

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- History of Aldine
- Aldine ISD Job Fair
- Free CPR Training

SEE PAGE 8 FOR ALL THESE STORIES IN COLOR

NORTHEAST NEWS



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VOL. 45, NO. 16 TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Free CPR training

One day only, free training. Compression only CPR with AED. Saturday, April 27, 9 am - noon, 2800 Aldine Bender Rd., Houston, TX 77032. See ad, page 8 for more details.

Stop the Bleed

Save a life. FREE Bleeding Control course in conjunction with Hands-Only CPR. Saturday, April 27, 9 am - 12 pm. at Harris County Emergency Corps, 2800 Aldine Bender Rd., 77032

Greens Bayou Clean-up Apr. 27-Volunteers needed

The East Aldine District, along with the Greens Bayou Coalition, will hold a Community Clean-up on Saturday, April 27 starting from 9:00 am to 12 pm at Kennedy Greens Business Park, 4343 Kennedy Commerce Dr., 77032. To volunteer please register at www.GreensBayou.org/events.

271 Seniors will receive scholarships in May

Aldine Education Foundation has announced that for 2019, graduating seniors will receive 147 scholarships from AEF, totalling \$438,000 in awards. This includes 37 permanent endowments, including AISD staff-funded scholarships.

In addition the Aldine Scholarship Foundation will award 135 scholarships. The total awards by the ASF will be \$135,000. In all AISD seniors will receive \$572,000 in awards for their future college studies.

There were a total of 735 applications for these scholarship, 391 for AEF, 43 for ASF, and 301 for both organizations. Award notifications were sent on April 3rd.

Awards will be given out at an AEF/ASF Scholarship ceremony on Tuesday, May 14 at M. O. Campbell Center, starting at 6:00 pm. It was announced that the format of the ceremony has been changed from previous years, and the reception will follow the awards ceremony, rather than occurring prior to the awards.

Dr. Geoffrey has asked the AEF board to fund four projects for the upcoming year. These include a Convocation 2019 at \$25,000; work on a Strategic Plan with support and a final report at \$15,000; an initiative to "refresh" the Aldine ISD brand at \$20,000; and a Marketing and Awareness campaign at \$80,000. The AEF board approved all these items, which Dr. Geoffrey termed the "Big Idea Projects."

At their meeting, the Education Foundation reported that the Educators of the Year program resulted in 81 teachers and 2 principals receiving a total of \$67,500 in awards for outstanding work.

The Education Foundation raises money through Annual Giving by Donors, a Golf Tournament, and a "Dollar Makes A Difference" campaign for AISD staff. The report for 2018 if that in the Fall campaign, 2,457 staff pledged \$92,556 to AEF and \$60,245 to ASF. In the Spring campaign, 2,831 staff pledged \$104,250 to AEF, and \$66,503 to ASF.

PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS HOUSTON AREA



President Donald Trump signed two executive orders in Crosby, easing regulations on pipelines and water quality.

HOUSTON— "It's like the circus is coming to town!" exclaimed one Republican resident, of the combined excitement and trepidation of having the presidential motorcade come to an unincorporated area that voted for him in the Presidential election by a whopping 74%.

Trump landed his plane at Ellington Field, and travelled by Motorcade to Crosby on US90. After his talk, he returned to Ellington for a fundraiser dinner at the

Lone Star Air Museum. The speech and signing ceremony at the IUOE center was attended by about 400 invited guests, from Harris County and a few from Crosby. A number of industry friends of Trump attended, some even riding

See Trump, Page 8

House passes legislation to reform school finance, property taxes

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on April 3 approved much-anticipated legislation written to revise the state's public school finance system. The vote was 148-1, and the bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 3 would increase pay for public school classroom teachers, librarians and other full-time personnel and also would enable property tax relief. Primarily authored by House Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston, joint authors

include Reps. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio; John Zerwas, R-Richmond; Ken King, R-Canadian; and Alma Allen, D-Houston.

HB 3's estimated net cost would be \$9.5 billion, covering the fiscal biennium that ends Aug. 31, 2021. In addition to pay

increases and incentives, HB 3 would reduce recapture and enable some \$2.7 billion in property tax relief. The legislation, among its general provisions, changes the order in which the Foundation School Program is financed so that state-available school

funds would be applied before locally generated property tax revenue.

After the House voted, Gov. Greg Abbott applauded lawmakers for their

See School & Property Tax Reform, Page 4

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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aldine to host Adidas Showcase on April 22

Aldine ISD will host the Adidas Showcase on Monday, April 22 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The event is being held to announce Aldine ISD's partnership with Adidas and Barcelona Sports. The event will run from 6-8 p.m. and is open to the public. The Showcase will inform the Aldine community of its partnership with Adidas. The district's athletic teams will be wearing the Adidas brand. "This is a big move for Aldine ISD and places us among other top districts that have partnered with other brands (Nike, Under Armour)," said Dre' Thompson, Aldine ISD Executive Director of Athletics. "We want to invite all of the community out to join us in celebrating this accomplishment. Our athletes will be displaying their new Adidas uniforms and clothing." Thompson added that food and drinks will be provided, as well as entertainment and a special guest will make an appearance. The M.O. Campbell Center is located at 1865 Aldine Bender Road.

Citizenship Classes

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 To register, please TEXT Bonding Against Adversity at 832-906-4214.
 www.bondingagainstadversity.org

Green Forest Civic Club Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., East Aldine District, 5333 Aldine Mail Rte. (next to Jed's Hardware). Guest speaker will be Selina Valdez, Constituent Services Liaison for Harris County Pct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. Come meet our new officers. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Marina Flores Sugg at 281-684-9751.

Lady Eagles, Generals earn district track titles

The Eisenhower Lady Eagles cruised to the District 16-6A track and field title, while the MacArthur Generals earned the boys' title.

