

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- James Drive All-Inclusive Park Meeting
- Storm Detention Basin Meeting

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THESE STORIES

NORTHEAST NEWS

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VOL. 45, NO. 25 TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



Governor Abbott signs Disaster Relief and Preparedness Legislation into law

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today signed into law several monumental bills related to disaster relief and preparedness in Texas. As a result of Hurricane Harvey, Governor Abbott made this issue an emergency legislative item this session, resulting in several bills being passed that will better prepare the state for future disasters. Additionally, the legislature voted to appropriate \$3 billion in relief for Harvey-impacted areas from the Rainy Day Fund.

The Governor was joined by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, and members of the legislature including Senators Lois Kolkhorst, Brandon Brighton, Joan Huffman, Carol Alvarado, Larry Tay-

See Disaster Relief Law, Page 8



Texas Governor Greg Abbott signing the four disaster relief and preparedness bills. The signing was held at Gallery Furniture in Houston, in recognition of the help that Jim McIngvale extended to victims of Hurricane Harvey. Looking on are Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, are various senators and representatives including Armando Valle and Carol Alvarado. McIngvale looks on from the back row.

Dead body found on Aldine Mail Route

ALDINE - Family members were summoned by an unknown informant to an SUV located behind a car wash and check cashing business at 4000 Aldine Mail Route near JFK Blvd. last Wednesday Morning. Sheriff's Deputies said that the body was Jaime Diaz, 44 and was in the rear luggage area of the SUV. They said he showed signs of trauma and the death was not self-inflicted or natural. Various reports have speculated that he was shot, or run over,

and his body deposited in the SUV. These reports were not confirmed by authorities. Diaz lived in the area, and his family said he sometimes disappeared for days, therefore his disappearance was not noted.

The SUV that Diaz was found in belonged to a man from Katy, and he is being sought for questioning.

The case is under investigation, and anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers, 713-222-TIPS (8477).



A man's body was found behind the car wash and El Guera check cashing on Aldine Mail Route.

New procedures to simplify Primary Voting

County Clerk Trautman offers Joint Primary Dem. or Rep. Registration

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the Harris County Clerk's offices a new speedier and private process was presented by Clerk Diane Trautman, Michael Winn, Administrator of Elections' and Ms. Teneshia Hudspeth, Director of Communications.

Trautman said after numerous Primary Elections she's heard of voters not voting because they felt uncomfortable stating their party's affiliation out loud to where others could hear. She said, "This new process is to remove any fear from one declaring their party affiliation out loud; the voter will have complete anonymity. This is not a partisan issue to help either party separately; this is to make all voters of both parties feel more comfortable."



A mock demonstration by Harris County Clerk employee Margaret Aguilar (left) posing as a voters using a touchscreen tablet privately discloses her political party affiliation to both Democrat C. Patrick McIlvain (right) and Republican Kathryn Gray both election clerks in order to vote in a Primary Election. (PHOTO ALLAN JAMAIL)

Michael Winn, Administrator of Elections' said, "combing the amount of staff from both parties to run just one polling location allows for fewer clerks needed. This also reduces the amount of party specific staff needed at the locations but at the same time will also increase the number of locations to which staff can be assigned."

The use of Election Day Vote Centers (EDVC) another new program of Trautman's allows voters to vote anywhere regardless of their home precinct which will save them time by not having to stand in lines, they can go vote at any location that's doesn't have a long line. The EDVC

See PRIMARY VOTING, page 8

Aldine ISD to launch Accelerating Campus Excellence model at two Elementary Campuses in the Fall

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

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

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

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

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

also part of the ACE model.

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

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

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2D - 6:30p 9:00p 3D - 6:00p 8:30p

Spanish Dubbed
* The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG) - 12:30pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm
Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13) - 11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm
Spanish Dubbed
Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
MA (R) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
ALADDIN (PG) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
ALADDIN (PG) - 11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm
Spanish Dubbed
JOHN WICK: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
Pokémon Detective Pikachu (PG) - 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm
THE INTRUDER (PG-13) - 7:00pm, 9:30pm
THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R) - 1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm
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SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Family Strengthening Conference

This September Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group of Aldine-Harris County, is hosting its 16th Annual Family Strengthening Conference.

This event will be held on Saturday, September 7th at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center in Houston, Texas from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Conference is a FREE community event provided to help spread the awareness of health, mental health, family issues and other situations that Grandparents and kinship face when raising children. Participants will be offered free health screenings, school supplies, educational materials designed to promote personal health and wellness, and a variety of resources from keynote speakers as well as agencies.

