

▪ Letters to Santa, page 3  
 ▪ Christmas Tree Card, page 6

# NORTHEAST NEWS

Lone Star dean Lucio...



At the East Aldine Community Forum, LSC-EA Dean Luis Lucio brought the audience up-to-date on classes at the new college.

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 VOL. 43, NO. 46 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## EAST ALDINE

### Community Forum introduces new faces

NORTHEAST – The East Aldine District held their quarterly Community Forum last Thursday at BakerRipley, and used the opportunity to introduce several new educational leaders to the community.

The meeting was chaired by East Aldine's Richard Cantu, who introduced Jometra Hawkins, the Community Developer representative for BakerRipley, and Diana Del Pilar, the principal of the new Avalos P-Tech high school, part of the Lone Star College's new building. Also speaking was the dean of the Lone Star College East Aldine campus, Luis Lucio.



Diana Del Pilar



Jometra Hawkins

started with everyone present introducing themselves, and their affiliation.

Jometra "Jo" Hawkins spoke first, about her personal history, and then her "Vision for this Community." As a representative of BakerRipley, they see their goal to connect individuals to opportunities, so they

can reach their full potential. She said "everyone has something to contribute." It is important to BakerRipley to recognize the resources in the community, and encourage their usage toward a productive community. Her mantra is "Earn. Learn. Belong."

Diana del Pilar was raised and educated in Aldine, and sees her life story as a progression to success possible for everyone in Aldine. Through computer programming skills she learned at Carver High School, she was

See East Aldine, Page 8

### Haverstock Hills apartment shooter gets life in prison

HOUSTON — A man was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday, Nov. 22 for a shooting that killed two and injured six people at the Haverstock Hills apartments more than two year ago.

Kenneth Jones was found guilty of capital murder in the March 26, 2017 shooting at the apartment complex. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

His brother, Harvey Jones was also arrested in connection with the shooting. Last August, he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly

weapon and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

According to investigators, an argument between two groups ended when the Jones brothers arrived at the complex. Kenneth Jones pulled out a rifle of the vehicle he was in and started shooting at the crowd.

Harvey Jones was arrested shortly after the shooting and Kenneth Jones was arrested in Florida two months later.



### Thanksgiving Turkeys given away by Jackson Lee, Senfronia, others

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Jacinto City & Harris County – November 26, 2019 1,500 plus residents throughout Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's 18th Congressional District received turkeys and pies on her annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway Day.

Congresswoman Lee began early each of two mornings and going late into the evenings traveling throughout her district personally handing out turkeys. At

each of the 20 stops Lee extended her message of goodwill and wishing a happy Thanksgiving message to approximately 2,000 of her constituents.

This year Congresswoman Lee and her volunteers were joined by Mahesh Rege, Regional Service Coordinator of Region 10, of the Houston Chapter of the Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO) and his volunteers, Krishna Pallerla, Gayathri Ballingam and Srinu Parthasarathy



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee gives out 200 Thanksgiving turkeys at Jacinto City's Heritage Hall. Congresswoman Lee gives out annually 1,500 to 2,000 turkeys in her 18th Congressional District. Photo by Allan Jamail

giving away pies to those in attendance.

Rege said, "The Houston Chapter of the Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO) was honored to be part of the Thanksgiving food distribution event at Heritage Hall. We were delighted to engage with the community while spreading goodwill, love and joy. We intend to

See Turkey Give Away, Page 8

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 Veronica Sanches,  
 Director of Services  
 VSanches@haweshill.com

**713-595-1232**  
 Richard Cantu,  
 Deputy Executive Director  
 5333 Aldine Mail Rt.  
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# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

## District's Amy Benya Makes Houston's Top 50 General Counsel

The National Diversity Council (NDC) hosted a Top 50 General Counsel Dinner on October 30 in Houston at the Marriott Marquis. The 2019 top 50 general counsel were honored. A distinctive list of executives, partners, and professionals who impact the legal industry comprise the group Aldine ISD's Assistant General Counsel Amy Benya was among the honorees.

Criteria to be considered for the distinction included demonstrating achievements across the full spectrum of in-house responsibility, performing above and beyond the usual requirements of his or her professional capability, showing commitment to diversity and community well-being, and displaying high integrity and ethical behavior. Benya is honored by the recognition.

"The distinction inspires me," said Benya. "It gives me a renewed confidence and purpose. It affirms that I am on the right track, and encourages me to continue to press forward in my faith, career, and life."

Ms. Benya has been practicing law for eight years. She joined Aldine ISD as assistant general counsel in the Legal Department in September 2018. Primarily, Benya

handles business transactional, labor and employment, as well as Texas Public Information Act matters.

Before working in AISD, Benya worked in the Office of the General Counsel for the Lone Star College System. In addition to her role at LSCS, she also held a six-month appointment as Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities and Construction. Benya managed all construction projects for LSCS, including new construction under a \$485 million Bond Program.

Her resumé is impressive, including stints as Assistant General Counsel with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. She was also one of three intern candidates selected nationally for a coveted summer internship with the largest U.S. retailer, Wal-Mart, Inc., in their Club General Counsel Offices in Bentonville, Arkansas.

