

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
 History of Jazz.....2
 BAA Anniversary.....3
 Public Defenders.....3
 Opinion.....4
 Superl Bowl LIV.....5
 Entertainment.....5
 Lifestyle.....6
 Church Page.....7
 Make it Right event.....8

NORTHEAST NEWS



The Harlem Wizards played the Aldine All-Stars Wednesday night, including Superintendent Goffney. See photos, page 8

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
 VOL. 44, NO. 04 TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

North Houston American Little League Sign Ups

Baseball & Softball registration only \$85. Practices Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at 1608 Cromwell, 77039.
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 Always looking for volunteers coaches, team moms, concessions and more.

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. See details on page 3

Nutrition Class

Every Thursday, January 29 - April 14, 2020 from 10 am - 11:30 am at BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Rt. 77039. Questions? Call 346-570-4463.

Citizenship Classes

Classes are held Tuesdays @ 10 am Wednesdays @ 10 am Thursdays @ 10 am For more information, please call High Meadows Branch library at 832-9279-5540. Located at 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., 77039.

61st annual Aldine ISD Livestock Show set Jan. 30-31

The 61st annual Aldine ISD Livestock Show and Country Fair will be held Jan. 30-31 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

Project judging will be held on Thursday, Jan. 30, beginning at 8 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. in the Campbell Center Arena.

On Thursday and Friday, all projects will be on display to the public throughout the day.

The Sale of Champions, which produced \$206,437 in sales in 2019, will be held Friday evening (Jan. 31) at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Arena.



Eisenhower High School FFA student Nick Cain raised the Grand Champion Steer at the 2019 Aldine ISD Livestock Show and Country Fair. This year's event will take place Jan. 30-31 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

Prior to the Sale of Champions, the buyer's dinner will be held at 5 p.m. During the buyer's dinner, AISD art students will have their art projects on display and individuals will have the opportunity to bid on the artwork.

Additionally, barbecue plates will be on sale Thursday and Friday in Room 104 of the Campbell Center.

For more information, contact Aldine ISD's career and technical education department at (281) 985-7866. The M.O. Campbell Educational Center is located at 1865 Aldine Bender Road.

Local officials to host public meeting on construction permit for a concrete plant in Aldine

ALDINE, Texas — State Representative Armando Walle along with Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Senator Carol Alvarado will host a TCEQ Air Permit Public meeting about Nomadic Aggregates, LLC, who has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an air quality standard permit which would authorize construction of a permanent concrete batch

plant in Aldine, specifically at 4213 Mooney Road, Houston, TX 77093.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center, 10918 1/2 Bentley St. Houston, TX 77093. During the public meeting, residents have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed concrete batch plant and are encouraged to ask questions of the applicant and

to TCEQ staff concerning the permit application. Please plan to attend and ask questions to TCEQ staff concerning the permit application.

A letter from a concerned neighbor

Do you really want ANOTHER Cement Plant in East Aldine!

Hello, East Aldine Residents

Unfortunately, someone has applied for a permit to build ANOTHER cement plant in East Aldine at 4213 Mooney Rd. between Eastex Freeway and Bentley.

You and I know that these plants not only affect the quality of the air we breathe, but the wet cement that falls from their trucks then hardens and messes up our roads. If you want to see what these big trucks do to our resi-

dential streets, then drive down Mooney and take a look at the road. It's already pretty messed up.

Please plan to come to this meeting. If we have a poor turnout, they'll just keep running over us because not enough of us object to them treating us like 2nd class citizens.

Marina Flores Sugg,
 President
 Green Forest Civic Club

Super Bowl LIV could be a special one as high-scoring Chiefs face defensive-minded 49ers

By Mike Keeney

The first Super Bowl of the new century has the potential to be one of the best ones we've seen in recent years. SB No. 54 pits the high-scoring Kansas Chiefs, and one of the game's rising stars in quarterback Patrick Mahomes, against this year's Cinderella story, the San Francisco 49ers who turned a 4-12 finish in 2018 to a 13-3 (15-3 now after playoff wins over Minnesota and Green Bay) record and a NFC West ti-

tle. The game is scheduled for Miami on Sunday. Early weather forecasts call for showers in the morning, but clearing by the 5:40 p.m. Central Time kickoff on FOX.

