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- Juan Diaz, p8
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- Entertainment Page, p5

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THESE STORIES

NORTHEAST NEWS

State Senator Borris Miles...



Senator Miles voices his opinion on the Governor's Veto of the bill creating the Northeast Houston Redevelopment District. See Page 4

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

NEWS NOTES

HAPPY Summer Camp at Nimitz HS

Halls Bayou flood meeting

Community Engagement Meeting for Halls Bayou Tributary P118-26
A Community Engagement Meeting for the Halls Bayou Tributary P118-26 and Related Stormwater Detention Project is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st from 6 PM- 8 PM at Hardy Senior Center (11901 W. Hardy Road Houston, Texas 77076) More info on flyer and here: www.hcfdc.org/C01

Hope Clinic Opening event August 3

The Hope Clinic, a Community Health Center, will open at BakerRipley East Aldine campus on Saturday, August 3rd. 10:30am to 1:30pm. The event will include patient registration, music, food, moon-walks, raffle prizes and more. The Hope Clinic will offer Pediatrics, Medical Care, and Women's Services. At BakerRipley, 5000 Aldine Mail Route. (346-570-4463).

Aldine ISD students get start on healthy lifestyles by attending H.A.P.P.Y Summer Bootcamp

It's never too early to start a healthy lifestyle and that's why a group of Aldine ISD students spent a week this summer at the H.A.P.P.Y. (Healthy Attitudes Promote Positive Youth) Summer Bootcamp sponsored by the Memorial Hermann Nimitz Clinic.

The camp was held July 15-19 and 13 AISD students in fifth-eighth grade participated.



A group of Aldine ISD students pose with staff from the Memorial Hermann Nimitz Clinic prior to one of their sessions at the H.A.P.P.Y (Healthy Attitudes Promote Positive Youth) Summer Bootcamp held the July 15-19 at Memorial Hermann's Nimitz Clinic.

The weeklong camp consisted of daily sessions that included an hour of daily exercise, a medical evaluation, a nutrition consultation and a self-esteem group counseling session. Campers also enjoyed a daily arts and crafts session.

The sessions promoted a healthy lifestyle through guided practice, according to Ashley Scott, MPH, PA-C, the camp organizer.

"We invited kids who are serious about making healthy changes in their lives," Scott said. "We hold 10

See HAPPY, page 3

Project Recovery Harvey has funds available

Project Recovery Harvey is open to Homeowners affected by Hurricane Harvey, or, depending on the program, the floods of 2015, 2016, & 2017, who are U. S. Citizens and Permanent Legal Residents.

The first step is to complete the pre-

application to determine which program you may qualify for by visiting www.HarrisRecovery.org.

After you complete the pre-application, you should receive an email verifying that your information has been recorded. Help is available by calling

832-927-4961 or stop in to speak with an intake specialist at any location listed here.

Hurricane Harvey Funding Available, Apply Now. Online: www.harrisrecovery.org or call 832-927-4961.

Visit an Intake Center Location:

1. 13101 Northwest Freeway, Suite 215, Houston, TX 77040

2. 12941 North Freeway, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77060

3. 14700 FM 2100, Suite 2, Crosby, TX 77532

4. 729 Sharon Lane, Baytown, TX 77521

5. 3315 Burker Road, Suite 204, Pasadena, TX 77504.

Intake Centers are Open Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm, and Saturdays by appointment from 9am to 3pm.

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENTS CALENDAR

Grandparents 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.

RESCHEDULED! Sen. Miles Town Hall Meeting

State Senator Borris Miles will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, July 31 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm to discuss the 86th Legislative Session. Important legislation that passed and bills that will directly impact you neighborhood. Location: East Houston Civic Club, 7418 E. Houston, Houston, TX 77028. For more information, call 713-223-0387.

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



New Voting Machines on Trautman's agenda

Touch Screen Voting Machines could be coming to Harris voters
By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. July 16, 2019 – Dr. Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk has her sights set on getting Harris County voters the newest voting equipment available to provide voters an easier, more comfortable and reliable voting experience.

At the 2019 Annual International Association of Government Officials (iGo) Conference Trade Show vendors displayed and demonstrated various types of equipment and software to improve performance for governments performing services to the public.

Attending the conference were elected and appointed officials such as county and city clerks, record keepers, tax assessors, secretaries and businesses with interests in learning and obtaining insights to the most modern equipment and software.

Clerk Trautman is interested in the county getting new voting machines that'll make voting easier,



Dr. Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk presents timeline and cost for the county to buy new voting machines for the May 2021 elections at the International Association of Government Officials.



Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk receives demonstration and an explanation of the newest voting machine technologies to provide voters a more comfortable voting experience. Photos by Allan Jamail

quicker and to provide both electronic and hard copy records of votes cast in an election. Many of the voting machines displayed provided TOUCH-SCREEN voting, where the voter can look at a screen with candidate's names and positions sought on it and then merely touch the name on the screen of whom they wish to vote for. After voting the machine will electronically record their votes and then printout a hardcopy paper ballot of their votes for record keeping and recounting if needed. This type of voting will give more integrity to the voting process and the hardcopies of the ballots can be then used later to verify any questionable vote results and make "recounting results" more accurate and reliable.

Dr. Trautman said the approximate cost of 74 million would be needed to completely replace the 20 year old machines currently used. She's planning to budget the new machines in her upcoming budget so they can be ready for implementation in the May 2021 election.

If Commissioners Court approves the cost then the Clerk will form a community advisory group and a County Voting Selection committee comprised of members from the election staff, voter registration staff, universal services staff and purchasing staff.

Numerous voting machine vendors will bid on the county's business and present their equipment to the Selection Committee that'll narrow down the decision to the top two vendors. In July 2020 Commissioners' Court Clerk will select the vendor for the new machines and place the order in August 2020.

From January through April of 2021 they'll be awareness, education and demonstrations of the new machines provided to the voters, public and Election Judges.

Bush Airport to Receive \$5.4M Federal Grant

WASHINGTON – The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston was awarded a \$5,425,470 federal grant to implement noise mitigation measures for residents nearby, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced today. The funding comes through the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

"Texas' population grows with each passing day, and as more people travel in and out of our state, it's important our infrastructure is able to meet the demand without interfering with Texans' quality of life" said Sen. Cornyn. "I'm proud that President Trump has made the Houston area a priority, and I look forward to seeing the impact this grant will have on our great state."

This is in addition to the \$15,000,000 grant Sen. Cornyn announced in June to reconstruct a taxiway at George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

Commissioner Garcia offers free SAT prep courses

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.

PREMIERE CINEMAS
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Opens THURSDAY, August 1
* **HOBBS & SHAW** (PG-13)
7:00p 10:00p

* **Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood** (R) - 12:00pm, 4:00pm, 8:00pm
* **THE LION KING** in RealD 3D (PG)
12:45pm, 6:15pm
Spanish Dubbed
* **THE LION KING** in RealD 3D (PG)
12:45pm, 6:15pm
* **THE LION KING** (PG)
11:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm
* **THE LION KING** (PG) - 3:30pm, 9:00pm Spanish Dubbed
* **CRAWL** (R) - 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:15pm
* **STUBBER** (R) - 11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:00pm, 6:20pm, 8:45pm
* **Spider-Man: Far from Home** (PG-13)
11:00am, 5:00pm
Spanish Dubbed
* **Spider-Man: Far from Home** (PG-13)
12:00pm, 6:00pm
* **Spider-Man: Far from Home** 3D (PG-13) - 2:00pm, 8:00pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Spanish

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COMMUNITY WATCH

CRIME WATCH

Driver fatally shot on Eastex Freeway



All southbound lanes of the Eastex Freeway were shut down for several hours while deputies investigated the shooting last Sunday, July 21.

Sheriff's deputies are investigating an apparent road rage shooting that took place early in the morning last Sunday, July 21.

At about 5:00am a car was stopped on the exit ramp of the southbound lanes of the Eastex Freeway near Aldine Bender.

When deputies arrived, they discovered a man found shot in the vehicle. He was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The southbound lanes of the highway were closed for several hours while deputies investigated the scene for information on the shooting.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime-Stopppers, 713-222-TIPS.

Fatal Shooting at 301 Benmar Street

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man at 301 Benmar Street #125 about 3:15 a.m. on Sunday (July 21).

The victim, Angel Ortiz, 24, of the above address, was transported to Houston Northwest Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant J. Horn and Detective J. Escobar reported:

HPD patrol officers and Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to a person down call at the above address and found Mr. Ortiz in his bedroom with at least one gunshot wound to the head. Paramedics transported him to the hospital.

At this time, there is no known motive nor suspect(s).

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

Local Man Sent to Prison for Aiming Laser Pointer at an Aircraft

HOUSTON - A 20-year-old Houston man has been ordered to federal prison after admitting to pointing a green laser light at an Airbus AS350 B2 helicopter while it was in the air, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick. Bryan Aldana pleaded guilty Monday, April 22, 2019.

