

INSIDE:

- HCC Spring Classes Registration
- Houston Fire Department Hiring
- Get Flood Insurance for 2020

NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
 VOL. 44, NO. 02 TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Crawford named Northeast News' Coach of the Year



MacArthur High School head football coach Wayne Crawford has been named the Northeast News' Coach of the Year for leading the Generals to their first playoff berth in 12 years.

By Mike Keeney
 Contributing Writer

MacArthur High School head football coach Wayne Crawford led the Generals to their first playoff berth in 12 years as the Generals qualified for the Class 6A playoffs by finishing in fourth place in the rugged District 16-6A.

Crawford's coaching effort earned him the Northeast News' Coach of the Year honors.

In only his second year as MacArthur's head coach, the Generals turned around a tough start to the season losing three of their first four games, but rallied to win four of their final six games to earn the school's first playoff berth since 2007.

"I thought our season was gratifying," Crawford said. "We got better week

in and week out. Our goal was to beat all the teams in Aldine and we accomplished that goal."

Indeed the Generals did just that. After a rough 56-0 loss to DeKaney to open league play, the Generals rebounded with a 32-29 win over Eisenhower, then ran off wins over Aldine High (47-7), Davis High (25-22) and qualified for the playoffs with a 14-7 season-ending victory over Nimitz.

"We gave away two early games, but our kids never hung their heads," the California native said. "We were a bit down after the DeKaney game, but we re-adjusted our goals. We figured if we could get back to 3-3 we'd get back in this thing. It was a testament

See Coach of the Year, Page 8

NEWS NOTES

Mayor Turner, others oppose Concrete Batch plant expansion

Bonding Against Adversity 10 Year Anniversary

BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY, Inc will celebrate its 10th year of service to the community. "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 & events

•Tuesday, January 14th. Storytime, 11am: Join us for a story, sing alongs, and a craft. For kids 0-5 and their caretakers.
 •Wednesday, January 15th. A Novel Idea Bookclub, 12pm: We will be discussing the book Home Front by Kristin Hannah.
 Crack the Case, 1pm: Join us for an interactive mystery. We need your help to crack the case.
 •Tuesday, January 21st. Pajama Storytime, 5:30pm: Join us for an evening storytime and craft.
 •Wednesday, January 22nd. Genealogy Basics, 1pm: Trace your lineage using our free databases. We have staff to help you get started!
 •Thursday, January 23rd. Trivia Night, 5pm: Bring your Harry Potter knowledge to our first ever trivia night. You can win a prize!
 •Saturday, January 25th. Family Time, 1pm: Families are invited to play games, read books, and discover the fun of their local library. Light refreshments provided.
 Customers can call at 832-927-5540 if they'd like more information about these programs and more. They can also visit the website at www.hcpl.net and view the catalog, look at events, and register for a free library card.
 High Meadows Library is located at 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX 77039.

See more Community Calendar/Events, Page 6

ACRES HOME – Mayor Sylvester Turner and other elected officials and residents stand united against a concrete batch plant expanding near city park in Acres Home.

Mayor Sylvester Turner joined other elected officials, representatives from the city of Houston and residents living near a proposed concrete batch plant to show their opposition to the pollution-causing facility on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020 10:30 a.m. at the Highland Park Community Center 3316 De Soto, Houston, TX 77091

In addition to Mayor Turner, residents and environmental groups, confirmed speakers are:
 • Lt. Cheryl Southwell, HPD's Differential Response Team
 • Dr. Loren Hopkins, chief environmental officer for City of Houston Health Department
 • Marissa Aho, City of Houston chief resilience officer
 • U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
 • Sen. John Whitmire,



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and other officials held a news conference last Tuesday, to express their opposition to the expansion of a concrete batch plant in Acres Home.

Dean of the Texas Senate • Rep. Jarvis Johnson, Texas House of Representatives.
 Congresswoman Sheila
 See Opposition on Concrete Plant, Page 2

Pathway to Prosperity Local bank introduces home ownership and savings programs

By J.D. Herman

Local financial institutions have long provided important benefits by forging long standing relationships within the communities they serve. Unlike larger corporate banks that rely on volume to generate profits, community banks focus on building lasting relationships. A deep understanding of local needs allows regional banks to provide specialized financial services, something Prosperity Bank has been providing customers for decades.

Founded in 1983, Prosperity Bank built its stellar reputation by focusing on smaller rural communities. Based in El Campo, Prosperity acquired North Houston Bank in 2010. Despite the new name, the Eastex Banking Center had serviced the East Aldine Management District since the 1970s, and many of the managers and tellers have been with the



Prosperity Bank associates at Little York branch, ready to assist you.

bank for years. In fact, Lending Assistant Sue Luther and Banking Manager Carmen Bernal have been with the branch for over 20 years. This connection to the community is important to note, as loan decisions are handled locally by people who understand the needs of neighborhood families and businesses.

Jack Battle, Eastex Banking Center President believes in a "community banking philosophy where personal relationships and great experiences go hand-in-hand." Prosperity, which ranks among the top 100 U.S. banks with over \$31 billion in assets and 285

See Prosperity, Page 8

Dredging starts at Lake Houston & San Jacinto River

Houston, TX - January 6, 2020 - Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to make District E residents aware the City of Houston has issued a Notice To Proceed (NTP) for debris removal services, specifically large silt deposits at the confluence of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston, commonly referred to as the "mouth bar". The City of Houston, through its contractor DRC Emergency Services, LLC (DRC), will begin mechanical dredging of the mouth bar this week (Jan. 6, 2020). The total cost for this project is \$40 million dollars, which is funded through a combination of City of Houston Harvey Disaster dollars provided by Governor Greg Abbott, grant dollars from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and funding from the Harris County Flood Control

District(HCFCD) Bond Program.

