

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Back to School, p2
- Countywide voting okayed, p2
- \$47m to rebuild Lake Houston dam, p6
- I-45 expansion, p3

SEE INSIDE FOR ALL THESE STORIES

NORTHEAST NEWS

At HCC North Forest...



Houston Community College - Northeast President Monique Umphrey and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee spoke at the Expansion Ceremony. See MORE, page 8

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VOL. 45, NO. 32 TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

I-45 Expansion Planning Workshops

Houston Planning Dept. Community Workshops

Segment 1 - North (Beltway 8 to N. Shepherd) Thurs, August 15 @ 6 pm at Aldine Ninth Grade School

Segment 1 - South (Beltway 8 to I-610) Sat, August 17 @ 10 am at Burrus Elementary

Segments 2 & 3 - North (I-610 to I-10 & I-10 to 59) Tues, August 13 @ 6 pm at Harris County Department of Education

BMX Bike Park opens Aug. 16

The Grand Opening of the New Rockstar Energy Bike Park is scheduled for Friday, August 16 at 2:00pm. 12257 Kuykendahl Road. Join Mayor Sylvester Turner, the North Houston Development Corp., and the Harris County Sports Authority, as they officially open the doors to one of the country's largest and most unique bike parks.

The Park will officially open to the public for riding at 4:00pm. No bikes will be allowed in the park during the ceremony. Valet bike parking provided by BikeHouston.

HCC North Forest opens new facilities

NORTH FOREST – After many years of planning and construction, the Houston Community College Northeast finally was able to open their new North Forest expansion facilities at a ceremony last Tuesday morning. The complex of buildings will house a new academic wing, expanded work force offices, and a unique auto maintenance training facility.

Dr. Cesar Maldonado spoke about the importance of the new campus not only being an educa-

See North Forest, page 8



Ribbon cutting participants included HCC-NE President Monique Umphrey, Maxine Lane-Seals, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, HCC Board Chair Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Judge Joe Stephens, Millicent Edwards, and many others from the HCC and North Forest community, past and present. See MORE on page 8.

Garcia details plans for Pct. 2 improvements

By Gilbert Hoffman

Speaking last week at a North Channel Chamber luncheon, Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia covered a wide range of topics related to his concepts of improving conditions for all the resi-

Garcia said that his focus at all times is on Precinct 2, and what he can do to better conditions there. He said a fundamental change in how the precinct is run is his emphasis on spending county money to hire companies and workers that are located in the precinct. He introduced his



Commissioner Adrian Garcia speaks at the Chamber luncheon about his plans for Pct. 2

purchasing director, Jose Jimenez, saying he was they key to implementing the new plan.

Garcia reflected on his first seven months in office, and how it seemed like an unending string of catastrophes. He noted that his term started the first week with an ExxonMobil fire in the refinery in Baytown, and currently was ending the period the same way with the same disaster. He noted that the refineries in Precinct 2 have a history of violations of air and water pollution, and vowed that the county would implement new pro-

cedures to minimize these. Because of the large number of petrochemical plants in his district, he said that environmental concerns and safety would be a primary concern that he would focus on.

Garcia noted that his precinct has the lowest household income in the county, and related to that is the lowest home ownership percentage. He noted how important this is, related to other problems of educational achievement and crime rates.

See Precinct 2, page 6

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENTS CALENDAR

Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic

Houston PETSET for Animals is providing a Low Cost Spay and Neuter Shuttle, on August 21, 2019 to the Flukinger Community Center on 16003 Lorenzo Street, Channelview 77530.

"Leave the Driving to us," they say. For only \$35 for dogs and \$25 for cats, Texas Litter Control will pick up and return your animal spayed or neutered. You must have a rabies certificate or you will be charged \$18 for a vaccine.

To schedule, call 281-528-1238 or book online at www.texaslittercontrol.org.

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 do we 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.

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

Bell schedule set for 2019-20 school year

The bell schedule for the start of school for the 2019-20 school year is as follows:

- High Schools – 7 a.m.
- Elementary Schools – 7:35 a.m.
- ACE Schools – 7:35 a.m.
- Primary Schools – 8:15 a.m.
- Middle Schools – 8:35 a.m.