This will mark the first time in 18 years that somebody other than Tom Brady (started last four Super Bowls), Peyton Manning or Ben Roethlisberger will quarterback an AFC team in the big game.

The Chiefs will be seeking their second Lombardi Trophy, while the 49ers

will be looking for their sixth Super Bowl title, which would tie them with the Steelers as the only NFL teams with six Lombardi's.

This game will also have a local tie, as former MacArthur High standout Richard Whitaker is the special teams coach for the 49ers.

Chief fans have waited 50 years for a return to the big game, while 49er fans have waited 25 years to get back to a game Joe Montana and Steve Young played in routinely back in

the late 1980s and 1990s.

Unfortunately, we all know how the Chiefs got to Miami. They overcame a 24-0 first-half deficit to your Houston Texans in the AFC Division round, exploding for seven straight scores en route to a 51-31 thrashing of Bill O'Brien's team (and the guy still has a job!). In that game, Mahomes threw five touchdown passes and in his team's 35-24 over Tennessee, the surprise team of this year's playoffs, he added another two scoring tosses and rushed

for another on an amazing scramble to put his team ahead for good near the end of the first half.

In two playoff games Mahomes, who will be the only quarterback from a Texas university to start a Super Bowl when he steps on the field in Miami, has passed for 621 yards, thrown eight touchdown passes, and has rushed for 106 yards and one touchdown.

Mahomes, a product of

See Super Bowl LIV, page 5

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 FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 1/24-1/29

Opens THURSDAY, Jan. 30
 * RHYTHM SECTION (R) 7:00 9:30

* ELSEWHERE (R) - 2:25pm, 7:00pm
 * THE TURNING (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
 * THE TURNING (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm
 Spanish Dubbed
 * BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (R) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
 * BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (R) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
 Spanish Dubbed
 * DOLITTLE (PG) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm
 * DOLITTLE (PG) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
 Spanish Dubbed

UNDERWATER (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 4:40pm, 9:30pm
 1917 (R) - 12:20pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
 SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm
 JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:00pm, 8:45pm
 JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm
 Spanish Dubbed
 FROZEN II (PG) - 12:15pm, 6:15pm
 SPECIAL FROZEN II SING-ALONG (PG) - 3:15pm, 9:15pm
 FROZEN II (PG) - 12:20pm, 3:20pm, 6:20pm, 8:45pm
 Spanish Dubbed
 * THE QUEEN'S CORGI (PG) - 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD Students Make All-State Choir



Photographed from left to right are Jose Cordero Cordova, Lillian Prier and Victoria Cerda.



Pictured is Jocelyn Dorsey.

Four Aldine ISD students have qualified for the 2020 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) all-state choir. The students will be performing during the 2020 TMEA Clinic/Convention in San Antonio, on February 15.

Jocelyn Dorsey, a Carver High School junior, made the treble choir. Dorsey sings under the direction of Kenyatta B. Herring.

Victoria Cerda, a sophomore at Eisenhower Senior High School, made the mixed choir. Jose Cordero Cordova, a senior at Eisenhower Senior High School made tenor-bass choir, and Lillian Prier, an Eisenhower junior, made treble choir. The Eisenhower students sing under the direction of Sandra Walker and Michelle Womack.

"Thousands of singers across Texas audition for these choirs, and it is absolutely an honor for any of our choir students to be selected," Kenyatta B. Herring, Carver High School director of choral activities, said. "They have worked very hard and we are proud of them."

Each year, high school students across the state are selected to perform in the annual All-State concerts. This year is special, due to TMEA celebrating 100 years. Selected students have gone through multiple rounds of auditions to qualify at the state level. Students are competing for an honor to perform in one of 15 ensembles which include, bands, orchestras and choirs. There are only 1,795 students selected out of the over

66,800 students that participated in the first round of auditions. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive.