DRC will invoice the City of Houston in accordance with rates established and approved by the city to include final disposal. DRC must comply with all terms and provisions established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relative to disaster debris collection, temporary storage, and final disposal. The grant application for this project was submitted to the TWDB by Harris County Engineer, John Blount. Harris County is collaborating closely with HCFCD, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA), and the City of Houston on this crucial project.

DRC will complete the scope of work for dredging

See Dredging, Page 6

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 *BAD BOYS FOR LIFE 7:00 9:35
 *DOLITTLE (PG) 5:00 7:30 9:55

3:15pm, 9:15pm
 *SPIES IN DISGUISE 3D (PG) - 2:10pm, 7:10pm Spanish Dubbed
 STAR WARS: The Rise Of Skywalker (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 12:30pm, 4:15pm, 4:30pm, 8:20pm, 8:30pm
 JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm Spanish Dubbed
 JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm
 UNCLUT GEMS (R) - 11:45am, 2:40pm, 5:45pm, 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

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD celebrates National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

On January 9, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was celebrated across the country. In honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, several Aldine ISD campuses hosted area law enforcement officers at their campuses.

Local, state and federal law enforcement officers are committed to serving the public. Aldine ISD recognizes the bravery, courage and honor shown by law enforcement officers each day. We value their service and protection of

our community.

Annually, the public has an opportunity to thank them for their service and for answering the call. National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was started in 2015 to thank law enforcement officers across the country. It serves as a day to support and spread encouragement to these dedicated men and women.

Observing #LawEnforcementAppreciation-Day

- Wear blue to show your support

- Write thank you notes to local, county state police agencies
- Host a special breakfast or lunch for your local officers
- Share a positive story about a law enforcement officer in your community
- Most importantly, if you see a police officer, thank a police officer

We celebrate our Aldine ISD Police Department on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day! Thank you for all you do for the students and staff in Aldine ISD.

Aldine ISD celebrates School Board Recognition Month



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney (center, back row) poses with Board Members Randy Bates, Steve Mead, Paul Shanklin, Rose Avalos, Dr. Kimberly Booker, Dr. Viola M. Garcia, and Connie Esparza.

Aldine ISD Superintendent to host annual State of District

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney will host the annual State of the District Breakfast on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The invitation-only event will provide Goffney with the opportunity to review the highlights from the 2018-19 school year and preview new programs geared toward increasing opportunities and choices for students.

Targeting district business partners, community members, volunteers, and supporters, the event will serve as a platform for Goffney to highlight Aldine ISD moving from a 'C' to a 'B' based on the State of Texas' academic accountability ratings. The district received a grade of 83; up from 76. Four Aldine ISD campuses earned 'A' grades, including Stephens Elementary

School, which moved from a 'D' school to an 'A' school within a year.

Additionally, administrators will discuss the district's five-year strategic plan, A New Way Forward, partnerships Aldine ISD has developed, the opening of two Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) campuses, finances, and Aldine's new branding and logo.

January is School Board Recognition Month in Texas. Please take the time to honor school board members for their untiring dedication to public education.

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney lauds the district's Board Trustees for making the time to share their vision and voice. Their actions and decisions affect children's lives.

"Trustees volunteer to do this tough job," said Goffney. "They spend many hours and days out of the year working on behalf of the community. Trustees shoulder enormous responsibilities as they work to make our schools the best they can be."

"We proudly join educators and community members by recognizing these education advocates. Board Trustees have demonstrated their unfailing commitment to the success of all students."

While educating children may not be rocket science, it is a complex, demanding responsibility: ensuring that schools are available, qualified teachers are in place, buildings are safe, and resources are provided. They commit to reading reports, learn the laws, understand the community's needs, set thoughtful goals, and wisely handle the district's financial resources. They immerse themselves in learning what they need to know to make good decisions that will provide for students, from the very youngest to the graduating senior. Trustees are public servants who generously work to benefit the most vulnerable members of each community.

The collaboration helps board members create the educational vision we want for our students. As such, the board formulates goals and defines results. It sets the course for an adequate and equitable educational program for all students.

According to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), there are 1,025 Texas school districts. Membership also

includes regional education service centers and community colleges. TASB represents the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. TASB members serve more than 5.4 million Texas students.

In Aldine ISD, seven individuals serve as school board trustees:

- Randy Bates — Position 1
- Paul Shanklin — Position 2
- Rose Avalos — Position 3
- Conception "Connie" Esparza — Position 4
- Dr. Kimberly Booker — Position 5
- Steve Mead — Position 6
- Dr. Viola M. Garcia — Position 7

Voters elect each board position to a four-year term. Board members are at large Trustees, meaning Trustees can live anywhere in the district and are elected by all the voters in the district.