Bus route numbers, stops change year-to-year

Aldine ISD's transportation department wants to remind parents with children who ride buses that route numbers and bus stops change from year-to-year.

Parents are encouraged to attend their child's school orientations to learn of bus route and bus stop information. That information will not be available until school orientations are held.

Transportation officials also want to remind parents who pick up and drop off their children at school to not block buses and to yield to them when arriving and departing campuses.

Parents are also encouraged to review bus safety with their children, to be alert at bus stops and always look both ways before crossing the street.

Countywide polling gets state approval

Houston, TX– Harris County has earned successful status from the Texas Secretary of State's Office for the Countywide Polling Place Program following the May 4, 2019 Joint Election. Harris County is the largest county in the country to have executed a successful election where voters can cast a ballot at any polling location.



Clerk Dr. Diane Trautman.

Dr. Trautman began championing the Countywide Polling Place Program shortly after taking office in January. The County Clerk's office held multiple public hearings and meetings about the program ahead of the unanimous vote by Harris County Commissioners Court to apply for the program in February.

Approximately 36% of voters traveled outside of their home precinct to vote on Election Day. In the upcoming November election, voters will once again be able to vote anywhere in the county both on Election Day and during Early Voting.

"Feedback from communities across the county has been largely positive, and I am pleased that voters will continue to be able to choose a convenient location to cast their ballot" said Harris County

"Voting is a fundamental right, and it is of the utmost importance that the ballot is accessible to all residents of Harris County," explained Trautman.

Voters can find more information on the Countywide Polling Place Program by visiting www.HarrisVotes.com or by calling the Harris County Clerk's office at 713.755.6965.

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Street Olympics Final Event honors the late Commissioner El Franco Lee

Tennis great Zin Garrison present



Tennis Great Zina Garrison and Commissioner Ellis Encourage Youth at Street Olympics Final Event to Keep Late Commissioner Lee's Tradition Alive

Tennis great Zina Garrison joined Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis on Friday, Aug. 2 to offer words of encouragement to about 2,500 Houston-area youth who competed for medals at the 33rd annual Harris County Street Olympics Final Event at NRG Arena.

Carrying on the tradition started by the late Commissioner El Franco Lee, Garrison, a

former Olympian, and Commissioner Ellis led the Parade of Champions, which featured marching bands from Westbury High School and Austin High School followed by athletes from participating youth agencies walking behind homemade banners representing their youth centers.

"We want to continue following the footsteps of Commissioner Lee, who had a vision more than 30 years ago to develop a summer program that provides a safe and enriching experience for youth," Ellis said. "When I look at these young children today, I know there's even more of a need

now than it was in 1986. So, my dear friend, we will continue your model of using sports as a way to teach youth about the game of life."

The daylong Final Event, which marked the end of the eight-weeklong Summer Games, included the Bright Futures Fair and competition in events such as kickball, free throw, foot races, spelling bee, chess and art. The top-three finishers in each age group received gold, silver and bronze medals that were awarded on an Olympic-style podium.

PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 8/9-8/14

Opens TUESDAY, August 13
* **ANGRY BIRDS 2** (PG) 4:00p 8:30p
Opens THURSDAY, August 15
* **GOOD BOYS** (R) 7:00p 9:10p

* **The Art of Racing in the Rain** (PG) 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
* **BRIAN BANKS** (PG-13) - 11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:10pm, 6:30pm, 8:50pm
* **Dora and the Lost City of Gold** (PG) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:50pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm
* **Dora and the Lost City of Gold** (PG) 11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:10pm, 6:30pm, 8:50pm Spanish Dubbed
* **THE KITCHEN** (R) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
* **SCARY STORIES to Tell in the Dark** (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
* **Fast & Furious Presents: HOBBS & SHAW** (PG-13) - 11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm Spanish Subtitled

* **Fast & Furious Presents: HOBBS & SHAW** (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm
* **THE LION KING** in RealD 3D (PG) - 12:45pm, 6:15pm
* **THE LION KING** in RealD 3D (PG) - 12:45pm, 6:15pm Spanish Dubbed
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
TOY STORY 4 (G) - 11:30am, 4:30pm, 9:30pm
* **TOY STORY 4** in Disney Digital 3D (G) - 2:00pm, 7:00pm

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CRIME WATCH

Fatal shooting on Northline Drive

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man and the wounding of a woman at 7313 Northline Drive about 2:50 p.m. on Saturday (Aug. 3).

