

**FOOTBALL
PLAYOFF
UPDATE:**
The Klein Oak
Panthers
defeated the
MacArthur
Generals by a
score of 47-17
on Saturday,
Nov. 16.

NORTHEAST ★ NEWS

HOBY Leadership students



Aldine Noon Optimist Club recognized two students, Adam Guenoun (left), junior at Victory Early College and Darius Howard (right), junior from Davis High School, to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership conference this past summer, with them is Steve Mead. See HOBY Leadership, Page 8

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 43, NO. 45 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Community leader Yuroba Harris recognized for Education Advocacy Work

By Allan Jamail

Yuroba Harris well known in the 29th Congressional District was recently honored at a special program on November 2nd by S.A.F.E. Diversity Communities for her work on promoting Education, Career Awareness and Scholarships for students. Harris worked as the District Director for many



L - R: Thelma Scott, Founder & CEO of S.A.F.E Diversity Communities; Yuroba Harris, Attorney Leona Filis with Filis Law Firm; and Freddie Jackson with Jackson Cares/Retired Firefighter

See Award, Page 3

MacArthur Generals earn first Playoff Berth Since 2007

Coach Wayne Crawford's team secured its first post-season berth since 2007 in the Class 6A state football playoffs with a 25-22 victory over Davis High on Friday, Nov. 1.

The Generals will face the top seed out of District 15-6A in bi-district the weekend of Nov. 15-16. Their opponent will be determined after Week 10's results.

The Generals downed the Falcons behind two touchdown passes from quarterback Rashaun Jackson, one to Taylor Eaton and another to his brother Joshua. Running back Maurice Woods' three-yard touchdown run with 11:55 left in the game turned out to be the game winner.

The Generals entered their season finale against Spring on Nov. 9 with a 5-4 season record and a 4-2 district record.



MacArthur coach Wayne Crawford has led the Generals to their first playoff berth since 2007.

New District Clerk Burgess collects \$2 million of unpaid debts

Making Big Changes at the District Clerk's Office...

By Allan Jamail

In the 2018 sweep by Democrats in Harris County, the office of County District Clerk brought in a new face. It can be said one of the county's most important offices is that of District Clerk.

The District Clerk's office records the actions and the judgments of the court; transmits the orders of the court to the authorities responsible for their execution; and assumes all other duties assigned by the presiding judge of a court. The District Clerk's office "makes justice happen." The District Clerk is elected by Harris County voters for a 4-year term.

A Texas district clerk is a "constitutional officer of county government" found in Article 5, Section 9 of the state's constitution. The district clerk is the custodian of the "official record of the district courts" and must mark the exact date and time of receipt and issue all papers including subpoenas, citations, warrants, and summons.

Marilyn Burgess (D) defeated incumbent Chris Daniel (R) in the general election for Harris County District Clerk on November 6, 2018. She wasted no



Marilyn Burgess, Harris County District Clerk

time after officially taking office by signing her first order as Harris County District Clerk at midnight, January 1, 2019 and has been working hard to serve the people ever since. Though she has been in office less than a year, her innovations are already making a difference.

During her transition into office, her team discovered that court costs, fines, and fees had not been billed for a number of years. Her office began sending out notices for these fees within the first month of her term and to date has collected \$1,966,798.15.

"We will easily exceed the \$2 million mark prior to the end of the year," \$957,000 of this is from current activity. The rest is

from 2018 or earlier when no effort was made to collect. We are committed to billing AND collecting on a current basis, as well as continuing to work to collect as much of the old balances as possible," said Ms. Burgess.

Other changes include an expansion and modernization of electronic services offered through the DCO. From the start, the District Clerk empowered her IT team to get creative. Attorneys, for example, now enjoy e-Issuance of service papers which is available by email with papers attached and additionally with 24/7 retrieval from our website.

The office is currently piloting e-Notices to replace mailed postcards with case updates in a handful of courts and will be fully transitioned to electronic notice for all courts by year-end. This saves taxpayer dollars by eliminating postage and printing cost and gets the notices to the attorneys faster.

Another innovation is a new e-hearing system which allows attorneys to

See Unpaid Debts, Page 8

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Thousands of students cast their vote in mock elections



Students at Wilson Elementary School place their votes during the district's mock elections.

By Leticia Fehling

Three departments — elementary social studies, library services, and instructional technology — collaborated to give pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students lessons about civics, voting, and elections, which culminated in students taking part in mock elections held on Election Day (Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019).

Key Lessons

- The importance of voting
 - Citizenship and civic duty
 - The election process
- The students cast their "mock" votes for the next Mayor of Houston. Before casting their votes, students learned about each candidate and their campaign platform. Educators provided credible age-appropriate instructional resources about all 12 candidates. Students read and discussed information to make informed choices about their votes.

According to Gwendolyn Lockett, program director of elementary social studies, mock voting is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in the democratic process fully.

"The most important message we want to convey to our students is that voting is one of our most important rights and responsibilities as a citizen," said Lockett. "We should all take advantage of the opportunity to have our voices heard; after all, our children are citizens too."

Lead by Example

Lockett also encourages families in our community to vote and has taken part in several voter registration drives. She advises parents to take their children to the polls. If families teach children the importance of voting from parents and guardians early (and as a family), the chances are that they will follow their lead when they are old enough to vote.

MacArthur students dive deeper into English Renaissance studies at Museum of Fine Arts



MacArthur students outside Museum of Fine Arts in Houston

By Valonia Walker

Thirty-seven MacArthur High School dual credit British Literature students recently visited The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), to explore the English Renaissance beyond the textbook.

The students are currently studying the writing and artwork of the time period. The visit to the museum was a first for most of the British Literature students.

"I've never been to a museum before, so our visit was an eye-opening experience for me," Daniel Valdez, MacArthur High School senior, said. "I was captivated by the timeless artwork and the educational insight into different time periods."

Students were able to compare and contrast the religious portraits from the

Middle Ages to the secular portraits and paintings of the Renaissance. The visit ended with a writing activity, where the students were asked to observe the details in the artwork, describe the imagery, and write a critical review.

