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VOL. 45, NO. 11 TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS
NOTES**

**North Houston
Little League
Opens Mar.23**

NHA Little League Opening Day, March 23. Parade & Festival at MacArthur HS, 4400 Aldine Mail Rt. Parade begins at 10 am, Festival at 12 pm. Little League games from 1 pm - 5 pm at Squatty Lyons Park, 1601 Cromwell, 77093. For more information call 281-226-0552. AldineDistrict.org. SEE PAGE 8 THIS ISSUE.

**Lives changed
by NACA's
mortgage
program**

NACA's Achieve the Dream Event, takes place March 21-24 at the Greenspoint Mall. Houstonians have had more than their share of housing troubles over the past decade. The Great Recession and the mortgage crisis, Hurricane Harvey and an influx of

See **Mortgage Program**, Page 6

**Passing of Joseph
O. Goffney II**

The Aldine ISD community mourns the passing of the Superintendent's son. Funeral Arrangements are on Page 6.

"Civic Saturdays" meeting in East Aldine

East Aldine's new Town Center was the site of a "Civic Saturday" workshop last Saturday. Hundreds turned out to talk with Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, heads of other county departments, and civic leaders.

Judge Hidalgo has planned a series of 7 of these meetings, each with a specific topic, throughout the county. She wants citizen participation in county government, and wants to hear ideas to help shape the county's future.

These events are day-long, where constituents bring their concerns, ideas and collaborate with leaders who put change in motion. The goal is to learn from and communicate with the community.



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo welcomes the citizens to the Civic Saturday workshop.

Meetings have been planned on the following subjects:
-- Health & Environment
-- Transportation, Infrastructure & Safety



Laura Murillo, president of the Hispanic Chamber, addresses the audience. Others pictured are East Aldine's Richard Cantu, State Rep. Armando Walle, Pct. 1 commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Aldine ISD board member Connie Esparza. (Photos by Marina Sugg & Gilbert Hoffman)

- Resilience & Flood Mitigation
- Children & Early Education
- Economic Opportunity & Housing
- Criminal Justice
- Resilience & Flood Mitigation (repeat)

The format for the event was an opening with statements from department heads and community leaders.

Judge Hidalgo sees the Civic Saturdays as a part of "Talking Transitions: Harris County" a program designed to promote the public's involvement in shaping the county's future.

The format of the meeting was:

See **Civic Saturdays**, p. 8

Harris County approves voting at any poll location

Houston, TX- March 7, 2019 - Texas Secretary of State David Whitley approved Harris County as one of six Texas counties with a population of more than 100,000 to participate in the Countywide Polling Place Program. With over 2 million registered voters, this makes Harris County the largest county in the country to implement this program. The state program allows eligible counties to establish non-precinct based Election Day Voting Centers.

"The voters of Harris County have made it clear that a Countywide Polling Place Program would have a positive impact on elections and I am confident that the transition to a Countywide Polling Place Program will be successful", announced Harris County Clerk Dr. Diane Trautman.

Voters will now be able to vote anywhere in Harris County on Election Day, beginning with the May 4, 2019 Joint Election. All elections, including general, special,

joint, primaries, and runoffs will be recommended to use the Countywide Polling Place Program.

"The Countywide Polling Place Program will allow more Houstonians to exercise their most precious right, the right to vote", stated Dr. Trautman.

Voters can find more information on the Countywide Polling Place Program by visiting www.HarrisVotes.com or by calling the Harris County Clerk's office at 713.755.6965.

Pine Village man dead in domestic dispute

ALDINE - A 29-year-old man was fatally shot during a dispute with his wife in Northeast Houston, authorities said.

Deputies said the victim and his wife were arguing over income tax at the home in the 12000 block of Wild Pine on Sunday, March 3, 2019 around 10 p.m. when things became physical. The wife took her 1-year-old child and went to a different room; her son stepped in. "A 15-year-old (son) got involved with it and some of his friends that were there

got involved in it abd at some point, the victim was shot," said Sgt. Greg Pinkins.

The 15-year-old and his friends left the scene after the shooting, the son returned hours after and spoke to authorities. Deputies said he has not yet been named a suspect in the shooting.

Investigators are still working to determine where the shooter got the gun and who pulled the trigger. Authorities do not have anyone in custody yet.



got goals?

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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

Karate classes at East Aldine



Jesse and Sue Diaz, in the back row, are teaching this class of young Karate students in the East Aldine offices. Teachers are members of the American Society of Karate. The next class starts Friday, April 5, if interested call 713-962-6641 or East Aldine District at 713-595-1220. The Karate class entertained at the recent Lone Star College "Meet the Dean" night.

Aldine ISD says thank-you to business partners

Aldine ISD Board members, administrators and principals said a great big "thank-you" to the districts many business partners by hosting them at the district's annual Business Partners Appreciation Luncheon, held Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Doubletree Intercontinental Hotel.

More than 300 district leaders and business partners attended the event. Each business partner who attended received a certification of appreciation from the principal and at whose school they volunteer. District departments also honored their business partners at the luncheon.

Eisenhower High School senior Robert Turner served as the emcee.

Robert serves as one of Superintendent's Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney's student ambassadors, played football for Eisenhower and earned a football scholarship to Henderson State University. He formed his own organization, RT2 in November of 2018 to give back to underprivileged youths. He organized a food drive last November and in December headed up a toy drive.

He thanked the business partners for giving of their time and resources to assist Aldine ISD students and staff.

"We would like to thank all of the organizations and



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, left, and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa, right, pose with Eisenhower High School senior Robert Turner, who served as emcee of the district's Business Partner Appreciation Luncheon, held Thursday, Feb. 28 at the DoubleTree Intercontinental Hotel.

businesses that have helped all of the Aldine schools, whether through monetary donations or volunteering time out of your busy schedules. We really appreciate each and everyone of you for all you do for Aldine ISD."

The Hambrick Middle School LOTC presented the colors and after the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag, Sheleah Reed, Chief Communications Officer, introduced Board members who attended and Dr. Goffney's Executive Leadership Team. Board President Steve Mead, Board Vice President Con-

nie Esparza and Board Member Rose Avalos attended the luncheon.

Abel Garza, assistant superintendent of community and governmental relations, introduced elected officials and their representatives in attendance.

Minister Rafael Rodriguez of Templo Poder y Gozo Church delivered the invocation.

Following lunch, Mr. Mead delivered remarks thanking business partners for their dedicated service to Aldine.

See Business Partners, Page 8

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT TX-29

Sylvia Garcia holds Open House

TX29 – Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia held her first District Office Open House less than two months after being sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives. An experienced public servant, Ms. Garcia aims to continue the long traditions established by the Honorable Gene Green during his years of serving the 29th District of Texas. Over 200 local leaders and residents were on hand as part of the celebration.

"We're open and ready to serve the community. Find us at the Atrium 10 office building in the same spot that Gene was in. Please call or stop by if you need anything. The people of the 29th District have come to expect a high level of constituent service and community engagement. We will continue with many of the previous initiatives such as Community Cleanup Day, regular Northeast Neighborhood Safety Meetings, and more. But we also want to grow and build on what people want. So come by and tell us how we can help," said Congresswoman Garcia.

