

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

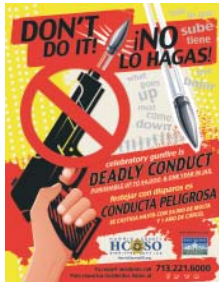
- New Scholarships at LS Colleg
- Legislation Wrap-Up

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THESE STORIES

# NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 45 Years  
VOL. 45, NO. 26 TUESDAY, JUNE 25 & JULY 2, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com



SEE PAGE 8

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SEE PAGE 8

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

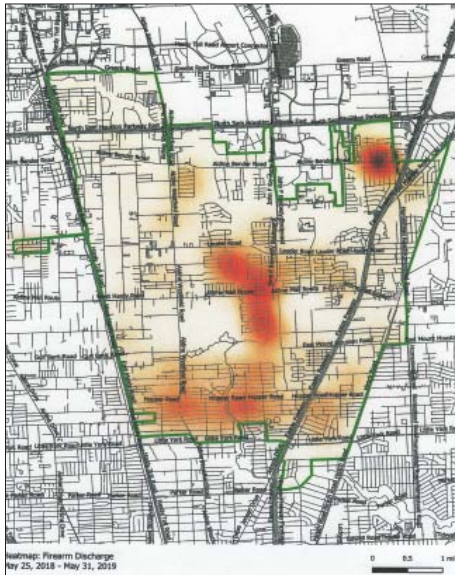
## Authorities caution against Celebratory Gunfire over Holiday

As the July 4th holiday approaches, the Harris County Sheriff's office and the East Aldine District have cautioned residents against shooting guns as part of their celebration of the events.

Each year persons are injured by bullets that fly into the air, and then come down and hit someone. In the past, these injuries have ranged from minor to fatal, and often involve someone in the shooters group of friends or family.

This activity is against the law, and is subject to a \$4000 fine and one year in jail, according to HCSO.

The department issued a map showing the locations with the most reports of gunfire over the last year. The worst locations were Aldine-Bender near Lee Road, High Meadows North and South subdivisions, and along the length of Hopper Road. Authorities said these will get extra patrols in the next three weeks.



This official map released by the Sheriff's department indicates areas with the most reports of gunfire in the last year with red dots. The green line indicates the East Aldine District boundary.

## East Aldine District hires more deputies

East Aldine Management District (EAMD) held their regular monthly board meeting last Tuesday night, and considered the problem of public safety and citizen reports of increased crime in some neighborhoods.

At several of the board meetings, citizens have come forward to report robberies, gunfire, and other problems in their areas.

Recently, the board heard of persistent nighttime gunfire on Ladin Road and the Castlewood subdivision. Another citizen complained of car and house robberies in neighborhoods along Mooney Road. They said there is increased drug activity near them. Others have reported to the board, or sheriff's office, or even this newspaper, of a "serial burglary ring" in the Oakwil-

de neighborhood.

East Aldine District pays for contract deputies in addition to regular sheriff and constable patrols. The DRT/Pro-Active unit consists of 10 deputies and one sergeant that spend 70% of their time on District patrols. For this service the District last year budgeted \$770,000.

With the increased reports of crime, they have voted to add three more deputies and another sergeant to this force.

Board member Reyes Garcia said that these new



BOARD MEMBER REYES GARCIA

See More Deputies, page 3

## Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin Project meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the status of the Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin project and share project information.

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

## 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.

## Northeast Redevelopment District vetoed by Governor

By Gilbert Hoffman

Community leaders and residents of Northeast Houston, including North Forest and some areas in Sheldon and Old Beaumont Gardens, were disappointed to learn that Governor Abbott had vetoed SB390, which would have created a Redevelopment District for their area.

It was expected that the new district would have been a boost to economic development in the area, and also bring other quality of life improvements such as increased police patrols, water and sewer improvements, and more educational opportunities, similar to other Management Districts.

State Senator Borris Miles, who represents the area and was the major sponsor of the bill, issued the following statement: "I am very disappointed and shocked with the Governor's veto of SB 390, which would create the Northeast Houston Redevelopment District. The governor's office did not indicate any problem with this bill until late in the session but worked with my staff on changes to eliminate concerns and even helped clear procedural hurdles to get the bill passed. This part of Senate District 13 has been in desperate need of economic development for years and was one of the areas hit the hardest by Hurricane Harvey."



STATE SENATOR BORRIS MILES

"While this veto eliminates a tool to help revitalize the area, it will not stop my efforts to continue working with the community to bring more new businesses and jobs for the people in these neighborhoods."

The area that would have been included in the Northeast Houston Redevelopment District is east of US59, and north of Liberty Road, including land in Harris County and the City of Houston.

## One dead, one critical in Pine Forest North shooting

Sheriff's deputies are investigating the shooting of two men in the Pine Forest North subdivision. The incident occurred about 11:30 am last Thursday morning. The location was in the service alley behind townhomes in the 5700 block of Easthampton Drive, according to authorities.

About 20 shots were fired into the windshield of a Jeep Liberty. According to HCSO Homicide investigator Lt. Robert Minchew, the driver was killed, and

the passenger is in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head. He was taken by ambulance to Ben Taub hospital, where his condition is unknown.

The two African-American male victims were in their 20s, but at this time their identity has not been announced. A motive for the shooting is not known.



A Sheriff's deputy notes location of about 20 gun shells.

