FEATURED IN THIS

Martial Art Classes

• Flowers for Mother's Day

SEE PAGE 8 FOR ALL THESE STORIES IN COLOR



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years VOL. 45, NO. 19 TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Greeters at the Event... Lone Star College EAC Dean Luis Lucio, LSC Mascot, and BakerRipley's Leo Escalante.

LSC- East Aldine Center holds Open House

Community turns out at BakerRipley for Lone Star College

ALDINE – The East Aldine community will have a brand new option for high-quality academic and work-force training beginning this fall. On Saturday, May 4, Lone Star College-East Aldine Center welcomed the public to an open house community awareness event from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the BakerRipley – East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Route Rd.

Dr. Luis Lucio, dean LSC-East Aldine Center, was the host for the event. He commented, "I have waited a long time to be able to say it, but



THE OPEN HOUSE INCLUDED ENTERTAINMENT BY THE ALDINE MARIACHI BAND.

now Lone Star College-East Aldine Center is open for registration for students for the fall semester!" Lucio continued, "I am proud of the work we, along with our partners, have done to reach this point. Lone Star College-East Aldine Center will bring affordable education opportunities and the expertise of LSC faculty and staff to the East Aldine neighborhood."

The opening of LSC-East Aldine Center represents the culmination of years of work from many people and groups, including partner agencies Bakdine Management District.
This event was a festive

This event was a festive affair and attended by prospective students and family. High school students interested in nearby college class options, adults interested in high-tech workforce training and seniors interested in their grandchildren's education had the opportunity to meet educators in person and learn about the value LSC-East Aldine will provide.

Activities, Entertain-Continued see LSC-EAC on page 8

Volunteers clean-up bayou in Aldine

EAST ALDINE – As part of the observance of Earth Day (April 22) the Greens Bayou Coalition and the East Aldine District co-sponsored a Greens Bayou Sprint Clean-up on Saturday, April 27.

We had over 30 volunteers for our greens bayou clean up. Groups from MacArthur, Pine Village PUD, Northbelt UD, Dignity Memorial, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and families came out to clean a stretch of the Greens Bayou. The target area was the bayou next to Kennedy Greens Business Park on JFK Boulevard.

A collection of over 20 bags of trash were collected and kept out of our bayou greenways.

Thank you to all who came out to make this happen. A special thank you to Greens Bayou Coalition, Centerpoint, HCSO and HCEC for your support.



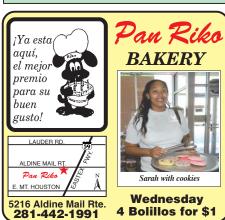
OVER 30 VOLUNTEERS HELPED CLEAN THE AREA AROUND GREENS BAYOU.



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COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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\$10 a plate brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad & all the trimmings. May 18, 2019 from noon to 6 pm at American Legion Post, 578 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, TX 77039

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HOUSTON, TX. 77022
SATURDAY, MAY 11
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.bondingagainstadveristy.org

can. It's a neat idea.



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2 Aldine ISD campuses rank in 2019 U.S. news list of best high schools

One AISD campus shined in six key indicators, placing the school among the topranked schools nationally.

Aldine ISD campuses once again scored among the top in the nation, according to the annual Best High Schools list from the self-proclaimed "global authority" in education rank-

ings.
Victory Early College High School was tabbed as the top high school for the seventh consecutive year. The campus ranked #154 in the country That is out of 17,245 schools ranked in the U.S. The campus received a score of 99.11 out of 100 on key indicators. This places Victory Early College HS among the top

1 percent nationally. Victory ECHS also did well in the Texas where the campus ranked 23rd.

The campus was fol-lowed by Carver High School for Applied Technology, Engineering, and the Arts. The magnet campus ranked #3,606 — top 21 percent — nationally and came in at # 304th in the state. U.S. News also ranked magnet high schools placing Carver HS

#335th nationally. U.S. News & World Report announced today the 2019 Best High Schools a new, revamped edition of the rankings, providing the most comprehensive evaluation of America's public high schools ever produced by U.S. News. The number of campuses ranked is up

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campuses.

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physically and emotionally.

Aldine ISD will host a

Kindergarten Roundup

May 6 through May 10 at

all Aldine ISD early child-

hood/prekindergarten/kin-

dergarten (EC/PK/K)

Families can contact their zoned EC/PK/K cam-

pus for hours to pre-regis-ter incoming kindergarten

students. Please be aware

that students who will

turn 5 years of age by Sep-

tember 1, 2019, can pre-

from last year.

"By evaluating more schools than ever before, the new edition expands that focus so all communities can see which schools in their area are successfully serving their students —including historically underserved populations," said Anita Naravan, managing editor

of Education at U.S. News. The 2019 Best High Schools rankings take a holistic approach to evaluate schools, looking at six factors: college readiness, reading and math profi-ciency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates. Specifically, college readiness measures participation and performance on Advanced Placement® (AP) and International Bacca-

laureate® (IB) exams. New Methodology

The new methodology assigns weights to the six factors and then produces an overall score on which the ranking is based – as compared to the previous methodology, which involved a four-step process in which the final step used college readiness as the sole basis to determine a school's numerical rank.

