

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Purchasing Power
- Free CPR Training
- Greens Bayou Clean Up

SEE PAGE 8 FOR ALL THESE STORIES IN COLOR

NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 17 TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Art Car Parade...



THE SASHIMI CAR, with its singing and animated lobsters, is a crowd favorite every year. MORE on Page 3.

NEWS NOTES

Sheriff's Safety Forum

Join HCSO Patrol Deputies to talk community concerns in your area, Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 7 pm - 8:30 pm at East Aldine Management District, 5333 Aldine Mail Rt. 77039.

Auxiliary Job Fair

Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9:00 a.m. at M.B. Donaldson Child Nutrition Center. Hosted by Aldine ISD. On site interviews, no registration required. Submit an employment application in advance at AldineISD.org

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.

Project Recovery-Harvey starts in Harris County

\$200 Million available for Home Repair after Hurricane damage

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY -The new leadership of Harris County turned out in force to announce Harris County Project Recovery- Harvey Program at the Harris County Barrett Community Center last Saturday. Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge, Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2 Commissioner, Daphne Lemelle, Harris County Community Services Director and a host of county community workers from varied agencies were present to share their expertise enabling residents to get help for their houses, the services they need to recover from Hurricane Harvey.



JUDGE LINA HIDALGO announces the start of the Recovery program, as Malcolm Barrett and Adrian Garcia look on.

Recovery-Harvey is for homeowners outside Houston to apply for home repair, reconstruction or reimbursement.

The new Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo indicated that the county is

giving out about \$200 Million in this program, "Harvey was an especially difficult disaster because it got to the core of people's lives because it reached into their homes, in their housing. People's homes

are anchors for them and their families. When people lost their homes and were forced to leave and live somewhere else, they were still forced to watch and wait until they could rebuild and return. That destroys and disrupts the rest of their lives and the fabric of our community."

"For the first time we are making a massive investment in housing around Harvey," said Hidalgo, indicating that the program was to be the largest investment a region has made in the area of housing repair.

"It helps us build a stronger community and a more resilient community in all of Harris County," the Judge concluded.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia asked folks to get in touch with their representatives, "I

will ask you to do one thing. Whenever you get hold of your members of Congress or representatives, any one of them, let them know it is unconscionable that in an area like Harris County, where we know Mother Nature so well, she visits us on a regular basis, we are no strangers to flooding. But, we don't have to reinvent the wheel over and over, since the government ought to have a good plan in place."

He encouraged those needing help with housing to get in touch with www.harrisrecovery.org and fill out the application as soon as possible.

"Know that we share your frustration and that we would rather have to get things done sooner rather than later," said Garcia.

Earth day network's 2019 cleanup spans thousands of locations during April

Over 3,000 cleanups in communities across the U.S. for Earth Day 2019

April 16, 2019 (Washington D.C.) - Earth Day Network is implementing a nationally coordinated environmental volunteer cleanup to mark Earth Day 2019, in collaboration with partners across the U.S., including National CleanUp Day and Keep America Beautiful. All over the country people are encouraged to get up, get out, and help clean their communities to celebrate Earth Day.

People have a right to expect a clean environment and can exercise that right by helping to clean their own communities with over 3,000 cleanups of green spaces, urban landscapes and waterways with



grassroots organizations leading up to Earth Day on April 22 and taking place throughout the remainder of the month of April.

Volunteers across the U.S. are coming together with grassroots organizations for Earth Day 2019 to clean up over 3,000 green spaces, urban landscapes, and waterways.

Plastic pollution and waste challenge every community, every day, and these cleanups offer a chance to make a real

difference.

Cleanups are planned in over 80 cities and towns, including Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. More cities and sites are being added every day.

In Aldine, the community and volunteers in conjunction with Greens Bayou Coalition are coming together to do a cleanup on Saturday, April 27, 2019 on Kennedy Greens Business Park located at 4343 Kennedy Commerce Dr., 77032 from 9 am to 12 pm. They recommend to bring your own sunscreen, hat, gloves, bug spray and to wear work clothes for those who would like to

See Earth Day, Page 8

Illegal game room closed



Illegal game room was operating in a residential neighborhood on Maurine St.

After County Attorney Ryan Files Lawsuit

A north Houston game room where an employee was robbed, beaten, and kidnapped in February has closed after Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan filed a lawsuit to close it.

The game room located at 2118 Maurine Street was the site of an aggravated robbery of the park-

ing lot attendant who lived and worked on the property. On February 4th, the attendant was attacked by three men with guns who blindfolded, kidnapped, beat and robbed him. He escaped his captors by jumping out of a moving

See Illegal Game Room, Page 7

MARKETPLACE - Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.