Today, U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes handed Aldana a 48-month sentence to be immediately followed by three years of supervised release. In handing down the sentence, the court noted Aldana's irresponsible behavior shows he did not give thought to the people flying the aircraft and to the people on the ground. "The world is about responsibilities to other people," said Hughes.

On June 23, 2018, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) agents were flying a the helicopter on routine law enforcement patrol. At approximately 9:00 p.m., they were headed in the north-west direction along highway US-290 when agents observed a flash of green light coming from the left side of the aircraft. At the time, they were at approximately 1000 feet elevation and traveling at a speed of 70-80 knots.

The pilot reversed the aircraft back to the southeast direction and was illuminated again by the green laser, which was powerful enough to light up the entire cockpit. The light caused a glare in the pilot's eyes and obstructed his vision, forcing him to turn his head and maneuver the Airbus away from it. The pilot also had to close and shield his eyes from the flashing green laser inside the cockpit.

The investigation led to the source of the light at a business near the intersection of Hollister and Pitner Roads in Houston. Aldana was soon identified with the help of the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the store's security cameras.

Video recordings show Aldana aiming a green laser up in the sky several times and a green laser pointer at the helicopter while sitting in a chair next to a silver sedan. He was also seen placing the green laser device through the opening of the silver sedan window on to the backseat.

Officers seized the laser and submitted it to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientist to be examined. The scientist concluded the laser pointer is a Class IIIB laser system and produced a "laser beam" which could result in serious and possibly permanent retinal damage.

Previously released on bond, Aldana appeared before Judge Hughes June 28, 2019, at which time the court found he had violated the terms of his release and ordered Aldana into custody. He will remain there pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau of Prisons facility to be determined in the near future.

The FBI, HPD and DPS conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Porto is prosecuting the case.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Evening of Live Entertainment At the 18th Annual Precinct 4 Opry

The Holla Band Brings Live Rock, Folk, and Country Music to Humble

Harris County Precinct 4 Encore! invites the community to enjoy three hours of live rock, folk, and country music during the 18th annual Precinct 4 Opry Friday, Aug. 16, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway in Humble.

Musicians Michael and Ginny Hix return with The Holla Band and other special guests to bring uniquely dynamic, high-energy performances featuring pop, rock, and country hits from the past. Michael Hix has been compared to entertainers like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, Dean Martin, Johnny Carson, Steve Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. Ginny Hix sings traditional country music with hints of swing, blues, and jazz.

Tickets for the Precinct 4 Opry are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Transportation from 10 locations will be provided by Harris County Precinct 4 Encore for individuals above 50. For more information or to register online, visit www.hcp4.net/encore/events

HAPPY summer boot camp,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school-based camps around the Houston area, but this is the original one and we are in our fifth year."

Scott added another goal of the camp was to reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles.

The students came from Dunn Elementary

School, Parker Elementary School, Ogden Elementary School, Lewis Middle School, Teague Middle School and Jones Middle School.

Jones Middle School physical education teacher directed the daily exercise sessions.

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OPINION AND FEATURE PAGE

OPINION

By State Senator
Borris Miles



Governor's Veto of
Northeast Houston
District is wrong

During the 86th Legislative Session, I worked with several organizations to pass more than 28 pieces of legislation targeted to help the many communities of Senate District 13. Many of those bills, you, the community, had a hand in crafting. From criminal justice reforms, consumer advocacy, affordable and accessible healthcare options to jobs and economic development, my legislative package was about improving and growing Senate District 13. I authored Senate Bill 390 to create the Northeast Houston Redevelopment District. This bill was one of the most critical bills in my legislative package.

Like many parts of low-income and economical-challenged areas, there are abandoned shopping centers and a lack of grocery stores and major retailers in the area. After meetings with local Northeast community leaders and local elected officials, we crafted SB 390 to give this area the help it needed to attract new businesses and jobs and breathe life back into the community.

I carefully moved this bill through the Senate Chamber, and personally met with the governor and his staff, to ensure he understood this bill's importance. Throughout the session, the governor did not indicate any problem with the bill until May 20th, one week before the end of the session. After working with the governor's staff and making the requested changes, his staff even provided assistance in clearing procedural hurdles to help pass the bill. After the session ended, he vetoed the bill, which made little to no sense to me.

The governor's veto said SB 390 "goes too far." I disagree. Communities like the Galleria, Upper Kirby, Midtown, Spring Branch and other more affluent areas have been able to reap the benefits of these management districts for years. If the governor believed special districts circumvent property tax reforms, then he should have vetoed all of the special district bills that passed this session, not just the bills from three Democratic legislators.

