

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- LCS-Aldine Center Open House
- Job Fair

SEE PAGE 8 FOR ALL THESE STORIES IN COLOR

NORTHEAST NEWS

LONE STAR COLLEGE EAST ALDINE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Community Awareness Event
 Saturday, May 4
 10 am to 1 pm
 Baker-Ripley Campus
 3000 Aldine Mail Route
 See Details on Page 8

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years
 VOL. 45, NO. 18 TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Sheriff's Safety Meeting draws many residents

The District II Sheriff's Safety Forum took place on Apr. 24, 2019 at the East Aldine Management Office.

There were approximately 25 residents, 5 CPAAA members, and numerous officers present.

Sgt. Scholwinski introduced officers present. He discussed crimes committed in D2 and shared crime statistics for the past year. Most statistics have shown a decrease with the exception of auto theft and burglary of motor vehicles.

Captain Koteras called these crimes of opportunity:

- Don't leave items in your vehicles.
- Park your cars in your garage, if possible.
- Don't leave your vehicles parked on the street.
- Lock your car when getting gas.

Non emergency phone numbers were given to the public to use to report concerns or questions.

Director Jaqueline Fortune discussed the Close-Watch Harris County app that public can use to send crime information. It is available in English and Spanish. She also emphasized that social media is for gaining information, not reporting emergency situations.

Sgt. Stormer shared info about the takedown of game-rooms within the district and other proper-



Sergeants and Deputies with the Harris County Sheriff's Office at the community safety meeting in Aldine.



Alarm Detail office presentation.

ty nuisance issues.

Sgt. Johnson, Deputy Tilley, and two ladies from the Alarm Detail office gave a short presentation about home alarms. They discussed the need to reg-

ister and obtain an alarm permit, the cost and how to register on line.

Questions were taken from the citizens and answered by the deputies. Refreshments were served.

9-1-1 Call Center opens in East Aldine



Harris County leaders, Members of the East Aldine District, and other officials held a ribbon capping on Friday to officially open the new Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Call Center.

Harris County leaders gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Harris County 911 Emergency Call Center in East Aldine last Friday, April 26. The 42,000-square-foot facility is a major upgrade from the current call center operation that has been victimized by repeated flooding, most recently during Hurricane Harvey. The new Harris County 911 Emergency Call Center is part of the 60-acre East Aldine District Town Center. The elevated building is designed to operate before, during and after a Category 4 Hurricane with winds up to 155 mph. During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Sheriff's Office call takers were forced to evacuate the current downtown location after storm waters overwhelmed Buffalo Bayou and flooded the call center. The call takers then spent many post-hurricane weeks working out of the Greater Harris County 911 building in northwest Harris County.

The new call center boasts a main floor with 72 call-taker consoles and 3 backup generators, one of which has enough fuel capacity to run the building on full power for 6 days. It includes staff sleeping quarters and laundry facilities. The operation is set to begin fielding calls next week.

Continued. See 9-1-1 Call Center, Page 3

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:



ED GONZALEZ, Harris County Sheriff

LINA HIDALGO, Harris County Judge



GERALD OVERTURFF, East Aldine Chairman

ADRIAN GARCIA, Pct. 2 Commissioner and former Sheriff

See More Photos on Page 3.

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 Richard Cantu, Deputy Executive Director
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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
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(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.

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Aldine ISD one of 6 Texas school districts selected for The Holdsworth Center's 5-year partnership to build strong leadership

Aldine ISD has been selected as one of six Texas school districts to participate in The Holdsworth Center's 5-year partnership focused on helping public school districts grow their pipeline of inspiring leaders so that teachers can thrive and students can excel on every campus.

The Holdsworth Center is a leadership institute founded by H-E-B CEO and Chairman Charles Butt. Aldine and the five other Texas school districts will participate in the second cohort of the 5-year partnership.

Joining Aldine ISD are Spring ISD, Mesquite ISD (Dallas-Fort Worth), Harlingen CISD (Rio Grande Valley), Judson ISD (San Antonio) and Lockhart ISD (Central Texas).

With the announcement of these six districts, the Holdsworth Partnership now extends to two cohorts comprising 13 public school districts. By the end of their five-year partnership, more than 1,400 educational leaders across 277 schools in Texas will have been impacted.



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Board President Steve Mead and members of the Executive Leadership Team display a cake they received to announce Aldine has been selected to participate in the The Holdsworth Center's 5-year partnership program. Also pictured are Dr. Tamika Alford-Stephens, Katy Roede, Javier Villarreal, Dr. Selina Chapa, Dr. Dawn Ayers, Sheleah Reed and Dr. Todd Davis.

as will have been impacted. Holdsworth staff selected the six districts based upon willingness and ability to change, as well as level of commitment to growing and developing a pipeline of leaders. To ensure a diverse cohort, staff also considered each district's student population and geographic location.

Any Texas public school district with a student population of 6,000 or more was eligible to apply through a written application, which was followed by in-depth site visits to 14 finalist districts earlier this year. The other eight district finalists were: Abilene ISD, Brazosport ISD (Gulf Coast), Brownsville ISD, Midland ISD, North East ISD (San Antonio), San Angelo ISD, San Antonio ISD and Waco ISD. Holdsworth is actively exploring ways to best partner with small and rural districts educating less than 6,000 students.

See Leadership, Page 3

Aldine ISD to launch Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) model at two elementary campuses in the Fall

Aldine ISD will adopt the ACE (Accelerating Campus Excellence) model, which uses strategic staffing and a "whole child" approach to bring the most accomplished educators to the most struggling schools.