Present at the event were key members of Gar-



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's first Open House with staff. An extraordinary high number of attendees came to greet the new member of Congress. L – R: John Chapa Gorczynski, Chief of Staff, Claudia Ortega Hogue, District Director, Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia, Yuroba Harris, Director of Special Projects, Daniel Vasquez, Field Representative. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

cia's staff. John Chapa Gorczynski, previously her Chief of Staff in the Texas Senate, splits time alongside the congresswoman in the district and in Washington, DC. Claudia Ortega Hogue, previously Texas State Director for NALCO, runs operations. Yuroba Harris, longtime Gene Green staffer, is the Director of Special Projects and is responsible for continuing many of the programs he began. Daniel

Vasquez, formerly of the Houston Federation of Teachers and AFL-CIO, is the Field Representative who ensures that Ms. Garcia is represented in the community while she working for us in Washington. The office is located at 11811 East Freeway Suite 430 between John Ralston and Federal Road, north of Jacinto City. The congresswoman can be reached at sylviagarcia.house.gov or by calling (832) 325-3150.

Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA has a new home



Aldine ISD, North Houston District, Exxon Mobil, Villa Serena Properties and Lone Star College join the Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA board in Tom Wussow Park ribbon-cutting

Houston, TX— The cold and wet weather did little to diminish the excitement and optimism of Aldine Community partners as they gathered on February 19th for a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the newly renovated Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA. Located on 500 Greens Rd., in Tom Wussow Park, local stakeholders joined YMCA staff and board members to celebrate the service of YMCA in the Aldine community.

Previously housed in a storefront off Interstate 45, the Y has found a new home along the banks of the Greens Bayou and is focused on increasing access and usefulness to the community through supportive services, adult education, group exercise classes, youth sports and community events.

"We are honored to be an option Aldine-Greenspoint families have in

their neighborhood for welcoming, nurturing programming," said Najah Callander, District Executive Director, Aldine YMCA, "This beautiful park has served the community for years, and we feel extremely lucky to be here. We also want to thank our partners, Aldine ISD, North Houston District, TimkenSteel, Lone Star College, Exxon Mobil and Tellepsen Builders for their support of our Y."

Along with the opening of this facility, the Y also offers community memberships tailored to the residents of the Aldine-Greenspoint area. Relocating to Tom Wussow Park allows families to utilize the beautiful and spacious multi-purpose center and outdoor spaces, increasing the benefits of membership by offering Y programs focused on youth development, healthy liv-

ing, and social responsibility. "The Aldine-Greenspoint Family YMCA and the North Houston District share a similar goal – to build a strong community," said Greg Simpson, President, North Houston District. "We're excited to partner with the Y to expand their programs in Wussow Park, a natural gathering place for the families and children who live in the area."

The Y will continue to celebrate their re-opening with upcoming events in April including a Community Open House and an Egg-stravaganza on April 20, details to follow. Please call or visit the Aldine-Greenspoint Family YMCA for more information or to register for a free one-week membership. The Y is a place for everyone! Come join us and help us build stronger communities here in Aldine.

TSHA names Aldine ISD educator as recipient of the 2018 Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award



Daniel Perugini (far left) receives a standing ovation after announcing that he has been named a 2018 Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award winner. Mary Katherine Marshall (holding microphone), director of educational services for TSHA and coordinator of the Texas History Day program; Deborah Johnson, AISD program director of secondary social studies; Deputy Superintendent Selina Chapa and Superintendent of Schools LaTonya M. Goffney (l-r) applaud Perugini's accomplishments.

The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) recently announced the recipients of the 2018 Mary Jon and J. P. Bryan Leadership in Education Awards. The Bryan Awards are given annually to recognize outstanding history educators at both the K-12 and college levels. Aldine ISD educator Daniel Perugini is the K-12 Award winner. He is a teacher at Stovall Middle School.

Perugini and the college Award recipient Allen Hamilton will each be awarded a certificate and a check for \$5,000 on March

1 at TSHA's Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi.

Perugini's hard work inside and outside of the classroom has consistently placed him within the top three teachers in his district for his students' state STAAR scores.

Perugini is in his 35th year of teaching at Stovall Middle School. The history teacher also serves as the school's History Department Chair. In TSHA's award announcement, Perugini is recognized for routinely sending a number of his students to the regional- and state-level Texas History

Day competitions. The association also noted that Perugini founded a Junior Historians of Texas chapter at his campus. The chapter encourages students to engage with their community's local history. His hard work inside and outside of the classroom has consistently placed Perugini within the top three teachers in his district for his students' state STAAR scores.

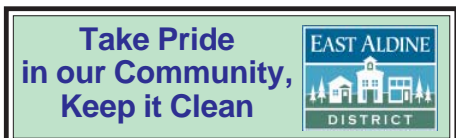
Mary Katherine Marshall, director of educational services for the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) and coordinator of the Texas History Day pro-

gram, was present during the AISD 2019 Regional History Fair Awards Ceremony. She shared with students and parents the legacy of AISD's history program and the number of students that have advanced and won at the national contest. It was Marshall who announced Perugini's accomplishments and the honor TSHA bestowed on him.

Hamilton is a professor at St. Philip's College in San Antonio. He has taught Texas history for nearly four decades and is a three-time Bryan Award finalist. In ad-

dition to his work at St. Philip's College, Hamilton has authored seven books and

has been published in a number of other books and historical journals.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

TxDOT urges young drivers to plan for sober ride ahead of Spring Break

TxDOT reminds Spring Breakers about deadly, long-term consequences of drinking and driving

HOUSTON – Spring Break is a dangerous time on Texas roads, with hundreds of impaired driving crashes involving young drivers occurring each year. As college students and young adults head to Spring Break destinations in the coming weeks, the Texas Department of Transportation's "Plan While You Can" campaign reminds them to make a plan for a sober ride before the party starts.

"Drinking alcohol and driving can severely impact a young person's future. Many promising lives are cut short due to the poor decision to drink alcohol and drive," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "We urge young drivers to make responsible choices during the Spring Break holiday.

Before heading out, please plan ahead for a sober ride to ensure you get to and from your destination safely."

During last year's Spring Break* in Texas, there were 444 crashes involving young drivers who were driving under the influence of alcohol. Those crashes killed 11 people and seriously injured another 37.

The "Plan While You Can" campaign includes a statewide tour featuring the new "Plan to Win" virtual reality game where participants are a part of an immersive trivia game which poses questions related to drinking alcohol and driving, and also demonstrates the consequences of drunk driving. Players avoid "jail" by answering questions correctly, and winners progress to a waiting taxi to receive a safe and sober ride. The experience will visit 10 Texas cities during March.

While drivers under the influence of alcohol risk killing or seriously injuring themselves or others, they also face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of their driver's license. Visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking alcohol and driving, such as:

- Designating a sober driver or calling someone for a sober ride home
 - Contacting a cab or ride-share service
 - Using mass transit
 - Spending the night
- "Plan While You Can" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a larger grassroots effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while on the road. Since Nov. 7, 2000, at least one person has died on Texas roadways every single day and that's why #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to helping end the streak of daily deaths on our roadways.