HCC Northeast launches PACE program

HOUSTON (November 11) – Focused on hospitality and supporting student success, Houston Community College (HCC) Northeast has launched the Pathway for Accelerated College Education (PACE) program at Acres Homes, Northeast, Northline, and North Forest campuses. The HCC Northeast PACE program offers a menu of accelerated and flexible scheduling options designed for adult learners and working professionals seeking to finish or transfer to a university at a faster pace.

The goal of the new program is to offer increased opportunities at campuses that traditionally offer regular 16-week courses. For added support, the PACE program provides wrap-around services and perks

for adult learners seeking to attend college in the evenings, weekends, and at night. Students who choose the PACE track will have access to additional benefits that include on-campus study groups, ability to checkout a laptop, tutoring, computer lab access, and advisement focused on their needs as an adult learner.

Participating students will register for spring 2020 classes offered in 8-week, one day a week, evening, weekend, classroom, and hybrid formats at the Acres Homes, North Forest, Northline and Northeast campuses. The accelerated courses allow students to complete a class mid-semester and a

See PACE Program, Page 8

Reece Academy celebrates Diwali



Reece Academy teachers with student in front of "Happy Diwali" post.

By Valonia Walker

Reece Academy recently observed Diwali to celebrate the diversity in their campus.

Diwali is the Hindu five-day festival of lights that welcomes in the lunar New Year. It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the Hindu month of Ashvin, which occurs in October or November,

depending on the lunar calendar.

This celebration is a world-wide event celebrated by millions. Celebrations during the festival include, storytelling, exchanging gifts of sweets, lighting candles (diyas), parades, fairs, and elaborate fireworks displays. The holiday is marked by an abundance of lights signifying good over evil.

Texas Renaissance Festival School Days hosts over 41,000



Photo Credit: Steven David Photography

Nov. 11, 2019 (Todd Mission, TX) – Over 41,000 students, chaperones, teachers, administrators and parents descended upon the Texas Renaissance Festival (TRF) for the 15th Annual School Days event that took place Nov. 5-6 on the festival grounds. For two special days during the week, the festival opens its gates to welcome educators and students from public, private and home school where they are immersed into the world of the 16th century European village with its characters, performers, artisan demonstrations, games, rides and vendors.

Additionally, students elementary through high school are invited to engage with other students

in a variety of arts and music competitions. These include: Journalism, Essay, Trebuchet, Costume, Poetry, Art, Theatre and Music. Contest results from the 2019 School Days have been posted on the TRF website under School Days.

"TRF's School Days program provides a unique, immersive educational experience in which students can see, hear, touch, and participate in history, arts, and sciences in ways that are completely unlike anything in a traditional classroom. As a career educator, I am proud of what TRF offers for students in the Houston and surrounding areas."

If you would like more information about the 2020 School Days program, please visit the website at www.texrenfest.com/school-days, or email Bryant at schooldays@texrenfest.com. Dates for the 2020 School Days event will be Nov. 10 – 11, 2020.

About the Texas Renaissance Festival –

The Texas Renaissance Festival is an immersive experience located in Todd Mission, TX, where visitors enter a 16th Century European Village filled with performers, stage and music acts, artisans, and vendors. 2019 Festival dates are Oct. 5 – Dec. 1, open Saturdays, Sundays and Thanksgiving Friday. Tickets are available at texrenfest.com. Children 12 and under are admitted for free on Sundays.

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- * BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (PG) 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

* 13TH MAN (NR) - 12:30p, 3:15p, 6:00p, 8:45p

* CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-13) - 12:15p, 3:00p, 5:45p, 8:30p

* FORD V FERRARI (PG-13) - 12:45p, 4:45p, 8:45p

* DOCTOR SLEEP (R) - 4:20p, 7:40p

Spanish Subtitled

* DOCTOR SLEEP (R) - 1:00p, 5:00p, 9:00p

* LAST CHRISTMAS (PG-13) - 12:30p, 3:30p, 6:30p, 9:30p

* MIDWAY (PG-13) - 12:00p, 3:00p, 6:00p, 9:00p

* PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG) - 12:00p, 2:20p, 4:45p, 7:05p, 9:30p

* HARRIET (PG-13) - 12:15p, 3:00p, 5:45p, 8:30p

TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (R) - 12:30p, 3:30p, 6:30p, 9:30p

TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (R) - 12:00p, 2:50p, 5:40p, 8:30p

Spanish Dubbed

COUNTDOWN (PG-13) - 12:15p, 2:30p, 4:40p, 7:00p, 9:10p

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) - 12:30p, 5:50p

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) - 12:00p, 5:20p

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* Maleficent: Mistress of Evil 3D (PG) - 2:40p, 8:00p

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* Maleficent: Mistress of Evil 3D (PG) - 3:10p, 8:45p

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG) - 12:00p, 2:10p

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JOKER (R) - 12:30p, 3:30p, 6:45p, 9:30p

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Newspaper publisher celebrates milestone birthday, memorable life

This week, Gilbert Hoffman celebrates his 80th birthday. Upon such a significant milestone, it is worth looking back on his remarkable life, family, adventures, and many careers.

In 1994, Gilbert Hoffman and his wife Mei-ing bought the *Highlands Star-Crosby Courier*, fulfilling one of Gilbert's lifelong dreams: to own a newspaper. This also marked the beginning of what would become a small publishing conglomerate, serving the greater Houston area with community papers such as the *Star-Courier*, *Northeast News*, and *North Channel Star*.

PENNSYLVANIA BOY

Born in Oklahoma, Gilbert moved to Pennsylvania at a young age and grew up in New Castle, a town just north of Pittsburgh. Even as a boy, he was interested in printing presses and newspapers. His sister, Cheryl Massie, recalls Gilbert putting her to work, along with their brother Richard. The two younger siblings had to collect news from around their neighborhood, which Gilbert would write up into stories that he typeset and printed on a small letterpress in their basement. Then he sent Cheryl and Richard back out to deliver these bulletins.

Their father was an architect, and both Gilbert and Richard followed in his footsteps. In his teens, Gilbert worked as a draftsman at the W.G. Eckles Company, which started as a small local practice but is now known as the Eckles Group and remains one of the 50 oldest architecture firms in the country.

Upon graduating high school, Gilbert married his girlfriend Carol, and they had their first daughter, Susan. Thus began a new chapter in his life as husband, father, and college student.

