

INSIDE:

- East Aldine Community
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NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 01 TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Giftng at Northline Elem.



Mattress Mack and Astro Alex Bregman gave out Christmas gifts at Northline Elementary. See Page 2 for more....

NEWS NOTES

Bonding Against Adversity 10 Year Anniversary

BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY, Inc will celebrate its 10th year of service to the community. From 2010 to 2020 Bonding has assisted more than 10,000 lawful permanent residents in their quest to become U.S. citizens. "Launch Breakfast" to commemorate this special event on Friday, January 31, 2020, 8 am - 9:30 am, Lone Star College-North Harris Student Services Building Conference Room.

High Meadows Library programs

All programs are free and at the moment do not require registration.

- Tech Time. If a customer needs assistance with their smartphone or gadget, we offer free one on one assistance. Every Monday at 1:30pm
- Citizenship Classes. Our citizenship class is free and we help customers get ready for the U.S. Naturalization exam. Every Tuesday & Wednesday at 10am.
- ESL Classes. ESL classes are offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11am.
- Spanish Computer Class. Learn basic computer skills. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm.

See Library Programs, Page 3

Dr. Archie L. Blanson named Interim President at Lone Star College-North Harris

HOUSTON (Jan. 2, 2020) – Dr. Archie L. Blanson has been named Lone Star College-North Harris Interim President effective Jan. 2. Blanson succeeds Dr. Gerald Fernandez Napoles who recently accepted a new position as Vice Chancellor/Special Assistant to the Chancellor.

Blanson joins LSC-North Harris from his previous role as Vice Chancellor of Student Success for Lone Star College, overseeing admissions, registration, dual credit, disabilities, enrollment management, and numerous student services activities and partnerships.



Dr. Archie L. Blanson

Blanson worked closely with LSC-North Harris for more than 20 years, and his commitment to public education runs deep. Prior

to joining Lone Star College, Blanson devoted 39 years in education to Aldine ISD, finishing his career as Deputy Superintendent.

Blanson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Southern University, a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Texas Southern University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

Blanson's history includes vast experience in

See Interim President, Page 2

Aldine Education Foundation to host Sports Spectacular on Jan. 22

Aldine Education Foundation will host its first Sports Spectacular for Scholars featuring the Harlem Wizards vs. Aldine All-Stars. The Wizards, known for their amazing basketball talent combined with hilarious comedy, will tip off against Aldine ISD teachers, coaches, and community leaders to provide a fun-filled evening of basketball hi-jinx. The event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, 77032. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

The Harlem Wizards have a mission to create awe-inspiring events throughout the country to help communities raise funds for important causes. Wizards games provide two hours of family time where grandparents, parents, and kids can all laugh together. Even in the stands, you are more than a spectator. The audience becomes a part of the show and there is a guarantee of loads of laughter and audience participation. Throughout the game, fans will experience a magical display of tricks, coordinated ball-handling, fancy passes, and aerodynamic athleticism combined with high-energy comedy and guest interaction.

Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) is a non-profit organization providing community-based support to the Aldine Independent School District in pursuit of excellence in teaching, innovation in the classroom, and superior learning opportunities for all students, in our classrooms and beyond. The event will raise funds for AEF's Student Scholarships, Educator Grants, Foundation Scholars Honors, and Educators of the Year Awards, all benefiting Aldine ISD's students and educators.

Tickets are available online at

AldineEducationFoundation.org/ tickets and range from \$5 to \$35. Sponsorship opportunities are also offered for businesses to boost marketing in the community, and to take pride in supporting a local school district. Multiple options and benefits are available, but all sponsor levels include special reserved tickets, so you can watch the Aldine All-Stars school sports stars to elevate education. Sponsor information is available at AldineEducationFoundation.org/spectacular-sponsors.

Join Aldine Education Foundation in January for this Sports Spectacular for Scholars. Regardless of the score, our Aldine All-Stars will be winners with your support!

DeMarcus Barlow is the 2019 Northeast News' Offensive Player of the Year

By Mike Keeney

Contributing Writer

DeMarcus Barlow is a team-first player, that's why the 2019 season was tough for him and his teammates.

The Davis High Falcons struggled to a 3-7 season under first-year head coach Scott Joseph, but Barlow made things interesting on Friday and Sat-



DeMarcus Barlow let his numbers speak for him during 2019 season

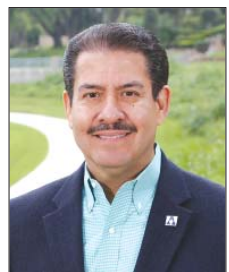
urday nights this fall by rushing for 1,401 yards on 190 carries (7.3 yards per carry), and scoring 15 touchdowns and completing 16 of 36 passes for 348 yards and six more scores. He also caught two passes for 97 yards (48.5 yards per catch) and one touchdown.

See Offensive Player, PAGE 3

Commissioner Garcia announces Historic Public-Private partnership to monitor air quality in Harris County

\$1 million dollar grant to purchase air monitors and provide up-to-date air quality information

HARRIS COUNTY, TX – December 17th, 2019 – This week Commissioner Adrian Garcia announced that Harris County and Precinct 2 will receive a \$1 million dollar grant from the American Chemistry Council Foundation (ACC) to purchase air quality monitors, more stringent data analysis and collaboration with industry partners. This is the first time the ACC Foundation has developed and awarded a local government grant for



PCT. 2 COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA

a community air-monitoring network.

"This grant is a result of conversations that began

in the wake of a series of industrial incidents in Precinct 2. We learned how potentially vulnerable our industry partners were and that more needed to be done to ensure their success and not their failure," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "Residents need access to reliable and timely air-quality data at all times, and especially during a chemical emergency. Thanks to this collaboration, the County will be able to address data and communications gaps to ensure residents have the information they need to make decisions about what

actions to take for their families' wellbeing in the unfortunate event dangerous chemicals are released," he continued.

The joint effort of members of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA), Texas Chemistry Council (TCC), American Chemistry Council (ACC) and Harris County will enhance the availability, transparency and interpretation of air monitoring data. The grant will support the following initiatives:

-The purchase of one stationary air monitor with gas chromatography

capabilities. Estimated cost \$350k.