PREMIERE CINEMAS
FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 4/19-4/24

Opens THURSDAY, April 25
* AVENGERS: END GAME (PG-13)
2D-6:00 8:00 9:45 3D-6:30 8:30

* THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R)
12:10pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm

* THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R)
SPAN DUB 12:00pm, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

* BREAKTHROUGH (PG)
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

* BREAKTHROUGH (PG) SPAN DUB
7:30pm, 10:10pm

* PENGUINS (G)
12:35pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm

* AFTER (PG-13)
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

* HELLBOY (R)
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

* LITTLE (PG-13)
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

* MISSING LINK (PG)
12:30pm, 5:00pm

* MISSING LINK 3D (PG) 2:45pm

* PET SEMATARY (R) 12:20pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm

* 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

* DUMBO (PG)
12:00pm, 6:00pm

* DUMBO (PG) SPAN DUB
12:00pm, 5:10pm, 10:20pm

* DUMBO 3D (PG)
3:00pm, 9:00pm

* DUMBO 3D (PG) SPAN DUB
2:35pm, 7:45pm

US (R)
12:15pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:40pm

NO MANCHES FRIDA 2 (R) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Citizenship Classes

• THURSDAY, APRIL 25 TO JUNE 20, 2019
LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPRING CENTER
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
250 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY EAST (EVERY THURSDAY)
HOUSTON, TX. 77060

• FRIDAY, APRIL 26 TO JUNE 28, 2019
ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
CHURCH (EVERY FRIDAY)
5356 11TH STREET
KATY, TX. 77493

• SATURDAY, MAY 11 TO JULY 6, 2019
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CATHOLIC CHURCH
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
501 TIDWELL ROAD (EVERY SATURDAY)
HOUSTON, TX. 77022

• SATURDAY, MAY 11 TO JULY 6, 2019
EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
5333 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE ROAD (EVERY SATURDAY)
HOUSTON, TX. 77039

• SATURDAY, MAY 11 TO JULY 6, 2019
ST. LEO THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
2131 LAUDER ROAD (EVERY SATURDAY)
HOUSTON, TX. 77039

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.



Aldine ISD students take part METRO bus shelter design project



Pictured are the six teams from Blanson CTE High School that participated in METRO's bus shelter design project. Pictured with the students are Blanson administrators and teachers who sponsored the respective teams.

Eight teams from three Aldine ISD high schools have been selected to participate in METRO's bus shelter design project.

Six teams from Blanson CTE High School and one team each from Eisenhower High School and Nimitz High School are taking part in the project.

The eight teams will present their bus shelter designs at METRO on April 23 at METRO headquarters. The overall winner will be announced by METRO President and CEO Tom Lambert on May 4 at the district's Day of Design event, which will be held at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

Aldine ISD was the only school district in Houston to participate in this project. The eight teams researched and designed potential bus shelters. The teams used 3-D printers to present their designs. In addition, the teams had to submit a one to two-page analysis and description of their projects, provide a half-page description of what materials would be needed to construct the shelter and the teams had to provide a budget of how much the materials and labor would cost to build their respective shelters.

Additionally, the teams had to provide information on the aesthetics of their projects, such as how their shelters would protect passengers from the elements, while still being appealing to the eye.

Fifty teams competed at the district level before the eight were chosen to participate in the project.

The eight teams competing are:
Blanson Team 1 – Mario Trevizo, Luis Cruz, Daniel Jimenez, Hector Gonzales, and Jonathan Hartfield (teacher Laura Alberici Da Barbiano)

Blanson Team 2 – Alex



Pictured is the Eisenhower High team that participated in METRO's bus shelter design project. Pictured are (l-r): Sergio Garcia, Eliezar Guillen, sponsor Remelia Arpino and Hector Baltaza.



Pictured is the Nimitz High team that participated in METRO's bus shelter design project. Pictured are (l-r): Adaina Houston, Steven Sisavath, Abigail Tack, Isabel Rivas and Jonathan Reyes. Their sponsor is teacher Daniel Krall.

ander Guel, Jaylen Marek, Antonio Gutierrez, and Jonah Williams (teacher Laura Alberici Da Barbiano)

Blanson Team 3 – Violeta Alvarado, Abigail Rivera, Jaqueline Lara, Roberto Esquivel and Edgar Vazquez (teacher Laura Alberici Da Barbiano)

Blanson Team 4 – Jose Villafuerte, Briseida Rojo, and Botello Gerardo (teacher Laura Alberici Da Barbiano)

Blanson Team 5 – Danny Champassack, Joshua Garcia, Alexis Cruz and Connor Carpenter

(teacher Laura Alberici Da Barbiano)

Blanson Team 6 – Dylan Hastings, Rojelio Rodriguez, Genesis Gonzales and Jose Castro (teacher Kimberly Kiser)

Eisenhower team – Sergio Garcia, Eliezar Guillen and Hector Baltaza (teacher Remelia Arpino)

Nimitz team – Steven Sisavath, Adaina Houston, Jonathan Reyes, Isabel Rivas and Abigail Tack (teacher Daniel Krall)

Brad Kaplan, a digital learning specialist with the district, helped organize the project between METRO and Aldine ISD.

Aldine ISD to host Community Meetings in April, May

Aldine ISD has planned a series of community meetings to celebrate student success and highlight campus initiatives and programs. Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney will also share an overview of district priorities, discuss plans for the 2019-20 school year and take questions from parents and community members in attendance.

The meetings will be held at six of the district's high school campuses beginning April 23 at MacArthur High School. The last meeting is planned for May 16 at Eisenhower High School.

Parents with students who attend elementary and middle schools that feed into the respective high schools are encouraged to attend. However, families may also attend any meeting that is most convenient to them.

Each meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments and child care will be available.