The native Houstonian received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, and her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in government

from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

Benya shared that she went to Nicholls State University on a full athletic basketball scholarship. While at Nicholls, she served as vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to the university's administration. The star-athlete earned the Southland Conference Player of the Year Runner-Up and made the Southland Conference All-Academic Team. The over-achiever also made the Dean's and President's List every semester as well as finished her undergraduate degree within three years.

Her desire to achieve and serve began early, attaining academic honors and taking on leadership roles in middle and high school. Benya credits her parents for inspiring her, especially her mother, who Benya describes as her most prominent advocate and supporter. Her mother has an Aldine connection. She and her siblings are proud graduates of Aldine ISD.

Among Benya's favorite things about her role is listening to issues or con-



Amy Benya poses with her award at the National Diversity Council's Top 50 General Counsel Dinner. The event took place during Legal Diversity Week. Benya serves as the Assistant General Counsel for AISD.

cerns or even future goals brought to her by district employees, and collaborating in the discussion, and working to resolve issues or offering advice on how to legally stay on track and attain future goals. She added that she loves planning and detail.

"Growing up, I had always admired legislators and other prominent public figures, many of whom, if not most, are also attorneys, and the great responsibilities and duties that their public service carried," Benya said. "I saw that learning the law was a great tool and platform to touch lives in different ways. I, too, wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of others and have always had a knack for bringing people together and issue solving. I have jokingly even earned the nickname of 'Miss United Nations' among family members. The legal field is a natural fit."

When she is not practicing the law, Benya enjoys being active in her church and spending time with close friends and family. Benya also enjoys staying fit. She plays on a co-ed flag football league and kickball team.

## Aldine ISD Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney among AASA's 2020 Women in School Leadership Award Finalists

AASA, The School Superintendents Association, recently announced the finalists for the organization's 2020 Women in School Leadership Awards. The awards, sponsored by Horace Mann and AASA, pay tribute to the talent, creativity, and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation's public schools.

Aldine Independent School District's Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney is a finalist for the Superintendent Award. "This recognition illustrates AASA's practice of honoring our nation's outstanding female educators and the growing need to foster pathways for more and more women who wish to advance their careers," said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. "Celebrating these accomplished professionals will lead to an increasing number of women entering the field of public education



administration. We are extremely proud of our finalists and look forward to honoring them at our national conference. We thank Horace Mann for partnering with us on this initiative."

The awards are designed to recognize the exceptional leadership of active, front-line female administrators who are making a difference in the lives of students every day. Also named finalists for the Superintendent Award are Susan Enfield from Highline Public Schools in

Burien, Washington, and Candace Singh of Fallbrook Union Elementary School District in Fallbrook, California.

The AASA also honors women in two other categories. The Central Office/Principal Award goes to a central office or building-level leader, while the School-Based Award is presented to a classroom teacher or school-based specialist. Candidates are judged on leadership in meeting the learning needs of students, personal and organizational communication strength, constant professional improvement of knowledge and skills, and active community involvement. The final award recipients in each category will be announced during the AASA National Conference on Education, Feb. 13-15, 2020, in San Diego, California.

## Aldine ISD Business Partners receive updates at Superintendent's Business Advisory Group Luncheon



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney delivered remarks her Business Advisory Group on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the district's Child Nutrition Center.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney and members of the Executive Leadership Team covered the district's new strategic plan, A New Way Forward, with district partners at the Superintendent's Business Advisory Group Luncheon, held on Tuesday, November 19 at the Donaldson Child Nutrition Services Center.

Goffney explained to attendees that Aldine ISD is moving forward to better meet the needs of students and to better position schools for success. During the meeting district leaders provided information on each of the principles of the five-year strategic plan.

"We want to be unified in our efforts and have a

clear vision for how we are going to move and improve the lives of the 67,000 students who are in our care," Goffney said.

Goffney made it clear that Aldine ISD educates ALL students and that the district's mission is for each student to receive a dynamic and unparalleled education that prepares them with choices and opportunities. With the help of members of the Executive Leadership Team, Dr. Goffney explained each of the goals and strategic priorities listed in the strategic plan.

Dr. Todd Davis, Chief Academic Officer, spoke about improving student's overall school experience and expanding options for students at all levels.

Katy Roede, Chief of Schools, explained the importance of addressing needs of the whole child, through maximizing social and emotional learning. Roede also presented information on the two ACE Demonstration Schools, Goodman and Worsham elementary schools.

Dr. Javier Villarreal, Chief Human Resource Officer, discussed how effective leadership impacts students and expressed the importance of having leaders on all levels. He also spoke about reaching out to business partners to help determine what skills they are looking for when hiring to better prepare Aldine ISD students.

"Our goal is to maximize all of our resources so that we can strengthen our systems to operate efficiently and we need your help doing that," Dr. Tamika Alford-Stephens, Chief Finance Officer, said.

Chief Communications Officer, Sheleah D. Reed, reiterated the call for business partners to work side-by-side with Aldine ISD to help keep our families and community members engaged, strengthening our partnerships to give our students more choices and opportunities. Additionally, Goffney talked about the new choices for students and recognized Stephens Elementary for moving from a 'D' campus to an 'A' in one school year.

Before closing the event, Goffney thanked business partners for their commitment and invested interest in students. She encouraged them to continue providing feedback and to share resources that will positively impact the lives of students.