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**PREMIERE CINEMAS**  
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**THURSDAY, June 25 ONLY**

- \* ANNABELLE COMES HOME (R) 5:00p 7:25p 10:00p
- Opens THURSDAY, June 27
- \* YESTERDAY (PG-13) 7:00p 9:40p
- \* ANNA (R) 12:00pm, 2:40pm, 5:30pm, 8:50pm
- \* CHILD'S PLAY (R) 12:30pm, 2:40pm, 4:50pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
- \* TOY STORY 4 (G) 11:30am, 4:20pm, 9:00pm Spanish Dubbed
- \* TOY STORY 4 (G) 11:45am, 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 4:50pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm, 9:40pm Open Caption
- \* TOY STORY 4 in Disney Digital 3D (G) 2:30pm, 7:15pm
- \* TOY STORY 4 in Disney Digital 3D (G) 2:00pm, 6:40pm Spanish Dubbed
- \* MEN IN BLACK: International (PG-13) 11:00am, 4:30pm, 9:50pm
- \* MEN IN BLACK: International (PG-13) 11:00am, 4:20pm, 9:40pm Spanish Dubbed
- \* MEN IN BLACK: International 3D (PG-13) 1:40pm, 7:15pm
- \* MEN IN BLACK: International 3D (PG-13) - 1:40pm, 7:00pm
- \* DARK PHOENIX 3D (PG-13) - 4:00pm, 10:00pm
- \* LATE NIGHT (R) - 10:00pm
- \* THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 3D (PG) - 2:45pm, 7:15pm
- \* THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) - 12:30pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm
- \* 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
- \* John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R) 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
- \* THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (R) - 1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Calling all community heroes, new scholarship available at LSC-North Harris

Do you know a student that works as hard outside of the classroom as he or she does inside the classroom?

Lone Star College-North Harris students heavily involved in community service are encouraged to apply for The Community Superhero Scholarship. Each year, D. Miller & Associates, PLLC awards a \$1,500 scholarship to one deserving student who exemplifies what it means to be a hero to their community. The

deadline to apply for the 2019 Community Superhero Scholarship is Thursday, June 30, 2019.

"Getting out there and doing something good for your community is an enlightening supplement to a formal education," said Darren A. Miller, founder and senior attorney at D. Miller & Associates, PLLC.

Qualified applicants must meet the following criteria: 3.0 GPA, demonstrable history of community service and volunteerism, submit an

essay on the topic below, submit an unofficial transcript and agree to the scholarship terms and conditions listed on the scholarship website. Applicants must write a 500-1000 word essay answering the question: "How are you a superhero in your community?"

For more information, please visit [dmillerlaw.com/community-superhero-scholarship](http://dmillerlaw.com/community-superhero-scholarship) or email [victor@dmillerlaw.com](mailto:victor@dmillerlaw.com).

## Lone Star College student recognized at Houston Astros game

HOUSTON (June 17, 2019) – Alberto Gonzalez is ready to attend Texas A&M University in the fall to pursue a degree in electrical or chemical engineering thanks to the education he received at Lone Star College.

"I would say that my Lone Star College experience has influenced me by teaching me how to become a good person, not just a good student," said Gonzalez. "If it were not for Lone Star College, I would be working at a dead-end job somewhere and be completely oblivious to my own capabilities and potential."

Earlier this year, Gonzalez earned a Chancellor's Breakfast Scholarship funded by Lone Star College Foundation. The Chancellor's Breakfast recognized 12 LSC students, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship made possible due to the generosity of LSC Foundation donors and supporters.

"The Lone Star College Foundation is able to help students like Alberto because of the support of our generous donors and sponsors," said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, LSC Foundation executive director. "Alberto is an amazing story and a testament to what hard work can accomplish."

Gonzalez earned an Associate of Science degree in General Math and Science in May.

In addition to the Chancellor's Breakfast Scholarship, Gonzalez was also awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship provides \$40,000 per year for up to three years to cover a substantial share of educational expenses including tuition, living expenses,



Lone Star College student Alberto Gonzalez was recently honored at a Houston Astros game for his academic success. Pictured are Gonzalez (left) and Dr. Oscar Ramos, dean, LSC-Atascocita Center and LSC-Process Technology Center.

books and required fees.

"After focusing so much of my attention on finances for school for so long it is a completely new feeling to know that I no longer have to," said Gonzalez. "I have never been more excited to continue my education, meet other scholars and have the opportunities to help others reach their academic goals."

Lone Star College has been helping students like Gonzalez start close and go far for more than 43 years. Registration is underway for fall 2019 classes. Learn more at [LoneStar.edu/Start](http://LoneStar.edu/Start).

Founded in 1991, Lone Star College Foundation has expanded its initial investment of \$20,000 into an extensive portfolio of over \$26 million. Since its inception, the Foundation has provided over \$14 million in scholarships to nearly 14,500 students, as well as more than \$6 million in program support. The mission of the LSC

Foundation is to change lives through student scholarships and quality educational programs achieved by excellence in relationship building, fundraising and investment management. Visit [LoneStar.edu/Giving](http://LoneStar.edu/Giving) for more information.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of nearly \$3 billion. LSC consists of seven colleges, eight centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit [LoneStar.edu](http://LoneStar.edu).

## Alisd's Ashauna Lindo one of 12 Texas educators chosen for Texas Tech's 2019-2020 Texas Education Policy Fellowship Program Cohort

Aldine ISD's Ashauna Lindo, the district's virtual school facilitator, was one of 12 educators and professionals chosen by Texas Tech University to participate in the school's inaugural cohort of the Texas Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), a professional development initiative housed in the College of Education that seeks to recruit and engage a diverse and collaborative community of strategic leaders to promote equitable education policy.

The 2019-2020 cohort is made up of a diverse group of 12 leaders and professionals from public school districts, a charter school, institutions of higher education, a STEM certification program and non-profit organizations. They represent the many different regions in Texas; members of the cohort are based in Austin, El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, Midland and San Antonio.