Aldine ISD Trustees are responsible and oversee:

- Aldine ISD, the 9th largest school district in Texas
- An annual budget of more than \$647 million
- More than 67,000 students
- More than 9,000 employees
- Nearly 90 facilities
- Over the years, the Aldine ISD Board of Education has earned numerous honors, including being named a finalist for H-E-B's 2013 Excellence in Education Award. The award recognizes school boards that demonstrate real leadership in the community they serve. In 2013, Region 4 ESC named Aldine the Outstanding School Board winner. Other honors include Region 4 Honor Board, the Texas Outstanding School Board honor, and the Magna Award from the American School Board Journal.
- Through the Board's leadership, Aldine ISD continually earns the state's top financial rating under the Schools Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) and the Financial Allocation Study of Texas (FAST).

- During the 2015-2016 school year, AISD earned recognition in two different case studies. Education First lauded AISD in its Districts Rising Briefs. The report highlights 10 districts across the nation working to raise student achievement and preparing students for college and career. In the case study, The Rewards of Perseverance, by Education Resource Strategies, AISD is highlighted for improving student outcomes and narrowing achievement gaps. The study tells the story of AISD's deliberate, systemic evolution in response to change.
- Take a moment to recognize your local trustees. Take a moment to honor the work they are doing to help your students blast off into the future. Please take a moment to say thank you for the work school board members are doing on your behalf. Join me in celebrating School Board Recognition Month throughout January.
- Community members can voice their appreciation at the School Board Meeting on January 14. Campuses and students will show their appreciation throughout the month.

Contacting the School Board

Citizens are welcome to bring a topic or issue to the attention of the school board. There are two primary ways to do so:

- Write to the school board
- Public comment at school board meetings

Want to see the School Board in Action?

The AISD school board conducts meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in the Donaldson Administration Building (2520 W.W. Thorne Blvd., Houston 77073). The date only changes if there are conflicts with other important dates. The monthly board meeting begins at 7 p.m. The Trustees conduct all meetings in the Board Room.

Opposition on Concrete Plant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jackson Lee had the following comments regarding the expansion of the Concrete Batch plant:

"I share the concerns of Acres Homes residents about the significant adverse health effects this plant could have on neighborhood residents. Cement manufacturing plants, like the kind proposed for DeSoto Street, produce fine particulates that can be aspirated into the upper respiratory system and can invade the lower respiratory system, triggering asthma and obstructive pulmonary disease respiratory distress. Moreover, a study pub-

lished in the European Respiratory Journal in 2011 identified a link between dust generated during cement manufacturing and inflammation of existing lung disorders and a contributing factor in the development of lung disorders."

"I have long been opposed to the TCEQ's grant of an air permit application for a batch plant at 3411 DeSoto Street, in Houston. In June, I wrote to the Air Permits Division of the TCEQ concerning a letter it sent to residents of Acres Home, a community located in my congressional district. In that

letter, I wrote to strongly oppose the construction of a proposed concrete batch plant at this location. In that letter, I also wrote to the Commissioners of the TCEQ to grant the request of Acres Homes residents to hold a formal hearing to hear directly from residents regarding the Soto Ready Mix Application."

This is a vital issue of significant importance. Nothing less than the health and safety of these residents is at stake and I urge the TCEQ to heed the concerns of the citizens and take note of the significant public safety hazards inherent in the plan.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Judge urges residents to "Resolve" to purchase Flood Insurance in 2020

Judge Hidalgo highlighted the need for residents to protect themselves now regardless of whether or not they reside in a high-risk zone.

HARRIS COUNTY, TX - Tuesday, January 7th - Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo held a press conference following her meeting with Pete Gaynor, the Acting Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss areas of ongoing attention between Harris County and FEMA, including the importance of increased adoption of flood insurance among residents in Harris County and the urgent need to focus on mitigating the threat of future disasters.

for families to protect themselves financially from this ongoing threat to Harris County.

Key Facts: Standard homeowners and renters insurance does not typically cover flood damage. Additionally, residents should not wait for a pending storm to purchase insurance since typically there is a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase until flood insurance policies go into effect.

According to FEMA, just 1 inch of water can cause \$25,000 in damage.

Many flood claims come from outside of high-risk flood zones. Of the 3,990 homes flooded from Imelda, 2,479 (62%) were outside the 1% (100-yr) floodplain. Of those who responded to a survey following Tropical Storm Imelda, over 77%



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

self-reported not having flood insurance.

Flood insurance can pay regardless of whether or not there is a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

To learn more about flood insurance, or to find out how to get covered residents can click the link on ReadyHarris.org or visit floodsmart.gov.

More Texas children and youth to receive mental health services and remain with families

State Funding More Residential Treatment Center Beds

AUSTIN - The Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services are helping more children and youth receive mental health residential treatment services and remain in the custody of their parents or guardians through an increase in availability of residential treatment center beds.

"Supporting families and connecting children with intensive mental health services is at the heart of what this program is about," said Trina Ita, HHSC associate commissioner of Behavioral Health Services. "This additional funding will expand access to mental health care for Texas youth and help keep families together."

With an additional \$2.5 million from the 86th Texas Legislature and Governor Greg Abbott, HHSC is increasing the number of beds at residential treatment centers for children and youth with severe emotional disturbance. The increase brings the number available statewide to 50, up from 40.

"The investments we make in mental health services are critical to ensuring positive outcomes for Texas children," said Sen. Jane Nelson. "As chair of Senate Finance, I am en-

couraged the Legislature's \$2.5 million investment this session is helping more Texas children access the mental health services they need to lead healthy lives."