Young Ladies of Elegance to hold prom dress giveaway



A lucky student found her dress, the shoes and accessories at the 2018 event. She is seen taking a moment to pose with YLOE and a few other fairy godmothers in her Cinderella story.

Young Ladies of Elegance will be distributing free prom dresses to the first 100 female high school seniors who register for the group's Community Prom Dress Giveaway.

The items range from new to gently used and may need to be dry cleaned before prom night. Each recipient will have an elegant dress, beautiful shoes and a variety of accessories.

Donate and Make Dreams Come True

Dr. Kimberley Booker, CEO and founder of Young Ladies of Elegance, is spearheading the drive. Booker is also an Aldine ISD Trustee. Booker hopes

to give away more than 100 dresses this year. She is asking for dress and accessory donations from the community. Interested individuals can contact her by calling (770) 560-9841 or (832) 366-3009. She will be accepting donations now until March 22.

Dress sizes will vary from small to 24. There is a limited quantity in each size available. There will be no additional dresses once they run out.

YLOE Prom Dress Giveaway Requirements

- Must be a high school female senior.
- Must show high school campus ID.

• A parent or guardian must accompany attendees.

Register Today!

Registration is required to attend the Prom Dress Giveaway. Please RSVP by March 20 by calling (770) 560-9841 or (832) 366-3009.

When you register, don't forget to provide your full name, the high school you attend, and the dress size needed.

Prom Dress Giveaway will be Saturday, March 23 from 2-5 p.m. at M.O. Campbell Educational Center (1865 Aldine Bender Rd. • Houston, TX 77032).

Hambrick Middle School Academic Pentathlon team brings home the Hardware

Hambrick Middle School took four dedicated students to the district Academic Pentathlon competition which took place at Lewis Middle School on Saturday, March 2. Sponsors Carlos Diaz and Shannon Vince proudly announced that those 4 students performed outstandingly well at the competition. Students can compete in math, literature, social studies, science, fine arts, and a Super Quiz, which is a mix of all subjects.

Three of the four students competed in the Honors Division with one representing Hambrick in the Scholastic Division. Every one of Hambrick's participants placed in several different subjects resulting in a total medal count of 25. This great success resulted in a 3rd Place overall school rank for the competition and a 2nd Place award for the Super Quiz.



Naomi Gonzalez, Cynthia Mateos, Josue Quezada, and Jorge Gamez (pictured left to right) show off all of the medals they brought home from the recent Academic Pentathlon competition.

The team is already making plans for an even bigger showing at the Regional Academic Pentathlon which will be held on April 27.

Honors Division
Cynthia Mateos
1st Place – Math
2nd Place – Literature
Josue Quezada
2nd Place – Literature
2nd Place – Social Science

3rd Place – Fine Arts
3rd Place – Science
Jorge Gamez (3rd Place – Student Overall)
1st Place – Literature
2nd Place – Fine Arts
3rd Place – Math
3rd Place – Science
Scholastic Division
Naomi Gonzalez
1st Place – Fine Arts
2nd Place – Science
2nd Place – Literature
2nd Place – Math

Aldine ISD to hold public hearing on Annual Performance Report

The Aldine Independent School District will hold a public hearing to discuss the district's Annual Performance Report (APR) on Tuesday, March 19, during its Board of Trustees meeting.

The hearing will take place at 7 p.m. in the Board Room in the Central Office, located at 2520 W.W. Thorne Drive.

Texas Education Code §39.306 requires each dis-

trict's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the district and campus Texas Academic Performance (TAPR) reports; district accreditation status, campus performance objectives; a report of violent or criminal incidents, and, information received under Texas Education Code §51.403(e) from the Texas Higher Education Coordi-

ning Board. The board of trustees shall hold a hearing for the public discussion of the report, and they shall widely disseminate the report within the district.

A copy of the APR will be made available to the public at each Aldine ISD campus, the Central Office, the Resource Center, and on the district's website at www.aldineisd.org.

Suspect wanted in fatal shooting at Northborough Drive

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a woman found at 12803 Northborough Drive about 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 3.

The suspect, Auner Rebolledo, 41, is charged with murder for his role in the killing of his common-law wife, Adaelna Diaz, 34.

A photo of Rebolledo, who is not in custody, is not available. Investigators were told he might have fled to Mexico.

According to Houston Police Officials, Patrol officers were dispatched to a welfare check call at an apartment and were met by family members of the

suspect (Rebolledo). According to the family members, Rebolledo had sent disturbing text messages earlier in the morning, so they contacted police to check on the occupants of the apartment. Responding officers and family members found Ms. Diaz deceased on the living

room floor of the apartment. It appeared she had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her torso.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of suspect Auner Rebolledo is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Man injured in a home invasion

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that occurred at 9217 Levering Lane about 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

According to HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division Detectives A. Le and L. Bolmanski, Raul Zarazua Mendoza, 45, and his family were inside their home. He was sleeping on the couch while his wife and son were in another room getting ready for bed. Someone

entered the home through the backdoor and shot Mendoza one time. The unknown suspect then fled.

The victim was transported to Ben Taub General Hospital with what are believed to be non-life-threatening wounds.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 3/8-3/13

Opens THURSDAY, March 14

* FIVE FEET APART (PG-13) 7:00 9:35
Stadium Seating

* WONDER PARK (PG) 5:00 7:15 9:30
Stadium Seating

* CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13)
12:15pm, 3:00pm, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating

* CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) 3:10pm, 9:10pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

* CAPTAIN MARVEL in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 12:10pm, 6:10pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

* CAPTAIN MARVEL in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 12:00pm, 6:00pm
Stadium Seating

* GRETA (R) 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm Stadium Seating

* Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral (PG-13) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm Stadium Seating

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG) 3:30pm, 9:30pm
SPANDUB; Stadium Seating

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG) 12:45pm, 7:00pm
Stadium Seating

* How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World 3D (PG) 12:30pm, 6:30pm
SPANDUB; Stadium Seating

* How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World 3D (PG) 4:00pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating

* ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-13)
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
Stadium Seating

* FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (PG-13)
12:00pm, 2:30pm Stadium Seating

* HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-13)
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm Stadium Seating

* The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part in 3D (PG) 1:00pm Stadium Seating

* The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part (PG) 3:45pm Stadium Seating

* THE PRODIGY (R) 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:35pm, 7:00pm, 9:15pm
Stadium Seating

* WHAT MEN WANT (R)
12:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
Stadium Seating

* MISS BALA (PG-13) 6:30pm, 9:20pm
Stadium Seating

* AQUAMAN (PG-13) 6:50pm
Stadium Seating

* AQUAMAN 3D (PG-13) 9:55pm
Stadium Seating

* Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)
12:30pm, 3:30pm Stadium Seating

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OPINION PAGE

Houston TranStar urges motorists: move over, slow down – it saves lives

Every day, law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency personnel and tow operators risk their lives responding to calls for help. In 2018, more than 1,100 crashes in the Houston/Galveston area involved emergency vehicles, according to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