The fellows are joining a prestigious nationwide network that includes sites in 16 other states and the District of Columbia and thousands of alumni across the United States. Fellows will have the opportunity to attend leadership and policy events in Austin and Washington, D.C. They will also be able to interact with the Texas commissioner of education and senior leaders of non-profit education organizations in Texas.

"Texas Education Policy Fellowship Program is excited to collaborate with this group of emerging leaders and help facilitate their efforts as agents of change in their communities," said Rebecca Hite, Texas EPFP director and an assistant professor in the College of Education. "Specifically, EPFP provides opportunities to uniquely engage in public policy and how it is made, intro-

duces fellows to key players in the education policy arena, and improves and develops leadership skills. As a result, our state is enriched with knowledgeable, skillful and networked policymakers, educators and leaders."

The 2019-2020 cohort of Texas Education Policy Fellowship Program fellows are:

- Ashauna Lindo of Houston, virtual school facilitator at Aldine Independent School District
- Tamara Anderson of San Antonio, associate director of student success at Alamo Colleges District
- Alyssa Benevides of El Paso, associate managing director of clinical informatics at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
- Whitney Dove of Houston, manager of professional learning design and technology at National Institute for STEM Education
- Karla Duran of San Antonio, industry liaison at Alamo Academies
- Stacy Ybarra Evans of San Antonio, director of student engagement at Catch the Next
- Ray Hernandez of San Antonio, director of high school programs at San Antonio College
- Ryan Litsey of Lubbock, associate librarian and head of document delivery at Texas Tech University Libraries
- Catherine Nuttner of Lubbock, senior director for University Advising at Texas Tech University
- Cameron Petty of Austin, communications director at Texas Aspires
- Tamira Samuel of Houston, dean of instruction at YES Prep Northline
- Kellie Wilks of Midland, chief technology officer atECTOR County Independent School District



Ashauna Lindo

To read fellows' biographies and leadership statements, please visit [www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/epfp/meet-the-cohort.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/outreach-and-research/epfp/meet-the-cohort.php).

Texas EPFP is a state-based site of the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and coordinated by faculty in the College of Education. The program is a ten-month learning experience for professionals who have demonstrated leadership and interest in Texan education issues. Fellows will meet regularly from September 2019 through June 2020 and will participate in IEL's Washington Policy Seminar and a fall leadership retreat at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. Held in Washington, D.C., the Washington Policy Seminar is a capstone event that brings together fellows from all EPFP sites to engage more deeply with the national discourse on education policy. A summer graduation event for the Texas cohort is planned for June 2020 in Lubbock.

EPFP boasts 9,000 alumni in all 50 states, including state legislators, university presidents, school superintendents, state teachers of the year and leaders of nonprofits and foundations.

## Aldine ISD free Back-to-School Family Engagement Expo set for July 27

The Aldine Independent School District is hosting its fourth annual Back-to-School Family Engagement Expo. This FREE event is open to families in Aldine ISD with children in pre-kindergarten to high school.

The Expo is set for Saturday, July 27 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center (1865 Aldine Bender Rd.) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event is a partnership with Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia and Baker Ripley.

### A Back-to-School State of Mind

Learn about programs and services that promote academic success and prepare students for college and career.

Learn how to help increase your child's literacy skills and college readiness.

Learn about the district's school choice options — Magnet Schools, International Baccalaureate@ Schools, Victory Early College High School, Blanson Career and Technical Education High Schools, and Avalos Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School

Free immunizations (while supplies last) — To qualify, parents must bring their child's immunization record with them.

Low-cost school physicals for athletes and band students (\$10.00 cash only).

There will also be door prizes and refreshments.

Complete your Expo Passport requirements at the event and get a chance to qualify for FREE giveaways such as uniforms, school supplies, and books!

### Workshop Session Topics

Raising Readers for Academic Success

Protecting Your Child From Human Trafficking

Parent Empowerment: Strong Parents, Strong Kids

The Importance of Breakfast

Getting Connected: Aldine's Digital Resources

Protecting Your Child From Opioid Addiction

Pathway to College

Exploring School Choice Options

Baker Ripley East Aldine: Your New Community Center. Making Learning Fun!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Judge releases survey results

Talking Transition shows Residents' Concerns: Distrust of criminal justice system, lack of information, and geographic and socio-economic divides.

Harris County, TX, June 19, 2019 - Today, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo released results from Talking Transition, a community-wide survey launched after she took office in January. Over 11,000 people participated in the survey, which was conducted in five languages, and available online and in person.

The survey is one of many approaches Judge Hidalgo's office is using to inform decision-makers about the issues that matter most to Harris County residents. The following are some of the key survey findings:

- Many Harris County respondents reported a lack of information on county government, including its composition and functions;
• Nearly half of respondents have a negative perception of the criminal justice system;
• Regardless of where they live, 44% of respondents reported feeling increasingly unsafe against future natural disasters;
• 24% of Harris County respondents reported that their air and water quality is "terrible," and a third of respondents estimated that overall quality is declining;
• A quarter of respondents reported that public transportation options are getting worse - this was especially prevalent in areas not served by METRO;
• One-third of respondents say they have had trouble paying for affordable housing in the last



HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

year, with many also saying they were affected by Harvey;

- 36% of respondents living in eastern and southern parts of Harris County reported having difficulty finding quality jobs to support their families.

"Whether it's a concern about the air we breathe, the water we drink, our safety during a flood, or the opportunity to provide for our families, every Harris County resident has a voice, and we are committed to listening and taking action," Judge Hidalgo said. "Based on residents' feedback, we've already taken concrete steps and will continue to push for changes as part of an inclusive process that will make Harris County government work for everyone, regardless of zip code."