The Lady Eagles scored 173 points at the league meet. The Davis Lady Falcons finished second with 106 points. The MacArthur Lady Generals finished in fourth place.

The Generals racked up 127 points to edge Spring Westfield (104 points) for the boys' title, while the Eisenhower Eagles finished in fourth place.

In the girls' division, Hannah Simmons of Eisenhower finished first in the 100-meter dash (12.51), Darnee Williams of Eisenhower finished in second place (12.51) and Diamond Burks of Davis finished in third place (12.88).

In the 200-meter dash, Iyana Gray of Eisenhower placed first (25.19), Breanna Despanie of Davis finished second (25.32) and Kiana Rollins of Eisenhower finished third (25.92).

In the 400-meter dash, Daija Brown of Nimitz finished second (58.54) and Christina Green of Eisenhower finished third (58.64).

In the 1,600-meter run, Samantha Hernandez of MacArthur finished third (5:46.91) and in the 3,200-meter run Ericka Sanchez of Nimitz finished in third place (12:37.80).

In the 100-meter hurdles, Jaiya Covington of Eisenhower finished in first place (14.72), while Audreanae Hagan of Davis finished in second place (14.95) and Tytania Morrison of Eisenhower finished in third place (15.57).

In the 300-meter hurdles, Morrison finished in first place (45.65), Hagan finished in second place (45.70) and Covington finished in third place (46.95).

Eisenhower finished first in the 400-meter dash.

The team of Kiana Rollins, Darnee Williams, Iyana Gray and Hannah Simmons finished in 46.42. Davis finished in second place with the team of Burks, Asia Chambers, Despanie and Troi Bailey with a time of 48.64.

Davis placed first in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1:43.37. The team consisted of Despanie, Chambers, Diamond Burks and Bailey.

Eisenhower also won the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:55.00. The team consisted of Christina Green, Deshawn Pettit, Morrison and Dejanee Washington. MacArthur finished third in the event with a time of 4:13.31. The team consisted of Braylah Horace, Laila Holmes, Ayanah Victrum and Vanessa Celestino.

Covington finished first in the high jump with a leap of 5-6, while Despanie of Davis finished second with a leap of 5-0 and Myracle Lettries of MacArthur finished third with a leap of 4-10.

Davis' Kayla Campbell finished first in the pole vault (7-0) and Aniya Wade of Nimitz finished in second place (5-6).

Eisenhower's Covington placed first in the long jump (17-06), while Ariel Price of MacArthur finished second (17-01) and Holmes of MacArthur finished third (16-11).

Holmes placed second in the triple jump (35-11) and Pettit of Eisenhower finished in third place (34-10).

MacArthur's Tazia Young finished third in the shot put (32-04), while Tiffanie Brown of Davis finished second in the discus (92-05) and Delvion Steverson of Eisenhower finished in third place (92-04).

In the boys' division, MacArthur's Broderick Starnes finished first in



The Eisenhower Lady Eagles cruised to the District 16-6A track and field title by accumulating 173 points at the district meet. The Davis Lady Falcons finished second with 106 points.



The MacArthur Generals finished in first place in the boys' division at the District 16-6A track and field meet. The Generals totaled 127 points to earn the league title.

the 100-meter dash (10.95) and Javon Davis of Nimitz finished in third place (11.12).

MacArthur's Joshua Eaton finished first in the 200-meter dash (22.30) and Timberland Sanders of Nimitz finished in third place (22.63).

Nimitz's Anthony Johnson placed third in the 400-meter dash (51.77), while MacArthur's Dario Ramirez finished first in the 800-meter run (2:02.97) and Eisenhower's Jose Bouza finished second (2:05.26).

Bouza finished first in the 1,600-meter run (4:52.21), while Ramirez finished second (4:56.23) and Sabas Torres of MacArthur finished in third

See District Track Titles, Page 8

MacArthur duo signs with University of St. Thomas

A pair of student-athletes at MacArthur High School recently signed national letters of intent with the University of St. Thomas. Alyssa Davila, seated, left, will play tennis and Jonathan Blanco will run cross country. Pictured with them at their signing ceremony were, standing, (l-r): tennis coaches Dennis Quintinilla and Brandon Blake, MacArthur Ninth Grade Principal D'Ann Delgado, MacArthur High School Principal Heather Peterson, Director of Athletic Services Salvador Fernandez, head cross country coach Xang Chareunsab, head football coach and campus athletic coordinator Wayne Crawford and Assistant Principal over Athletics Akua Twumasi.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

FEATURING COMMUNITY BUSINESS

Mom's No Secret to Aldine Residents

By Staff

After more than two decades in business, with its hot and hearty Texas breakfasts and downhome Southern comfort lunches served either to order from the kitchen or cafeteria-style, Mom's Country Kitchen (14428 Aldine Westfield Rd.) has earned the status of an East Aldine institution. (It's right across the street from another venerable establishment — the Good Time Skate roller rink.)

Long and low-slung, Mom's exterior somewhat resembles two boxcars melded together. The clean and cheery interior has a country feel with its walls of corrugated tin and blonde wood paneling. Vintage photos of smiling women adorn the walls — one suspect at least one of these is Mom herself. Or maybe all of them are. As suggested by the parking lot full of pickup trucks, this is predominantly a workingman's spot, but there is enough of a feminine touch about the premises to attract a few tables full of women too. There is no grease on these spoons.

I opted for the cafeteria experience — when hungry, I will choose that route over sitting down and waiting for service and prep nine times out of ten. Make that ten times out of ten when the selection looks as tasty as what Mom offered up on the day of my visit. There's a rotating array of entrees and sides — on the early March Friday of the main dishes included chicken and dumplings, liver and onions, lasagna, stuffed Bell peppers, and a little dilemma presented by the three entrees that most caught my fancy. They kind of stood for Greater Houston's identity crisis as a whole: Should I go for Gulf Coast / Cajun Bayou City selection and order the seafood jambalaya, opt for the Deep South option with the fried catfish filet (this being a Friday in Lent), or go whole-hog Texan with the huge chicken-fried steak (this also being Rodeo season)?