The dates and locations of the six meetings are:

• Tuesday, April 23 – MacArthur HS, 4400 Aldine Mail Rte., Houston, TX 77039

• Thursday, April 25 – Nimitz HS, 2005 W.W. Thorne Dr., Houston, TX 77073

• Tuesday, April 30 – Davis HS, 12525 Ella Blvd., Houston, TX 77067

• Thursday, May 2 – Aldine HS, 11101 Airline Dr., Houston, TX 77037

• Tuesday, May 7 – Carver HS, 2100 S. Victory St., Houston, TX 77088

• Thursday, May 16 – Eisenhower HS, 7922 Antoine Dr., Houston, TX 77088

For more information, contact the district's Communications Office at (281) 985-6202.

Houston wins Smart Cities North America Award

Aldine ISD is honored to be a part of the initiative with the City of Houston and Microsoft that won IDC's Smart Cities North America Award.

After receiving more than 4,100 votes from the public and scoring by an international panel of judges, IDC Government Insights recently announced the winners of the second annual IDC Smart Cities North America Awards (SCNAA).

The awards recognize the progress North American communities have made in executing Smart Cities projects, as well as provide a forum for sharing best practices to help accelerate Smart City development in the region. Winners were named in 12 categories with a tie in both Transportation Infrastructure and Urban Planning and Land Use.

The City of Houston, a finalist in two categories (Smart Building and Transportation), won the Smart Buildings Award.

Aldine ISD's Role
Aldine ISD is taking part in the Smart Buildings initiative. AISD was the only district selected by Microsoft to take part in establishing an advanced, unified communication platform to improve school safety. The new technology will ensure first responders like the Aldine ISD Police Department, Aldine fire stations, Houston police,

and fire departments and other entities as well as neighboring school districts will be better informed of the types and the severity of the emergencies.

Microsoft selected Aldine ISD because it already had the infrastructure in place to incorporate the software company's intelligence capabilities to take connected devices and applications a step further in the world of IoT (Internet of Things). AISD has been ahead of campus security and smart building models for several years now. The District allocated funds — local and federal — toward technology infrastructure that includes upgrades and secure building access. Some of the funds for technology infrastructure were approved by voters in past bond referendums.

"Student and staff safety is a top priority. The partnership with the City of Houston and Microsoft will take our efforts to the next level," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

More than 70 cities/counties were represented, underscoring the overwhelming success and efficiency of Smart City projects implemented across the country. Winners will be honored at the Smart Cities New York con-

See North America Award, page 6

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SPORTS & ARTS

Art car parade

Last weekend took place the world's oldest and largest Art Car Parade in downtown Houston. For the 32nd year in a row, more than 250 rolling works of art turn concrete into a colorful canvas to celebrate the artist in everyone. Community groups, public and private schools, and professional organizations have become regular participants. And as the parade grows, attracting more and more participants, the complexity and quality of the entries increases.



Dragon



Moon rover



Robot

Student athletes excel beyond the walls of Hambrick Middle School



Eighth grade students Natalie Gammage, left, and Cesar Cordova, right, will travel to compete in state and international athletic tournaments this month.

Hambrick Middle School students are excelling in the classroom as well as on the court and field. Two 8th grade students have the opportunity to travel and compete in athletic competitions this month. Natalie Gammage participated in the 2019 Mizuno Lone Star Classic Junior Qualifier in Dallas from April 13-15. Gammage is a member of the Asics Willowbrook Juniors Volleyball Club and competes with the team locally and nationally throughout the year. Natalie plays Volleyball at Hambrick Middle School, but works to improve and perfect her game with the Willowbrook club outside of school throughout the year.

Cesar Cordova will travel to Italy to represent the U15 Boys National Soccer Team at the Torneo delle

Nazioni. Cesar is one of only 15 boys who were selected from across the country to represent the United States. The tournament will take place in Gradisca, Italy from April 27 to May 4. Cesar's mother, Dinora Cordova, shared her appreciation to the staff at Hambrick for the adjustments they've made in order for him to travel abroad. She said, "I really appreciate the support that teachers and staff have given Cesar this past year. You have all nurtured and given so much time to ensure that Cesar is as successful at school through his academics as well as allowing him to continue striving to pursue his passion for soccer."

Great things are happening at the 'Brick' and beyond its walls for our students. We couldn't be more proud!



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Aldine Mustangs had quite a run in soccer playoffs



The Aldine High Mustangs went on quite a run in the Class 6A state soccer playoffs, winning four games and reaching the Region II Finals before losing a hard-fought 2-1 decision to College Park.

The Aldine High Mustangs went on quite a run in the Class 6A soccer playoffs.

Melbin Barahona's team entered the playoffs as the fourth seed out of District 16-6A, but went all the way to the Region II Finals before falling to College Park, 2-1, one game short of the Class 6A state tournament.

The Mustangs opened the playoffs by upsetting traditional area soccer power The Woodlands 1-0, then battled Cy-Lakes to a 0-0 draw and advanced to the third round with a 5-4 shootout victory. Aldine then defeated Langham Creek 2-1 to advance to the Region II Tournament, where they defeated Garland Sachse 3-0 to advance to the finals against College Park.

Barahona said the win over The Woodlands gave his team the confidence it needed to take on all comers.

"First was the hard work my kids put into it," he said, when asked what sparked the deep playoff run. "After they started to believe and became inspired, we were hungry for more and we knew anything was possible. We became a more consistent team in the playoffs and made fewer mistakes."

