

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- East Aldine District News Report & History
- Summer Games

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THESE STORIES

NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 24 TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



Castlewood 4th of July Parade

Come out and enjoy the 4th of July Parade decorate your bikes, golf cart, 4 wheelers, cars and trucks and floats. Castlewood Parade is on Thursday July 4th. Line up time is 9 am. Start time 10 am. If you would like to participate, please call or text 713-876-0098.

Community Meeting for Aldine Westfield Stormwater Detention Basin Project

The Harris County Flood Control District will hold a Community Engagement Meeting for the Aldine Westfield Stormwater Detention Basin project. The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the status of the Aldine Westfield Stormwater Detention Basin project and share project information. The purpose of the Aldine Westfield Stormwater Detention Basin is to reduce flood risks in the Greens Bayou watershed by safely storing excess stormwater during heavy rain events and slowly releasing it back to the bayou when the threat of flooding has passed. The Aldine Westfield Stormwater Detention Basin is located on a 113-acre site on Greens Bayou near the Sam Houston Tollway and Aldine Westfield Road in north central Harris County. This project will be funded with bonds approved by Harris County voters on August 25, 2018. Community engagement is an important component of the Bond Program, and we invite your participation as the program is implemented. The Community Engagement Meeting will be held on: Tuesday, June 18, 2019, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Aldine ISD M.O. Campbell Center 1865 Aldine Bender Road Houston, Texas 77032. The Public Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a brief presentation at 6:15 p.m.

For questions, please contact the Flood Control District at 713-684-4000, or fill out the comment form online www.hcfd.org/C33.

Prosperity Bank opens new branch bank building

EAST ALDINE – The oldest bank in the Aldine area has a new building and modern new facilities next to their old location on East Little York.

Prosperity Bank is now conducting business from their new branch, which was completed and opened just recently.

The bank announced that they had sold their old three story building next door, and it would be torn down by the new owners, and two fast food restaurants built on the site.

The new building is a one story facility with as many active teller windows and drive-thru lanes as the old building, since this branch is one of the busiest of all 250 locations in the Prosperity Bank network. They have



EXTERIOR VIEW of the new Prosperity Bank branch office on Little York.

branches throughout Texas and Oklahoma, according to their spokesperson.

Prosperity also has two other offices in the East Aldine district, including one on West Little York,

and another on Aldine-Bender.

The building design is a modern stucco commercial motif, set several feet above the street level due to potential flooding in the

area of Little York. The interior lobby has clerestory windows and is bright and pleasant. Lounge furniture is provided for customers as they wait to conduct business.

The bank has a new manager, Jack Battle, as well as an officer Sue Luther who has been with the branch for many years. Prosperity acquired the bank, then known as North Houston Bank, in 2009 after it failed and was taken over by the federal FDIC.

Prosperity Bank is very active in the Aldine area, contributing scholarships to Aldine ISD students, and participating in other community events by various organizations. Several of their officers have been board members of the East Aldine District over the years, and they maintain a strong fiscal relationship with the district.

See Prosperity Bank, Page 8

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS by Ed Sterling, Texas Press Association

Legislature passes property tax, school finance reform

AUSTIN — While the Memorial Day holiday was observed across Texas, lawmakers stayed busy at the state Capitol, voting on key bills in the final three days of the 86th Texas Legislature's 140-day regular session.

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen did what they jointly set out to do at the beginning of the session in January. They exer-

cised their leadership skills well enough for the Senate and House to pass property tax reform (Senate Bill 2) and school finance reform (House Bill 3), and to pass a state budget for fiscal years 2020-2021 (House Bill 1).

The Legislature is constitutionally mandated to pass a state budget every two years. HB 1, the state budget written by House Appropriations Committee Chair John

Zerwas, R-Richmond, and sponsored by Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, contains \$250.6 billion in spending. The two-year budget is subject to certification by the state comptroller. The governor has until June 16 to sign or veto any bill or veto any line item within HB 1.

SB 2, titled the "Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of

2019," amends the property tax appraisal and rate-setting processes. Lt. Gov. Patrick called it the first property tax reform in 40 years. "It will provide an average of \$200 in property tax relief this year on a \$250,000 home," Patrick said.

SB 2's main author was Senate Property Tax Committee Chair Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston. House Ways and Means Committee Chair Dustin

Burrows, R-Lubbock, sponsored the bill in the House. Bettencourt called SB 2 and HB 3 "astounding tax relief." SB 2 limits most municipal tax rate increases to 3.5 percent on the \$100 valuation. The current limit is 8.0 percent without a rollback election. However, it will continue to be incumbent upon county

See Capital Highlights, Page 4

Keeping you updated with a report from Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

Our first few months in Washington DC have been busy. With settling in of warmer weather and sunshine, our work on Capitol Hill has really been gearing up. I want to take this chance to fill you in on our work, our committee assignments, and our priorities for the people of Texas's 29th Congressional District.

Committee Assignments
A big part of our work is done through committees, which are specialized groups of representatives who focus on certain issues throughout the year. Com-



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia became a Proud Partner of U. S. 2020 Census. Melissa Allala, U. S. Census Partnership Specialist presents Proud Partnership certificate. (PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAL)

See Congresswoman's Update, Page 3

Community Meeting

Join us for a community meeting to discuss the proposed August service changes to the **3 Langley** and existing **79 West Little York** bus routes, the creation of the proposed **79 Irvington** route and the proposed late-night Community Connector service.

Saturday, June 15, 2019

HCC-North Forest Campus
6010 Little York Road
10 a.m. – 12 noon

Unable to attend the meeting, but still want to share your thoughts?

Call **713-635-4000**.



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NORTHEAST NEWS new phone number: 713-266-3444.