-Provide funds to support the ongoing engagement of the Houston Area Research Council to receive, analyze, interpret and communicate air-monitoring data in the event of significant safety events that could affect air quality. Estimated Cost: \$200k

-Provide funds to purchase handheld air monitors or other air monitoring equipment deemed appropriate to augment current and future County air monitoring capabilities at key loca-

tions around the Houston Ship Channel. Estimated Costs: \$450k

"The chemical industry is deeply integrated into the communities and economies of Harris County. Our companies take their responsibility to be good neighbors very seriously," said Chris Jahn, President and CEO of ACC.

"Local industry reached out to Commissioner Garcia soon after several incidents in the first quarter of 2019 and shared with

See Partnership, PAGE 3

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- * JUST MERCY (PG-13) 6:00 9:00
- * LIKE A BOSS (R) 7:00 9:15
- * UNDERWATER (PG-13) 7:00 9:30

* THE GRUDGE (R) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

* LITTLE WOMEN (PG) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

* SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG) - 12:15pm, 6:15pm

* SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG) - 11:45am, 4:40pm, 9:35pm

Spanish Dubbed

* SPIES IN DISGUISE 3D (PG) - 3:15pm, 9:15pm

* SPIES IN DISGUISE 3D (PG) - 2:10pm, 7:10pm

Spanish Dubbed

CATS (PG) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm

STAR WARS: The Rise Of Skywalker (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 12:30pm, 4:30pm, 8:20pm, 8:30pm

STAR WARS: The Rise Of Skywalker (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 8:00pm

Spanish Dubbed

* STAR WARS: The Rise Of Skywalker 3D (PG-13) - 4:15pm

Spanish Dubbed

* STAR WARS: The Rise Of Skywalker 3D (PG-13) - 4:15pm

BLACK CHRISTMAS (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm

JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm

Spanish Dubbed

* UNCUT GEMS (R) - 11:45am, 2:40pm, 5:45pm, 9:00pm

QUEEN & SLIM (R) - 6:00pm, 9:00pm

FROZEN II (PG) - 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

FROZEN II (PG) - 11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:05pm, 9:30pm

Spanish Dubbed

MOVIES have Stadium Seating & Closed Caption & Audio Description

*No passes on these movies ** No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies. *New Releases, no passes accepted for the first two weeks *** Sorry No Passes ☑️ CLOSED CAPTION **Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after 6p. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD students named winners in Congressional App Contest

Four Aldine ISD students were named winners in the Congressional App Challenge Contest.

Hundreds of student across the country submitted software applications in the Congressional App Challenge Contest. This year, 22 Aldine ISD middle and high school students submitted thirteen apps. Two of the winning apps were from Aldine ISD.

The Congressional App Challenge is a competition aimed at encouraging middle and high school students to learn how to code by creating their own applications. This is the District's first time participating in the Congressional App Challenge. Martineus Fearon, Blanson CTE High School junior, submitted the winning app entitled Bug Slayer for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's office. Grantham Academy eighth-graders Esmeralda Villanueva, Anahi Salgado, and Ashely Asis submitted the winning app entitled Minecraft Quiz for Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia's office.

Officially launched in 2015, the nationwide competition gives students an opportunity to showcase their creativity and encourages interest in STEM fields. The contest also allows students to compete with peers in their own district by creating and exhibiting a software application



Blanson CTE High School App Challenge winner Martineus Fearon.



Grantham Academy App Challenge winners from left to right, Esmeralda Villanueva, Anahi Salgado, and Ashley Asis.

for the web, PC, tablet, mobile, raspberry Pi or other platforms of their choice. Students created apps using various programming languages, such as C, C++, Java, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, "block code", etc.

Each app was evaluated by a panel of local judges

who work within the academic, software and entrepreneurial fields. The winning app from each congressional district will be featured on the U.S. House of Representatives website and displayed in a U.S. Capitol exhibit.

Mattress Mack and Alex Bregman give away toys to Northline Elementary kids



Mattress Mack and Alex Bregman visit Northline Elementary school to give back to the community and donate toys to the children of this amazing school. Watch as these sweet children show their appreciation. Thank you Northline Elementary for all you do! God bless, said Mattress Mack. All 500 kids at the school received gifts from the two "Santas."

Aldine ISD students rewarded with bikes for literacy achievements

Hundreds of Aldine ISD second-graders were awarded bicycles for achieving their reading goals for the fall semester. In partnership with CYCLE (Changing Young Children's Lives through Education) Houston, Aldine ISD teachers worked to create personalized literacy goals to increase student reading skills. This program helps students achieve grade-level reading and encourages them to read. Each student participating in the program received a new bicycle and a helmet for meeting their reading goals.

Bikes were given to Goodman, Orange Grove, and Raymond elementary schools.



Lone Star College ranks #1 for online student enrollment in Texas

HOUSTON (Dec. 17, 2019) – Lone Star College has the largest number of online students in Texas according to new data released by the U.S. Department of Education.

In a list compiled from this data by Inside Higher Ed, a national digital education publication, LSC is also ranked 18th nationwide among both four-year and two-year institutions, with a total online enrollment of 28,841 students in 2018. This total includes students who were enrolled entirely online (11,524 students) and those who were enrolled online for some but not all their courses (17,317 students).

According to the report, LSC online student enrollment grew 32.2% from 2015 to 2018.

"Lone Star College is committed to providing high-quality academic and workforce programs in the

classroom, online or a combination of both," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "We have worked hard to ensure Lone Star College students have access to obtaining their education, no matter where they are."

LSC offers more than 20 fully-online programs, allowing students flexible options to help them achieve their goals. Areas of study include academic transfer degrees; business and professional services; computer and digital technology; and teaching.

Nationwide, according to the Inside Higher Ed report, more than 20 million students were enrolled online in 2018, which was a .6% decline compared to 2017. Nearly 6 million of total enrollment were students attending two-year institutions.

For more on the report,

visit Inside Higher Ed: Online Enrollments Grow, but Pace Slows.

To learn more about online opportunities at Lone Star College, visit LoneStar.edu/LSC-Online.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of nearly \$3 billion. LSC consists of seven colleges, eight centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

Goodman Elementary students receive free desktop computers



Students using new computers.

