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NORTHEAST NEWS

Answering Flood Questions



Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, and Flood Control District Manager Layne Yeager, attempt to answer questions from the audience.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 43, NO. 38 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

October Art Fest

Art Exhibit, October 10, 2019 from 11:00am - 2:00 pm at North East Community Center. 10918 Bentley St. Houston, Texas 77093.

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.

Police investigate shooting of man on Greens Road

The shooting of a man that occurred at 6225 Greens Road about 11:20 p.m. on Sunday (September 29) will be referred to a Harris County grand jury.

Jose Alvarado, 35, was transported an area hospital in serious but stable condition.

According to Houston Police, a male was seated at the bar of an icehouse on Greens Road when Alvarado arrived. According to witnesses, Alvarado began to bother the man, by saying offensive things, and was asked to leave the icehouse.

The man seated at the bar also left. While in the parking lot, the man was again confronted by Alvarado, which led to a physical fight. The man retrieved a gun from inside his open vehicle and struck Alvarado with it. During the fight, the man fell to the ground and the gun went off, striking Alvarado.

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

Imelda Recovery Community Forum

Angry homeowners demand flood relief now

By Gilbert Hoffman

An information forum held last week at BakerRipley was attended by several hundred, and as the evening wore on the audience vented anger and frustration at the amount of flooding and little relief from the government.

BakerRipley in East Aldine was the site last Wednesday night of an Imelda Recovery Community Forum, sponsored by State Representative Armando Walle, with Carol Alvarado, Sylvia Garcia, and Rodney Ellis.

In addition to those government leaders, other officials from the City of Houston and Harris County were on the panel, to explain the work currently underway to alleviate



Steve Adame of the Castlewood Civic Club outlines for the panel the continued devastation in his community from recent floods, as demonstrators in the back hold placards displaying unity and wanting immediate action from government.

future flooding, and to hear and respond to individual complaints.

Also present were representatives from a number of government departments, and the Red Cross, providing a point of contact to those in the community and the room who were in need of assistance to recover from the devastating rainfall from Tropical Storm Imelda on September 19.

It was reported that the storm dumped as much as 43 inches of water on some parts of southeast Texas, and from 10 to 30 inches in the greater Houston area in just 72 hours.

Thousands of homes and vehicles were flooded, and five

See **IMELDA RECOVERY**, page 8

Community celebrates National Night Out

East Aldine, Civic Clubs, First Responders

East Aldine enjoyed a "Night Out" when the community came together for several hours last Tuesday night at BakerRipley.

Participating and sponsoring the local eversion of the national celebration were the East Aldine Dis-

See **National Night Out**, Page 8



Harris County Emergency Corps at National Night Out. Plastic firemen's hats were a popular give-away.



Castlewood Civic Club Board members with Senator Carol Alvarado

Greens Bayou Regatta held with hundreds of canoes

The 4th Annual Greens Bayou Regatta took place on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

The race began at Brock Park Golf Course, located at 8201 John Ralston, Houston, TX 77044 at 9:00 a.m. And ended at Thomas Bell Foster Park located at 12895 Greens Bayou Street, Houston, TX 77015.

After the race, there were festivities, lunch, music and vendors. The Closing Ceremonies with awards to winners



Participants departing from Brock Park on Greens Bayou for the annual Regatta. Hundreds of canoes, kayaks, and a few custom boats participated.

was at 2:00 p.m.

Complimentary shuttles were available to all attendees to take back to the starting line, retrieve their vehicles and pickup their boat from the finish line.

Besides the amount of water tropical storm Imelda left behind, the 2019 Greens Bayou Regatta raised \$13,760 for paddle trail development.

The Greens Bayou Regatta, hosted by

Greens Bayou Regatta, Page 3

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* GEMINI MAN (PG-13) 7:00p 9:45p
* ADDAMS FAMILY 2019 (PG) 4:00p 6:10p 8:40p

47 Meters Down: Uncaged (PG-13) - 12:30p, 2:40p Closed Caption
47 Meters Down: Uncaged (PG-13) - 4:50p, 7:00p, 9:15p
The Angry Birds Movie 2 (PG) - 12:30p, 2:45p Closed Caption
Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG) - 12:00p, 2:30p, 4:50p
Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed
Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG) - 7:10p, 9:30p Spanish Dubbed
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (PG-13) - 12:45p, 3:45p, 6:45p, 9:15p
Closed Caption
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) - 5:00p
Closed Caption
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) - 8:00p
* THE LION KING in RealD 3D (PG) - 12:45p, 6:15p Closed Caption; RealD 3D; Spanish Dubbed
THE LION KING (PG) - 3:30p, 9:00p
Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed

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SCHOOL NEWS

Aldine High football player spotlighted for saving woman and child during Imelda



A film crew from NFL Films and ESPN arrived in Houston on Thursday to chronicle Aldine High School football player Jayden Payne, far left, who rescued a mother and her child from Greens Bayou after the mother's car plunged into the bayou during Tropical Storm Imelda on Sept. 19. The film crew followed Jayden during practice on Thursday, Oct. 3, interviewed him and his mother Cynthia at their home and filmed him during Aldine High's Oct. 5 game against Davis High in Thorne Stadium. Aldine High head football coach Hank Semler was



also interviewed by ESPN reporter Jeff Darlington, who also interviewed Jayden and his mother at their home. The story is set to run on ESPN's Sunday NFL Countdown sometime in October and on the NFL Network also sometime in October.