The male victim, Michael Lee, Jr., 28, was pronounced dead at the scene. The female victim, Regen Hayward-Orange, 35, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives L. Patterson and M. Arrington reported:

Officers responded to a shooting call at an apartment complex at the above address. Witnesses stated a black male suspect wearing a white or gray hooded coat, with a black or white shirt covering his face, started shooting in the breezeway before entering an apartment and shooting Mr. Lee multiple times and Ms. Hayward-Orange one time in the abdomen.

The suspect fled on foot through the courtyard. Paramedics pronounced Lee deceased at the scene and transported Ms. Hayward-Orange to the hospital.

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

Hope Clinic opens at BakerRipley, offers medical services



Armando Walle with family and Hope Clinic officials CEO Andrea Caracostis, MD, chairman David Acosta and Leslie Cordova, at the grand opening of the clinic on August 3rd.

The Hope Clinic, a FQHC, or Federally Qualified Health Center, opened at BakerRipley East Aldine campus on Saturday, August 3rd.

The event included patient registration, music, food, moonwalks, raffle prizes and more.

The Hope Clinic will have three full-time physicians, and offer Primary Care, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN Women's Services. Open Monday through Friday, at BakerRipley, 5000 Aldine Mail Route. (346-570-4463). Patients will pay on a sliding scale according to their circumstances.

Garcia's plans,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said a priority is to raise the level of educational achievement, and as a start he has partnered with HCDE, the Harris County Department of Education, to provide free SAT college preparation for about 200 motivated students that need help to pass the college entrance tests. This is a four week course for high school students, and if successful will be repeated for more. Garcia noted that passing the SAT will open more educational opportunities, and result in more job and career choices and opportunities.

Garcia told the students, "Go on to succeed, but come back to Precinct 2 and Give Back."

Garcia said that healthcare was a major concern, and noted that he had started the first "food pantry" at a Clinic in the district, to provide more healthy food to clients. He noted that other factors affecting access to good healthcare included transportation, which is being provided.

Noting that his precinct has the highest rate of cancer in Texas, probably due to proximity to refineries and other polluting sources, he was putting an accent on providing park space of a high quality, knowing that it affects our health. He is also working with a local healthcare company and the City of Houston to provide more park space.

A significant new type of park, known as an "inclusive" park designed for users with special needs as well as the general public, has been designated for development at James Drive Park in Northeast Houston. When finished, he sees it as a prototype for extension to other parks, in part or in whole through the county.

Another major concern, for Garcia as well as many residents of the precinct, is extreme flooding and the

prospect of continued high water in the future. Garcia noted that although the voters approved \$2.5 Billion in drainage improvements last year, nevertheless it would be spread through the whole county, and would only be a partial solution to the problem.

He said that more planning and expenditures would be required to solve the flooding problem, and he and his staff were working on a comprehensive engineering analysis of the infrastructure of the precinct, to see where improvements would be the most effective use of the money. This will result in a Master Plan for work in the future.

Garcia noted that in this budget year, \$30 million will be spent on flood improvement projects in the North Shore area.

He discussed other problems including pervasive homelessness that results in some living on the streets and under highway overpasses. He thought that instead of incarcerating these persons, intervention to provide counseling, good, and housing would be required. He noted that the Harris County Jail is the largest psychiatric facility in the county, and could be useful to deal with this homeless problem, and slow down the return of these people to life on the streets.

He said that many people were suffering from trauma caused by the string of natural disasters, and needed access to psychiatric resources to help them cope.

Another area that Garcia is addressing is affordable housing, and he said that he is working on a new approach with the Harris County Appraisal District, where the Precinct would take delinquent or foreclosed properties and make a land trust, for building new homes in a partner

City of Houston workshops will focus on I-45 alternatives

By Michael Skelly
Make I-45 Better Coalition

Upcoming Community Workshops for NHHIP

The City of Houston will recommend changes to TxDOT based on these discussions.