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Richard Cantu, Deputy Executive Director
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Join us for a community meeting to discuss the proposed August service changes to the **3 Langley** and existing **79 West Little York** bus routes, the creation of the proposed **79 Irvington** route and the proposed late-night Community Connector service.

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Call **713-635-4000**.

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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Citizenship Workshop

•SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019
EAST ALDINE DISTRICT
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Children at Risk recognizes 3 Aldine ISD schools in 2019 rankings

Children at Risk (C@R) announced the 2019 School Rankings on June 3. Gold Ribbon Schools have a high bar of success for their students. Two Aldine ISD campuses - Hambrick Middle School and Stovall Middle School - earned Gold Ribbons. Victory Early College High School, did not receive a Gold Ribbon but also deserves mentioning. The campus earned an A from C@R.

The group analyzed more than 1,400 public schools from eight counties in the area alone.

The regional rankings include Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Each year, C@R evaluates the more than 8,000 public schools across the State of Texas. C@R calculates school rankings and assigns A-F grades in order to analyze the current quality of public education in Texas, identify trends, and spotlights schools, districts, and regions that go above and beyond expectations.

The nonprofit looked at several factors including students achievement,



Principals Dr. Phyllis Cormier, Dr. Rebecca Sanford, and Elsa Wright lead Victory Early College High School, Hambrick Middle School and Stovall Middle School, respectively. The campuses earned recognition from Children at Risk's 2019 school rankings.

poverty, student growth, and college readiness.

Both Hambrick MS and Stovall MS earned a B-while Victory ECHS earned an A.

Children at Risk President & CEO Dr. Robert Sanborn explaining the importance of leadership in the development of high achieving schools and students.

"Leadership and com-

mitment to kids and community are vital to building a blueprint for success in high-poverty schools," Sanborn said. "Leadership makes a difference. These Gold Ribbon leaders take schools with 75 percent economically disadvantaged students and achieve incredible results. These great principals' achievement deserves our praise!"
Congratulations!

CW39 Houston showcases art by Aldine ISD students



On the set of CW39's The Dose morning show with works by Carver HS art students on The Art Spot.

Ten students from Carver High School for Engineering, Applied Technology, and the Arts had their work featured the first week of June on the Morning Dose on CW39 Houston.

Each week, the morning show features work from students across the Houston area on The Art Spot.

Vanessa Arias
Artwork: #Glossophobia, mixed media abstract painting
Teacher: Luna
Laila Chinn
Artwork: Un montón de marrón (drawing)
Teacher: Luna
Rosalinda González
Artwork: Peek-a-Boo (woodcut print)
Teacher: Luna
Alaysha Hampton
Artwork: Childhood Exuberance (photograph)
Teacher: Kirkpatrick

Fabiola Hernández
Artwork: The Spacemen (photograph)
Teacher: Kirkpatrick
KaDarrria Monroe
Artwork: The Junkyard (intaglio etching print)
Teacher: Luna
Jordan Smith
Artwork: Ocular Trauma (digital art)
Teacher: Kirkpatrick
Brianna Tobias
Artwork: Chloe (woodcut print)
Teacher: Luna
Amani Turner
Artwork: Lucidity (drawing)
Teacher: Smith
Barbara Villarreal
Artwork: An Ode to the Martian's Reality (digital art)
Teacher: Kirkpatrick
Thank you CW39 Houston for showcasing students!



Blanson Career and Technical Education HS has program openings for incoming students in 2019-2020

Interested incoming ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade students should visit the Blanson CTEHS website to complete an online application today. The application is available in English and Spanish.

Several of the 17 programs are filling to near capacity. However, there are still a few programs with plenty of seats available. Potential candidates will be strongly considered on a space-available basis for these programs.

Students interested in attending Blanson CTEHS should consider a first choice program as well as a second choice and third choice program. The Admissions Committee will mostly consider students for their first choice program and will review them for their second or third choice if they are unable to accept them for their first choice.

A 3-Step Admission Process



If you are interested in the oil and gas industry, choose the Instrumentation and Process Control Technology program. Students delve into engineering, computer programming, and learn to troubleshoot problems. Process control technicians can earn up to \$150,000 a year with an associate degree.

o Complete an application online.

o Accepted applicants will be notified via Email. The campus will send email to the email address the applicant's include on their application.

o Students and parents/legal guardians must attend a Commitment Night session (Blanson CTEHS staff will provide dates/locations to candidates.). This is an important step

in the process. By attending this event and signing the Commitment Contract, the students will secure their place in the program.

Call (281) 591-4950 if you have questions about any of the programs or would like to visit the campus.

Visit the Blanson CTEHS website to learn more about the programs. Follow the campus on Twitter at @BlansonCTEHS.

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Coming to East Aldine Community, English classes designed for speakers of other languages

HOUSTON (June 4, 2019) - Under the campus leadership of Dean Dr. Luis Lucio, LSC-East Aldine Center will offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) 1308, an introductory course to learning the English language to meet the needs of a diverse community.

"The class accommodates individual goals in a workshop format," said Lucio. "As Houston, and specifically the East Aldine community, continues to diversify, it is important to Lone Star College-East Aldine Center that we offer classes that people are searching for to meet their goals."

ESOL classes at Lone Star College-East Aldine Center are designed for non-native English speakers who want to learn or improve their English grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills.

ESOL is for students and working professionals wishing to build practical English skills in order to find a better job, improve day-to-day communications or take college-level classes to study for a career.

For more information on ESOL Classes, visit <http://www.lonestar.edu/esol-dept-nharris.htm>.