He also said the support the team received from their fans was a big factor in their playoff run.

"Aldine fans also had a lot to do with our success," Barahona said. "The school started to believe that we had something special in our team. Their support got bigger and bigger."

Barahona said another key to their success in the playoffs was the tightness the team developed during the playoffs.

"The strength was the unity they (the team) ended up forming through every game played," he said. "I saw more of a family than a team. They encouraged each other if a mistake was made."

Barahona knew he had a special group of young men with every playoff game the Mustangs won.

"Their confidence grew enormously after each game because they knew they could handle any team," he said. "They were not afraid anymore. Their confidence was at the highest peak possible before a game. They realized they had nothing to lose."

Top performers in the playoffs were defender Raymond Chairez, who had a 95% rating of winning tackles. Top offensive performers were Rogelio Garcia, Gerson Zelaya and Kelvin Vasquez.

And the future is bright for the Mustangs because this is a young team that gained a lot of confidence in the playoffs that should carry over to next season. Aldine will lose two seniors and return nine starters heading into the 2020 season. Of those nine returning starters, only one will be a junior.

The future is indeed bright for Aldine soccer, and future teams can thank the 2019 squad for setting the tone for bigger and better things to come!

Hambrick's Cesar Cordova to represent Aldine ISD, USA at international soccer tourney

You will have to excuse Cesar Cordova if he isn't around for the next couple of weeks because he will be in Italy representing Aldine ISD and the United States as a member of the Under 15 Boys' National Team competing in the Torneo delle Nazioni in Gradisca, Italy.

Cesar is one of only 15 Under-15 players selected to the National Team, but this isn't his first time to play overseas.

Last spring, he was a member of the Under-13 Boys' National Team that played in France and Spain and brought home the championship cup.

When he's not playing on the national team, Cesar plays for the Houston Dynamo Youth team. The likeable 14-year-old Hambrick Middle School eighth-grader is the son of Roberto and Dinora Cordova. Dinora is a fourth-grade bilingual teacher at Stephens Elementary School.

She said she and her husband are quite proud of their talented son.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity to travel to Italy and getting the chance to wear the U.S. jersey is a great honor," Dinora said.

Cesar said he is looking



Hambrick Middle School eighth-grader Cesar Cordova gets by a defender in a recent game for the Houston Dynamo Youth. Cesar has been selected to play for the U-15 United States Boys' National Team in the Torneo delle Nazioni Tournament in Gradisca, Italy April 23-May 5.

forward to the trip and playing with some of the best Under-15 players in the country.

"I was happy I made the team and I'm very excited about the tournament," he said.

Cesar said scouts from U.S. Soccer Federation scout games across the country and recommend that the top players are invited to camps where

they have the chance to earn a spot on the U.S. roster. That's just how it played out for Cesar.

Cesar is considered an excellent dribbler who is adept at creating plays. He has uncanny acceleration skills, which serve him well as a mid-fielder, which is an important offensive.

Cesar's favorite player is Mesi and he is looking

forward to competing against teams from Europe.

"I am looking forward to seeing how we will compete against other top teams. This should be fun," he said.

Dinora knows her son's first love is soccer, but she has made it a priority that his schoolwork comes first.

"Education comes first," said Dinora, a 1993 graduate of MacArthur High School. "I really appreciate the support the teachers and staff at Hambrick Middle School have given Cesar this past year. They have nurtured him and given so much time to ensure that Cesar is successful at school as well as allowing him to continue striving to pursue his passion for soccer. Our family can't thank them enough for all the time they have given him and allowing him to follow his dream."

Dinora said Cesar loves soccer and loves to compete, but he does not let the sport consume him.

"He leaves everything on the field," the proud mother said. "Win or lose he leaves it on the field. He gives it his all and doesn't take it too personally."

Here's wishing Cesar Cordova and his U.S. teammates good luck in Italy!

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OPINION PAGE

TEXAS SENATE NEWS
By Richard Lee

Property Tax growth limit passes Senate

(Austin) The Senate approved a measure Monday aimed at reining in property tax rate growth, one that Lt. Governor Dan Patrick called "the biggest tax relief and reform bill we've ever passed". Under current law, jurisdictions can increase property tax rates as much as eight percent before taxpayers can petition for an election to approve or deny the rate hike. This "rollback" rate, implemented in the face of significant inflation in the late 1970s, is much too high and prices people out of their homes due to skyrocketing tax bills, according to Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt. "Taxpayers can't take it any more," he said. "It's a growth curve that's by any measure two or three times faster than their ability to pay." His bill would move that rollback rate to 3.5 percent for most taxing entities and 2.5 percent for property taxes levied by local school districts. Additionally, rollback elections would be triggered automatically when rate increases exceed these limits and would be placed on the November ballot.

The bill also includes a number of reforms intended to increase transparency and give property owners more information about who is taxing them and for how much, and how those rates have changed over time. It also makes changes to the appraisal protest process, intended to level the playing field between appraisal review boards and property owners. Additionally, small taxing entities with less than \$15 million in annual collections would remain at the eight percent rollback rate initially, but taxpayers in those jurisdictions would get a chance to vote to opt in to the lower rollback rates on the uniform election date in May of 2020. "With the attention on many, many appraisal reforms as well, I believe that this is a balanced package," said Bettencourt. "It looks at the needs of rural Texas, as well as urban. More importantly, it looks at

the needs of taxpayers all across the state."

