letter was sent to the occupant. To be eligible to purchase a THU, the survivor must lack a permanent housing solution, through no fault of their own.

Each THU's sale price will be determined by FEMA based on the unit type, number of bedrooms and number of months the applicant lived in the unit. Applicants who are unable to afford the sale price may appeal the cost to FEMA.

Occupants who have questions about purchasing THUs can call 855-336-2003 or fax 512-490-1248.

For additional information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit FEMA's Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at www.fema.gov/disaster/4332, or the Texas General Land Office website at Recovery.Texas.Gov.

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

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



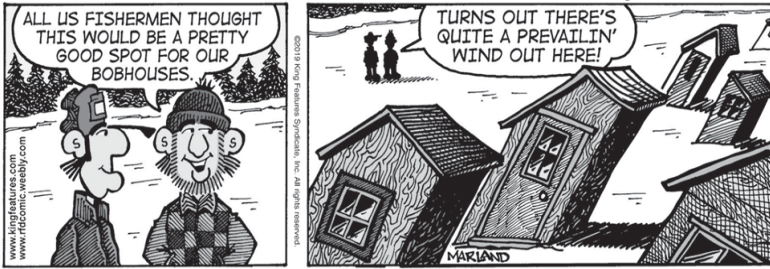
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



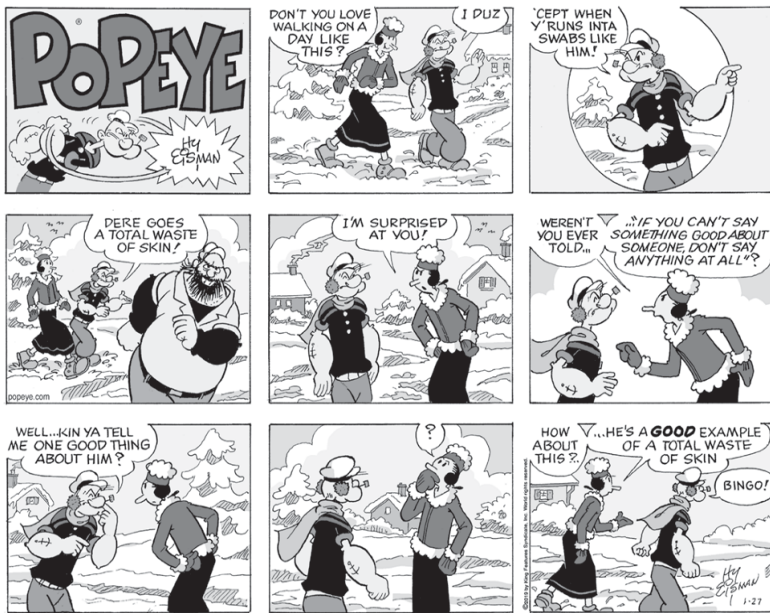
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



"My wife didn't really want to come to this party, but she couldn't let people think we weren't..."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Form EVIDES
- Flood REGUS
- Weight TIDYSEN
- Control REBILD

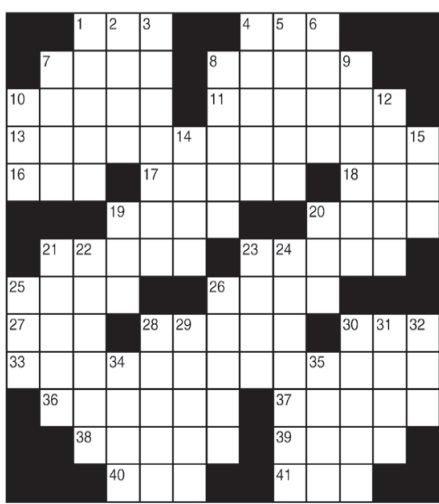
TODAY'S WORD

Posting Date February 4, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sleuth, slangily
- 4 Pod dweller
- 7 Crafty
- 8 Equilibrium
- 10 Overuse the mirror
- 11 Motor
- 13 Fee for work done
- 16 Officeholders
- 17 Break a Commandment
- 18 Sphere
- 19 Diminish
- 20 Small blister
- 21 Milky stones
- 23 Young turkey
- 25 Profess
- 26 Science workshops
- 27 Pooch
- 28 Paris river
- 30 Cleopatra's slayer
- 33 Navy, with "The"
- 36 Seriously loyal
- 37 Madagascar critter
- 38 Surrounds
- 39 Thing
- 40 CSA boss
- 41 Affirmative action?