The County Judge's Office is implementing a new 311 system that will allow residents county-wide to access services and streamlined information. Additionally, Judge Hidalgo recently launched Harris Thrives, an interactive website to help residents track how recovery dollars are being spent. Both projects aim to make information more accessible and connect residents to county government services.

Texas Tribune: Discussing Legislation Bills



Last week, on June 19, a panel of elected officials from the Houston area, including Senator Carol Alvarado, Representative Sara Davis, Representative Dan Huberty and Representative Armando Valle discussed the biggest bills of the 86th Legislature Session and their impact in Houston. The Texas Tribune event took place at George R. Brown Convention Center.

Investigation into fatal crash at Eastex Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 2300 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) about 1:05 p.m. on Saturday, June 15.

According to Houston Police Officials, the victim was driving a black Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck northbound on the Eastex Freeway when her vehicle was struck from behind by a gray BMW 5 Series sedan. The pickup truck then struck a brown Volkswagen Jetta.

Paramedics transported the driver of the pickup truck to Memorial Hermann Hospital in critical condition. She was pronounced deceased at the hospital on Monday, June 17.

The male driver of the BMW sustained an injury to his hand and was transported to an area hospital. The female driver of the Volkswagen was not injured.

No charges have been filed in the crash, pending further investigation.

Commissioner Garcia now offering free SAT Prep Course at eleven Precinct 2 locations

Precinct 2 and Project Grad Houston Team up to help students prepare for the SAT

HOUSTON, TX - (June 17, 2019) - Commissioner Adrian Garcia is working to fulfill his promise to make education a priority by launching a free test-prep program. In partnership with Project GRAD Houston, Harris County Precinct 2 will now offer a free 4-week course that will help students prepare for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).

The session will be held in multiple locations throughout the Precinct starting July 27, 2019 to

August 22, 2019. Precinct 2 residents and students will be able to take part in these classes twice a week from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"I believe education is the key to success and I want to make sure that everyone has all access to every educational opportunity," said Commissioner Garcia.

SAT exams are essential for the admission to colleges and universities throughout the United States. Prep courses could range an average of \$200 to \$900. Thanks to Commissioner Garcia's partnership, students can now register and take this course for free.

"This is an opportunity for all the students that have a dream to move on to higher institutions to get professional and a well-structured curriculum for their SAT preparations," said Commissioner Garcia.

For eligibility, applicants must be registered to take the SAT exam on August 24, 2019 and be a resident or student in Precinct 2. Applications must be submitted by Friday, July 12, 2019.

To learn more about the program, applicants can call (713) 274-2130, visit www.hcp2.com/testprep to download application, or email testprep@hcp2.com

Investigation into shooting incident at Benmar Drive

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man at 355 Benmar Drive about 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 15.

The victim, Timmy Price, 39, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

According to HPD Major Assault & Family Violence Division Detectives A. Ferrell and J. Roberts, HPD patrol officers responded to a person down call at the

address and arrived to find Mr. Price shot and lying in the middle of an apartment complex courtyard. Witnesses reported hearing two gunshots, but did not see the shooting.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

More Deputies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deputies should be assigned to the evening shift, where much of the crime is occurring.

The duties of all the contract deputies, including the new ones, are to patrol the district, and employ strategies in advance to assist with issues such as homeless encampments, panhandling trespassing, robbery, and burglary, as well as community outreach or contact.

At the last Public Safety committee meeting of the

District, the Pro-Active/DRT unit reported 38 adult arrests, 27 warrants, 57 traffic citations, 163 accident reports, and 22 school checks. Nuisance abatement officer Sgt. Eric Stormer reported 28 new cases, and 14 follow-up. District II Patrol reported 2 murder suspects were caught, one of them armed. A kidnapping suspect was caught and the victim released. Also, 12 kilo's of cocaine were recovered from a traffic stop.

The Sheriff's storefront had 80 calls for service, 59 walk-ins, and 67 phone calls.

One citizen, Aracelli Ramos, reported that the deputies had increased patrols in her neighborhood after contacting the board last month, and that they were seeing a difference in the amount of crime.

In addition to hiring more deputies, the board also voted a pay raise to attract and keep more candidates for patrols.

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia sends letter opposing changes to the Official Poverty Calculation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - June 19, 2019 - Today, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, Vice Chair on Rural Poverty for the Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity and other members of the Task Force sent a letter to Acting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russ Vought urging him not to implement the recently announced changes to the federal poverty calculations. In the letter, the Members wrote:

"The ramifications of the proposal to lower the poverty threshold are widespread, but the process laid out by this Administration to consider

such a monumental change is deeply flawed and inadequate. If there were to be changes to the Census poverty thresholds, the administration should consider more robust research that would explore all of the issues - including all of the ways that the current poverty thresholds understate the income needed for families to afford the basics, and the evidence that low-income households can face higher rates of inflation than the economy overall - and far more input from experts, policymakers, and the public than allowed for by a paltry 45-day com-

ment window provided in the May 7th notice."

Congresswoman Garcia was joined by Majority Leader Hoyer (MD-5), Chair Barbara Lee (CA-13), Rep. TJ Cox (CA-21), Vice Chair on Rural Poverty; Rep. Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Vice Chair on Urban Poverty; Rep. Deb Haaland (NM-01), Vice Chair on Families and Children Living in Poverty; Rep. Ben McAdams (UT-04), Vice Chair on Economic Opportunity, Education, and Workforce Development; and Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-02), Vice Chair on Housing and Transportation.

Advertisement for AARP Auto Insurance Program from The Hartford, highlighting \$357 savings and 96% customer recommendation.

Advertisement for Spectrum TV + Internet + Voice bundle, priced at \$99.97 per month, with details on features and contact information.