Texans QB DeShaun Watson gives team jersey to Aldine HS hero



Houston Texans Quarterback DeShaun Watson heard about the rescue of a mother and her child by Aldine High School football player Jayden Payne, and made arrangements to give him a Texans Jersey with his number 30 on it, and to invite him to the next Texans football game at NRG Stadium, which was with the Panthers. DeShaun Watson posted on his Twitter account, "Jayden - you are a real life hero! I'd like to invite you to be our special guest at our game this Sunday vs. the Panthers." Jayden received the attention after news media reported that he had dove into Imelda flood waters near his high school, to save a woman and her child. Payne saw the woman's SUV drive into a ditch near the Aldine High School, and submerge. He jumped into the dangerous flood waters immediately to save the occupants, and with the help of two other men pulled the mother and toddler from the SUV and the dangers of the rising flood waters, saving their lives.

District Leaders thank staff for a job well done

Tropical Storm Imelda impacted the Aldine area with heavy rain, wind, and flooding. Everyone in the school district is grateful to several departments for their "All-in" work ethic on Thursday, September 19. Their efforts ensured all students and staff made it home safely.

The Transportation Department mobilized early and was able to prioritize campuses for dismissal and where streets were passable. Bus drivers across the district modified and extended their regular routes so that students arrived home safely.

The Aldine Police Department, led by Interim Chief Kevin Northey, had a presence at every campus by the end of the evening. They addressed traffic issues efficiently,



Aldine ISD staff during a recognition event.

facied time with their own families to safeguard other peoples' children.

As the roads began to clear up, some parents who hadn't been able to ford their way to schools were able to make safe pickups. The remaining students were able to make it home via buses.

"I am grateful to the teachers, administrators, and staff of the Aldine Independent School District who demonstrated how dedicated, professional, and caring they are towards the students of Aldine," said Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "Our district leaders greatly appreciate the sacrifices made on our student's behalf. We realize our staff members were away from their own families during this unexpected rain event. We further extend our gratitude to the Aldine ISD police officers, who protected our students and provided safety in our community. Lastly, to our fellow parents for their patience and understanding during this difficult time. Again, I thank everyone for showing us how much they truly care for our students and community."

allowing our families to reunite with their students.

Countless educators at campuses refused to leave their students. They stayed late ensuring students were safe. And no, the unusual nature of their task didn't escape the stalwart

educators, many of whom sacrificed time with their own families to safeguard other peoples' children.

As the roads began to clear up, some parents who hadn't been able to ford their way to school that evening were able to make safe pickups. The remain-

ing students were able to make it home via buses safely.

District leaders were present around the district, bringing cots, blankets, and pillows to central locations in preparation for a possible overnight stay. Operations staff immediately set to work on cleaning up and repairing several campuses that had water damage, including minor flooding, and leaky roofs.

And no, the unusual nature of their task didn't escape the stalwart educators, many of whom sacri-

diately set to work on cleaning up and repairing several campuses that had water damage, including minor flooding, and leaky roofs.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Greens Bayou Regatta,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Participants weighing the collected trash to compete and keeping a record for winners.

Greens Bayou Coalition, combines recreation, stewardship, and education on one of Houston's most beautiful and secluded waterways, Greens Bayou. The 7.5 mile race course showcases two planned launch locations, Brock Park and Thomas Bell Foster Park. This annual event raises funds and awareness to implement the proposed 27.5 mile paddle trail.



2019 Regatta Trash Pick-Up Winners received awards for collecting the most trash from the Greens Bayou.



Regatta participants arriving at the end of the race.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.74 Billion in September

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.74 billion in September, 1.2 percent more than in 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 end-

ing 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.

In September 2019, Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$435.3 million, up 8.5 percent from September 2018;
- motor fuel taxes — \$325.6 million, up 0.2 percent

from September 2018;

- natural gas production taxes — \$98.6 million, down 34.5 percent from September 2018; and

- oil production taxes — \$334.1 million, down 0.7 percent from September 2018.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch. For an extensive history of tax policy developments and fees since 1972, visit our updated Sources of Revenue publication.

Dr. LaTonya Goffney takes part in Education Panel at The Texas Tribune Fest



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney (center) is joined by fellow panelists Margaret Spellings, Mike Morath, and Dr. Juliet V. Garcia (r-l). Evan Smith (far left) moderated the discussion.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was among the special guest panelists invited to The Texas Tribune 2019 Festival.

The Texas Tribune Festival is one of the nation's largest, most buzzworthy political gatherings. The three-day festival brings Texans together to address the politics and policy that affect our communities, our schools, our work, and our daily lives. The event attracts Texas' most prominent names, and the nation's most influential public figures flock to Austin to discuss our future.

Joining Dr. Goffney on the Future of Education panel on Sept. 28 were Dr. Juliet V. Garcia, former president of the University of Texas at Brownsville; Mike Morath, Texas Education Commissioner; and former U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Ms. Spellings is currently president and CEO of Texas 2036, a non-profit organization working on long-term policy solutions to ensure Texas continues to be the best place to live and do business. CEO Evan Smith, journalist and

co-founder of The Texas Tribune, moderated the discussion.

The panel discussion was presented by and programmed in partnership with Texas 2036. It was presented by Raise Your Hand Texas and supported by the Austin Community College District, The Commit Partnership and the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium.

Goffney, who spoke to a large crowd, emphasized the need to break the cycle of poverty through education. She centered her discussion on prekindergarten as well as attracting and retaining excellent teachers. Early education not only gives students a head start but studies show that early childhood education is effective in preventing the achievement gap, improving health outcomes, boosting earnings and providing a high rate of economic return.