ARCHITECT ABROAD

After graduating from Carnegie Tech with his Bachelor's degree in architecture, and the University of Pennsylvania with his Master's, Gilbert was employed at a series of firms in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. He gained experience and climbed the ladder, from draftsman to model builder to designer to project architect. Then he relocated to New Haven to work under esteemed architects such as Eero Saarinen, Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo, and Charles W. Moore. The projects he worked on ranged from hospital facilities to airport terminals, university buildings to pedestrian malls.

He also taught a few undergraduate courses at Yale University.

During these same years, Gilbert's young family grew. He and Carol welcomed another daughter, Trisha. They took the girls sailing — another of Gilbert's passions, though he was hardly an expert. Trisha can still remember the terror she felt as a girl when their boat would keel so strongly that water nearly came in over the side.

Sadly, the marriage didn't last, and after the divorce, Carol and the girls moved to Phoenix to be near her parents.

Gilbert returned to New Castle for a while, then was hired by 3D Interna-



Gilbert Hoffman with printing press in Houston Texas



Gilbert with daughters Susan and Trisha



Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

"Over the last decade, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Gil as he works to best report the important news of the Crosby and Huffman communities. He has created the go-to clearinghouse for all news in that area and I have been honored to work with him and his team. Happy 80th Birthday, Gil! Thank you for your service to this community!" - Dan Huberty, State Representative - District 127

tional, a large architectural firm in Houston. There, he had the privilege of traveling all over the world for his work. Among the more dazzling of his assignments:

- An office building in Singapore
- A corporate headquarters in South Africa
- A conference and exhibition complex in Malaysia
- A five-story palace/office in Qatar
- An entire town in Saudi Arabia (i.e., schools, police station, mosques, housing, etc.)

Whenever possible, Gilbert took advantage of these grand travels to do some sightseeing as well. He was able to dip his toes in the Red Sea, visit the Eiffel Tower and Moulin Rouge, see the Pope, tour Kruger Game Park, spend a day at Machu Picchu, and even enter King Tut's tomb.

Also working at 3DI at this time was Mei-ing Liu, an architect from Taiwan who had graduated from "UPenn" too. While everyone else thought that meant Penn State, Gilbert recognized his alma mater and introduced himself. They started dating, and once again, a new chapter unfolded.

ENTREPRENEUR

Despite a healthy career in architecture, Gilbert still itched to pursue his other passions.

In 1984, newly married, Gilbert and Mei-ing decided to purchase a one-man print shop from an owner-operator who was ready to

See Publisher's Birthday, Page 8

Harris County Public Health releases report to transform health in Harris County

Landmark Report Provides Transformational Recommendations to Improve the Health of County Residents

HOUSTON—Harris County Public Health (HCPH) today released a landmark study assessing the overall health of Harris County residents and recommendations for improvement. The first-ever report "Harris Cares: A 2020 Vision of Health in Harris County" provides five transformational recommendations to improve the health of Harris County residents.

The ambitious study covered many areas in health and factors that influence health outcomes including access to health care, mental health, injury, transportation and emergency preparedness, among others. It is the result of Harris County Commissioners Court's request for HCPH to review the health state of its residents and make suggested recommendations on how to improve health.

Health-related key findings

--In Harris County, one-in-three youth aged 12-17 is overweight or obese. For adults, some communities have over 50% of adults classified as obese.

--Approximately one-in-five adults lacks health insurance, with some communities having more than 1 in 3 adults lacking health insurance.

--The Harris County population has been growing faster than its health-

care infrastructure, making healthcare access more difficult.

"The goal of the health study is to improve the quality of life for Harris County residents in addition to increasing life expectancy, which varies across the county. County average life expectancy is 78.7, however some census tracts are as low as 65 years and others as high as 89 years," said Umair A. Shah, MD, executive director of HCPH. "Where you live often determines how well and how long you live."

The overarching five recommendations are transformational, requiring groundbreaking systems-level changes including:

--Drive systems-level change through prevention and upstream focused solutions that incorporate health and social services in a more integrated and effective manner.

-- Strengthen integration of health services and systems by coordinating delivery of existing health care services, and developing new health care infrastructure where needed to improve access to health care across the community.

-- Enhance the safety net system to address better the ongoing health needs of Harris County residents who are under or uninsured, including through the creation of a new, robust delivery model called "Harris Care."

-- Align strategies across existing county and

municipal governmental departments that impact health to improve communication, coordination and collaboration.

-- Streamline and integrate health care and prevention services across Harris County and the City of Houston.

There are several suggested ways that the overarching recommendation could be reached such as: creating a 'one-stop shop for health' by enhancing existing or creating additional community health clinics that focus on preventive services and that are co-located with public health, mental health, and social services. These wrap-around service clinics should also allow for increased surge capacity during an emergency. Also, investing in public health prevention and social factors that impact health through county-wide coordination, just to name a few.

The health study was done in collaboration with a wide-variety of partners and subject matter experts, in addition to HCPH staff. Though the data was important, HCPH also interviewed more than 200 experts and community members. Sectors ranged from healthcare, business, non-profits, faith-based organizations, elected officials and responses allowed for over 100 unique institutional perspectives.

A summary and the full report is available on HCPH's Harris Cares page: www.hcphx.org/Harris-Cares.

Man dies in car crash on North Freeway

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 7400 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) service road about 8:25 p.m. on last Wednesday, Nov. 13.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant J. Benavidez and Officer J. Broussard reported:

The victim was driving

a maroon Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck northbound on North Freeway when he lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a metal barrier. Paramedics transported the victim to Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Doctors believe the

victim might have suffered a medical episode prior to or during the crash.

The identity of the male victim, 67, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The investigation is continuing.

Award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years for retired Congressman Gene Green. She's currently working on special initiatives for Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia with a number of faith based, nonprofit, civic organizations, community development and revital-

ization committees and boards.

During the special award presentation (also honoring Veterans), Mrs. Thelma Scott, President-CEO and founder of S.A.F.E. Diversity Communities, thanked Yuroba for her 17 years of support for their education and scholarship program efforts.

S.A.F.E. Diversity Communities is a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships, support and inspires at risk students with disabilities. To learn more about the organization, their Summer Youth Internship Program or to donate to its mission please visit www.safediversity.org.