OPINION PAGE



# Social Security Matters

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

## Ask Rusty – Confused about working, Medicare and spouse benefits

**Dear Rusty:** I will reach my full retirement age (FRA) in September of 2020 at age 66. My wife will be 64 at that time and will start drawing her SS at 1/2 of my benefit because it will be more than hers, even if she reached her FRA. My question is, I know I will need to sign up for Medicare Part A this year at age 65 but do I need Part B at this time? Both myself and my wife work for the same company and have insurance through them. I will have insurance for one more year through the company until I retire at 66. Another question is when I retire at 66 and my wife retires at age 64 at 1/2 my benefit, will she be able to sign up for Medicare because she is drawing SS benefits? Or will she have to wait until 3 months before she turns 65? Signed: Planning Our Retirement

**Dear Planning:** Signing up for Medicare when you turn 65 is optional if you have creditable employer coverage. If you enroll in Part A, and you have a Health Savings Account (HSA) you and your employer must both stop contributing to it the month before you turn 65. Whether you should take Medicare Part B (coverage for doctors and other outpatient services) at age 65 depends upon whether your healthcare coverage through your employer is considered a "creditable" alternative to Medicare Part B coverage. Generally, if it's a group plan with more than 20 participants it will be considered creditable, but you should check with your HR department to make sure. Assuming your employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B until your employer coverage ends. At that time, you'll enter a "special enrollment period" during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B (and Part D drug plan) without a late enrollment penalty. You can enroll in Part B (and Part D) a little before your employer coverage ends so as to avoid any lapse in health care coverage.

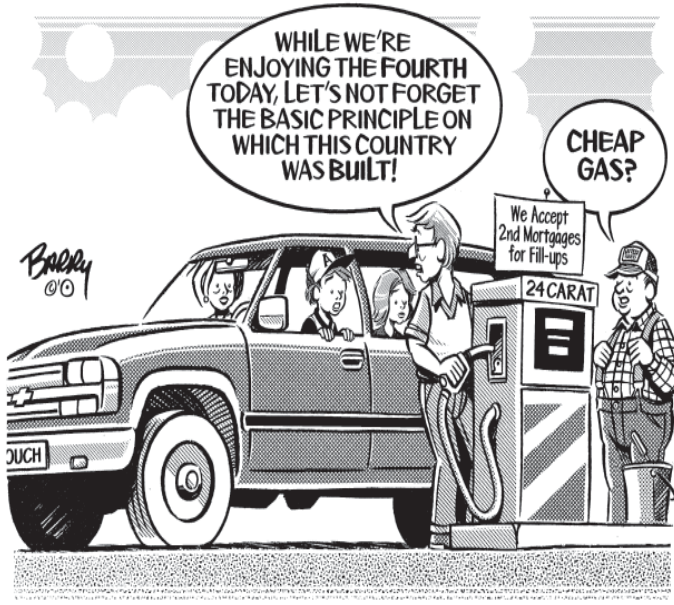
If your wife claims her Social Security benefit at age 64 when you claim your SS at age 66, her own benefit will be reduced, and her spousal benefit will

also be reduced from 50% of yours because she is claiming the spousal benefit earlier than her full retirement age. Any time any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than one's full retirement age it is reduced. Taken 2 years before her FRA, your wife's spousal benefit will be about 42% of yours, not 50%.

Your wife cannot enroll in Medicare simply because she is collecting Social Security; she's not eligible for Medicare until she is 65 (she can enroll 3 months earlier for coverage to start the month she turns 65). If your wife retires from work before she is eligible for Medicare, she may use COBRA coverage until she reaches age 65 and her Medicare coverage begins. If your wife claims her Social Security to start when she retires at 64, she will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B just prior to her turning 65 years of age, but if she continues to work and still has creditable employee (not COBRA) healthcare coverage from her employer at that time and wishes to delay enrolling in Part B (to avoid the premium), she can do so until her employer coverage ends. Then when her employer coverage ends, she should enroll in Medicare Part B (and Part D plan) during her special enrollment period so as to avoid any future late enrollment penalties.

Finally, you should both be enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage) because it is required to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A coverage is free for anyone who is eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

*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 [amacfoundation.org](http://amacfoundation.org).*



## Governor signs school safety, mental health bill

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, and 23 House and Senate members joined Gov. Greg Abbott in Houston on June 13 as he signed four disaster preparedness and relief bills into law.

The group met at Gallery Furniture, owned by Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale, to look on as Abbott put his signature on the bills. When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in August 2017, McIngvale opened two of his stores to shelter storm-displaced Houstonians and his company deployed its largest moving truck to rescue people in flooded neighborhoods.

"Thanks to the work of the Legislature, we are rebuilding Texas stronger and more resilient than ever," said 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."

The bills Abbott signed at the gathering include:

— HB 5 by Rep. Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, requiring the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to develop a catastrophic debris management plan and training and establish a work group to make recommendations on how local governments and property owners' associations can assist with recovery efforts. HB 5 also requires the TDEM to develop a model contract for debris removal.

— HB 7 by Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, and Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, requiring the governor's office to develop a list of waivers that could be implemented following a disaster and requiring the TDEM to develop a plan to assist local communities with disaster preparation contracts for services.

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

### Revenue is distributed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on June 12 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$782.1 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of June.

The amount is 10.1 percent more than the comptroller's office distributed in June 2018.

Local sales tax allocations are based on sales made in April by businesses that report tax monthly.

### Board of plumbing lives on

Gov. Abbott on June 13 signed an executive order for the State Board of Plumbing Examiners to continue its functions until May 31, 2021.

Without Abbott's action, the board would have been abolished on Sept. 1, 2019, because the Legislature did not act to renew its functions under the Texas Sunset Act, a law that requires periodic review of state boards and commissions for continuation or abolishment.