Please contact the Office of Communications at (281) 985-6202 or email SDRreed@aldineisd.org if you would like to be a part of the Superintendent's Business Advisory Group, take part in a steering committee or visit a school.

## Man critically injured in car crash dies

A man critically injured in a crash at 10500 Homestead Road about 8 a.m. on November 5 has died.

According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division D. Arnold and Northeast Patrol Division Officers, the victim, 60, was driving a gold Chevrolet Suburban westbound on Calgary Street when he failed to

yield the right of way leaving a stop sign at the Homestead Road intersection. His vehicle was then struck by a black Dodge Charger traveling northbound on Homestead. The victim and the Dodge's female driver, 30, were transported to area hospitals.

The Chevrolet driver was pronounced deceased last Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Memorial Hermann Hospital and his identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The female driver did not sustain life-threatening injuries.

**PREMIERE CINEMAS**

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 11/29-12/3

Opens THURSDAY, Dec. 5  
\*PLAYMOBIL (PG) 4:00p 6:30p

<p>*KNIVES OUT (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>*QUEEN &amp; SLIM (R) - 11:25am, 2:45pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>*21 BRIDGES (R) - 12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm</p> <p>*FROZEN II (PG) - 11:00am, 4:00pm, 9:00pm Spanish Dubbed</p> <p>*FROZEN II (PG) - 11:30am, 1:45am, 2:10pm, 4:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm, 9:45pm</p> <p>*FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 2:00pm, 7:00pm</p> <p>*FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 1:30pm, 6:30pm Spanish Dubbed</p> <p>CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-13) - 11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm</p>	<p>FORD V FERRARI (PG-13) - 11:15am, 2:30pm, 5:45pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>MIDWAY (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:10pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm</p> <p>PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG) - 12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:45pm, 7:05pm, 9:30pm</p> <p>HARRIET (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (R) - 11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm</p> <p>COUNTDOWN (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:10pm</p> <p>Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) - 11:45am, 5:30pm Spanish Dubbed</p> <p>*Maleficent: Mistress of Evil 3D (PG) - 2:30pm, 8:30pm Spanish Dubbed</p> <p>JOKER (R) - 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm</p>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

## Harris County Clerk's office opens new annex



Harris County Clerk's Office opens new Jim Fonteno Annex location at 14350 Wallisville Road.

(Houston, TX) - Elected officials came together today for the grand opening of the new Jim Fonteno Harris County Clerk's Office Annex located at 14350 Wallisville Road. Dozens attended the ribbon cutting made possible by Harris County partners and the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We are very pleased that we can offer our services to area residents that otherwise had to travel far to obtain personal records," said Harris County Clerk Dr. Diane Trautman. "It also made sense to open an annex here since this building already houses other county offices."

With this new addition, the Harris County Clerk's Office now has 11 locations throughout county. Residents can obtain deed in-

formation, marriage licenses, birth certificates and other personal records at the office most convenient to them.

The Harris County Clerk's Office worked closely with Harris County Commissioner Precinct 2 Adrian Garcia and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Position 1, Judge Joe Stephens to acquire the space and approvals to make this happen.

"I am happy we were able to support with the process to open this location. We want these facilities to empower our community. We want residents to be able to walk in but more importantly, walk out a little bit better than how they came in," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "We want to make government more convenient and accessible."

"This is an example of government working on behalf of the hard working citizens of East Harris County to provide the services and amenities they need," said Judge Stephens. "The citizens of this area have long deserved the services that our County Clerk provides and I was glad to play a small part in making it happen."

Other county departments at the Jim Fonteno Courthouse include Commissioner Precinct 2, Justice of the Peace Judge Joe Stephens, Precinct 3 Constable, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar, and Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Annex hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information call 713-455-8104 or visit [www.clerk.hctx.net](http://www.clerk.hctx.net).

## New Pct. 2 Veterans Service Center opens



On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Commissioner Adrian Garcia opened the former V.V. Ramsey Community Center as the V.V. Ramsey Veteran Services Center for Precinct 2, located at 16003 Lorenzo St. in Channelview, TX. Garcia remarked that "Harris County has the second largest number of veterans in the U.S." Assisting Garcia was Heather Ramsey Cook, granddaughter of Ramsey, and members of Ramsey's family.

For over two decades, the Precinct 2 Veteran Services Department has proudly provided assistance to US military veterans and family. Services include assistance with healthcare, transportation, pensions, compensation filings, death pension claims, burial benefits, and grave markers. For more information, call 713-274-9570.

## Early voting for the December 14th joint Runoff election starts Wednesday

More than 30 Voting Locations Will be Open

(Houston, TX) - Early Voting for the December 14 Joint Runoff Election begins Wednesday, November 27, halts for Thanksgiving break, and resumes December 2-10. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Sunday, December 8, when they will open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Election Day, December 14, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to apply for a ballot by mail (received, not postmarked) is Dec. 3.

Harris County will open 33 polling locations during early voting, and 385 on Election Day. Registered voters can vote in the runoff election even if they did

not vote in November. A total of 389,494 people voted in the November 5th election out of the more than 2.3 million registered voters in Harris County.

"We remind voters that they do not have to go to an assigned polling location in this election," said Harris County Clerk Dr. Diane Trautman. "With countywide polling, they can cast their ballots at any voting center near their home, work, school, or wherever they may be during Early Voting and on Election Day."