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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Using a Restricted Application to Maximize Benefits

Dear Rusty: I was born on 1/14/1953, and my wife was born on 6/27/1954. I will have the largest Social Security benefit by 2 or 3 to one. She has been retired for a year or so, but I am working part time. We planned on not taking our SS until 70, since my IRA and Social Security will cover us until 90plus. I want to maximize my SS benefit in case we live past then. I have read about a restricted application and file and suspend, but I get conflicting information on who must be born before 1/2/54. Is there anything we can do besides wait to 70 to maximize our benefits? Signed: Wanting to Maximize

Dear Wanting: How you, as a married couple, should plan your Social Security depends largely upon whether your wife will be eligible for a spousal benefit from you and, if so, how much her spousal benefit will be. Your wife will get a spousal benefit from you if her own benefit amount at her full retirement age (66) is less than half of your benefit amount at your full retirement age (66). The difference between those two amounts will be added to your wife's own benefit (from her own work record) to become her spousal benefit. At her full retirement age (FRA) she would get 50% of the amount you were eligible for at your FRA, which you reached in January 2019. If your wife's benefit at age 70 will be more than her spousal benefit will be, then it would be prudent for her to delay claiming until age 70 when her benefit will be 32% more than it would be when she turns 66. However, if her spousal benefit will be more, it could make sense for your wife to file for her own benefit first, which would allow you to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." Your wife cannot file a restricted application because she was born after January 1, 1954, but you can file the restricted application because you were born before that (the "File and suspend" option which allowed your wife to collect spouse benefits while your benefits are suspended is no longer available).

Provided your current finances, as well as your health and expected longevity suggest you can delay, it would be a wise strategy for you to delay claiming until age 70 because it will provide you with the maximum possible monthly benefit and also the most in cumulative lifetime benefits if you attain at least "average" longevity (about 84). This would also give your wife the highest possible survivor benefit should you predecease her (as your widow, your wife gets 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death). Your wife cannot collect a spousal benefit from you until you start your own benefits, but if she were to choose to claim her own Social Security retirement benefit from her own work record first (so you could file the restricted application), she would switch to her higher spousal benefit when you claim.

So, if your wife's spousal benefit will be her highest benefit, as a couple you may wish to consider your wife filing for her own benefit to start in January (will be reduced by about 3.3%) and, at that time, you file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" which means you will collect 50% of your wife's (unreduced) FRA benefit amount while your own Social Security benefit continues to earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs). DRCs are given at the rate of 2/3rd of 1% per month of delay (8% per year of delay), up until age 70 when your benefit will be 24% more than it would be at age 67. Then, at age 70, when you switch from the spousal benefit from your wife to your own SS retirement benefit, your wife can file for her spousal benefit from you. If you are, indeed, fortunate enough to live well into your 80s, the above will provide you with lifetime benefits than any other strategy you might consider.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance.



Voters approve 9 of 10 proposed constitutional amendments

AUSTIN — Voters rejected only one of 10 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution in the statewide election held Nov. 5.

The House and Senate, in the 86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature that ended in May, approved the propositions for voters to decide. Results are as follows:

Prop. 1, permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at a time, failed with 681,139 "yes" votes — or 34.56 percent of votes cast — to 1,970,765 "no" votes or 65.44 percent.

Prop. 2, providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas, passed with 1,285,397 votes or 65.62 percent of votes cast, to 673,306 votes or 34.38 percent.

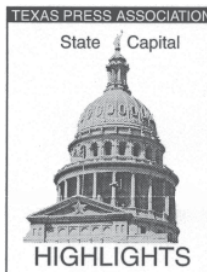
Prop. 3, authorizing the Legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by disaster, passed with 1,667,110 votes or 85.09 percent of votes cast to 292,031 votes or 14.91 percent.

Prop. 4, making it more difficult for the state to impose an individual income tax by requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate before putting the matter on a ballot for voters to approve or disapprove, passed with 1,467,994 votes or 74.41 percent of votes cast to 504,848 votes or 25.59 percent.

Prop. 5, dedicating the revenue received from the

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas natural areas, water quality and history by acquiring, managing and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes, passed with 1,732,331 votes or 88 percent of votes cast to 236,251 votes or 12 percent.

Prop. 6, authorizing the Legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, passed with 1,250,089 votes or 64 percent of votes cast to 703,157 votes or 36 percent.

Prop. 7, allowing increased distributions to the Available School Fund, passed with 1,449,333 votes or 74.12 percent of votes cast to 506,142 votes or 25.88 percent.

Prop. 8, providing for the creation of the Flood Infrastructure Fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation and flood control projects, passed with 1,527,394 votes or 77.83 percent of votes cast to 435,184 votes or 22.17 percent.

Prop. 9, authorizing the Legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state, passed with 977,272 votes or 51.6 percent of votes cast to 916,513 votes or 48.4 percent.

Prop. 10, to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances, passed with 1,845,766 votes or 93.75 percent of votes cast to 123,032 votes or 6.25 percent.

Cash report is released

The State of Texas finished the 2019 fiscal year with unspent revenue, according to a new report.

Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar on Nov. 4 announced the publication of the State of Texas Annual Cash Report, a 458-page document, for the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

The report, summarized in a cover letter to Gov. Greg Abbott, presents the state's financial condition and details revenues and expenditures on a cash basis as required by state law.

The Consolidated General Revenue Fund ended the year with a cash balance in the state treasury of \$8.4 billion, an increase of \$3.9 billion, or 88.1 percent, from fiscal 2018. The change in the balance, Hegar said, is largely due to an increase in tax collections.

Hegar estimates revenue

Comptroller Hegar on Nov. 4 reported state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.82 billion in October, 7 percent more than in October 2018.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in October 2019 was up 4.1 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.

Revenue is distributed

Comptroller Hegar on Nov. 6 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$849.6 million in local sales tax allocations for the month of November.

The amount is 4 percent more than the amount distributed in November 2018.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Temporary Worries"

My husband, Peter, and I are spending a month in Spain and we have left our worries behind. As a result, we have had to come up with new, temporary worries to occupy us until we get back home.