"Prekindergarten is critical for kids in poverty," Goffney said. "We also need money to pay teachers more to attract them away from richer suburbs that

face fewer socioeconomic struggles."

Goffney highlighted the prekindergarten for three-year-olds program and Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School as new options for families and students.

Spellings stressed the connection between education and the economy. She stated that to meet our workforce needs people with a variety of skills, often obtained at the high school and community college level.

"We need to make every high school a community college," Spellings said. "The Texas legislature needs to do more to help high school students obtain college and technical credit."

Commissioner of Education Mike Morath reiterated that it would take everyone — educators, legislators, and businesses — working together to ensure Texas is prepared to meet its known challenges.

"The changes we make today drive towards a better 2036 in Texas," Morath said.

Avalos P-TECH School Principal Participates in Televised Education Town Hall

Principal Diana del Pilar of Avalos P-TECH School took center stage along with education experts and child advocates at a nationally televised town hall broadcast on Sept. 24 by NBC News Learn, the educational division of NBC News.

The broadcast event, which was held at the University of Houston-Downtown and supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, included several panels discussing various aspects of education.

NBC News Chief Education Correspondent Rehema Ellis moderated the event, which was broadcast in partnership with KPRC 2. The town hall brought together a large group that included researchers, civic leaders, psychology experts, veteran educators, and child advocates.

Del Pilar took part in a panel discussion on preparing students for success. She served as a panelist on the Learning Without Limits panel, where she discussed the importance of knowing students' needs to target supports (e.g., academic support, social-emotional support, mentorship, tutoring) to ensure students have every possibility to succeed.

The former Aldine ISD grad also described how she used technology to obtain and review data to strategically make decisions that impact all students at her campus. She made it my business to know her students' strengths and weaknesses



Principal Diana del Pilar (far right) took part in the Learning Without Limits panel. She was accompanied by Dr. Bob Sanborn, president and CEO of Children at Risk; Rick Cruz, chief strategy and innovation officer at HISD; Director Dr. Ruth López Turley with Houston Education Research Consortium at Rice University; and NBC News Chief Education Correspondent Rehema Ellis (r-l).

before the start of school.

"Every student is me," stated del Pilar. "Imagine if every leader and teacher felt this way and worked with this thought in mind."

Del Pilar opened Avalos Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School this school year. Avalos scholars have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, workforce certificates, industry credentials, and an associate's degree in four years at no cost. In collaboration with industry partners and Lone Star College, Avalos offers four programs — CISCO Network Analyst, Inspection Certificate, Paralegal, and Teacher Preparation — in which students can earn workforce certificates and associate's degrees from Lone Star College. Students will be career-ready through

work-based learning experiences, including in-school mentoring, internships, apprenticeships, and employment skills instruction.

Alex Hales Elizondo, CEO of Good Reason Houston, who took part in an earlier panel, lauded Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. Good Reason Houston launched a partnership with Aldine ISD in fall 2018.

An 'A' school isn't a reality for all kids, but it can be," stated Elizondo. "One leader that is inspiring me right now is Dr. LaTonya Goffney. She has a bold vision for Aldine ISD, and the philanthropic and business community are excited to get behind that."

All the features, as well as a recap "of the town hall, can be found online at nbcnews.com/learnhouston.

HCC Northeast College president hosts 'Conversation' with the community

HOUSTON (October 2, 2019) — Houston Community College (HCC) Northeast President Dr. Monique Umphrey hosted "Conversation with the HCC Northeast President" at the North Forest Campus where she engaged the community.

City of Houston Super Neighborhood presidents, former North Forest ISD board members, area residents, as well as automotive, welding and academic students filled the room as Dr. Umphrey dialogued about the new facilities, trends in workforce and technology, and her background and experience.

Over coffee and pastries, the conversation centered on Dr. Umphrey's desire to bring more cutting edge programs to the college that will continue to support the transformation of the community it serves. "North Forest Campus can be a beacon on the hill . . . for other people to see, that's how you do it right," says Dr. Umphrey.

Dr. Umphrey expressed her passion of connecting

communities to opportunities designed to address the growing demand for a technological savvy workforce. She also spoke about the importance of emotional intelligence and how these skills can make one more marketable to employers.

"What you bring to the table in any career setting and in life is your humanity. Creativity, innovation and compassion, all of those things that make you human are the things that bring value to the workplace," says Dr. Umphrey.

Community members praised HCC Northeast for making strides in the North Forest community with the expansion of the campus, new programs and courses that are now available to residents.

Steve Gibson, a member of the Houston Gardens Civic Club shared how he had to commute from North Forest to Alief to take welding classes at HCC a few years ago. "The ability to be able to walk

or drive within 15 minutes of my home to take welding is awesome. HCC is the most affordable and a place where you can get what you need with little to no debt," says Gibson.

Pleased to hear the enrollment had increased by 71 percent since the North Forest campus ribbon-cutting ceremony held on August 6, several community leaders renewed their support in partnering with the college to ensure that the campus continues to grow. "We are so proud of this, what we have seen, and we know that with our pulling together and the strength of God, we can reach far beyond this building," says Geanette Smith a resident of Northwood Manor.

The HCC North Forest Campus offers academic, adult education and workforce training and is home to the new Automotive Center of Excellence. For more information about North Forest programs, call 713-718-5868 or visit hccs.edu/northforestcampus.



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – What Will My Widow’s Benefit Be?