A collaboration between HHSC and DFPS, the Children's Mental Health Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project, helps parents maintain custody of their children in their effort to receive needed treatment services.

The project, established in 2013, is a successful alternative to parents legally relinquishing custody of their children to Child Protective Services. It provides care to children and youth with severe emotional disturbance who need intensive residential treatment services without placing them in foster care. This helps keep the child with their family due to the improvement of family relationships and ability of the caregiver to support and care for their child.

Increasing RTC bed availability is a key goal of the agency's strategy to help people access behavioral health services, as outlined in HHS' business plan, Blueprint for a Healthy Texas. HHS anticipates serving an additional 19 children and adolescents in FY 2020. The RTC Relinquishment Avoidance Project served 31 children and youth in FY 2019.

Children and youth receive room and board; intensive mental health services that include group, individual and family therapy; and educational and recreational activities. Meanwhile, parents or guardians receive family case management, family partner services and skills training from their local mental health authority.

"This is a terrific program, and will get these children, from very young to teenagers, the kind of help they need," said Kristene Blackstone, associate commissioner for Child Protective Services at DFPS. "It also eliminates the stress on parents that comes with being involved with CPS and the courts. That worry is no longer there."

The project not only helps families stay together but also reduces the need for DFPS to add more children and youth into the foster care system.

The Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project has successfully provided children and youth the mental health services they need and reunited them with their families. In state fiscal year 2018, 96.8 percent of the children who received care under the project remained in the custody of their families. Since 2016, the state has served 170 children and youth.

The Houston Fire Department is Hiring Firefighter Trainees

HOUSTON - The Houston Fire Department is accepting applications for Firefighter Trainee.

Per Chapter 143.023 of the Tex. Loc. Gov't code, "A person may not take an entrance examination for a beginning position in the fire department unless the person is at least 18 years of age but not 36 years of age or older. A person may not be certified as eligible for a beginning position in the fire department if the person is 36 years of age or older." Below are two (2) categories of which you may apply:

1. Non-Certified Firefighter & EMT: Must have twenty-four (24) transferable college credit hours with a grade of "C" or better (only two (2) credit hours of Physical Education will be accepted) OR at least two (2) years of full-time active military service with an honorable discharge as stipulated on

a DD214 Member 4. Applicant must meet the above requirements by the Civil Service Exam date.

2. Certified Firefighter & EMT Basic or Higher: Must possess an active Texas Commission on Fire Protection State Fire Fighters Certification Basic or higher AND an Active Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification Basic or higher. Applicant must meet the above requirements by the Civil Service Exam date.

All certified applicants must have a High School Diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and 15 transferable college credit hours with a grade of "C" or better from an accredited college or university. No course completion certificates will be accepted.

The exam will be open to candidates, who have

made a proper application and have met the requirements of Chapter 143 of the Local Government Code for beginning positions in the Fire Department, which are listed in the Fire Application.

On-line applications will be accepted until all testing slots are filled.

The examination will be given at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the HCC Northeast Campus, Codwell Hall, Amphitheater, 555 Community College Drive, Houston, TX 77013. A member from our team will notify you via email advising you of the time in which you will need to report to the testing site for the exam.

Please visit the link below to submit your online application. Search for Firefighter Trainee. www.governmentjobs.com/careers/houston

Suspect sought in a hit and run on Lauder Road

Crime Stoppers and the Harris County Sheriff's Office Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for a Failure to Stop and Render Aid Fatality.

On Friday, January 3, 2020, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Shaun Copeland was traveling in the 4800 block of Lauder Road, in Houston Texas when the suspect's vehicle (a 2007-2013 silver Chevrolet pick-

up truck or SUV) failed to control their speed. The suspect vehicle struck Shaun Copeland's vehicle from behind. Shaun Copeland lost control of his vehicle causing him to drive off the roadway into a ditch. The victim was ejected from his vehicle. After the impact, the suspect vehicle fled the scene and failed to stop and render aid to the victim. The front bumper from the suspect's vehicle was left behind at

the scene. As a result of the crash, Shaun Copeland sustained severe injuries that resulted in his death.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crimestoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. All tipsters remain anonymous.

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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Can My Husband use the “Restricted Application?”

Dear Rusty: My question is about the “restricted application for spousal benefits only” I saw referenced in an article. I will turn 66 in February and have applied for my “full retirement benefit” and will continue to work full time. My husband turned 66 this month and has not yet applied for his benefits. According to the Social Security paperwork sent to us, I will receive about \$1900 a month and my husband, who is self-employed, would only receive \$500 to \$600. If my husband claimed “spousal benefits only” using the restricted application, would I still receive my \$1900 and he would receive 50% of that for an estimated total of \$2850? Doesn’t seem to make sense to me! As you can see, we must be in denial of our age and are not knowledgeable about Social Security!! Signed: Inquisitive Senior