The TX Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing a major \$7-10 billion expansion of I-45 and the City of Houston is planning workshops for community engagement.

Under the directive of Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Planning and Development Department will lead workshops on the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) and host I-45 community workshops to ensure TxDOT designs a

project with positive impacts for the community, the City of Houston, and the greater region.

Join the City of Houston, in partnership with a technical team from Huitt-Zollars and UH Community Design Resource Center, at these roundtable discussions about housing, traffic, flooding and drainage, air quality, and other issues.

We highly encourage all residents to attend the workshop focused on the segment you live in. Building on previous meetings and these discussions, the City will recommend changes and alternative designs to TxDOT for the I-45 project.

Each workshop focuses on a specific area:

Controversial I-45 expansion gets approval

HOUSTON - At a meeting of the H-GAC last Friday, the public was invited to voice their concerns ahead of a vote on a request for a \$100 million down payment to advance the rebuild of the Segment 2 expansion of I-45.

Houston area leaders voted in favor of \$100 million expansion plan for I-45 North despite protests from some north Houston residents & Judge Lina Hidalgo.

Texas Transportation Commission still has to vote on it next month. TxDOT says groundbreaking wouldn't start until about 2024.

The funding signals

unreserved support for the \$7 billion overall project.

County and city officials, HISD School board members, and leaders of the affected communities were in attendance, including Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, City Councilman Dwight Boykins, and Gallery Furniture Owner Mattress Mack.

Earlier this week, advocates for inner city residents rallied, demanding more input and alternatives to the current plan.

With the project going through, some 300 businesses employing 24,000 people and 1,400 homes will be affected.

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Bail Reform gets us closer to a system that works for everyone

A person is guilty until proven innocent or wealthy. This is how our old outdated justice system has been working in Harris County for far too long. There have been incidents that an individual may stay in jail for months. Most are jailed not because they are violent criminals or guilty, but because they cannot afford to pay a bond. This system is far from just and fair because it penalizes the poor. This may be a single mother who was arrested for failing to pay a traffic ticket, loses her job, misses payments for her mortgage and as a result, loses her home. She is now homeless. Or it could be a young man who was wrongfully accused but spent 6 months in jail before someone took a closer look at his case. We have to fix this. We can do better. We must do better.

My career in law enforcement has shown me where government fails and where we could improve. Not everyone who goes to jail is guilty. Not everyone who is arrested is a criminal. I have seen the wasted human capital that sits behind bars that could otherwise be contributing to our economy. Instead, they are in jail awaiting trial, being supported by our tax dollars. Some families are being torn apart, parents losing custody of their children. The poorer you are, the more likely you are to miss a court date: You cannot afford childcare, you cannot afford to miss work, and you cannot afford a car to get to the courthouse. If we are going to keep people out of jail for being poor, we need to have a criminal justice system that works for everyone.

The old outdated system of holding people in jail until they can pay bail – or keeping them until trial if they cannot – does not make the public safer; in fact, studies have shown it increases crime. A 2013 study by the Laura and

John Arnold Foundation found that people who were detained after arrest were more likely to commit more crimes. In fact, the longer a person was detained, the more likely they are to commit a crime after disposition of their current offense. As the former Sheriff, I witnessed how this unconstitutional cash bail system helped to create the most overcrowded jail in our recent history that depended on lucrative contracts with private jails to house thousands of inmates, while still requiring the taxpayers to pay millions more in overtime to keep the jail compliant with state jail standards. I had no problem holding onto the most violent and dangerous, but the great majority had made mistakes that posed no direct threat to anyone but themselves. When our criminal justice system can deal with people proportionate to their mistakes then we not only become fair and just but safer because the first time/nonviolent offenders will have fewer opportunities to learn from the worst in jails.

The impact goes far beyond the person who is incarcerated. Children with an incarcerated parent are more likely to experience higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, and physical health problems. They are also twice as likely as their peers without a parent in prison to develop behavioral or mental health problems, including increased aggression, depression, anxiety and migrate toward gang involvement. They are also more likely to associate with delinquent peers, get into fights, skip school, have trouble concentrating, and perform poorly in school. This system is far from just, makes us less safe and negatively impacts our children. We have to do better.