"We enhanced the methodology to provide an even more comprehensive ranking that is easier to understand," said Robert Morse, chief data strategist at U.S News, "Now, each school's

Aldine ISD to Host Kinder

Kindergarten Matters

The benefits of early childhood education and

interactive learning pro-

cess can make a significant

difference in your child's

Kindergarten
• Kindergarten offers

fun learning
• Kindergarten means

more social interactions
• Kindergarten can

boost your child's creativi-

• Kindergarten helps

· Kindergarten pre-

Benefits of

with fitness skill

pares kids for school Enroll Your Child

Roundup May 6-10

score correlates to its national percentile – a school with a score of 70 is in the 70th percentile and ranks higher than 70% of schools. Going forward, this methodology will allow for intuitive comparisons of a school's performance year after year.

Other Factors Methodology Considered

The Best High Schools rankings are available exclusively on usnews.com and include data on a variety of factors, such as en-rollment, student diversity, participation in free and reduced-price lunch programs, graduation rates and the results of state as-sessments. U.S. News worked with RTI International, a global research firm, to implement the comprehensive ranking methodology. The 2019 Best High

Schools rankings are not comparable with Best High Schools rankings U.S. News has published in the past. The primary reason is that the new methodology is completely different from the past, so a high school's performance in the new rankings should not be compared with its past numerical rank or unranked status.

In future years, high schools will be able to use the 2019 Best High Schools rankings as the baseline to compare a school's perfor-

Visit U.S. News to view the high school rankings.

priate paperwork, please

bring the following docu-

• Parent/Guardian Driv

 $\bullet Immunization \, Records$

• Proof of Residency (must be a bill such as elec-

tric, water, gas, or lease)

• Social Security Card (optional) — If you choose

not to use the Social Security Number and would

like to have a State ID

Number assigned, you do

not need to provide a copy

of the Social Security Card.

schedule an appointment

please contact any Aldine

For questions or to

• Birth Certificate

er's License

Aldine ISD to offer summer enrichment programs this summer

Aldine ISD will offer a unique summer camp experience for all grade levels in June.

The district will host its Lights, Camera, Action! Summer Camp at a number of the district's EC/Pre-K/K schools for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

Aldine is offering two two-week camp sessions in June. Session 1 will be held from June 4-11 and Session 2 will be held from June 18-28. There is no cost to attend.

Campers will explore

science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math (STREAM) through an integral approach. Students will have many opportunities to discover new and exciting ways to learn, participate in enriching activities, and enjoy field trips and life-changing ex-periences while having

fun.
The camps will run from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Below is an example of what campers will encounter on a daily basis:

•8 a.m. – science, tech-

•9 a.m. – field trip •11 a.m. - hands-on

learning

•11:30 a.m. - reading •3 p.m. – dismissal

Enrollment is limited Application forms can be found at any Aldine ISD EC/Pre-K school. Parents need to submit forms to the campus of their choice by Wednesday, May 8. Selected campers will receive an entry ticket on Friday, May 17. Completing the application does not guarantee a camp slot.

Breakfast and lunch

will be provided for free and transportation will be provided for eligible students.
• deSantiago students

will attend with Griggs students at Griggs EC/Pre-K/K School

 $\bullet \ Hinojosa \ students \ will$ attend with Keeble students at Keeble EC/Pre-K/ K School

•Vardeman students will attend with Garcia-Leza students at Garcia-Leza EC/Pre-K/K School

• Reece students will attend with Vines students at Vines EC/Pre-K/K

 Jones students will attend with Margrill stu-dents at Magrill EC/Pre-K/

•Kujawa students will attend at Kujawa EC/Pre-K/K School.

HIGH SCHOOL

At the high schools, the "Make Your Summer EPIC!" program embodies the district's commitment to supporting students with the skills and tools necessary to graduate on time, achieve success where they may have encountered previous chal-lenges, and create opportunities that have not existed before. Aldine ISD high school students will have an EPIC Summer with learning opportunities to engage, enrich and be exposed to opportunities that they may not experienced before.
Through EOC (End of Course) enrichment, Post-Secondary specialized learning experiences, the opportunity to earn Initial redit, Recover Credit, and to engage in a Fish Camp

style event, students will have a wide array of in-roads to success.

Below is a schedule: •June 4-28 – EOC Enrichment, all high schools,

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

•June 4-28 – Initial Credit, all high schools,

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

•June 4-28 – Credit Recovery, all high schools, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

•June 10-28 - Post Secondary Specialized Learning Camps – Blanson CTE, Carver High, Davis High, Eisenhower High, Mac-Arthur High and Nimitz

High, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, contact your child's high school. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free.