This will be an exceptional opportunity for your organization to showcase its services/products and show support of family wellness. We are asking that each vendor donate for the participants. There are options listed on the vendors form. If you are not able to we do understand. It is our desire that each family will receive a backpack filled with school supplies per student in their family unit.

If your organization would like to donate for the event please call 832-265-8380 or email at grandparentsmarketing@gmail.com. You can also contact Mrs. Portier-Reed, the President and Founder at 832-771-4504.

Aldine ISD student group selected to present at Smithsonian National African American Culture and History Museum



Alejandra Arroyo, Alyssa Cossio, Vanessa Arellano, and Jeremiah Lyons are seen with Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney at the Regional History Day Competition this year.

The Nimitz High School student group comprised of Alejandra Arroyo, Alyssa Cossio, Vanessa Arellano, and Jeremiah Lyons has been selected to be shown in the Documentary Showcase at the Oprah Winfrey Theater at the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Wednesday, June 12.

After the viewing, the students will have the opportunity to attend a reception by the National Museum of African American History and Culture to celebrate their achievement in documentary film making and showing their film at the museum.

Additionally, Nimitz HS students Abigail Tack, Isabel Rivas, Jeremiah Lyons, and Issac Veloz had

the honor of participating in a ceremony on Sunday, June 9. They presented a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Aldine ISD students from Nimitz HS and Carver HS are among the more than 3,000 young historians — middle and high school students — from around the world advanced to National History Day® at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Aldine ISD Students Competing in National History Day 2019

Nimitz HS
Group Documentary: Death in a Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Black Wall Street

Students: Vanessa Arellano, Alejandra Arroyo, Alyssa Cossio & Jeremiah Lyons

Group Exhibit: Catastrophe in the Canyon: Triumphs from the 1956 Air Tragedy

Students: Raymundo Barrera, Roland Reyes, Isabel Rivas & Abigail Tack

Group Website: Tragedy in A Texas Town: The Texas City Disaster of 1947

Students: John Castañeda, Nicholas Gonzales, So-raida Sosa & Isaac Veloz

Carver HS
Group Website: Deadly Smog Pollution: Profit Over People

Students: Alpha Garcia, Adrian Garza, Laeticia Guenoun, Miriam Hernández & Lillian Nicholas

Alisd names four new School Assistant Superintendents



Dr. Faviola Cantu, LaTonia Amerson, LaToya Wynne, and Todd Lindeman

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney recently announced four new School Assistant Superintendents who will officially begin their duties on July 1.

Todd Lindeman was named School Assistant Superintendent of High Schools, while LaTonia Amerson, LaToya Wynne and Dr. Faviola Cantu were named School Assistant Superintendents of Elementary Schools.

"I am excited to announce these new members of Team Aldine," Dr. Goffney said. "They are all well-respected by their peers and are outstanding leaders. I believe they will be outstanding assets to our students and staff and I look forward to working with them for many years to come."

Lindeman brings more than 24 years of experience in the field of education to his new position, and served as principal of Eisenhower High School for the last two years. During his 24 years in education, Lindeman has served as a teacher, principal, site coordinator, department chair and as a summer school principal.

Amerson has more than 15 years of experience in the field of education and has devoted all 15 of those years to Aldine ISD. She began her career in 2004 as a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Parker In-

termediate School and has also served as an assistant principal and principal. She has served as the principal of Eisenhower Ninth Grade School for five years and has also worked at Conley Elementary School and Eisenhower High School.

Wynne is returning to Aldine where she began her educational career as a first-grade ESL teacher at Stephens Elementary School. She brings 16 years of experience to her new position and has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and as a district leader. She previously held the position of Executive Director of Teaching and Learning with Klein ISD, where she provided focused support to 13 campuses.

Dr. Cantu brings 15 years of experience in the field of education to her new position with Aldine ISD. She currently works as the Director of Multilingual Programs for Sheldon ISD, where she is responsible for implementing curriculum, and developing and leading district initiatives including a dual language program that begins in Pre-K and extends to seventh grade. In this role, she supported principals to ensure that they are reaching students where they are, while also challenging them. Cantu has also served as an assistant principal and principal.

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Aldine ISD creates pathway to selective colleges and universities through partnership with EMERGE

Aldine ISD announced its partnership with EMERGE at the June 11 meeting of the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees. The Houston-based college-readiness program prepares high-performing high school students, in grades 10-12, to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation. Students participating in the program will receive SAT preparation, attend college admission and financial aid workshops, receive assistance with college applications and visit colleges and universities during summer tours.