Dear Rusty: My husband just started receiving Social Security Disability in June. He is diagnosed with a terminal disease that likely he will rapidly succumb to. He will be 65 in Oct 2019. I turned 62 July 2019. I was his caregiver when he was at death's door and was pulled back to 75% full life on immunotherapy. We see him starting to go downhill again; it creeps, then starts moving rapidly with the symptoms. I will be the caregiver again for round 2 that has no brakes to stop it this time - no do over. After he passes, when does the disability SS amount stop and what amount starts coming to me in my name as his widow, at my age? Signed: Survivor under age 65

Dear Survivor: Please know that you have my sympathy for what you and your husband are going through. Let me at least try to ease your anxiety by answering your Social Security questions.

Your husband's disability benefit will cease in the month he passes. Although, depending upon the date, he may receive a disability payment for the month he passes (it would be received the following month), that payment, if received, will need to be returned to Social Security (SS). Social Security will only pay up to the last full month your husband is alive. The funeral home is supposed to notify Social Security of your husband's passing, but you should verify that they will be doing that. Your benefit as your husband's survivor will be based upon the SS disability amount your husband was receiving at his death.

Although your survivor benefit will be based upon the amount your husband was receiving, if you take it before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) the survivor benefit will be reduced. Your full retirement age for the widow's benefit is 66 plus 2 months (versus your normal FRA of 66 1/2). You have a choice to take the reduced survivor benefit early (before your FRA), or wait until your FRA to claim the full amount your husband was collecting at his death. If you claim your widow's benefit early, the reduction will be about 4.75% for each year earlier than your FRA that you claim it. Your survivor benefit reaches maximum at

your widow's FRA. You must apply for your widow's benefit in person with Social Security and you should contact your local office by phone first to make an appointment. You can easily find your local SS office contact information at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator ;

Taken at age 62, the survivor benefit will be reduced by about 20%. When to claim your survivor benefit might be influenced by whether you are eligible for Social Security benefits from your own lifetime work record. If you are eligible for your own benefit, you should look at what your own benefit will be at age 70. If it will be more than your survivor benefit, you should make sure to file a "restricted application" for survivor benefits to allow your own benefit to continue to grow. It will grow until you are 70, at which time you would switch from the lower survivor benefit to your own (you get whichever benefit is higher). Your decision on when to claim the survivor benefit might also be influenced by your plans for working. Since you have not yet reached your normal full retirement age (66 + 6 months), any Social Security benefit you claim before that (including your survivor benefit) will be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The "earnings limit" for 2019 is \$17,640 (changes annually) and if you exceed that, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings limit will be in effect until you reach your normal full retirement age, at which point it goes away. Once again, you have my sympathy for the difficulties you are experiencing, but fortunately your Social Security widow's benefit will be available to you when your husband passes.

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Chief election officer encourages Texans to register before deadline

AUSTIN — Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs invited eligible Texans to celebrate and participate in National Voter Registration Day — the fourth Tuesday in September — by ensuring they are registered to vote before the Oct. 7 registration deadline.

Hughs, the state's chief election officer, issued a final call to action to voters, community leaders and elected officials to encourage their fellow Texans to register and prepare to vote in the upcoming Nov. 5 election.

"An active and engaged citizenry plays an essential role in ensuring the continued well-being of our democracy," Hughs said.

The number of registered voters in Texas stood at 15,823,406 in September. For more information on voting in Texas, visit www.votetexas.gov

E-cig cases are counted

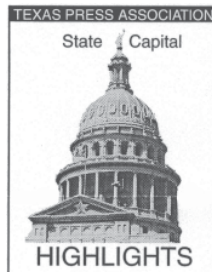
The Texas Department of State Health Services on Sept. 24 announced the agency had identified 54 Texas cases of severe lung disease in people who report "vaping" before developing symptoms.

State health officials are gathering more information about 35 other possible cases to determine whether they are consistent with the symptoms and substance use seen in cases in Texas and 37 other states. About half of the Texas cases have been in teens, and more than half required hospitalization.

Respiratory symptoms include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and coughing. Some people have also experienced nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. DSHS said clinicians should ask patients with those symptoms about a history of vaping, gather as much information as possible about suspected cases, and report them to the agency.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



dal transportation system.

The Texas Transportation Plan 2050, or TTP 2050, will guide TxDOT's planning and programming for the next 30 years and set long-range goals for all forms of transportation.

Texans who can't get to the meetings in person may participate online by visiting www.txdot.gov and searching for "TTP 2050". TxDOT is providing an interactive survey to gather public input. The virtual open house also features a transportation usage survey.

Online surveys will close Nov. 15, 2019, and public comments will be accepted throughout the development of the TTP 2050 until early 2020, the agency said.

RRC tops cleanup goal

In fiscal year 2019, which ended Aug. 31, the Texas Railroad Commission cleaned up more than 400 abandoned oil field sites.

On Sept. 27, the state's energy-regulating agency said the number of cleaned-up sites is more than double the goal set by the Texas Legislature.

While most operators clean up their own oilfield sites when the wells are no longer productive, the Railroad Commission uses industry fees to clean up abandoned sites through the State-Managed Cleanup Program. The fees include regulatory fees, permit fees, enforcement penalties and bond amounts assessed on oil and gas operators.

Since the State-Managed Cleanup Program was established in 1992, the RRC has assessed, investigated and — if cleanup was determined necessary — completed cleanup activities at 6,821 abandoned oilfield sites, restoring land used in energy production back to a safe condition.

Governor goes to Japan

Gov. Greg Abbott toured Japan in an economic development mission last week, visiting with top government and industry officials in various cities.