This bill was a major priority for state leadership. "We made a promise, the Governor, the Speaker and I, when the session started that we're going to focus on property tax reform [and] relief to you," Patrick said in a video statement released upon passage of the measure. "[Monday], was the first bill to pass as part of that package." It now heads to the House for consideration, and Patrick said that with new leadership in that chamber, he believes the bill has a good chance of reaching the governor's desk this session.

Also this week, the Senate approved the remaining two bills in a four-bill package from Conroe Senator Brandon Creighton that would prohibit certain municipal regulations on private businesses. "These bills protect the pro-business climate, something often referred to as the 'Texas miracle'," he said when offering the first of these bills before the Senate last week. "Other states struggle; Texas remains number one in job creation and unemployment is at a record low." Creighton went on to say that local ordinances mandating employee benefits and other practices undermine the predictability and free-market principles that have created this economic prosperity.

The bills passed last week would prohibit local ordinances mandating paid sick leave for employees of private businesses and those that set requirements for paid time-off. The bills passed Wednesday would disallow cities from regulating scheduling practices and overtime pay policies, as well as from passing ordinances that prohibit employers from inquiring about past criminal history on applications. These measures will now head to the House for further consideration.

The Senate will reconvene Tuesday, April 23 at 11 a.m.



Top officeholders join together in push for funding solution

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on April 10 released a joint statement promoting a twofold method for the 86th Texas Legislature to curb property tax increases across the state.

"Texans are fed up with skyrocketing property taxes. At the beginning of the legislative session, the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker laid out an agenda for property tax relief through the passage of Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2 to limit property tax growth," the state's top officeholders said.

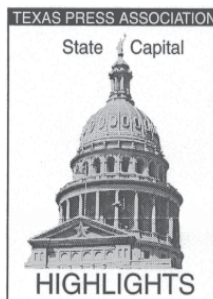
SB 2 and HB 2, the not-yet-approved property tax reform bills, would reduce the revenue growth increment used for determination of the rollback tax rate from 8.0 percent to 2.5 percent for taxing units other than small taxing units unless the voters in a small taxing unit election decide to opt-in to the proposed new voter-approved tax rate procedure. The goal of both pieces of legislation is to reduce tax revenues for local taxing units and increase costs to the state through revised formulas for education funding.

Abbott, Patrick and Bonnen also pushed lawmakers to pass legislation that would allow Texans to vote to offset local property tax revenue by increasing local sales taxes by a penny.

"We are introducing a sales tax proposal to buy down property tax rates for all Texas homeowners and businesses, once Senate Bill 2 or House Bill 2 is agreed to and passed by both chambers," they said in the joint statement. "If the one-cent increase in the sales tax passes, it will result in billions of dollars in revenue to help drive down property taxes in the short and long term."

Senate and House members of both political parties have expressed reluctance to cede local control in their districts to tax revenue-generating proposals coming from Austin. Another dimension is that a club-like Senate tradition requires at least

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



as conferees House Appropriations Committee Chair John Zerwas, R-Richmond, and Reps. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood; Sarah Davis, R-West University Place; Oscar Longoria, D-Mission; and Armando Walle, D-Houston.

Senate conferees likely will be named by Lt. Gov. Patrick this week.

Sales tax holiday is set

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 11 reminded Texans they may purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies. The sales tax holiday is scheduled for 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.

Items covered by the tax holiday include, for example:

- Household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced at less than \$75;
- Hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300; and
- Portable generators priced at less than \$3,000.

Tax revenue is distributed. Comptroller Hegar on April 10 announced his agency would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$705.3 million in local sales tax allocations for April.

The amount is 8.4 percent more than distributed for the month of April 2018. The allocations are based on sales made in February by businesses that report tax monthly.

three-fifths, or 19, of the body's 31 members to agree to bring a measure to the floor for debate.

Patrick, who presides over the Senate, reportedly last week was entertaining the possibility of breaking with precedent by allowing the tax reform proposal to come to the floor with only 16 votes. There could be enough agreement among the body's Republican members to fall in line with Patrick's wishes.

As the possibility of property tax caps and a sales tax tradeoff simmers in the Senate, passage is harder to predict in the majority-Republican but not-so-collegial House. Differences in the House and Senate versions of the tax reform bill would have to be reconciled in a conference committee before returning to the full bodies for final approval.

Budget bill to conference

Lawmakers' constitutionally mandated job is to pass a state budget. As always, it's a messy process to do that.

House Bill 1, the state budget bill for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, was referred to a House-Senate conference committee on April 11 after the House refused to concur with Senate amendments to the bill.

Speaker Bonnen named

Governor Abbott: Passage of Senate Bill 2

AUSTIN — April 15, 2019 — Governor Greg Abbott today released the following statement after the Senate passed Senate Bill 2 to reform property taxes:

"Today the Texas Senate took action to deliver on the promise of reining in skyrocketing property taxes. Thanks to the leadership of Lt. Governor Patrick and Senator Bettencourt, meaningful property tax reform is one step closer to becoming a reality. I look forward to continuing to work with Speaker Bonnen, Chairman Burrows and the entire legislature to provide lasting property tax relief for all Texans."