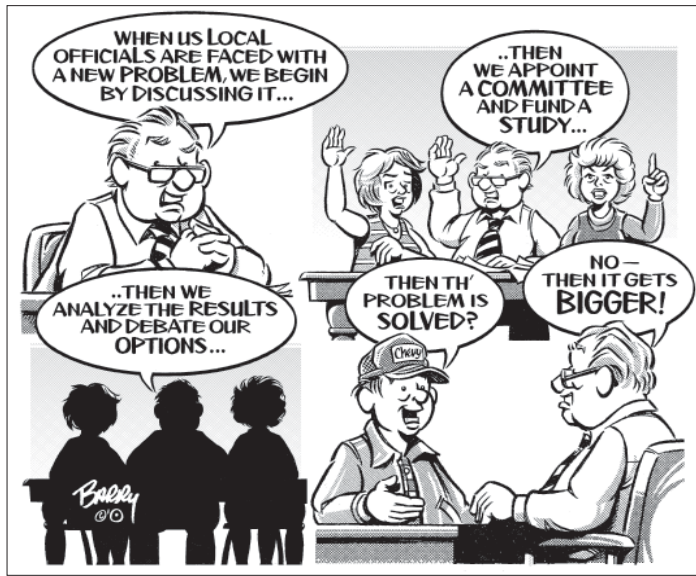
The Texas Move Over/Slow Down law requires that passing motorists move out of the lane closest to an emergency vehicle stopped on the roadway, or if they can't safely move, reduce driving speeds to 20 miles below the posted limit. Move Over/Slow Down also applies when passing stopped TxDOT vehicles and tow trucks displaying warning signals such as traffic cones or flashing lights. "Move Over/Slow Down is designed to prevent secondary crashes and protect first responders as well as drivers and passengers," said Dinah Massie, Executive Director at Houston TranStar. "It's about improving safety for all, particularly emergency personnel who work in dangerous conditions along Texas roadways."

The Move Over/Slow Down Law requires you to:

- Move out of the lane next to the stopped vehicle(s) when on a highway with two or more lanes going the same direction, if it can be done safely and legally
- OR –
- Slow to 20 miles per hour below the posted speed
- Slow to 5 miles per hour if the posted speed is 25 miles per hour or less

Heightened enforcement of the Move Over/Slow Down law is happening across the state, with fines from \$200 to \$2,000, depending on the offense. Last year, TxDOT reports the Department of Public Safety issued more than 41,000 warnings and citations to motorists violating the law.

For more information on road safety and to learn more about how to Travel Smart with TranStar, visit www.HoustonTranstar.org.



Order stops state, local authorities from purging voter rolls

AUSTIN — A San Antonio federal judge on Feb. 27 ordered Texas Secretary of State David Whitley not to purge the names of voters whose registrations he challenged as being potentially fraudulent.

The order came in a voting rights case filed by the League of United Latin American Citizens and other plaintiffs.

U.S. District Judge Fred Biery denied defendants' motion to dismiss the suit. Biery then ordered officials not to remove anyone from the current voter registration list until authorized by the court.

However, Biery added that local officials may continue to determine whether someone who is not a citizen is in fact registered to vote, so long as it is done without communicating directly with any particular individual on the list.

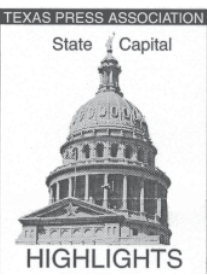
Biery's ruling, which came after three days of hearing evidence and arguments in the case, stated: "Out of 98,000 new American voters on the list, thus far approximately 80 have been identified as being ineligible to vote."

Plaintiffs filed the case after Whitley, acting as the state's chief elections officer, on Jan. 25 issued an advisory to county voter registrars regarding voter registration list maintenance activities, one of which was to identify any non-U.S. citizens registered to vote in Texas.

The advisory came after the secretary of state's elections division reported that some 95,000 individuals identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as non-U.S. citizens have a matching voter registration record and that approximately 58,000 voted in one or more Texas elections.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton reacted to the ruling, saying it "deprives state and county election officials of the capacity to faithfully execute their duties under state and federal law to maintain voting rolls." Paxton also said, "We are weighing our options to address this ruling and to continue making our case that ineligible voters should not vote and counties are free to continue to follow the law and keep their voter rolls clean."

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



partners to ensure that Texas is more resilient than ever before."

The following counties are included in the president's disaster declaration: Archer, Baylor, Brown, Burnet, Callahan, Comanche, Coryell, Dimmit, Edwards, Fannin, Franklin, Grimes, Haskell, Hill, Hopkins, Houston, Jones, Kimble, Kinney, Knox, Llano, Madison, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Nolan, Real, San Saba, Sutton, Throckmorton, Travis, Uvalde and Val Verde.

Abbott reacts to ruling

Gov. Abbott on Feb. 28 sent a letter to appointees and state agencies following the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals' Feb. 27 ruling that struck down a key provision of the state's open meetings law.

In question was the law's prohibition against members of a governmental body meeting privately in numbers of less than a quorum to discuss public business. In writing the majority opinion, Presiding Judge Sharon Keller described that part of the law as "unconstitutionally vague."

The court's split decision came in a case pitting the State of Texas against a county judge who was alleged to have broken the law.

In his letter, Abbott instructed recipients to continue to follow the spirit of the Texas Open Meetings Act, despite the ruling. "Texas has long been, and will continue to be, a leader in governmental transparency," Abbott wrote.

"Regardless of yesterday's ruling, my standard and expectation is for all agencies and boards to continue to follow the spirit of the law. You should not waver in your commitment to providing transparency in the work you perform for Texans at your respective governmental entities," he added.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, is working with advocates of government transparency and accountability on legislation addressing the appeals court's criticism of the law.

The bill-filing deadline for the current legislative session is Friday, March 8.

Abbott reappoints Morath

Gov. Abbott on Feb. 27 announced his reappointment of Mike Morath as state commissioner of education for a term to expire on Jan. 16, 2023.

The reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Texas Senate.

Morath has served as chief executive of the Texas Education Agency since January 2016.

Meanwhile, Whitley, appointed as secretary of state by Gov. Greg Abbott in December, is undergoing the confirmation process in the Texas Senate. The body's nominations committee last week voted along party lines to forward his nomination to the full Senate for consideration.

Aid request is granted

The White House on Feb. 25 granted Gov. Abbott's request for a presidential disaster declaration for 33 Texas counties.

This action provides access to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grant programs for communities that are recovering and rebuilding following severe weather and flooding this past fall.

"I thank the president and FEMA for granting this disaster declaration," Abbott said. "As communities continue to recover and rebuild from the aftermath of these devastating floods, we remain committed to working with our federal and local

Mayor Turner's open letter to Houston about Prop B and moving forward

Dear Fellow Houstonians,

Everyone loves firefighters, and everyone wants them to be paid commensurate to what other firefighters are making around the state. Prop B goes even further, and links firefighters pay to that of Houston police officers even though the organizational structures and promotional requirements are vastly different. Prior to and after the passage of Prop B, the city's finance department and the Controller's Office said the costs would exceed \$100 million a year.