Goodman Elementary recently partnered with Comp-U-Dopt to give away refurbished desktop computers through their computer adoption program. More than 140 students in Grades 3-5 received a free refurbished desktop computer for the holidays, providing families access to technology at home.

During the adoption program, students participated in a free 90-minute training on how to use the

computer. The Comp-U-Dopt representatives taught the students and parents how to use the technology education program, introduced them to educational programs pre-loaded on their machines, and shared principles of internet and computer safety.

This program allows learning to happen in the home, outside of school hours. Comp-U-Dopt covers all costs for students

and families through donors and grants. Comp-U-Dopt also provided families with resources to cost-efficient internet providers.

Following the completion of the lesson, each family was able to take home their newly adopted home computer. The only thing asked of the families was to write a thank you note to the computer donors.

Interim President,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teaching and administration. At Aldine ISD, his strong skills in planning, budgeting, compliance and innovative thinking helped the district gain state, national and international recognition.

The success Blanson enjoyed at Aldine ISD is evident through his accomplishments and recognitions. He was named the district's 2003 Boss of the Year, and in 2018, Aldine ISD recognized Blanson by naming its newest facility, the Dr. Archie L. Blanson Career and Technical Education High School, in his honor.

His commitment to the community is demonstrated in having held leadership roles with the Aldine Pathfinders, Gulf Coast Area Boy Scout troops, and as president of the Gulf Coast Personnel Association and Gulf Coast M&O Association.

Throughout his time in the education field, Blanson has won numerous awards, including the

2005 Trailblazer Award from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Black Heritage Committee, and the 2005 Outstanding Educator Award from the Dean's Roundtable at Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development.

Blanson will serve as interim president of LSC-North Harris until the search for a permanent president is completed later this year.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Offensive Player,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In seven District 16-6A games, Barlow rushed for 1,106 yards (an average of 158 yards per outing).

Barlow's big senior season earned him the Northeast News' Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Barlow was also named the District 16-6A Offensive MVP, and first-team all district honors.

The 5-10, 210-pounder began the year as the Falcons' featured running back, but Joseph felt he was needed under center and the amiable Barlow gladly accepted his new role.

"He never blinked an eye," Joseph said, when he was asked to move to quarterback. We needed him there and we felt like we were a better football team at quarterback. Football means something to him."

Joseph said Barlow has had a few college offers and he is hoping that after coaches see his film more will come calling after the

first of the year.

"He's got great vision, power and speed. He never goes down on the first hit. He sees stuff other guys don't when he's running. I hope somebody pulls the trigger on him because they will be getting a good football player and a quality kid. He has a good time playing the game."

In addition to being a talented football player, Barlow is also a leader among his peers.

"He's got it all, a good work ethic and leadership skills," Joseph said. "The kids voted him as a captain, which means a lot when your peers vote for you for something like that. DeMarcus is a good team player. He's well liked by his teammates. He's the type of player who demands respect."

Barlow is also a hard worker. He came up to the field house to work out ev-

eryday during the summer, except for three days when he attended two different football camps.

While Barlow was happy with his senior season, he wished the team would have had more success.

"It was pretty good," he said, when asked what he thought about his senior season. "But as a team we didn't get it done, so that was tough."

Barlow's favorite NFL running back is New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley. "He has great vision and he can move," Barlow said.

If he does not receive a scholarship offer, Barlow said he would walk-on at the University of Houston where he plans to major in engineering.

If the Cougars are smart, they will give the hard-working, hard-playing Barlow a chance. Their hunch might pay off handsomely in the long run.

Harris County Flood Control District receives FEMA grant for MAAPnext

On December 17, 2019, Harris County Commissioners Court authorized acceptance of \$3.5 million in grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support the second phase of MAAPnext, the Modeling, Assessment and Awareness Project (MAAP), led by the Harris County Flood Control District. MAAPnext represents an innovative approach in the management and regulation of Harris County's floodplains, further contributing to Harris County's resilience and growth.

In early 2019, the Flood Control District received a grant from FEMA, which provided funding for the first phase of MAAPnext. Phase 1 consists of hydrologic and hydraulic (H & H) analysis of 11 of the County's 22 watersheds

and is currently underway. Phase 2 will study the remaining 11 Harris County watersheds and will be funded by the award of this second FEMA grant. This work is anticipated to begin in early 2020.

With MAAPnext, the Flood Control District and FEMA are transforming how we understand and manage Harris County's floodplains. The overarching goal for MAAPnext is to provide you with the flood risk information you need to make important life decisions. MAAPnext will improve understanding of the risk of flooding in Harris County so that the public, local communities and emergency managers can make informed decisions to protect life and property that may be at risk during flood events. MAAPnext will conclude with the Flood Control Dis-

trict creating new flood hazard communications tools and FEMA releasing new preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) by the end of 2023.

While developing and delivering this data, the Flood Control District will continue to engage community officials, decision makers, and technical staff to relay project findings. As part of MAAPnext, there will be a period of public open houses hosted by the Flood Control District and FEMA, followed by a 90-day comment period, allowing the public to be involved in the progress of the MAAPnext findings. For more information and to get involved in MAAPnext, visit www.maapnext.org. You may also follow us on Twitter and Facebook @MAAPnext.

Partnership,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him our commitment to learn from the events. In 2020 and beyond we will be focused on encouraging strong safety performance throughout the chemical industry and among our commercial partners including those in the transportation, distribution and storage sectors. We look forward to collaborating with Harris County, Precinct 2 and the citizens of east Harris County," added Jahn.

"Chemical manufacturers operating in Harris County have high standards of operational safety and environmental performance. Process Safety Management ideals and lessons learned have helped industry continuously improve safety performance over the past several decades," said Gary Piana, Chair of the EHCMA board. "Through this grant, we are pledging to both Harris County and the citizens of east Harris County that we are committed to making further enhancements to our safe-

ty performance, communication and transparency."

Piana also pointed out that industry is making private air monitoring data available to TCEQ and Harris County to ensure they have the data necessary to make informed decisions about public health and safety during industry events. The Houston Regional Monitoring network board approved providing monitoring data to Harris County during a recent board meeting.

Industry members reinforced a commitment to work with Harris County and to develop a model that can be used in other jurisdictions in the region and across the nation.