On the ballot are races for Houston mayor, city council members, Houston Independent School District, Houston Community College board members, and City of Bellaire coun-

cil members. The State of Texas has set January 28, 2020 as the runoff date for the House District 148 Special Election. Early voting for that election is January 20-24, 2020.

"We truly hope that all registered voters exercise their right to vote," added Dr. Trautman. "Every voice matters, please be proactive and remember you can now vote YOUR way."

Harris County voters can find individual sample ballots, polling locations, and utilize the new wait time feature at [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com). Mobile phone users can text VOTE to 1-833-937-0700 to find the nearest voting center.

## Imelda assistance fund announces first grants for services to flood victims

HOUSTON - The Imelda Assistance Fund announced today its first round of grants totaling \$310,000 to six experienced, local non-profit organizations to provide services and support to Tropical Storm Imelda flood victims.

The Imelda Assistance Fund was established by Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, in cooperation with the Greater Houston Community Foundation, for survivors following Tropical Storm Imelda. The fund has received \$450,000 in donations to date; the accelerated round of grants amounts to almost 70 percent of the total donations to the fund.

"On behalf of the entire city, I thank those who have already donated almost half a million dollars to this urgently needed disaster relief fund," Mayor Sylvester Turner said.

"The spirit of helping each other is what makes Houston strong, and I hope it will inspire many of our generous neighbors to support the effective and compassionate storm relief effort that is underway."

"I'm grateful for the generosity Harris County has shown time and time again. As we approach the holidays, we have neighbors adjusting to a new normal and we must not forget them. Donations are still being accepted and every dollar matters," Judge Hidalgo said. "We won't stop working to help our communities recover as quickly and effectively as possible."

This round of grants is focused on home stabilization, emergency financial assistance, and housing counseling for Houston and Harris County's most vulnerable populations. Grantees were invited to apply based on their proven track record during

Hurricane Harvey relief, presence in the hardest hit areas by Tropical Storm Imelda, and recommendations from trusted disaster relief partners in the community.

The Imelda Assistance Fund Grants Committee reviewed all grant applications and made recommendations to the Advisory Board, which approved the grants listed below. The grant contract with each organization specifies that the funds must go towards programs that will benefit storm victims within the next 180 days.

TO DONATE or learn more about the fund, please visit <https://ghcf.org/imelda>

TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE: To see if you may be eligible to receive services and fill out an intake form in Spanish or English, please visit [ImeldaSurvey.com](http://ImeldaSurvey.com) or call 211.

### CRIME WATCH

## False 911 call leads to illegal game room

HARRIS COUNTY, Texas — Harris County Sheriff's deputies responded to an aggravated robbery 911 call on Sunday night, Nov. 24, 2019 that turn out to be false and lead them to an illegal game room.

Deputies arrived to a large white building with a faded "auto paint" sign in the 11700 block of Aldine Westfield Rd.

There was no robbery, deputies said instead they found a large game room with 40 people playing in-

side, the room has about 60 machines and it was in a rural part of the county along a dark stretch of the road.

Deputies said two guards were detained at the scene as the investigation continues.

## Several women shot after a fight

HUMBLE, Texas — A fight ended with women shot in Northeast Harris County.

According to investigators, the incident happened around 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019 near Aldine Bender Road.

Deputies were responding to a vandalism call at a Chevron gas station when a silver car pulled up, officials said.

Four women inside the car started yelling for help saying they had been shot, deputies said. Three of the women were transported to the hospital to be treated for non-life threatening gunshot wounds.

Further investigation showed the shooting has happened in a parking lot about a mile and half from the gas station after a fight. Bullet holes could be

seen on the side of their vehicle.

"There were shot through the car, in the lower extremities," said Lt. Chris Ecke.

Deputies said they do not have a good description of the shooter, but the investigation continues.

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

## Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Letters can be mailed to Santa, 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX. 77057 or e-mailed to [nenewsroom@aol.com](mailto:nenewsroom@aol.com).

Letters must be received by Dec. 9 for publication in our Special Christmas Editions



# Social Security Matters

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

## Ask Rusty – Can I Increase My Benefit by Withdrawing from Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:** I'm 67 and have been collecting Social Security for a couple of years now but I want to increase my benefit. Will you please explain what Social Security's Form SSA-521 is for? Would it benefit me as a retiree to be able to gain more on my monthly benefits? Where and how could I request or access this form?  
Signed: Seeking Answers

**Dear Seeking:** Social Security's Form SSA-521, Request for Withdrawal of Application, is used when someone has applied for Social Security benefits and later decides they do not want to collect their benefits after all. The form can be submitted within 12 months of the start-date of your benefits, and if approved will require that all benefits which have been paid to you, or on your behalf by Social Security - including Medicare premiums, withheld taxes and any benefits (including those paid to your spouse or any other dependents on your record) - are fully reimbursed to the Social Security Administration. It might be used, for example, by those who claim prior to their full retirement age, perhaps because they become unemployed and need the money, and then later become employed again. Or it might be used by someone who applies for benefits early but later simply change their mind and now wants to delay claiming to increase their benefit amount. This form is how someone can initiate the "do over option" that you sometimes hear Social Security pundits speak of. It essentially "wipes the slate clean" with Social Security, but it cannot be used by someone who has been collecting benefits for more than one year and it cannot be used more than once in your lifetime.