NINTH GRADE ${\tt SCHOOLS}$

A summer enrichment camp will be held for AISD ninth grade students at their respective ninth grade campuses June 4-28 from 7 a.m.-2:25 p.m. The camp will include handson classes, art and 3D printing, Makerspace, martial arts, chess, fitness and basketball. A parent information meeting will take place on May 15. Please contact your child's ninth grade school for more information.

The camp will include a tour of Lamar University in Beaumont on June 27 Free lunch and free trans portation will be provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

The middle schools will offer students a unique summer camp experience for selected students. Camps will be held throughout the month of June (June 10-27). During the four-week program, campers will have many opportunities to discover new and exciting ways to learn, participate in enriching activities, take field trips, and experience lifechanging experiences while having fun. There is no cost for students to participate.

Listed are the schools that will host their sister

schools.
•Mead MS will host

Hambrick MS
• Grantham MS will

host Aldine MS
•Lewis MS will host Plummer MS

•Jones MS will host

Teague MS •Stovall MS will host Garcia MS

•Drew Academy will host Hoffman MS

• Drew Academy will host Houston Academy

•Shotwell MS will host its own camp For more information,

contact your student's school.

ELEMENTARY

SCHOOLS At the elementary level, students will experience "Explore. Learn. Share." Summer camp. The camp will run from June 10-27 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. This camp will give students opportunity the strengthen their academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, math and science while acquiring skills in an enrichment activity of the student's choice Campers will be grouped into multi-grade classes. Breakfast and lunch will be served for free. Contact your child's school for more

register for kindergarten To complete the appro-ISD EC/PK/K campus. during Kinder Roundup.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bonding Against Adversity is hiring

Are you interested in a career opportunity with a growing, community service, non-profit organization? Bonding Against Adversity, Inc. is looking for a qualified candidate to become its Programs Spe-

Bonding Against Adversity, Inc. (Bonding) is dedicated to providing an opportunity to make a difference and learn while doing it. Bonding has a rewarding, community service ethic of helping others help themselves by providing programs and services associated with becoming a U.S. citizen, learning about civic action opportunities, improving their parenting skills to assist their students, and providing legal assistance in other immigration matters.

The Programs Specialist will be responsible for office administration, interacting with volunteers, communicating with executives, donors, and contractors. coordinating event logistics, and representing the organization to others. The Programs Specialist must be proactive, a team player, and have clear communication skills in both English and Spanish. The program specialist will be an integral part of providing services to

those in need and ensuring that all are served profes sionally.

Responsibilities and Qualifications:

- · Handle day to day client inquiries, provide timely and accurate responses and seek advice when nec-
- · Maintain calendar of current events, classes, and presentations and communicate calendar updates to team member responsible for social media updates
- Provide supplies and other required media to workshops, class instructors, and other program presentations
- · Maintain appointment calendar for in-house consultations with attorneys and DOJ-OLAP accredited representatives
- Screen clients who request in-house consulta-· Create flyers and oth-
- er marketing materials for • Be Responsible for da-
- tabase entries into the following: o Citizenship Assistance
- Workshops/Forums o In-house Consulta-
- o Citizenship Preparation Classes
 - o Civic Action Programs o Parenting Programs

o Volunteer Roster o Volunteer Training Pro-

- Coordinate and Attend
- Citizenship Application Workshops/Forums Coordinate and attend initial and final Citizenship
- Preparation Classes Represent Bonding at
- other events as may be required from time to time · Handle day to day office administration duties
- $Qualifications\ Include:$ · High School Diploma, Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree (Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree
- is highly preferred) • Bi-lingual in English and Spanish, including the ability to communicate orally and in writing effective-
- ly, in both
 Ability to learn and use business application soft-ware quickly, including, as a minimum, a high degree of competency with Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Ability to work with a flexible schedule, including Saturdays and Sundays
- Prior experience working in non-profit culture, or social work, even as a volunteer, is an asset
- Ability to lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds Email to marianas@

bonding again stad versity. orgor call 281-799-9076

After 35 Years – Prat Upholstery continues to excel and serve

By EAMD Staff

For over 35 years, Rafa-el Prat of Prat Upholstery has been providing East Aldine's businesses and homes with only the best in furniture restoration and repairs. Prat. 72. learned his trade in his native country of Argentina and has been at his original location, right next door to a furniture showroom on Aldine Mail Route in the Aldine North Center, since the begin-

ning. Prat does a brisk trade breathing new life — or perhaps weaving new life s a better way to look at into the furnishings of Aldine- Greenspointand airport-area hotels and accepts business and residential clients as well.

Prat Upholstery is also known by its Spanish name — Prat Tapicería and the varied origins of the words offers an insight into the nature of the trade. It's both an art and a craft.