In the end, Rodeo trumped the Holy Faith and I chose the CFS along with mashed potatoes and boiled spinach. As a somewhat rare devotee of brown gravy atop my chicken-frieds, I was glad to see I had that option at Mom's and asked for a ladleful atop both taters and meat. Rarer still is my preference for a squeeze of lemon atop my chicken-frieds, and Mom's had my back there too, with a tubful of very fresh lemons available near where you can also pick up your free house-made rolls or cornbread. (Yeah, lemon and



brown gravy on a CFS is weird, I know, but that was how I grew up eating it. Try it sometime.)

Taking notice of my pen and notebook on my tray, the matronly woman behind the cash register said "That looks like work. Of course, it isn't work if you enjoy it...But if you don't, you'll get indigestion."

She needn't have worried. The CFS was perfectly fried. Too many gravies are bland — not so with this delightfully thick and flavorful concoction, with notes of...what was that? A hint of garlic? Maybe some onion in there? In any event, it added the perfect third note to the Holy Trinity of CFS — you want something tasty atop the crunchy-chewy combo of the breaded and fried meat. The mashed potatoes had just the right balance of firmness and creaminess, and the spinach, once adulterated to my customary level of butteriness, saltiness, and lemony-ness was also spot-on. The entire platter survived maybe ten minutes of my diligent attention; that was all the time it took from first slice of the CFS to last spot of gravy with my roll. Not bad for \$11.

It's a country-style blue-collar East Texas diner done right, but oddly enough, the place put me in mind of Nelson Algren, a Chicagoan

who wrote with fondness about the brawling backstreets and byways of his tough hometown. Today he is remembered less for his books than he is for his titles (A Walk on the Wild Side inspired the Lou Reed song that is now much more widely-remembered) and a few quotes, perhaps most famously these hard-bitten words —

"Never play cards with a man called Doc," he advised, adding that you should "never sleep with a woman whose troubles are worse than your own." Fair enough, but then he veered off into complete folly with his third admonition, namely that you should "Never eat at a place called Mom's."

Well, it's apparent Algren was never at this Mom's. And while the Mom's Country Kitchen is nothin' fancy, that isn't the goal here. The goal is to serve up perfectly prepared comfort food in a happy place for a fair price, which folks in the East Aldine District know well. Again paraphrasing Algren, who was then writing about the no-nonsense Chicago he preferred to the glitz of Lakeshore Boulevard and the Windy City's leafy, ritzy residential neighborhoods, "you may well find lovelier lovelies" than Mom's Country Kitchen. "But never a lovely so real."

Harris County Flood Control District receives grant award letter to update the fllood warning system website

The Harris County Commissioners Court approved a State Award letter to allow the Harris County Flood Control District to begin work to construct a new public Flood Warning System Website. The new website will include enhanced functionality and viewing capabilities, updated and modernized graphics, and features that allow residents to sign up for specific information to be delivered via e-mail, text message, and automated calls. Additionally, critical mapping features such as channel status and near real time inundation mapping will be built in more prominent locations of the new website to maximize user interaction. The new website will take a more regional approach, allowing residents in nearby counties to easily view rainfall and water level information for their respective jurisdictions where available.

The grant approved for \$1,751,961.35 (Federal \$1,313,971.01 / Local \$437,990.34) from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will

provide the necessary funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to build this new Flood Warning System Website that will allow residents to take action and help protect life and property.

"We want the people of Harris County to have access to critical information in a timely, accessible format that allows them to prepare and take necessary actions in flood situations or possible flood situations," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

HCFCD encourages county residents to bookmark the website URL (www.harriscountyfws.org), for simplified access to timely information during potential flooding events.

In addition to building a new website, the grant will fund an internal flood informational dashboard that will give HCFCD staff and selected partner agencies access to current and forecasted flooding conditions throughout the county. The dashboard will provide a common user interface that displays the county bayou and stream

network and flood forecasted model data, such as future water levels and flooding extents.

"Our current Flood Warning System website is ten years old, and this grant will allow us the ability to provide the residents of Harris and surrounding counties a more modern and user friendly experience," stated Jeff Lindner, Director of Hydraulic Operations and Meteorologist for the Flood Control District.

ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

The Harris County Flood Control District provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit www.hcfcd.org.

Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Supplies, April 27-29

(AUSTIN) — With the potential for severe weather approaching, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which occurs April 27-29.

"While we can't know in advance when the next flood, tornado or hurricane may strike, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations. Don't wait for disaster to strike. Take the time now to get prepared."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save more than \$1.6 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300; and
 - portable generators priced at less than \$3,000.
- Delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are considered part of the sales price when determining taxability. If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Shoppers should consider the total price for an item when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be

purchased tax-free during the holiday.

Purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website: comptroller.texas.gov

Easter games at Jones Park & Nature Center

Easter Games: Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m. to noon. Spring is in full swing at Jones Park! Enjoy egg-rolling, bunny races, spoon races, and other traditional Easter games in a family-friendly envi-

ronment. Bring a lunch and blanket for a picnic on the Redbud Hill Homestead's green meadow. Families with children ages 12 and under. Reservations are required and available beginning

Wednesday, April 10. Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is located at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble. Please call 281-446-8588 or visit www.hcp4.net/community/parks/jones.

