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NORTHEAST NEWS

Jensen Jubilee Oct. 19



This year's Jensen Jubilee Parade starts at 10am Saturday on Jensen, and ends in Shady Lane Park on Parker. Fun, food, music, kids zone, scholarships, health screenings and more.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 43, NO. 40 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Super Neighborhood Greater Greenspoint #2

Come and join the meeting. All stakeholders from the community are asked to get involved and be part of the movement of activating the Super Neighborhood Greater Greenspoint #2. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Green Ridge North Aquatic Centre, 225 Glazebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77060.

The focus of the meeting is to explain what a Super Neighborhood is and what the impact will be on our community at large.

The meeting is open to all stakeholders in the community. (HOA, Civic Associations, Churches, Schools, Business, Apartments residents, homeowners, etc.)

Job Fair

Thursday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Houston Community College North Forest, Bldg. C #128, Houston, TX 77016. For more information, call 713-223-0387.

Jensen Jubilee

The 6th annual Jensen Jubilee Parade & Fall Festival, Saturday October 19, 2019. Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. at 9001 Jensen Drive. Fall Festival at 10220 Shady (Shady Lane Park) immediately following parade. Free to the public. Food, entertainment, health screenings, kids zone & much more. For more information, please call 713-697-0933.

Exercising with Sory

At Buckner Family Hope Center, 4700 Aldine Mail Rt., 77039. Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

State, City spar on speed of flood mitigation

HOUSTON – Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner are reportedly at odds about the plan to administer all flood recovery funds by the state. An Abbott spokesperson said “Houston and Harris County have proven that they are unable to ensure victims are receiving resources in a timely manner.” John Wittman said Friday. At stake is \$4 Billion allocated to Texas by FEMA.

Mayor's statement: “The city will receive a



Mayor Sylvester Turner Gov. Greg Abbott

direct allocation of \$60 million of these flood mitigation funds and we are moving ahead with projects that will protect

the lives and property of Houstonians. The city will continue to work closely with the General Land Office, including an effort by

Houston and Harris County to receive \$2 billion of the next \$4 billion, reflecting the damage done by Harvey to our local communities.

“Initial control of the \$4 billion by the GLO poses no challenge to the city. The challenge is getting flood mitigation funds to Houston quickly. Installing new infrastructure to lessen flooding as soon as possible is critical. The city will work with GLO to distribute flood mitigation money in a way that will honor Houston's priorities,

with street-level infrastructure projects as part of the mix.

“The city is already planning a huge storm water detention project at the former Inwood Golf Course and 10 new spillway gates on Lake Houston. These have received initial approval from the federal government in the form of hazard mitigation grants from FEMA. Other city projects await approval.

See Flood Mitigation, Page 8

Exclusive Interview:

Garcia supports impeachment inquiry, assault weapons ban legislation

By Allan Jamail

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 8:30 am at the Houston Police Department's East Freeway Storefront, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia provided district and legislative updates.

Northeast News writer Allan Jamail covering the meeting, asked Congresswoman Garcia to explain her supporting of the current impeachment inquiry of President Trump. Garcia replied, “When I got



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia explains why she supports the impeachment investigation and the banning of military assault weapons that mass killers are using. (Allan Jamail photo)

elected to go to Washington I never expected to be involved in an impeachment process of a president. Almost every day I hear the President say or do something shocking to me. But the last straw for me was when in a phone call he asked a foreign country to interfere with our elections and to help him get re-elected. That's a violation of our laws and can't be tolerated; no one is above the law, not President Trump or any other president.”

“In my life I have taken the oath of office about 15 or more times to protect and defend our Constitution from both foreign and domestic violators. It's my duty to support the investigation of President Trump, for its been alleged that in a phone call he asked a foreign country's new President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine for political help. This is not about partisan politics, it's

See SYLVIA GARCIA, page 8

\$28M flood damage reduction pilot program includes Greens Bayou

The Harris County Flood Control District and one of its federal partners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), signed a partnership agreement for flood damage reduction improvement projects in the Armand Bayou, Greens Bayou, and White Oak Bayou watersheds. The agreement will fund a \$28 million pilot project to restore the natural floodplain and to reduce flooding risks in the project areas.

“Through our conservation programs, NRCS can help communities address serious and long-lasting damages as a result of natural disasters,” said Kristy Oates, NRCS acting state conservationist for Texas. “This pilot project allows NRCS and the Harris County Flood Control District to cooperatively restore floodplains while mitigating flood risks.”

The agreement was approved by Harris County Commissioners Court on

October 8, 2019 and jointly signed thereafter.

“This partnership is yet another important step we are taking to build a more resilient Harris County,” said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. “As we witnessed yet again with Tropical Storm Imelda, we are ground zero for catastrophic flooding in Texas. The good news is we are

See Flood Reduction Pilot Program, Page 8

BakerRipley opens flood recovery center

By Rocio Witte

From the Imelda Survey and the recent Community Forum, the Aldine area is showing as one of the hardest impacted areas within Harris County. To date, 324 families have registered as impacted by Tropical Storm Imelda. In order to offer much-needed support of impacted residents in the Aldine area, starting Monday, October 7th, 2019 for three days a week, we are standing up as a NRC (LRC) at the BakerRipley East Aldine Community Center.

We will be serving the Aldine area to include, but not limited

to, zip codes 77093, 77060, 77037, and 77039. Staff will be helping residents complete the Imelda survey and providing general informational handouts about resources. Currently, resources are limited so the main task is to have them complete the survey if they have not.

American Red Cross and Harris County Community Services Department will be onsite.

We are trying to get a legal partner to join us.

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* ZOMBIELAND 2 (R) 7:00p 9:15p

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Abominable in RealD 3D (PG) - 2:50pm, 7:30pm
Rambo: Last Blood (R) - 12:30pm, 2:40pm, 4:50pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
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It Chapter Two (R) - 12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:30pm
It Chapter Two (R) - 8:15pm
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The Lion King (PG) - 5:20pm Spanish Dubbed
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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD students attend College Night

Hundreds of Aldine ISD middle and high school students gathered at the M.O. Campbell Education Center for the College Fair. The annual event provides students the opportunity to meet college representatives and collect information from universities, colleges, technical trade schools, and the U.S. military.

Representatives from more than 100 colleges, universities and armed services branches were available to discuss programs of study, financial aid, admission requirements, student services, student activities, and other topics. Attending a university is just one of the options for students after high school graduation. Other students may choose to take a different route, like the military or technical trade school.