I sent a letter to the governor detailing my thoughts and my suspicions behind his veto. I wanted to know if his veto was an act of retaliation because I refused to sell out my community and support his nominee for TX Secretary of State, who earlier this year attempted to purge more than 95,000 voters from the Texas voter rolls, or one of racism. I want to believe it is neither, or if I'm blinded to the fact that is BOTH. I asked the governor to let me know if I am wrong.

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 new businesses and jobs for the people in these neighborhoods.

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight
Senator Borris L. Miles
District 13

LETTERS
To The Editor

Reader enjoys newspaper

To Northeast News
nnewsroom@aol.com

Hello,
I wanted to write in and comment on things I enjoy about the news. I love the community news section, I wish there was more. I also liked the section regarding the Free Pet Licensing. As a pet owner in this area, I also appreciate learning about the news around our pets and things going on. I also like having the movie showtimes listed, it's incredibly convenient. Thank you!

Arue Jacobo-Kalinowski

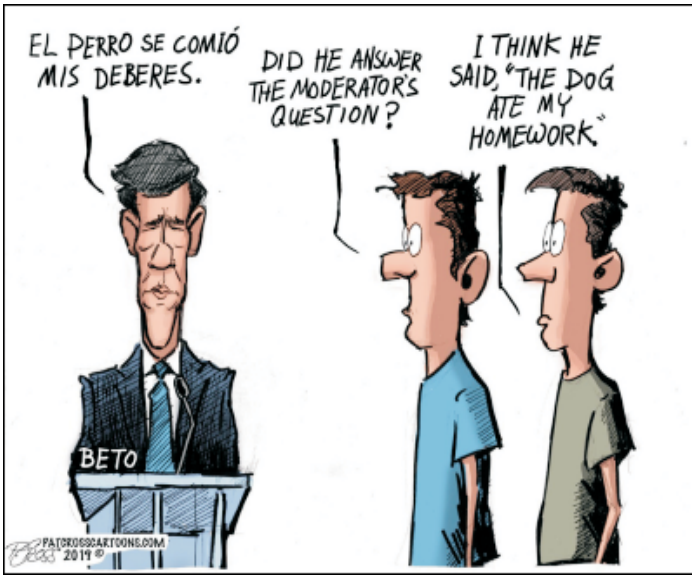
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VETERANS
★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Blue Water Vets Gain Agent Orange Benefits —It passed! H.R. 299, known as the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, is now Public Law 116-23. It extends disability benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans who were presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. It will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020 when the VA will begin processing claims.

Here are some of the specifics you need to know: If you were on a vessel within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnam or Cambodian coasts, you may be eligible for presumption of exposure. You also may be eligible if you have any of the diseases previously connected with Agent Orange: AL amyloidosis, chloracne or similar acneform disease, chronic B-cell leukemias, diabetes mellitus Type 2, Hodgkin lymphoma, ischemic heart disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, early-onset peripheral neuropathy porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea) and some soft-tissue sarcomas. If you applied for AO disability and were turned down, file again. Eligible survivors should also file. If you're age 85 or older and you are ill, your claims will be processed first.

We can thank in part the Institute of Medicine, which was asked years ago to determine whether shipboard veterans could possibly have been exposed to AO, and if so, how. The answer was in the water distillers that converted sea water into water used on the vessel for showers, coffee, laundry, etc. They called it a "plausible pathway of exposure."

To determine if you're eligible for benefits, go online to www.va.gov and put Blue Water Veterans in the search box. Look for the first link, titled Agent Orange Exposure in Vietnam Waters (Blue Navy Veterans).

You also can contact your Veteran Service Office or call the VA at 800-827-1000. And keep an eye on www.bwnvva.org, the Blue Water Navy Association website.

STATE CAPITAL
HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Top officials attempt to clarify
new hemp law for prosecutors

AUSTIN — Some district and county attorneys reportedly have begun to dismiss misdemeanor marijuana possession cases following the Texas Legislature's passage of House Bill 1325, a law creating a legal path for the cultivation and marketing of hemp and hemp products.

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen and Attorney General Ken Paxton on July 18 sent a letter informing prosecutors that the Texas law, which takes effect Sept. 1, adopts the definition that differentiates between hemp and marijuana in the 2018 Farm Bill passed by Congress last year.

The farm bill, which delegates authority over the regulation, production and sale of hemp to the states, differentiates hemp from marijuana by setting a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) threshold concentration of 0.3 percent for hemp and anything above 0.3 percent for marijuana.