"Industry values the partnership with Harris County, especially Commissioner Garcia in Precinct 2 where many of our industry facilities operate," said Hector Rivero, President of TCC. "Our members are committed to working with Harris County and the local cities, and

developing a model that will enhance similar collaborative working relationships in the region and across the nation."

In addition to the \$1 million grant, the industry group is also proposing to provide Harris County with specific air monitor data that can help inform public health and safety decisions in the event of an incident. Additionally, industry will develop an "Industry 101" program that can help educate government officials and first responders about industry facilities and operations.

"This is a significant first step toward ensuring Harris County becomes a national model and leads the way in collaboration between industry, community organizations and government to promote a healthy and economically strong area. Together we can work to ensure our residents feel safe, engaged and educated about our industry neighbors," said Commissioner Garcia.

High demand for English/Spanish Interpreters filled by Lone Star College-North Harris

HOUSTON (Dec. 12, 2019) – For those who have a knack for languages and want to enter the growing field of professional interpreters, there's still time to enter the English/Spanish Interpreters Program at Lone Star College-North Harris and Lone Star College-East Aldine Center.

Classes begin with the start of the spring 2020 semester on Monday, Jan. 13. Courses are offered Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday from 6-9 p.m. Registration for all spring classes and programs is now open. To learn more visit LoneStar.edu/registration.

The LSC-North Harris and LSC-East Aldine Center English/Spanish Interpreter programs serve as training towards professional certification for those who want to provide a voice to community members who do not speak English.

Professional English/Spanish interpreters are increasingly in high demand. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of interpret-

ers is expected to grow 18 percent, from 2016 to 2026. This is much faster than the average for all occupations. The programs at LSC-North Harris and LSC-East Aldine Center give students an edge over competitors when applying for open positions.

Due to the expected increases in the population of Hispanics in the United States, a similar increase will develop for the need of qualified interpreters. Moreover, under federal law, federal agencies are required to provide Limited-English-Proficient individuals fair access to their programs and services. In addition to supporting government services, certification as an English/Spanish interpreter will open doors to work in healthcare, law and other industries where the need for good communication is critical.

LSC-North Harris and LSC-East Aldine Center offer three courses as part of the interpreter program: English/Spanish Foundational Interpreting, English/Spanish Interpreting

in Court Settings and English/Spanish Interpreting in Medical Settings. All these courses are approved by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission of the State of Texas as a Pre-Licensing Orientation course, which is required before applying to become a Certified Court Interpreter.

In the lecture portion of the classes, participants learn about current principles, code of ethics, responsibilities and standard practices of the interpreting profession. During the lab sessions, they use the state-of-the-art interpreting equipment to practice note taking, sight translation, simultaneous and consecutive interpreting. In addition, participants go on field trips to medical and courtroom settings to witness firsthand the rewarding career of an English/Spanish interpreter.

For more information, visit LoneStar.edu/BilingualInterpreterCertificate.htm, or contact professor Erich Polack at 281.618.5564 or Erich.G.Polack@LoneStar.edu.

Investigation into fatal shooting on W. Greens Road

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of another man at 832 West Greens Road about 4:10 p.m. on new year's day.

One victim, 31, was transported to Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The second victim, 28, was also transported to a hospital and is expected to survive his wounds.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives C. Sharp and J. Brown reported:

The victim and another male were sitting in their vehicle, a red Jeep Compass, in an apartment complex parking lot on West Greens Road when an unknown suspect got into the back seat of the vehicle to commit an attempted robbery. As the victims attempted to flee from the vehicle, both were shot.

The suspect then fled the scene in an unknown direction. The victims managed to drive their vehicle to a separate location and called 9-1-1. Paramedics responded to the scene and transported both men to the hospital.

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

Suspect arrested in fatal shooting of a man

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 9601 West Montgomery Road about 1:50 a.m. on new year's day.

The suspect, Jonte L. Grant, 22, has been charged with murder for his role in the killing of Bryant Croomes, 50.

According to officials, patrol officers were dispatched to a shooting call

at the apartment complex on West Montgomery Road and observed Mr. Croomes with multiple gunshot wounds. Paramedics pronounced him deceased at the scene.

Grant, the stepson of Croomes, fled the location after the shooting. He later returned to the scene and was taken into custody without incident.



Library Programs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

-Computer Skills (English). Learn basic computer skills and get one on one assistance. Every Friday at 1:30pm

-Job Lab. Get assistance with job related tasks like working on your resume, interview tips, and more. Every Saturday at 2pm

Programs for Teens
-Teen Time. We offer a variety of games and movies for our teen customers to enjoy. Every Monday at 3:30pm

Programs for Children
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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – How Can We Change Social Security’s Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty: How do we change the Social Security earnings cap amount? Do I need to go through my Congressman? Social Security is withholding my benefit because they say I earned too much. The system is very unfair! Signed: Disgruntled Worker

Dear Disgruntled: The Social Security earnings test has been a part of Social Security’s rules and regulations since the original Social Security Act of 1935. In fact, benefits were originally paid only if someone was not working at all, and if a beneficiary worked after they started collecting, they lost all benefits. The law has undergone changes over the years to bring it to where it is today, which is to limit the amount of earnings someone can have while collecting Social Security prior to their full retirement age before taking back some benefits.

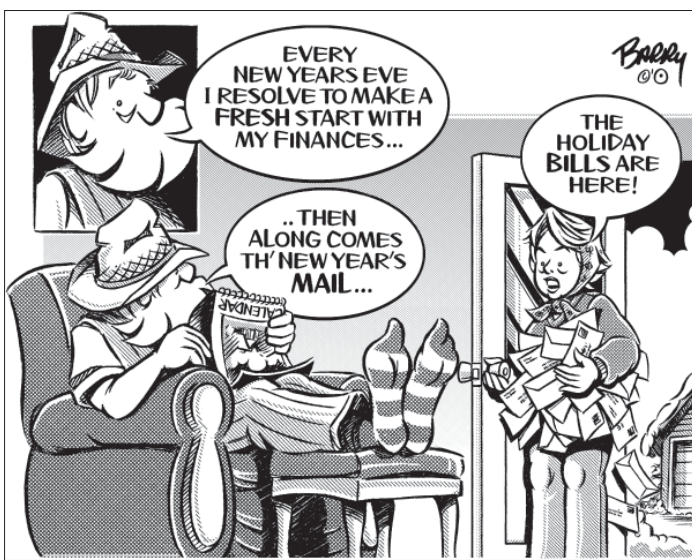
If the earnings limit is exceeded, and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, Social Security typically withholds your benefits until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. The limit is adjusted annually based upon changes to the National Wage Index, and the annual limit for 2020 is \$18,240, up from \$17,640 last year. There is also a “first year rule” which will subject those who haven’t yet reached their full retirement age and claim benefits mid-year to a monthly limit (1/12th of the annual limit) for the remainder of that year. The earnings limit increases significantly (by about 2.6 times) during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA), and goes away entirely once your FRA is attained.