Several of the state's largest and most diverse districts have implemented the ACE model with notable success. The districts have seen dramatic academic outcomes in multiple schools with similar student demographics as Aldine ISD.

Two Aldine ISD campuses will start the 2019-2020 school year using the Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) model with the goal of improving student outcomes. Goodman and Worsham Elementary schools will begin in August with new campus leaders, teachers, and staff as well as increased focused support from district leaders and departments.

These two campuses, called ACE Demonstration Schools, will be used as models to significantly increase student achievement across Aldine ISD.

The ACE model, which has been applied in several districts throughout the state including Dallas ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Garland ISD and Richardson ISD, is designed to bring the most accomplished educators to the most struggling schools. Along with effective leadership, other pillars of the model include instructional excellence, an extended school day, social and emotional supports for students and staff and increased parent and community partnerships. Financial incentives to attract and retain highly-effective educators, along with specialized training and extra professional development for campus leaders and teachers are also part of the ACE model.

"To ensure we are serving all of our students at the highest level, we must take BOLD action to dramatically improve student outcomes. The ACE model has proven successful in other districts and we anticipate that by executing the model with fidelity, we will transform how we serve our students -- not just students at Goodman and Worsham, but all Aldine ISD students," said Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney. "Our ACE Demonstration Schools will allow us to illustrate that it IS possible for all our students to succeed, regardless of their backgrounds."

Goodman and Worsham were selected as ACE campuses based on various data points including historical student achievement data, attendance rates, discipline referrals, and mobility rates.

Aldine ISD Board Trustee seeks community help to provide seniors with a tuxedo for prom

Aldine ISD Board Trustee Patricia Ann Bourgeois' Groom-A-Kid Foundation is hosting its second Annual High School Senior Tuxedo Drive.

Ms. Bourgeois asks community members to lend a

hand to Aldine ISD seniors who need a tuxedo for their big night out with friends from their graduating class.

Interested individuals who would like to donate can call Al's Formal Wear-

Deerbrook location, (281) 446-0126. The store has basic tuxedo packages available. Simply mention Aldine ISD to make a tuxedo rental donation and Al's Formal Wear will do the rest!

LSC-NH President Napoles elected to national college board

Houston, TX (April 25, 2019) — Lone Star College-North Harris President Dr. Gerald Fernandez Napoles is one of 10 community college presidents recently elected to serve on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) board of directors.

"I am excited to be elected by my colleagues from across the country to serve and lead on behalf of more than 1,100 member colleges and 12 million students," said Dr. Napoles. "As a former community college student and current community college president, I will continue to do my best to represent the needs of our students, our colleges, and our communities."

Napoles was nominated to the board by Lone Star College Chancellor Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., who also has served on the AACC board.

"I am honored to be nominated by Dr. Head, as he has proven expertise in seeing the future needs of higher education and the role community colleges provide in growing the economy," Napoles said. "I plan to follow his lead and strive to ensure everyone enjoys the benefits provided by a strong community college education."

AACC represents the nation's more than 1,100 community colleges and is governed by a 32-member board of directors. The remaining newly elected board members are:

- Joy Gates Black, President, Delaware County Community College
- Brent Knight, President, Lansing Community College in Michigan
- Anne Kress, President, Monroe Community College in New York
- Sandra Massey, Chancellor, Arkansas



Dr. Gerald Napoles

State University – Newport

- Phil Neal, President, Southeastern Kentucky Community and Technical College
- Joseph Schaffer, President, Laramie County Community College in Wyoming
- Sheree Utash, President, WSU Tech in Kansas
- Charlotte Warren, President, Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois
- Kristine Young, President, Orange County Community College in New York

The new board members will begin their terms on July 1 and join 22 existing members.

"The AACC board of directors acts on behalf of our member colleges to create and maintain a vision for AACC and to advocate on behalf of the community colleges we serve," said Walter G. Bumphus, AACC president and CEO. "We are thrilled to have these esteemed colleagues join the board and know they will bring their unique talents and leadership to advance the nation's community colleges in Washington, DC and throughout the country."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Radiance Chapter organization recognized



Pictured R to L - Connie Esparza, Aldine ISD VP; Quea'Hanna Davis; Aisha Shepard; Tiawona Osborne-Davis; Frances Carter; Shanice Davis; Knia Davis; Dr. Charlotte J. Davis, Director of Guidance, Counseling and At-Risk Students

"Radiance Chapter #1045, a non-profit organization, founded by Miss Tiawona Osborne-Davis was recognized along with her team at the Aldine ISD

April Board Meeting for the support that they provided to Aldine ISD and its students as a business partner. Aldine ISD Board Vice President Connie Es-

parza was instrumental in facilitating this newly-established partnership that will continue to serve Aldine students".

Police investigate fatal crash at Parker Road

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 3700 Parker Road about 3:50 a.m. on April 25.

According to Houston Police Officials, a man was driving a silver Dodge Charger eastbound when it is believed he fell asleep and failed to maintain a single lane. The vehicle crossed the westbound lanes of the roadway, went into a ditch, rolled and landed on its roof.

Paramedics pronounced the male driver and a female passenger deceased at the scene. A male passenger, 30, was transported to Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital with serious injuries.



Officials at the accident scene

The identities of one male, 57, and one female victim, 30, are pending verification by the Harris

County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The investigation is continuing.

Family Day at Turner Park

The 12th Annual Family Day in the Park, was held last Saturday, April 13 at Sylvester Turner Park in Acres Homes.