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 Opens THURSDAY, April 18
 * CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R) 7:00 9:30

12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm
 * SHAZAM! (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 6:15pm
 * SHAZAM! (PG-13) - SPAN DUB: 12:15pm, 6:15pm
 * SHAZAM! 3D (PG-13) - 3:15pm, 9:15pm
 * SHAZAM! 3D (PG-13) - SPAN DUB: 3:15pm, 9:15pm
 * HELLBOY (R) - 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
 * LITTLE (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
 * MARY MAGDALENE (R) - 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm
 * MISSING LINK (PG) - 12:30pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm
 * MISSING LINK 3D (PG) - 2:45pm, 7:15pm
 * THE BEST OF ENEMIES (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 3:15pm
 * PET SEMATARY (R) - 12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm
 * PET SEMATARY (R) - SPAN DUB: 12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm

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OPINION PAGE

TEXAS SENATE NEWS
By Richard Lee

Bill would end controversial driver fine program

(Austin) Heavily criticized for the financial burden it places on those affected, the state's Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) would be repealed under a bill considered by the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday. Perhaps more familiarly known as the "points system", this program adds compounding penalties to drivers as they are convicted of traffic violations. A driver who commits a moving violation can get two "points" on their drivers license, and three if the violation results in a car crash. Points stay on a license for three years and if a license accrues six points, the driver is assessed a \$100 surcharge at the end of the year. That fine goes up \$25 for every additional point above six. There are additional surcharges for more serious violations: \$1000 for a driver's first intoxicated driving conviction and increasing for each subsequent conviction. Driving with a suspended license or without insurance incurs \$250 surcharges.

This program has been widely condemned for many sessions by citizens and lawmakers alike for putting unreasonable financial burdens on drivers, who can lose their license until they pay off all their DRP fines. For fifteen years, the Legislature has made various attempts to repeal the program, but the problem is that it helps to pay for trauma care at Texas hospitals, some \$300 million per biennium. Lawmakers worry how that loss of money will impact the care of 130,000 people every year who need critical trauma services in the state, and so the program has remained. In the Senate Finance Committee Thursday, Houston Senator Joan Huffman offered a bill that will end the DRP while covering nearly all of the loss in revenue to the state trauma fund.

Her bill, SB 918, would repeal the program, remove existing

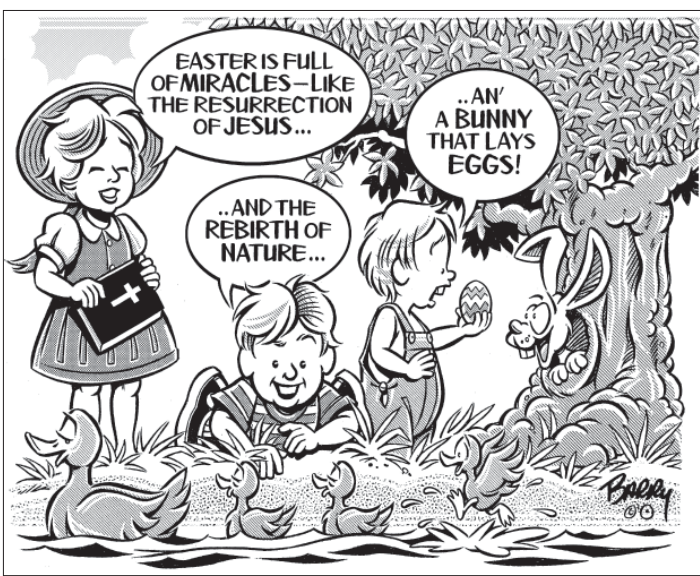
points, and restore any licenses suspended solely due to non-payment. It would address the funding gap by creating additional one-time fines and fees for traffic offenses, rather than the compounding fine structure of the DRP. The state base traffic violation fee would rise from \$30 to \$50 and it doubles the fee that insurers add to each individual auto policy, from \$2 to \$4. Fines for DWI convictions would also go up, from \$1000 to \$3000 for a first offense, up to \$6000 for driving with a blood alcohol level twice the legal limit. Huffman says these new fines and fees will cover all but about \$30 million of current DRP revenue.

Huffman told members that she intends to hold her bill and wait for the House version, authored by Richmond Representative John Zerwas, to make its way to the Senate. In the meantime, she pledged to work with Senators to address any concerns. Huffman said that she knows the solution isn't perfect, but something has to change. "I really think we need to get this done and we need to make it work," she said. "I know that not everyone will be happy, but we have to figure out a way to get this done."

Transportation Committee chair and Jacksonville Senator Robert Nichols praised the bill. He said his committee hears DRP repeal bills every session, but they never advance into law. "We need to pass this," he said. "These trauma funds have become addictive, but there are some real sufferings going on because of this program." He urged members to support the bill, even if the fund replacement isn't exactly perfect. Committee chair and Flower Mound Senator Jane Nelson was more skeptical. She said it was the prospect of reliable funding for improved trauma care and the lives it would save that secured her vote on the bill that created the DRP in 2003. "If we do anything to change this, that trauma funding is going to be replaced," she said.

"If it doesn't, madam Chairman, it's my intention that it will not move forward," said Huffman.

The Senate will reconvene Monday, April 15 at 2 p.m.



Abbott Signals Stance on HB 2
Lawmaker Claims Abbott Will Not Sign Property Tax Reform Bill Unless Schools are Added

By Destin Sensky

According to sources inside the Texas Capitol, Gov. Greg Abbott is telling lawmakers he will refuse to sign property tax reform legislation that does not include the largest item on a taxpayer's bill—school taxes. Now one lawmaker is coming forward and claiming the rumors are true.

Abbott shared his position with a number of lawmakers while traveling to and from an event with President Donald Trump earlier this week. **State Rep. Briscoe Cain** of Deer Park is one lawmaker who has stepped forward ahead of the Texas House's consideration of House Bill 2 to share his understanding of Abbott's position.

Based on conversations with Gov. Abbott and other lawmakers, Cain said, "I am not under the impression he will sign any property tax reform legislation

that does not include schools."

Other lawmakers say Abbott told them as well, but have declined to go on the record with Texas Scorecard.