From what you have told me, the Request for Withdrawal of Application Form SSA-521 will not work for you. However, there is another way you can increase your Social Security benefit. Since you have already reached your full retirement age you can now request that Social Security "suspend" your benefit payments so that you can earn "delayed retirement credits"

(DRCs). If you suspend your benefits, you'll earn DRCs at the rate of 2/3rds of 1% per month you delay (8% per year of delay), and when you eventually restart your benefits the amount will be higher (how much higher depends upon the number of months your benefits have been suspended). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, so you should not wait beyond age 70 to restart your benefits. But beware, because there's a catch to suspending your benefits - your spouse, or any other dependent, cannot collect benefits based upon your work record while your benefits are suspended. And if your Medicare Part B premium is deducted from your Social Security payment, you'll need to make special arrangements to pay that Part B premium directly to Medicare.

If you decide to suspend and allow your benefit to grow, you will need to contact Social Security directly, either via the general number (800.774.1213) or by contacting your local office (find it at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)). You may ask Social Security to suspend your benefits either verbally or in writing. So, if you have found that you don't need your Social Security benefit at this time and wish to allow it to grow, and you understand that anyone else collecting on your record cannot get benefits while you are not collecting, then suspending your benefits and restarting later would give you the higher benefit you are seeking. Your benefits will restart automatically the month you turn 70.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*



## State's chief election officer works to head off election misinformation

AUSTIN — Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs announced ahead of the 2020 primary and general elections that her office will join fellow members of the National Association of Secretaries of State in #TrustedInfo2020, a social media-based education effort to prevent misinformation.

Hughs encouraged Texans to look to their state and local elections officials as the trusted sources of election information. "The upcoming 2020 elections will be historic and unlike any before," said Hughs.

"It is imperative that voters in the Lone Star State are able to count on trusted sources of election information as they prepare to make their voices heard in next year's elections. I encourage Texans to visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) and to follow our verified accounts, as well as those of their local elections officials, to receive the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding our elections," Hughs added.

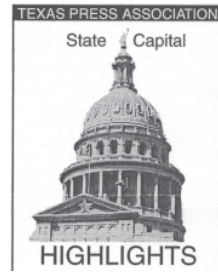
Texas — a Super Tuesday state — will conduct its party primaries on Tuesday, March 3. The other states holding elections on that date are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and Virginia.

**Trump visits Apple site**  
While the U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence heard testimony at the U.S. Capitol in the impeachment inquiry into President Donald J. Trump on Nov. 20, the nation's chief executive flew to Austin.

According to a White House news release, Trump met with Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook and held a brief news conference at Apple's Flex compound. Trump praised Cook and the success of Apple and responded to reporters' questions relating to the impeach-

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



rate of 2.1 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 2.4. The Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs each recorded the third-lowest rate at 2.6 percent.

### Update: Vaping issues

As of Nov. 19, the Department of State Health Services had identified 189 Texas cases of severe lung disease in people who report vaping before developing symptoms, including one death. Patients range in age from 13 to 75 years old, with a median age of 22 years. About one-quarter of the people affected in Texas are minors. Three-quarters are male, and nine in 10 report vaping THC or marijuana, possibly in conjunction with other substances. Almost all were hospitalized, with many requiring intensive care.

Nationally, 2,172 cases have been reported in 49 states. DSHS is working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and other states to gather evidence about what the cases have in common and determine a cause.

### Lives honored at event

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture on Nov. 21 hosted the fourth Annual Texas Agriculture Memorial Day at the state Capitol.

At the event, a crowd recognized men and women who have lost their lives or have been severely injured while engaged in agricultural-related pursuits, and those who passed away due to other causes but had a significant role in the agricultural community, according to the department.

State 4-H and FFA youth leaders placed a memorial wreath on the steps of the Capitol and the Texas Department of Public Safety provided an honor guard with musical accompaniment by a lone bagpiper.

ment hearings and to trade policy with China. Trump's remarks are posted at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

### Jobless rate stays low

Texas Workforce Commission on Nov. 15 reported the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.4 percent for the month of October.

This marks the fifth consecutive month of record low unemployment and 3.4 percent is the lowest unemployment rate since series tracking began in 1976.

"October Labor market data is great news for Texas workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "Their skills continue to be in high demand and more and more individuals are finding employment. These numbers are a wonderful reminder of why I am proud to be a Texan."

Leading job growth in October was the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry, which added 9,700 jobs, followed by Professional and Business Services adding 6,300 jobs, and Education and Health Services which added 5,300 jobs.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded October's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted

## THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### "The Lost Feather"

I lost a feather the other day and I understand this does not qualify as news.

But I want to say—for the record—that this was a really nice feather. I paid good money for it and pinned it to my favorite blue hat. I wore that hat out for a walk, one evening, when it was chilly.

This was the last night that my husband, Peter, and I were in Frigiliana, a little town in the south of Spain. I walked to the top of the very steep hill where, four hundred years ago, a Moorish castle stood, guarding the town from invaders. The invaders eventually made it there anyway and the castle was knocked to the ground. Only the amazing view over the Mediterranean remains. And that's where I went walking when I lost my feather.