HB 1325 directs the Texas Department of Agriculture to pass rules requiring hemp producers to be state-licensed and to test their products to ensure 0.3 percent or less THC concentration.

The Texas law also requires a shipping certificate that confirms the product in transport is legally compliant hemp. Failure to have the required certificate during transport is a misdemeanor.

Some counties reportedly have raised an issue over the cost of lab testing that must be conducted on hemp to determine if seized samples are legally compliant or not. To address that issue, Abbott, Patrick, Bonnen and Paxton wrote that prosecutors could use "circumstantial evidence" and, "As more companies enter the testing marketplace, the costs of the tests will certainly decline."

ECONOMY ADDS
JOBS IN JUNE

The Texas economy added 45,000 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs, the Texas Workforce Commission announced in a July 19 news release.

Also, the unemployment rate fell to 3.4 percent in June, the lowest rate recorded since 1976, when the state started tracking the unemployment rate. The previous low unemployment rate of 3.5 percent was recorded in May.

"June's unemployment rate is a historic win for



employers and workers across the state," said TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. "It is a reflection of our excellent businesses, skilled workforce and the hard work of every Texan."

The Trade, Transportation and Utilities industry led job growth in June, adding 10,500 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality was second, adding 10,000 jobs.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs in June with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.1 percent, followed by the Amarillo, Austin-Round Rock and Odessa MSAs, each of which recorded a rate of 2.7 to tie for second place.

UT UPS TUITION
ASSISTANCE

The University of Texas System Board of Regents on July 16 voted unanimously to establish a \$160 million endowment from a distribution of the state's Permanent University Fund that will generate money for financial assistance beginning in fall 2020.

"Recognizing both the need for improved access to higher education and the high value of a UT Austin degree, we are dedicating a distribution from the Permanent University Fund to establish an endowment that will directly benefit students and make their degrees more affordable," UT Regents Chair Kevin Eltife said after the vote. "This will benefit stu-

dents of our great state for years to come."

The new endowment will be used to expand UT Austin's Texas Advance Commitment program for in-state undergraduate students to:

- Completely cover tuition and fees for students from families that earn up to \$65,000 a year who have financial need, and,
- Provide some assured tuition support to students from families with incomes of up to \$125,000 who have financial need.

AG INTERVENES IN
LAWSUIT

Attorney General Paxton on July 19 announced his intervention in a lawsuit filed by a dozen business organizations against the city of San Antonio to strike down the city's paid sick leave ordinance.

The ordinance is scheduled to take effect Aug. 1. In court papers filed in a Bexar County state district court, Paxton explained that the state constitution gives the Legislature the authority to set the minimum amount of compensation established for workers, including the minimum amount of paid time off.

"The Legislature established the minimum amount of compensation for workers, and the Texas Constitution prohibits local municipalities from ignoring the Legislature's decision," Paxton wrote.

DISASTER DECLARATION GRANTED

President Trump on July 17 granted Gov. Abbott's July 10 request for "Individual Assistance" for those in severe weather- and flood-stricken Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties in the Rio Grande Valley.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HCC North Forest ribbon-cutting ceremony set for Aug. 6



HOUSTON (July 10, 2019) – The community is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new and remodeled facilities at the Houston Community College (HCC) - North Forest Campus at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 6 at 6010 E. Little York Road, Houston, TX 77016. In celebration of the newly expanded campus, guests will have an opportunity to attend a reception, open house and community resource fair, as well as tour the new academic building, Automotive Center of Excellence and newly remodeled workforce building.

The HCC North Forest Campus expansion includes academic classrooms, student amenities, a community room and the Automotive Center of Excellence. Shops, classrooms and faculty offices are also provided in the renovated workforce building. New landscape features and pedestrian amenities visually connect the buildings across the campus.

In addition to more academic offerings, the campus expansion will also introduce new career training programs that include welding and

bilingual welding. The high-demand bilingual welding program offers classes completely taught in Spanish. The Automotive Center of Excellence will offer training in automotive maintenance and light repair. The new state-of-the-art facility is well equipped to provide training for entry-level work in the automotive field. Other programs scheduled to come online include pipefitting, HVAC and plumbing. For more information about the North Forest Campus, please call 713-718-5868 or visit hccs.edu/northforestcampus.

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly accredited, open-admission, community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.hccs.edu.

150 Girls and Boys Compete in Street Olympics Splashdown Meet



Precinct One Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis with some young Splashdown swimmers

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis gave an Opening Pep Talk to Remind Youth that the Program is designed to teach Leadership, Discipline and Teamwork.