DOWN

- 1 Layers
- 2 Ht.
- 3 Sneeringly doubtful
- 4 — de Leon
- 5 Square dance quorum
- 6 Europe's neighbor
- 7 Small songbird
- 8 Annoyance
- 9 Sign up
- 10 Greek letter
- 12 Heron's kin
- 14 Swindles
- 15 Recede
- 19 "This means —!"
- 20 Urban transport
- 21 Egg-shaped
- 22 Pirate costume feature
- 23 Sheet of glass
- 24 Ohio college
- 25 Billboards
- 26 Rosters
- 28 Sleep soundly?
- 29 Chopin piece
- 30 Picked a target
- 31 Pond gunk
- 32 Apiece
- 34 Satan's forte
- 35 Kill a bill

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 9 |   |   | 6 |
|   | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 |   |
| 9 | 2 | 4 |   |   | 1 |
|   | 5 | 2 | 1 |   | 4 |
| 6 |   |   | 8 | 9 | 3 |
| 7 | 2 |   | 6 |   | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 |   | 4 |   |
|   | 3 |   | 1 | 7 | 2 |
|   | 9 | 6 | 3 |   | 1 |

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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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the Greek suffix "-stasis" mean in English?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many continents are in the world?
- INVENTIONS: Who invented the nuclear reactor?
- TELEVISION: In what year did "Monday Night Football" debut?
- FOOD & DRINK: What was the original name of the breakfast cereal Cheerios?
- LITERATURE: Where did the Grinch live in Dr. Seuss' book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the first to campaign by telephone?
- MOVIES: Which war was the setting for the musical "South Pacific"?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called logophobia?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which animal is the symbol of the World Wildlife Fund?

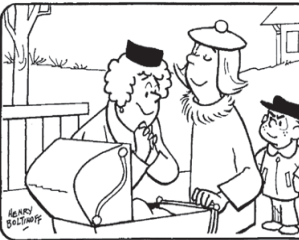
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lady's hat is different 2. Boy is smiling 3. House window is different 4. Stone wall has become a fence 5. Moon's color is different 6. Moon's nose is changed

- Trivia Test Answers
1. Standing still
  2. Seven
  3. Enrico Fermi
  4. 1970
  5. Cheerios
  6. Mount Crumpit
  7. William McKinley
  8. WWII
  9. Fear of words
  10. The giant panda



Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 |

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

When a person who's replying answer is not a direct response, you might call it an indirect response.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: N equals W

- NRL W MATPJL NRJ'P TAMSHQK
- QP BTDSH EASWLRJSH, HJD
- EQKRB OWSS RQE W CAPMJLCALB
- TAPMJLCALB.

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

- 1. Devise; 2. Surge; 3. Density; 4. Bridle



# CHURCH PAGE

## RECENT DEATHS

Max Reeves Hubbard  
Rabdul Ray Deen  
Paul Merle Young  
Maverine C. Heatherly  
Nancy Jeanette Douzart  
Rogelio Zertuche

Donald A. Smith Sr.  
David Arguijo Martinez  
Alberto Rodriguez  
Titus Fields  
Francisco J. Villarreal  
Joanne Ayres

## 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.

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is 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.



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### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

ACTS 17:30,31



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**AUCTION**

Estate and Real Estate Auction, Thurs. Feb. 14, starts @ 9:17 a.m., 2605 Robin Lane, Muskogee, OK 74403. Coins, Guns, Ammo, Porcelain & Metal Signs will sell at 11:01 a.m. Real Estate sells at 12:01 p.m. For full terms & photos, visit [www.chuppsauction.com](http://www.chuppsauction.com). Chupps Auction Co., 918-630-0495.

**CHARITY**

Donate a boat or car today to Boat Angel. 2-Night Free Vacation. Sponsored by Boat Angel Outreach Centers to stop crimes against children. 800-700-BOAT, [www.boatangel.com](http://www.boatangel.com).