Because no funding source was included in Prop B, and the City is required to balance its books by June 30th of each year, the implementation of the voter approved measure places the City in a dilemma; increase the firefighters' pay by 29 percent which will invariably cause a reduction in personnel and services, seek a determination from the court on whether Prop B conflicts with state law which could only be done after voters approved it, and/or negotiate with the union to phase in the costs of Prop B over multiple years.

As mayor, I have made sure the city is pursuing all three paths. We have forwarded to the Union a proposal that would phase in the costs of Prop B over five years which would substantially eliminate the need to lay off or reduce services beyond the normal budgetary process. All pay raises would be retroactive to January 1, 2019. If there is an agreement, it would mitigate the continuation of any court action, and this entire matter would be behind us.

At the same time, the City, in the lawsuit filed by the Houston Police Officers Union (HPOU) in Nov. 2018, asked the court to rule on the legality of Prop B. If the court rules as a matter of law, Prop B was preempted by state law, the HPOU lawsuit is terminated subject to appeal and Prop B is no longer before us.

However, until the court rules, the City is obligated to move forward in implementing Prop B with the effective date being January 1, 2019.

Since there have been some misstatements and confusion on the legal action the City has or has not taken surrounding Prop B, let me take a moment to lay out what we have done.

The Houston Police Officers' Association sued the City of Houston and Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341 on November 30, 2018. In the 2018 HPOU litigation, the court is asked to determine whether Prop B can stand, since it conflicts with state law. The City answered and appeared in the case as required and, later, also made an affirmative claim within the HPOU suit, seeking a declaration that Prop B conflicts with state law.

No new, separate lawsuit was filed by the City. No new parties were added in the 2018 HPOU lawsuit by the City. No money damages are sought by the City.

The Houston Professional Fire Fighters' Association, Local 341, the firefighters' union, sued the City of Houston in 2017 seeking a pay raise for fiscal year 2018 after the union, not the City, walked away from the collective bargaining table. The union ignored the City's requests that it return to the table. The union sued the City and asked a state court judge to set (not negotiate) all employment terms.

The City is not mounting a broadside attack, constitutional or otherwise, on the Fire and Police Employee Relations Act (FPERA). In fact, the City wants the firefighters' union to return to the bargaining table so that a Judge is not asked to set pay without reference to any standards.

In my 30 years of public service, I have supported collective bargaining. I fought for collective bargaining for firefighters in the Texas Legislature in 2005. To this day, I am committed to collective bargaining.

Lastly, if an agreement cannot be reached with the union to phase in the costs of Prop B over multiple years and if the court does not timely rule on the legality of Prop B, the City is already defining parity between police and fire, re-programming its systems and preparing for a reduction in force as needed to balance the budget.

On January 15, 2019, the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341 and Intervenor-Plaintiffs Patrick "Marty" Lancon, Gabriel Angel Dominguez, Roy Anthony Cormier, Brian Ray Wilcox, and Delance Shaw filed brand new claims in the 2018 HPOU litigation against new parties: Mayor Sylvester Turner, Finance Director Tantri Emo, Controller Chris Brown, and all elected city council members. The firefighters and their union seek the immediate implementation of Prop B.

None of the elected officials needed to be sued. Director Emo, who is not an elected official and does not "sit" at or on City Council, did not need to be sued. Although the process for radically restructuring the City's Human Resource System and payroll methodology to accurately issue salary checks is difficult,

it is well underway and will be done. Moreover, the City plans to make payments under Prop B effective as of January 1, 2019.

The fact is that the City did not start any of the pending litigation involving the firefighters. Firefighters sued the city to destroy the City's historic pension reform; not just the part relating to firefighters, but all the reforms for all municipal employees. That litigation could add hundreds of millions of dollars to the City's costs, scuttle some or all the employee pension systems and financially ruin the City. Fire fighters sued the City in 2017 prior to Prop B, asking a court for a pay raise for the fiscal year 2018. They have not dropped that lawsuit. They caused Prop B to be enacted. Now, again, in the 2018 HPOU litigation, they have sought the immediate implementation of Prop B as a way to expedite the receipt of money from the taxpayers.

Prop B requires that the City substantially increase firefighter compensation. It was misrepresented to the public as bringing about pay "parity." In fact, Prop B requires that firefighters benefit if police officers get benefits or raises, even though their working conditions are completely different, but police officers do not benefit from firefighter benefits or raises.

Citizen-driven charter amendments like Prop B are not always carefully-drafted, much less fully-vetted documents when they arrive at City Hall. When they are not, there is next to nothing a city can do to correct even the most glaring constitutional and legal errors in a citizen-driven charter amendment. A city's only meaningful opportunity to save itself from unconstitutional additions to the City Charter, or obvious efforts like Prop B, comes after the proposed charter amendment passes. After an election, such determinations should be made by our courts.

The City contends that Section 24 to Article IX of the City Charter, approved by voters on November 6, 2018, as Proposition B ("Prop B"), is preempted by State law because:

1. Chapter 174, the State of Texas' collective bargaining law, contains an express preemption clause that states, "(t)his chapter preempts all contrary local ordinances, executive orders, legislation, or rules adopted by the state or by a political subdivision or agent of the state, including a personnel board, civil service commission, or home-rule municipality" and Prop B is contrary to the provisions of Chapter 174;
2. If not expressly preempted, Prop B is impliedly preempted because it frustrates both the express policies of the State of Texas stated in LGC Section 174.002, and numerous other provisions of LGC Chapter 174 regarding compensation, bargaining, and conditions of employment; and
3. Prop B is void under art. XI, § 5 of the Texas Constitution because it is inconsistent with the general laws of the State of Texas.

In this case, the City has asked a court of law to have the final say. That is how our system of law should work.

Let me end where I started. We love and respect our firefighters and want them to be appropriately compensated. Having said that, I don't believe the voters intended to place our City in financial turmoil, cause our credit rating to tumble and increase the costs of City debt.

As mayor, I have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the financial stability of this city and that includes presenting a balanced budget. Prop B threatens to erase all the financial gains of pension reform and place us in a financial crisis. As a city, we cannot let that happen.

We must work together to find a path forward no matter how bumpy the course or how hot the rhetoric. There is just too much at stake.