The English word comes from the same root that gives us "to uphold," and that's one function of upholstery — to maintain and protect the underlying structure and padding of a chair or couch. In fact,

in merry old England, upholsterers were known as "upholders" and their duties extended far beyond the maintenance and beautification of furniture items - they were given the same latitude we afford interior decorators today to arrange all those furnishings. And their duties didn't stop there — as members of The Worshipful Company of Upholders (founded: 1360), they also functioned as undertakers, auctioneers, and assessor of value. That is a lot of hats.

And then you look at the roots of the word in Spanish — as with the French tapisserie, and our own word "tapestry," they burrow all the way to Greek that was ancient even in Homer's time. Homer, incidentally, gives mention of the first known tapestry. In Book III of the Iliad, Helen of Troy is described in one scene as "working at a great web of purple linen, on which she was embroidering the battles be-tween Trojans and Achaeans, that Ares had made them fight for her sake." For Homer to have mentioned this art proves that the tapiceria side of the upholstery business is at

least 2,800 years old. Battle scenes are popular - tapestries served as the war movies of their time. The Bayeux Tapestry, depicting the Norman takeover of England, and the Prestonpans Tapestry captures a Scottish army under Bonnie Prince Charlie defeating the hated English. Hunting scenes were likewise in demand, with the mysterious Hunt of the Unicorn series of the late Middle Ages being a famous example.

Works such as those were at times miniaturized from their gigantic wallhanging size and then, well, upholstered on to the frames of chairs, settees and sofas and so on. And there the concepts inter-sect — you uphold your family sofa with a tapestry. and it's just such sturdy works of art that have long been the specialty of Rafa-el Prat of Prat Upholstery/ Tapiceria.

Aldine North Center, 2021 Aldine Mail Rte Rd # 905, 281-590-7562.

GARDEN Lawn weeds & fertilizers

By A. Lynette Parsons

It happens every January. The calls come in: Weeds are taking over my lawn! What can I do right now to eliminate them?

This month's article is going to address this issue of weeds in the lawn. It's a big problem if you are a lover of a beautiful St. Augustine spread, but it's also very complex issue for resolution, and it requires a lot of preparatory expla-

First thing: the soil. Lush green lawns need excellent soil. That guy in the Scott's commercial, who says, "feed it!" is half right. The grass can't take up the nutrients in fertilizers if the soil is too weak to allow it to happen. Ideal soil pH is between 6.5 and 7.0. You can buy cheap home soil test kits or get it tested through Texas A&M. Or you can just presume a couple of things based on the kinds of weeds you have. A fun website, eartheasy.com. has an article about this, called "How to read the

lawn". For example, if you have tons of dandelions, you may have a calcium-deficient lawn. Chickweed shows too much moisture standing in the lawn. Red sorrel indicates acid soil: with the clovers, your chlorine, magnesium and sodium are all likely to be high, along with a nitrogen defi-

Second: the weeds. From about December through May, you are dealing with "cool-weather" weeds. These are usually of the broad-leafed type, such as chickweed, henbit Carolina geranium, and the various clovers. They leave seeds at the end of their cycles, but those seeds don't germinate till

The "warm-weather" weeds are mostly of the grassy varieties, like crabgrass and duck grass, although that doesn't cover the full range. Dollarweed, which can grow all year long, and Virginia buttonweed are examples of broad-leaf types you will find in the summer. Warmweather weeds compete while the grass is actively growing. They also are

more likely to grow when the soil has been disturbed due to new lawn sodding, scalping the lawn during mowing, and where chemicals have been extensively used, or where you've created paths through grass. **Third:** environmental

issues. Texas has them all: too hot, too cold; too wet, too dry. Environmental issues contribute more to lawn fungal diseases, but that "too wet" issue comes up because some of these weeds just LOVE water. If you have low spots, or poor drainage, I'd wager you see the spots where the weeds start their move across the rest of the lawn. You can also add "too shady"; if you get bare patches due to large trees blocking the light on your grass, as noted above, you've got an ideal site for weeds to step in.

Fourth: the human element. Finally, we get to an area where you, the homeowner, can actually do something right to deal with the lawn. Here are a few notes from a great publication, "Galveston County's 12 Most Aggressive Weeds," published by the Master Gardeners and

available online. "Practice proper lawn management strategies such as proper mowing, no stress from insects, diseases, drought or nutrient imbalance. It is critical to maintain turf density and health through proper management. Mow high [3 inches for St. Augustine], get a soil analysis and provide the required nutrients for a healthy turf. A dense and healthy lawn is the best deterrent to weeds. Mow lawn as high as practical during the summer months. The seeds of some weeds require high light intensity to germinate. The shaded environment near the soil surface in a high-mown lawn helps deter weed

seed germination. In addition, the higher mowing height produces a healthier grass plant. Mow often enough so that no more than one-third of the 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.

OMAHA STEAKS

ically 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 INSTRUC-TIONS 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 preemergent 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 s 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 con-

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 worl 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 over-do it; if you treat Mother Nature badly, she'll re-

Suspect arrested, charged in fatal shooting at Aldine Westfield Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 9913 Aldine Westfield Road about 3:35 p.m. on Sunday, April 28.