As you are probably aware, exceeding the limit will cause Social Security to take back \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit, or if you’re subject to the “first year rule” they will take back your entire benefit for any month you exceed the monthly limit. In the year you reach your FRA (but before your FRA) the “penalty” for exceeding the limit is less severe - \$1 for every \$3 over the limit. What you may not be aware of is that when you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will give you time credit for any months you did not receive benefits because

you exceeded the earnings limit and receiving that time credit at your FRA will result in your benefit being increased. For example, if, over the years before you reached your FRA, Social Security withheld 12 months of benefits due to you exceeding the earnings limit, when you reach your full retirement age Social Security will recalculate your benefit to account for those 12 months by changing your claim date to 12 months later than when you actually applied. That will increase your benefit somewhat and, as a result, you may be able to eventually recoup some, or all, of the benefits which were withheld (depending upon your longevity).

How can we change the earnings cap? Well, the earnings limit already increases automatically each year with changes to the National Wage Index. But if you mean how can we eliminate it, I’m not optimistic that is possible since it would require full Congressional approval as well as Executive Branch approval to do so, and since Congress is now more focused on Social Security’s broader issue of the Trust Fund being depleted in about 2035 (which will result in an across-the-board cut in benefits unless Congress acts sooner). Nevertheless, you should certainly feel free to bring your concerns about Social Security’s “earnings cap” to the attention of your Congressional Representatives. Congressional Representatives are always willing to hear and understand the concerns of their constituents, and Social Security is very much a topic of discussion in Congress today.

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) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



Paxton lauds 5th Circuit ruling against Affordable Care Act

AUSTIN — After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit declared the individual mandate in “Obamacare” unconstitutional on Dec. 18, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton expressed his agreement.

“The Fifth Circuit’s holding is clear: the federal government cannot order private citizens to purchase subpar insurance products that they don’t want,” Paxton said. “The individual mandate is the centerpiece of Obamacare and I am glad the Fifth Circuit recognized that it is unlawful.” Paxton said he looks forward to demonstrating in federal district court that the rest of the law cannot stand without the individual mandate, and added:

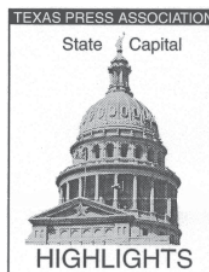
“Yesterday’s decision is a win for the rule of law,” he said. “Finally being rid of this law will be a victory for all Americans.”

The lawsuit against the federal government was filed in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Texas by Paxton and a list of other state attorneys general. Paxton said it would be up to the lower court to determine whether any part of the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, referred to as “Obamacare,” can remain, in light of the mandate’s unconstitutionality.

In Texas and 38 other states where the federal government administers health exchanges, health insurance premiums rose an average of 105 percent from 2013 to 2017, Paxton said.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld Obamacare in 2012, but a majority of the justices agreed that the law’s individual mandate was constitutional only because its accompanying tax penalty could justify forcing individuals to purchase health insurance under Congress’ taxing power. Devoid of that penalty, Obamacare’s individual mandate cannot be preserved as a tax, ren-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



A list of events is posted online at tpwd.texas.gov.

Jobless rate stays low

The Texas Workforce Commission on Dec. 18 announced that the Lone Star State’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.4% in November.

The rate marks the sixth consecutive month of record low unemployment in the state. Also, 3.4% is the lowest unemployment rate since series tracking began in 1976, according to an agency news release.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) recorded November’s lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.1%, followed by the Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock MSAs each with an adjusted rate of 2.5%. The College Station-Bryan and Lubbock MSAs each recorded the third lowest rate at 2.6%.

Reps vote on impeachment

The U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 18 voted to approve two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

The vote on Article I, Abuse of Power, was 230 for, 197 against and 1 present/not voting. The vote on Article II, Obstruction of Congress, was 229 for, 198 against and 1 present/not voting.

For Texas’ 36-member House delegation, the vote was partisan. All 23 Republicans voted not to approve both articles and all 13 Democrats voted to approve both articles.

As of the deadline for this column, the articles of impeachment had not been forwarded to the U.S. Senate, where the president would be tried in accordance with Article 3 of the U.S. Constitution, with the Honorable John Roberts, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, presiding.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

“Sparkles”

I glanced up as the bells rang to herald new customers walking into the used clothing store. I was looking for a pair of warm dress pants. Visiting my parents in Minnesota, I had forgotten entirely about the possibility of extreme cold and the idea of going out that night in tights and a skirt seemed preposterous.

Luckily, I found a like-new pair of black jeans with just a little sparkle on the pocket for a good price. I was wandering around the store with these jeans in my hand—just in case I saw something else that I might need—while I waited for the line at the check-out counter to get a little shorter. Maybe I could find a silver jacket, I thought, that would look nice on a cold winter night.

A woman and man had parked their pick-up outside and come into the store. The woman marched in a determined fashion to a rack in the middle of the store. She was a heavyset woman and it looked as if she had located this rack on a previous visit. She approached with a grim determination.

She and the man she was with were standing in front of the rack of dark colored clothing as I slipped by with my sparkly jeans in hand. The woman was holding out an article of clothing for the man’s inspection.

“They’ll all be wearing sparkly clothes,” she said, sounding dejected. “This is just black... not sparkly.”

I almost said, “Sparkles are fun!” because they are—and because she sounded so sad that I wanted to say something to cheer her up. But I realized this was probably not the right thing to say so I stood silent, my back to the couple reviewing the unseen, unsparkled outfit that I suspected was going to be worn very soon.

“I think it will look good,” the man said—rather unconvincingly, I thought.