The settlement announced this week is the first step Harris

County takes at fixing this broken system. The decree applies only to individuals charged with misdemeanors except for cases of family violence, bond violations, and repeat DWI. These are crimes where a person is more likely to re-offend and will receive a magistrate hearing within 48 hours to determine what kind of bond they may be released under. Those individuals outside of these exceptions will be released on a personal recognizance bond, which means the person commits to making their court dates. Under the consent decree, they will be ensured the opportunity to be able to be represented by counsel at these proceedings.

Freedom should never be for sale, and it is time we take our seat as a national leader in civil rights reform. I know the best way to keep our communities safe is having a multi-tiered approach that allows our District Attorney and law enforcement officers to focus on the most dangerous while enhancing a criminal justice system that promotes fairness for all. Let us be committed to our constitution that proclaims a person is innocent until proven guilty.



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel—

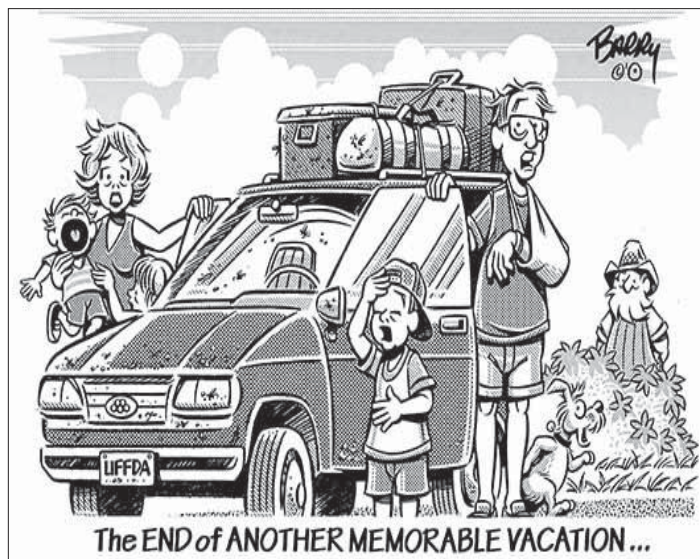
* On Aug. 25, 1835, the start of a six-part series announcing the discovery of life on the moon appears in the New York Sun newspaper. Sales of the paper soared as readers believed the tales about unicorns, two-legged beavers and furry, winged humanoids. Even Yale University scientists were fooled.

* On Aug. 24, 1873, William Henry Jackson takes the first photographs of Colorado's elusive Mount of the Holy Cross, providing reliable proof of its existence. The phenomenon formed after thousands of years of erosion of two deep ravines, which by sheltering winter snow from the sun created a perfect cross.

* On Aug. 19, 1909, the first race is held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. After the unstable rock and tar track caused the deaths of six people that day, the surface was replaced with 3.2 million paving bricks.

* On Aug. 21, 1920, Daphne Milne, wife of writer A.A. Milne, gives birth to a son, whom they name Christopher Robin Milne. He would be immortalized in A.A. Milne's books "Winnie-the-Pooh" and "The House at Pooh Corner."

* On Aug. 20, 1975, Viking 1, an unmanned U.S. planetary probe, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a mission to Mars. On July 20, 1976, the Viking 1 lander touched down on the Chryse Planitia region, becoming the first spacecraft to successfully land on Mars.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Abbott, Patrick react after 20 die in deadly shooting

AUSTIN — After a gunman was arrested in the killing of 20 people and wounding 26 others at a popular shopping venue in El Paso on Aug. 3, Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick offered thoughts and prayers.

Abbott ordered flags lowered in memory of those who lost their lives and said flags should remain at half-staff through sunset on Aug. 8.

The suspect, 21-year-old Patrick Crusius of Allen, Texas, surrendered after waves of first responders arrived on scene.

Crusius was charged with capital murder. He remains in custody in El Paso.

Lawmaker to take new post

Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, last week announced his retirement from the state House of Representatives, effective Sept. 30.