The suspect, Oscar Ochoa, 27, is charged with murder. He is accused in the death of Alfredo Garnica, 39.

According to Houston Police Officials, officers responded to a shooting call and found Mr. Garnica inside his residence, deceased from a gunshot wound. Further investigation

at a nearby residence in the 2000 block of Trenton and witness statements and took him into custody identified Ochoa as the without incident. He was suspect and his possible subsequently charged for location. Officers searched his role in Garnica's death. the area and located Ochoa

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* EL CHICANO (R) 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pr * THE INTRUDER (PG-13)

12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm * LONG SHOT (R) 11:00am. 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm * UGLY DOLLS (PG) 11:15am,

2:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:15pm * AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-13) - 3 hr. 2 mins. 11:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm,

4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm 8:00pm, 9:45pm * AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-

13) - 3 hr. 2 mins. 11:00am, 7:00pm

Spanish Dubbed

* AVENGERS: ENDGAME 3D (PG-13) - 3 hr. 2 mins. 1:00pm, 9:00pm AVENGERS: ENDGAME 3D (PG-13) - 3 hr. 2 mins. 3:00pm

Spanish Dubhad THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R) 11:00am, 1:15pm, 3:30pm, 5:45pm, 8:00pm Spanish Dubbed THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R)

12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm 9:15pm BREAKTHROUGH (PG) 11:15am, LITTLE (PG-13) 12:00pm

2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm DUMBO (PG) 11:15am, 4:45pm, 9:45pm

* DUMBO 3D (PG) 2:00nm 7:15nm NO MANCHES FRIDA 2 (R) 2:00pm, 7:15pm

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OPINION PAGE

TEXAS SENATE NEWS By Richard Lee

Education Committee sends School Finance Reform Bill to full Senate

(Austin) The primary author of the Senate's version of school finance reform says he will present the bill to the full Senate this Friday after his committee voted to advance the measure to the floor. Education Committee chair and Friendswood Senator Larry Taylor acknowl-edged Wednesday that the process was moving much quicker than expected, but legislative deadlines call for swift action. Under the Texas constitution, bills that raise revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. House rules functionally set a deadline for consideration of bills originating in that chamber for next Tuesday, May 7th, giving lawmakers less than a week to come up with a way to pay for property tax relief envisioned in the bill.

The bill approved Wednesday doesn't change key provisions from the version unveiled at last week's committee meeting. It increases the basic allotment, the key variable for calculating formula funding, to \$5,880, up almost \$800, and would adjust formu-las to direct more funds towards early childhood education, compensatory education for at-risk students, and postsecondary readiness Teachers and school librarians would get a \$5,000 across-the-board annual pay raise under the measure, and districts would be given the option of implementing an effectiveness-based pay scale that allows them to pay their best teachers more. The bill would reduce local school property taxes over the next two years, but it's not clear how the state will make up the revenue As it was rolled out last week, the bill contemplated using a sales tax increase to offset the loss in revenue from property tax reductions, but that proposal proved controversial in the Senate. "We know what the number is to make this work the wav we've talked about but I don't know what the revenue source is going to be," said Taylor. "We had the one cent [sales tax increase] that we've been talking about, but that wasn't popular, so we're looking at alternative

A number of members expressed concerns about how quickly the bill was moving, but voted to go forward in the face of looming deadlines. "I know what we're doing and I know the gun we're under, but I think it's going to be important that on the floor, we have the opportunity to talk through some of these things," said Austin Senator Kirk Watson "Otherwise I worry that the process becomes so rapid that people don't trust what's in the bill." Taylor assured the committee that despite the speed of the process. there would still be ample opportunities for members to contribute going forward. "This is not the end of the day, and frankly what we pass out of the floor on Friday is not the end of the day," he said. Taylor added that the conference committee process will give members much more time to consider changes to the

bill. "We're putting forth our best effort, and doing

what we think is best for the students of Texas and

for our school systems, but the House is going to

opinions, we're going to have to work with that

have some different

when it comes back," he said. Ultimately, the measure passed the committee with eight votes in favor and none against, with three members abstaining. The House approved final passage of the session's signature property tax reform bill, SB 2, on Wednesday, but made enactment into law contingent on passage of the school finance reform bill. At the beginning of session, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen held a joint press conference to announce that they were united in purpose to pass meaningful property tax and school finance reform this session. "If the three of us are aligned, that we're going to accomplish a mission, and pass legislation, it happens, said Patrick at a January 9th press conference in front of the Governor's Mansion. Senators and Representatives have

The Senate will reconvene Monday, May 6

until May 27th, just over

three weeks, to resolve

the differences between

their respective reform

plans and send them to

the Governor for his

signature.

Sales Tax Revenue totaled \$2.8 Billion in April

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.8 billion in April, 3 percent more than in April 2018.