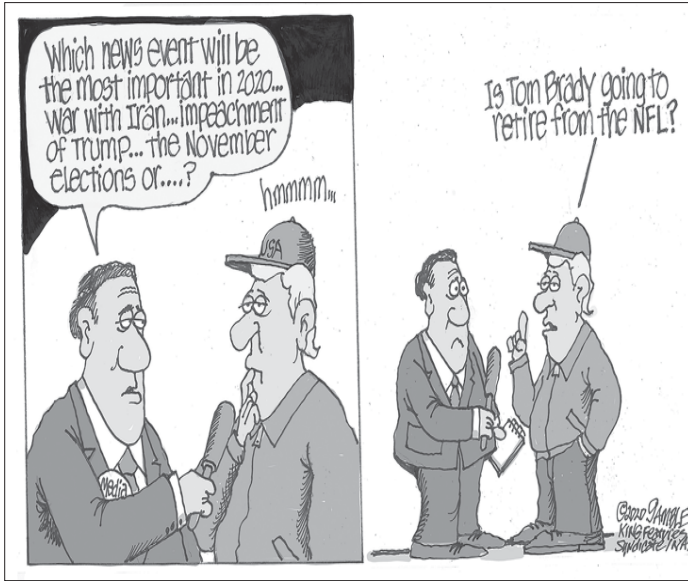
Dear Inquisitive: Based on the amounts you quoted in your email (which I assume were recent estimates from the Social Security Administration), your husband should claim his own benefits this month and then claim his normal spousal benefit in February when your benefits start. Since your husband has already reached his full retirement age of 66, his spousal benefit will be the full 50% of the benefit you are entitled to when you reach your full retirement age in February.

Although your husband qualifies for and can submit a “restricted application for spousal benefits only” (as described in the article you read), there is little reason for him to do so because his own benefit, even if he delays claiming it until he is 70, will be less than his spousal benefit from your record. Instead, since his spousal benefit from you will be the highest amount he will ever be eligible for, he can just claim his own benefit first and then claim his regular spousal benefit to begin when your Social Security retirement benefit starts. Here’s why:

If your husband’s current benefit at his full retirement age (FRA) would be \$600 and he’s not yet collecting, he could earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at a rate of 0.667 per month of delay (8% per year of delay). That will mean his own benefit would be 32% more at age 70 then he is now eligible for at his FRA, which means his maximum benefit on his own earnings record will be \$792/month (\$600 plus 32%).

The only reason to file the restricted application (for which he is eligible only because he was born before January 2, 1954) is to let his own benefit grow while he collects a spousal benefit, so he can switch to his own higher benefit later. But since his spousal benefit from you will be about \$950 - more than the maximum benefit he can get from his own record at age 70 - his most prudent choice would be to simply claim his own benefit now and apply for his normal spousal benefit to start when your SS benefit starts in February. No need for him to file the restricted application because his own benefit will never be higher than his spousal benefit. And just for complete clarity, your husband collecting his spousal benefit from you will not affect your own Social Security retirement benefit in any way.

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.



Abbott, Patrick react after shooting incident at church

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick released statements following a deadly shooting on Dec. 29 at West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, a city of 16,000 people on the west side of Fort Worth.

Two church members were killed in the shooting, which occurred during Sunday services. A possible motive for the shooting is under investigation.

The shooter was shot and killed at the scene by a member of the congregation who is a member of the church’s volunteer security detail and is a firearms instructor.

“Places of worship are meant to be sacred and I am grateful for the church members who acted quickly to take down the shooter and help prevent further loss of life,” Abbott said.

Patrick said the Texas Department of Public Safety is leading the investigation in cooperation with the White Settlement Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office.

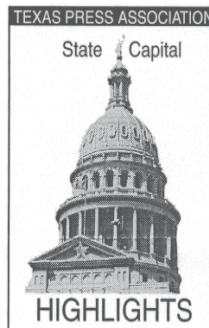
Revenue total is higher

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 3 reported that state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.01 billion in the month of December, 4.8% more than the amount reported for December 2018.

“Growth in state sales tax revenue was led by receipts from the construction, information services and restaurant sectors,” Hegar said in a news release. “While revenue growth was slightly buoyed by collections from remote sellers and online marketplace providers, collections from retail trade were depressed due to significantly fewer Christmas shopping days in November this year compared to the previous year.”

The majority of December sales tax revenue is based on sales made in November and remitted to the agency in December. Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in December 2019 was up 6.0% compared to the same period a year ago.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



costs associated with these mailed payments, such as viewing license plate images, generating and mailing invoices and processing payments. Raising the surcharge to 50% also brings TxDOT Pay By Mail rates in line with other toll authorities in Austin and Dallas and across the country, and further incentivizes having a TxTag account.

Flu season hits hard

In its weekly update on Jan. 2, the Texas Department of State Health Services encouraged “everyone to get vaccinated now.”

The most recent flu surveillance report shows widespread flu activity in Texas and high levels of influenza-like illness. There have been eight pediatric flu-related deaths reported in the 2019-2020 flu season.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by one of a number of related viruses. The flu vaccine is made up of strains similar to ones likely to be circulating in North America, and vaccination is especially important for people with chronic health conditions and weaker immune systems and their caregivers, the DSHS said.

Additional information about influenza and ways to stop the spread of the flu virus can be found online at texasflu.org.

Ag chief hosts show

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller in mid-December announced he would host a new weekly television show to premiere on the RFD-TV network. The first show is set to air on Jan. 21.

The show, Texas Agriculture Matters, will spotlight Texas agriculture for 52 million viewers nationwide, according to Miller’s office. The show is produced by RFD-TV in agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture and recorded at the RFD-TV/The Cowboy Channel studio in the Fort Worth Stockyards, with Miller hosting in his capacity as Texas agriculture commissioner and receiving no compensation for his participation.