Among the topics Abbott discussed with his hosts were trade, manufacturing, transportation, energy, infrastructure and tourism.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Blooming Late"

I realized that I might be a late bloomer—a little late, naturally.

I love hearing about proteges: the five-year-old drummer or the sixteen-year-old activist. I love hearing the nine-year-old who sings like an old soul and reading about the 14-year-old who just completed a master's degree. I marvel at all these amazing accomplishments. I am impressed with the laser-like focus of these children and teenagers that enables them to change the world in awe-inspiring ways.

I was never one of them. I showed no promise on any musical instrument. I didn't learn to read when I was especially young. I struggled with math, had no artistic talent to speak of, and played tennis so poorly the instructor sent me to the nurse to have my vision checked. My vision was fine.

As I got older, I was not one of those young women with terrific style. I never knew what to do with my hair. I had no signature look. I had no original ideas.

Instead, the things I have been good at are rather dull. I am good at starting over. I am good at not getting discouraged. I am good at asking for advice. I am good at sticking to a plan even if it takes a lot longer than I thought it would. These are not glamorous skills.

But lately, in addition to all the stories of prodigies and wunderkinds, I've been hearing more stories about late bloomers: the woman who gets her first book published at eighty, the fellow who goes back to college and graduates with his grandson, the singer who records her best album three decades after she was supposed to be "finished." I love these stories as well and I think there is a place in this world for late-in-life achievements.

I'm hoping to be a late bloomer. Late bloomers don't need to worry about reaching thirty and thinking their best days are behind them. Late bloomers don't have people comparing their new work with what they did in the past. Late bloomers might get told that they are too late—that it's too late to start that new thing they want to do—but late bloomers are no longer young so they can ignore the doubters and go ahead, under the radar. Nobody's paying attention to them anyway.

In just a little more than 100 years, human beings have doubled their lifespan. I think if there were some kind of plant that was suddenly living twice as long, scientists would be studying it. "What will it do with all this extra time?" "Will it grow some new fruit or become twice as large?" This is what I've been wondering about all the late bloomers out there.

Instead of getting one great talent, one terrific skill, late bloomers have had time to learn a lot of things and now—later in life—we can figure out how all the things we've learned can work together. We might be starting from scratch, but we've got a head start. We might be trying something new, but we've got credit for time served.

I know the news will continue to be dominated by the young, and maybe that's the way it should be. Neither youth nor fame lasts long. I'm just happy I get to try new things now. I'm delighted with any extra time I get to grow a little more, produce some sort of crazy new fruit. I'm just happy I get this chance to bloom in whatever way I can—even if my blooming comes a little late.

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

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Texas looks to send message to OU: Texans face tough test at Kansas City

The second Saturday in October is about to arrive, which means Texas and Oklahoma will meet in the Cotton Bowl in the annual Red River Shootout on Saturday.

With the State Fair of Texas as a backdrop, the Longhorns and Sooners meet in a key Big 12 game, with the winner taking a leg up in the conference and just might earn one of the two berths in the Big 12 title game in December at AT&T Stadium.

Last year, Tom Herman perhaps picked up the biggest regular season win during his tenure at UT when the 'Horns outscored OU 48-45. The Sooners got their revenge in the Big 12 title game with a 39-27 victory that propelled them into the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

Both teams are dreaming of landing one of the four CFP berths again this year and winner of this game could very well be on its way to doing just that.

While the OU-UT game is the biggest game in the Big 12 this weekend, there are some other interesting matchups in the SEC and Big 10.

No. 1-ranked Alabama travels to College Station to take on Texas A&M, while No. 10-ranked Florida visits No. 5-ranked LSU in what should be a defensive battle. Michigan State travels to Madison to face No. 8-ranked Wisconsin.

In the NFL, the Texans have the unenviable task of facing Patrick Mahomes and the high-scoring Chiefs in Kansas City. The Cowboys get somewhat of a break when they visit The Meadowlands to face a struggling Jets team, while the Eagles visit Minnesota in an important NFC game for both teams. The Monday night game has promise as the surprising Lions visit the Packers.

Before we take a look at this week's schedule, we must, unfortunately review last week's record. A 5-7 week brought the season record to 33-25 (57%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

HIGH SCHOOL

Davis at Spring - Scott Joseph's Falcons play at Spring on Friday night in a key District 16-6A game for both teams. Two weeks ago, Davis opened league play with a 32-14 win over Nimitz. The Falcons were down 14-0 before running back DeMarcus Barlow went to work. Barlow rushed for 174 yards and two touchdowns (he has 436 rushing yards and 4 TDs on the season) to lead the Falcons to their second straight win. The Davis defense will have its hands full with Spring QB Aldyn Bradley, a true dual threat with 417 passing yards and 5 TDs and 424 rushing yards and 9 TDs. My pick, Davis 27, Spring 26

Aldine vs. MacArthur - These two long-time rivals meet in Thorne Stadium on Friday night, as Hank Semler's Mustangs will take on Wayne Crawford's Generals. Both teams had rough outings two weeks ago in their district openers as Aldine fell to Eisenhower 54-7, while MacArthur fell to DeKaney, 56-0. Braylon Haynes caught a 39-yard touchdown pass from Jarol Aguillar for Aldine. The Generals are led on offense by wide receiver Joedrick Lewis (12 receptions, 166 yards, 1 TD). My pick, MacArthur 23, Aldine 20