NORTHEAST NEWS

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GREEN LIVING:
5 Ways to Celebrate Earth Month

(StatePoint) Are you looking for ways to celebrate Earth Month? From enjoying nature to making simple changes to your routine that will have a positive impact on the environment, here are five cool ideas for marking the occasion.

1. Reduce and reuse. You may not realize how much waste you create each day when you use disposable containers, bags and plastic bottles. While recycling is a great thing to do, that process itself takes a lot of energy to support and, unfortunately, not everything makes it to the recycling center. A better way to reduce your waste is by ditching single-use items and opting for more eco-friendly, reusable alternatives.

2. Make smart swaps. Disposing of hazardous items such as batteries and bulbs can be tricky. Take a walk through your home and swap out items containing hazardous materials, such as bulbs with mercury, to rechargeable or hybrid alternatives. For example, Casio's LampFree projectors have a hybrid Laser and LED light source which removes the need for hazardous bulbs.

3. Skip "fast fashion." Many of your favorite stores likely sell what is known as "fast fashion." The fast fashion concept is what brings brand new apparel to consumers on a consistent basis, but unfortunately, the mass production of these cheaply made garments takes a toll on the environment. You can secure fashionable finds in an eco-friendly way by taking a look at apps and websites that sell second-hand clothing or even by visiting a consignment or thrift shop for unique finds. Declutter your own closet and give your clothing a second life by making donations to those in need.

4. Get outdoors. Celebrate the beauty of the planet by getting outdoors. Whether you're going on a hike, kayaking, or just taking a walk, high-tech wearables can help you make the most of the adventure. For example, Casio's WSD-F30 Pro Trek Smart Outdoor Watch is durable and water-resistant, and includes apps that support outdoor activities. Such technology can help you track your activity, navigate your surroundings, and even remind you when it's time to take a water break.

5. Get your veggies. Pick one day each week to eat a plant-based meal and skip the meat. You'll be doing the planet a whole lot of good, as the production of meat and animal-based products requires far more water and land use than the production of plant-based foods do. Consider also being more mindful about food waste in your own household, buying only what you need.



SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



by Chris Richcreek

- 1. In 2017, Houston's George Springer became the third person to hit five home runs in a World Series. Name either of the first two to do it.
2. Which of the following four players hit the most home runs while in a Cincinnati Reds uniform: Adam Dunn, George Foster, Ken Griffey Jr. or Tony Perez?
3. Who was the last rookie running back before Jordan Howard in 2017 to represent the Chicago Bears in a Pro Bowl?
4. Which men's basketball team was the last before Villanova in 2018 to win all six of its NCAA Tournament games by double digits?
5. In 2019, Washington's Braden Holtby became the second-fastest goaltender to reach 250 victories (409 games). Who was faster?
6. Through 2019, how many consecutive years has a Hendrick Motorsports driver won the pole for the Daytona 500?
7. How many times have Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal combined to finish in the top three in the year-end ATP tennis rankings?

Answers

- 1. Reggie Jackson (1977) and Chase Utley (2009).
2. Perez, with 287 homers, tops Dunn (270), Foster (244) and Griffey Jr. (210).
3. Gale Sayers, in 1965.
4. North Carolina, in 2009.
5. Ken Dryden did it in 381 games.
6. Five consecutive years.
7. Seven times.

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by Healthy Exchanges

Sneaky Meatloaf

Sneak some veggies past the kids with this easy meatloaf.

- 1 cup fresh shredded spinach leaves, stems removed and discarded
1 cup shredded carrots
6 tablespoons dried fine bread crumbs
1/4 cup grated reduced-fat Parmesan cheese
1 egg beaten, or equivalent in egg substitute
1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1 pound extra-lean ground turkey or beef

- 1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine spinach, carrots, breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, egg, 1/4 cup tomato soup, Worcestershire sauce and black pepper. Add meat. Mix well to combine.
3. Pat mixture into prepared loaf pan. Spoon remaining tomato soup over top. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes.
4. Place loaf pan on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Divide into 6 servings. Freezes well.
• Each serving equals: 196 calories, 8g fat, 16g protein, 15g carb., 374mg sodium, 2g fiber; diabetic exchanges: 2 1/2 meat, 1 starch, 1/2 vegetable.

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New DVDs Reviewed in This Column Will be Released the Week of April 22, 2019

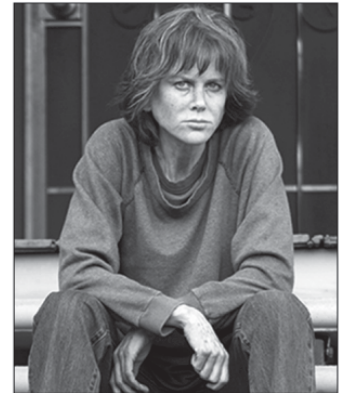


Escape Room (R) — Six players accept an uninvited mental challenge with a hefty payoff: survive an enhanced escape room and win a million dollars. When the puzzles become perilous — the first room heats up like an oven until it bursts into flames — the strangers must combine wits and learn from past experiences in order to literally escape with their lives. And the lives to be saved are diverse, from an Iraq War veteran (Deborah Ann Woll) to an introverted physics student (Taylor Russell) to a supercilious stockbroker (Jay Ellis). It's moderately suspenseful young adult horror, and although there are plot points that aren't hard to work out, I couldn't escape my own enjoyment.