LSC-East Aldine Center continues to prepare for its opening in August. Students may register online or in person at LSC-North Harris' main campus 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX 77073. Students must be registered and have paid for class by August 17 to secure their spot for the semester. Payments plans are available.

For more information on LSC-East Aldine Center, visit www.lonestar.edu/east-aldine-center.htm.

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6/19/19

COMMUNITY NEWS

Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Harris County Street Olympics Kick-off Exciting Summer Games

Young Athletes Light Olympic Flame and Demonstrate "Street Games" that will Keep them Engaged in Positive Activities this Summer

With a big assist from about 80 children jumping rope, kicking ball and dribbling basketball, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis on Monday, June 3 kicked off the 33rd annual Street Olympics Summer Games, which were founded by the late Commissioner El Franco Lee, in a ceremony that also included lighting the Olympic flame.

Joining the festivities



Kirsten Davis, 10, left, Terrell Stubblefield-Horn, 7, and Tiara Brown, 9, light the Olympic flame while Commissioner Rodney Ellis and others look on at the Harris County Street Olympics Summer Games Kickoff.



Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, second from right, examines a Pipa pipa toad that Environmental Education Program naturalist Raven Bell shows to youth at the Street Olympics Summer Games Kickoff.

were Street Olympics officials and sponsors, all of whom received a sneak preview of the Olympic-style competition that takes place during the Summer Games that start next week at 120 Houston-area youth agencies, including three operated by Precinct One. At each agency, youth will compete in 14 events that also include foot races, hopscotch, softball throw, 3-point shootout, spelling bee and art competition.

"Today," Commissioner Ellis said, "we are celebrating the end of the school year and the start of summer. The Street Olympics Summer Games programming plays a critical role in reinforcing children's well-being, development and academic success during the summer."

About 3,000 Houston-area youth, ages 6-17, will participate in the Summer Games, Discovery Camps, 3-on-3 Basketball and Harris County Aquatics Program's Learn-to-Swim sessions over an eight-week period. The Summer Games culminate in the Final Event/Bright Futures Fair and the closing ceremonies' "Parade of Champions" on Aug. 2 at NRG Arena.

In addition to the competition, the Summer Games is designed to boost children's confidence and self-esteem.

Studies have shown that without access to affordable, high-quality summer programming,

working families lack safe and enriching places for their children to attend while parents are at work. Also, children, especially those from underserved areas, have difficulty retaining what they learned in the previous school year and especially benefit from summer enrichment programs.

"These activities aren't just about how far you can kick a ball, how many free throws you can hit or how fast you can run," Commissioner Ellis said. "The Summer Games create a positive environment in supervised youth centers with role models that prepare children for the game of life."

At the kickoff at Mickey Leland Memorial Park, Precinct One's Finnigan Youth Education Town (YET) and Lincoln Park Community Center athletes started the event with demonstrations of five Summer Games sports. The youth enjoyed a live animal demonstration by trained handlers from Precinct One's Environmental Education Program, which teaches children about animals and nature as part of the Street Olympics Discovery Camps held throughout the summer at Deussen Park and Challenger Seven Learning Center.

Commissioner Ellis outlined details of the Summer Games, followed by youth lighting the Olympic flame that will be extin-

guished at the Final Event in August.

Taveyon Benson, 9, who has participated in the Summer Games for three years representing YET, said the competition and activities help when he returns to school because they instill discipline and concentration. "I work hard on my test like I do in football, basketball and other sports," he said.

Jaya Jones, 11, of Lincoln Park said she ran the 50-yard dash and relay race last year. "I like to run and I like to compete," she said. "I learn things in life like teamwork and communication."

The mission of the non-profit Street Olympics, which operates year-round programs, is to implement and sustain programs that provide training, support and resources that lead to healthy and productive lives for youth.

"Thanks to the committed staff at our participating agencies, we can help families keep their children safe and positively engaged throughout the summer," Commissioner Ellis said. "Summer is a critical time for children and many families struggle to afford basic childcare, much less high-quality enrichment programs. With 3,000 children served, in essence, the Summer Games help provide a safety net for our children during the vulnerable summer months."

Sylvia Garcia's Update,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Congresswoman Garcia informing seniors about Social Security & Medicare

mittee membership is chosen by the Speaker of the House. I am pleased to have received a seat on two very influential committees, the House Judiciary Committee and the House Financial Services Committee.

House Judiciary Committee

The House Judiciary Committee is charged with overseeing the administration of justice within the federal courts, administrative agencies and Federal law enforcement entities. The Judiciary Committee is also the committee responsible for impeachments of federal officials. My background as a lawyer and former judge has allowed me to make an immediate impact on the committee.

Additionally, I also sit on two House Judiciary subcommittees, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties and the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. These subcommittees have kept us hard at work fighting what I believe is the White House's anti-immigrant and anti-family agenda.

Major bills passed out of the House Judiciary Committee

- HR 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019
- HR 6: American Dream and Promise Act of 2019
- HR 5: Equality Act
- H.R. 2374: the "Stop Significant and Time-wasting Abuse Limiting Legitimate Innovation of New Generics Act" or "Stop STALLING Act"

Financial Services Committee

The House Financial Services Committee's jurisdiction casts a very wide net, overseeing banks and banking, economic regulations, commercial aid, money and credit lending, securities, housing, and urban development. Often, we're responsible for oversight of executive economic policy, making sure that the White House, Wall Street CEOs, and multinational corporations are not



Rep. Garcia presenting Anthony Vega with the Congressional Art Award!

only abiding by the law, but are making sound decisions on behalf of Americans on Main Street.

Presently, I serve on two subcommittees with the Financial Services Committee, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee. These roles are essential for monitoring, reviewing, and supervising our financial system, ensuring that our economy is working for all Americans, no matter race, creed, color, or social status, and promoting fair policies so our families and businesses can succeed and prosper.