There was no hope of finding it that night. The sun was already down. So, the next morning I headed out, looking for my feather.

When I got to the foot of the hill (a small mountain, really) I realized what a foolish idea this was.

The ground was covered with autumn leaves that, surprisingly, all looked a lot like feathers. There was a stiff wind blowing and I had no idea when the feather had parted ways with my hat.

Just then, I met a young pair of Germans heading up the hill. "Do you speak English?" I asked.

"Yes!" they told me (because all Germans do, it seems). "I've lost a feather. You haven't seen it, have you?"

"A feather?" the young man repeated.

It struck me that this was the stupidest question I'd ever asked anyone, and I was filled with relief that I would never see these two people again.

"Actually, yes," he said. "I saw one near the donkeys."

I knew exactly where the donkeys were.

"Right by the donkeys?" I asked, rather incredulous.

"Yes, I saw it when I stopped to take a photo."

"Thank you so much!" And I raced back down the hill, back to the donkeys.

"It pays to ask for help!" I told myself. "It's worth asking stupid questions!" I added in my little sermon to myself.

Except there was no feather.

I searched and searched and could not find it anywhere. Even the donkeys lost interest in the project. I was there so long the Germans came down the hill again and found me.

"Did you find the feather?" the young man asked.

"No, no I didn't," I confessed. He took me to where he had seen it. There was no feather.

"Ah well. Don't waste any more time on this!" I told the considerate German couple.

"Well, good luck!" they said as they headed down the hill.

Since I still hadn't made it to the top of the mountain, I kept climbing. I went all the way to the top, to the place I had looked at the Mediterranean the night before. And there was my feather, lying no more than a foot from where I had sat. I held that feather in my hand, amazed.

Because, you see, I didn't really think I was going to find that feather. I thought the whole idea was crazy from the start. But once I shared the idea with that nice German couple, the possibility of finding it seemed more real, more attainable. Sometimes we just need someone else believing in our ideas to make those ideas—even the crazy ones—seem possible.

It was only because they believed I could find the feather that I did.  
Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Baylor, OU meet for Big 12 title: Texans host Patriots in prime time

The first Saturday in December means it's conference title game time in major conferences across the country.

In the Big 12, Oklahoma and Baylor will meet in the Big 12 title game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, while LSU will face off against Georgia in the SEC title game in Atlanta.

It appears LSU and Ohio State, along with Clemson, are locks for the College Football Playoffs (CFP), even if each loses its conference title game.

Heading into conference title game weekend, there is still a lot of drama as to who the fourth and final team will join LSU, Ohio State and Clemson in the CFP.

In the NFL, the Cowboys kickoff Week 14 with a trip to Chicago to take on the struggling Bears. Two weeks ago, the Dallas offense had a rough day against the Patriots and failed to score a touchdown in their 13-9 loss.

Other key games have the 49ers visiting New Orleans with the Saints looking to overtake the 49ers as the top seed in the NFC heading down the stretch.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A perfect 12-0 week upped the season record to 92-46 (67%).

Now, onto this week's games.

NCAA

Big 10 title game, Ohio State vs. Minnesota or Wisconsin

The No. 2-ranked Buckeyes will be looking for another Big 10 title on Friday night in Indianapolis when they face the winner of last Saturday's Minnesota-Wisconsin game.

Big 12 title game, Oklahoma vs. Baylor

Three weeks ago, Oklahoma overcame a 25-point deficit in Waco with a big second half to escape with a 34-31 win. The Bears won't forget that let down and will be ready to play a full 60 seconds on Saturday in Jerry World.

SEC title game, LSU vs. Georgia

LSU has been one of the top two teams in the country all season long, winning at Texas and at Alabama. Ed Ogeron's

team can taste the SEC title, but they face a tough Georgia team that has played exceptionally well on defense down the stretch. In their last five games leading up to their non-conference game against South Carolina last Saturday, Georgia allowed just 44 points and recorded two shutouts during that run.

Running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire (1,146 yards, 15 TDs) gets it done on the ground, and wide receivers Ja'Mar Chase (63 receptions, 1,260 yards, 15 TDs) and Justin Jefferson (75 receptions, 1,037 yards, 12 TDs) make plays in the passing game.

NFL

Dallas at Chicago - Jerry Jones is not happy with his head coach, which means Jason Garrett is definitely on the hot seat. It would behoove the redhead to have his team ready to play a Bears team that has been a disappoint this season.



game for Dak Prescott (3,433 yards, 21 TDs). The Dallas defense needs to get after hapless Bears QB Mitch Trubisky and force an early turnover or two to take the starch out of the Bears.

Denver at Houston - The Texans need to take care of business at home on Sunday against a Denver team that has had a rough season. Look for quarterback Deshaun Watson (2,899 yards, 20 TDs) and wide receivers DeAndre Hopkins (81 receptions, 839 yards, 6 TDs) and Will Fuller (41 receptions, 590 yards, 3 TDs) to attack a suspect Broncos secondary early and often and then turn things over to Carlos Hyde and Duke Johnson in the running game.