"We want to continue to equip and empower our students with tools to help them prepare for college or university after graduation," Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney said. "This program

will expose our students to various opportunities and provide them with countless possibilities beyond graduation."

The Aldine EMERGE program will begin recruiting students for participation beginning this fall. The program will be open to any Aldine ISD high school sophomore that meets the program requirements.

"We know that there are high-achieving students from our community that have the grades, talent, resilience, and motivation needed to be successful at the nation's most selective colleges that are not applying," Felicia Martin, MacArthur alumna and EMERGE Managing Director of College Success, said. "Our work extends beyond the individual students served by our program. When one is able to access

opportunity and succeed, others are sure to follow."

Throughout the fellowship students will develop personal education goals, attend SAT prep sessions, gain leadership skills and receive one-on-one advising from college counselors. After students are admitted to a top-tier university of their choice they will be assigned an EMERGE counselor, which will follow them throughout their college experience and provide additional guidance. This includes summer internships, study abroad opportunities and other resume building experiences. EMERGE graduates have attended schools such as MIT, Yale, Rice, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and UT-Austin.

The partnership marks Aldine as the fifth school district to partner with the non-profit.

Encourage your High School student to read over the Summer

Reading during the summer is essential to literacy development and building vocabulary. Reading also improves the ability to read, write, spell and comprehend. The more students read, the better readers and writers they become.

Summer reading also gives high school students an advantage. Students that read during the summer months are more likely to score higher on standardized tests like the SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Some books form a part of college required reading lists. For students, these titles may get them ahead of the class as they find they have greater engagement in their classes.

Books found on college-bound reading lists also help students dig deeper by providing historical and social context for high school and college students in their other courses. Classic vs. Contemporary Novels

While literary classics are vital to developing written and verbal skills, contemporary novels can provide just as much help and influence to students preparing for tests as well as classes.

Find your niche or favorite new authors by asking your English teacher or visiting the local library.

Click on the Links to Get a Few Ideas to Add to

Your Summer Reading List

101 Great Books Recommended for College-Bound Readers

College Board's 101 Books for the College-Bound Reader

A student's critical reading skills are fundamental to academic success and essential to continued success in college and future career.

Why is Summer Reading Important?

When students don't read during the summer, they experience learning loss. Experts call this summer learning loss the "summer slide." Students who experience the loss are more likely to struggle when they return to school in the fall.

Did you know ...

- Learning and achievement are perishable. The average student loses a month of academic-calendar learning each summer.
- The impact of the summer slide contributes to a more pronounced achievement gap.
- Research has found a link between socioeconomic status and the loss of reading skills experienced over the summer.
- Studies show older students lose more over the summer than younger ones.
- Students see greater academic dips in math than in reading.

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EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin Project community engagement meeting set for June 26

The Harris County Flood Control District will hold a Community Engagement Meeting for the Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin project. The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the status of the Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin project and share project information.

The purpose of the Lauder 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 Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin is located 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: Wednesday June 26, 2019, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. BakerRipley East Aldine Campus 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road, Suite A Houston, Texas 77039

The Public Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a brief presentation at 6:15 p.m. Interested citizens are also invited to view the presentation online through a live feed hosted at www.facebook.com/hcfd. An open house will follow the presentation, where interested citizens are invited to review informational exhibits, discuss the Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin project with Harris County representatives, and provide comments to the Harris County Flood Control District. For questions, please contact the Flood Control District at 713-684-4000, or fill out the comment form online www.hcfd.org/C34.

Thank You for making 2nd Aldine Pre-K Festival a success

The Aldine PreK Festival took place Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Blanson Career and Technical Education High School.

The event ensured families learned about the District's award-winning early education programs and resources that are available to their families and children. It was also a great opportunity to enroll eligible 4-year-olds in pre-kindergarten.

Each school with a pre-kindergarten program had representatives on hand to share information about their campus and the benefits of early childhood education.

Also present were many sponsors and partners including the Children's Museum Houston, Good Reason Houston, Harris County Public Library, Houston Public Library, Texas Children's Hospital, YMCA, and the Houston Zoo.

Sponsors, partners, District leadership and volunteers put in hours of work before and during the event. If you made your way on to campus early, you may have seen them setting up.

With that being said, the real success came from the families and their children. Without you, the event would have been a



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney (center) and Principal Sharla Rogers pose with two future prekindergartners.

home. Many of you were seen chatting with the campus staff, sponsors and partners. Thank you for coming out. District leaders saw many families grabbing early childhood education information, enrolling eligible 4-year-olds in prekindergarten, getting children immunized and taking some free books

home. Your contribution and interest help the District better understand our families' needs and how we can best help our students. If you didn't get a chance to make it to the festival, visit AldineISSD.org/PreK to learn more about the program and how to enroll your child online.