"State sales tax revenue continued to grow, but at a modest pace compared to recent months," Hegar said. "Increased sales tax collections were mostly from the construction and services sectors, while collections from retail trade saw a moderate decline."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2019 was up 6.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collec-

In April 2019, Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- · motor vehicle sales and rental taxes - \$297 million, up 1.3 percent from April 2018;
- motor fuel taxes -\$322 million, down 0.2percent from April 2018;
- natural gas produc-• natural gas production taxes — \$128.1 million, down 0.7 percent from April 2018; and
- oil production taxes \$344.2 million, up 8.9 percent from April 2018.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch. For an extensive history of tax policy developments and fees since 1972, visit our updated Sources of Revenue publication.



Top issues remain in play as Legislature enters final month

AUSTIN - Only a month is left for lawmakers to get the state's business done in the 86th regular session of the Texas Legislature.

Still unfinished are the issues at the top of a list shared by Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen: the passage of a state budget for fiscal years 2020-2021, property tax reform and school finance reform.

Last week, a confer-

ence committee of 10

House and Senate budget writers began negotiations over the two chambers' budget bills. While the negotiators have agreed on \$9 billion to spend on property tax relief and education finance reform, the two versions are about \$400 million apart on state revenue spending and \$3.2 billion apart, out of a total of about \$250 billion in all funds, according to the Senate News Service. "This process is made easier by the fact that both chambers are prioritizing three key issues: that's certainly property tax relief, property tax relief, education reform and teacher salary," said Senate Finance Commit-tee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound. "The good news," she added, "is that both chambers have demonstrated their commitment to our top Any differences in the

House and Senate budgets must be resolved before a final version can be presented for an up or down vote in each chamber before the session ends on its 140th day - Monday, May 27.

Web sales tax bills move

Legislation that would allow Texas to collect sales tax from remote sellers in accordance with the 2018 South Dakota v. Wayfair decision from the U.S. Supreme Court advanced last week.

The Senate Finance Committee on April 24 approved SB 70 and SB 890, both authored by Sen. Nelson, and two companion bills, HB 2153 and HB 1525, authored by House Ways and

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Means Committee Chair Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock.

"This legislation paves the way for Texas to fairly collect online sales tax within the parameters outlined by the Supreme Court," Nelson said. "These bills ensure that no undue burdens are placed on remote sellers.

SB 70/HB 2153 would allow for the establishment of a single local use tax to avoid placing an undue burden on remote sellers. The comptroller's office projects that the change would generate \$300 million over the next fiscal biennium.

SB 890/HB 1525 would allow marketplace vendors to collect sales tax from third-party remote sellers. The comptroller's office projects that the change would generate \$550 million in the next two year budget period.

Time change bill

Should Texas do away with "falling back" in November and "springing forward" in March and instead keep clocks on Standard ' Daylight Saving Time year-round?

On April 23 the Texas House approved, on a vote of 133-9, a measure that would put the question to Texans in the form of a constitutional amendment on the

The measure, House Joint Resolution 117 by Rep. Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, now moves to the Senate for consider-ation. If the Senate also approves and a statewide ballot measure passes, Congress still would have to amend the Uniform Time Act of 1966 before Texas could stop spring-ing forward and falling

"The process of changing our clocks twice each year is primitive and illogical," said Larson.
"Time is a human
construct. With the passage of this resolution, Texans can decide which time to stick with. We could maintain our sleep schedules, feeling healthier and happier as a result. We could end a senseless practice that has many drawbacks and very few, if any, positive aspects.

Opponents of HJR 117 cited concerns such as safety issues, confusion in scheduling and breaking with tradition.

Jobless rate remains low

The Texas Workforce Commission on April 19 reported the Lone Star State added 22,600 seasonally adjusted nonfarm positions in March. The state's unemploy ment rate stayed at 3.8 percent.

Commission figures also show March marked the 107th consecutive month of annual growth for total non-farm employment. The month proved to be historically significant for the Texas economy, as the civilian record high of more than 14 million workers.

"Texas' economic miracle is a testament to the unmatched innovation of our Texas employers and their dedication to creating jobs and investing in communities across the state," said TWC Chair Ruth Ruggero Hughs.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area had the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs in March with a nonseasonally adjusted rate of 2.1 percent, followed by the Odessa MSA with 2.5 percent. Tying for third were the Amarillo, Austin-Round Rock and College Station-Bryan MSAs with 2.7 percent unemployment



Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor Association of Mature American



Ask Rusty -Mother s eeking SSI Benefits for Disabled Child

Dear Rusty: My young daughter is disabled, and I am trying to make ends meet financially. Can you help with a child's SSI claim? Signed: Needy Mother

Dear Needy Mother: "SSI", or "Supplemental Security Income", is a Federal benefit program administered by, but narate from Social Security SSI is available for low-income disabled seniors and disabled minor children. As your daughter's parent you must apply directly with the Socia Security Administration (you cannot apply online). You can do this at the general SSA number (1.800.772.1213) or at your local Social Security office, which you can find by going to this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. Here, you can enter your zip code and get back contact information for you local office, including location, hours, and telephone number to

You should call first to make an appointment so as to speed up the SSI application process and avoid long wait times. In order to expedite the application you should first complete a Child Disability Report which will ask you to provide detailed nformation about the child and the child's medical condition. A child is considered disabled if suffering from physical or mental impairment which causes a severe functional impairment which has lasted (or is expected to last) more than a year. Go to link for complete information or applying for SSI: www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/child.htm. In addition to information on the child's eligibility criteria and how to apply, at this SSA website you will also find a link to the Child Disability Report.