San Francisco at New Orleans - I would not be surprised if NBC flexes this game to Sunday night (Seattle at Rams is the scheduled game) or Kansas City at New England could also be a viable game to be flexed as well.

both sides of the ball led by quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (2,731 yards, 20 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (52 receptions, 670 yards, 3 TDs). The Saints have a pretty fair offense as well led by quarterback Drew Brees (1,607 yards, 11 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara (526 yards, 1 TD/60 receptions, 421 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Michael Thomas (104 receptions, 1,242 yards, 6 TDs).

Baltimore at Buffalo - The Lamar Jackson Show heads to Buffalo to take on a very solid Bills team. Two weeks ago, Jackson (2,427 passing yards, 24 TDs/ 876 rushing yards, 6 TDs) put on a show in Los Angeles against the Rams passing for five touchdowns and rushing for 95 yards to lead the Ravens to a 45-6 thrashing of the Rams on Monday Night Football.

best rushing attack and one of the league's top offensive lines. Look for the Ravens to pound Mark Ingram and Glen Edwards at the Bills which will set up Jackson for some more dazzling plays. My pick, Baltimore 26, Buffalo 17

Kansas City at New England

The Chiefs and Patriots meet in a rematch of last year's AFC title game, but this time the game will be played in Foxborough and not in Kansas City. Patrick Mahomes (2,808 yards, 19 TDs), will face off against one of the league's top defenses, but he has plenty of weapons to make things uncomfortable to Bill Belichick's top-notch defense.

Tennessee at Oakland - The Titans have been playing better since Ryan Tannehill (1,420 yards, 10 TDs) took over the starting quarterback job. It helps to have a strong running game led by Derrick Henry (991 yards, 10 TDs). Henry should have another big day against an Oakland defense that was shredded two weeks ago by the Jets, 34-3. I expect the Raiders to bunch back this week behind quarterback Derek Carr (2,621 yards, 15 TDs) and rookie running back Josh Jacobs (957 yards, 7 TDs) as the Raiders know they need this win to remain in the AFC playoff hunt.

Cincinnati at Cleveland

Don't look now, but the Browns are making a late season playoff push and should notch another win against the hapless Bengals on Sunday. Two weeks ago, quarterback Baker Mayfield (2,721 yards, 14 TDs) threw three touchdown passes in a rout of the Dolphins. Wide receivers Jarvis Landry (59 receptions, 843 yards, 5 TDs) and Odell Beckham (54 receptions, 776 yards, 2 TDs) had big days, and should flourish again on Sunday, as should running back Nick Chubb (1,117 yards, 7 TDs). My pick, Cleveland 34, Cincinnati 16

Seattle at Los Angeles

Rams - Russell Wilson (2,937 yards, 24 TDs) and the Seahawks travel south to Los Angeles to take on a Rams team that is playing out the season on Sunday Night Football. Two weeks ago, Seattle picked up a nice road win at Philadelphia, while the Rams were routed at home by the Ravens. Look for Seattle to continue the misery in LA as the Seahawks set their sights on the 49ers and the NFC West title. My pick, Seattle 30, Los Angeles Rams 20

New York Giants at Philadelphia

A real stinker for the Monday Night Football crew as the Giants take on a disappointing Eagles team in prime time. Philly is still alive in the NFC East race due to Dallas' ineptitude and it would behoove quarterback Carson Wentz (2,530 yards, 17 TDs) to shake off the turnover bug and start making plays. He should be able to do that against a weak Giants defense. Look for a big game from Wentz and tight end Zach Ertz (67 receptions, 712 yards, 3 TDs) as the Eagles keep their playoff hopes alive. My pick, Philadelphia 31, New York Giants 17

Posting Date December 2, 2019

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a character with a broom and a list of differences.

King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes a solution key at the bottom.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Poland? 2. HISTORY: What was the poison drink that Socrates was given to carry out his death sentence? 3. SCIENCE: What was Margaret Mead's field of study? 4. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition known as autophobia? 5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was the title of the last film that Ronald Reagan made? 6. FAMOUS QUOTES: Which author wrote, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose"? 7. TELEVISION: In the sitcom "I Dream of Jeannie," what was Tony Nelson's job? 8. MOVIES: Which rock star played the lead in "The Man Who Fell to Earth"? 9. GAMES: What is the maximum score in a standard bowling game? 10. SCIENCE: Which steam engine inventor's last name is used as a unit of power?

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Warsaw; 2. Hemlock; 3. Anthropology; 4. Fear of being alone; 5. "The Killers" (1964); 6. Dr. Seuss; 7. Astronaut; 8. David Bowie; 9. 300; 10. James Watt (watt)

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- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 65 Melbourne Street. 281-799-6289.