About 150 Harris County girls and boys who took swimming lessons this summer at nine sites operated by the Harris County Aquatics Program (HCAP) competed in Splashdown, a friendly swim meet that is part of the Harris County Street Olympics Summer Games. Co-sponsored by Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, this exciting competition features youth ages 6-18 who will have a chance to win ribbons in 50 swimming events while their families and friends cheer them on. Learning to swim is important

because drowning is the second leading cause of death among children under 14 years old. So far this year in Texas, 56 children have drowned, including 17 in the Houston area. Harris County leads the state with 10 child drownings. HCAP uses swimming not only to teach youth a lifesaving skill, but also to instill leadership, discipline and teamwork.

The event took place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, July 26 at the Harris County Aquatics Center, 2731 El Camino, Houston, 77054.

BACKGROUND: The Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics summer programming fulfills a critical need in Houston. Studies have shown that without access to affordable, high-quality summer programming,

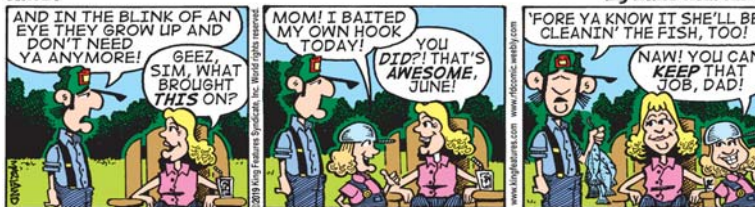
working families lack safe and enriching places for their children to attend while parents are at work. Children, especially those from underserved areas, have difficulty retaining what they learned in the previous school year. Approximately 3,000 Houston-area youth, ages 6 to 17, are expected to participate in the 2019 Summer Games, Discovery Camps, 3-on-3 Basketball, Learn-to-Swim sessions and Splashdown over an eight-week period – culminating in the Final Event/Bright Futures Fair and closing ceremonies that will include a "Parade of Champions" on August 2 at NRG Arena. The Street Olympics mission is to implement and sustain programs that provide training, support and resources that lead to healthy and productive lives for youth.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Norm's hair is longer. 2. Girl's dress has ruffles. 3. Indoor plant is missing. 4. Door handle is higher. 5. Dress polka dots are black. 6. Fewer stars around boy's head.

Posting Date July 29, 2019

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Healthful retreats
 - 5 Meadow
 - 8 "So be it"
 - 12 Hay storage area
 - 13 Plant bristle
 - 14 Trademarked symbol
 - 15 Emanation
 - 16 Corral
 - 17 Stench
 - 18 Third-place medal
 - 20 Honolulu's island
 - 22 Waste time
 - 26 Unexpected victory
 - 29 Started
 - 30 Nay opposer
 - 31 Recording
 - 32 Crazed
 - 33 Pack away
 - 34 Rd.
 - 35 One of the Brady Bunch
 - 36 Starts
 - 37 Jerry Herman musical
 - 40 Comic Jay
 - 41 Brother of Andrew and Charles
 - 45 Reed instrument
 - 47 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
 - 49 Wings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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45	46				47	48			49		
50					51				52		
53					54				55		

- 50 Gloomy
- 51 Run-down horse
- 52 Frost
- 53 Connect the —
- 54 Exist
- 55 "Sports-Center" airer
- 8 20-Across greeting
- 9 Vary, as a tone
- 10 Freudian concept
- 11 "Neither snow —"
- 19 Pimple
- 21 Toss in
- 23 Grassy plain
- 24 French city
- 25 Some conifers
- 26 Hexagonal state
- 27 Macadamize
- 28 Make absolutely plain
- 32 "Material Girl" singer
- 33 Computer security threat
- 35 Garfield's owner
- 36 Antiquated
- 38 Lecherous looks
- 39 Sill
- 42 Muhammad and Laila
- 43 Freeway access
- 44 TV chef Paula
- 45 Peculiar
- 46 Scary cry
- 48 Rowing tool

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

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: Which vitamin is necessary for normal blood clotting?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which state lies directly south of Missouri?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented by the condition called pogonophobia?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the basic currency of the nation of Georgia?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a latke?
- ADVERTISING: Which breakfast cereal features a leprechaun in advertisements?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the Greek play "The Trojan Women"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was Abraham Lincoln's first vice president?
- MOVIES: Which early 20th-century film actress was dubbed "America's Sweetheart"?
- GAMES: How many balls are used in pocket billiards?