Peter ran out of lotion and for several days used something he found in the house which turned out to be soap. ("I wondered why it wasn't soaking in!" Peter said.) He doesn't like my lotion ("axle grease!" Peter complains) so he ventured out yesterday to buy some more. He came home with some lotion in a metal tin and immediately began worrying if this container would travel well.

"I don't want grease leaking all over my luggage!" Peter worried.

In the absence of a real grocery store, we worry if we will be able to find olives we like and, once we find them, if we will ever find them again. We feed the cats on the roof every day, then worry how they will survive after we are gone. (But then we remember they were not overly slim when we arrived.)

Earlier this week we hiked to a neighboring town, spent the night, and returned. The hike was wonderful, crossing through mountains and fording a stream. We had dinner in the square with two ladies in their sixties—an Englishwoman who had come to live in this remote town several years earlier and a Dane, who was on her way to explore Argentina. Hiking home the following day, I thought (as I always do while traveling) of the endless variety of ways there are to live.

It was nice to get back in our funny little house, but I worried we were running out of time. Peter made soup, as he does. "This will be my last batch this trip!" Peter announced.

I will miss this little house more than Peter will. The doors are very low, and the stairs are very steep, so Peter walks around the house slightly stooped and carries a hiking pole up and down the stairs, as if he is herding sheep to and from the upstairs bathroom. I try not to laugh—but sometimes I fail.

Yesterday I hiked to the top of a hill that overlooks the town. There used to be a Moorish castle on the top hundreds of years ago. The view is amazing. I looked down on the white houses and the Mediterranean in the distance and thought of all the people who had been exactly where I was, looking at that view.

Sometimes they were worried, I imagined, looking for invaders, or bad weather, or some other trouble coming by sea. But most of the time I imagine they sat where I did for the same reason—to wonder how long they would get to look at something so glorious, to wonder why they spent so much time worrying.

When I got home, Peter read about a ship that was having mechanical troubles in the Mediterranean. Once they finish cruising the Mediterranean for the season, the bigger ships cross the ocean to spend the winter in the Caribbean. Peter reads these articles because we are taking one of those ships home.

It turns out, the ship in trouble was ours.

"Someone said they heard an explosion and reported a fire in the engine room!" Peter exclaimed, reading the article (which was not from a major news source and seemed a little short on facts).

"Goodness!" I said. I guess—since we need something to worry about—is this as good a worry as any.

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

Texans look to take command of AFC South against Colts: Aggies head to Georgia to take on Bulldogs in SEC action

The Texans and Colts kick off Week 12 on Thursday Night Football at NRG Stadium in an important AFC South game for both teams.

Two weeks ago, the Colts were upset at home by the one-win Dolphins, while the Texans enjoyed their bye week.

Bill O'Brien's team played at Baltimore last Sunday, so there's a good chance the Texans will enter Thursday night's game with a 6-4 record. Indy hosted Jacksonville last Sunday, so there's a good chance both teams will enter this week's game tied for first place in the division.

The last time these two teams met in Houston, the Colts dominated the Texans in the AFC Wild Card game and left with a 21-7 victory. But a lot has changed since that game. Colts starting quarterback Andrew Luck has retired and his replacement, Jacoby Brissett is dealing with a knee injury and might not be ready to play on Thursday night.

In other key games this weekend, Carolina visits New Orleans in a key NFC South game, while Green Bay travels to San Francisco to take on a 49ers team that saw its undefeated season come to an end two weeks ago with a 27-24 overtime loss at home against Seattle.

Speaking of Seattle, they make a cross-country trip to Philadelphia to take on the Eagles.

In college action, Texas A&M travels to Athens, GA to take on the Bulldogs between the hedges, while Penn State hopes to keep its College Football Playoff hopes alive when it faces a powerful Ohio State team in Columbus.

Before we take a look at that game and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 7-5 week brought the season record to 69-45 (61%).

NCAA

Texas A&M at Georgia - Jimbo Fisher's Aggies would love nothing more than to throw a monkey wrench into the SEC East race with a big win on the road against the Bulldogs. The Aggies are coming off three straight home games and face a tough test in Athens on Saturday. The Bulldogs are not an explosive offensive team, but they are efficient behind quarterback Jake Fromm (1,858 passing yards, 13 TDs) and running back D'Andre Swift (921 rushing yards, 7 TDs). The defense is solid and recorded a shutout two weeks ago at home against Missouri (27-0). A&M will need a big day from quarterback Kellen Mond (2,214 passing yards, 17 TDs), freshman running back Isaiah Spiller (671 rushing yards, 8 TDs) and speedy wide receiver Jhamon Ausben (51 receptions, 698 yards, 3 TDs). I thin the Aggies give the 'Dogs a game, but look for Fromm and Swift to makes plays down the stretch to keep Georgia the top dog in the SEC East race. My pick, Georgia 26, Texas A&M 23

Texas at Baylor - Baylor hosts Texas looking to keep its Big 12 title hopes alive. The Bears are coming off a game against Oklahoma and face a UT team that will be out to save its season. Two weeks ago, Baylor struggled against TCU in Fort Worth, but rallied for a 29-23 triple overtime win. BU QB Charlie Brewer (2,338 passing yards, 16 TDs) has been steady all season long and he and running back John Lovett (532 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Denzel Mims (44 receptions, 675 yards, 8 TDs) will look to attack a suspect and beat up UT defense. Texas will once again rely on quarterback Sam Ehlinger (2,641 passing yards, 24 TDs) and wide receiver Devin Duvernay (78 receptions, 921 yards, 7 TDs) to make plays in the passing game, while sophomore running back Keaontay Ingram (633 yards, 6 TDs) is beginning to show flashes as the go-to back for Tom Herman's team. Texas will be in this game, but this appears to be a special year in Waco and come Saturday, the Bears will pick up another big win in 2019. My pick, Baylor 34, Texas 31