Students and parents moved from table to table collecting brochures, college swag, and advice on application procedures and what post-grad could look like for them. Although the College Fair brings out many junior and senior high school students, there



Pictured in the photos are students from Aldine ISD attending College Night.

were many underclassmen browsing their future options. In addition to the colleges and universities,

there were several scholarship organization and business booths.

Lone Star College Board sets tax rate for 2019

Houston (Oct. 9, 2019) – The Lone Star College Board of Trustees voted to keep the LSC tax rate at 10.78 cents per \$100 property valuation for the 2019 tax year.

“This is the fourth straight year Lone Star College has kept the tax rate unchanged,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “We take our financial responsibility very seriously and work hard at being good stewards of the taxpayers’ money.”

LSC had the seventh lowest tax rate of the 50 community colleges in Texas for fiscal year 2019, the most current data available.

The board voted to pass the tax rate during a special meeting Oct. 7, after it had held two public hearings Sept. 25 and Oct. 3.

An LSC homeowner

with a house valued at \$100,000 would pay \$108 annually in taxes based on the 2019 tax rate (not including potential additional exemptions which could lower the taxes further).

Homeowners are eligible for a Homestead Exemption of \$5,000 or 1 percent of the value of the home (whichever is greater). Taxes are also frozen for disabled residents and those over 65 years of age residing in the LSC service area as part of the college’s \$75,000 property tax exemption and tax freeze, where the actual dollar amount owed is frozen as of the date the taxpayer qualifies for the exemption – even if the property value increases.

“Lone Star College will continue to be accountable to taxpayers and strive to allocate budget and re-

sources fairly,” said Head. Harris County accounts for approximately 73 percent of the LSC tax base while Montgomery and San Jacinto Counties make up approximately 27 percent.

Property taxes make up 42 percent of the funding sources for the 2019-20 LSC budget. Student tuition and fees account for 33 percent, the state of Texas funds 20 percent, and 5 percent comes from other sources.

“The average taxable value of residence homestead in the LSC district rose 4.6 percent from last year,” said Jennifer Mott, LSC chief financial officer. “Our service area continues to experience a strong economy reflected by the significant increase in the number of new properties added to the tax rolls.”

Emmy Award-Winning Television Editor visits Blanson CTE HS students

Mary DeChambres, ACE, an Emmy award-winning television editor, visited Blanson CTE High School video production students for a week-long intensive. Before making her way to Hollywood, DeChambres began her career as an art teacher at Eisenhower Ninth Grade School. While teaching, she taught herself how to edit photos and videos. It wasn’t until she took an editing course at the University of Southern California and interned at a video music production company that she realized she could do this full-time.

The more she worked with the editing tools the more she became passionate about storytelling through video. When deciding to take on video editing full-time, her first opportunity was with a company that produced reality shows. She has worked on shows from The Real World on MTV to Project Runway (Bravo and Lifetime) and American Ninja Warrior (NBC).

During the intensive at Blanson, DeChambres spent time explaining the creative process and techniques used to take reality show film and create a story. She also emphasized the importance of collaborating with others and using ethical practices in the industry. DeChambres showed the students raw footage from American Ninja Warrior before editing and walked the students through her process, using the tools that they have access to in their video production classrooms.

The video production students were excited to have a professional television editor show them the different possibilities and opportunities they have after leaving high school.

“After exploring the different styles of editing and production, I’ve decided that reality television pro-



Mary DeChambres discussing light choices with Blanson CTE High School video production student.

duction is what I want to focus on after graduation,” Ilona Guillory, Blanson CTE High senior, said. “My week with Ms. DeChambres inspired me and helped me realize what is possible in this field when you work on your skills.”

DeChambres left the students with a video editing assignment. Students were tasked with highlighting the different programs offered at their campus in a one minute video. They split into groups and interviewed students from each program and will edit the footage to make one final video.

DeChambres walked the hallways with students providing them support and offering them suggestions as they chose how and where to interview their peers.

“I love teaching and I’m incredibly impressed with the students and this program,” DeChambres said. “I want the students to understand that I used the same tools that they are using to change my career.”

Blanson CTE High School offers audio video production courses starting in ninth grade. The program provides training for entry-level employment in a wide array of industries. These include audio, video, television and film. Other work possibilities could

lead to work in cable television, education, radio and business. The students use professional grade equipment and software and will create student-led productions during the program. This will give them a solid foundation in audio, video, and film style production projects. Skills students develop include video recording/editing, audio recording/editing, video production, scripting/writing, motion graphic video/animation, lighting techniques and crew positions.

“I found my niche in post production,” DeChambres said. “There is a lot of creative control for editors in reality programming and I have the opportunity to make the story. I make it a point to honor each story I am working on.”

DeChambres explained that each of the students can graduate from this program and get jobs in the video editing industry right away. She reiterated that there are various opportunities in the video editing industry and that creativity is something that artificial intelligence can never take away.

The students will be sharing their finished video project with DeChambres at the end of the month.

Free latin-inspired music at Miller Outdoor Theatre

HOUSTON (Oct. 3, 2019) – The Houston Symphony’s Lunada, presented by the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston, celebrates a night under the moon with music at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 19 at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Concertgoers will enjoy an evening of music in a free and relaxed outdoor setting appropriate for the entire family.

Lunada, an annual cultural event, is like those held in small towns (pueblos) in Mexico. The evening features several works by Arturo Márquez, one of Mexico’s leading composers of contemporary music, including his popular Danzón No. 2. This rhythmic and colorful piece is often referred to as a second national anthem for Mexico.

One of Latin America’s most prominent conductors, Chilean-born José Luis Domínguez, leads the orchestra in this program celebrating diversity through music by Latin American composers like



Domínguez

José Pablo Moncayo, Enrique Soro, and many others who have been inspired by Latin America. This performance marks Domínguez’ debut with the Houston Symphony.

Lunada, presented by the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston and made possible by the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board, takes place Oct. 19 at Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park

Drive. Admission is free, but tickets are required for the covered seated area. Tickets are available at the Miller Theatre Box Office the day of the performance between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Any remaining tickets are released one hour before the performance time. For more information, please call 713-224-7575 or visit houstonSymphony.org. All programs and artists are subject to change.

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Woman killed in Aldine mobile home fire



Fire crews work a deadly mobile home fire in the 5500 block Mooney Road on Friday, Oct. 4, 2019.