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1. Vitamin K; 2. Arkansas; 3. Fear of beards; 4. The lat; 5. A pancake usually made of grated potato; 6. Lucky Charms; 7. Euphrides; 8. Hannibal Hamlin; 9. Mary Pickford; 10. 16 balls (15 numbered balls and the cue ball)

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

CHURCH PAGE

RECENT DEATHS

Miguel Angel Cordero
Gregory Lynn Armitage
Wayne John Steffek Jr.
Rosemary Teresa Schildhauer

Anna L. Felts
Ricardo Martinez
Emmal Wigand
Wesley Olan Southall

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ephesians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What tree did Jesus tell a parable about? *Apple, Fig, Olive, Sycamore*
3. Who was John the Baptist's father? *Zachariah, Zacharias, Zephaniah, Zaccheus*
4. What did the oak tree symbolize in the Bible? *Growth, Strength, Weakness, Fruitfulness*
5. Which of these is not a book of the New Testament? *Revelation, Judges, Colossians, Jude*
6. From the Bible, who was Isaiah's father? *Amos, Amoz, Laban, Heron*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Fig; 3) Zacharias; 4) Strength; 5) Judges; 6) Amoz

Visit Wilson Casey's new Trivia Fan Site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.



JOSHUA 21:43-45

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Social Security Matters



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

Ask Rusty - About Collecting Spouse Benefits or Disability

Dear Rusty: My wife will be 62 in a few months and I'm still working (I am 59). Can my wife get any Social Security if I'm not yet retired? She's short quarters for her own Social Security when she worked. She also worked under our State Teachers Retirement System as a substitute teacher, but she is short of getting any STRS benefits. She's a diabetic and has other health problems, so can she qualify for disability? Signed: Inquiring Husband

Dear Inquiring Husband: Your wife cannot collect Social Security spousal benefits from your record until you are

collecting your own Social Security. To be eligible for Social Security on her own work record she needs to have at least 40 "quarters" of work credits - about 10 years of substantial earnings over her lifetime during which she and her employer both contributed to Social Security. Her employment with STRS didn't give her Social Security credits since her State employer doesn't participate in the Social Security program; however, if she doesn't have a STRS pension then neither does she need to worry about that pension affecting her eventual Social Security spousal benefits when she can collect from you (if she had a pension from STRS her Social Security spousal benefit would be reduced).

As far as the possibility of your wife getting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, SSDI benefits can only be awarded based upon one's own work record. Whether your wife qualifies would depend upon how many Social Security quarter credits she has and when they were earned. Your wife would need to have worked in Social Security covered employment for at least 5 of the last 10 years to be eligible for SSDI benefits, and her current health condition would need to render her totally disabled and unable to work (and that must be medically confirmed) in order to qualify.

If she hasn't already done so, I suggest your wife obtain a Statement of Estimated Benefits and Earnings Statement from Social Security. She can do this online by setting up her own personal "My Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov or by requesting same from Social Security via phone. You can find your local Social Security office contact information by going to this link: www.ssa.gov/locator. Once you have obtained this information you will be able to determine exactly how many Social Security "quarter credits" your wife actually has to this point and the employment years for which she earned them (for SSDI purposes), and also if she is entitled to any Social Security benefits on her own from credits earned over her lifetime (SS credits don't expire). Having all that information should help your wife fully understand if she has any claiming options other than waiting until you start collecting your own Social Security retirement benefit, at which point she can claim her spousal benefit.

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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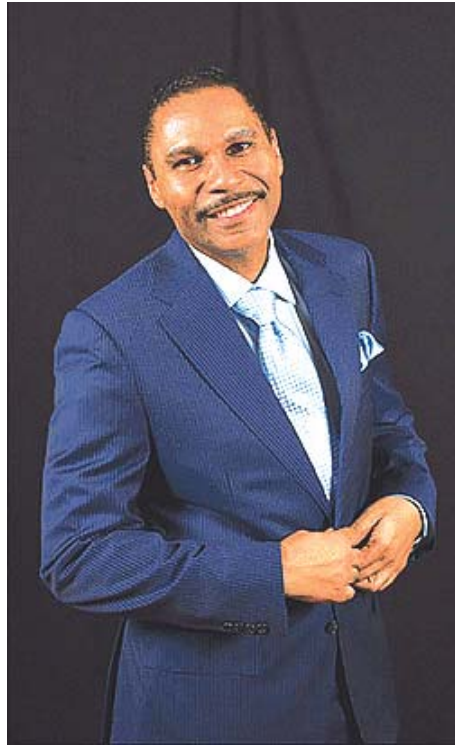
COMMUNITY NEWS

GREAT TEACHERS AT ALDINE ISD
Jose Diaz, MacArthur High

Back in the 1970s, Houston's northside was the home to one of America, and the world's finest youth music ensembles: the bluesyfunk jazzy and swingin' Kashmere Stage Band, based out of Kashmere High School and directed by legendary music man and esteemed educator Conrad O. "Prof" Johnson. Before Prof passed away at 92 years of age in 2008, he'd lived to see the Stage Band win national competitions, release eight records, and star in Thunder Soul, a feature-length, award-winning documentary narrated by Jamie Foxx.