Each musician performs a selected music piece for a panel of judges. The students are then ranked by their musical performance. A select group will advance from their Region to compete against musicians from eight TMEA Area competitions and then the top 2.6% of the highest ranked musicians qualify for All-State.

Once selected the All-State students will participate in three days of rehearsals during the TMEA Clinic/Convention. The group will be led by This year the All-State students will close out TMEA's special centennial convention.

Aldine ISD, Carver High mourn the passing of beloved Carver band patriarch Michael McCullough



Michael "Mr. Mac" McCullough directs the Carver Chamber Orchestra during Aldine ISD's 2019 Convocation at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Mr. McCullough passed away unexpectedly over the Jan. 18 weekend.

Aldine ISD and Carver High School are mourning Michael "Mr. Mac" McCullough, the beloved Carver High band instructor, who passed away unexpectedly during the weekend of Jan. 18.

"Mr. Mac" was a fixture in Aldine ISD performing arts community and devoted 24 years to sharing his love of music with students at Drew Academy, where he taught music for four years, and for the last 20 years at Carver High School.

During his tenure at Carver, he taught guitar, worked with the school's Chamber Orchestra, the Varsity and Non Varsity Orchestras (which are UIL performing orchestras), and the Carver Jazz Ensemble, which he founded five years ago.

In addition to his duties at Carver, "Mr. Mac" was one of the driving forces that helped establish the district's first Mariachi Ensemble. That group, in only its second year, will perform at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March.

"Mr. Mac's" passing will leave a void in the Carver band program and his smile and kind words will be missed by all who had the good fortune to have known him.

"Just last weekend, "Mr. Mac" and his students spent Saturday performing," said Refugio Rodriguez, Aldine ISD's director of music education. "As always, "Mr. Mac" was extremely proud of the work accomplished and the new opportunity for the students to showcase their talents. Michael brought the joy of performing to so many."

"Mr. Mac's" students performed across Aldine ISD, the City of Houston, for Mayor Sylvester Turner, in Harris County, and for other dignitaries. They were also a fixture at the Acres Homes Chamber of Commerce's monthly meetings.

Rodriguez said Mr. McCullough was extremely proud of helping to develop a Mariachi Ensemble for Aldine.

"I was able to spend time with him this year as we worked with the Mariachi Ensemble," Rodriguez said. "He was deeply committed to all of the student he worked with."

Carver High School Principal Pertricia Ross said losing Mr. McCullough was difficult for the Carver family because he was such a loved and respected teacher and individual.

"Losing Mr. McCullough is like losing the sails from

our performing arts boat," she said. "He was such an intricate part of what the performing arts department does. It's difficult to fathom how to move on or to replace him. There's so much I could say about Mr. McCullough. Here's what he said to me when we first met. He said, 'I could retire anytime I want, but I love my job, my kids and what I do.'"

Rodriguez said "Mr. Mac" had a special admiration for his students and his own children and grandchildren.

"When he spoke of his own children and grandchildren, the gleam in his eye said it all," Rodriguez said. "Mr. Mac" reminded me to enjoy our work but to enjoy family even more. His patience and positive outlook has made an impact in my own life."

Rodriguez said he wanted to thank the district's string directors who have given of their time to support Carver students during this difficult time. He added string directors from across the district would assist Carver students with their upcoming contests and performances.

Those who had the opportunity to meet "Mr. Mac" are better for it and he is now making beautiful music for eternity.

CRIME WATCH

Police investigate motorcycle fatal crash on Jensen Drive

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 9600 Jensen Drive about 7:20 a.m. last Wednesday, January 23.

According to Houston Police investigators, the victim was operating a blue Suzuki motorcycle southbound on Jensen Drive as the driver of a black Jeep Cherokee was traveling westbound on Turner. When the Jeep's driver failed to yield the right of way and crossed Jensen Drive, the motorcyclist struck the rear of the Jeep.