Destroyer (R) — Nicole Kidman goes deep undercover — so deep that there are times you can barely identify the actress portraying LAPD detective Erin Bell. As a young cop, Bell takes a surreptitious role in a crime gang with her partner Chris (Sebastian Stan). They end up party to a botched bank robbery, and Chris is killed by gang leader Silas (Toby Kebbell), who disappears. Years later, Silas' re-emergence is discovered when a tainted bill is left behind at a murder scene. This brings Bell out full force, tracking him down for retribution and justice, gang member to gang member, with a treacherous bloodlust and moral ambiguity to match.

The Gospel According to Andre (PG-13) — As a boy in North Carolina, Andre Leon Talley discovered luxury in not only the issues of Vogue magazine he found in the library, but also in the smart and well-crafted clothes provided by his grandmother, a cleaning

lady at Duke University. Raised in the segregated South, but never accepting its limits, he rose to a life of influence in the New York fashion world, working at the top echelons of Vogue by his mid-30s. Told through interviews and archival footage, with a loving patina of honesty from the man himself.



Nicole Kidman in "Destroyer"

Hal (NR) — He operated in the same universe as other pantheon directors of the 1970s, a decade of groundbreaking film direction, but you don't generally hear the name Hal Ashby in a list of greats. Director Amy Scott means to change that by documenting the significant contributions of one of the most respected and rebellious editors and directors of his time. From his editing Oscar for "In the Heat of the Night" to direction of iconic, era-defining works such as "Shampoo," "Harold and Maude" and "Being There," Hal is brought into focus by an exhaustive list of actors, Hollywood filmmakers and friends.

NEW TV RELEASES

- A Place to Call Home Season 6
Shameless Season 9
Margaret: The Rebel Princess

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Posting Date April 22, 2019

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



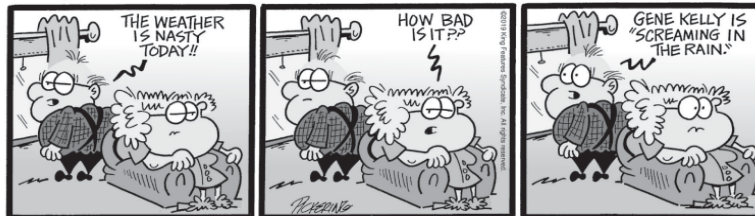
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 7, 5, 1, 6, 4, 3, 9, 8, 2, 1, 6, 9, 8, 1, 7, 5, 8, 6, 8, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5, 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.

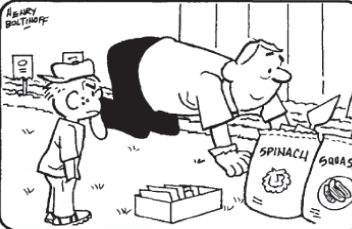
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

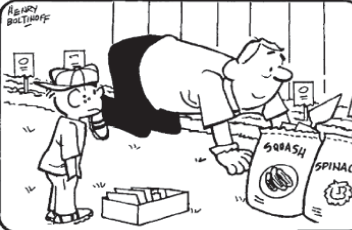
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's cap is backward. 2. Faces have longer switched. 3. Man's shoe is different. 4. Fence is longer. 5. Box is closer to boy. 6. Extra marker is in garden.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Fellow
5 "— Blue?"
8 Barbershop item
12 Mentor
13 CD—
14 Sheltered, at sea
15 Office machine
17 Tarzan's transport
18 Scrooge's outcry
19 Hateful
21 Future mare
24 Met melody
25 Sandwich cookie
26 Site of many sites
30 Swindle
31 Paquin and Quindlen
32 Id counterpart
33 Gap
35 Bartlett, for one
36 Line of stitching
37 Papa
38 Triangular letters
41 "— Town"
42 Pelvic bones
43 Lyon-based crimefighting group
48 Expansive

King Crossword grid with numbers 1-51

- 49 Old hand
50 Norway's capital
51 Initial chip
52 Author Umberto
53 Spruce (up)
8 Ritzy spread
9 Hodgepodge
10 Server's handout
11 Honey bunch?
16 Shaft of light
20 Conks out
21 Central points
22 Press
23 Fasting period
24 Region of Vietnam
26 Tending to spread
27 Requirement
28 "Zounds!"
29 British conservative
31 Neighborhood
34 Subject of a will
35 Buccaneer's bird
37 Payable
38 Prima donna
39 Verve
40 Roster
41 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
44 Asian electronics giant
45 Omega preceder
46 On in years
47 Actress Myrna

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president was a former union leader?
2. MUSIC: In what year was the Beatles' song "Yesterday" released?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Doctor Zhivago"?
4. HISTORY: Who was Britain's first prime minister?
5. GAMES: In the game of Monopoly, what happens if you roll doubles three times in a row?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the Dewey Decimal System used for?
7. MOVIES: What is the name of the teapot character in "Beauty and the Beast"?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state is the only one that has a Spanish motto?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Nicaragua?
10. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented by the condition called chromophobia?