Eisenhower vs. Westfield - Eric Jackson's Eagles host league favorite Westfield on Thursday night at Thorne Stadium. Two weeks ago, the Eagles picked up their first win of the season with a 54-7 win over Aldine. Quarterback Christian Sims (608 passing yards, 6 TDs) had a big night throwing for four touchdowns, and rushing for 103 yards and a score, while running back Garron Carruthers rushed for 138 yards and one score. My pick, Eisenhower 34, Westfield 31

Nimitz at DeKaney - Richard Slater's Cougars will play at Spring on Thursday night looking to get back into the playoff hunt after losing their district opener to Davis two weeks ago. Nimitz is led by running back Jayvon Davis (421 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and will look for him to control the clock and keep DeKaney QB Daelyn Williams (744 passing yards, 10 TDs/258 rushing yards, 2 TDs) off of the field. My pick, Nimitz 26, DeKaney 24

NCAA

Michigan State at Wisconsin - Michigan State visits No. 8-ranked Wisconsin looking for a signature win in the Big 10 as the Spartans head into the meat of their conference schedule. They face a Wisconsin team that slipped up a bit two weeks ago at home against Northwestern with sloppy play in the fourth quarter that allowed the Wildcats to get within striking distance. But the Badger defense put down the clamps late to secure the victory. MSU has a solid defense, but they will be facing one of the best running backs in the country in Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor (591 rushing yards, 8 TDs). Taylor will need a big day to take pressure off of first-year starting QB Jack Coan (815 passing yards, 5 TDs). Look for the Spartans to be in this game, but look for Taylor to be the difference maker down the stretch. My pick, Wisconsin 26, Michigan State 20

Alabama at Texas A&M - Nick Saban's brings his No. 1-ranked Crimson Tide to College Station to face an Aggie squad that has been very mediocre this season. Two weeks ago, they played uninspired against an Arkansas team that the week before lost at home to San Jose State. Perhaps the Aggies came into that game a bit over confident, so look for a better prepared A&M squad on Saturday when they face an explosive Alabama offense, but a young defense that has been prone to giving up big plays in the passing game. 'Bama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1,718 passing yards, 23 TDs, no interceptions) should have a field day against a suspect Aggie secondary. Look for him to make big plays early and often to a trio of talented pass catchers in Devonta Smith (31 receptions, 531 yards, 8 TDs), Jerry Jeudy (38 receptions, 488 yards, 6 TDs) and Henry Ruggs, III (17 receptions, 361 yards, 4 TDs). A&M QB Kellen Mond (1,333 passing yards, 10 TDs) should make some plays in the passing game, but if the Aggies have any chance of pulling off the upset,



KEENEY'S KORNER By MIKE KEENEY

they must run the football better than they have in their first five games. Both teams had an extra week to prepare for this game, which should be more of a benefit to Saban's troops. Looked for improved play from the secondary as the Crimson Tide preps for bigger games on the schedule down the stretch that includes matchups with LSU Auburn. My pick, Alabama 41, Texas A&M 26

Florida at LSU - Let's hope CBS moves this game to Saturday night because there's something special about the Tigers playing in Death Valley under the lights. Both teams have exceeded their fan's expectations thus far this season. For the first time in years, LSU has one of the best passing games in the country led by quarterback Joe Burrow (1,520 passing yards, 17 TDs) and wide receivers Ja Man Chase (21 receptions, 397 yards, 5 TDs) and Justin Jefferson (21 receptions, 392 yards, 5 TDs). Florida has been getting it done behind a solid defense and backup quarterback Kyle Trask (647 passing yards, 5 TDs), who has been a solid fill in for injured starter Felipe Franks. The LSU defense hasn't been its usual dominant self, but that unit has too many quality players to keep giving up gobs of yardage and big plays from here on out. Look for the LSU defense to be the difference maker in this one as they get after Trask all day (or evening) and force some crucial turnovers. My pick, LSU 24, Florida 20

Texas vs. Oklahoma - I hope the Cotton Bowl scoreboard is in good working order come Saturday because these two long-time rivals just might

light that baby up with some spectacular numbers. Both of these teams are two of the better passing offenses in the country as Sam Ehlinger (1,237 passing yards, 15 TDs) and Jalen Hurts (1,295 passing yards, 12 TDs/443 rushing yards, 5 TDs) have been making plays all season long. Ehlinger has been getting a number of targets to make plays with and his two favorites thus far have been wide outs Devin Duvernay (39 receptions, 377 yards, 4 TDs) and freshman Jake Scott. UT should have big-play wide out Collin Johnson back for this game, which will give the OU defense one more weapon with which to contend. Hurts favorite target has been the speedy and strong CeeDee Lamb (16 receptions, 414 yards, 6 TDs). Two weeks ago in their 55-16 rout of Texas Tech, Lamb grabbed six passes for 183 yards and three scores. The Texas secondary has been decimated by injuries this season, but Herman is hoping to get a couple of starters back for this game. He will need them to content with OU's explosive offense. Heading into last week's game at West Virginia, Texas was ranked 100th in passing defense, which is not a good thing. Look for Hurts to attack that secondary early and often on Saturday as the Sooners leave the Cotton Bowl with bragging rights this year and we can only hope this is the first of two meetings between these college giants. My pick, Oklahoma 43, Texas 39