A woman died early Friday after a fire broke out at a mobile home in the Aldine area, authorities say. Crews were alerted to the fire shortly before 4 a.m. in the 1500 block of Mooney Road, just off the Hardy Toll Road north of downtown Houston. Early on, they learned there was possibly someone trapped inside. The first-arriving firefighters found fire and smoke pouring out of the mobile home and quickly quelled the flames. Once inside, they found the 44-year-old woman dead. A 13-year-old girl and a 22-year-old man escaped the fire, officials said.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo Announces Additional Federal Resources for Imelda Recovery

Harris County, Texas - Friday, October 4, 2019, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced that Tropical Storm Imelda survivors in Harris County will be eligible to apply for additional resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist in their recovery. Residents can apply for individual assistance through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP), which provides financial help and/or direct services to survivors, including assistance with housing or other disaster-related needs.

"The destructive impact of Tropical Storm Imelda continues to weigh heavily on far too many of our residents," said Judge Hidalgo. "Survivors deserve to have every resource available and we will not stop fighting to help our communities

make this recovery as quick and effective as possible. I'd like to thank Harris County employees along with our federal and state elected representatives for their hard work in helping us secure these vital Federal resources. I encourage anyone who needs help to apply today."

Based on recent estimates from both the City of Houston and Harris County, over 2500 homes across Harris County have been reported impacted by flooding. For information on how to apply for federal assistance through the FEMA IHP program and other resources for Imelda recovery, residents can visit readyharris.org or dial 211. Other resources continue to be available as well, including help with clean-up and debris removal offered by local non-profit agencies.

Last week, Judge Hidalgo and Houston Mayor



Lina Hidalgo

Sylvester Turner established the Imelda Assistance Fund, another resource that will be made available to provide aid to those affected by Tropical Storm Imelda. Fund grants and services will be disbursed via non-profit organizations experienced in disaster recovery. Residents seeking to donate financial resources can donate by visiting ReadyHarris.org.

"Hearts reaching out" in Castlewood community

With the help of Richard Cantu, Executive Director of East Aldine Management District, Castlewood Civic Club President Connie Esparza and volunteers organized an event to help those affected by the last tropical storm Imelda.

Mary Dennis, founder of "Hearts Reaching Out", a non-profit organization since 2009 was contacted to join the team. Then, Castlewood residents affected by Tropical Storm Imelda were contacted and on Saturday, October 5, 2019, people affected by Imelda, lined up in cars and trucks at Bethel Community Church parking lot to receive the generosity of donated furniture. Residents drove from as far as Porter hearing about the event. No one was turned away. The theme was 'Paying It Forward'.

Thank Pastor Rick Martinez and to everyone who helped and was involved in this project, this is a fine example of Neighbors Serving Neighbors.



FEMA teams out in Harris County communities to help Imelda survivors

Housing inspectors and Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are in Harris County to help survivors of Tropical Storm Imelda get connected with potential assistance.

DSA TEAMS
If you live in an affected area, you may encounter DSA teams as they go door to door to answer questions about the types of help available, help survivors apply for federal assistance, update applicants' contact information, and help with referrals to disaster recovery partners. Team members will have different colored shirts with a FEMA logo and

have official FEMA photo IDs.

INSPECTIONS
Inspections occur after survivors register with FEMA. They are an essential part of the recovery process for survivors who need to make their homes livable again or have serious personal property loss. Homeowners and renters should make sure their contact information is up to date and have access to a telephone. You will need to have a photo ID and proof of ownership or a lease.

FEMA Inspectors WILL wear official FEMA ID badges, confirm your identity, confirm your registration number, review your damages, have you

sign documentation
- FEMA Inspectors WILL NOT determine eligibility, cost you any money, ask for financial information, take the place of an insurance company inspection.

APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE
If you had uninsured and underinsured storm damage related to Imelda, you can register for FEMA assistance:

- Online: www.DisasterAssistance.gov
- Phone: 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Many residents may not be eligible for federal assistance. Additional recovery resources can be found at www.ReadyHarris.org.



Harris County Flood Control District completes first round of Harvey damages drainage problems

Harris County Flood Control District has recently completed drainage infrastructure repairs using the first \$13 million from a post-Hurricane Harvey grant awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS was able to assist the Harris County community using funding from the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program.

"The EWP Program helps eligible entities implement emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property caused by a natural disaster," said Mark Northcut, Natural Resource Manager, USDA-NRCS Texas. "NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for measures that reduce threats to life or property from a watershed impairment, including sediment and debris removal and also provides protection from additional flooding or soil erosion. In addition to implementing emergency measures, assistance available under the EWP Program includes the purchase of floodplain easements."

Repairs from the first NRCS grant, consisting of hundreds of individual repair efforts, are located in the Greens Bayou, Cypress Creek, Little Cypress Creek and Addicks Reservoir watersheds.

More than \$80 million in additional drainage infrastructure repair projects across Harris County are still in the bidding or construction stages, with an estimated completion date of Fall 2020. This work included sinkholes, bank erosion,

failed concrete, collapsed outfall pipes and other damage that totaled more than 1,200 damage sites caused by Hurricane Harvey.

ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit www.hcfcd.org.

Equipos de FEMA estarán en las comunidades del Condado Harris para ayudar a los sobrevivientes de Imelda

Inspectores de hogares y equipos de Asistencia para Sobrevivientes de Desastres (DSA, por sus iniciales en inglés) de la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA, por sus iniciales en inglés) estarán en el Condado Harris para ayudar a los sobrevivientes de la tormenta tropical Imelda a conectarse con asistencia potencial.

EQUIPOS DSA
Si vive en un área afectada, puede encontrarse con equipos de DSA que van de puerta en puerta para responder a preguntas sobre los tipos de ayuda disponibles, ayudar a los sobrevivientes a solicitar asistencia federal, actualizar la información de contacto de los solicitantes y ayudar con referencias a socios de recuperación de desastres. Los miembros del equipo tendrán camisas de diferentes colores con

el logo de FEMA y tendrán una identificación oficial con foto de FEMA.

INSPECCIONES
Las inspecciones ocurren después de que los sobrevivientes se registran con FEMA. Son una parte esencial del proceso de recuperación para los sobrevivientes que necesitan que sus hogares sean habitables o que tienen una pérdida grave de propiedad personal. Los propietarios e inquilinos deben asegurarse de que su información de contacto sea correcta y tener acceso a un teléfono para contacto. Deberá tener una identificación con foto y prueba de propiedad o un contrato de arrendamiento.

Los inspectores de FEMA SI llevarán tarjetas de identificación oficiales de FEMA, confirmarán su identidad, confirmarán su número de registro, re-

visarán sus daños y le pedirán que firme la documentación.

Los inspectores de FEMA NO determinarán la elegibilidad, le costarán dinero, solicitarán información financiera, tomarán el lugar de una inspección de la compañía de seguros.