Abbott's remarks appear to bolster conservative lawmakers' efforts to re-insert school taxes into House Bill 2, the omnibus property tax reform bill on the floor today.

Unveiled at a press conference at the beginning of the session, House Bill 2, as originally filed, would prevent local governments from raising taxes more than 2.5 percent without first securing voter approval.

However, in the dark of the night following the marathon debate on the budget, House Ways and Means Chairman (and bill author) Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) amended the legislation to remove schools and other special taxing units from the bill.

At the time Burrows

claimed that schools would be included in House Bill 3, an education spending bill carried by **State Rep. Dan Huberty** (R-Kingwood), but when lawmakers considered the measure the following week no provision was added to the bill.

Lawmakers are set to consider House Bill 2 later this afternoon with 180 amendments to the legislation already filed, many of which would have the effect of adding schools back into the bill and protecting Texans from excessive tax hikes.

So far Burrows has not indicated he will accept those amendments and Abbott has not responded to requests for comment on his position.

This is a developing story. For updates, when they become available, visit TexasScorecard.com. You can also follow me on Twitter as well as Texas Scorecard.

School & Property Tax Reform,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work and said, "Texans are demanding meaningful reforms to our school finance system, and today's passage of HB 3 in the House is a vital step toward that goal. By reducing recapture, investing more money in our schools and in our teachers, the Legislature is making changes that will have a lasting impact on our education system, and more importantly, our students."

State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, chair of the House Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Education, in an April 3 news release called HB 3 "the bill we have been working for."

"To the teachers who dedicate their working lives to our kids, who for too long have been underappreciated and unheard: We hear you, and this bill is for you," she said.

"In February, House Democrats put forward our Texas Kids First Plan. We laid out a number of key priorities for our vision for the future of public education in Texas. Today, I am pleased to say that this bill incorporates most of those priorities.

"House Bill 3 is an example of what happens when we come together — Democrats and Republicans — and instead of fighting about our different visions, speak honestly about what we want and what we can achieve together. We can expect and can tolerate no less," Hinojosa added.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

Both houses must agree

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee on April 3 unanimously approved a budget bill that matches the House's appropriation on two of the session's top priorities: education finance and property tax reform.

A report filed by the Senate News Service points out that while the House and Senate have settled on \$9 billion in additional funding toward those priorities, exactly how the funds would be spent is still up for debate.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said, "We continue to negotiate this issue with the House, but both chambers have now reached \$9 billion set aside for whatever agreement we reach."

Revenue increase noted

State sales tax revenue totaled \$2.6 billion last month, an amount 9 percent greater than the amount calculated for the month of March 2018, Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar announced April 2.

The comptroller's office reported increased collections in all major economic sectors, including retail

trade, information services, oil and gas and restaurants. "Much of the increase stemmed more from consumer spending rather than business spending," Hegar said.

Furthermore, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in March 2019 was up 7.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago, according to agency statistics.

RRC marks anniversary

On March 31, 1919, the Texas Legislature enacted a statute giving the Texas Railroad Commission regulatory authority over the oil and gas industry in the Lone Star State.

Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick wrote an April 1 editorial commemorating the milestone. Among the points she made was that the commission's well-plugging program is hitting historic numbers. In fiscal years 2018-2019, the Texas Legislature set a performance goal for the agency to plug 1,958 abandoned wells. However, Craddick said, the commission is on track to plug about 3,000. Craddick pointed out that funds to plug the wells come from fees paid by the energy industry, not from Texas taxpayers.

Be 'Earth-Minded'

(NAPSI)—In celebration of Earth Day this month, an online Environmental Survey can help families and classroom students score their environmental habits and get practical tips on how to conserve energy, save water, and reduce waste and pollution.

The free survey can be taken in just a few minutes on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Based on their survey input, families and classes will receive personalized recommendations that can help them reduce their environmental footprint and, in some cases, even save money.

"Covering all types of household topics, the Environmental Survey is a fun and informative way for classrooms and families to understand how they impact the environment and to learn commonsense behaviors that help children and adults be more environmentally responsible," says Joe Haworth from the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation.

Home and school versions of the free survey with detailed results are available online at www.thinkearth.org/surveys.

Founded in 1988, Think Earth is a nonprofit organization that pioneered the development of classroom lesson plans promoting environmental awareness and behaviors. Think Earth lessons for K-5 elementary grades have reached more than 4 million students. Educators and parents can download the free materials at www.thinkearth.org.

How are you going to celebrate Earth Day?

(NAPSI)—On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans gathered in the streets, in parks and in auditoriums around the country in support of a healthy, sustainable environment. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This year, the EPA is hoping that same number of Americans will make a difference—by pledging to choose ENERGY STAR certified products. Products that earn the ENERGY STAR label—everything from appliances and electronics to LED lighting, smart thermostats and air conditioners—are independently certified to save energy and reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases associated with climate change.

ENERGY STAR certified products not only help protect the climate, they help lower energy bills. According to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a typical household spends about \$2,000 a year on energy. A home outfitted with products that have earned the ENERGY STAR can save 30 percent, or about \$575 a year. Over their lifetime, these products can save the average homeowner about \$8,750 on utility bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 77,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

For more information about the ENERGY STAR pledge, visit www.energystar.gov/earthday.

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EASTER & ENTERTAINMENT PAGE

KOVELS Antiques & Collecting

Rabbit Doorstop

Where did the Easter bunny come from? There is no suggestion of an egg-laying rabbit or hare in the Bible's scriptures.



Iron doorstops were made by many cast iron toy makers. This rabbit doorstop was made in Connecticut.

A doorstop shaped like a rabbit probably was not originally made as a symbol of Easter, but it could have been.

it. It reads "it'll tickle yore nnards." Does that make it valuable?