NFL

Philadelphia at Minnesota - A key NFC conference game for both teams as the Eagles visit

the Vikings on Sunday. Two week ago, Philly picked up a huge road win with a 34-27 victory at Green Bay, while the Vikings' offense was pounded into submission in Chicago by the Bears defense. Minnesota is a much better team at home, so look for quarterback Kirk Cousins (735 passing yards, 3 TDs) to play much better this week. He will need a big day from running back Dalvin Cook (410 rushing yards, 5 TDs), who was held in check by the Bears in the Vike's 16-6 loss two weeks ago. The Eagles appear to be getting healthier on both sides of the ball, which might be bad news for the rest of the NFC. Carson Wentz (963 passing yards, 9 TDs) will face a tough Minnesota defense, so look for that unit to be the difference maker in this one as the Vikings pick up a big home victory. My pick, Minnesota 26, Philadelphia 20

Houston at Kansas City - Just when you thought Bill O'Brien's team was ready to make the move to a serious contender in the AFC, his team lays a big old egg at home in a game they should have won two weeks ago against a Carolina team that was starting a backup quarterback in Kyle Allen. Once again, the offensive line could not protect quarterback Deshaun Watson (938 passing yards, 6 TDs) who was sacked six times and is on pace to be sacked 72 times (10 more than in 2018). But Watson was not without fault. He continues to hold onto the ball too long, which forces his protection to break down and makes him a sitting duck. The Chiefs defense isn't going to be confused for the Bears, but they can get after the passer, so Watson had better bring his running shoes come Sunday. This game has the possibility of being a shootout, but a lot will depend on how well the offensive line protects Watson. You know the KC offensive line will give Patrick Mahomes (1,510 passing yards, 10 TDs) plenty of protection. Mahomes should have a big day against a suspect Houston secondary. Two weeks ago in his team's 34-30 win at Detroit, Mahomes did not throw a

TD pass, but used his legs to set up the winning touchdown. Look for a big day from Mahomes as the Chiefs roll on Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 36, Houston 20

Dallas at New York Jets - Speaking of a bad offensive performance, the Cowboys turned one in two weeks ago during their 12-10 loss at New Orleans, but look for Dak Prescott (1,143 passing yards, 9 TDs), Ezekiel Elliott (324 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and Amari Cooper (21 receptions, 286 yards, 4 TDs) to get back on track against a woeful Jets team. The Dallas defense played well in the loss to the Saints and look for them to have another big day against a New York offense that still may be without starting quarterback Sam Darnold, who is still recovering from mono. My pick Dallas 31, New York Jets 12

Detroit at Green Bay - The Lions have been one of the early surprise teams thus far and they face the Packers on Monday Night Football in a key NFC North game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Lions lost a tough one at home to the Chiefs as they dropped a 34-30 decision when the Chiefs scored with little time left on the clock. Quarterback Matthew Stafford (1,122 yards, 9 TDs) is off to a solid start, as is running back Kerryon Johnson (251 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Kenny Golladay (36 receptions, 243 yards, 4 TDs). While the Lions were losing at home, the Packers blew one at home as well as they were outscored by the Eagles, 34-27 on Thursday Night Football. Look for quarterback Aaron Rodgers (1,069 passing yards, 6 TDs) to have another big day with wide receiver Davante Adams (25 receptions, 378 yards). Adams had a huge night against the Eagles hauling in 10 receptions for 180 yards before leaving with a toe injury late in the game. Rodgers knows the Packers need this one because the NFC North looks like it's going to be a very competitive division this year. Look for No. 12 to be the difference maker in this one as the Packers pick up a big win on Monday night. My pick, Green Bay 26, Detroit 23

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with numbers and empty cells for a puzzle. Includes difficulty level 'Moderate' and 'Challenging'.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a cartoon showing a woman and a man. Includes a list of differences between the panels.

Posting Date October 7, 2019

King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of answers at the bottom.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Who was the voice of Genie in the animated version of "Aladdin" (1992)?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What river forms the northern border of Kentucky?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of dog was Toto in the book and movie "The Wizard of Oz"?
5. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Greek god of sleep?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president earned the nickname "Silent Cal" for his quiet demeanor?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is another name for Middle Eastern pocket bread?
8. HISTORY: What battle started the U.S. Civil War?
9. MEASUREMENTS: How many milliliters are in a teaspoon?
10. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent for the Roman numerals MCMLXXXIV?

1. Robin Williams; 2. Ohio River; 3. James Thurber; 4. Cairn terrier; 5. Hyppos; 6. Calvin Coolidge; 7. Pita bread; 8. Battle of Fort Sumter; 9. Almost 5 ml; 10. 1984

LIFESTYLE

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Hand Sanitizers and the Flu Virus---

With flu season just around the corner, there's a new wrinkle to staying healthy this winter. Our old standby, the antiseptic hand sanitizer, has been found to not work as well as we believed, especially with the influenza A strain. It's all in how we use it, according to a recent study.

First, choose a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Be sure to cover your whole hands, including nails. If you come in contact with wet mucus

(from a sneeze or cough), it takes the sanitizer a full four minutes to kill the flu virus. (How many of us use sanitizer for four minutes? Not many.) Dry mucus (for example, on a shopping cart handle) takes less time. Hand washing, however, takes only 30 seconds to kill the flu virus and is thought to be more effective than using sanitizer.

Here are some ideas for flu season:

-- Does your grocery store deliver to your home or the parking lot? This will reduce your exposure.

-- Take some antiseptic wipes in a plastic baggie

when you go out. Use them on the cart handles in stores. Carry a small refillable bottle of hand sanitizer.

-- Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home.
-- Once a week (or more often) wrap hand wipes around door knobs at home and let them dry overnight.

The biggest step we can take is to get a flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests the high-dose flu vaccine for seniors because it creates a stronger immune response, 24% higher than the standard vaccine. There's also an adjuvanted and a recombinant vaccine (not made with eggs). Ask your doctor which you should get. Remember that it takes a few weeks for the vaccine to take effect.