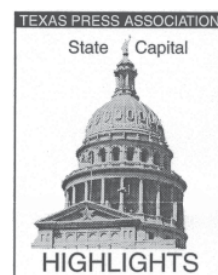
Zerwas, a physician for more than 30 years and past president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2007. He is the 29th most senior lawmaker in the 150-member lower chamber.

Zerwas currently serves as chair of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee, and served in the same capacity in the 2017 Texas Legislature. He earlier served as chair of the House Committee on Higher Education.

On Aug. 1, the University of Texas System announced the appointment of Zerwas as executive vice chancellor for health affairs, effective Oct. 1.

Kevin Eltife, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents and a former state senator, said Zerwas "comes to the UT System with a very high regard among colleagues in the medical, business and legislative arenas."

More than two-thirds of the UT System's annual budget is dedicated to health care, education and research, and UT institutions produce almost two-thirds of the state's health professionals, according to the UT System



news release.

Mitigation contracts issued

Eleven contracts totaling nearly \$14.6 million in the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust settlement have been issued, mainly to school districts, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced Aug. 1.

The settlement is a result of litigation over emissions-control defeat devices that were found to have been installed on vehicles manufactured by Volkswagen and its subsidiaries. Some 590,000 vehicles are affected, according to the TCEQ.

Entities that have applied for funds from the trust will use the money to replace aging diesel school buses, shuttle buses or transit buses with new models.

Alert system is launched

The Texas Department of Public Safety on July 30 announced the implementation of CLEAR Alert, the Coordinated Law Enforcement Adult Rescue Alert.

The new alert system is designed to assist law enforcement in locating and rescuing missing adults who may have been kidnapped, abducted or who are in immediate danger of injury or death, and to aid in locating potential suspects.

Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood, authored HB 1769 creating the CLEAR Alert and Sen. Larry Taylor,

R-Friendswood, sponsored the legislation in the Senate. It was signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in May and takes effect on Sept. 1.

The system, to be managed by the DPS, will be operated in the same manner as AMBER, Silver, Blue and Endangered Missing Persons alerts.

Revenue total is reported

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Aug. 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.86 billion in July, an amount 4.3 percent more than the amount reported for the month of July 2018.

"State sales tax revenue growth in July was moderate, with services and restaurant sectors leading the growth," Hegar said. "Tax receipts from the construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors also grew modestly, while receipts from the oil- and gas-mining sector remained about the same as a year ago."

Update: Measles cases

State health officials on July 29 confirmed that 21 cases of measles have been diagnosed in Texas so far this year.

The Department of State Health Services urged health care providers to consider measles when diagnosing patients because early identification, along with immunization, are keys to preventing the spread of measles.

A contagious respiratory illness, measles is a rash that begins as flat, red spots on the face and spreads down the neck and trunk to the rest of the body. Other symptoms include high fever over 101 degrees, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes.

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\$47 million to rebuild Lake Houston dam

Crenshaw Releases Statement On FEMA Funds For Lake Houston

HOUSTON, TX – On Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced funding for the Lake Houston Dam Spillway Improvement Project. The project, which converts Lake Houston's dam to dam gates, was awarded a total of \$47,170,953 (\$35,378,214 in federal funds).

Congressman Dan Crenshaw released the following statement in response to the announcement:

"This is great news for the entire San Jacinto watershed. This money will fund the much-needed Lake Houston dam gates



Lake Houston Dam will soon have new gates to help control flooding on the San Jacinto River watershed area.

to better manage the flow of water. For a community that feels the burden of flooding too often, this is a huge win. I'm grateful to partner with City Council Member Dave Martin,

Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Department of Emergency Management Executive Director Chief Nim Kidd, and State Senator Brandon Creighton to make this a reality."

Background: Funding for the City of Houston Lake Houston Dam Spillway Project is awarded directly to the State of Texas in full. Phase I funding will be re-

leased to the City of Houston from the State of Texas. Once those funds are released to the City of Houston the City will begin the process of permitting, engineering, design, and environmental assessment to increase the outflow capacity of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam. Once Phase I of the project is complete the City of Houston will renew the cost benefit analysis and submit to FEMA for their review. Upon their review of the completed cost benefit analysis after Phase I completion, the additional funds provided to the state of Texas for this project will be released for completion of Phase II construction. Once the funding is received by the City of Houston the two phases are expected to be complet-

ed within thirty-six months, with the possibility of extension if needed.