The Houston area's lush and fertile soil never ceases to nurture music legends, and just as Johnson's life in music was winding down, that of his spiritual successor, Jose Antonio Diaz, was continuing to rev up. Now fast-approaching his 35th year as director of bands at Aldine MacArthur High School, Diaz, who is both Grammy-nominated as an educator and a LULAC Teacher of the Year, has not only maintained the Generals' ensemble five-star ranking for decades and send many a kid off to college with both a scholarship and a plan, but has also found nearly countless other ways to foster and develop youthful musical talent in Aldine and beyond.

First, there is Soulsa Caliente, the pan-Latin youth jazz orchestra he leads and directs from his Diaz Music Institute. Over the years, Diaz has been the one constant in Caliente, whose gig-list includes festival dates from Houston's biggest stages to Oregon and Chicago and becoming the first youth band to



JOSE ANTONIO DIAZ

win a Houston Press Music Award as the city's Best Latin Band. As for its alumni, three have won Grammys and percussionist Marcie Chapa toured with Beyonce in the superstar diva's all-female band. Chapa has since gone on to lay down grooves for both BET's Black Girls Rock awards show and Latin pop/Contemporary Christian singer and actress Jaci Velazquez. And earlier this year, singer-guitarist Jabari Johnson, another Diaz-trained Caliente alumnus, was named Best New Artist at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Clearly, Diaz teaches his students more than just how to play Latin jazz. But what better music is there to use as a springboard? It comes from so many sources, as Diaz points

out. "Every single Latin culture has a hand in the development of Latin jazz," Diaz points out. "And Mexico was really strong in its development. Perez Prado loved hiring Mexican brass players, because they were accustomed to playing the really high trumpet parts he loved. He lived there for many years."

It's also complex and demanding — a firm grounding in Latin jazz offers young musicians a chance to expand into any corner of the music universe. And beyond: Jazz trumpeter Felix DeLeon Jr., who studied under Diaz at MacArthur and at the Institute, says that lessons learned on the bandstand carry over into all aspects of life. "I've met doctors and lawyers, successful people in other indus-

tries that were all in a band program or played some kind of instrument. And every one of them has said how important it is, and how much smarter a lot of these kids are if they learn how to multitask at such a young age, how to just approach things differently."

Jose Antonio Diaz aspires not just to make youngsters into musicians, he also tries to mold boys and girls into successful young men and women. It's not enough, he says, to teach them to "read both music and contracts," he says. He also wants to teach them how to navigate life out there in that different world beyond their childhood homes.

As Grammy-winning jazz flautist Nestor Torres puts it: "What is the Diaz Music Institute? To me, it's hope. It's vision. It's opening the way for young people to learn how to be themselves through music, specifically through salsa and Latin and Caribbean music."

The Diaz Music Institute is always enrolling students in workshops. For more information contact them by phone 832-858-5855, via email at info@diazmusicinstitute.org or check out the website at www.Diazmusicinstitute.org for that information and upcoming Caliente performances.

Sylvia Garcia holds Seniors Issues event at Hardy Senior Center



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia speaks at Senior Citizens Issues Town Hall last Monday morning.

Congresswoman Garcia held a Senior Citizens Issues Town Hall meeting last Monday, July 22, 2019 from 10:00am – 11:30am at the Hardy Community Senior Center, 11901 W. Hardy, Houston, Texas 77076.

Presenting information were experts from Social Security, Medicare, Better Business Bureau Education Foundation and Area Agency on Aging speaking.

Information tables and screenings were provided by UT Physicians, City of Houston, United Health Partners,

and the Alzheimer's Association.

Information and Resources for Seniors included:

- Advocacy
 - Benefits Counseling
 - Caregiver Support
 - Fraud Alert
 - Healthcare
 - Healthy Aging
 - Homecare
 - Health Insurance
 - Housing
 - Legal Services
 - Long Term Care
 - Medicare/Medicaid
 - Mental Health
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 - Safety
 - Social Security
 - Transportation
 - Veteran Services.
- For additional information, call Cong. Garcia's office at 832-325-3150.

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