SOLICITE ASISTENCIA

Si tuvo daños por tormenta sin seguro o con seguro insuficiente relacionados con Imelda, puede registrarse para recibir asistencia de FEMA:

- En línea: www.DisasterAssistance.gov

- Teléfono: 800-621-3362 o (TTY) 800-462-7585 de 7 a.m. a 10 p.m. diario. Muchos residentes pueden ser inelegible para asistencia federal. Se pueden encontrar adicionales recursos de recuperación en www.ReadyHarris.org.

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Association of Mature American Citizens

Understanding the Family Maximum

Dear Rusty: My husband passed away when our children were 3 and 5 years old. I received benefits for myself, our two children and my 14-year-old son from a previous relationship. When my 14-year-old son turned 18, the amount he received stopped and was added to ours, keeping the total family amount the same. Then in July of this year my youngest daughter turned 16 so I fell off with that amount now going to my kids. Again, the total family amount stayed the same - \$625.00 each for my daughter and son. The very next month in August, my youngest son turned 18 so of course, he fell off. I called Social Security and the representative said that she couldn't guarantee that my son's full amount will go to my daughter. It turns out that none did, decreasing the family amount by \$625.00. My question is why was the family amount reduced when she still has 2 years before she turns 18?
Signed: Confused Survivor

Dear Confused: I understand your confusion - let me clarify what happened in your situation: Social Security (SS) sets a "Family Maximum" amount, which is the most all eligible family members combined can receive from a worker's (your husband's) record. SS uses a rather complex formula to compute the Family Maximum amount, but it comes out to be somewhere between 150% and 180% of your husband's "primary insurance amount" (or "PIA," what he was entitled to when he passed). The family maximum is in effect whenever there are multiple beneficiaries on a worker's record.

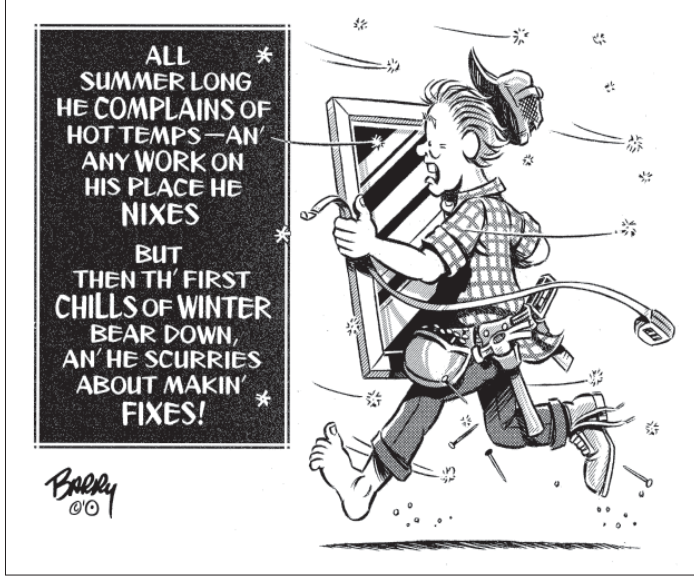
The benefits you were personally receiving were "child in care" benefits which entitled you, as a surviving spouse with a minor child, to collect 75% of the benefit your husband was receiving, or entitled to receive, at his death. Child in care benefits stop when the youngest child reaches 16 years of age. Each of your 3 minor children were also entitled to receive 75% of their deceased father's (or stepfather's) benefit amount. Minor children can receive 75% of the deceased parent's benefit until they reach 18 years of age (or 19 if still in high school). However, all benefits are subject to the "family maximum." The total of benefits paid to all

survivors of the deceased is limited to that family maximum and, if that amount is reached, all eligible survivors share equally in that family maximum amount. Then as each survivor becomes ineligible due to their age, the remaining survivors each receive a proportional share of the family maximum amount, but that adjustment cannot result in an individual's benefit being more than they are otherwise entitled to (their maximum individual benefit of 75% of your husband's PIA).

When your oldest son turned 18 and became ineligible, the sum of benefits due all remaining survivors was still more than the family maximum, so the family maximum amount was equally divided among the remaining eligible survivors. Then, when your eligibility for child-in-care benefits ceased when your youngest turned 16, your two remaining minor children each received either a) their equal share of the family maximum, or b) 75% of their father's PIA (their normal entitlement as a surviving minor child). When your youngest son turned 18 and became ineligible, your youngest daughter was then eligible to receive only her full benefit as a minor surviving child (75% of your husband's benefit), which she can continue to receive until she is 18 (or 19 if still in high school). So, as you can see, the family maximum isn't an amount which is fully available to any survivor, it is an amount that restricts the total amount which can be paid to all when there are multiple eligible survivors.

Please note that at age 60 you are once again eligible for a surviving spouse benefit, which will be based upon 100% of the benefit your husband was entitled to at his death, subject, of course, to normal reductions and earnings restrictions for claiming benefits before your full retirement age.

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.



Abbott puts Bush in charge of disaster mitigation effort

AUSTIN — A plan is afoot for large-scale, regional projects to improve the state's resilience to hurricanes and other natural disasters, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Oct. 4.

Abbott tapped Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush to lead the federally funded \$4 billion-plus "comprehensive mitigation" effort. Funding will come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under a community development block grant.

"Today we are pushing forward with the single-largest mitigation program our state has ever seen," Abbott said. "Commissioner Bush and I are committed to working together in partnership with HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) and the Texas Division of Emergency Management to maximize the impact of this funding."

HUD on Aug. 23 released mandatory rules for the use of more than \$4.3 billion in congressionally appropriated funding to be administered by the Texas General Land Office. Funding has been earmarked for projects as follows:

- \$4,074,456,000 for Hurricane Harvey;
- \$169,748,000 for 2016 floods; and
- \$52,985,000 for 2015 floods.

The overall total includes certain funds for 2015 floods to be allocated directly by HUD to

- City of Houston, \$61,884,000; and
- City of San Marcos, \$24,012,000.

Federal disaster declared

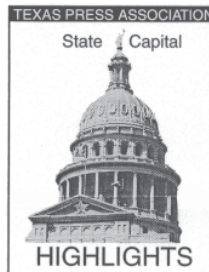
The White House on Oct. 4 ordered federal assistance to supplement state and local recovery efforts in Texas counties affected by Tropical Storm Imelda from Sept. 17 to Sept. 23.

The disaster declaration makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery and Orange. Assistance may include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard-mitigation measures statewide. Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warrant-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



'Farm Fresh' kicks off

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on Oct. 2 announced the start of the Texas Department of Agriculture's annual Farm Fresh Challenge for Texas schools.