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- Woodsdale Church of the Nazarene, 4903 Hollybrook Ln. 281-442-4107

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- St Luke's Lutheran Church, 11025 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-442-2180
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### METHODIST:

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# LIFESTYLE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Bethlehem in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Who prophesied, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son?" John the Baptist, Zechariah, Isaiah, Andrew

3. Which "Caesar" ordered all the world to be taxed, causing Mary to travel to Bethlehem while expecting the baby Jesus? Julius, Tiberius, Claudius, Augustus

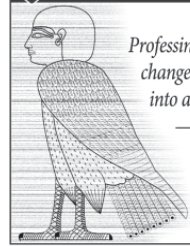
4. In which month of the Virgin Mary's pregnancy did the angel Gabriel visit to inform she would give birth? 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th

5. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of many? Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix

6. What is the city of David called? Nazareth, Dothan, Beersheba, Bethlehem

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Isaiah; 3) Augustus; 4) 6th; 5) Simeon; 6) Bethlehem

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

ROMANS 1:22,23

## RECENT DEATHS

Justin Wayne Wilson  
Ida Weber  
Wanda Doris Hale  
Jo Ann Conn

Elizabeth J Martin  
Steven Sheldon  
Allen R. Finch  
Dora S. Lozano



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## Aldine High School student receives special resolution from City



Aldine High School football player Jayden Payne, center, is pictured with Aldine High School Principal Walter Stewart, left, and Raymundo Beltran, Precinct 1 Community Engagement Coordinator.

Aldine Senior High School junior, Jayden Payne, was presented with a special Resolution from Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

Payne helped rescue a woman and her child during the flooding from Imelda, in September. Since then, Payne has been named a hero and was even personally invited to a Houston Texans game by quarter-

back, Deshaun Watson. The Resolution states that Jayden Payne is a hometown hero and that Commissioner Ellis recognizes him for his heroic efforts to rescue a community member.

The Resolution was delivered by Raymundo Beltran, Harris County Precinct One Community Engagement Coordinator.

## Turkey give-away,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Senator Sylvia Garcia, Judge Joe Stephens, Comm. Adrian Garcia, and others gave out turkeys this Thanksgiving.



Congresswoman Lee finishes her all day Thanksgiving turkey giveaway day to over 50 residence at the Jacinto City Big Bass apartment complex. Standing L-R: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, residents Gilbert Jamison and LaGloria Sephus. Photo by Allan Jamail

continue serving this community through acts of selfless service.

SSIO is a spiritual and humanitarian organization, carrying out its mission of enabling its members to realize the Divine Principle innate in every human being. This is achieved by fostering the spiritual practices of manifesting love in thought, word and deed, engaging in selfless service and achieving self-transformation by practicing the five universal human values - Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love, and Nonviolence. For more information visit, [www.sairegion10.org](http://www.sairegion10.org).



State Representative Senfronia Thompson helps Judge Joe Stephens and other officers with their Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway.

## East Aldine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able to use this as a stepping stone to a successful career, first in corporate life and then in teaching. Her goal, as the principal of the new Avalos P-Tech high school, is to give others the same opportunities to excel and succeed. Pilar told her story in a parable

of "Windows. Mirrors. Doors" where you see opportunities, you don't look at yourself as incapable, and you step through to new skills and opportunities. She illustrated this concept with the history of her family, immigrants from Mexico that took full

advantage of opportunities in Aldine and America. She expects the skills taught at the new Avalos P-Tech high school to be a stepping stone for others.

P-Tech, or Pathways in Technology High School, is an innovative program that prepares you for college and high-demand, high-skilled and high-wage careers. Students

have a choice of four career paths:

- Computer Networking and Cybersecurity
- Inspection Technology
- Teaching
- Paralegal

More information is available at [avaloshs.aldineisd.org](http://avaloshs.aldineisd.org).

P-Tech is a partnership with Lone Star College. The new dean of the East

Aldine campus, Luis Lucio, spoke about the courses that will be offered, including welding, education courses (introduction to teaching and special populations), paralegal, English/Spanish Interpreter program, accounting, and more. He said that the campus plans on introducing Saturday and evening classes in the near future.

Lucio emphasized how the LSC-EA campus is integrating with the community, participating in many events such as National Night Out, Little Free Library, Dia De Los Muertos Festival, and a Health and Wellness Fair.

The enthusiasm of each of the speakers was evident, and well received by the community.


## NEWS NOTES

### Free Infant care classes

- Nov. 27: Infant CPR & water safety.
  - Dec. 4: Emergencies & medications
  - Dec. 11: What to expect at home.
- Registration is required. Text: 832-350-8406 or email: [Acorbett@hcec.com](mailto:Acorbett@hcec.com). All classes begins at 6 p.m. at Harris County Emergency Corps, 2800 Aldine Bender Rd.

### Kujawa Seniors Gala

Nadine Kujawa Senior Citizen Gala. Live entertainment, lunch will be provided. December 9, 2019 at M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, Tx 77032. All seniors ages 65 and over welcome, 10 am - 1 pm.




**Harris County Transit and METRO have partnered together to provide Services in Channelview, Cloverleaf & Sheldon!**

**¡Harris County Transit y METRO se han asociado para proporcionar servicios en Channelview, Cloverleaf y Sheldon!**

**New service in your area will begin on December 2, 2019!**  
**Complimentary rides will be provided until January 31, 2020!**

**¡El servicio nuevo en su área comenzará el 2 de diciembre de 2019!**  
**¡Se proporcionarán viajes de cortesía hasta el 31 de enero de 2020!**



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 DR 14 will connect with METRO at the Mesa Transit Center. DR 11 will connect with METRO at Woodforest and Uvalde and at I-10 and Uvalde.

**Legend**

- ROUTE 6 Crosby (Enhanced Service)
- ROUTE 11 Cloverleaf
- ROUTE 12 Channelview
- ROUTE 13 Baytown / Sheldon
- ROUTE 14 Sheldon West
- METRO Service