LONE STAR COLLEGE-NORTH HARRIS

Summer Session II offers students chance to jump ahead

HOUSTON (June 13, 2019) – It's not too late to get a jump start on students' fall class schedule! Summer Session II (SSII) classes are still open for enrollment at Lone Star College-North Harris.

New college students, those that may have needed a little break between class semesters, and students returning home for the summer, can take advantage of their time by enrolling in SSII classes. This semester begins on

July 11 and ends on August 18.

LSC-North Harris offers a variety of classes during SSII, including core classes like mathematics, biology, and English, and students can also get ahead on their degree-specific requirements like accounting and nursing.

LSC-North Harris Student Ambassador Emerson Romero is taking government during SSII to jump ahead. "I love summer

classes," said Romero. "Summer sessions are convenient, efficient and you can't beat the price. The class sizes are smaller and you get more one-on-one time with professors."

Financial aid is available for those that qualify, and LSC-North Harris offers payment plans to all students.

For more information, visit www.LoneStar.edu/ registration or contact an advisor at 281-618-5481.

James Driver All-Inclusive Park Community Meeting

Come meet Commissioner Adrian Garcia to learn and provide input about All-Inclusive Park expansion project at James Driver Park.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm). At Northeast Community Center, 10918 1/2 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093 281-442-7950.

Man found dead on Mesa Road

Houston police are investigating the death of a man found at 9700 Mesa Road about 6:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 9.

According to Officials, Houston Police Department patrol officers responded to a person down call on a sidewalk on Mesa Road and found Gregory Brooks, 37, deceased. Further investigation

determined Brooks had been assaulted by at least three to four unknown suspects and died from his injuries.

At this time, there are no known witnesses.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Apartment catches fire in the Greater Greenspoint Area

An apartment caught fire on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 around 1:30 p.m. at 17050 Imperial Valley Dr, 77060.

According to reports, firefighters arrived on scene to find heavy fire coming from a first floor apartment unit in a 2-story apartment building. The fire was extending to the

second floor and adjacent apartment. Crews quickly stopped the spread of the fire and extinguished the main fire. A primary search found three small dogs in a kennel. Unfortunately, firefighters were not able to revive them. It was determined that an occupant had left food cooking on the stove. The occupants were moved to

other units in the complex with assistance of the American Red Cross. Crews from Stations 15, 31, 64, 63, 67, 84 and 8 responded to this incident.

There were no injuries reported and approximately \$76 thousand in estimated property saved and \$30 thousand in estimated damage.

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia and House Democrats Pass Historic Immigration Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 4, 2019 – Congresswoman Garcia (TX-29) joined fellow Democrats to vote and pass in the U.S. House of Representatives H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, the most sweeping and historic immigration reform legislation of the past 25 years.

"For the last two years, the Trump Administration has recklessly thrown the lives of DREAMers, TPS, and DED recipients into uncertainty and disarray. At every step, the President has attempted to deny their rights, block their applications, and deport them from this country. That's why myself and House Democrats are acting now to end this inhu-

mane and unwise treatment of immigrants with the Dream and Promise Act," Rep. Garcia said. "Today, I am proud to vote for this historic piece of legislation as an original co-sponsor."

Rep. Garcia continued, "With this bill, we will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of Texas and US residents who are Americans in their hearts and have only known this country as their home. DREAMers, TPS, and DED recipients are essential components of our communities and the economy. They're our neighbors, friends, and colleagues, and with the passage of Dream and Promise Act, we've re-

newed our commitment to them and the American Dream."

The Dream and Promise Act creates a pathway to citizenship for eligible DREAMers and those with TPS or DED status. If made into law, it will also repeal outdated policies that penalize states for extending rights of residency to undocumented individuals. This legislation provides legal protections for immigrants to prevent deportations and ensure the rights and dignity of all living under these designations.

The bill passed the House of Representatives and will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

Harris County Flood Control District launches new project Website

The Harris County Flood Control District has launched a new website to support its partnership project with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The website, www.MAAPnext.org, will support the MAAPnext project, a Modeling, Assessment and Awareness Project (MAAP), that will produce the next generation of flood hazard maps for Harris County.

MAAPnext will use the most up-to-date technology to provide a better understanding of flood risks throughout Harris County, including previously unmapped urban flooding (also referred to as overland, ponding or non-riverine flooding).