Sylvester Turner started Family Day in 2008 when he was a state representative. Thanks to sponsors, there is free food, games, music, senior activities and baseball.

Family day features three stages of music and other entertainment. J. Paul Jr. and the Zydeco Nubreeds, Carver High School Performing Arts Students, Luna Llena Mariachi Band, Rhodes School Drumline, Teo Chew Temple lion dancers, Tiger Rock Martial Arts, and more.

There were inflatable games, little train rides, facepainting, and a seniors tent. The Zoomobile brought animals, and the Library brought its mobile van.

The MLB/Houston Astros Youth Academy held baseball games on three fields. Plenty of free food, music, and fun for all.



Mayor Turner with Armando Walle Sr. and Jr.



Music by J. Paul Jr. & the Zydeco Nubreeds



Family Day featured fun for the kids.



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, with the Walle family, attended the event.

Aldine student at Garcia MS collapses, dies

Aldine ISD officials are investigating the death of a sixth-grade student at Garcia Middle School on Thursday, April 25.

Reports says that he collapsed during his athletic period, and school staff and the school nurse

tried to revive him with CPR and a defibrillator. Despite efforts to save him, he passed away.

Aldine ISD had additional counselors assigned on Friday, and issued a statement of condolence. A cause was not known.

Fatal Shooting at Northeast home

Police are investigating a fatal shooting of a man Sunday afternoon at 9900 Aldine Westfield. Police said that a woman told them her nephew shot her husband. He was taken into custody, but the reason for the shooting was not released.

9-1-1 Call Center Opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The New Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Call Center is a two story, 42,000 square foot building, hardened to withstand hurricanes, floods, and other emergencies while its workers handle calls for help.

WELCOMING REMARKS were made by the speakers prior to the ribbon cutting.

Gerald Overturff, chairman of the East Aldine District, which is the developer of the 60 acre Town Center, welcomed the addition of this County Facility to the Aldine Community.

Judge Lina Hidalgo spoke about the building setting a higher standard for the county, "this is the future, a more resilient Harris County."

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez thanked all those who worked as a team to plan and build the facility. He said the old downtown building was rat infested and flood prone. He said this modern workplace is more efficient, more effective, and contains more modern technology.



The Main Floor of the new Call Center has 72 positions with 6 screen technology, to allow the center to handle higher volumes of calls. The old center had only about 30 positions, according to the Sheriff.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia recalled the work his team put into the planning when he was sheriff, and how proud he is of the new facility and the fact that it is being

built in his Precinct. He congratulated the East Aldine District for the vision and leadership that they took to realize the Town Center, which will change Aldine.

Leadership,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"We look forward to investing in and supporting district and campus leaders in these six systems as they work to grow as leaders, strengthen schools and districts and drive excellent and equitable results for every student," said Dr. Lindsay Whorton, president of The Holdsworth Center. "We are grateful to every district who applied. Selecting only six districts was extremely difficult, and through our visits we were inspired by and optimistic about the excellent work being done in schools across Texas."

The Holdsworth Partnership is centered on two core investments in leadership at the district and campus levels.

This summer, the superintendent and a team of five other leaders from central office will embark on the two-year District Leadership Program, a learning journey that includes sessions with some of the nation's top leadership experts and site visits to study high-performing organizations in the U.S. and abroad. Over the five-year partnership, District Leaders work together to build and

implement robust talent management systems with help from embedded Holdsworth staff who provide support tailored to the unique needs of each district.

In the second year, principal supervisors, principals, assistant principals and teachers begin the 2-year Campus Leadership Program, a learning journey similar to District Leaders. Each campus team works on a significant challenge tied to school culture and student outcomes. Rolled out in phases, the program aims to serve 50 percent of campuses in each partner district.

Apart from in-state transportation costs, all programming and support are covered by The Holdsworth Center. In 2020, learning sessions will move to The Holdsworth Center's new campus on the shores of Lake Austin, a peaceful setting where educators can focus on learning and reflection.

The announcement of the second cohort comes shortly after 42 District Leaders graduated from Holdsworth's inaugural District Leadership Program. The first cohort includes Lamar CISD and

Klein ISD (Houston area), Southwest ISD (San Antonio), Round Rock ISD (Central Texas), Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD (Rio Grande Valley), and Grand Prairie ISD and Arlington ISD (Dallas-Fort Worth).

"Holdsworth has impacted our district inside and out," said Dr. Joffery Jones, executive director of campus safety and support at Klein ISD. "We've employed programs and change that will forever be with the district. I tell people all the time that Holdsworth is different. You can't participate in this program and not grow as a professional."

The Holdsworth Center Founded by Charles Butt in January 2017, The Holdsworth Center partners with Texas public school districts to cultivate a pipeline of dynamic and inspired leaders so that teachers thrive and students excel in every classroom. The Center makes a deep investment in participating districts, working with each for a five-year period and including both district and campus leaders throughout partnership. For more information, visit www.holdsworthcenter.org.