The effort encourages schools to buy Texas-grown foods, teach students about the importance of agriculture and celebrate their activities on social media.

More than 220 school districts and charter school organizations have pledged participation for 2019, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

DSHS updates case count

The Department of State Health Services on Oct. 1 reported the identification of some 75 Texas cases of severe lung disease in people who report vaping before developing symptoms.

State health officials, who update and post the case count every Tuesday, are gathering more information about 34 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 47 other states.

Patients range in age from 13 to 75 with a median age of 22 years. About one-third of the Texas cases have been in teens, three-quarters are male and almost all required hospitalization.

Nationally, 1,080 cases have been reported. DSHS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and other states to gather evidence of what the cases have in common and determine a cause.

ed by the results of further damage assessments, according to a White House news release.

When Gov. Abbott requested the presidential disaster declaration on Oct. 1, he said, "The recent severe weather in the Gulf Coast region has impacted thousands of Texans, leaving many without the resources they need to recover."

Revenue inches higher

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Oct. 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.74 billion in September, an amount 1.2 percent more than the amount reported for the month of September 2018.

"State sales tax revenue grew only modestly in September," Hegar said. "Strong growth in receipts from the construction sector, retail trade and restaurants were largely offset by declining receipts from oil- and gas-related sectors."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in September 2019 was up 3.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Slow Travelers"

Peter and I are packing for our annual trip again. My husband, Peter, is retired and I write, so we are able to travel now. Getting married late in life, this might have posed some problems because Peter is exactly the opposite sort of traveler I used to be.

"I'm packing two separate bags—one for Spain and one for on the way there," Peter informs me. "This will mean some duplication, but it will simplify things when it's time to fly!" Peter is obviously pleased with himself.

I used to take pride in traveling light. I fit all my clothes and everything I needed in a small backpack or a carry-on suitcase and hit the road with little idea of where I was going. This was a lot of fun and I had some fine adventures. Then I met Peter.

"Should we bring the paella pan?" Peter asks. We bought the pan in Spain. We are going to Spain.

"I think they'll probably have one," I say, knowing that (if they do not) Peter will insist on adding a paella pan to the list of things we bring overseas every year.

In addition to sharp knives (which, I concede, every traveler needs) Peter packs spices and utensils. He brings clothes for every contingency. He brings coffee and something to make it in. Peter has first aid supplies for every illness, repair kits for every emergency, maps and receipts for every misunderstanding. Traveling with Peter means having everything you could possibly need tucked away in some bag or another—and extra bags, just in case.

"Don't forget Ziplocs!" Peter cautions me. In the list of things that are hard to find outside the U.S., resealable bags are near the top of the list. Don't travel without them—that's our motto.

It is surprising, actually, how little push-back I've given Peter on his packing style. Rather than fight it, I've embraced it wholeheartedly. I wistfully remember the days I travelled with two pair of shoes (one on my feet) as I tuck another pair into my bag. "So much room!" I think. "Why not bring my black suede boots?" There really is no going back.

But, now that I've adjusted my packing style, Peter and I are surprisingly compatible travelers. We are both slow travelers.

Like me, Peter does not like to dash around from place to place when we are somewhere new. We like to hunker down, usually in an inexpensive Airbnb (with all our sharp knives and spices and emergency equipment) and take our time. Avoiding the cost of tickets and transport and tips, getting to know where the inexpensive markets and restaurants are, finding a great discount on lodging for a longer stay—all these things make traveling less expensive. But, for us, it is also more fun.

We loiter in the market long enough to acquire a favorite kind of olive or cheese and try some vegetable we have trouble identifying.

"That is the ugliest, tastiest tomato ever," I tell Peter.

"Let's buy more tomorrow," Peter says.

We find the local parks and hiking trails. We learn the best time to buy bread and pastries. We watch the same woman walk her dog, the same man talking to himself, the same young couple as they fall in and out of love. Traveling slowly allows us to feel a part of a place, to imagine it is our home for a while, to wonder what it would be like to live a different life entirely.

Except that we have Ziplocs. And really sharp knives.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nnewsroom@aol.com

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Texans visits Colts in key AFC South battle: Surprising Baylor gets road test at OSU

What a difference a week makes? Three weeks ago, Houston Texan fans were ready to give up on their team after a 16-10 loss at home to Carolina in a game where quarterback Deshaun Watson struggled and the offense did the same.

But a week later, Watson played perhaps the best game of his young career when he threw for 426 yards and five touchdowns, while wide receiver Will Fuller hauled in 14 passes for an astounding 217 yards and three touchdowns as Bill O'Brien's team rolled to a 53-32 win at NRG Stadium against Atlanta.

The Texans take a step up in class this week when they travel to Indianapolis to take on a Colts team that strolled into Kansas City two weeks ago and ended the Chiefs' undefeated season with a 19-13 victory. The Colts used a strong running game and stout defense to upset Pat Mahomes and send a message to the rest of the AFC that there is life after Andrew Luck.

A year ago, the Texans arrived in Indy with a 0-3 record and pulled off a 37-34 overtime win to ignite a nine-game winning streak. That win was huge for the Texans and they will need another top-notch effort if they hope to win a second straight on the road against the Colts.

While the Texans got a big win two weeks ago, the Cowboys lost their second straight game when they lost at home to the Green Bay Packers, 34-24. Green Bay used a strong running game to jump out to leads of 24-0 and 31-3 before Dak Prescott got the offense going in the second half. Although Prescott threw for 463 yards and two touchdowns, it wasn't enough to pull off the comeback. This week, they host the surging Eagles on Sunday Night Football in a game the Cowboys need to win if they hope to reassert themselves as one of the teams to beat in the NFC.

In other key games this weekend, New Orleans travels to Chicago to take on a Bears team that is struggling on offense. The Saints have won three straight games with Teddy Bridgewater at quarterback after losing starter Drew Brees to a thumb injury in Week 2.

In college action, the Baylor Bears, one of the surprise teams in the Big 12, travel to Stillwater for a tough road test against an Oklahoma State team that was upset two weeks ago in Lubbock by Texas Tech. The Bears won their first five games of the year and should arrive in Stillwater with a 6-0 record after they hosted a Tech team last Saturday. Tech struggles on the road, so don't be surprised if the Bears are tied for first place in the Big 12 heading into Week 7.