Abbott said it is necessary to continue the board "to perform its indispensable role in protecting Texans" in fulfilling the demands for rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey and for "keeping Texas prepared and able to recover from future disasters."

### Lawmaker is elected mayor

State Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, emerged the winner of a June 8 runoff election with challenger Scott Griggs and was elected mayor of Dallas. The oath of office is to be administered on June 17.

Johnson, who succeeds Mike Rawlings as mayor of Dallas, joined the Legislature in April 2010 after winning a special election to succeed state Rep. Terri Hodge.

Johnson will be succeeded as state representative for House District 100 by the winner of a special election.



## Olives: A Good-For-You, On-The-Go Snack

(NAPSI)—Among the tastiest and most versatile fruits on Earth, olives are enjoyed by many cultures around the world. They have been in existence for 8,000 years, and while olives are not indigenous to the Americas, they have been in the New World for a good long time.

### Then

It was the Spanish who introduced olives to Peru and Argentina in the 1500s. As time passed, olive trees made their way up the Pacific Coast through Mexico when Spanish missionaries brought them to California in 1769.

However, it wasn't until the 1900s when commercial olive production began in the United States, thanks to a German immigrant woman named Freda Ehmman. She had a small grove and began experimenting with 280 gallons of olives on her back porch in Oakland, California, thus inventing the ripe olive style that Americans have come to know and love.

### Now

Today, from Washington to Florida and in every state in between, olives are found on pizzas, pastas, salads, tacos and in casseroles, but many people prefer the pleasure of eating an olive in its simplest form.

### Nutritious and Delicious

Olives are loaded with phytonutrients, rich with omega-3s, low in carbohydrates and only a few calories a pop, so you can enjoy them every day.

To make that easier than ever, Lindsay created Snack and Go!, snack-size cups that can be easily packed in a lunchbox, taken to work for when those salty cravings kick in, or stashed in the car to satisfy hunger pangs that hit between school and soccer practice. They're liquid-free so there's no mess. Whether you like black ripe olives whole or sliced, Kalamatas or pimiento stuffed, Lindsay has you covered.

### Fun Facts About Olives

- A Manzanilla tree can grow over 7,000 olives on average.
- An olive tree can live for more than 1,000 years.
- The folks at Lindsay pit 1,800 olives per minute.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

State Rep. Ana Hernandez Session Wrap-up

Disaster Preparedness

Our state can't wait for the next major hurricane or natural disaster to strike before taking action. In order to prepare for the next emergency, the Legislature passed the following bills:

- House Bill 5, creating a catastrophic debris management plan for local communities to expedite debris removal following a disaster;
- House Bill 6, creating a "Disaster Recovery Task Force" to help communities with specialized assistance when a disaster strikes;
- House Bill 7, compiling disaster regulatory waivers needed during a disaster to have them ready to go (expedites response and recovery);
- House Bill 2305, enhancing emergency management training for personnel at the state and local level;
- House Joint Resolution 4, proposing a constitutional amendment for voters in November 2019 to provide for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in financing drainage, flood mitigation and flood control projects;
- House Bill 492 and House Joint Resolution 35, providing for a temporary property tax exemption during a declared disaster; and
- Senate Bill 7, creating the Flood Infrastructure Fund to fund a statewide effort for regional flood planning and flood mitigation projects to strengthen our state's infrastructure.

Healthcare/Quality of Life

Several new health-re-



Rep. Hernandez with veterans at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School's Veterans Day Program.

lated laws were adopted this year that address a multitude of issues, from expanding insurance coverage for telemedicine services to raising the age to purchase cigarettes.
- House Bill 123, allowing youth in foster care, youth experiencing homelessness, and unaccompanied minors to receive a copy of their birth certificate without parental consent and with no fee, and apply for a driver's license or state ID without paying a fee;
- House Bill 1576, providing flexibility in the Medicaid medical transportation program by allowing Medicaid clients to utilize ride-sharing companies to provide transportation to appointments;
- House Bill 2050, protecting residents in nursing homes and long-term care facilities from being coerced, influenced or unknowingly administered an antipsychotic or neuroleptic medication without written consent from the resident or a person authorized to consent on their behalf, reducing the poten-

tial for abuse;
- House Bill 3345, requiring private health plans to cover telemedicine just as they would an in-person visit;
- Senate Bill 21, raising the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21, with an exemption for military personnel; and
- Senate Bill 568, ensuring more information is available to parents on the safety records of child care centers and strengthening the child care license renewal process.
Mental Health
Lawmakers worked diligently to pass several comprehensive pieces of legislation to address mental health needs, particularly on school campuses. These include:
- House Bill 18, enhancing school safety and mental health resources for students and school personnel, and works to reduce the stigma around mental health conditions;
- House Bill 19, placing non-physician mental health professionals at education service centers to

provide resources for educators and administrators in school districts and charter schools; and
- Senate Bill 11, creating the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium to facilitate access to mental health care services through telehealth and the child psychiatry access network and expand the mental health workforce through training and funding opportunities.

Supporting Veterans and Our Military

The transition to civilian life can be challenging for military personnel and their families. Lawmakers passed measures to help ease this burden.
- House Bill 1883, allowing active duty military personnel to pay property taxes late without penalty when away from home for military service; and
- Senate Bill 1200, allowing Texas licensing agencies to grant temporary licenses to a military spouse moving to Texas who carries a comparable license from another state.