Completing the report online is relatively straightforward and intuitive if you have some computer skills but, if not, you can also obtain a copy of the form (SSA-3820) at this link www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-3820.pdf. You can download the Child Disability Report form (SSA-3820), print it, fill it out as completely as possible by hand and provide it to Social Security when you submit the SSI application. Gathering all the information requested and providing it to Social Security via the Child Disability Report will serve to greatly expedite the SSI application for your child. Please be aware that there are household income limits and that SSI benefits are closely coordinated with the State in which you live. In fact, Social Security will contact your State's SSI hanafit office to n with your application, and your State's SSI benefit office will verify the child's eligibility by contacting doctors, hospitals teachers, medical providers, schools or other contacts you have provided who can verify the child's disability and eligibility. If the child is working, he/she must not be earning more than the monthly allowable amount (\$1220 for 2019) in order to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income, Also, be aware that if the application is initially denied, you have the right to appeal that initial decision. And for clarity, money for SSI benefits is not taken from Social Security funds but rather from the Government's general funds This article is intended for

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ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS

Lady Eagles sending 2 relays, one hurdler to Class 6A State Track and Field Meet

The Eisenhower High Lady Eagles will be taking two relay teams and one hurdler to the Class 6A State Track and Field Meet, slated for May 10-11 at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas.

Pictured are members of the Lady Eagles 4x100 relay team that finished in first place at the Region II Meet and set a new school record with a time of 45.87. The team consists of Kiana Rollins, Darnee Williams, Iyana Gray and Hannah Simmons.

Tytiania Morrison will compete at state in the 300-meter hurdles. She finished in second place at regionals with a time of 43.67.

The Lady Eagles' 4x400 relay team fin-



4x400 relay team

ished second at regionals with a time of 3:50.00 and will also be competing at state. The team consists of Christina Green, Deshawn Petitt, Dejanee Washington and Morrison.

The team is under the direction of head coach Ahmad Roper.



Tytiania Morrison



4x100 relay team

ACROSS

al org. 8 Fall into a

spelling

15 Missing

18 Pour wine

content?

16 Past

23 Fresh 24 1/4 bushel

33 Play with robots

34 Anonymous Richard

Posting Date May 6, 2019

Amber Waves



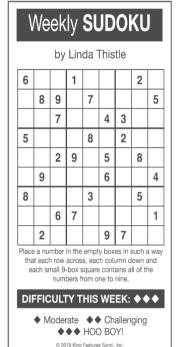
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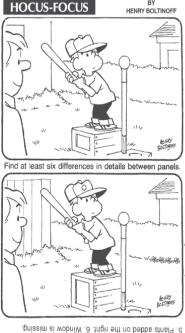












Differences: 1. Boy's hat is different. 2. Man's nose is smaller. 3. Fence replaces house on left. 4. Box is taller. 5. Plants added on the right. 6. Window is missing.

(Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet); 10. Type of Italian bread 5. Venus; 6. Carbon; 7. Boston; 8. "Funny Girl"; 9. Color sequence of the rainbow 1. "Great Expectations"; 2. Linda Lavin; 3. Hypothalamus; 4. Olympia; Trivia Test Answerst

King Crossword

1 Last few notes 5 Med. approvbeanbag chair 12 Last write-up 13 Valentine mis 14 Actress Turner 17 Spore cases 20 Time of dis-22 Calf's mama 27 Not steadily 32 Vast expanse

35 Discontinue

38 Nervous 39 Type of humor 40 Candle mate-

42 Chemical relative 45 Discount

store 49 Ms. Moore

50 Blunder 52 Green land 53 Mideast

ment 3 Record 4 Have at

2 Reed instru- 26 Role for Julie, 42 "American -- " Eartha, Lee, 43 Big rig Michelle, Halle or Anne 46 Storyteller

5 Platyhelminth 28 Rapa -6 Used a shovel (Easter Island) 48 Criterion 7 Acknowledge 29 Museum

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or	56 Queue 57 Chances, for					19 "Forget it!" 21 Hostel				31 "30 Rock" sta 36 White weasel 37 Catcher's place?			
	DOWN 1 Frigid					24 Next-to-last letter 25 Still, in verse			4	11 S	Range Symbol for gold		

test by Fifi

1 8 8 3 5 6 2 7 8 9 9 1 6 7 7 4 6 1 2 4 8 7 8 9 9 8 6 8 7 9 9 4 1 7 8 9 1 8 7 2 8 4 1970-80s sitcom "Alice" 2 2 7 8 6 1 9 8 9