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- * THE INTRUDER (PG-13) 7:00 9:30
- * UGLYDOLLS (PG) 4:00 6:30 9:00

- * BREAKTHROUGH (PG) 6:45pm, 9:30pm Spanish Dubbed
- PENGUINS (G) 12:35pm, 3:00pm
- HELLBOY (R) 5:30pm, 8:45pm
- LITTLE (PG-13) 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
- PET SEMATARY (R) 11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm
- SHAZAM! (PG-13) 11:45am, 5:45pm
- * SHAZAM! 3D (PG-13) 2:45pm, 8:45pm
- DUMBO (PG) 10:30am, 4:00pm, 9:00pm
- * DUMBO 3D (PG) 1:15pm, 6:30pm
- US (R) 11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm
- NO MANCHES FRIDA 2 (R) 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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OPINION PAGE

TEXAS SENATE NEWS
By Richard Lee

Senate unveils draft school finance reform plan

(Austin) The Senate Education committee gave the public its first look at that chamber's proposal for sweeping education finance reform on Thursday. The bill would include property tax relief, a teacher pay raise, and funding provisions aimed at making the system more equitable and effective. Committee chair and Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor says the plan focuses resources on those students that need the most help. "Our largest demographic now in Texas is our student population is kids who qualify for free and reduced lunch, right at 60 percent," said Taylor. "That's also our fastest growing demographic and unfortunately, historically, that's also been our least educated. So obviously that paradigm cannot continue on that path or we will not be the Texas in the very near future that we are today."

To provide more resources for those at-risk students, the bill increases funding for compensatory education to serve districts with high populations of low-income students. There's more money for early education through 3rd grade, including money for full-day pre-K for all districts, in order to meet critical 3rd grade reading standards. More funds would go towards improving post-secondary readiness, to increase the number of high school graduates ready for college, the workforce or the military. The bill increases the basic allotment, the fundamental variable in the formula calculations that determine how much funding districts are entitled to, from \$5140 to \$5880. "The basic allotment is the most equitable thing we can do in our system," said Taylor. "By increasing that, you're increasing equity, reducing recapture, and those types of things." The bill also includes additional funding for a number of other student populations, such as those with dyslexia and those still mastering English.

Another provision in the bill would reform how Texas measures student achievement. The bill would move from the current standardized STAAR tests to a series of shorter tests, administered on-line, over the next three to five years. This solves a lot of problems with the current system, said Taylor, allowing for shorter tests that don't take up an entire school day and flexibility to test students at the beginning and end of the school year, to better gauge individual student needs as the semester starts and

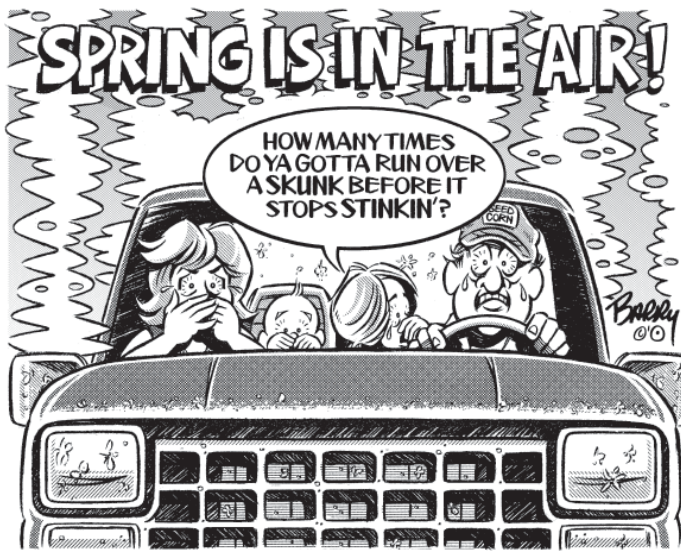
how they progress through the term.

For teachers, the bill includes a \$5000 annual pay raise for all public school teachers in the state, and provides funding for an optional performance-based pay scale. Taylor says a similar program in Dallas showed impressive results in improving outcomes at some of the districts most low-performing campuses. Under the bill, the best educators who work at the most challenging campuses could earn as much as \$32000 more per year, if they teach in a participating district.

As far as property tax cuts, the bill increases the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000 and compresses local property tax rates by eight cents in the first year, and 15 cents in year two. To pay for it, the bill contemplates a one percent increase in the state sales tax, though voters would first have to authorize it by approving an enabling amendment to the state constitution. Lawmakers are also considering a number of other revenue sources to offset revenue lost from a property tax reduction.

Dallas Senator Royce West told colleagues this bill represents the potential for significant and critically needed reforms to the Texas public education system. "If Texas is going to continue to try to be number one in providing education opportunities, we've got to make these transformative changes and make certain that they're stable for the next 10, 20, 30 years," he said. West asked stakeholders to bring solutions to issues they have with the bill, instead of just a list of disagreements. Taylor told members he doesn't intend to hold a vote on the bill until next week at the earliest. "This is not going to be a rushed project," he said. "We're going to have time to be thoughtful on this and take input from our members and others."

The Senate will reconvene Monday, April 29 at 11 a.m.



Conference committee to work out differences in state budget

AUSTIN — After Easter weekend, conferees for the Texas House and Senate must work out differences in the two chambers' versions of a fiscal 2020-2021 state budget to send to Gov. Greg Abbott.

Concurrence is required on how to spend an estimated \$250 billion in revenue available to fund the state's fiscal years 2020-2021. Once an agreement has been reached, the budget bill will be subject to an up or down vote in each chamber before it is forwarded to the governor's office for final approval.

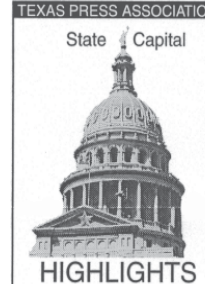
Speaker Dennis Bonnen on April 15 named five House members to a conference committee tasked with negotiating an agreement. He chose House Appropriations Committee Chair John Zerwas, R-Richmond; and Reps. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood; Sarah Davis, R-West University Place; Oscar Longoria, D-Mission; and Armando Walle, D-Houston.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, on April 17 named five conferees — all Republicans: Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson of Flower Mound, and Sens. Larry Taylor of Friendswood, Joan Huffman of Houston, Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham and Robert Nichols of Jacksonville.