Major bills passed out of the Financial Services Committee

- H.R. 1500: Consumers First Act
- H.R. 1856: Ending Homelessness Act 2019
- H.R. 1595: SAFE Banking Act
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Extension

In District Happenings!

ITC Town Hall

Last month, we hosted a town hall on the ITC Fires. We were able to bring together the EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Chemical Safety Board, Harris County Public Health, and the Harris County Fire Marshall for an extremely important discussion on how the accident has and could affect our health and our communities.

Thank you to the hundreds that showed up to listen and share your concerns with our community leaders. We will continue to keep a close eye on on-going environmental monitoring and hold those responsible accountable.

Visiting Senior Centers

In our first months in office, we have visited over 40 local senior centers to share updates of how we're working to protect Medicare and Social Security in Washington. Whether I'm at a city or county facility in the city of Houston, or a church or community run center, our local seniors want Washington to work for the people. They want their grandchildren safe from gun violence, good jobs for their neighbors, and lower prescription drug prices. I take these stories back with me every time I step up those capitol steps to fight for you.

Congressional Art Competition

In perhaps one of my favorite events of the past few weeks, we held our annual Congressional Art Competition Awards Ceremony. High school students from around the district submitted more works this year than ever before - nearly 70! - and all were excellent!

Our top winner won a trip to Washington DC and will have their art displayed in the Capitol, but all of the participants presented really remarkable artworks. Art takes courage and I am so proud of our young people for using their gifts in such creative ways. Congratulations, again to this year's winner Anthony Vega!

Thank you for taking time to keep up with the work I'm doing on your behalf. If I can be any assistance to you or your family, please reach out to my office at (832) 325-3150 or sylvia.garcia.house.gov.

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OPINION PAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader complains about relevance of story



\$500 million in improvements and investments in North Houston District

Former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton visits Houston



Note: The Letter to the Editor below refers to this article about Hillary Clinton visiting Houston, as published in the Northeast News last week. It also refers to our claim that we publish "News of your Community for over 43 Years."

To the Editor: Exactly how does this qualify as Neighborhood News? It does however qualify as Democrat, Liberal Propaganda.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: The article and the photograph included Sheila Jackson Lee and Sylvia Garcia, both of whom represent areas and voters in the Aldine area, and are therefore very relevant and "News of your Community? We have published opinion and news from Republicans and other advocates, and attempt to present a balanced view of our political and governmental affairs. YOUR OPINION: We welcome your views on this or any other item in the newspaper. Please send it to the Letters to the Editor, address below.

Capital Highlights,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appraisal districts and local oversight to control property values.

HB 3, authored by House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston, and sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chair Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, provides about \$2 billion for pay raises for teachers and other public school employees and reduces local school property tax rates by an estimated 13 cents per \$100 valuation by 2021. The reduction, according to the Senate News Service, will provide more than \$5 billion in property tax relief within two years. Taylor said HB 3 would put \$4.5 billion more into the classroom and direct more funds toward students with economic disadvantages, those still learning English and those with dyslexia. HB 3 also would create an optional July term for eligible students and full-day, pre-kindergarten programs for students from low-income backgrounds.

Senate elects pro tempore

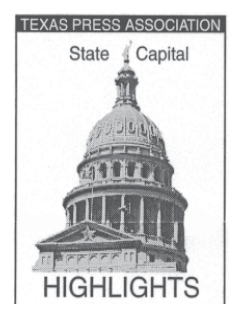
Senate State Affairs Committee Chair Joan Huffman, R-Houston, on May 27 was sworn in as the body's president pro tempore for the remainder of the 86th Legislature, which continues until January of 2021.

As president pro tem, Huffman serves as the state's chief executive when both the governor and lieutenant governor are out of the state. She succeeds Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo.

Whitley resigns from office

Texas Secretary of State David Whitley, the state's chief elections officer, announced his resignation from office on May 27.

Gov. Abbott last December appointed Whitley, but the appointment was subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Senate adjourned sine die on May 27 without voting to confirm him.



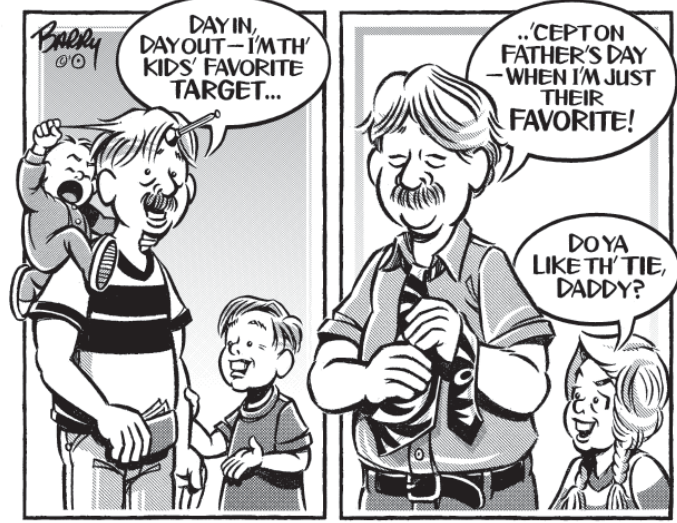
In January Whitley issued an advisory on voter registration list maintenance to election officials across Texas. The advisory potentially would have invalidated the voting rights of Texans who were naturalized as citizens and lawfully registered to vote. The Texas League of United Latin American Citizens and others sued Whitley to stop the voter purge. The parties settled in late April when the state agreed to revise its practices.