Sincerely,
Sylvester Turner
Mayor

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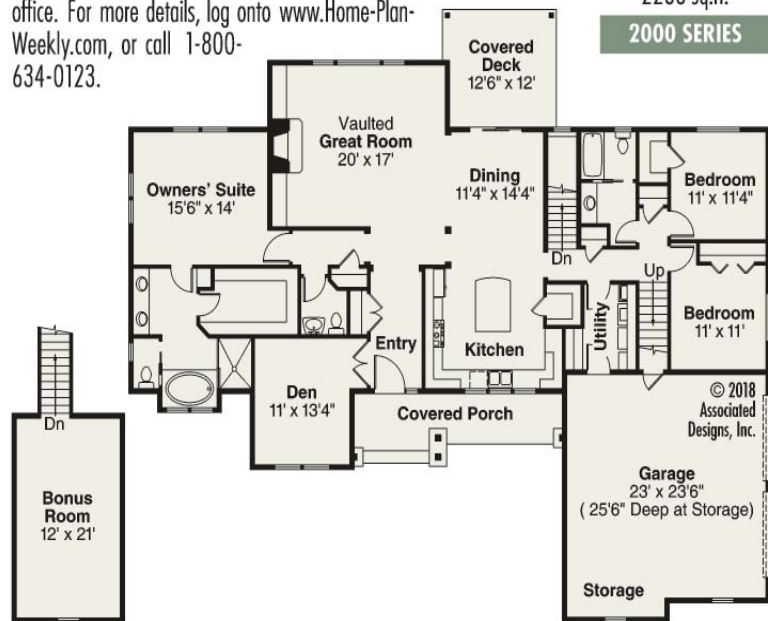
HOUSING & ENTERTAINMENT

www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com



While the exterior is traditional, the interior of this ranch-style home is totally contemporary. Bright and spacious gathering spaces fill its core. Its generously sized kitchen is open to a dining room with sliding door access to a covered deck. Luxuries abound in the owners' suite, while the den, just inside the front door, is in an ideal location for a home office. For more details, log onto www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com, or call 1-800-634-0123.

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Hints For Homeowners

New Shingles Protect The Curb Appeal Of Homes

(NAPSA)—Increasingly, homeowners seeking to protect the curb appeal of their residences are looking up—at their roofs.

In many areas, roofs have black streaks caused by algae—and this is the top appearance-related problem reported to roofing contractors. Fortunately, homeowners don't have to accept the fate of algae making a roof look old before its time.

A new type of roof shingle provides a long-term solution to help prevent algae growth from taking hold—protecting your home and helping to keep it looking good for years to come.

Invented by 3M to combat black streaks on roofs caused by algae, copper-containing roofing granules have been proven successful on hundreds of thousands of homes across the country over the last two decades. Available as shingles with Scotchgard Protector, this long-term, proven solution provides homeowners a beautiful roof free from ugly black streaks.

Known for insisting on nothing less than the best product for the job, professional contractor and TV host Mike Holmes recently named these shingles a "Holmes Approved Product"—and is working to increase awareness among homeowners to help eliminate black streaks on roofs for good.

"I'm proud to partner with 3M and I'm excited to see how far we can take the message," says Holmes. "Together, we're going to continue to improve the quality of our homes, increase the value of our homes and change



our industry for the better."

This fall, The Holmes Group will partner with two Atlas Pro™ Plus contractors to transform homes in need of a curb appeal face-lift. The teams, led by Mike Holmes Jr. and Sherry Holmes, will work together to make over two homes with Atlas Pinnacle® Pristine Shingles with Scotchgard™ Protector. Viewers can tune in to the online microseries this fall.

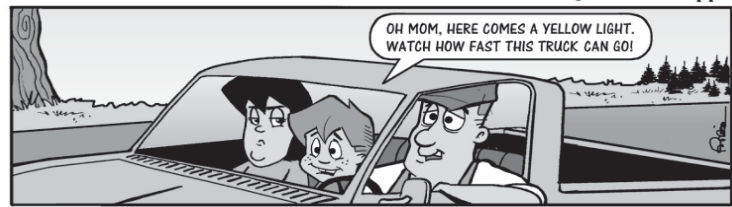
"The Holmes name brings added value to the already highly respected Scotchgard brand," says Stan Bastek, director of marketing and sales development for Atlas Roofing. "When the Holmes group endorses a brand, they are communicating to consumers that they see the same problem we do: how ugly black streaks on roofs reduce curb appeal and home value."

"The Scotchgard brand is synonymous with protection for homeowners, so protection from roof algae is the fulfillment of what that brand promises—a roof free of black streaks that retains its aesthetic appearance," according to Frank Klink, Ph.D., senior laboratory manager, 3M. "Our decades of research into the scientific properties of copper, and field experience with shingle technologies and roof algae, have proven that a minimum 10 percent blend of 3M copper-containing granules uniformly distributed across the shingle surface, and hip and ridge, is required for superior protection against algae."

To learn more, visit 3M at www.3M.com/resistblackstreaks. Special shingles can help eliminate black streaks caused by algae.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

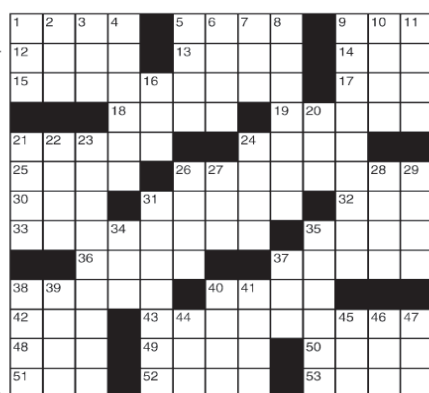
Differences: 1. Scarf is different. 2. Boots are higher. 3. Small figure from window ledge. 4. Bush on left has been moved. 5. Snow is gone. 6. Fush on left has been moved. 7. Hat is different. 8. Hat is different. 9. Hat is different.

Posting Date March 11, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hindu prince
- 5 Persian leader
- 9 Bigshot, for short
- 12 Verve
- 13 Horseback game
- 14 Tokyo's old name
- 15 Chamber of the heart
- 17 Born
- 18 Good-looking guy
- 19 Bandleader Xavier
- 21 Lucky roll of the dice
- 24 Arrived
- 25 Thing
- 26 Pots and pans and such
- 30 Chignon
- 31 Yours
- 32 Neither mate
- 33 Pavement
- 35 Cicatrix
- 36 Always
- 37 Swerves
- 38 "Monopoly" buy
- 40 Desert-like
- 42 Superlative ending
- 43 South American nation
- 48 Chicken — king



- 49 Cupid's alias
- 50 Family creation
- 51 — and don'ts
- 52 Transmitted
- 53 TV award
- 7 Every last bit
- 8 Cornmeal
- 9 With a — (forcefully)
- 10 Concept
- 11 Bard
- 16 Scoot
- 20 Coal diggers' org.
- 21 Bro and sis
- 22 Needle case
- 23 Feuds
- 24 Hit on the head
- 26 Burn something
- 27 Lubricant
- 28 Bellow
- 29 Blunders
- 31 Dozens
- 34 First lady
- 35 Lead astray
- 37 Namely (Abbr.)
- 38 — over heels
- 39 Norway's capital
- 40 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 41 Leftovers
- 44 Before
- 45 Shade tree
- 46 Felon's flight
- 47 Whatever number

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

A	M	W	E	T	S	E	S	O	S
N	V	A	S	O	F	E	R	V	V
E	S	T	A	V	E	N	A	V	E
G	O	T	F	E	R	O	H		
E	R	A	R	S					
S	I	N	A	M	O	I	S		
B	U	N	E	H	I	T	I		
S	E	L	E	C	I	A	K		
S	E	L	E	C	I	A	K		
A	V	E	N	A	V	E			
H	A	A	S	H	A	V			

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the international word (NATO phonetic alphabet) for the letter "O"??
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. city lies further west: Los Angeles, California, or Reno, Nevada?
3. MUSIC: Which Latin rock band had a hit with the 1999 album "Supernatural"?
4. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century author wrote a book of short stories called "Twice-Told Tales"??
5. LANGUAGE: What does the phrase "fifth column" refer to?
6. ANATOMY: What part of the human body is referenced by the adjective "hepatic"??
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was the name of President Bill Clinton's family cat?
8. NICKNAMES: Which West Coast city's nickname is "Emerald City"??
9. ORGANIZATIONS: How many countries are members of Interpol, an international police organization?
10. MOVIES: Who played the character "Ice-man" in the 1986 movie "Top Gun"??