Nelson, in a report posted by the Senate News Service, looked forward to the work, saying: "Both chambers prioritized property tax relief and public education and I am confident we can finalize a budget that helps homeowners who are struggling with rising property taxes and make sure our schools have the resources needed to give teachers a raise and prepare our students for success."

While the House and Senate versions of the budget both set aside an additional \$9 billion for property tax relief, teacher pay and education, the House version appropriates \$251 billion in all funds, including \$116.5 bil-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



lion in general revenue and \$2.3 billion from the Economic Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund. In contrast, the Senate version appropriates \$247.7 billion in all funds, including \$116.8 billion in general Revenue and no dollars from the Rainy Day Fund.

Property tax bill moves

The Senate's property tax reform bill, SB 2, passed the Senate on April 15, was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means for consideration.

The vote on final passage in the Senate was 18-12, with Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, joining Democrats in voting against the measure. One Democrat, Sen. Eddie Lucio of Brownsville, was listed as "present not voting."

SB 2 would change what is now known as the effective tax rate, that rate at which the entity would earn the exact same amount of revenue as in the previous year, would be renamed to the "no-new-revenue" tax rate. It would also change the term "rollback rate" to "voter-approved rate." Also, rollback elections would be triggered automatically when rate increases exceed the new limits and would be placed on the November ballot, the Texas Senate News Service reported.

Dubbed "The Property Tax Reform and Relief Act of 2019," the bill's main goals are to:

- (1) Lower the rollback rate from 8 percent to 3.5

percent for most taxing jurisdictions and 2.5 percent for school districts;

(2) Require an automatic tax ratification election if the rollback rate is exceeded, eliminating the petition requirement in current statute;

(3) Make information about the tax rates proposed by local taxing units more accessible to property owners and more timely; and

(4) Make it easier for property owners to express their opinions about proposed tax rates to local elected officials before tax rates are adopted.

Gov. Abbott, in lauding the movement of SB 2, said he is looking forward to working with Lt. Gov. Patrick, Senate Property Tax Committee Chair Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, Speaker Bonnen and House Ways and Means Chair Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, and the entire Legislature "to provide lasting property tax relief for all Texans."

Disaster declaration issued

Gov. Greg Abbott on April 17 issued a State Disaster Declaration for nine Texas counties impacted by recent severe weather, including thunderstorms and tornadoes that caused widespread property damage and the loss of life.

In the declaration, Abbott authorized the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions to aid in response efforts.

"As a result of severe weather over the weekend, Texas is taking action to ensure those impacted have the resources they need to recover as quickly as possible," said Abbott said.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are: Cherokee, Freestone, Houston, Leon, Madison, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Shelby and Robertson.

Early voting to be conducted

Texas Secretary of State David Whitley, the state's chief elections officer, on April 19 encouraged eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period ahead of the May 4 election.

Early voting begins on Monday, April 22, and ends on Tuesday, April 30. Voters across the state will be casting ballots in local political subdivision elections, including those for mayor, city council, school board, municipal utility districts and other local entities.

Social Security Matters



by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Ask Rusty: Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) affects state retiree

Dear Rusty: I have a question in regard to the "windfall act." I am receiving a pension from the State of Nevada. I retired from the State, and did not pay into Social Security, but I worked in the private sector before and am currently working in the private sector. My question is: How much "penalty" will I be subject to when I decide to finally hang it up? Signed: State Retiree

Dear State Retiree: The State of Nevada is one of 27 states which, for all or some employee categories, do not participate in the Federal Social Security (SS) program; rather their State pensions are designed to provide a retirement benefit in lieu of Social Security. Because you receive a Nevada state pension and have also worked in the private sector long enough to be entitled to a Social Security (SS) benefit, your SS retirement benefit, when you claim it, may be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), with the amount of reduction based upon how many years of substantial SS-covered earnings you have. If you have 20 or fewer years of SS-covered employment, here's how WEP will affect your Social Security benefit:

Your actual benefit amount is based upon your "primary insurance amount" (PIA), which is computed using the average monthly earnings from the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime, known as your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings or "AIME" (only earnings up to the maximum payroll tax cap for each year are counted). Your PIA is the Social Security benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. Normally, when WEP doesn't apply, your Social Security benefit amount is computed by taking the monthly average of those 35 inflation-adjusted years of earnings (your AIME) and using a standard formula to arrive at your PIA. That formula includes using 90% of the first part (called a "bend point") of your AIME to be the first portion of three used to arrive at your PIA amount. For those first becoming eligible for benefits in 2019 (usually at age 62) that first bend point is \$926, which means that \$833 (90%) would normally be the first contribution to your PIA. But when WEP applies, the formula is different; instead of using 90% of that first bend point, if you had 20 or less years of covered-SS substantial earnings they use 40%, which would mean that the first bend point would add \$370 to your PIA amount instead of \$833, a reduction of \$463. Remember that the bend points used are those for your year of Social Security eligibility, not for the year you claim benefits.

The percentage used to compute that first "bend point" goes up by 5% for each year over 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings you have - for example, if you have 22 years of SS-covered substantial earnings, the formula would use a 50% multiplier instead of 40%. And at 30 years of SS-covered earnings you're no longer affected by WEP. WEP can't reduce your PIA by more than half of your NV pension amount, and there is also a maximum WEP reduction which might apply. And finally, please note that any benefit estimates you might get from Social Security now will not include the WEP reduction, which will be applied only when you actually claim your Social Security benefits.