One bill out of five passes

How busy were our lawmakers from Jan. 8 to May 27? The 150 members of the Texas House and 31 members of the Texas Senate combined filed 7,324 bills proposing, amending or repealing laws in the 140-day legislative session that ended last week. Of the total number of bills, 1,429 passed, resulting in a passage rate of 19.5 percent.

The 2019 Legislature's output of bills seems high, and it was. The last time more bills were filed in a regular legislative session happened was 10 years ago, during the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009. Then, the House and Senate filed a combined total of 7,419 bills and passed 1,459 or 19.7 percent.

To learn how a bill becomes a law, visit: https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/legislativeprocess.pdf



County Attorney Vince Ryan advises:

"Protect legal documents in a disaster"

"A flood can happen before you know it," warns Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan, who is advising residents to be prepared to protect their legal documents.

Every year we recognize June 1 as the beginning of the hurricane season. However, even as many still recover from the effects of Hurricane Harvey, the unfortunate incident of flooding has devastated many homes this year well before this recognized date.

First, originals of your most important documents should be kept in a waterproof safe at your home or in a safe deposit box at your bank. Keep copies electronically on your computer hard drive, on portable devices such as jump drives or in the cloud. You could also email them to yourself or to a friend out of the storm zone. In many cases, courts will consider electronic copies valid if originals are lost. You should keep at least one copy of your documents in a portable file system or lock box you can quickly grab if you have to evacuate in a hurry.

What legal documents do you need to protect and have copies of in case in an emergency? In an emergency, you will need personal documents such as birth and marriage certificates, social security cards, passports or naturalization certificates. You also need to safeguard your will, living will, power of attorney and any instructions you have left in case

of death. Also, protect property records, including deeds, titles to property and mortgage and closing statements.

You want to keep safe any appraisals of valuables along with photos and videos of your property for insurance purposes. And, of course, your insurance policies—especially home, auto and health.

Financial records are critical: bank statements, savings or investment account information, stocks and bonds and tax records. And don't forget medical information, including prescription information and phone numbers for your doctors.

In addition to these documents, if you have to leave your home for a natural disaster, please take with you a copy of phone numbers of relatives and friends. You may not be able to rely on your cell phone if towers are damaged or your battery runs down.

"This may sound like a lot of work, but when the next disaster destroys or severely damages your home, you'll be glad you have these documents available so you can start to put your life back together," advised County Attorney Ryan.

policy and records of your possessions?

Be prepared this hurricane season by ensuring that all your legal documents are safe and you can avoid destruction or damage to them. A little preparation now can make a big difference later.

First, originals of your most important documents should be kept in a waterproof safe at your home or in a safe deposit box at your bank. Keep copies electronically on your computer hard drive, on portable devices such as jump drives or in the cloud. You could also email them to yourself or to a friend out of the storm zone. In many cases, courts will consider electronic copies valid if originals are lost. You should keep at least one copy of your documents in a portable file system or lock box you can quickly grab if you have to evacuate in a hurry.

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"This may sound like a lot of work, but when the next disaster destroys or severely damages your home, you'll be glad you have these documents available so you can start to put your life back together," advised County Attorney Ryan.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$3 Billion in May

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.01 billion in May, 9 percent more than in May 2018.

"State sales tax revenue growth was propelled by both business and consumer spending," Hegar said. "The strongest growth was in remittances from the manufacturing, wholesale trade and services sectors, with strength apparent in the retail trade sector as well."

Hegar also said state franchise tax revenue for May was \$3.47 billion. Revenue was up 7.4 percent from May 2018, slightly above projections presented in the Biennial Revenue Estimate in January.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in May 2019 was up 6.9 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 collections.

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

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$429.5 million, up 1.3 percent from May 2018;
• motor fuel taxes — \$316 million, up 2 percent from May 2018;
• natural gas production taxes — \$129 million, up 28.4 percent from May 2018; and
• oil production taxes — \$367.3 million, up 16.2 percent from May 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.

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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty - Computing Benefits When "WEP" Applies

Dear Rusty: My wife is subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and I'm trying to calculate what her monthly Social Security payment might be. The circular provided by SS says that her earnings will be calculated by multiplying the first \$895 of her average monthly earnings by 90%. According to the circular, since she doesn't have 30 or more years of substantial earnings the 90% will be reduced to 40%. My question is this: How many months do they use to divide into the total earnings to determine the average monthly earnings? If I use the number of total working years, her monthly average is very low and getting lower the longer she works. For example, she has been working since 1973 (46 years/552 months). However, she only paid SS taxes in 20 of those years (240 months). She turned 62 last November, so if she waits to draw SS until her full retirement age she will add another 56 months to the average calculation and reduce her benefit accordingly. I can't determine when it's better for her to apply unless I know how many months they will factor into the calculation. Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: First, I need to clarify for you the basics of how SS benefits are determined (before the WEP computation). Social Security will look at your wife's entire lifetime record of SS-covered earnings, adjust each year's earnings for inflation, and find the 35 years in which she had the highest earnings. If she doesn't have a full 35 years of SS-covered earnings, they'll put zeros in to bring the number of years to 35. They'll then total her earnings for those 35 years and divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to arrive at her "average indexed monthly earnings" (AIME).

The WEP computation is done using her AIME. To arrive at the SS benefit amount, her AIME is divided into 3 parts, and a different percentage of each part contributes to her "primary insurance amount," or "PIA" - the amount due at full retirement age. Normally, the first of the 3 parts is 90% of \$895 (for her eligibility year, which was last year). But when WEP applies, a different percentage is used for the first calculation. If she has 20 or fewer years of SS-covered significant earnings, the first part is multiplied by 40% instead of 90%. If she has more than 20 years of SS-covered significant earnings, the multiplier will increase by 5% for each additional year, up to 30 years of SS covered significant earnings when WEP no longer applies. So, for example, if she has 24 years of SS-covered significant earnings then the WEP multiplier would be 55% instead of 40%, thus increasing her WEP-PIA and lessening the amount of her WEP reduction.