The woman stood silent, holding the black garment, visualizing (I am quite sure) a room full of happy women in sparkly dresses.

She sighed. “Okay. Let’s go.” She took the black garment to the front counter without trying it on and moments later they were gone. They whole transaction took less than ten minutes and seemed completely void of holiday cheer.

I went home with my sparkly jeans and wore them out that night with an old friend. We stayed up late, laughing at the crazy things we had done together over the years and sharing crazy plans for the new year. But, after he was gone, for some reason I thought again of the unhappy woman I’d seen earlier in the day.

I wondered where she had gone, where this room of sparkly women had been and if the black garment had pleased her once she had finally tried it on. I suddenly felt unreasonably sad and wished that she had found something with sparkles on it—something silver or red or gold or green—something that would have made her happy and excited to greet the New Year.

There are so many expectations at this time of year. Sometimes it’s too much. Sometimes it is just too hard.

I watched the snow begin to fall and was filled with terrible feeling of tenderness and gratitude and a desire to try—to try a bit harder this year. I am going to try to be kinder. I’m going to try to slow down. I’m going to try to feel all of it in this new year—even the parts that hurt.

Maybe those in particular.

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

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



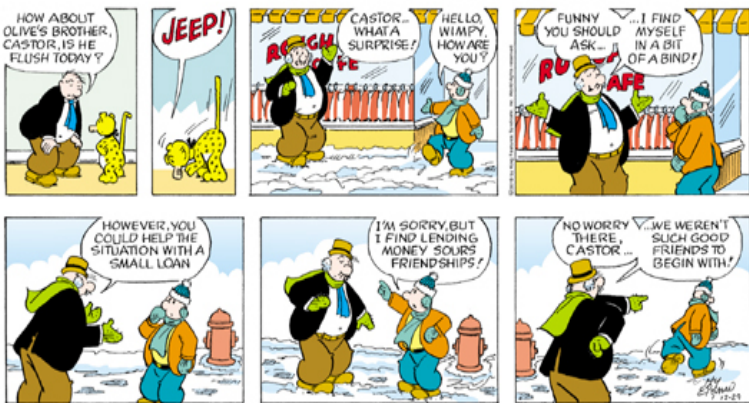
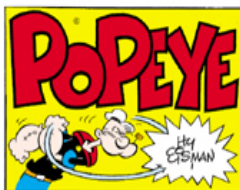
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Group: REESIS
Shame: GAMITS
Point: DOPIER
Docile: TENGLE

TODAY'S WORD: _____

"Hey Mom, maybe you'd reconsider letting me have your _____ if you'd stand on this for a second."

Posting Date January 6, 2020

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Possesses
- Cribbage scorer
- Ringlet
- Preclude
- "M*A*S*H" setting
- Scents
- Kitchen pair
- and outs
- "The — Show With Jon Stewart"
- Whopper
- Citi Field team
- Marching musicians
- Topper for Miss USA
- Rushmore or Rainier
- Responsibility
- Cried
- Lawyers' org.
- Memorable mission
- Shooter ammo
- 13-Across, e.g.
- African desert wind
- Ointment
- Military subdivision
- Unattractive
- Mauna —
- More, to Manuel
- Japanese pond carp
- Epithet for Simon "The"
- Information
- Scarlet
- Spring month
- On the other hand
- Quarter, e.g.
- CSA president
- Overcoat
- 41 sleeve
- 10 Japanese
- 24 One skilled in playing dead
- 25 "— Kapital"
- 26 Goes up a few degrees
- 28 Worship
- 29 Parkinson's treatment
- 30 Doctor's orders?
- 31 Jealousy
- 32 Iron or Bronze
- 34 Out of control
- 35 Long story

DOWN

- Throws hard
- Neighborhood
- : spoken :: libel : written
- Danger
- Black wood
- Ready for action
- 7 Quarter, e.g.
- 8 CSA president
- 9 Overcoat
- 10 Japanese
- 12 Epithet for Simon "The"
- 14 Information
- 15 Scarlet
- 19 Spring month
- 20 On the other hand
- 21 Big brass
- 22 Slanted, as lettering
- 23 Viral Web
- 24 One skilled in playing dead
- 25 "— Kapital"
- 26 Goes up a few degrees
- 28 Worship
- 29 Parkinson's treatment
- 30 Doctor's orders?
- 31 Jealousy
- 32 Iron or Bronze
- 34 Out of control
- 35 Long story

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7				5	4			
	8	6		9	1			
	3	4						2
1	7	8			3			
	4	2						6
		5		6	1			
		1	9	4	5			
6			3					7
	9			7	2			

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

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

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are female elephants called?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the oldest brewery in the United States?
- MOVIES: To which destination is the McCallister family traveling in the movie "Home Alone"?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are named after a president?
- MUSIC: In the song, what did Frosty the Snowman do after a magic hat was placed on his head?
- ANATOMY: Where is the glabella located in the human body?
- LANGUAGE: What did the Russian Space Station "Mir" mean in English?
- LITERATURE: What are the names of the young bunnies in "The Tale of Peter Rabbit"?
- HISTORY: In what year was the sound barrier broken by a jet aircraft?
- LANDMARKS: Which presidents are depicted in the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota?

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword

Answers

8	9	4	6	5	7	3	2	1
6	5	2	1	3	8	4	9	7
3	7	1	9	4	2	5	6	8
2	8	5	3	9	6	1	7	4
6	4	3	2	7	1	8	5	6
1	6	7	5	8	4	2	3	9
5	3	6	4	1	9	7	8	2
4	2	8	7	6	3	9	1	5
7	1	9	8	2	5	6	4	3

Answer

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: B equals R

OMBBWIZ "LPMB JMBL" AFNNL XMDI
LCKWP FC. CMKL CBGUKMWO "OMO"
ZWDGBUI AI JWPX QGF!"

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Seta; 2. Sigma; 3. Period; 4. Gentle

DESSERT

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

Marked "Star Wars" bulbs have split up. Plus problem may divorce be with you!