Public Safety/Property and Consumer Protection

Lawmakers advanced several pieces of legislation that seek to make Texas a safer place for everyone.
- House Bill 8, eliminating the backlog of rape kits;
- Senate Bill 616, establishing the conditional transfer of the driver's license program from DPS to the DMV and extending the expiration date of a driver's license from 6 to 8 years;
- House Bill 1631, banning the use of red light

cameras in Texas;
- House Bill 1885, making it possible to waive penalties if a bank fails to forward a tax bill to a property owner in time, protecting homeowners from unreasonable fines that are out of their control;
- House Bill 1941, allowing the Attorney General to investigate and file a restraining order against freestanding emergency rooms that are price gouging their patients;
- House Bill 3106, "Molly Jane's Law," requiring law enforcement agencies to enter the personal information of suspects of sexual offenses into a statewide database to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to identify statewide assault patterns and investigate across jurisdictional lines;
- House Bill 3809, doubling the amount of time a victim of childhood sex abuse has to file a civil lawsuit against their abuser from 15 to 30 years;
- Senate Bill 20, codifying recommendations from the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force report issued in December 2018. These recommendations crack down on illicit massage businesses, enhance investigative and prosecutorial tools and protect trafficking victims; and
- Senate Bill 1264, banning balance billing, which occurs when consumers are led to believe their medical treatment is covered by insurance when it isn't and are left to pay the balance. This bill creates a new system that removes consumers from balance billing disputes, leaving the settlement over reim-

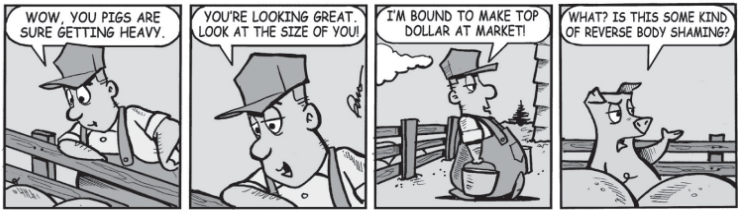
bursement between the insurer and provider.

Legislation Passed By Rep. Hernandez

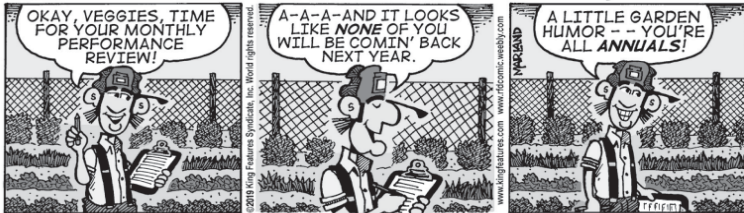
In addition to the measures mentioned above, Representative Hernandez authored and passed several critical pieces of legislation to address challenges facing our state. These include:
- House Bill 833, establishing a statewide "Camo Alert" system for missing military members;
- House Bill 979, including convictions for assault and unlawful restraint into the state's criminal DNA database;
- House Bill 1374, providing resources to establish pretrial diversion programs for defendants who are pregnant or the primary caretaker of a child;
- House Bill 2214, helping expedite the issuance of occupational licenses for veterans, active-duty military personnel, and military spouses;
- House Bill 2758, restricting eligibility for probation and deferred adjudication for certain human trafficking and prostitution offenses;
- Senate Bill 475 (House Bill 3378), creating the Electric Grid Security Council, comprised of officials from the Public Utility Commission, ERCOT and Office of the Governor to work with federal energy and national security officials to harden our grid against physical or cyber attacks;
- Senate Bill 936 (House Bill 3377), creating a cybersecurity monitor to protect against potential

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Amber Waves



R.F.D.



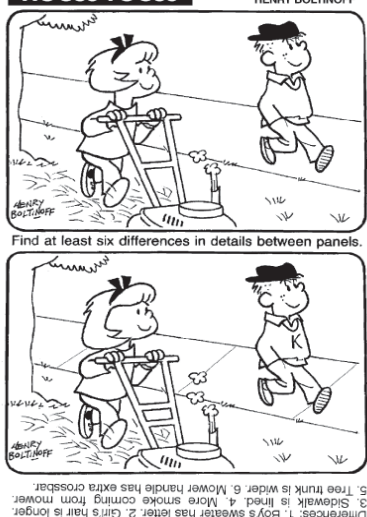
The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 8, 9, 1, 5, 7, 2, 8, 4, 6, 5, 9, 4, 7, 9, 9, 4, 2, 1, 8, 5, 7, 6, 4, 8, 1, 5. Includes difficulty level: Moderate and Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS



King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with 55 numbered squares. Includes ACROSS and DOWN clues such as 'Fruity spread', 'Scrabble piece', 'Tarzan's clique', 'The - Daba Honeymoon', 'Valhalla VIP', 'Existed', 'Troop group', 'Release', 'Is frugal', 'Ostrich's cousin', 'Cauldron', 'Let up', 'Photo book', 'Evergreen type', 'Pond carp', 'Sudden shock', 'Blue', 'Desirous look', 'Fuss', 'Arctic diver', 'Move laterally', 'New', 'A billion years', 'Bearded beast', 'Heavy hammer', 'Long, narrow drum', 'Overly proper one', 'Dweller', 'Mexican entree', '"Zounds!"', 'Varnish ingredient', '"So be it"', 'Diocese', 'Suggestions', 'Kitten's comment', 'Ordinal suffix', 'out (supplemented)', 'Yuletide refrain', 'Grow weary', 'Open slightly', 'Source of riches', 'United nations', 'Talk on and on', 'Surgical stitching', 'Queued (up)', 'Curry or Coulter', 'Cubes, spheres, et al.', 'Incite', 'English composition', 'Take out of context?', 'Summertime pest', 'Leave a lasting impression', 'Bake sale org.', 'Aries', 'Lemieux milieu', 'Swelled head'.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on geography, U.S. presidents, history, television, literature, music, chemistry, firsts, movies, and general knowledge. Includes a crossword puzzle and a word search.