MAAPnext will develop updated FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), as well as additional tools for communi-

cating the results of this project. These tools include an array of flood risk products that allow residents to better understand the potential depth and frequency of flooding in a given area, identify areas where flood flow velocities could rise to dangerous levels and identify areas where mobility may be significantly impacted by flooding.

As the project progresses, more interactive information and functionality will be added to the website. In 2021, when the Flood Control District submits the maps and models to FEMA for review, Harris County residents will be able to enter their addresses on the www.MAAPnext.org to learn about their individual flood risks.

Since its inception in 1937, the Flood Control

District has continually worked to better understand flood risk throughout the county. This project represents a transformative step in the management and regulation of Harris County's floodplains. Recent advancements in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling software and methodologies will allow the Flood Control District to identify and evaluate flood risks in greater detail than was previously possible. These advancements will allow the Flood Control District to understand and map flooding related to bayous, creeks and other natural drainage patterns. Additionally, the Flood Control District will be able to identify and map flooding in streets and neighborhoods on a county-wide level.

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OPINION PAGE



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Couple with Age Difference Planning Benefits

Dear Rusty: I am nearing my full retirement age of 66 and given the differences in age of my wife and I, and the retirement benefits we will each receive; I was wondering what the best options are for us claiming SS and when. I am 65 and will turn 66 (my full retirement age) in September and my benefit then will be \$2347/month as per the latest estimate on the SSA website. My Wife is currently 58 years old. Her full retirement age is 67, which will be in January 2028. Her estimated SS benefit at full retirement age will be \$2498/month. I have read some things regarding being able to defer one of the benefit payments and receive the other (higher) amount based on certain criteria. I'm not sure if it would apply or be of benefit to us but was wondering if it would. I am looking for the best options to receive the most in benefits that would apply to us. Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: I think you're referring to the "restricted application" which can be used to collect spousal benefits while allowing your own to grow, but I'm afraid that is not something you can take advantage of. It's an option not available to your wife because her birth year is after the cutoff imposed for that option by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and it's not available to you because your wife isn't yet eligible to collect Social Security on her own work record.

You have the option to take your full benefits in September at your full retirement age (FRA) or, if it's financially feasible, you may also choose to delay past your FRA to claim. If you delay past your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of 2/3rds of 1% per month of delay (8% per year of delay) up until age 70 when your benefit would be 32% more than it will be in September. Whether that's a good choice for you depends upon how badly you need the money right now, and your health and expected longevity. If you enjoy at least average longevity (mid-80s) then you'll get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

Your wife cannot collect Social Security benefits until she reaches age 62 in 2023. If she claims at that time she'll be automatically deemed to be filing for both her own SS retirement benefit and any spousal benefit she might be due from your record. However, given the benefit estimates you've shared she'll not be eligible for a spousal benefit from you (nor will you be eligible for benefits from her). Spousal benefits are only paid if 50% of the higher earner's benefit at FRA is more than the lower earner's FRA benefit amount. Since neither of you will be eligible for a spousal benefit, your wife should also consider delaying past her full retirement age if her personal and financial circumstances at the time permit. To do so, she will gain 24% more benefit at age 70 than she would get at her full retirement age of 67.

So, for both of you to achieve the most you can get, the longer you both delay past your respective full retirement ages the more your benefit will be, up to age 70 when the maximum is reached. Since your wife won't reach her FRA until January 2028 but will be eligible to apply for benefits in 2023, be aware that if she applies before her FRA her benefit will be reduced (according to the number of months before her FRA that she applies), and that if she starts her benefits before her FRA and continues to work, she'll be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit changes annually, so I can't tell you what it will be in 2023, but it will be more than the 2019 limit of \$17,640.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website or email us.

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A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY'S SUMMER

BACK THEN

- 7 a.m. -- get up
- 7:15 a.m. -- look for worms
- 8 a.m. -- family breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. -- go by Bobby's
- 9:00 a.m. -- go fishin'
- 11:30 a.m. -- collect bottles
- Noon -- family lunch
- 1:30 p.m. -- build tree house
- 2:30 p.m. -- go swimming
- 4:30 p.m. -- play baseball
- 6 p.m. -- family supper
- 7 p.m. -- play baseball
- 9 p.m. -- hide 'n' seek
- 10:30 p.m. -- Z-Z-Z-Z...