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE AVENGERS - STORY OF A SPECIAL TEAM

Our team is called The Avengers, this team is composed of children ages 4-21 yrs. old that have mental and/or physical disabilities. They "assembled" in the North Houston area at NHA Park with only four players in 2015, fast forward to 2019 our team now has 14 players! These kids are so amazing! Nothing holds them back. After all the trials and tribulations of life that they have to face on a daily basis, they still get to come together for a short while and have fun. Our goal is to grow and give every child a place to play where they can feel accepted without any judgment. We provide a no bully zone at our park and the Avengers are the heart and soul of NHA Park. Our children love the sport of baseball and when they come together to play they don't see their disabilities. They get to have the fun and acceptance that every child longs for, but most importantly they have no limits. To us they are the real HEROES.

doubled in size, at the moment we are in need of more "buddies" to help our team during practice and games. We also need a sponsors to help offset the costs of equipment, uniforms, and other team festivities. We would like to have a field that is accessible for mobility devices, such as walkers and wheelchairs, where it would be easily accessible in any weather, as well as having bathrooms that accommodate their needs.



Avengers Team

Some of our Players



Fernanda Garcia, 7 yrs. old. She loves music, singing, and playing. Her favorite foods are hot dogs, French fries, and fruits and vegetables. She enjoys watching Disney movies, playing with her stuffed teddies and Barbie dolls. She was diagnosed with Autism and she has trouble with fine motor skills. Sometimes she doesn't know how to express her emotions and is not able to recognize danger. For the past 3 yrs, The Avengers team has helped Fernanda to have more friends and to know that she is capable of playing baseball like any other kid. She has learned to throw and catch the ball, and just learned how to hit off a pitch. She really enjoys playing with The Avengers.



Regina Nañez, 6 yrs old. She loves to play with her baby dolls and stroller. She was diagnosed with a Genetic Disorder and has challenges doing a lot of things. This is her second year with The Avengers and she loves it. She used to be very shy and now has learned that it is ok to interact with others, now she even looks forward to practice days to play baseball.



Juan Carlos Guevara, 13 yrs. old. He loves to play baseball, basketball, and video games. Juan was diagnosed with Autism and he struggles with his fine motor skills and a little bit with speech. He loves The Avengers because he gets to interact more with his team mates and even reminds his mom about the practices so that he does miss any of them. Juan has been with The Avengers since the beginning. He has improved so much over the years that he now hits home-runs off a pitch.



Daniel "Dano" Alexander Sifuentes, 9 yrs old. He loves baseball, dancing, playing outside, and his tablet. His favorite conversation topics are pirates, ships (Titanic), dinosaurs, and space. Daniel was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder, and Developmental Delay. Some of his challenges are fine and gross motor skills, speech, and sometimes social events. Daniel has been part of The Avengers since 2016 and he absolutely loves it, especially because he gets a chance to interact with his team mates and coaches. For the past 3 yrs, he has graduated from the tee to a pitch and he absolutely enjoys it every time. His face just lights up every time the bat comes in contact with the ball.



Emanuel "Manny" Lopez, 4 yrs old. He loves music, singing, dancing, and playing baseball. He was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and is a very sweet and caring boy. This is his first season with the team and just in the past couple of months of the season, he has learned to hit the ball off the tee and he loves it.

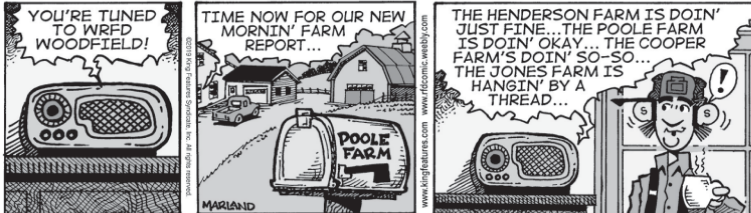
OUR NEEDS

Due to their diagnosis, some kids are not able to play the game without assistance. We use "buddies" to help and protect them during practices and games. These "buddies" help with batting, catching, base running, and if needed will assist with their walkers and wheelchairs. Since this year we have just about

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Man's collar is different. 2. Window is larger on the bottom. 3. One boy is missing. 4. Leg on the left is missing. 5. Boy on the bottom has a hat. 6. Part of fence is missing.

Posting Date April 29, 2019

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18						19	20			
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25	26	27		28	29		30	31	32	
33			34					35		
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39	40			41	42					
43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

ACROSS

- 1 Gaucho's weapon
- 5 Big Apple abbr.
- 8 Silenced "Hey!"
- 12 "Once — a Mattress"
- 13 Debtor's letters
- 14 Duel tool
- 15 Delphinium
- 17 Rotate
- 18 Dismal
- 19 Snow White's pals
- 21 Put on the line
- 24 Everything
- 25 Pop flavor
- 28 Frogs' hang-out
- 30 Make up your mind
- 33 Kinsman, for short
- 34 Drops from the payroll
- 35 Letter after 31-Down
- 36 Moment
- 37 From the start
- 38 Read cursorily
- 39 Barbie's companion
- 41 Teensy bit
- 43 Go directly downhill
- 46 Pacific porch
- 50 Desirous look
- 51 Rash