I have a picture of John F. Kennedy autographed to my family. During World War II, my father was in the Navy with Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's press secretary.

The Pepsi-Cola Company introduced Mountain Dew in 1964. "It'll Tickle Yore Innards" was part of the slogan used on bottles and cans from 1965 to 1969.

CURRENT PRICES

Fun House mirror, carnival, wood frame, blue, lighted marquee, 1930s, 81 x 33 inches, \$1,160.

Mochaware, sugar, lid, marbled bands, brown, blue, flower finial, 1800s, 4 1/4 inches, \$2,195.

Letter box receptacle, U.S. mail, eagle and shield front, brass, Cutler Mfg. Co., 21 x 36 inches, \$4,350.

Doll, automaton, dandy smoker, black, papier-mache head, marbled wood cabinet, 1935, 37 1/2 x 18 1/2 inches, \$8,055.

TIP: Decorated glasses given as promotions at fast-food restaurants often fade in sunlight.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Ideas to "Egg" On Your Imagination

Which came first — the chicken or the egg? Well, for many families at this time of year, there's no doubt. Eggs rule! While the kids are busy mixing,



dipping and dying Easter eggs, rescue a few from the frenzy and decorate them together to fit each child's personality, interest or something special you share with him or her.

Dye and decorate hard-boiled eggs close to Easter and keep them refrigerated, or empty eggshells for special keepsake eggs to bring out from year to year.

To empty an egg, poke a small hole with a straight pin at each end of a washed raw egg. Carefully wiggle a toothpick or wooden skewer into one of the holes to break the yolk.

and blow through the straw, collecting the contents of the egg in a small dish. Rinse out the empty shell and let dry. Store in an empty egg carton.

Here are ideas to "egg" on your imaginations with school-age kids:

— Make a series of character egg-heads with a game called "Pass It On!" Everyone begins with a blown egg and starts by painting or gluing on yarn or string to make hair.

— Create a "You're a Good Egg" self-portrait using markers to draw the masterpiece onto the egg. Glue on craft-store movable eyes for personality and a feather for hair.

— A previous trip to the zoo might conjure up your child's favorite animal or "eggimal." His or her version of a fish, penguin or exotic bird can be created by tracing with a pencil a pattern of a beak, feet or fins onto different colored foam craft sheets.

Note: Use nontoxic dyes, markers and household glue with these and other crafts with children.

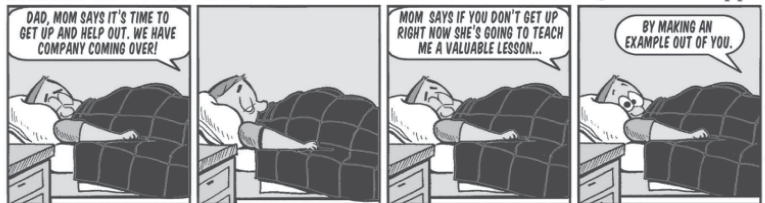
"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Start a tradition of creating keepsake eggs. Unpack them every year and arrange them in a table centerpiece, or hang them with thread glued to each egg from a bouquet of forsythia and blossoming branches.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with numbers 1-9. Includes difficulty level and copyright info.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF. A cartoon about a test today. Includes a list of differences between panels.

Posting Date April 15, 2019

King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a grid with numbers 1-59.

- ACROSS: 1 Mouth part, 4 Uses an old phone, 9 Taxi, 12 Lemony drink, 13 "Snowy" bird, 14 11-Down cousin, 15 Woodworker, 17 Fish eggs, 18 Parisian pal, 19 McCormick's invention, 21 Tennis need, 24 Palm starch, 25 — Khan, 26 Morning moisture, 28 Phobos and Deimos, to Mars, 31 — Your "Enthusiasm" counterparts, 33 British rule of India, 35 Merriment, 36 Military caps, 38 Wrigley product, 40 Listener, 41 Heidi's range, 43 Piece of pasta, 45 Half a dime, 47 Ailing, 48 Jimmy Kimmel's network, 49 "Seize the day" in Latin, 54 Half of XIV, 55 Elbows', 56 Dove's call, 57 Tokyo's old name, 58 Begin, 59 Conclusion, 8 Rill, 9 Used the HOV lane, 10 Lotion additive, 11 Brewery output, 16 LPGA's Se Ri, 20 Quite enthusiastic, 21 Poolroom, 22 Chills and fever, 23 Thin-sliced raw meat, 27 Witty one, 29 Patricia of, 30 "Hud", 32 Defraud, 34 Gin flavoring, 37 Motes, 39 Harass, 42 Point of view, 44 Antiquated, 45 Church section, 46 Footnote abbr., 50 Actor Stephen, 51 Hockey surface, 52 A billion years, 53 Chic, in the '60s

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. A list of 10 trivia questions with a solution time of 21 mins. Includes a crossword grid and answers.

CHURCH PAGE

RECENT DEATHS

Romona Anderson	Hazel Belle Anderson
Judith Ann Flores	Ismael Menchaca
Betty Mae Horneber	Jorge Carrillo
Sandra Vega	Alfonso Aliaga



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Gethsemane in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible (KJV) that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb, and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
4. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers
5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Matthew (27:65-66); 3) An angel; 4) Disciples; 5) Thomas (called Didymus); 6) 40 days