NOWADAYS

- 10:30 a.m. -- get up
- 10:32 a.m. -- play video games
- Noon -- pizza & soda pop
- 12:01 p.m. -- play video games
- 2:30 p.m. -- donuts & candy
- 3:00 p.m. -- play video games
- 5:00 p.m. -- pizza & soda pop
- 5:25 p.m. -- play video games
- 8:30 p.m. -- ice cream & candy
- 8:45 p.m. -- play video games
- midnight -- pizza & soda pop
- 2:15 a.m. -- play video games
- 5 a.m. -- ice cream & donuts
- 6:30 a.m. -- get up



Governor signs school safety, mental health bill

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on June 6 signed three bills into law to improve school safety and expand access to mental health resources.

"After the horrific shooting (at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018) and the subsequent school safety roundtables, I made school safety an emergency item to help prevent a tragedy like this from happening again," Abbott said. "Today, I am proud to sign legislation to make Texas schools safer for students and teachers. I thank members from both chambers, as well as the many stakeholders, who worked tirelessly to get these bills through the Legislature and to my desk today."

—Senate Bill 11, by Senate Education Chair Larry Taylor and sponsored by Rep. Greg Bonnen, both R-Friendswood, strengthens emergency preparedness and response protocols, improves school facilities standards, establishes better threat assessment protocols, and provides schools more funding for school safety efforts, Abbott said. The bill also establishes the Texas Child Mental Health Consortium to leverage higher education expertise in the state to improve the mental health care systems for Texas children.

—House Bill 18 by House Calendars Committee Chair Walter "Four" Price IV, R-Amarillo, and sponsored by Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, increases mental health training for educators and other school professionals to aid in early identification and intervention; emphasizes importance of mental health education for students; and improves access to mental and behavioral health services through school-based mental health centers and the hiring of mental health professionals.

—House Bill 1387 by Rep. Cole Hefner, R-Mount Pleasant, and sponsored by Senate Higher Education Chair Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, removes the cap on the number of school

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

marshals that may be appointed per campus.

Abbott was joined at the bill signing by members Sens. Taylor, Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, Watson, Sen. Higher Education Vice Chair Royce West, D-Dallas; and Reps. Greg Bonnen; Will Metcalf, R-Conroe; Price; and House Appropriations Chair John Zerwas, R-Richmond.

Hegar certifies budget

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 5 announced the certification of House Bill 1, the general appropriations act for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

HB 1, legislation appropriating \$250.7 billion in total spending, was approved by both houses of the Legislature in late May. The next stop for the budget bill after Hegar's certification is the governor's desk for final approval. "I'm proud to certify this budget and send it on to Gov. Abbott for final approval," Hegar said.

Hegar, who manages the state's pocketbook, pledged to continue to monitor the Texas economy, noting that it has expanded at a rapid pace over the last 18 months.

"We've seen tremendous growth in Texas over the last year and a half, which allowed lawmakers to make historic investments in education and provide much-needed property tax relief," Hegar added. "Uncertainty in the global economy, however, as well as increasing unpredictability surrounding international trade policy at the federal level, may have dampening effects on the Texas economy in the coming years."

Revenues increase in May

Comptroller Hegar last week said state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.01 billion for the month of May, an amount 9 percent more than reported in May 2018.

The revenue growth was propelled by both business and consumer spending, Hegar said, adding that the strongest growth was in remittances from the manufacturing, wholesale trade and services sectors, with strength apparent in the retail trade sector.

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

Hurricane season begins

The Texas Department of Public Safety launched its hurricane readiness campaign just before June 1, the first day of hurricane season.

Gov. Greg Abbott said emergency management professionals across the state are prepared to assist in the event of severe weather. He urged Texans to heed all warnings from local and state officials and to have a plan in place to protect loved ones and property in the event of a hurricane.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can spawn tornadoes, dangerous coastal water conditions and storm surges, and can cause extensive flooding damage. DPS Director Steve McCraw said, "There are a few steps everyone can take now that can make all the difference, like assembling an emergency disaster kit and reviewing hurricane evacuation maps and routes. By helping your family plan ahead, you will be ready to respond quickly should a storm head your way."

OPINION
By REP. DAN CRENSHAW

Government's part in recovering from Harvey and prepping for future storms

HOUSTON, TX — June 6, 2019 — In the days and weeks after Hurricane Harvey hit in August 2017, the Houston area faced an unimaginable level of devastation and destruction. Families were forced to move from flooded homes, businesses were destroyed, and our city found itself in a state of shock.

My district, Texas' 2nd Congressional District, was hit from all sides. Seventy thousand households made FEMA claims totaling more than \$700 million.

But in the midst of the chaos, we saw something amazing and unique. Houston and the surrounding communities persevered and came together. Every day, ordinary Texans became heroes.