For each year your wife now works and has significant SS earnings, one of those zero years in the 35-year computation will be eliminated, thus increasing her "AIME" and "PIA" (as described above). If your wife now has 20 years of SS-covered earnings, then each additional year she now works in SS-covered employment will add 5% to the multiplier used when doing the WEP computation (thus reducing the WEP effect and increasing her net SS benefit amount). If your wife claims before her full retirement age further reduces her benefit amount. So, to your specific question, the number of months they factor into the benefit calculation is always 420 (35 years times 12). If she doesn't have earnings in all 35 of those years working now will improve, not decrease, your wife's Social Security benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.

ENTERTAINMENT / SPORTS

top ten

Worst Drivers by Zodiac Sign*



- 1. Gemini 6. Aquarius
2. Taurus 7. Aries
3. Pisces 8. Leo
4. Virgo 9. Libra
5. Cancer 10. Sagittarius

*based on auto accident claims Source: SunCorp-Metway Ltd.

top 10 movies

- 1. Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13) Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga
2. Aladdin (PG) Will Smith, Mena Massoud
3. Rocketman (R) Taron Egerton, James Bell
4. Ma (R) Octavia Spencer, Diana Silvers
5. John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum (R) Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry
6. Avengers: Endgame (PG-13) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans
7. Pokemon Detective Pikachu (PG) Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith
8. Booksmart (R) Kaitlyn Dever, Beanie Feldstein
9. Brightburn (R) Elizabeth Banks, David Denman
10. The Hustle (PG-13) Anne Hathaway, Rebel Wilson

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MacArthur grad David Leal drafted by Oakland A's



MacArthur High School graduate David Leal (circled) was drafted by the Oakland A's in the 38th round of the 2019 Major League Draft. Leal pitched for Louisiana Tech for the last two years. He pitched 142.2 innings in 21 starts and posted a 2.71 Earned Run Average. He had a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 7.10 (135 strikeouts, 19 walks). In 2018 he was a second-team All-Conference USA selection. Leal has the second lowest walks ratio allowed per nine inning among all NCAA Division I players. Leal, a left-hander, held opponents to a .216 batting average.

SPORTS QUIZ

By Chris Richcreek—

- 1. Who were the only two major-league pitchers to strike out Hall of Famer Ted Williams three times in one game?
2. Name the pitcher who is the all-time leader in strikeouts for the Texas Rangers.

- 3. When was the last time before 2017-18 that the Green Bay Packers missed the NFL playoffs in consecutive seasons?
4. How many consecutive losses had the Penn's men's basketball team sustained against rival Villanova before beating the Wildcats in 2018?
5. Zdeno Chara currently ranks fourth among Boston Bruins defensemen for career

- points (467). Name the first two on the list.
6. When was the last time before 2018 that no African nation men's soccer team made it past the first round of the World Cup?
7. In what year and at what event did tennis great Andre Agassi complete his career grand slam?
Answers
1. Bobo Newsom in 1939,

- and Jim Bunning in 1957.
2. Charlie Hough, with 1,452 strikeouts.
3. It was 2005-06.
4. Fifteen — the last time the Quakers won was in 2002.
5. Ray Bourque (1,506 points) and Bobby Orr (888).
6. It was 1982.
7. It was the 1999 French Open.



Posting Date June 10, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Swindle
5 Poke
8 Elliptical
12 Arm bone
13 Acapulco gold
14 Arrived
15 Resilience
17 Former New York archbishop
18 Legislative group
19 Memorizes
21 Ph. bk. data
22 Sicilian spouter
23 Scarlet
26 Vigor
28 Depend (on)
31 Item on stage
33 Bro or sis
35 Teen's woe
36 Haggard or Travis
38 Prized possession
40 "Eewww!"
41 Uncategoriz-ed (Abbr.)
43 Last letter in London
45 Shed
47 Advance
51 "Money — everything"
52 Zest
54 Air speed measure
55 Old French

Grid for King Crossword with numbered squares.

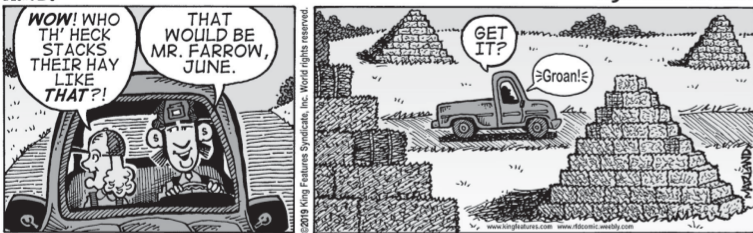
- coin
56 Hammer part
57 Purchases
58 Away from WSW
59 Being, to Brutus
Talent" phen-om Susan
8 Micro-, Mela-, and Polynesia
9 Charge against a squatter
10 " — for All Seasons"
11 Camera part
16 On
20 Biblical verb suffix
23 Spinning stat
24 Before
25 Sleeping state
27 Glutton
29 Wildebeest
30 "A mouse!"
32 Column's bases
34 Game akin to pinochle
37 Superlative ending
39 Carte
42 Thicket
44 Curtain
45 Branch
46 Birthright bar-terer
48 Change for a five
49 Dogfight participants
50 Unit of force
53 Charged bit

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Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty indicators.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a cartoon and a list of differences.