DOWN

- 1 Socket insert
- 2 October stone
- 3 Traditional tales
- 4 Turkey's capital
- 5 Pinch
- 6 Second person
- 50 Desirous look
- 7 Cottage
- 8 Corolla component
- 9 Morgan of "Super Size Me"
- 10 Lowly laborer
- 11 Sawbucks
- 16 Half a Vail pair
- 20 Bankrolls
- 22 Rotate
- 23 "M*A*S*H" locale
- 25 Letterman's network
- 26 Raw rock
- 27 Big name in U.S. aircraft
- 29 Mr. Gingrich
- 31 Letter before 35-Across
- 32 Allen or Conway
- 34 Enthusiasts
- 38 T-shirt sizes
- 40 Continental money
- 42 Timeworn
- 43 Decelerate
- 44 Wrap in a waxy cloth
- 45 Attempt
- 47 Tidy
- 48 One side of the Urals
- 49 " — It Romantic?"
- 52 Historic period
- 53 Recede

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does the planet Mercury have?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest lake in the United States?
- FOOD & DRINK: What are the four main ingredients of beer?
- HISTORY: In which World War I battle did more than 19,000 British troops die on the first day?
- MUSIC: Which R&B/soul singer was shot to death by his father in 1984?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the brewery that was the setting for the "Laverne & Shirley" show?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did Canada gain its independence from Britain?
- MOVIES: What was the name of the first silent movie shot in Hollywood?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of goats called?
- ACRONYMS: What does "http" stand for in website addresses?

1. None; 2. Crater Lake, at 1,949 feet; 3. Water, yeast, hops and grain; 4. The Battle of the Somme; 5. Marvin Gaye; 6. Shout Brewery; 7. 1867; 8. "In Old California"; 9. A tribe or a trip; 10. HyperText Transfer Protocol

Weekly SUDOKU

S	T	V	L	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
N	I	V	L	R	R	O	O	E	R	O
S	S	L	L	E	E	H	H	E	L	L
I	N	V	L	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
M	I	K	I	S	E	C	S	E	C	S
C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H
P	T	P	T	P	T	P	T	P	T	P
L	A	R	K	S	P	U	R	T	U	R
N	R	I	S	K	I	N	O	N	O	N
L	A	R	K	S	P	U	R	T	U	R
N	R	I	S	K	I	N	O	N	O	N
L	A	R	K	S	P	U	R	T	U	R
N	R	I	S	K	I	N	O	N	O	N

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

LIFESTYLE

RECENT DEATHS

Mollie Boone
Kimi Everett
Paula Cordell Soontiraratn
Truman "T.J." Blazek

Ruben Rodriguez S.
Emeterio Garza Berlanga
Santos O. Meza
JUanita Wigginton



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marianas@bondingagainstadversity.org

Garden,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grass blade is removed in a single mowing. Letting grass grow tall and then cutting it back to a low height reduces turf density, allowing weed seeds to germinate and grow more easily. It is especially important to mow a lawn more frequently in the spring, when the grass is growing faster."

Fifth: the fertilizers. Improving the soil organically can be done by adding corn gluten, if you'd rather not add chemicals. Fertilizers for lawns should be fairly high in nitrogen; buying a fertilizer specifically for lawns takes care of that issue, but if you see the set of three numbers on the bags, you need a high number on the first

one and low on the other two, like 10-0-0. And READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BAG FOR SPREADING.

Now, we finally get to the "weed and feed" topic! To deal with the cool weather weeds you see in January, you need to do the job in September/October. Most of the weed and feed products focus on pre-emergent weeds, so once you see the weeds in the lawn, it's too late for weed and feed. Can't tell how many times I've explained this to folks, but it's the main answer to dealing with weeds in the future for all the lawn lovers out there. Feeding the lawn in the spring is fine, when the grass breaks dormancy, but unless the bag says it's helping with warm weather weeds, a weed and feed product won't do you much good. And the weed and feed products DO NOT

work on grasses like crabgrass, because if they do, they will kill your St. Augustine as well. They're both grasses, after all.

Which then leads us to herbicides. If you are an alert lawn person who patrols constantly, hand-pulling is the ideal way to catch weeds. If you improve the soil, and mow at the correct height and frequency, you've pretty much covered all the things you can do without resorting to organic or chemical controls.

Herbicides are designed to kill anything that's a plant, pure and simple. They are not specific to the weed you have next to your prize rose-bush; it will take them both and ask no questions. Overspray of herbicides on plants is another of the most frequent questions

we get about "what's wrong with my plant?" So work wisely. Herbicides list the kinds of weeds they kill, so read the labels and know your weeds. Follow the directions. Don't spray on windy days. Cut the bottom out of a bucket or a box, place it directly over a weed you want gone, and spray into the box so there is no overspray. Don't overdo it; if you treat Mother Nature badly, she'll respond in kind.

Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.



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AUCTION

Public Farm Auction, Thurs., May 9, 2019, Starts @ 9:31 a.m., 9847 E. 120th St. N., Collinsville, OK 74021. Tractors, hay & farm equip., Vehicles, implements, trailers, motor home, shop & yard tools, vet supplies, cattle panels, saddles & more. Chupps Auction Co., Dale & Maria Chupp, Coldwell Banker Neokla Select, 918-630-0495. For full terms & photos, visit www.chuppsauction.com.

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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.

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.