**EVENTS**

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Feb. 7-24. For entertainment lineup and tickets, go to [sarodeo.com](http://sarodeo.com). 210-225-5851.

**LOG HOMES**

Log Homes - 4 Log Home kits selling for balance owed, free delivery. Model #101 Carolina, bal. \$17,000; Model #203 Georgia, bal. \$19,950; Model #305 Biloxi, bal. \$14,500; Model #403 Augusta, bal. \$16,500. View plans at [www.loghomedream.com](http://www.loghomedream.com).

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**LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

**TYPE-2 DIABETICS** - Gangrene of the genitals has been associated with the use of SGLT2 Inhibitors, like Invokana, Farxiga, Jardiance. Call Pulaski 800-800-9815 - you may be entitled to compensation!

**Roundup**, a common weed and grass killer, may be linked to the development of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in farm workers and employees in garden centers, nurseries, and landscapers. Call 800-460-0606 for professional insight or visit [www.RespectForYou.com/NHL](http://www.RespectForYou.com/NHL).

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# LIFESTYLE

## History Comes to Life at Jones Park's Homestead Heritage Day

Visitors of all ages are invited to explore the Redbud Hill Homestead as it transforms into a living, working settlement of the 1860s during Homestead Heritage Day Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival highlights include a Civil-War re-enactment at 2 p.m. and historical weapons displays throughout the day. Costumed re-enactors will demonstrate common 19th-century tasks, such as spinning and weaving, campfire cooking, leatherworking, woodworking, blacksmithing, and skinning logs.

Family-friendly attractions include folk-music performances, face painting, a petting zoo, games, and crafts. Children of all ages can play old-fashioned games such as marbles, tabletop nine-pins, intricate metalwork puzzles, a corn cob toss, and more. Visitors can also sample authentically prepared 19th-century food, including cornbread, smoked jerky, stick bread, and hoecakes, or purchase hot dogs, chips, and drinks from the concession stand.

In addition, families are invited to try on 19th-century costumes and have their photo taken in a covered

wagon. Hand-made reproductions of historic clothing, games, and jewelry will also be available for purchase at The Settler Store. Please note this will be a cash only event.

With leadership from Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble. All programs are free of charge and open to the public. 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.hep4.net/parks.

### BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Bethel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Moses and Aaron were instructed to sacrifice what color of heifer without blemish? Red, White, Gold, Green
3. Which book (KJV) begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God"? Mark, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians
4. How many righteous people did Sodom need to keep God from destroying the city? 1, 2, 10, 20
5. Which Old Testament woman was buried in a cave in the field of Machpelah? Eve, Ruth, Sarah, Esther
6. From 2 Kings 17, who was the god of the men of Cuth? Succothbenoth, Nergal, Hamath, Ashima

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Red; 3) Ephesians; 4) 10; 5) Sarah; 6) Nergal

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## FFA Livestock Show,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

goat was raised by Azaria Jackson, and sold for \$5,500. The buyer was the AISD Operations Group. At the beginning of the show, director Franklin Higgins introduced special guests, which included the new Superintendent LaTonya Goffney, and AISD board president Steve Mead. A special tribute was paid to last year's Auctioneer Ed Phillips,

long time participant in the Livestock Sale, who passed away last year. The new Auctioneer, a protégé of Phillips, is Nicholas Hinze, who was introduced. After the show, the Optimist club raffled sides of beef and pork. Winners were S. Borries and Dorah Andrews for the beef, and Sarah Williams and Ella Williams for the pork sides.



The Grand Champion Artwork, exhibited by Nicole Jimenez, was purchased for a record amount of \$8000 by the Superintendent's Group.



The Optimist Club held a drawing for sides of Beef and Pork. President Steve Mead announces the winners.