Before we take a look at those games and a host of others, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week upped the season record to 41-29 (59%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

HIGH SCHOOL

Aldine at Spring - Hank Semler's Mustangs visit Spring on Thursday night to take on a solid Spring High team that defeated Nimitz 35-0 two weeks ago. The Mustangs suffered a 40-0 loss to Davis high two weeks ago. Aldine is led by running back Elijah Teamer (442 rushing yards, 3 TDs), while spring is led by dual threat quarterback Aldyn Bradley (493 passing yards, 6 TDs/533 rushing yards, 12 TDs). My pick, Spring 34, Aldine 20

Davis vs. Dekaney - Scott Joseph's Falcons picked up a 40-0 win over Aldine two weeks ago to move to 2-0 in District 16-6A play and share first place with Westfield atop the district standings. The win was the third straight for Davis, who are led by running back DeMarcus Barlow (609 rushing yards, 8 TDs). In the win over Aldine, Barlow rushed for 173 yards and four touchdowns. Dekaney is led by quarterback Daelyn Williams, who has passed for 1,049 yards and 12 touchdowns and has rushed for 285 yards and five scores. My pick, Davis 31, Dekaney 29

MacArthur at Westfield - Wayne Crawford's Generals picked up a big 32-29 come-from-behind win over Eisenhower two weeks ago to put themselves in the hunt for one of 16-6A's four playoff spots. Running back Darios Gatson led the way with 158 yards on the ground and one touchdown,

while quarterback Rashaun Jackson threw for two scores and ran for another. Westfield is still the class of 16-6A and is led by quarterback Cardell Williams (626 passing yards, 8 TDs) and running back Kendal Taylor (471 rushing yards, 6 TDs). My pick, Westfield 26, MacArthur 23

Nimitz vs. Eisenhower - Richard Slater's Cougars and Eric Jackson's Eagles meet on Friday night in Thorne Stadium in an important game for both teams. Nimitz will look to running back Jayvon Davis (491 yards, 5 TDs) to have a big night on the ground, while the Eagles will pin their hopes on quarterback Sevan Guidry (709 passing yards, 6 TDs). My pick, Nimitz 26, Eisenhower 24

NCAA

Michigan at Penn State - If Jim Harbaugh's team is going to remain in the Big 12 East race, they must win at Penn State on Saturday. That's going to be easier said than done. Two weeks ago, the Wolverines struggled on offense, but thanks to its defense, they did pull off an ugly 10-3 win at home against Iowa. This week they play a pretty good Penn State offense at home, so good luck with that Wolverine fans. The Nitany Lions went into their game at Iowa last week averaging 47 points per game behind quarterback Sean Clifford (1,443 passing yards, 12 TDs) and speedy wide receiver K.J. Hamler (19 receptions, 394 yards, 4 TDs). The Michigan defense is good, but I don't think they will be good enough to slow down Penn State in Happy Valley on Saturday. A second conference loss might not sit too well with Michigan fans and Harbaugh's seat might start to get a little warm. There is a job opening in Washington, if you're interested Jim! My pick, Penn State 31, Michigan 18

Baylor at Oklahoma State - Matt Rhule's Bears are one of the surprise teams in the Big 12 this season and opened a lot of eyes two weeks ago with a 31-12 beat down of Kansas State in Manhattan. This week, Baylor hits the road to take on an Oklahoma State team followed up their loss at Texas three



weeks ago with a loss at Texas Tech two weeks ago. Mike Gundy's team is pretty much out of the Big 12 race, but the Cowboys would love to throw a wrench into Baylor's hopes of landing a spot in the Big 12 title game on the first Saturday in December. Baylor is led by quarterback Charlie Brewer (1,202 passing yards, 11 TDs) and wide receivers Denzel Mims (29 receptions, 438 yards, 5 TDs) and Tyquan Thornton (20 receptions, 328 yards, 3 TDs). The Cowboys do have some weapons of their own on offense led by quarterback Spender Sanders (1,333 passing yards, 10 TDs), running back Chuba Hubbard (1,094 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Tylan Wallace (39 receptions, 703 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Cowboys offense to erupt on Saturday as Gundy's team pulls off the upset. My pick, Oklahoma State 34, Baylor 31

NFL

Kansas City at Denver - Week 7 begins on Thursday night with the Chiefs visiting the woeful Broncos on Thursday Night Football. Two weeks ago, KC suffered its first loss of the season when they dropped a 19-13 decision at home to the Colts. Quarterback Pat Mahomes (1,831 yards, 11 TDs) was roughed up in that game and suffered an ankle injury. He should be good to go on Sunday against a Denver team that might be holding a fire sale as it begins the rebuilding process. There is speculation that the Denver front office may trade a number of high profile veterans, including defensive end Von Miller to acquire draft picks. Two weeks ago, the Broncos upset the

Chargers in Los Angeles behind quarterback Joe Flacco (1,258 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Kansas City offense to get back on track as the Chiefs win an easy one on Thursday night. My pick, Kansas City 33, Denver 16

Minnesota at Detroit - Don't look now, but the NFC North just might be the best division in football. Every team in the division had a winning record heading into Week 5 and this week, the Vikings visit an improved Detroit team in an important division game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Vikings got the passing game going at Kirk Cousins (1,041 yards, 5 TDs) connected with wide receiver Adam Thielen (20 receptions, 309 yards, 4 TDs) on two scoring passes and the defense stifled the Giants offense. The Lions were off that same week and should be rested for this one. Detroit is led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (1,122 yards, 9 TDs), running back Kerryon Johnson (251 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Kenny Galloway (19 receptions, 243 yards, 4 TDs). Minnesota struggles on the road against quality opponents and they will again on Sunday against a game Detroit team. My pick, Detroit 24, Minnesota 20

Houston at Indianapolis - A tough road test for O'Brien's team as they face a Colts team that has a solid running game led by Marlon Mack (470 yards, 2 TDs) and an underrated defense. Quarterback Jacoby Brissett (1,062 yards, 10 TDs) has done an admirable job replacing Andrew Luck at quarterback and takes what defenses give him. The Texans have a better run defense than the Chiefs do, so look for Houston to slow down Mack and the running game and

force Brissett to beat them with his arm. Indy was off last week, which means they will enter this game rested and ready. The Indy defense will get tested by Watson (1,364 yards, 11 TDs), Fuller and DeAndre Hopkins. Hopkins has been held in check lately, but look for him to have a big day against a suspect Indy secondary. My pick, Houston 26, Indianapolis 23