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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

A Night at the Funeral Home”

“What do you think?” my husband, Peter, asked about the link he’d sent me as we prepared to head home from the holidays. “The funeral home?” I asked. “Yeah, that one.” “I thought it was a joke.” “No, it’s right on our way.” “We’re going to spend the night in a funeral home?” “It’s very inexpensive!”

I suddenly felt like I was in the opening scene of every horror film I’d ever watched.

Peter wanted us to spend the night in a historic funeral home on our way home. The funeral home had been converted into an Airbnb. It was both right on our way and suspiciously cheap.

Peter and I drive home on two-lane roads. The roads are slower, but the route is more direct. The problem is that the few motels on the way are very much the worse for wear. We’ve tried virtually every one and I can no longer keep them straight.

“We stayed there,” Peter will say as we drive by. “Was that the one with the really loud heater?” I ask.

“No, that was the one with the toilet that rocked—and not in a good way.”

If a person stayed in a bad funeral home, I figured, at least the experience would be memorable.

We pulled in about sunset. There was a bare weeping willow out front. The proprietor, a woman about my age named Cheryl, met us at the door. We’d been having trouble with our car battery, so we asked if we could plug a trickle charger into the unusually large garage.

“Boy!” Peter said, “This is a big garage.” “They stored the coffins here until the hearse picked them up.” “Huh,” Peter said.

We entered the house and noticed the front hallway was at an odd angle. I asked Cheryl why this was. “There are three parlors, all with pocket doors to close them off and separate entrances,” Cheryl explained. “So they could have three funerals at once!”

“Did they really have three funerals at the same time?” I asked. That seemed like a lot of simultaneous casualties in a town this size. “I don’t know if they did, but they could!”

Cheryl had four cats. One was black and named “Old Scratch.”

“You know, that’s a nickname for the devil,” I told her—certain she already knew.

“No! I didn’t know. He used to have a sibling named ‘Sniff,’ who died years ago and now I just call him ‘Old Scratch.’”

There was a life-sized skeleton at the pump organ in one of the parlors and a figure in Victorian dress looking out the window. Our room upstairs was filled with antiques. There was also a skeleton in our closet, I discovered, when I put our luggage away.

Cheryl told us about the purported paranormal activities that had occurred in the house and the people who had stayed there, looking for them. There was, she told me, a persistent report of a woman on the back stairway.

“I don’t know if it’s haunted or not,” Cheryl concluded cheerfully. “If I hear something funny, I just say, ‘Oh! It’s the cats again!’” This seemed to me like a practical response.

I slept very well in the funeral home.

The house was quiet and bed was comfortable and I cannot tell you anything unusual that occurred during the night. Except this:

I had a particularly vivid dream. I was flying and felt fearless and full of joy and humor. I was learning new things and surrounded by friends.

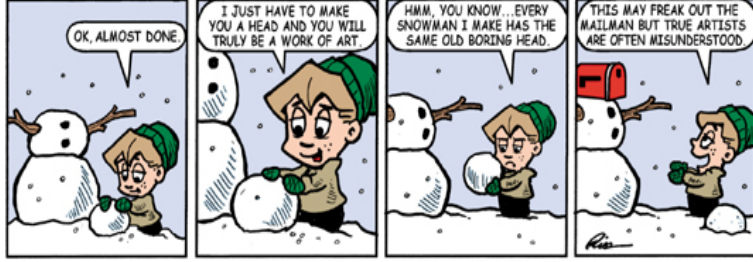
If that’s what haunting feels like, I’ll take it. Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



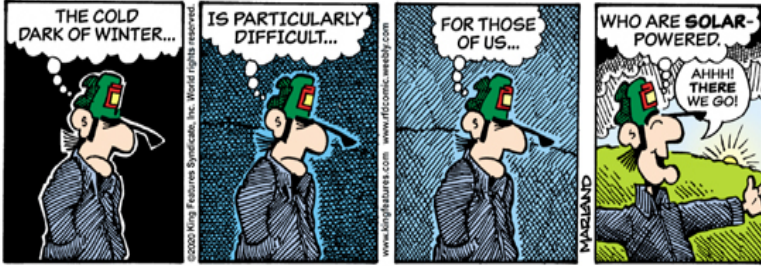
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



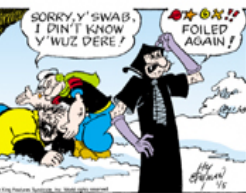
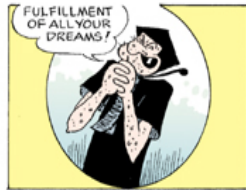
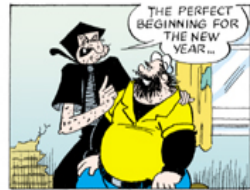
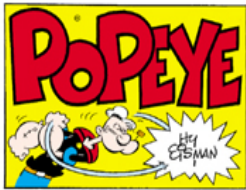
R.F.D.

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!