Penn State at Ohio State - Two weeks ago, Penn State saw

its CFP chances take a big hit with a 31-26 loss at Minnesota. Things don't get any easier this weekend when they face perhaps the best team in the country. Ohio State has been rolling and is solid on both sides of the ball. Two weeks ago, they steamrolled Maryland, 73-14, and know they must win out to earn one of the top two CFP berths. OSU QB Justin Fields (1,859 passing yards, 27 TDs) and running back J.K. Dobbins (1,200 rushing yards, 11 TDs) will give the PSU defense fits come Saturday. The Buckeye defense will have its hands full with quarterback Sean Clifford (2,271 passing yards, 21 TDs) and speedy wide receiver KJ Hamler (44 receptions, 739 yards, 8 TDs). Penn State will hang around in this one, but look for the Buckeyes to wear them down in the fourth quarter to keep their special season going. My pick, Ohio State 36, Penn State 24

Boston College at Notre Dame - The battle of the Catholic schools takes place in South Bend on Saturday as BC takes on Notre Dame. The Irish will be looking to improve their bowl placement, while Boston College will be looking to get bowl eligible. The ND defense will have its hands full with BC running back A.J. Dillon (1,451 yards, 13 TDs), while the Irish will throw a balanced attack at the Eagles led by quarterback Ian Book (2,007 passing yards, 21 TDs) and running back Tony Jones, Jr. (585 rushing yards, 4 TDs). Notre Dame has the better defense, so look for unit to be the difference maker in South Bend on Saturday. My pick, Notre Dame 34, Boston College 23

SMU at Navy - If you like high-scoring games, then this one should be right up your alley. SMU visits Navy and its triple option attack on Saturday in a game that should keep the scorekeepers very busy. Two weeks ago, SMU won a 59-51 shootout at home against East Carolina. Navy faced Notre Dame last weekend in South



Bend in what was probably a physical encounter for the Midshipmen. Navy is led by dual threat quarterback Malcolm Perry (1,042 passing yards, 5 TDs/722 rushing yards, 16 TDs), while the Mustangs are led by quarterback Shane Buechele (3,195 passing yards, 28 TDs) and running back Xavier Jones (1,063 yards, 8 TDs). This should be a fun game to watch. SMU struggles on defense against quality offenses and Navy has a quality offense, which doesn't bode well for the Ponies. My pick, Navy 46, SMU 43

NFL

Indianapolis at Houston - The Texans and Colts kick off Week 12 on Thursday Night Football in a game that is important for both team's playoff chances. Houston is coming off a tough road game at Baltimore, while the Colts are hoping Brissett will be ready to return to action after suffering a knee injury on Nov. 3 at Pittsburgh. The Colts just aren't the same team on offense without Brissett. If he is out for this game, look for Indy to give running back Marlon Mack (753 rushing yards, 3 TDs) plenty of work to chew up clock and keep Deshaun Watson (2,432 passing yards, 18 TDs) off of the field. The Texans have found a running game themselves as Carlos Hyde (704 yards, 3 TDs) has done a good job of moving the chains this season. And of course, there's always the DeAndre Hopkins (68 receptions, 665 yards, 4 TDs) that the Colts will have to factor

into their defensive plans. The Texans look like a different team this year, so look for them to pick up the win and get a leg up on the Colts in the AFC South on Thursday night. My pick, Houston 26, Indianapolis 16

Carolina at New Orleans - The Panthers and Saints meet in New Orleans in a key NFC South tilt on Sunday afternoon. Two weeks ago, the Panthers lost a tough one at Green Bay, 24-16, when they were denied a chance to score from the Packer two-yard line with seconds remaining. Quarterback Kyle Allen (1,598 passing yards, 10 TDs) and running back Christian McCaffrey (989 yards, 14 total TDs) will face a Saints defense that was roughed up two weeks ago at home by the one-win Falcons. Drew Brees had a rough day in that one, as he wasn't able to throw a touchdown pass against the lowly Falcons, who upset the Saints in New Orleans, 26-9. Look for Brees (1,068 passing yards, 5 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara (397 rushing yards, 41 receptions, 326 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Michael Thomas (86 receptions, 1,127 yards, 4 TDs) to be more focused as they look to make their late-season playoff push. My pick, New Orleans 31, Carolina 23

Dallas at New England - The Cowboys travel to Foxborough to take on the Patriots in what could be a long and cold afternoon for Jerry Jones' team. Two weeks ago, Dallas dropped a 28-24 decision at home to the Vikings in a game where running back Ezekiel Elliott (788 yards, 6 TDs)

struggled. For some inexplicable reason, head coach Jason Garrett elected to run Elliott on back-to-back plays deep in Minnesota territory late in the game and he was stuffed both times to sniff out the Cowboys' comeback chances. Quarterback Dak Prescott (2,777 yards, 18 TDs) and wide receiver Amari Cooper (53 receptions, 848 yards, 7 TDs) will find it tough to make plays against a very good NE defense. The Dallas defense will get test by Tom Brady (2,536 yards, 14 TDs), running back Sony Michel (482 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Julian Edelman (63 receptions, 663 yards, 4 TDs). This could be the beginning of the end of the Garrett era in Dallas, and a lot of Cowboy fans would be just fine with that. My pick, New England 34, Dallas 23

Green Bay at San Francisco - Aaron Rodgers (2,718 yards, 17 TDs) and the Packers travel to the Bay Area to take on a 49ers team that suffered its first loss of the season to weeks ago at home at the hands of the Seahawks. SF QB Jimmy Garoppolo (2,054 yards, 14 TDs) struggled in that game, but hope to have his security blanket, tight end George Kittle (46 receptions, 541 yards, 2 TDs) back for this game. The vaunted 49er defense got pushed around by the Seahawks and things won't get any easier this Sunday when they face Rodgers, running back Aaron Jones (589 yards, 13 total TDs) and wide receiver Davantae Adams (39 receptions, 537 yards). This should be a very competitive game, but look for the 49ers to use the Seattle loss as a wake up call and rebound against the Packers. My pick, San Francisco 24, Green Bay 20

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati - Don't look now, but the Steelers, who were left for dead after losing starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger two weeks into the season are alive and well and in contention for an AFC Wild Card slot. Head coach Mike Tomlin is having one of his best seasons as a head coach and the

Steelers should notch another win against a horrible Bengals team. Two weeks ago, Cincinnati was blown out at home by Baltimore, 49-13. Look for quarterback Mason Rudolph (1,330 yards, 11 TDs) to manage the offense while the defense takes the Cincinnati offense apart. My pick, Pittsburgh 27, Cincinnati 10