Baltimore at Seattle - The Ravens make a cross-country trip to Seattle to take on a Seahawks team that is playing well on offense, but has some issues on defense. Two weeks ago, Russell Wilson (1,409 yards, 12 TDs) threw four touchdown passes to lead his team to a 30-29 home win over the Rams, while the Ravens beat a beat up Pittsburgh team 26-23 in overtime (was that a nasty hit Steeler QB Mason Rudolph or what?). After his big start to the season, quarterback Lamar Jackson (1,271 yards, 11 TDs) has been so-so in recent weeks, but look for him to count on running back Mark Ingram (372 yards, 6 TDs) to carry the load early to soften up the Seattle defense. Baltimore also has some issues on defense, which Wilson will exploit come Sunday. My pick, Seattle 30, Baltimore 27

New Orleans at Chicago - Can the Saints pick up another road win with Brees on the mend? Possibly. The Saints have played well with Bridgewater under center, but the offense will get a real test when it takes on a very good Chicago defense in the Windy City on Sunday. There is no doubt the Bears have one of the best defenses in the NFL, but the offense has struggled all year. Two weeks ago, the Bears lost to the Raiders in London. Chicago fell behind 17-0 before rallying to take a 21-17 lead, but the Raiders scored late to pull off the upset. The Saints have a pretty fair defense of their own and if Bridgewater can put together a couple of scoring drives early, the Saints could pull out the win. Look for running back Alvin Kamara (342 rushing yards, 1 TD/26 receptions, 241 yards, 1 TD) to get plenty of looks early as NO tries to wear down the Bears defense. I think the

Chicago defense will rally and lead the Bears to a key win on Sunday. My pick, Chicago 20, New Orleans 17

Philadelphia at Dallas - A good one for the Sunday night crew and the viewing audience has the Eagles visiting the Cowboys in a key NFC East contest for both teams. Dallas won its first three games of the season against three of the most teams in the NFL (Giants, Redskins and Dolphins), then dropped two straight to quality opponents in New Orleans and Green Bay. Against the Packers, the Dallas defense was exposed allowing four rushing touchdowns to Aaron Jones, which helped the Packers jump out to a 31-3 lead before Prescott (1,606 yards, 11 TDs) and Amari Cooper (11 receptions, 226 yards, 1 TD in the game) woke up in the second half to make a game of it. The Cowboys' hopes for a dramatic comeback were doomed when kicker Brett Maher missed a chip-shot field goal late that would have made it a seven-point game with less than two minutes to play. The Dallas offensive line must play better this week against a Philly defense that produced 10 sacks two weeks ago against the hapless Jets and scored two defensive touchdowns as well. The Cowboys will need to pressure quarterback Carson Wentz (1,152 yards, 10 TDs) and keep his favorite target, tight end Zach Ertz (29 receptions, 312 yards, 1 TD) in check. I think the last two losses should serve as a wake up call for Jason Garrett's team, but if they don't the Princeton grad might want to polish up his resume. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 28



Posting Date October 14, 2019

King Crossword

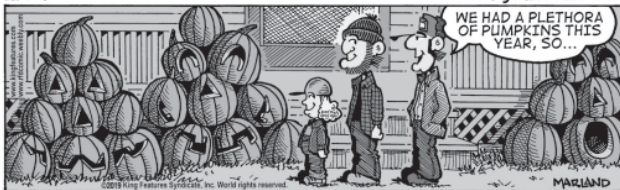
ACROSS 1 "Lord of the Rings" actor Ian 5 Spigot 8 Jet forth 12 Cruising 13 Court 14 Baserunner's goal 15 Locale for a 1920s "sitting" fad 17 Settled down 18 Kingdom near Fiji 19 Creators 21 "Carmina Burana" composer 24 Directory data (Abbr.) 25 Humorous utterance 28 Temporary gift 30 Scot's hat 33 Illustrations 34 Flower of New Mexico 35 "I - Camera" type 36 Lingerie item 37 Physical 38 Vivacity, in music 39 Genetic letters 41 Ogier's look 43 Jungle expedition 46 Romantic dance 50 Send out 51 Worm holder 54 Leftovers 55 To and - 56 Writer 57 Wan 58 Evergreen 59 Horse-drawn carriage 7 Verse 8 Drum major's hat 9 Directing principle 10 Eastern potato 11 Drenches 16 Standard 20 Pavlova or Paquin 22 Change 23 Central 25 Poke 28 Blunder 27 Beachcomber's find 29 Top 31 Parisian pal 32 Name in China's history 34 Calendar quota 38 Lullaby composer 40 Smartly dressed suffix 42 Biblical verb 43 Antitoxins 44 Iowa city 45 Dubious 47 Ark builder 48 "The Naked Maja" artist 49 Suitable 52 Anger 53 Piglet's mom

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

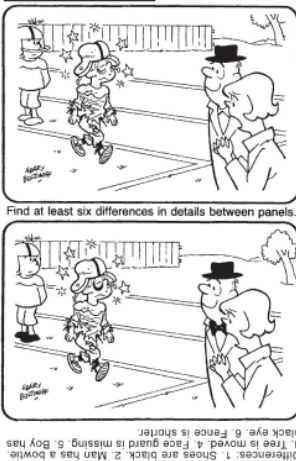
Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which is the northernmost of the Great Lakes?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What would a philhellene collect or study?
3. MOVIES: Which movie was based on the novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"
4. HISTORY: The Treaty of Versailles ended which major 20th-century war?
5. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "lex" mean in English?
6. TELEVISION: What was the nickname of Carrie Bradshaw's boyfriend in the comedic series "Sex and the City"?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eyes does a honey bee have?
8. MEASUREMENTS: What does a caliper measure?
9. MUSIC: Who sang the hit 1970s song "Love Me Like a Rock"?
10. ANATOMY: What is a common word for the sternum?

Answers to King Crossword

ACROSS: 1. Gandalf 5. Spigot 8. Jet 12. Cruise 13. Court 14. Home Run 15. Speakeasy 17. Settled 18. Fiji 19. Tolkien 21. Liszt 24. ZIP 25. Joke 28. Blunder 29. Top 31. Parisian 32. Name in China's history 34. Calendar 38. Lullaby 40. Smartly 42. Biblical 43. Antitoxins 44. Iowa 45. Dubious 47. Ark 48. The Naked Maja 49. Suitable 52. Anger 53. Piglet's mom

LIFESTYLE

Good Genes

Have you ever thought about the power of genes? Our genes determine almost everything about us from our height, eye color, and the shape of our toes to our tendencies towards certain temperaments and even diseases. In part, from before you were born, your future was written in your genes, and you're stuck with dealing with those genes whether you like them or not.