## Simple Home Renovations

7 projects that improve resale value

### FAMILY FEATURES

Even if you have no immediate plans for leaving your home, it's a good idea to approach renovations with resale value in mind. Upgrades that are likely to appeal to future buyers protect your investment while also improving your enjoyment of the home. One key to a successful renovation is figuring out how to personalize the space without making it so customized that it's not attractive to other potential owners. For example, eliminating a bedroom to create a giant walk-in closet may help achieve your dreams, but losing that bedroom can be a major hit to your home's value. A good rule of thumb is to focus on aesthetics when it comes to integrating more of your personal tastes, because these can be easily changed with a coat of paint or minor work. However,

that doesn't mean you can't make other, more significant changes to enhance your home. These renovation ideas – which include both cosmetic touch-ups and more labor-intensive suggestions – can help boost your home's value. **Open space** Older homes were often designed with a boxy, formal layout that is less conducive to most modern families' needs. Today's open floor plans offer functionality for everything from keeping an eye on the kids while making dinner to entertaining guests. This type of floor plan can also make small rooms feel larger and invite more light into darker parts of the house. The most cost-effective way to create an open space is to remove non-load-bearing walls (load bearing walls help support

the roof, while they can be removed there's typically quite a bit more time, labor and expense involved). Removing a wall may not be that complicated unless you encounter plumbing or HVAC ductwork that needs to be relocated. You'll likely have some electrical outlets to move, and both the floor and ceiling will need attention to remove lingering signs of the former wall.

### Color change

Although paint is one of the easiest ways to personalize your home, it's also one of the least expensive, simplest ways to improve its value and appearance. A fresh coat of paint, inside or out, can create an appealing illusion of newness no matter the age of your home. For maximum resale value, stick to neutral tones so future buyers can focus on envisioning the place as their own, without the distraction of your own vibrant choices. If you don't like the thought of boring beige, consider adding accent walls for pops of color that can be easily changed down the road.

### Climate comfort

Not every aspect of home improvement is visible at first glance like a fresh coat of paint; some value-boosting upgrades are more behind the scenes. One example is climate management. If you renovate a space that needs better climate control, or if you add a new room where extending the existing ductwork is impractical, a split-ductless HVAC system may be the perfect solution. The ductless design saves HVAC contractors time during installation, therefore saving homeowners money. An option like Mitsubishi Electric's MLZ One-Way Ceiling Cassette fits between standard 16-inch ceiling joists, eliminating the need for more complicated construction. The sleek, narrow-body design can be easily installed in existing homes and new construction projects. Additionally, these ceiling cassettes can be serviced from directly beneath the unit itself without an access panel, further eliminating the need to modify the surrounding area which can also provide

significant cost savings on installation. Learn more at [mitsubishicomfort.com](http://mitsubishicomfort.com).

### Adjustable lighting

A room's ambiance can be completely transformed with lighting. For multi-purpose rooms, an option like dimmer switches lets you customize the lighting to fit the use, which can vary throughout the day. A well-lit living room is essential for a large gathering or a small group gathered for game night. That same space can be equally inviting for an intimate conversation or a casual movie night with the lights turned down low. One of the best parts is minimal experience is needed to swap out standard switches for the more versatile dimmers. Plus, in today's technology-driven world, there's an app for seemingly everything – including lighting. Homeowners can control the ambiance from their phones by installing smart lightbulbs and lighting strips.

### Grunge-free garage

Even though a garage's functionality is the top concern for most buyers, a dingy, unkempt space can be a real turn-off. One way to instantly brighten and refresh the space is an epoxy coating on the floor. Applying the coating is relatively easy and once dry it helps prevent unsightly stains and damage in the future. Combine that

with a thorough sweeping, wiping down walls and other surfaces, and organizing the clutter to create a more inviting space you can utilize to the fullest.

### Understated elegance

Features like crown molding and other wood accents such as chair rails are elegant upgrades that can elevate a home's value with a relatively modest investment. An office or dining room is the perfect place to introduce these design elements to add a bit of formality to the space. You can also find crown molding in spaces like the living room, with the molding coordinating with built-in shelving flanking a fireplace. While getting the angles and fit just right is hardly a beginner's endeavor, it's a project that can pay dividends in the long run.

### Better bathrooms

Many homeowners approach a bathroom upgrade with big projects in mind, like swapping out the vanity, replacing the tub or installing tile flooring. However, it's possible to make a noticeable impact with much smaller changes. Simply updating bathroom fixtures and fittings such as shower heads, faucets, towel racks and lighting can transform the space with minimal effort and far less work and expense than a large-scale renovation.



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