5x5 Trivia test grid.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the smallest country in South America?
2. ASTRONOMY: What is a zenith?
3. BUSINESS: Which car company introduced the Boxster roadster?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which magazine features an annual "Dubious Achievements Awards"?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which is the only animal born with horns?
6. THEATER: The character of Stanley Kowalski appears in which play?
7. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the geyser known as "Old Faithful"?
8. MUSIC: What kind of car was mentioned in The Beach Boys' song "Fun, Fun, Fun"?
9. HISTORY: In what year was the United Kingdom of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland formed?
10. LITERATURE: Tom Joad is a character in which 20th-century novel?

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- 1. Suriname; 2. The highest point reached by a given celestial object; 3. Porsche; 4. Esquire; 5. The guitar; 6. "A Streetcar Named Desire"; 7. Wyoming, in Yellowstone National Park; 8. T-bird, or Thunderbird; 9. 1801; 10. "The Grapes of Wrath"

LIFESTYLE

A Twist to a Classic Story, Matilda the Musical opens at LSC-North Harris

HOUSTON (May 21, 2019) - A winner of over 90 international awards, Matilda the Musical is coming to Lone Star College-North Harris. Grab a ticket and reminisce on a favorite childhood tale! Opening night is Tuesday, June 25, and tickets start at just \$15.

Matilda the Musical is the multi-award winning musical, inspired by the book by Roald Dahl. Matilda is the story of an extraordinary girl genius armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination who dares to take a stand and change her destiny. With the help of her kindly

teacher and a little magic, this miraculous girl proves that everyone has the power to change their story.

"Matilda the Musical is the perfect light-hearted, family-friendly play for summer theater," said Director Cash Carpenter, LSC-North Harris theatre professor. "We are excited to open the theatre department to community actors for this production, and we look forward to new visitors to the theatre. We have a little magic in store for our guests!"

Audience members can come and enjoy a piece of chocolate cake

with Matilda, Bruce and the whole cast of Matilda the Musical directly following the show on Friday night. Tickets for the after-party are purchased separately for \$20. Attendees to the after-party will get a chance to take a picture with the cast, get a backstage peek at the magic of the show, get a souvenir signed poster and enjoy some chocolate goodies. But, watch out for Trunchbull, she might put you in chokey!

General admission tickets are \$15, and VIP tickets are \$25 and include one ticket to the show with premium

seating. Producer seats are \$50 and include one premium ticket to the show with director seats, one souvenir signed poster and one gift bag. Evening performances run Tuesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees offered Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30 at 2 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.LoneStar.edu/drama-dept-nharris.htm>.

For more information, call 281.765.7963 or email cash.carpenter@lonestar.edu.

Garden Explores program at Mercer Botanic Gardens

Garden Explorers: A-B Seeds. Tuesday, June 18 through Thursday, June 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Discover the life cycle of nature through seeds during this fun-filled, three-day summer camp. With guidance from Mercer Botanic Gardens Education Director Jennifer Garrison, children will discover what makes birds unique and learn to identify birds by physical characteristics and bird calls. Participants will go on a bird hike, investigate owl pellets, build bird feeders using pantry items, and more! This camp is designed for children ages 9 to 11. A donation of \$30 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Space is limited, and registration is required.

Garden Explorers: Birds of a Feather. Tuesday, June 25 through Thursday, June

27, from 9 a.m. to noon. Join summer camp for three days of feathered-friend fun! With guidance from Mercer Botanic Gardens Education Director Jennifer Garrison, children will discover what makes birds unique and learn to identify birds by physical characteristics and bird calls. Participants will go on a bird hike, investigate owl pellets, build bird feeders using pantry items, and more! This camp is designed for children ages 9 to 11. A donation of \$30 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Space is limited, and registration is required.

Mercer Botanic Gardens is one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. To register contact Mercer at 713-274-4160 www.hcp4.net/parks/mercer.

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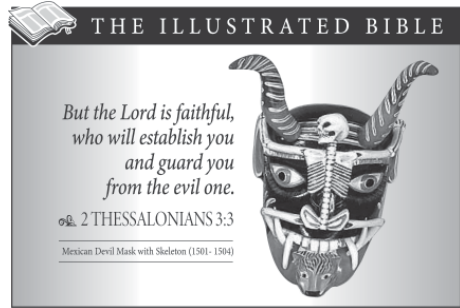
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Luke 6, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do to those who cursed them? Smile, Walk away, Laugh, Bless them
3. What instrument did David play for Saul that caused the evil spirit to depart? Drum, Harp, Tambou-

4. From John 3, who lifted up the serpent in the wilderness? Paul, Peter, John the Baptist, Moses
5. What horrible things did Ezekiel see filling a valley? Serpents, Locusts, Dry bones, Demons
6. Who was the father of James and John? Zebedee, Nahum, Haggai, Hizkiah?

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Bless them; 3) Harp; 4) Moses; 5) Dry bones; 6) Zebedee



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New Prosperity Bank,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF THE NEW PROSPERITY BANK BUILDING:



VIEW OF LOBBY AND BANKING ROOM. A bright and spacious new bank interior lobby, with chairs and tables for the public.



AUTO BANKING FACILITIES include a drive-up ATM at left, and 8 auto drive-thru lanes for the public, including two commercial lanes. This drive-thru is one of the busiest facilities in all of the over 250 Prosperity Bank locations nationwide.



OLD PROSPERITY BANK BUILDING has been sold to developers who will tear it down and build new fast food restaurants on the site.

11 car accident closes North Freeway lanes



An eleven car and truck accident last Monday on the northbound lanes of I-45 North Freeway injured 2 children and 1 adult.

The accident happened about 6:15 am on the northbound lanes near the West Mount Houston Road exit.