Along with the award of the Lake Houston Dam Spillway Improvement Project Hazard Mitigation Grant FEMA has also announced three other grants impacting the area. Lone Star College's Kingwood Campus has been awarded two public assistance grants for Emergency Protective measures in the amounts of \$6,276,131 and \$2,502,914. Clear Creek Independent School District was also awarded a public assistance grant for Emergency Protective Measures in the amount of \$1,303,060. The funding for these three grants is authorized under Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Act.

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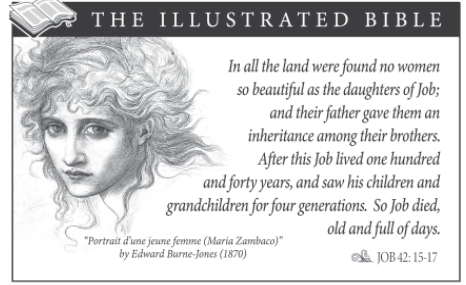
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by Wilson Casey

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey —
1. Is the book of Ephesians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which of these was stoned to death for preaching that Jesus was the Savior? Stephen, Joel, Asa, Malachi
3. What village was known as "The City of David"? Nimrod, Antioch, Bethlehem, Babylon

4. How many men did Nebuchadnezzar see walking in the fiery furnace? 2, 4, 20, 40
5. From the Bible, who could be called "Mr. Patience"? Naaman, Jairus, Philippi, Job
6. Who owned a coat that had many colors? Hosea, Joseph, Edom, Abraham
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Stephen; 3) Bethlehem; 4) 4, 5) Job; 6) Joseph
Comments? More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com
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HCC North Forest opens new facilities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tional opportunity, but a driver of economic development for the whole community.

The hour-long ceremony was not only a chance for HCC educators to speak about the new programs and opportunities, but it also became somewhat of a reunion party for all the past North Forest school officials that had endured closure of their district, and hoped this was a closure of their educational future achievements.

The main speaker for the event was Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who had worked to save the old North Forest ISD, and now was able to help bring funding for the new community college campus to the area. She spoke about not only the present opportunities, but also a vision of expansion into a complete campus. She noted that there was a lot of vacant land adjacent, and saw the North Forest campus expanding again. She congratulated the community leaders that had worked hard to bring the campus into North Forest. She noted that it had taken several attempts to bring the promised funds into reality for the college.

Other speakers included the new president of the HCC-NE campus, Dr. Monique Umphrey; Reverend Charles Taylor, Sr.; HCC Chancellor Dr. Cesar Maldonado; State Representative Senfronia Thompson; HCC Board president Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz; and Maxine Lane-Seals representing the many previous North Forest board members and educators that were present for the ceremony.

The expanded campus consists of three main di-



AERIAL VIEW OF THE EXPANDED HCC NORTH FOREST CAMPUS. A new Automotive Center is at upper left, a new Academic Center is on the right, and the renovated NFISD buildings at center have become the new Workforce Center.



Chancellor Cesar Maldonado speaks, as President Umphrey, Congresswoman Jackson Lee, and Rep. Senfronia Thompson listen.



Front Facade of the new Academic Building, facing the entrance on Homestead Road.

visions:

ACADEMIC BUILDING - The new academic building offers a welcoming environment that includes new classrooms, a student lounge, community room and faculty workroom;

WORKFORCE BUILDING - Actually a renovation of the old North Forest Administration offices, this now houses Workforce

functions offering welding, pipefitting, plumbing, and HVAC labs, classrooms, student collaboration space, and faculty offices;

AUTOMOTIVE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE - This new building offers high-tech training labs, classrooms, student collaboration and study space, and faculty offices. During the Open House, this building had a collection of

unique autos, and a Fire Truck and EMS ambulance on display.

The HCC North Forest Campus is at 6010 E. Little York Road, at the corner of Homestead. Students are encouraged to tour the campus and enroll for the fall semester.

More information is available by calling 713-718-5868 or on the web at nccs.edu/northforest.



Keynote speaker Sheila Jackson Lee challenged the community to excel with the new campus.

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