Texans pride themselves on being self-reliant. This is why we voted to pass a \$2.5 billion bond to invest in flood mitigation projects. When we turned to the federal government and asked for help, it was because we truly needed it.

Perhaps most important, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Management and Budget need to release the congressionally appropriated \$4 billion that our community desperately needs. Much of the Texas delegation in D.C. is laser-focused on getting these funds into Texas. We've written letters, put forth legislation, and are in contact with both agencies regularly.

A bipartisan piece of legislation cosponsored by members of the Houston region and the surrounding areas would release these funds within 60 days. A similar provision, mandating the release of funds within 90 days, was included in the \$19.1 billion disaster relief package. That package passed the House Monday night and will be signed into law by the president.

Hurricane Harvey tested our community in the most extreme circumstances. But unsurprisingly, Houstonians rose to the challenge during the worst of times. We saw the best in one another and learned valuable lessons.

Now, as we begin 2019's hurricane season, it is time to take what we've learned and act on it. We need to make tangible changes that will protect our families, our neighbors, and our communities before another catastrophic weather event tests us again.

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LIFESTYLE

Don't Miss Your Appointment

By Dr. Mark Trice

It's amazing how far past Easter we were still seeing deeply-discounted Easter candy in the stores. Now... I like candy as much as the next person, but there's just something about candy that has missed its special day. It may not be past its "best by" date, but it still feels wrong.

For a piece of candy to miss its appointed time is one thing. For us, the case is very different. Missing medical appointments can create real problems. Employers look down on missed deadlines. God forbid that you get your child to

the ball field late. And guys, if you miss your anniversary or your wife's birthday...

Just think on that one for a moment.

But even these pale in comparison to our appointed times with God. When I think of appointed times, one of the first that comes to mind is in Luke 19 when Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because He sees the destruction that is coming as a result of the Holy City missing what many ministers refer to as her "time of visitation," the time Jesus offered her everything.

That's what Jesus was

always doing. He came to Earth and gave continually, and the people took. They took every healing, every miraculous meal, every deliverance, and rejoiced over each of them; but very few let those miracles truly affect them. Not many had eyes that were open enough to see what was really going on, what Jesus most passionately wanted to give them: Salvation. As a result, though they were laying palm branches on the ground and shouting, "Hosanna" one day, they were crying out, "Crucify Him" just a few days later.

And then there's today. Even in the church you find those who have their hands out to receive, but they're very specific about what they want God to give them. There are many who head out on Sunday mornings only because they want to tick "Went to church" off their To Do lists or to save their guilty consciences. And then there are those who are ever on the look-out for a church that will make them feel good or help their bored children have fun. How many are genuinely affected by the experience? People haven't really changed

much in 2,000 years.

But there is a day coming. It's what Christians know as "The Rapture," or the "catching away of the saints." Those who study Bible prophecy say that we're closer to the Rapture than most of us can imagine. Prophecy after prophecy regarding That Day has already been fulfilled, and God could literally turn to Jesus at any time. It will be His Own that He catches away; it is up to us to accept Salvation and His Lordship so that we qualify to make the trip.

For a piece of candy to

sit on the shelf long after its appointed day is one thing. For anyone to be stuck here after God calls His children home... that will be something else entirely. When Jerusalem missed her time, she set herself up for total destruction. If a man misses the Rapture, he will face years of nothing but destruction in a world ruled by pure evil. If you think it's hard to live as a Christian now, you have no idea.

Don't miss your appointment

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LIFESTYLE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 3 Chronicles in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Job and which other Old Testament book mention the constellation of Orion? Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel, Amos
3. What prophet took a wife of whores named Gomer? Hosea, Jonah, Amos, Micah

4. From Judges 14 what did Samson eat from the carcass of a lion? Manna, Honey, Berries, Figs
 5. What sin against the Holy Spirit results in eternal guilt? Blasphemy, Adultery, Murder, Non tithing
 6. Who was the father of Joshua? Abraham, Aaron, Nun, Moses
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Amos; 3) Hosea; 4) Honey; 5) Blasphemy; 6) Nun

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Disaster Relief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lor, Paul Bettencourt, and Donna Campbell, and Representatives Dade Phelan, Alma Allen, Gina Calanni, Garnet Coleman, Sarah Davis, Harold Dutton, Sam Harless, Dan Huberty, Will Metcalf, Rick Miller, Mayes Middleton, Ron Reynolds, Jon Rosenthal, Valoree Swanson, Steve Toth, and Armando Walle.