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

Man Dupes VA, Collects Dead Sister's Benefits

A man on the East Coast pretended to be his deceased sister for over two years, taking veterans disability benefits that continued to be deposited in her bank account ... except it was more complicated than just spending the money that appeared in her account.

Two and a half years after the sister's death, the Department of Veterans Affairs figured out that

she was deceased and stopped the direct deposit. The man called the VA, pretending to be his sister, and informed them that she wasn't actually dead. The VA immediately restarted the deposits and even sent back payments.

Seven months later, the VA again realized that the sister had died and called the phone number where she used to live. Her brother answered and said he was the sister, still alive, and the VA kept sending the money. The following month he left a

voicemail at the VA and said to only communicate by fax or email, and he helpfully provided a new street address.

Eventually he was caught and pleaded guilty to one count of stealing government property.

It was over 30 months before the VA first noticed the sister was dead and stopped the payments. Three times the man impersonated his sister and lied to the VA on the phone. He forged her signature. He stole money. For this he was sentenced to six months in prison. It could have been 10 years.

Yes, he has to pay the money back. Yes, he's going to have two years of supervised release once he gets out. But where is the incentive to other would-be crooks to stay clear of this kind of activity? His sister died (and he started taking the money) in January 2015. As of this writing he still hasn't been required to report to prison.

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LIFESTYLE

BIBLE TRIVIA


by Wilson Casey—
 1. Is the book of Lamentations in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. Protestant tradition holds that there are how many different women named "Mary" in the New Testament? 2, 4, 6, 8
 3. Who said, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church"? Jesus, Aaron, Reuben, Joseph
 4. Which mount was a

contest scene between Elijah and the prophets of Baal?
 Calvary, Sinai, Bethel, Carmel
 5. Who was the first-born son of Jacob? Aaron, Joseph, Reuben, Simeon
 6. Which city is often referred to as Zion? Bethlehem, Jericho, Jerusalem, Nazareth
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 6 (Magdalene; Mothers of: Jesus, James the younger, and John Mark; Mary of: Bethany, Rome); 3) Jesus; 4) Carmel; 5) Reuben; 6) Jerusalem

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 JOHN 2:12




"Christ Preaching" by Rembrandt (1646-1650)

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Imelda Recovery Community Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deaths were recorded. The storm is the strongest to his Houston since Hurricane Harvey in 2018.

Engineering representatives such as Pct. 2 Jeremy Phillips, and City of Houston Flood Czar Stephen Costello and Housing Department head Tom McCasland tried to explain to the audience what projects were underway, and how their \$2.5 Billion flood bond money was being spent. The slow bureaucratic process was noted, however, and Commissioner Ellia emphatically stated that the County would speed up the process.

Complaints from the audience varied from overall policy questions, to individual problems with ditches and street flooding. Officials took detailed addresses and complaints, to be followed up with action by relevant departments.

Speaking on behalf of the whole Aldine community, Gloria Rizo gave a lengthy detailed plea for meaningful action in the short term, not just promises and statements.

Representative Walle issued the following statement after the meeting:

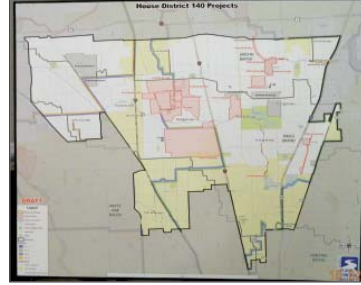
"I am so proud of our community for showing up in full force to express their agitation, frustration, and anger at hav-



A packed crowd, seated in the large assembly room at BakerRipley, listened to the presentations by County and City leaders, and legislators, and then voiced their concerns about continued flooding in their neighborhoods, and the slow response from authorities to manage either short term or long term solutions to the problems.



State Representative Armando Walle at the podium hosted and ran the meeting. Also present (L to R) were State Senator Carol Alvarado, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, and Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis.



Representative Walle displayed this map of flood projects planned and/or underway in his District 140.

ing their homes flooded not just once, twice, but three and four times. There was a lot of passion and emotion. Our families need help. Appreciate the 200 families that attended. Want them and those that couldn't attend to know that we are working collaboratively with our local governments to address these concerns. Your voices were heard loud and clear. We will be following up soon on your suggestions. The Texas Division of Emergency Management, Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Office of Emergency Management, Harris County Precinct One & Two, Harris County Community Services, City of HOUSTON, Red Cross, and FEMA gave presentations. Thank you."

Connie Esparza, Castlewood president, said: "Stay after them Rep. Walle. Let me know if you need reinforcements. Ridiculous that others who don't know Houston's priorities control the dollars."

GOVERNOR INTERVENES:

In a recent development, Governor Abbott has said he is taking flood funding control away from local authorities due to slow response. His statement: "Houston and Harris County have proven that they are unable to ensure victims are receiving resources in a timely manner."

National Night Out in East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

district, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, BakerRipley, Lone Star College - East Aldine Center, Brookside Funeral Home and Cemetery, MacArthur 9th Grade, and Civic clubs including Castlewood, High Meadows, and Green Forest.

The evening included dance exhibitions, live music from a DJ, Food, Drinks and games for all ages, from toddlers to Senior Citizens.

Good weather contributed to a very large turnout and a great time.



Folkloric dance was part of the entertainment at East Aldine National Night Out last Tuesday.



The Harris County Sheriff Department received a letter of recognition from Pct. 2 Commissioner's Rodney Ellis office during National Night Out

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