CHURCH LISTINGS

BAPTIST:

- Betania Baptist Church, 11450 Turn St. 281-442-4258
- Center of Life Baptist Church, 11250 Bentley St. 281-442-5433
- De Priest Baptist Church, 5609 Mount Houston Rd. 281-449-0774
- Esperanza Baptist Church, 14710 Mill Rd. 281-227-0123
- First Baptist Church Kinwood, 5538 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3823
- First Baptist Church N. Houston, 4422 Lauder Rd. 281-449-7201
- First Unity Baptist Church, 2110 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-445-7379
- Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 1823 Aldine Mail Route. 281-442-7137
- Greater Purelight Missionary, 12330 Vickery St. 281-987-1980
- Harmony Baptist Church, 1325 Lauder Rd. 281-442-3444
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist, 4730 Gaston St. 281-442-2947
- New Beginning Baptist Church, 10921 Foy Ln. 713-696-9249
- New Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 4706 Mount Houston Rd. 281-227-6885
- Parkwood Baptist Church P.O. Box 60143. 281-442-5359

- Sunrise Community Church P.O. Box 111581. 281-449-0994
- South Aldine Baptist Church 2121 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-3124

CATHOLIC:

- St. Leo the Great Catholic 2131 Lauder Rd. 281-449-2344

CHRISTIAN

- Faith Christian Center 10118 Tidwell Rd. 281-459-1709

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

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

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE:

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS:

- Jehovah's Witnesses 4416 Mohawk St. 281-442-1612

LUTHERAN:

- St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 11025 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-442-2180
- Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 215 Rittenhouse. 281-445-2203

METHODIST:

- Aldine First United Methodist Church, 4623 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-442-4961.
- El Mesias United Methodist Church, 406 E. Rittenhouse St. 713-699-8990.

PENTACOSTAL:

- Calvary Pentecostal Church of God, 3122 Hopper Rd. 713-694-6112
- Iglesia Pentecostal Unida, 2410 Bertrand St. 281-590-5187
- Temple of Salvation, 4906 Haile St. 281-987-2655

PRESBYTERIAN:

- Westminster Church 14050 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-442-7210

SPANISH-SPEAKING:

- El Monte Calvario Church P.O. Box 11726. 281-987-1174

- Iglesia de Dios Santidao 11721 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-219-0707
- La Iglesia de Dios Santa Sion 2332 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-449-0536
- Manantial de Vida 2810 Lauder Rd. 281-442-7709
- Primera Iglesia Bautista 13380 Korenek St. 281-590-5642

NON-DEMOMINATIONAL/ OTHER

- Aldine Christian Church 2233 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-9751
- Apostolic Bible Ctr. P.O. Box 8569. 281-442-5171
- Bethel Community Church 2414 Lauder Rd. 281-449-1473
- Church of the Living God 4422 Hopper Rd. 281-219-3853
- Church of the Lord Jesus Christ 11268 E. Hardy Rd. 281-442-0303
- Church of the Lord Jesus Christ 9407 Crofton St. 713-631-7339.
- Emmanuel Deliverance Temple 4718 Littlecrest Rd. 281-987-9166
- Grace Restoration Church 13223 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-449-5996
- Houston Restoration Church

- 1831 Hartwick Rd. 281-227-6260
- Houston Revival Temple 5801 Mary Francis Dr. 281-987-3305
- Jesus Center, 11742 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-590-3216
- Monument of Faith Church-God 2233 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-442-2002
- New Covenant Missionary Church, 2202 Aldine Bender Rd. 281-987-7170
- New Gate Fellowship, 4234 Mount Houston Rd. 713-166-6684
- North Central Assembly of God, 13703 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-907-6609
- Pillar of Glory, 14341 Lee Rd. 281-449-6404
- Sabbathday Kingdom, 4034 Linder St. at Kelley and Hirsch Rd., Houston, 77026. 713-635-3025.
- Temple de Poder, 10912 Aldine Westfield Rd. 281-372-1060
- Tomb of Jesus, 1301 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-987-1371
- Word of Deliverance Life Ctr 4001 Darwin St. 281-227-0700
- Phuc Vien Temple, 14101 Eastex Fwy. 281-449-1900
- Gospel Shop 14341 Lee Rd. 281-227-8898

- Jimmie Guillory 13120 Luthe Rd. 281-449-6016
- Dynamic Global Interprises Inc. 2201 Little York Rd. 713-695-9830
- The Shelter Church, 4102 Lauder Rd. 281-846-4538

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Nahum in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Acts 7, who recounts the story of Abraham along with the captivity and freedom of the children of Israel? Paul, Peter, Stephen, Andrew
3. From II Corinthians 3:17, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is ..." Hope, Liberty, Love, Peace

4. Who went to sleep and fell out the window while Paul preached? Esau, Enid, Eutyclus, Eucyrus
5. In what Macedonian city were Paul and Silas imprisoned? Philippi, Neapolis, Jericho, Jerusalem
6. From Acts 13:6, Barjesus was a ...? Cousin of Jesus, Early priest, Sorcerer, Friend of Mark

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Stephen; 3) Liberty; 4) Eutyclus; 5) Philippi; 6) Sorcerer

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

PSALM 146: 5-7

RECENT DEATHS

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Therron Dell Rigsby
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Paul Holden
Joyce R. Leroy
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Johnson Elementary students write Holiday thank you letters to soldiers



Students received pizza, cupcakes in exchange of writing letters to soldiers.

By Valonia Walker

Manuel Gastulo, first-grade teacher at Johnson Elementary, gave his students an opportunity to write thank you letters to soldiers in the military before the holidays. After the letters were written, the campus reached out to Susan Mullikin, diagnostic secretary at Hambrick Middle School, who has a daughter in the military, for assistance in getting the letters to military personnel. Mullikin's daughter Erin Mullikin is also a MacArthur High School graduate and is currently at the Naval

Weapons Station in Earle, New Jersey.

Excited to hear about the letters, E. Mullikin, ensured the student's letters would make it to soldiers. The military personnel were thrilled about the letters and thought it was a kind gesture for a teacher and his students to think about them around the holidays.

The soldiers decided that they wanted to write letters back to the students for Christmas and surprise them with a pizza party. E. Mullikin, flew in from the Naval Weapons Station to surprise the Johnson Elementary

students with pizza, drinks and cupcakes. She also brought personalized Christmas cards for each of the students who wrote a letter to them.

"I am so grateful for the kindness that our students demonstrated," Pamela Riggans-Johnson, Johnson Elementary principal said. "We are appreciative of the Naval Weapons Station service men and women who took the time to serve our nation and our community as well."