The bill signing was held at Gallery Furniture in Houston, owned by Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale. When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in August 2017, McIngvale opened two of his stores as shelter for Houstonians displaced by the storm. McIngvale's company also deployed its largest moving truck to help rescue those displaced by flooding.

"Thanks to the work of the legislature, we are rebuilding Texas stronger and more resilient than ever," said Governor Abbott. "In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we saw the unshakable spirit of the Lone Star State through the generosity of Texans helping their neighbors. These important pieces of legislation are a symbol of that spirit, as well as a sign of Texas' commitment to improving the way we respond to natural disasters."

House Bill 5 (Phelan, Kolkhorst) requires the Texas Division of Emer-



Mayor Turner greets Gov. Abbott this morning and thanks him for supporting disaster relief legislation

gency Management (TDEM) to develop a catastrophic debris management plan and training and establishes a work group to make recommendations on how local governments and property owners' associations can assist with recovery efforts. It also requires TDEM to develop a model contract for debris removal.

House Bill 7 (Morrison, Huffman) requires the Office of the Governor to develop a list of waivers that could be implemented following a disaster, and requires TDEM to develop a plan to assist local communities with disaster preparation contracts for services.

Senate Bill 6

(Kolkhorst, Morrison) requires TDEM to develop a disaster response model guide and a wet debris study group for local communities. SB 6 also creates a disaster recovery loan program within TDEM for communities that suffered significant infrastructure damage.

Senate Bill 7 (Creighton, Phelan) establishes the framework for providing a total of \$1.6 billion through the Texas Infrastructure Resilience Fund (TIRF) as matching funds available to those communities hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey, and through the Flood Infrastructure Fund for statewide infrastructure projects to mitigate future flooding events.

Primary Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will remove the problem of a voter not getting to vote because of going to the wrong location.

The process should reduce the amount of Provisional Ballots cast. One of the leading causes of a Provisional Ballot is because voters went to the wrong location due to their registered precinct or party selection. Allowing all voters to vote anywhere they choose and make their own party selection will overall reduce the number of provisional's needed.

Trautman said, "Having a Joint Primary Election will reduce voter confusion and make the entire process less stressful for the voters and allow them to perform the most important right they possess, the right to VOTE," she emphasized.

According to Teneshia Hudspeth, Director of Communications she said



County Clerk Diane Trautman (left) and Michael B. Winn, Director of Elections explaining the new procedure of how voter's will be able to privately declare their political party's affiliation. (PHOTO BY ALLAN JAMAIL)

the county already has the necessary equipment to implement this process and said it's estimated to save tax dollars of about \$275,000.

The Joint Election pro-

cess has been reviewed by both the Democratic and Republican Party Chairs, it will only take effect upon the approval of both chairs. The deadline for approval is July 15, 2019.

Property Tax Reforms signed into law

AUSTIN - June 12, 2019 - Governor Greg Abbott today signed into law Senate Bill 2, which delivers significant property tax reforms that will cap property tax increases without voter approval and provide tax reform to homeowners and businesses across Texas. The Governor hosted the bill signing at Wally's Burger Express in Austin, TX. Wally's Burger Express is a family-owned business founded in 1980 that has been struggling due to skyrocketing property taxes. Just this year, Wally's property taxes increased 44%.

The Governor was joined at the bill signing by Robert Mayfield, the owner of Wally's Burger Express, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Representatives Dustin Burrows, Terry Canales,

and John Zerwas, and Senators Kelly Hancock, Dawn Buckingham and Charles Perry.

"We made it clear from the outset of this session that our goal was not to simply mask the problem of skyrocketing property taxes, but to make transformative changes that would provide meaningful and lasting reform," said Governor Abbott. "Because of the work by legislators this session, we are ensuring that Texas remains the best state in the nation to live, work, start a business, and raise a family. By signing Senate Bill 2 into law, we are making tremendous strides to provide long-awaited relief to Texas homeowners and businesses."

Senate Bill 2 lowers the property tax rollback rate to 3.5% for cities and counties. Any increase to this

rollback rate in cities, counties, and some special districts will require voter approval and automatically trigger a tax ratification election. This rollback rate will be renamed the voter approval tax rate going forward.

SB 2 also requires taxing units to post their budgets, tax rates, and tax rate calculation worksheets online. The bill makes numerous improvements to the appraisal and protest process, such as prohibiting the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) from increasing the value of a taxpayer property above its initial value, increasing training requirements for ARB members and arbitrators, and entitling taxpayers to the evidence the appraisal district plans to present at their ARB hearing free of charge.

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