The same thing holds true where your spirit man is concerned. Spiritually,

we're born with the same genes as the fallen Adam – the Adamic Nature, as it's called in religious circles. We can be really nice people who control our attitudes, self-correct our actions, and live moderate lives, but we're stuck with the spiritual genes – the natural, flesh-led tendencies - we came into this world with, until

the day we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, everything changes from the ground up. We, in essence, gain an

entirely new set of spiritual genes. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (NASB) We are no longer bound by the spiritual failings of our fathers, no longer hindered by our own past choices. We are made over, made new, in the very image and likeness of God.

Yes, Colossians 3:10 makes it clear that we have work to do: "And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him." We put on the new self. We strive to know Him more every day, and as we know Him more we instinctively work to become more like Him. The thing is, until we made that one choice, until we accepted the work of the

cross, we could no more be like God than a blue-eyed man could become green-eyed. Once we accept Him and He changes what we are, we become supernaturally able to grow into who He wants us to be.

It's amazing, the miracles God works in us when we make that one decision. When we turn our backs on the world and focus entirely on Him, accepting the great price Jesus paid and the matchless gift of salvation, we are foundationally changed. Once we accept the love-filled call of God, we are able to fulfill the command in Ephesian 4:1: "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling


with which you have been called." For the first time in our lives, we have not just the desire, but the ability to become everything God wants us to be. We are entirely new people, members of a whole new family, and we have a completely different future.

In essence, we step back into the Garden of Eden, and into the shoes Adam filled before he sinned. We are genetically altered and recreated in His own image, in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27)

There is no mistaking good genes!

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HILLSIDE CHURCH**
By Dr. Mark Trice



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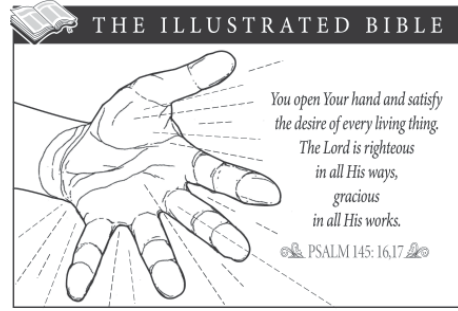
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 3. From biblical times, what was a rough, coarse cloth worn as a mourning symbol? Sackcloth, Shadrach, Shiloh, Sling

4. Who was the father of the apostles James and John? Zechariah, Zephaniah, Zebedee, Zebulun
 5. What was the site for Moses' burial place? Paphos, Beth-peor, Petra, Beth-shan
 6. From 2 Samuel 12, who said, "Thou art the man"? Boaz, Samson, Isaac, Nathan
 ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ruth; 3) Sackcloth; 4) Zebedee; 5) Beth-peor; 6) Nathan



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Sylvia Garcia Interview,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about our rule of law getting violated," Garcia stated.

As of this writing four new national polls released in the past two days show at least 50 percent of respondents support the House impeachment inquiry, which was triggered by a whistleblower's complaint against Trump over his repeated requests for Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son. Biden is the leading Democrat who could be the most likely Democratic Party's presidential candidate challenging Trump's reelection in 2020.

Since asking the Ukrainian President to help him politically, Trump recently on October 3rd publicly asked China to investigate former Vice-President Joe Biden. And all four surveys found more Americans back the

impeachment inquiry than do not.

Our federal elections law prohibits any person from soliciting, accepting, or receiving anything of value from a foreign national in connection with a US election. The law doesn't just apply to money — investigations or political dirt that benefits a particular campaign counts as "things of value" too.

The head of the Federal Election Commission, Chair Ellen Weintraub who has served as FEC chair for 19 years and was appointed to the role by Republican President George W. Bush recently noted that "the law is pretty clear. ... It is absolutely illegal for anyone to solicit, accept, or receive anything of value from a foreign national in connection with any election in the United States."

See Website Northchannelstar.com for complete transcript of the President's phone call.

Congresswoman Garcia said when she returns to D. C. she expects the House to address the need to do something about ridding the country of the military style assault weapons that are being sold. "That's the main gun the mass shooters choose to use to kill so many people with. These weapons of war are designed to kill our enemies' on the battlefield, not on our nation's streets. I'm told you can kill about 12 people in 30 seconds with them. They're not designed to use for hunting game. As a child I remember our family had a gun to hunt rabbits with, if I shot a rabbit with one of these assault weapons it would be shredded to pieces," Garcia said.

Flood Mitigation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If there will be any delay in the distribution and use of flood mitigation aid, it will come from the federal and state government. HUD finished writing the guidelines for the flood mitigation funds just two months ago (nearly 18 months past the Congressional appropriation). The Texas GLO commissioner said it would take his agency nine months to come up with its state action plan. Houston/Harris County have nothing to do with that timeline.

"To be clear, these funds will help us prevent future disasters, not add to the funding for repair of dwellings damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Flood control and housing repair are separate government projects with separate rules and deadlines.

"As for the housing repair money, Houston/Harris

County doesn't get access to these funds until they have been appropriated and distributed. Everything that local governments do in this regard must first be approved by the state. When we are forced to seek approval from the state before we can spend a dollar to repair or reconstruct a single home or issue a reimbursement check, it is

disingenuous for the state to blame local governments.

"Just ask the 90-year-old widow who lives in a flood-damaged house and who applied for assistance. We had to determine if she owed any child support — she doesn't, of course — as one of dozens of checks we had to conduct before she could be eligible for federal money."

Northeast water purification plant expansion meeting

Houston, TX - City Council Member Dave Martin would like to invite residents to attend a public information meeting on Tuesday, October 15, to learn more about the expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant.

The meeting will be held at Lakeside United Methodist Church, located at 14303 West Lake Houston Parkway, Houston, TX 77044. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will conclude at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will include an update to neigh-

bors on the installation of two 108 inch pipelines traveling from the Northeast Water Purification Plant east to Lake Houston, adjacent to Jack's Ditch, as well as the construction of an intake pump station in Lake Houston.

Council Member Martin encourages residents to attend the meeting as well as visit

www.GreaterHoustonWater.com. If you are unable to attend the meeting or would like to learn more, please contact representatives from the water project at info@greaterhoustonwater.com or call (281) 520-3777.

Flood Reduction Pilot Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not powerless against this challenge. By moving forward with projects like this we will deliver long-term benefits to our residents and build upon Harris County's work to lead the nation in innovative solutions to flood control and mitigation."

The NRCS Program helps eligible entities implement emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property caused by a natural disaster. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for measures that reduce threats to life or property from a watershed impairment, including sediment and debris removal and

also provide protection from additional flooding or soil erosion. In addition to implementing emergency measures, assistance is available to purchase floodplain easements.

To date, the NRCS has provided more than \$80 million in funding for drainage infrastructure repair and improvement projects across Harris County.

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