Answer Weekly Sudoku

9 6 7 4 2 8 3 1

8 2 4 8 3 1 8 8 2 5

Solution time: 25 mins. — King Crossword —

1. LITERATURE: Which one of Charles Dickens' novels features a character named Pip? 2. TELEVISION: Who played the title role in the

44 Start over

47 Therefore

3. ANATOMY: Which part of the brain regulates homeostasis of wake/sleep cycles, hunger and thirst?

4. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Washington state?

5. MYTHOLOGY: What was the name of the Roman equivalent of the Greek goddess Aphro-

6. GEOLOGY: Diamonds are mostly made of which element?

7. HISTORY: In which American city did the Great Molasses Flood occur in 1919?

8. THEATER: Which long-running musical features the character Fanny Brice? 9. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym

"ROYGBIV" stand for? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What is ciabatta?

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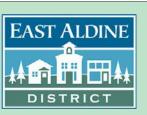
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LIFESTYLE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casev-1. Is the book of Luke in the Old or New Testament or

neither?
2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon,

3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament (KJV)? Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamenta tions, Daniel

Blessed is the nation whose God is the

Lord, the people He has chosen as His

own inheritance. The Lord looks from

From the place of His dwelling He looks

He fashions their hearts individually;

heaven; He sees all the sons of men.

on all the inhabitants of the earth;

He considers all their works.

PSALM 33: 12-15 20

4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave

5. From Proverbs 29 what does the fear of man bring? A snare, Redemption, Love of life, 6. Whose daughter found the

infant Moses in the river? David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timothy

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Simeon; 3) Ecclesiastes; 4) Rainbow; 5) A snare; 6) Pharaoh

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TxDOT urges drivers to "look twice for motorcycles" to save lives, prevent crashes

417 motorcyclists died, 1,920 seriously injured in crashes on Texas roads

HOUSTON – As spring weather draws more motorcyclists onto roadways the risk of fatalities increases. Last year 417 mo-torcyclists died on Texas roadways, an average of more than one fatality a day. It's a number the Texas Department of Trans-portation is working to

portation is working to reduce by asking motorists to be extra vigilant. TxDOT is launching "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" – a campaign supporting Na-tional Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May. "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" urg-es drivers to be extra cautious, since motorcyclists are more difficult to see while on the road and are less protected than other motorists.

"Last year motorcycle fatalities were reduced by 17 %, which is a big step forward; still one death is too many for the Lone Star State," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "As motorcyclists hit the road to enjoy the open air and beautiful scenery, it's important that vehicle drivers and motorcyclists remain alert and look out for each other on the road. We want everyone to enjoy what Texas offers and reach their destinations safely,"
One of the most com-

mon crashes between motorcyclists and drivers occurs when drivers make left turns at intersections, due to motorists' difficulty judging the distance and speed of motorcycles. Tx-DOT cautions drivers to be extra vigilant when approaching, turning, or driv-ing through an intersection, as 30% of Tex-as motorcycle deaths in 2018 were intersection-re-

A motorcyclist's "braking" is not always obvious to motorists. Motorcycles decelerate faster than ve-hicles and motorcyclists can often downshift in-stead of applying the brake, especially when driving around a curve. This means at times brake lights will not be engaged to signal that the motorcycle is slowing down. It is important for motorists to allow for extra distance when they are behind mo-

TxDOT is urging motor-

- · Look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections.
- Always assume motor-cycles are closer than they appear to be, and avoid turning in front of an on-
- coming motorcycle.

 Use turn signals and check blind spots before changing lanes.
- Always maintain a safe following distance.
 Give motorcyclists a
- full lane, especially when
- Obey posted speed

This year's "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" campaign will conduct the following events featuring virtual reality games designed to educate drivers and motorcyclists about the impor-tance of watching out for each other. Campaign tour

- stops include:

 •May 3 El Paso •May 10 - Corpus
- Christi
- May 11 Houston (Sugar Land)
- •May 12 Austin •May 17 Dallas-Fort
- May 18 Midland
 May 19 San Antonio
 "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a larger grassroots effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while on the road. Since November 8, 2000, at least one person has died on Texas roadways every single day, and that's why #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to helping end the streak of daily deaths on

our roadways.

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LONE STAR'S BOOTHS PROVIDED INFORMATION

Volunteers clean-up bayou in Aldine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



THREE HOURS OF HARD WORK CLEARED A LOT OF TRASH FROM THE BAYOU.





VOLUNTEERS KEPT BUSY PICKING UP, TEAMWORK HELPED THE TASKS GET DONE EASIER.