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Trivia Test Answers
1. Oscar 2. Reno 3. Santiam 4. Nathaniel Hawthorne 5. A group of spies or traitors within your own defensive line 6. The River 7. Socks 8. Seattle 9. 194 10. Val Kilmer

COMMUNITY NEWS

NACA Mortgage Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new residents have combined to create a tight housing market. Most severely affected are low to moderate income homebuyers. The tight lending requirements and large down payments has made this a housing crisis.

NACA is the one organization that has broken through the barriers to make home ownership possible for working people. NACA with its fifty offices nationwide including Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, has made affordable homeownership a reality for thousands of primarily low-to-moderate income people with its best mortgage in America: no down payment, no closing

costs, no PMI and without the consideration of one's credit score. Everyone receives the same below-market interest rate as noted by Forbes Magazine in their comparison of the best low down payment mortgages "There is one exception, NACA, that charges the same rate regardless of the credit score".

NACA, which is the largest non-profit HUD certified organization, will be conducting a massive homeownership event from Thursday March 21st through Sunday March 24th at the Greenspoint Mall for thousands of homebuyers (click her for event flyer). All participants will receive comprehensive counseling and

access to NACA's Best in America mortgage with Bank of America committing \$10 Billion to this one extraordinary mortgage product (click her for CNBC story).

The program is the creation of NACA Founder and CEO Bruce Marks, who has been at the forefront of the fight for economic justice through affordable homeownership since starting NACA more than thirty years ago. "NACA has made the dream of affordable homeownership a reality for more than 60,000 families on the best mortgage terms possible," states Bruce Marks. As good as the program sounds, it is even better. Homebuyers can reduce

their fixed interest rate to almost zero percent, purchase and renovate property, buy a multi-family, new construction or existing. NACA is one of the few bright lights in the housing market. By seeing the examples below of people who thought owning a home was the impossible dream before NACA, one can understand why I have the best job in America." These Houston homeowners and hundreds more have achieved the American Dream of homeownership thanks to the NACA program. NACA's Achieve the Dream Event, which takes place March 21-24 at the Greenspoint Mall. Please contact NACA Media Coordinator Tim Trumble at 671-947-2632 or CEO Bruce Marks at 617-835-4477 for more information and to arrange interviews.

JOSEPH O. GOFFNEY II

The following arrangements have been made for Joseph O. Goffney II, the son of Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. Services are open for all to attend. However, the family asks you to consider joining them for fellowship at the Celebration of Life Wednesday afternoon.

Visitation
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Collins & Johnson Funeral Home
612 Avenue E.
Conroe, TX 77301

Final Viewing and Funeral Services
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
10:00 a.m.: Final Viewing
11:00 a.m.: Funeral Services
God's Restoration Revival Center Holiness Church
401 Hughes Rd.
Coldspring, TX 77331

Celebration of Life
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
1:30 p.m.
Jones Educational Complex
125 FM 1514
Coldspring, TX 77331

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Joseph O. Goffney II may be made to the Coldspring-Oakhurst Education Foundation, the Lufkin ISD Education Foundation or the Aldine Education Foundation.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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TexSCAN
TexSCAN Week of March 10, 2019

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Military Hearing Loss - 3M CAEv2 Combat Earplugs were standard issue to millions of military personnel between 2003 and 2015. If you have served in the military; and used 3M Dual-Sided earplugs between 2003 and 2015; and have been diagnosed with hearing loss or tinnitus, you may have a claim for damages. Call now as time may be limited! 800-460-0606, respectforyou.com/earplugs.

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We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. 806-620-1422, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800.

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\$24.99 per month
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Covers all your major kitchen appliances, electrical and water heater.
\$29.99 per month
- 3-in-1 Bundle**
Stay worry-free knowing your home is protected all-around, our bundle plan includes 3 of our best coverages in one bundle plan: Platinum Premier, Deluxe Advantage (extends coverages) and The Ultimate Electronics Protection.
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LIFESTYLE

Mercer Botanic Gardens to have March Mart Plant Sale

Harris County Precinct 4's Mercer Botanic Gardens invites the public to its annual March Mart Plant Sale Friday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This two-day plant sale and fundraiser specializes in rare and unusual plants, with more than 40 plant specialists on site to answer gardening-related questions. Shoppers can browse nearly 1,200 varieties of plants, including 49 varieties of ungrafted roses, tropical ginger, special selections of Mercer-grown plants, heirloom vegetables, and Gulf Coast natives. Featured plants include the Purple Ghost Japanese Maple, Belinda's Dream shrub rose, Fuzzy Bolivian Sage, and the Sun-sation Magnolia. Returning shoppers will notice a wider selection of

plants this year, as Mercer brings back plants lost during the floods of 2016 and 2017. Last year's plant sale marked the grand reopening of Mercer after being closed for more than six months due to extensive damage from Hurricane Harvey. "Although work continues on sections of Mercer, many areas have fully recovered," said Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. "Mercer staff and volunteers now focus on providing the same high-quality March Mart that visitors know and love. I invite all plant lovers who wish to bring a unique flair to their landscape." Shoppers can explore several acres of plants organized in the following categories: annuals and perennials, ginger, natives, shade plants,

succulents, trees and shrubs, and tropicals. Visitors can purchase carnivorous plants, ferns, and orchids from vendors. The event offers tax-free shopping with no admission charge. Shoppers are encouraged to bring their own wagons to transport plants. Wagons are available on a first come, first served basis. Mercer Botanic Gardens is located one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. For more information, contact Mercer at 713-274-4160.



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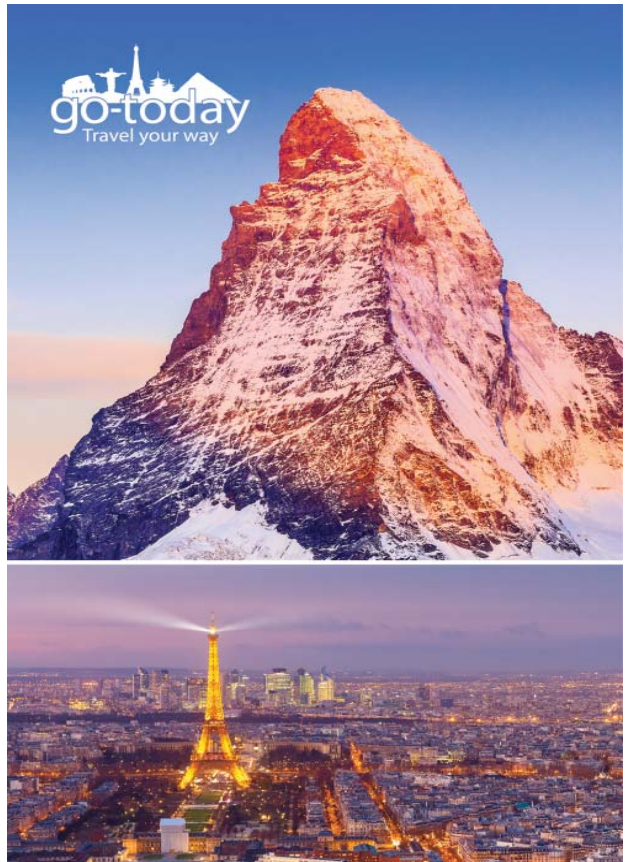
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD leaders visit with key Legislators at State Capitol



The Aldine ISD advocates pose with Representative Armando Walle. As a token of appreciation, AISD leaders provided the AISD alumnus with a football helmet from his alma mater MacArthur HS.