District Track Titles,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

place (4:47.82).
MacArthur's Giovanni Silva finished first in the 3,200-meter run (10:30.80), Bouza finished in second place (10:33.11) and A. Doyle of Nimitz finished in third place (10:33.85).
Davis' Donyae Jarmon finished third in the 110-meter hurdles (15.18) while
Curvis Williams of Davis finished second in the 300-meter hurdles (40.51) and Anthony Isom of Eisenhower finished in third place (41.29).
The MacArthur team of Avante Reed, Joshua Eaton, Darius Gaston and Starnes finished first in the 400-meter relay (41.74), while the Nimitz team of Javon Davis, Justin Eaglin, Jaden Ratcliff and Sanders finished second (42.55).
The Nimitz team of Eaglin, Johnson, Davis and Sanders finished first in the 4x200-meter relay (1:28.77) and the MacArthur team of Armando Ordenna, Eaton, Gaston and Starnes finished in third place (1:28.84).
The Davis team of Isiah Harrell, Savon Johnson, Decorie King and Xavier Bagley finished second in the 4x400-meter relay (3:29.25).
Joshua Eaton of MacArthur finished second in the high jump (6-06) and teammate Rashun Jackson finished in third place (6-02).
MacArthur's Lazro Pina

finished first in the pole vault (9-06) and Tadren Franklin of Eisenhower finished in second place (9-06).
Eisenhower's Deon Allen finished second in the long jump (22-01) and teammate Da'Various Scott finished third (21-05).
Nimitz's Anthony James placed second in the triple jump (44-01).
Davis' Emmanuel Lavigne finished first in the shot put (45-08), while teammate Ta'Von Burrows finished second (45-05) and Davis' Kerry Martin finished third (45-02).
Burrows finished second in the discus (123-02) and Eisenhower's Joel Mendoza finished in third place (122-04).

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EVENTS
Buda Lions Country Fair and Wiener Dog Races, April 27-28, Buck's Backyard, FM 1626, Buda, TX. For more info, visit www.budalions.com.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet, April 19-21, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common St., New Braunfels. No dogs please. www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com.

Mount Vernon - 15th Annual Tour de Cypress Ride, Sat., April 20. Enjoy a Franklin County weekend of activities: Bike Ride, Music and Barbecue. 10, 20 45, 52 Mile and 100K rides. Beautiful routes past Exotic Animal Farm and Lake Cypress Springs. www.tourdecypress.com.

Gonzales Inquirer 2nd Annual Come & Taste It Craft Beer & Wine Festival, Fri., April 26, 6-10 p.m.; Sat., April 27, 1 p.m.-11 p.m. Live Music featuring five bands on the square. For more information call 830-672-2861 or email terry.fitzwater@gonzalesinquirer.com.

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LIFESTYLE

The Houston Symphony performs the music of Led Zeppelin

HOUSTON (April 10, 2019) – The Houston Symphony celebrates the 50th anniversary of the iconic English rock band in the one-night-only program the Music of Led Zeppelin at 7:30 p.m. April 19 at Jones Hall.

Guest conductor Brent Havens returns to Houston to lead the electrifying program with vocalist Randy Jackson, lead singer and guitarist for the band Zebra. The Houston Symphony, augmented by a full rock band, covers a set list of all Led Zeppelin's greatest hits, including "The Immigrant Song," "Whole Lotta Love," "Stairway to Heaven," and more.

Formed in the 1960s, the English hard rock band Led Zeppelin dominated the soundwaves throughout its career. Led Zeppelin earned the prestigious

Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 for its creative contributions to the field of music recording. After four decades, Led Zeppelin recently announced plans for a year-long tour and release of a new album.

The Music of Led Zeppelin program takes place at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana Street, in Houston's Theater District. For tickets and information, please call 713.224.7575 or visit houston-symphony.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Houston Symphony Patron Services Center in Jones Hall (Monday-Saturday from 12-6 p.m.). All programs and artists are subject to change.

About the Houston Symphony
During the 2018-19 sea-

son, the Houston Symphony celebrates its fifth season with Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada and continues its second century as one of America's leading orchestras with a full complement of concert, community, education, touring, and recording activities. The Houston Symphony, one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas, held its inaugural performance at The Majestic Theater in downtown Houston June 21, 1913. Today, with an annual operating budget of \$33.9 million, the full-time ensemble of 88 professional musicians presents nearly 170 concerts annually, making it the largest performing arts organization in Houston. Additionally, musicians of the orchestra and the Symphony's four Community-Em-

bedded Musicians offer over 900 community-based performances each year, reaching thousands of people in Greater Houston.

The Grammy Award-winning Houston Symphony has recorded under various prestigious labels, including Naxos, Koch International Classics, Telarc, RCA Red Seal, Virgin Classics and, most recently, Dutch recording label PENTATONE. In 2017, the Houston Symphony was awarded an ECHO Klassik award for the live recording of Alban Berg's Wozzeck under the direction of former Music Director Hans Graf. The orchestra earned its first Grammy nomination and Grammy Award at the 60th annual ceremony for the same recording in the Best Opera Recording category.

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Trump in Houston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Airforce One with the president.

Arrival at the International Union of Operating Engineers International Training and Education Center comes in controversy. President Trump signed executive orders to facilitate easing regulations on making petrochemicals and speeding up pipeline construction, even in the wake of four petrochemical fires and three worker deaths in less than one month in East Harris County. And the union facility recently became non-profit, thus reducing taxes paid to local first responders. White House of-

officials announced the orders will grant incentives for investors to build energy infrastructure, streamlining permitting for pipeline projects. Last May Trump issued a permit to initiate the delayed Keystone XL Pipeline.

The International Training and Education Center is about 266 acres between Newport and Foley Road in Crosby.

President Trump indicated reducing red tape around pipelines would allow the US to remain undisputed leader of the world in natural gas and oil in the future. Of course, the new Key-

stone XL permit is under court challenge, environmentalists sued over the issue of whether Congress, not the executive branch, is granted constitutional rule over federal lands.

Trump has added on-shore and off shore drilling. The Department of the Interior is currently in the first stage of developing a plan to build more offshore drilling platforms in the Atlantic. States that thrive on tourism are not so happy with that development.

In his state of the union address in February, Trump stated, "We have unleashed a revolution in American energy."