Seattle at Philadelphia - A good one for the Sunday Night Football gang as Seattle visits Philadelphia in a key game for both teams' playoff hopes. Two weeks ago, Russell Wilson (2,737 yards, 27 TDs) led Seattle to an upset against the 49ers, while the Eagles enjoyed their bye week. The Seattle defense will get tested by a solid Philly offense led by quarterback Carson Wentz (2,006 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jordan Howard (525 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Zach Ertz (46 receptions, 527 yards, 2 TDs). Seattle is a very good road team and has an MVP candidate in Wilson. Something tells me the Seahawks pick up another big road win come Sunday night. My pick, Seattle 26, Philadelphia 23

Baltimore at Los Angeles Rams - Lamar Jackson (2,036 passing yards, 15 TDs/702 rushing yards, 6 TDs) takes his electrifying act to LA as the Ravens face the Rams on Monday Night Football. Two weeks ago, the dual threat QB ran over and around the Bengals en route to a 49-13 road romp, while the Rams suffered a 17-12 loss at Pittsburgh. The Rams, who won the NFC title a year ago, are struggling in the offensive line and that has affected quarterback Jared Goff (2,610 yards, 11 TDs) and running back Todd Gurley (428 rushing yards, 6 TDs). The Rams defense is going to have its hands full with Jackson, running back Mark Ingram (619 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (44 receptions, 523 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the Rams' struggles to continue as Jackson makes his case for the MVP award in front of a national TV audience. My pick, Baltimore 30, Los Angeles Rams 23

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



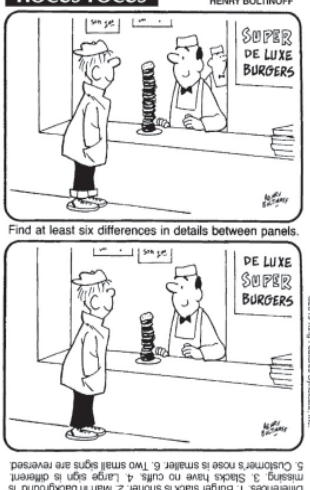
The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid by Linda Thistle with difficulty level and instructions.

HOCUS-FOCUS



1. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; 2. Geesee; 3. Talc; 4. 13th; 5. George Bernard Shaw and Bob Dylan; 6. Six; 7. Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas and Colorado; 8. Ronald Reagan, urging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to destroy the Berlin Wall; 9. Brazil; 10. Nora Ephron

Posting Date November 18, 2019

King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Netting, 5 Personal question, 8 Grouch, 12 Liniment target, 13 Chop, 14 Firetruck need, 15 Barbecue fuel, 17 One side of the Urals, 18 Glutton, 19 Prune, 20 Skill, 21 Police officer, 22 Has potential, 23 Should, with "to", 26 Assail persistently, 30 Entreaty, 31 "Delish!", 32 Small wagon, 33 Breastbone, 35 "It's mine!", 36 Diving bird, 37 Two, in Tijuana, 38 Pamphlet, 41 Raw rock, 42 Pair of performers, 45 Laugh-a-minute, 46 Entrancing, 48 Teen's woe, 49 Ginormous, 50 Eastern bigwig (Var.), 51 Equal, 52 "Help!", 53 Maravich of basketball lore, 10 "Yeah, right", 11 Defeat, 16 Coagulate, 20 Rotating part, 21 Role, 22 Oft-tattooed word, 23 Chances, for short, 24 Last (Abbr.), 25 "Gosh!", 26 Vagrant, 27 Upper limb, 28 Aries, 29 Coloring agent, 31 Opposite of 31-Across?, 34 Eccentric, 35 No stay-at-home, 37 Hauls, 38 Snare, 39 Kind of pudding, 40 Top-rated river, 41 Major U.S. river, 42 FDR's on it, 43 One, 44 Shrek, for instance, 46 Letterman's employer, 47 Paper equivalent of a GPS?

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MUSIC: Who composed the "1812 Overture"? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the sixth gift in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"? 3. SCIENCE: What is the softest mineral? 4. GOVERNMENT: Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery? 5. ENTERTAINMENT: Who are the only two people to receive an Oscar award and a Nobel Prize? 6. U.S. STATES: How many states border Oklahoma? 7. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a place called Shangri-La? 8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president's famous speech included the line, "Tear down this wall"? 9. GEOGRAPHY: Which country lies directly south of Venezuela? 10. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which filmmaker and author once wrote, "Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address?"

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—


1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times, at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
2. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks: for this is the ... of God." Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail
3. From 2 Timothy 3:1-2, Paul lists which human quality as being a sign of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshippers, Renegades, Unthankful people

4. In Psalms 106:1, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for his ... endureth forever." Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit
5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant
6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, Wilderness, Mountaintop

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms; 2) Will; 3) Unthankful people; 4) Mercy; 5) At your own will; 6) Fish's belly

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE


So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. JAMES 1:19, 20



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LIFESTYLE

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Want Peace?

We often hear about the "peace that passes understanding." I think it's safe to say this is a promise from God that we would all want to hang onto. The question is, "How do we get this peace so great that it's beyond our ability to comprehend?"

Philippians 4:6-7 gives us the answer: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which pas-

seth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Do you see it? Obviously we're going to make our requests known to God while in prayer and supplication. Most people do that anyway. Our sticking points are most often on 1) "Be careful for nothing" and 2) "with thanksgiving." Worry is a continual battle, and worthy of an article all by itself, but today, it being the month of November, let's focus on

and pains, less sick, less self-centered, improved psychological health, better sleep, reduced depression symptoms, reduced aggression/anger issues, improved self-esteem, reduced stress, reduction of PTSD, increased energy, lower blood pressure, stronger immune system, more optimistic, improved decision making, increased productivity, increased creativity, better leader, more resilient, less envious, healthier marriage. Now, doesn't that sound a lot like peace that passes understanding? The key, in all of these studies, is consistency. The ones who gained these benefits were the ones who lived lives of thankfulness or "overflowing gratitude." This type of person makes a practice of being thankful, when praying of course, but also in their daily lives. Given the cul-

ture we live in, this can be a challenge, but it's a habit God obviously wants us to develop since He mentions it here. So the next question is, "How do I develop a habit of thankfulness?" It can be as simple as making a conscious effort to stop and thank people or God during the day; this can be for large things or small things. In fact, focusing on thanking God for the small things helps us see Him more in all things! We can also use tools to help us develop thankfulness. Something as simple as recording one thing in the day's block on a calendar, and stopping to thank God for it, has power. Thankfulness journals, records dedicated specifically to recording those things for which we want to thank God, also have an impact on our lives. Taking time to write good, old-

fashioned thank you notes to people... Now there's something you don't see every day, and it affects not only the writer, but the reader as well. Thankfulness, gratitude... There is power here that we should never underestimate. Do you want peace? Let your heart be overflowing with gratitude; start thanking Him. MyHillsideFamily.com @MyHillsideFamily