Authorities report that a semi-truck crashed into the back of several other vehicles. The driver reported that traffic in front of him stopped suddenly, due to another crash, and he was unable to stop quickly. Police released a dash-cam video from the truck, showing the collision.

All lanes were closed for several hours, while vehicles were removed and hazardous fluids were cleaned up.

Although the hurt persons were taken to nearby hospitals, it was reported that they had only minor injuries. Authorities were unable to determine the cause of the accident. If you have any information, you are urged to call the Houston Police Department.

PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 6/7-6/12

Opens THURSDAY, June 13

*** MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL (PG-13)** 7:00p

*** DARK PHOENIX (PG-13)** - 1:00pm, 7:00pm

*** DARK PHOENIX 3D (PG-13)** - 4:00pm, 10:00pm

*** THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 3D (PG)** - 1:45pm, 6:15pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 3D (PG)** - 2:45pm, 7:15pm

*** THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG)** 11:30am, 4:00pm, 8:30pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG)** 12:30pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm

*** Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13)** - 11:00am, 5:00pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13)** - 12:00pm, 6:00pm

*** Godzilla: King of the Monsters in 3D (PG-13)** - 3:00pm, 9:00pm

*** Godzilla: King of the Monsters in 3D (PG-13)** - 2:00pm, 8:00pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** MA (R)** - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm,

7:30pm, 10:00pm

*** ROCKETMAN (R)** - 11:45am, 2:45pm, 5:45pm, 8:45pm

*** ALADDIN (PG)** - 11:00am, 5:00pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** ALADDIN (PG)** - 12:00pm, 6:00pm

*** ALADDIN in RealD 3D (PG)** - 2:00pm, 8:00pm
Spanish Dubbed

*** ALADDIN in RealD 3D (PG)** - 3:00pm, 9:00pm

*** BRIGHTBURN (R)** - 11:45am, 2:00pm, 4:15pm, 6:30pm, 8:45pm

*** John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R)** - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

*** Pokémon Detective Pikachu (PG)** - 11:30am, 4:30pm, 9:30pm

*** Pokémon Detective Pikachu 3D (PG)** 2:00pm, 7:00pm

*** THE INTRUDER (PG-13)** - 11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

*** AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-13)** - 3 hr. 2 mins. 12:15pm, 4:15pm, 8:15pm

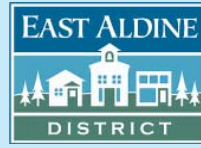
*** THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R)** - 1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

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East Aldine District NEWS REPORT

History of Aldine Part 3

Growing Pains: From Cougars to Moonshiners to Civilization

Aldine was still a pretty wild place in those days. The Houston Post reported in December of 1907 that a Mr. Clark of Aldine had trapped a catamount measuring three-to-four feet in length on his property. A few years later, E.C. Robertson, Colby's partner in the Kansans-to-Aldine venture took out an ad in the Houston Post announcing his hosting of an event demonstrating a new form of high-tech farming — farming harnessing the might power of Du-Pont Red Cross Dynamite. "Come and learn the modern, quick, cheap and safe way to use the giant force of dynamite to remove stumps and boulders, plant trees, dig ditches, break up subsoils and make old farms produce big crops," the ad encouraged. (The same ad also offered training for would-be apprentice agricultural blasters.)



In one prohibition-era raid, feds seized 76 gallons of wine and 37 gallons of whiskey in Aldine, suggesting the presence of at least one moonshine still of considerable capability.

When the first murders of note took place in Aldine, in the spring of 1929, they grabbed statewide headlines. On the evening of May 5, 21-year-old Westfield machinist Edward Stone and 20-year-old Olena Wuensche of Spring went out on a date that ended in horror. After dancing in the Woodmen of the World lodge in what is now Old Town Spring, the lovers went for a drink at an unnamed bar in Aldine before adjourning to a lover's lane near Highway 19 (today's I-45). That was where Stone was found near his parked car, blasted through the chest at close range with a shotgun. Wuensche was found a couple of miles away, near where Hardy crosses Green's Bayou, shot through the shoulder blades. Detectives surmised that she'd been kidnapped and had tried to flee. Five suspects from Humble were arrested months later; none were tried, much less convicted. Decades later Harris County lawman Buster Kern claimed to have cracked the case, but he never shared his findings with anybody so you'll just have to take his word for it.

All of which, from wildcat to wanton murder, portrays Aldine in an incomplete and mostly false light. Yes, it's exciting, but the real history of the places lies in the cornerstones of its civilization — schools, churches, businesses, roads, and such. By 1902, the Lutherans were competing with Presbyterians for the souls of Aldine, and by 1911, the village was home to a hotel, general store, two-room schoolhouse and a cemetery. In 1923, the Magnolia Oil Company put in a large crude oil pumping station, and at around the same time, many of the farmers had become stockmen, specifically dairy farmers.



As the Depression deepened, Aldine saw the closure of its railroad depot (in 1931 or 1932) and post office (1935.) However, in 1932, three surrounding villages consolidated with Aldine, and two years later the resulting S.M.N. Marris High School sent nine graduates into the world armed with the first full diplomas awarded in Aldine. (Marris was known by that name locally — as with most small town Texas schools of that time, outsiders simply called it by its town name, i.e. Aldine High School.) In 1935, voters approved the creation of the Aldine Independent School District, and so fast did it grow that by 1947 it was being called "the miracle school district." In 14 years, enrollment multiplied in the two-building district — one each for whites and blacks — by 800 percent. AISD has been playing catch-up ever since — today it has around 70,000 students scattered across several dozen campuses.

But it wouldn't get there without a hitch, or two, as we'll see in the next installment