The students thanked E. Mullikin for her service to our country and for "keeping them safe."

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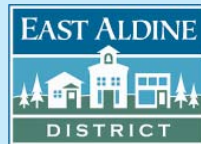
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East Aldine District COMMUNITY

Aldine's Rich History as seen in Cartographic Changes

By J. D. Herman

Well, if there is one thing you can learn from this 1907 plat map of the town of Aldine, it's that time changes everything. Of the 20 named streets, only one today retains its name, and some have ceased to be roadways at all.

Let's step back and orient ourselves. Those "improved garden tracts" in the south-eastern corner of the map are today's Morales Cemetery. Main Street on that old map is today's Hardy, and Third Street is modern Aldine-Bender Rd. In small print, the map-maker noted the site of the International and Great Northern Railway depot at the junction of Main and Third — the de facto center of town.

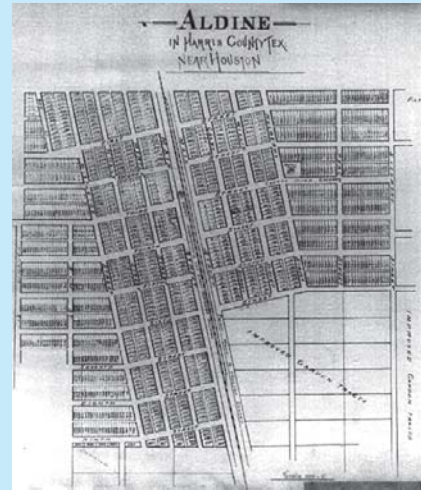


Photo credit: Houston Subdivision Collection, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library

While the east-west streets were numbered, most of the north-south streets took the names of common American trees: Magnolia, Elm, Sycamore, Myrtle, Peach, Mulberry and Holly. (As Holly Street runs right next to Mistletoe, the street-namer had to have been a Christmas buff.)

Google Maps shows non-contiguous traces of Holly Street as still existent south of Aldine-Bender, in the neighborhood behind McCauley Lumber and the Risky Business beer joint, but I could find no street signs denoting it as such on the ground. The same goes for the "4th Street" and "5th Street" that Google turns up in that same area — though some blocks of what is now Hooker (old 4th) and Buffington (5th) lack signs, so that could be them.

Sixth Street is modern Buschong, and today's Yarbberly is yesteryear's Mulberry, just as contemporary Ornel is to old-timey Peach. Myrtle became Sweeney; Henry is the new Mistletoe.

Willis Street is old Aldine's sole surviving original street name. This was one of only two streets whose name derived from neither a number nor a tree — the other the now-gone Colby Street, one block to the west.

By "gone," I mean just that, in the fullest sense of the word. Widening Hardy to full-blown interstate size obliterated some old streets utterly. There are a few old Aldine roads whose onetime existence is only visible through satellite imagery, but you can't tell that Colby was ever even there, and the same goes for Myrtle on the other side of Hardy.

The widening and improvement of Hardy and Aldine-Bender have had the profoundest effect on the physical street grid of old Aldine, but how did it come to pass that all but one of the streets lost its name?

My best guess would be that the names were changed after Aldine's post office closed in 1935 and mail service merged with Houston. Back in those days, the closure of a post office pretty much meant that Aldine ceased to exist as a distinct town, and now that Houston postal carriers would be handling most of their mail, there was danger of confusion, lost mail, dead letters everywhere.

Every street name in Aldine had a duplicate in Houston, so Aldine needed to come up with unique names in order to help out the USPS. Peach, Holly and Mistletoe wound up in the wood-chipper, and out came Yarbberly, Ornel, and Henry Road. All the numbered streets were likewise renamed, but by the time they got around to doing so, many of them had ceased to exist. Old Aldine's character had changed from residential / mixed farming / orchards to light industrial / residential, and that shift led to larger lots, and as those lots expanded, most of the east-west conduits disappeared. Today, only Aldine-Bender, Buschong and Hodgkins survive.

--Article courtesy of the East Aldine District

More articles at www.AldineDistrict.org

W.E. "Bill" Crowley Park

Nestled amongst tall pines and a few oaks on the banks of Greens Bayou about a half mile north of Lauder Road, W.E. "Bill" Crowley Park offers pleasure-seekers a peaceful retreat in which to relax, picnic, or burn calories, either alone on the exercise trails or playing ball with your friends.

Consisting of 30 acres of mixed coniferous / deciduous woodland, ball fields and open land, Crowley Park is operated by Harris County, Precinct 2. Fifty picnic tables, some with grills, are scattered about in the squirrel-beloved pines, making the outdoor dining area able to accommodate all fresco feasts both large and small. Those woods also shelter the tarped playground equipment and portions of the trail, which was completely smoothed out and resurfaced in 2017, making for safer strolls and jogs for seniors (who love this park), toddlers and everyone in between. And whether it's your delts, abs, quads, glutes, trabs, pecs you need to torture into shape, you can find an apparatus designed to do just that in the park's free exercise area, making this a great alternative when you need to exercise but are tired of the gym.



The park offers brick-and-mortar restroom facilities (not just portable toilets) near the baseball fields. Like the playground equipment, the basketball court is sheltered. There is also a tennis court on the grounds.

The park opened in 1977 and takes its name from William E. "Bill" Crowley, general superintendent of Harris County's roads and bridges for many years. It was Crowley's friend and deer hunting buddy, legendary Harris County commissioner "Squatty" Lyons, who named the park in Crowley's honor. In 2013, the park hosted East Aldine's Fall Fest and it is the frequent site of community clean-ups — it is East Aldine's most popular park, which is a double-edged sword. The more people like it, the more mess, but because people love it so much, they are willing to volunteer both sweat and time to clean it up.

Crowley Park's half-mile distance from Lauder Road, and thus its insulation from street noise, brings about an enormous sense of tranquility and peace, the only racket coming from the occasional snippet of birdsong and the frequent laughter of carefree children. Which can amount to plenty of racket on weekends and during holidays — but in those cases, you and yours will likely be joining in.

Overall, it reminds this devotee of the recreation area at a state park way up in the Piney Woods, but luckily for area residents, it's right there on the edge of East Aldine.