1. Australia; 2. Thomas Jefferson; 3. Boris Yeltsin; 4. Jerry and Millie Helper; 5. Parts; 6. Elon John; 7. Tin; 8. Sandra Day O'Connor; 9. The Civil War; 10. Idlewild Airport

# Acres Homes celebrates Juneteenth

The eighth annual Juneteenth Parade was held in Acres Home on Saturday -- and it was a big one.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

The event, which was hosted by Mayor Sylvester Turner, featured more than 100 entries, including local marching bands, dancing groups, vintage cars and more.

The event had many guests, including Christina Wells, from "America's Got Talent," and rapper Trae Tha Truth.



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**EVENT**

**Wylie - Bluegrass** on Ballard, Sat. June 29, 100 S. Ballard Ave. Music 1-9 p.m.; Arts & Crafts 10 a.m.-9 p.m., [WylieTexas.gov](http://WylieTexas.gov); Classic Car show 4-9 p.m., pre-register [DiscoverWylie.com](http://DiscoverWylie.com).

**Snyder - Casino Night,** 7 p.m., July 5, The Coliseum, Snyder, TX. Sponsored by the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Foundation.

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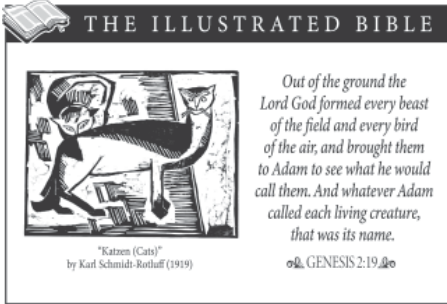
# LIFESTYLE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
 2. Whom did God not allow to build a temple, as he had been a man of war? David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jesse  
 3. In Proverbs 6:6, where/ what should lazy people go to for wisdom? Mountaintop, Temple, Priest, The ant

4. What kind of place was Patmos, where John received his revelation? Temple, Isle, Ship, Mountain  
 5. In Revelation 20, what is the eternal home for those not written in the book of life? Whirlwinds, Lake of fire, Underworld, Exile  
 6. Who was the father of Gershom? Adam, Noah, Moses, David  
**ANSWERS:** 1) New; 2) David; 3) The ant; 4) Isle; 5) Lake of fire; 6) Moses



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 Izeal R. Carroll Murdoch  
 Kathryn Caroline Brumlow  
 Ramon Zapata  
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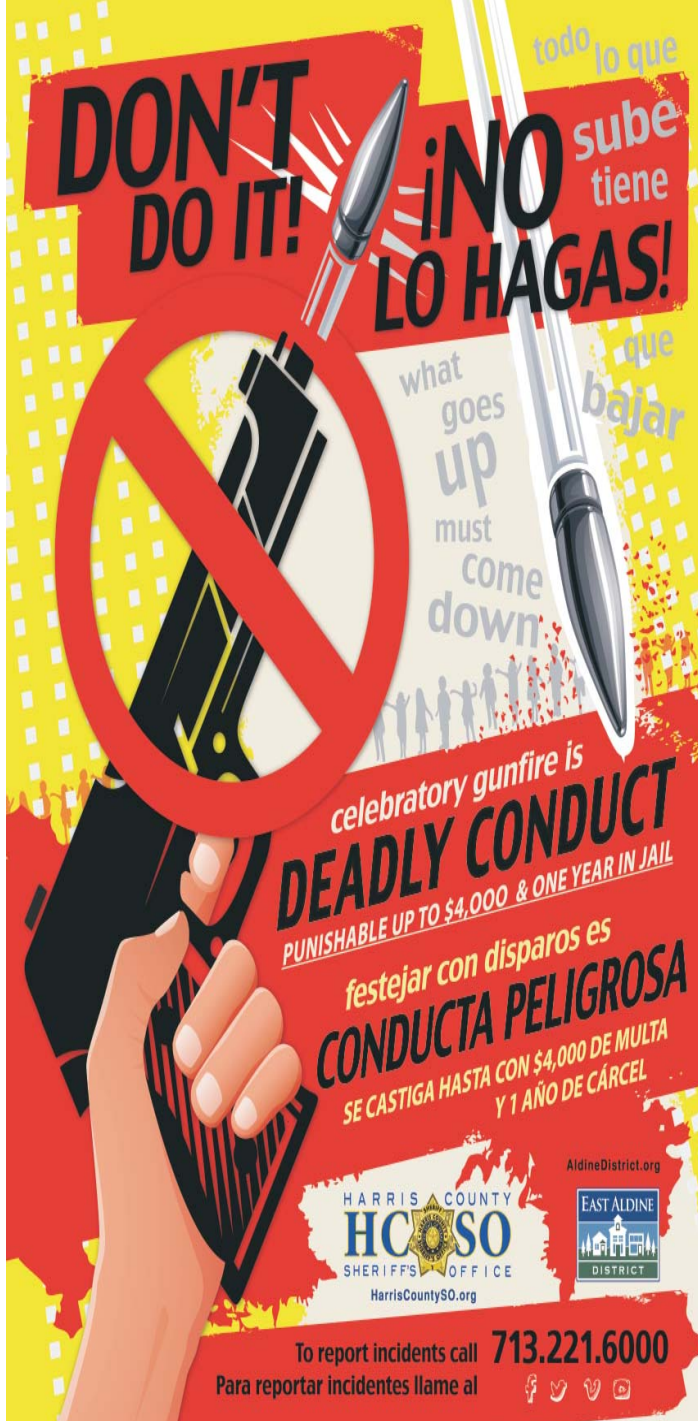
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