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Answers for Trivia test

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers for Weekly Sudoku

Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword


Answers

CHURCH PAGE

RECENT DEATHS

Virginia Ann Ramirez
Benito Cabrera Sanchez
Nadine McDonald
Romona Ann Anderson

Lola A. Flores
Margaret Elizabeth Evans
James F. Melancon
Joe B. Carker



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North America Award

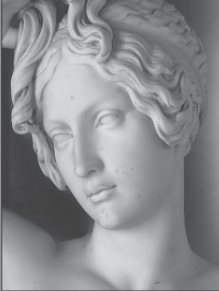
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ference. Winners in the SCNA illustrate best practice examples of urban innovation with a particular focus on the use of technology (cloud, platforms, analytics, IoT, mobile solutions) and data, unique partnerships, funding models, and/or community involvement. Mayor Sylvester Turner is working with Microsoft in a progressive approach that merges innovative technology with existing technologies to create a unified communication platform that links the City of Houston first-responder communication network. The goal is to develop infrastructure practices into a cutting-edge solution for urban crisis management.

At the heart of the solution is the implementation of a smart infrastructure network that it allows first responders the ability to identify and address threats to the community more quickly by leveraging disparate pieces of data (e.g. building design and layout, key contacts) collected across multiple systems throughout the city. "The partnership with Microsoft to drive the city forward with technology innovations will address key priorities," said Turner. "We are leaping into the future. My goal is for Houston to become the next hotbed in our nation for innovation and technology and the digital universe."



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I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
ROMANS 12:1

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AUCTION
Cal/Cam Parish Public Auction, Fri. & Sat., April 26 & 27 at 9 a.m. Location: Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles, La. Cars, trucks, trailers, farm machinery, construction & industrial equip., RVs, ATVs & miscellaneous items. Online bidding available, www.TheBestAuctions.net. Phone 337-494-1333. Pedersen & Pedersen Auctions; Mike Pedersen, auctioneer, La. License #622.

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.

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.

Lamesa - Chicken Fried Steak Festival, April 26-28. Hot Air Balloon Rally, 100+ booths, Balloon Glow/Fire Fest, 5K Run, Team Roping, Chicken Fried Steak Cook off, Classic Car Show, Disk Golf Tourney, Chicken-Fried Steak Dinner (Tickets: 806-872-2181) and more. Info: www.ci.lamesa.tx.us, 806-872-4345 or 806-777-1171.

Seguin - Earth Day Trade Day, Sat. April 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 80+ Vendors, green info booths, entertainment, music, food, kid's activities, demonstrations and more! Downtown Seguin, Central Park, 201 S. Austin Street. Visitseguin.com, 830-401-5000.

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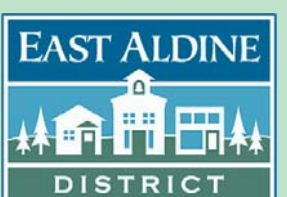
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LIFESTYLE

Illegal game room closed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vehicle into oncoming traffic.

In the course of their investigation sheriff's deputies discovered illegal gambling including customers playing 34 eight-liners at the unlicensed game room. Eight liners are slot machine-like devices and are legal only if they offer only non-cash prizes valued at less than \$5. Law enforcement officials say that illegal cash payouts are near universal in unpermitted game rooms throughout the state. Despite the arrest of the operators and repeat visits by law enforcement, the game room continued to operate in violation of the law, according to the lawsuit.

After County Attorney Ryan's Office filed suit the owners of the property agreed to evict the game room operators and close the enterprise.

Ryan's lawsuit claims that the defendants knowingly operated an illicit and unpermitted game room in violation of Harris County's Game Room Regulations. In addition, the suit says this game room is a common nuisance under state law. Ryan asked the court to order the defendants to cease operation of the unlicensed game room to prevent continuing harm to the community. Because the game room operators have been evicted and ceased operations the court order is not necessary at this time.

The lawsuit contends that this game room is located in a residential neighborhood making it a public safety hazard for the people who live there.

"Besides illegal gambling, game rooms are associated with a wide variety of adverse secondary effects," said County Attorney Ryan. "These include personal and property crimes, weapon offenses, illicit drug use and drug trafficking, negative impacts on surrounding properties, urban blight and litter."

"Simply put, defendants own, operate and maintain the property as a common nuisance," said County Attorney Ryan. "Evidence clearly shows that patrons go to the property for the

sole purpose of illegal gambling. This illegal activity has recently led to a kidnapping and aggravated robbery.

"We will continue to find ways to proactively use civil law to protect Harris County and its residents," said Ryan.



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Earth Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

volunteer on the cleanup. The Earth Day 2019 Cleanup aims to inspire volunteerism and achieve tangible impact on waste in our environment.

Building on best practices and verifiable metrics from 2019, this event will then be scaled up for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020, which will be known as the Great Glo-

bal Cleanup, featuring more than 100,000 events globally with goal of 1 billion pieces of trash collected.

"The Great Global Cleanup will bring together millions of people around the globe to create the largest coordinated volunteer event in history," Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers said. "We are excited to kick off in

cities across the U.S. in 2019, and to expand globally in 2020 in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day." For more information, go to earthday.org/greatglobalcleanup.

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Greens Bayou clean-up
APRIL 27
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
9am-12pm

KENNEDY GREENS BUSINESS PARK
4343 KENNEDY COMMERCE DR -77032

to volunteer please register at
www.GreensBayou.org/events

for more info call 832.677.0139 or email
vsanches@aldinedistrict.org

Remember your sunscreen, hat, gloves, bug spray & wear work clothes.

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