- Crustacean: WARPN
- Waver: BELBOW
- Organize: GRANEAR
- Ordinary: CAPITYL

TODAY'S WORD

Posting Date January 13, 2020

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18				19		20	21			
		22			23				24	25
26	27	28			29				30	
31				32				33		
34				35				36		
37			38				39			
	40				41			42	43	44
45	46			47	48			49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cleans the floors
 - 5 Pouch
 - 8 One of the Three Bears
 - 12 Admitting customers
 - 13 Time of your life?
 - 14 Change for a five
 - 15 Draped dress
 - 16 Sailor
 - 17 Western state
 - 18 Deceptive
 - 20 Melody
 - 22 Lengthwise, to 16-Across
 - 26 In spades
 - 29 Actress Farrow
 - 30 Mai - (cocktail)
 - 31 Exceptional
 - 32 Corral
 - 33 Check
 - 34 Film trickery, for short
 - 35 One of the Brady Bunch
 - 36 Cartoonist Trudeau
 - 37 Everywhere
 - 40 Surround
 - 41 Attachments
 - 45 Blunder
 - 47 Rowing need
 - 49 Help in crime
 - 50 Padlock fastener
 - 51 Oilfield structure
- DOWN**
- 1 Rolling stone's lack
 - 2 Colorful fish
 - 3 Graceful woman
 - 4 Cold symptom
 - 5 Attendant of Bacchus
 - 6 - Khan
 - 7 Foolproof
 - 8 100 pence
 - 9 Enemy of an "army"?
 - 10 Shade of green
 - 11 Shade of blonde
 - 19 Plaything
 - 21 Actress Merkel
 - 23 Make corrections
 - 24 Equitable
 - 25 Wee
 - 26 St. Louis landmark
 - 27 Creche trio
 - 28 Annoyingly proper
 - 32 Internet radio
 - 33 Numbers to be crunched
 - 35 Cookie container
 - 36 Deity
 - 38 Ballerina in "Fantasia"
 - 39 Ginormous
 - 42 Last write-up
 - 43 "Finding -"
 - 44 Flight component
 - 45 That girl
 - 46 Fond du - Wis.
 - 48 Have something

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

- LITERATURE: What is the motto of "The Three Musketeers" in the 19th century novel?
- MUSIC: What were the first names of the Allman brothers?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: New York City is divided into how many boroughs?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Malaysia?
- HISTORY: Which was the first U.S. state to be admitted to the union after the original 13 states were admitted?
- MATH: What is the first number in which the letter "a" appears in its spelling?
- GEOLOGY: What kind of rock likely would form at the bottom of a river?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president once worked as a fashion model?
- MOVIES: How many people were killed in the 1996 movie "Scream"?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which ancient Roman philosopher once said, "Every new beginning comes from other beginnings' end"?

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTTHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lamp is different. 2. Curtain is shorter. 3. Hat is moved. 4. Foot is showing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Tissue is higher.

- Trivia Test Answers
- One for all, and all for one
 - Duane and Gregg
 - Five
 - Kuala Lumpur
 - Vermont
 - 1,000
 - Sedimentary
 - Gerald Ford
 - Seven
 - Seneca

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	C	H	O	A	L	E				
S	V	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
S	L	I	P	O	V	A	R	B	E	T
G	R	O	D	O	N	S				
W	O	L	D	L	H	I	H			
G	O	L	N	A	R	I				
H	A	R	E	P	E	N	E			
V	A	M	P	L	A	V	I			
F	E	R	E	V	A	D	A			
S	H	I	F	T	I					
S	A	R	I	T	A	R	U	T	A	
O	P	E	N	A	G	E				
M	O	S	A	C	P	A	P	A		

CryptoQuip

This is a cryptogram in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Hint: The solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals S

- GYDM JYD UCLU DL UDRCM RHPHMR
- DPDLTUZBT LCMBZQ GHKB
- YCHLEJTKDE, HJ GCE EYDCL
- QCBMDEE.

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

3. Arrange; 4. Typical

1. Prawn; 2. Wobbler; solution

King Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

When the harder begins giving everybody random wild hards/yes, it was easier mad/ness.

LIFESTYLE

Dredging,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

activities in two distinct phases. The first phase will remove accumulated materials near and at the mouth bar on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, and the second phase will remove accumulated materials in the East Fork of the San Jacinto River and other locations in Lake Houston. During phase one of this project it is expected that a minimum of 400,000 cubic yards (CY) of material will be removed over twelve months. Phase two of the project will consist of: 1) Harris County completing hydrographic surveys of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River, the East Fork of the San Jacinto River, and Lake Houston to determine dredge material volumes 2) the City of Houston advertising and

awarding a dredging contract to the lowest responsive bidder 3) Harris County designating the City of Houston as a sub-recipient for the cost of the dredging contract. Phase two will run simultaneously with Phase One to expedite our activity. Additionally, during phase two of the project City of Houston, Harris County, HCFCD, SJRA, and Coastal Water Authority (CWA) will develop and execute a plan for the City of Houston or CWA to assume long-term dredging operations on Lake Houston. This work effort will include determining funding for the dredging operations in perpetuity. This phased approach will obligate the full grant funding before the 87th legislative session in 2021. This grant

funding was made possible thanks to State Representative Dan Huberty (District 127) through the passage of Senate Bill 500. Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to thank all those that have participated in the collaboration of the complete removal of the mouth bar in the San Jacinto River. It has taken over a year of advocacy by Mayor Pro Tem Martin but this project would not be possible without the partnerships with Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Dan Crenshaw, Governor Greg Abbott, Chief Nim Kidd, State Senator Brandon Creighton, State Representative Dan Huberty, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Engineer John Blount,