A delegation of Aldine Independent School District (AISD) leaders met with key legislators, directors, and consultants in the State Capitol this past week to learn about legislation affecting public education and to advocate for priorities that are important to AISD students, parents and teachers. Participants included Aldine ISD Board Trustees Steve Mead, Connie Esparza, Dr. Kimberley Booker, Paul Shanklin, Rose Avalos, and Dr. Viola M. Garcia. Aldine ISD Superintendent of Schools LaTonya M. Goffney and Deputy Superintendent Selina Chapa. Assistant Assistant Superintendent and General Counsel M. Kaye DeWalt, Superintendent of Finance

Tamika Alford-Stephens, Assistant Superintendent of Community and Governmental Relations Abel Garza, Chief Communications Officer Sheleah D. Reed; Executive Director of Assessment, Accountability and School Improvement Dawn Ayers-Rodriguez, and Director of Guidance, Counseling and At-Risk Students Charlotte J. Davis also comprised the group from AISD. The group made several visits that also included meeting with Representative Armando Walle, Senator John Whitmire, Representative Jarvis Johnson, Representative Harold Dutton Jr., Senator Carol Alvarado, Representative Valoree Swanson, and Representative Dan Huberty.

Discussion topics included school funding, mental health, special education, early education and more. AISD representatives also used the occasion to highlight the District's strengths, such as its balanced budget, and the progress that it is making in multiple areas and more. "We shared information about our District, which helps our legislators make better informed decisions," Dr. Goffney said. "We also shed light on our story, the wonderful kids that we have, and how we are working to prepare them for their future. "The legislators were impressed and wanted additional information on how we are implementing changes in our District."

Civic Saturdays meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Judge Lina H. confers with Rep. Armando Walle and Marina Sugg.



Congresswoman Sheila J. Lee addresses the audience.

-- a large gathering organized around a specific theme, giving people a chance to share new ideas for improving their communities and to hear from others. -- 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. -- classroom style lessons on the workings of county government.

The Civic Saturday topics in Aldine were Economic Opportunity & Housing. The breakout session for Economic Opportunity focused on Entrepreneurship and Small Business, and Workforce Jobs and Education. The breakout session for Housing focused on Homeowner concerns, and Tenant concerns. Teams outlined

their topic and solutions on white display pads, and at the end of the morning reported to the whole group. Judge Hidalgo closed the session with talk that Harris County is working on a Housing Plan, which would reflect the ideas presented. She said "This is the beginning of an ongoing conversation." Lunch and a follow-up review with county and civic leaders ended the event.

Business Partners,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is a special event that I look forward to each year," Mr. Mead said. "We believe it is important to pause and personally let you know how much your support and partnership means. This annual luncheon is our simple way of saying thanks."

Mr. Mead, who grew up in Aldine and graduated from Aldine High School, has run Component Sales and Service in the middle of Aldine for more than 50 years. "As a business partner myself, I know first hand that running a business is a time-consuming undertaking and there are only so many hours in a day that we can use to get out of the office and spend time mentoring a student, volunteer-

ing at a campus or providing resources for a school festival, book drive or some other worthy activity that promotes student achievement," he said. "On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the time and energy you devote to our schools and the 67,000 students we serve." Following Mr. Mead was Orange Grove Elementary School Principal Ana Flores-Bolivar and Orange Grove counselor Tarena Berry.

They also spoke of the importance of having business partners work with them and their students. "The business community partnership is described as a mutually supportive relationship between the business and community partners, along with the school or the entire school district," Flores-Bolivar said. Berry said do more than simply donate their time and resources, they play a vital role in the education of Aldine ISD's students. "Community engagement increases when partners are involved in helping to build campus vision, its mission and plans," Berry said. "Partners impact student achievement and academics by filling in gaps in instructional and administrative support areas. Dr. Goffney closed the luncheon by also thanking Aldine's business partners and asked for their continued support. Dr. Goffney said Aldine's business partners have made a positive impact on the district's students. "That what it's all about, giving to our children," she said. "You keep coming back, and we thank you for doing so."

Driver dies in crash at I-45 North

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 8100 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) about 5:15 a.m. on March 4. According to Officials, the victim was driving a gray Toyota Corolla and entering the freeway when he failed to

maintain a single lane and struck the guard rail barrels. The driver lost control of the vehicle and crossed two lanes of freeway traffic at a high rate of speed. The Toyota was then struck by a gray Honda Accord. The impact caused the Toyota to spin and strike

the left concrete guardrail. Paramedics arrived and pronounced the driver of the Toyota deceased at the scene, his identity is pending verification. The driver of the Honda sustained minor injuries and was transported to an area hospital.

The next 'Active Parent University' session is Mar. 20

The APU initiative connects parents to District and community resources. The program also teaches parents how to be involved in their children's education as well as how to improve parent-child communication. Now in its third year, Active Parent University introduces families to Aldine ISD programs and connects them to community partners. Active Parent University is a community collaborative led by the District's Title I Department to help parents become full partners in their children's education. The objective is to equip families with new skills, knowledge, and resources to increase their children's academic success. Research has shown that parents can increase a child's academic success through their involvement with schools and communities. Parental involvement improves student morale, attitudes, and academic achievement across all subject areas. Topic for next session on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 is Bully-Proofing Your Child. The Guest Speaker will be Tyrone Tanner, Ed.D., a professor of education at Prairie View A&M

University and founder of Educational Concepts, LLC. He has authored numerous books and articles focused on building community-school partnerships; best practices in parenting; and effective teaching practices that lead to the success of all learners. Parental involvement is a crucial factor during the school life of children, especially in primary and middle school grade levels. Scientists found that parental involvement can affect children's academic progress, behavior, language abilities, social skills and attitude toward life. Active Parent University Spring Classes are open to all Aldine ISD parents, legal guardians, grandparents raising a child between the ages of 5 and 18. The classes are also open to staff members too. All classes will take place at Aldine ISD M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson Child Nutrition Center, 1802 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032. All sessions will offer a simultaneous presentation in English and Spanish (español). If you have any questions, please contact LaTashia L. Abrams at (281) 985-6418 or email atllabrams@aldineisd.org.

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