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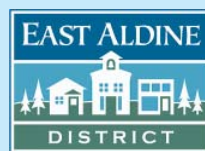
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East Aldine District NEWS REPORT

History of Aldine

Below you'll find the first in a series of (at least) 3 articles focusing on the history of Aldine and some of its earliest settlers. Our writing staff is exploring local activities, folklore, and documented history in an effort, in part, to ensure Aldine's history is properly celebrated and curated for all to enjoy.

Keep your eyes peeled in both April and May when we run parts 2 and 3.

Early Days, and How Did Aldine Come to Get Its Name?

Though there had been scattered farms since the earliest days of Texas, the place we now know as Aldine began life first as a place called "Greens" (or maybe Green's, as in Green's Bayou) and then, in 1873, when it became a whistle-stop on the International and Great Northern Railroad, it was renamed Prairie Switch. Trains chugging up from Houston and bound for Palestine, then the railroad's northern terminus, would switch engines there on that prairie.

Both the town and the railway switched names too — after linking up to Dallas and points north, west and east, the International became the Missouri Pacific, and sometime before 1887 Prairie Switch became Aldine. (And this Prairie Switch is not to be confused with that other one that became El Campo, nor is this Aldine to be confused with that other one, the ghost town out near Uvalde that's just a cemetery now.)



Origin stories for how Aldine got its name are quite numerous. Maybe the most fanciful one is this: when the International's trains would grind to a halt in Prairie Switch, the conductor, knowing the train would remain still for a while, would holler out "All dine!" to the passengers, signaling to them that they could leave the train and eat inside the station.

That's just a little too perfect, a little hokey, too cute, and if it were true, it seems like there would be hundreds of Aldines all over America. Engines were switched on any steam trip of any length, and if conductors made this announcement every time, people would be mistaking every other frontier stopping place for a town called All-dine and calling it such.

Other sources cite a mysterious "local family" as the inspiration for the name, but nobody has said who these people were, nor even if this was a first or last name. Aldine is a very rare surname — however, it did enjoy a brief vogue as a girl's first name in the Victorian age.

Even as little girls were being named Aldine in more numbers than ever before or since, there existed an art/literary magazine born as *The Aldine Press*, later known simply as *The Aldine*. It was widely popular at the time Prairie Switch the whistle-stop was being reborn as Aldine the village, and the periodical's fame seemed to have made the name Aldine very stylish for a time. And not just for little girls — one of the Vanderbilts owned a renowned racehorse by that name, and one of the grandest hotels in Philadelphia was the Aldine. Chicago had an Aldine Square that became briefly infamous for its peripheral role in the Haymarket Riot.

And there was also a now-forgotten town in Kansas, just south of its border with Nebraska, called Aldine. Aldine, Kansas had a blink-and-you've-missed-it existence — today a Google search turns up almost nothing, but a deep dive into newspaper databases turns up numerous mentions of goings-on in the Norton County town back in the 1870s and '80s.

But back to the magazine.

In the days before cinema and TV, artistic publications like *The Aldine* were one of the only sources of man-made visual stimulation for rural Americans and thus were far more widely circulated than art magazines today. Billed in 1872 as "an Illustrated Monthly Journal claimed to be the handsomest Paper in the world."

Often, as lagniappe for subscribers, these magazines would throw in full-color "chromos" — reproductions of popular paintings suitable for framing, and *The Aldine* was no exception. One year its marketing team dangled a chromo of a now-forgotten work by an unnamed artist (albeit a painting said to be widely renowned in its day) called "Dame Nature's School" as an incentive to would-be subscribers.

The Aldine frequently featured works of the Hudson River School of art — romanticized landscape paintings of rural Edens, the nature-loving words of writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau brought to life on painted canvas. The Aldine's literary philosophy ran towards the pastoral as well. According to art historian Janice Simon, *The Aldine* published many "extensive accounts of what the editors deemed the nation's most picturesque and sublime regions" in America.

Perhaps that was what Aldine's first settlers hoped to create there in north Harris County — a little slice of heaven where man and nature and agriculture and modernity coexisted in harmony.

I have no proof to back this theory, but neither do those who speculate that the name derives from a local family. To me, though, *The Aldine* seems to me a likelier inspiration for the town's name than some settler with a very rare last name who was also so obscure as to have seemingly appeared from nowhere and then vanished without trace.

And it is also very possible that Aldine, Texas is named after Aldine, Kansas. As we shall see, Jayhawks were quite numerous among the area's earliest settlers. Maybe it was up there on the Great Plains that a copy of *The Aldine* inspired a reader to bestow the name upon the surrounding town. Or maybe the Kansas town was named after somebody's daughter, who in turn was inspired by the magazine.

Maybe so, maybe no, but that brings us to another question — how did the magazine itself come by that name? What does Aldine mean?

Take it away, Noah Webster: "[a work] printed or published by Aldus Manutius of Venice or his family in the 16th century who produced fine editions of chiefly Greek, Latin, and Italian classics, each book usually bearing an anchor and dolphin emblem."

So, Aldine derives from Aldus the same way words like Raphaelite and Da Vinci come from Raphael and Da Vinci.

Aldine got its first post office in 1897, servicing about 25 or 30 local families, most of them farmers of Swedish descent. The Scandinavian transplants had planted groves of satsumas and pears and fig orchards and trundled their produce down to sell in Houston's teeming Market Square, or, if they had enough, packed the excess into crates and shipped it away on the International's box cars. Documentation of these Swedes is hard to come by, you can find some in an 1898 edition of *The Lutheran Companion*, which notes that a Reverend A.P. Sanden had moved from Iowa to Aldine to minister to the Swedes both there and in Houston, "which is quite a hard field, as anyone who has had anything to do with church work at that place can testify." And a "employees wanted" ad in an 1898 edition of the *Houston Post* sought a "Swede for Farm Work" in Aldine.

TO BE CONTINUED