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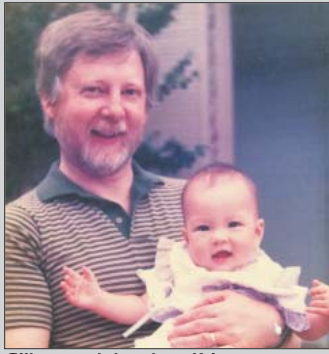
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Publisher's Birthday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Gilbert and daughter Kristan



Gilbert with Carol with their daughter Susan

retire. They named their new company Grafikshop and quickly set about expanding the business. Their daughter Kristan was born soon after, and her childhood was spent playing happily among the printing presses. She drew pictures on paper samples and made dollhouses out of empty shipping containers.

Meanwhile, Gilbert continued to practice architecture both as a consultant and independently. He and Mei-ling established their own agency, Hoffman-Liu Design Associates.

NEWSPAPER MAN

Through the printing operations, Gilbert learned of a community paper for sale, and somehow convinced his wife to let him buy it. Ever since then, he has devoted his days to covering the news in several Houston area communities, including Aldine, Channelview, Crosby, Highlands, Jacinto City, and many more.

You are likely to see him at neighborhood events with a camera around his neck and a notepad in hand. Along with his dedicated staff, Gilbert documents high school football games, attends chamber of commerce meetings, and interviews local politicians. To integrate with the communities he covers, he has become a Rotarian and served on various boards of directors. His work as a journalist has been more meaningful and rewarding than he imagined, and has connected him with some of the kindest and most interesting people he has ever known, many of whom he is proud to call his friends.

With so many passions pursued and dreams fulfilled, it's hard to imagine what more Gilbert may do in the future that he hasn't already done in these



Gilbert as a kid, Pauline and Nana



Gilbert and Mei Hoffman

past 80 years...
This story was written in collaboration with his loving family.

Happy birthday!!!

HOBY Leadership,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last Wednesday, November 13, 2019, the Aldine Noon Optimist Club held their meeting at East Aldine Management District. The highlights of the meeting were the recognition of two students, Adam Guenoun and Darius Howard, sponsored by the Club to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth leadership conference this past summer.

At the conference, the students spoke about the energy, volunteerism, networking, and friendships they made while developing their leadership skills and voice as future leaders. The conference was held at the University of Houston. Each year the Aldine Noon Optimist Club sponsors a sophomore from each high school to attend the conference.

The Cool, Honest, Intelligent, Clear-headed, Energetic, and Not interested in drugs or C.H.I.C.K.E.N. Club has been sponsored in Aldine ISD by the Noon Optimist Club. The program began in the 1980s as part of a "just Say No to Drugs" campaign. Steve Mead, pictured to the right, presented a check to Efrain Uribe, Program Director of Elementary Counseling, to sponsor C.H.I.C.K.E.N. Club shirts for 4th-grade students in Aldine ISD.



Pictured are Adam Guenoun, a junior at Victory Early College, middle, with his counselor Marcus Irving, right, and Steve Mead, left.



Efrain Uribe receives a check from Steve Mead to sponsor C.H.I.C.K.E.N. Club shirts for Aldine students.



Darius Howard, middle, a junior from Davis High School, was accompanied by the Howard family.

Unpaid Debts,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

schedule hearings on motions online, 24/7 without the need to speak to one of the deputy district clerks directly. This is currently being piloted in six courts with more coming online as judges give the DCO the go ahead for their court.

The office culture is also changing at the DCO. "We have taken an office that had low morale and drastically improved it by giving much-needed raises, soliciting input, and listening to the needs of the staff. We make each staff member feel like a valuable part of the team," said Ms. Burgess.

A complete website

overhaul is in the works too. The new site will offer intuitive navigation, more frequent updates on news and office events, and include a mobile friendly version.

The Harris County District Clerk's Office is also boosting its outreach effort to diversify juries and study barriers to service, cooperating with Houston METRO to improve their free rides for jurors' program, and supporting the Jury Assembly Building reconstruction.

Stay tuned for more developments with a major initiative to introduce electronic jury summoning to

Harris County. Residents can already go online to claim an exemption, reschedule their date of service, or print a new summons, but the new summoning process will take this a step farther. While residents will still receive the summons itself via mail, they could get in line digitally the day of their service and receive their assignment for service online.

"Many other counties across the state and nation use similar electronic systems and have had great success in boosting appearance rates. It is time for Harris County to catch up!" said Ms. Burgess. --

PACE Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

second class before the end of the 16-week semester. Other PACE formats offer flexible options over the 16-week semester.

The HCC Northeast PACE program will especially benefit adult learners at smaller campuses like Acres Homes and North Forest where students are faced with juggling work, school, family and personal schedules. PACE aims to provide an accelerated pathway to the completion of an associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or certificate.

"HCC is excited about being able to offer flexible options to support today's real college students," HCC Northeast president Dr. Monique Umphrey

said. "The PACE program will allow today's busy professional to balance work and college responsibilities in an environment where they truly belong. We have professionals ready to provide support and guide the students to help them meet their goals."

Both academic and workforce courses are available in the accelerated format. At North Forest Campus, the Automotive Center of Excellence offers the automotive maintenance and light repair certificate in 8-week blocks to help students complete a certificate faster.

HCC Northeast offers academic, adult education,

and workforce training in a variety of formats and at locations across northeast Houston. Registration for spring is now in progress. For more information about the PACE program, call 713-718-8300 or visit hccs.edu/pace.

About HCC

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

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