Paramedics transported the victim to Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Jeep was not injured.

The identity of the male victim, 25, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The investigation is continuing with no charges filed at this time.

Driver dies after car spins and crashes with a barrier

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 7600 Eastex Freeway (North U. S. highway 59) about 2:15 a.m. last Wednesday, January 23.

According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant J. Benavidez and Officer D. Hoang, the driver of a 2008 Mazda 3 was traveling southbound when his vehicle was struck from behind by a silver Toyota Camry, also traveling southbound on the freeway. The Camry then spun across several lanes of the freeway and struck a barrier and a road sign. The driver of the Camry died at the scene.

The driver of the Mazda was not injured. He remained at the scene and was questioned and released.

The investigation is continuing.



Michael "Mr. Mac" McCullough and members of the Carver Chamber Orchestra were recognized at the October 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. The group performed prior to the start of the Board meeting. "Mr. Mac" unexpectedly passed away over the Jan. 18 weekend.

History of Jazz: Sam Dinkins III Quartet

Thursday, February 6, 2019 at 6pm

Join us for an evening of history and jazz. Light refreshments provided. For more information, please call 832-927-5540

From ragtime and Dixieland to the blues, swing, and more, "The History of Jazz" traces America's contribution to the world of music as it developed late in the nineteenth century from African American work songs, hymns, and spirituals.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE HERE FOR YOU

Public defenders are here to protect persons charged with crimes in the Harris County courts. The Harris County Public Defender's Office was established almost 10 years ago to represent persons charged with criminal offenses in Harris County who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer. Before that time, judges only appointed and paid private attorneys. Complaints about the ethics of those financial relationships, the lack of independence, and a desire to improve the quality of representation, led Harris County Commissioners Court to create the Public Defender's Office, located in the Criminal Justice Center at 1201 Franklin, 13th Floor, Houston, TX 77002.

The office has 130 employees and is growing. Those include attorneys,

investigators, social workers and administrative staff. It is a large law firm that specializes in representing persons who are charged with crimes in Harris County, but cannot afford to hire an attorney. Statistics show that public defenders in Harris County get better outcomes for their clients than private appointed lawyers and even most hired lawyers. That means Harris County public defenders get a higher percentage of cases dismissed or clients found "not guilty."

However, there are some limits upon what public defenders are allowed to do. Public defenders cannot choose their clients and clients cannot choose them. Defendants are appointed public defenders by the courts. Most defendants are still

represented by private lawyers chosen by judges. Unless a lawyer gives you a business card that identifies them as a public defender, they are probably a private appointed attorney. The Public Defender's Office continues to grow and is gradually getting a higher percentage of the appointed criminal cases.


If you contact the Public Defender's Office about a friend or family member who is a client, the client must first give their permission for their public defender to talk to you about their case. Unless you are a client, if you contact the office for some other reason, you will only receive very general advice about the law. For more information, email pdo.info@pdo.hctx.net.

Permit for Concrete Plant in Acres Homes withdrawn

Congresswoman Lee supports withdrawal of permit application of the Soto Redi Mix Plant

Jackson Lee: "This is a win for the residents of the 18th Congressional District. My constituents voiced their concerns; we fought to bring attention to the harmful potential this plant posed to the Acres Home community and now we have success."

OPINION
By Congresswoman
Sheila Jackson Lee



WASHINGTON, DC – January 22, 2020 — Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget, released this statement supporting the withdrawal of Soto Ready Mix's air quality standard permit application and the decision by the state to accept their withdrawal — ending their quest to expand their concrete batch plant in the Acres Home community:

"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 adamantly oppose the construction of a proposed concrete

batch plant at this location. I also attended a hearing in Austin, where I specifically asked 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 in Houston. That request was granted. Now the hearing is cancelled because of Soto Ready Mix's decision to withdraw their application.

"I was pleased to work alongside my colleagues State Representative Jarvis Johnson, and State Senator John Whitmire, who were present with me in Austin and Mayor Sylvester Turner who worked with the city on this issue. It was our collective work that made a difference.