CONTRACTORS

Contractors Wanted for the Construction of the Coahoma Community Center. The City of Coahoma and the Board of Directors of the Coahoma Development Corporation are seeking sealed proposals for a contractor to construct a new community center. See the Request for Proposals at 122 N. First Street, Coahoma, Texas and online at coahomatx-ed.org and www.cityofcoahoma.tx.citygovt.org. Deadline: May 20, 2019 at 4 p.m. Info: chris.mulkey@coahomatx-ed.org. See Official Notice in the Classified Section of The Big Spring Herald.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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LIFESTYLE

Mercer Botanic Gardens May luncheon

Lunch Bunch: Snake Identification. Wednesday, May 8, from noon to 2 p.m. Clinton and Michelle Pustejovsky of Texas Snakes present an interactive class on how to identify snakes, snake safety, and what to do if you are bitten by a venomous snake. Venomous snakes and common nonvenomous snakes will be on site for participants to view. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch

Bunch is a free program offered at Mercer's East Side Gardens and is recommended for participants ages 12 and older. Mercer Botanic Gardens is one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. To register, seek additional information or request special assistance, in any of the following programs, contact Mercer at 713-274-4160. Visit Mercer online at www.hcp4.net/parks/mercer.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey---

1. Is the book of Judges in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is ..."? Independence, Freedom, Patriotism, Liberty
3. Which scripture contains, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"? Ruth 4:10, Job 7:2, Psalm 23:4, Amos 1:1
4. Though lame on both feet, what descendant of Saul continually ate at King David's table? Mareshah, Methusael, Micah, Mephibosheth
5. Under what type of tree would the children of Israel come to Deborah for judging? Palm, Sycamore, Fig, Cypress
6. From Matthew 8, who was the first woman that Jesus healed? Paul's sister, Naomi, Peter's mother-in-law, Deborah

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Liberty; 3) Psalm 23:4; 4) Mephibosheth; 5) Palm; 6) Peter's mother-in-law.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard, planted by the waters; it was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters. It had strong rods for the scepters of those who rule. And its stature was exalted above the clouds, so it appeared in its height with the multitude of its branches. EZEKIEL 19

Americanisms

"Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life"
— Eleanor Roosevelt

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Houston Symphony announces appointment of new concert master: Yoon-Shin Song

HOUSTON (April 23, 2019) – Following an extensive search spanning more than three years, the Houston Symphony and Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada announce the appointment of Yoonshin Song as its concertmaster and holder of the Max Levine Chair beginning in the 2019-2020 Season. She succeeds Frank Huang in this position, who left the Houston Symphony at the end of the 2015-2016 Season to take an equivalent position with the New York Philharmonic.

Song performs as concertmaster for all three of the Houston Symphony classical subscription concerts in May 2019. She returns for opening night of the 2019-2020 season, September 14, 2019, with Detroit Symphony Music Director Leonard Slatkin leading an all-Russian program including Glinka's Kamarskaya, Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien, and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto

No.3 with Yefim Bronfman. "The appointment of the right concertmaster is crucial to the advancement of the artistic goals of any orchestra," said Houston Symphony Music Director Andrés Orozco-Estrada. "Yoonshin's exceptional musicality, artistry, experience, and personality made her our unanimous choice. I am thrilled that she will be joining us and look forward to working with her, knowing that she will enrich the musical life of our city through our work together with the orchestra."

Song won the concertmaster position from a field of 39 candidates, 17 of whom performed with the Houston Symphony as guest concertmaster. She most recently appeared with the Houston Symphony in November 2018 as guest concertmaster for a program that featured such disparate and challenging repertoire as Scriabin's The Poem of Ecstasy, Strauss' "Dance of the Sev-

en Veils" from Salome, and Kurt Weill's "sung ballet" The Seven Deadly Sins.

"Yoonshin made a profound impression in November when she stepped in at the last minute in a very difficult program," explained Houston Symphony Executive Director, CEO, and holder of the Margaret Alkek Williams Chair John Mangum, "which included two rarely performed works by Scriabin and Weill. All of us were delighted when she decided to audition for the position, and our musicians and Andrés voted unanimously to offer her the job. I think she'll be a great leader for the orchestra, and that she will make a significant contribution to the artistry and impact of the Houston Symphony. I'm thrilled she'll be joining us."

"You would expect it to be a difficult week but it wasn't," added Song. "Perhaps because there was no time to think; there was a phone call and then a couple



hours later I was on a plane to Houston. But most importantly because the Houston Symphony musicians were so warm and welcoming and willing to work together. The rest was just the pleasure of making music."

Since 2012, Song has been the Concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and has enjoyed close collaborations with inspiring guest artists such as Gil Shaham, Joshua Bell,

and Jamie Laredo.

She spends three weeks in fall 2019 performing as concertmaster of the Budapest Festival Orchestra on tour in Vienna, London, Baden-Baden, and Hamburg.

She has earned many prestigious prizes throughout her career, with highlights including top prize awards in the Lipizer International Violin Competition (Italy), Lipinski & Wieniawski International Violin Competition (Poland), Henry Marteau International Violin Competition (Germany), and first prize at the Stradivarius International Competition in the United States. In her native South Korea, Song has won virtually all the major national competitions.

As a soloist, she has performed with many orchestras around the world—including the Detroit Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Utah Symphony, New Mexico Philhar-

monic Orchestra, Bayreuth Festival Orchestra, the Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and KBS Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in numerous music festivals, including Marlboro Music Festival, Deer Valley Music Festival, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival in the US, Miyazaki Chamber Music Festival in Japan and Verbier Festival, Lucerne Festival, and Bayreuth Music Festival in Europe.

Acclaimed as "a wonderfully talented violinist... whose sound and technique go well beyond her years," violinist Song was born in South Korea, where she began her musical studies at age 5. Making her solo debut with the Seoul Philharmonic at age 11, she has since built a successful performing career throughout Korea, the United States, and Europe.



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