Harris County Flood Control District Executive Director Russell Poppe, Harris County Flood Control District Deputy Director Matt Zeve, Mayor Sylvester Turner, Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello, and Director Carol Haddock. Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to offer a very special "Thank You" to State Representative Dan Huberty for his commitment to seeing this project through and his dedication to the long-term maintenance activities on Lake Houston. Representative Huberty has been a champion for his residents and a great ally in seeing these additional dredging efforts come to fruition. Please contact the District E Office with any questions by emailing districte@houstontx.gov.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Chronic Pain Management Workshop

for Seniors and Caregivers. Thursdays, Jan. 16 - Feb. 20, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (6-week program), 2800 Aldine Bender Rd., Houston, TX. 77032. Register by phone, e-mail or website: Corey Naranjo, 281-449-3131, ext. 301. cnaranjo@hccc.com

Harlem Wizards coming to town

January 22, 2020 at M.O. Campbell Education Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets on sale at AldineEducationFoundation.org/tickets

Citizenship Classes

Bonding Against Adversity will provide civics and American History classes as well as an overview of the Naturalization form to prepare applicants for their Citizenship interviews. Classes are free and pre-registration is not required, first come first serve. January 18 - March 28, 10 am - 1 pm every Saturday, East Aldine District, 5333 Aldine Mail Rt., 77039. All applicants must bring their resident card and driver's license. Questions? Please call 281-799-9076.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

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

2. In Genesis 19, who escaped to Zoar on hearing wicked cities were going to be destroyed? Gomorrah, Elijah, Lot, Shimei

3. Who confessed to an angel, after beating his mule, that he had sinned? Sodom, Balaam, Samuel, Daniel

4. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? Eliphaz, Abraham, Ehud, Joseph

5. Who had to parade his eight sons before a prophet as found in 1 Samuel? Aaron, Jacob, Naboth, Jesse

6. From Exodus 14, whose chariots were lost in the Red Sea? Solomon's, Pharaoh's, Samson's, Ahab's


ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Lot; 3) Balaam; 4) Eliphaz; 5) Jesse; 6) Pharaoh's

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

GENESIS 7: 11,12

Detail of "The Flood" by Clare Leighton (1952)



RECENT DEATHS

Garry Rawls
Gertrude Bernice Wierzbick
Miriam Louise (Arnette) Van Vleck
Augustina Hernandez Parra
Apolinar Delgado


Amy M. Czerwinski
Fernando Arias
Everett Blythe Roberts
John Howard Jones
Jose Luis Balderas

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46-1	46-1	22-1fn	
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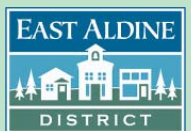
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Coach of the Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the character of our kids. They kept believing in what our staff was teaching them and telling them and it worked out for all of us.”

Crawford spent 28 years in California coaching high school football and was lured to Texas by former MacArthur coach Andy Garza who hired him as his quarterbacks coach.

“A friend told me, ‘you haven’t coached high school football until you’ve coached high school football in Texas.’ An opportunity came open here and I decided to make the move.

Texas is definitely a great football state.”

General fans are glad Crawford made the move and he’s excited about the future of the program.

The Generals will return 27 lettermen next season and Crawford and his staff will spend the off-season looking to add more players to the program.

“Having 27 kids that can play varsity football is important, but we will continue to recruit in the ninth and 10 grades looking for more kids. Our staff will remain intact, so that’s

important as well.”

While the goal in 2019 was to be the best team in Aldine, Crawford said it might be time to set a bigger goal for the 2020 season.

“Well, I guess we need to set the goal to be district champions,” he said, with a smile. “This year was a very enjoyable season, but it will be exciting to build on this momentum, move forward and not go backwards. Each year we want to build on what we’re doing.”

Prosperity,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

banking centers, is helping residents in East Aldine invest in their futures—HOPP (Home Ownership Possibilities Program) and The Good Cents Savings Program.

Traditionally, homeownership has been the primary way for families to grow wealth in the United States while also playing a vital role in helping to build strong communities. Buying a house is a huge financial decision though, and it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. Prosperity’s Home Ownership Possibilities Program (HOPP) aims to make the process easier, especially if you’ve had credit issues or found it hard to save up a big down payment. One of the primary benefits of the program is the 100% financing or refinancing of the lesser of the purchase price or appraised value of a family’s primary resi-

dence. In addition, private mortgage insurance is waived and there is more flexibility in the credit underwriting process. Additionally, closing costs can be contributed from monetary gifts and housing assistance programs—which the Prosperity team can also help navigate.

Prosperity Bank also recently launched The Good Cents Savings Program. Whether saving for a new car, a vacation or retirement, The Good Cents Savings Program turns every swipe of your Prosperity Bank Debit Mastercard into savings. Each purchase is rounded to the nearest whole dollar and the difference is transferred from checking into savings. While a lot of banks offer similar programs, Prosperity helps customers achieve their financial goals quickly by matching 2% of transfers (up to \$50 per month). So

the next time you shop, you’ll also be saving.

To enroll in the Good Cents Savings Program, you must have a current and active Prosperity Bank Personal Checking Account, Prosperity Bank Debit MasterCard, and Personal Savings Account. Mr. Battle recommends contacting the Eastex Banking Center directly if you need for personalized support in setting up an account or inquiring about HOPP and other programs. “We provide convenient technology options that our customers expect—all backed by the highest level of security,” says Mr. Battle. “At every touch point, you’ll find knowledgeable associates ready to serve our customers with accuracy and a smile time and time again.”

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