"Cement manufacturing plants, like the one proposed for DeSoto Street, produce fine particulates that can be aspirated into the upper respiratory sys-

tem. Particles that can invade the lower respiratory system, triggering asthma and obstructive pulmonary disease, and respiratory distress. Moreover, a study published 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. Soto Ready Mix's decision to withdraw their application is a win for the residents of the 18th Congressional District. My constituents voiced their concerns; we fought to bring attention to the harmful potential this plant posed to the Acres Home community and now we have success.

"However, I will continue to work to ensure that this entire business is relocated from this residential area; that includes a neighborhood park."

Company's decision to withdraw concrete batch plant application a victory for local residents

HOUSTON - Statement below by Mayor Sylvester Turner:

"I am relieved to learn that Soto Ready Mix has withdrawn its application to build a concrete batch plant in Acres Home. This is a great victory for residents who did not want to live with unhealthy air emissions, specifically particulate matter, heavy trucks and noise in their neighborhood.

"During a news conference earlier this month, I, along with other elected officials, residents and community leaders urged the TCEQ to vote against issuing a standard permit for a concrete facility or for the company to withdraw its application for a new

OPINION
By Mayor
Sylvester Turner



permit.

"The company chose to withdraw the application, but the action proves the TCEQ must have more tools to protect vulnerable neighborhoods and prevent companies from building concrete batch plants near homes and parks where our children play.

"Last legislative session, the city of Houston advocated for two reforms that would have been very helpful. I will direct my government relations team

to continue working on protection for residents in communities without land use regulations.

"I thank the Houston Police Department, Houston Public Works, the Houston Health Department, Municipal Courts, along with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, State Senator John Whitmire, State Rep. Jarvis Johnson and many others who helped to bring this situation to a desired outcome."

Deputies arrest two men for stealing car with infant

Mother and Boyfriend Charged With Child Abandonment

NORTHEAST – Deputies have arrested and charged two men with stealing a vehicle that had a 16 month old baby in the backseat of the vehicle, and a male and female with child abandonment.

Deputies received an in progress call at the Shell Gas Mart in the 14100 block of Homestead road and Highway 59 north at around 12:05 a.m. Monday January 13, 2020.

A 21 -year-old female now identified as Kimberley Cook (9/10/1998) originally told deputies she and 29-year-old Anthony Blue (01 /18/1990), left their 16 month old child in the vehicle as it was run-

ning to enter the store. When they walked back out the Chrysler 300 automobile was gone.

Deputies learned in the investigation that Cook and Blue entered the store to play 8-liner machines around 11:30 p.m., and would periodically check on the infant as it slept in the running unlocked car.

Two men Vincent Leon Cannady (07/05/2000), and Jabari Jonathan Davis (12/09/2001) saw the car running and took off in it.

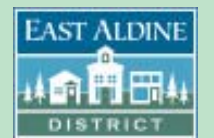
The men left the child at McGregor Park in the 5200 block of Calhoun Street. Houston Police department were called after

a Park Ranger found the infant near a playground. EMS personnel transported the child to a local hospital for observation and is in good condition.

The Chrysler 300 was located near Loop 610 and Hwy 225, a short time later and a pursuit was initiated. The vehicle was stopped in the 1800 block of Candlelight Place.

Both Davis and Cannady were taken into custody without incident. The two men are charged with auto theft, felony kidnapping. Cook and Blue with child abandonment for leaving the infant unattended.

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NORTHEAST NEWS

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Bonding Against Adversity
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Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – We took benefits early; can we get more now?

Dear Rusty: My birth date is 1947. My wife is 1950. We both took our Social Security years ago at age 62 due to health concerns because we questioned if we would live to age 78 to equalize the extra payout if we would have waited to age 66. Taking early at 62 may have been a mistake and I am wondering if there are any options available to maximize my and/or my wife's monthly payment with a restricted application or any other available options? My gross monthly is \$946.60, and my wife's is \$543.60 before the deduction for Medicare. Together our gross monthly is about equal to the per person individual average monthly payment of \$1479. Signed: Regretful we took SS early.

Dear Regretful: I'm afraid the options for either you or your wife increasing your benefit at this point are extremely limited. You cannot file the restricted application you mentioned because that can only be done by someone applying for the first time (and who was born before 1/2/1954), and only by someone who has not yet reached age 70. Neither can you suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) because DRCs are only earned up to age 70. Your wife has a very small window until she reaches 70 in March during which she could suspend her benefits, and by doing so immediately she could perhaps earn, at most, an additional 1% in DRCs (about \$5 more per month). That leaves only two other things which could increase your benefits: 1) Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) granted each year depending upon inflation, and 2) returning to work and having substantial current earnings which may replace the earnings in a

lower-earning year in your lifetime work record (SS uses the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime to compute your benefit amount).

If you have some years in that 35-year history with no or very low earnings, working now could replace one or more of those years. I have no way of determining whether that is a possibility; you would need to get your lifetime earnings record from Social Security and see if that is possible by examining your earnings for each year over your lifetime. But remember, all early years of earnings are adjusted for inflation, so for example, \$10,000 earned in 1990 would be equal to about \$25,000 in today's dollars, and you'd need to earn more than the higher amount to have any effect on your benefit.

I wish I had better news for you, but the unfortunate reality is that once someone claims their Social Security, the benefit amount is quite fixed. Although it's possible to withdraw an application within 12 months of initial filing, and it's also possible to suspend benefits once FRA is reached, neither of those is available to you. And your wife only has a very short window to suspend her benefits, which will reach maximum when she reaches 70 in March. So, except for the COLA increases and returning to work options I've discussed above, I'm afraid you have no other opportunity to increase your Social Security benefit amounts.

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.



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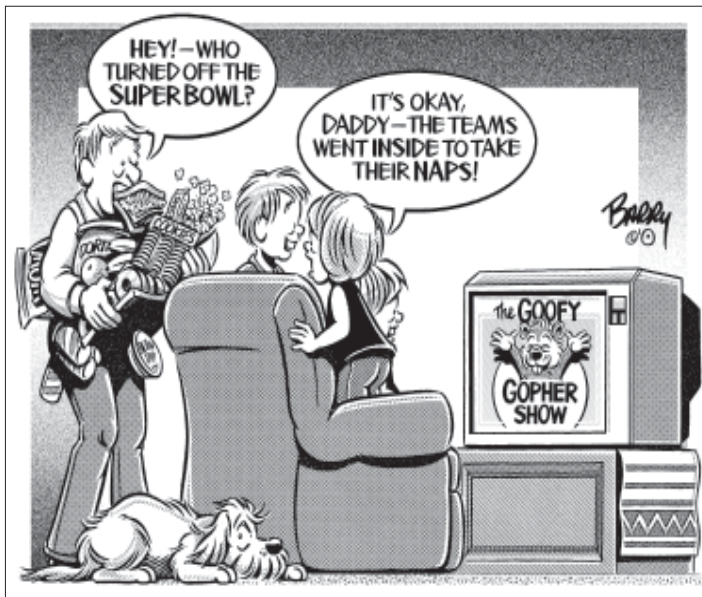
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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"The Cigar Box"

I spent the weekend in New York City. I hadn't been to New York in quite a while. I was performing at a theater conference and so was traveling alone, without my husband, Peter.

New York intimidates me—as all big cities do. I am not a nervous traveler, generally, but I keep my possessions close at hand and my eyes open—which is why I noticed the young man in the black athletic shirt on the subway.

I was taking the subway for the first time in a long time and, so far, I was doing pretty well. Okay, I did choke when I got to my first turnstile. I pushed the bar too quickly and had to run my card through a second time. Two dollars! Down the drain! But I finally made it on the subway, in the late evening, my bags gathered close like little ducklings.

So, naturally, I noticed when a young man in a black athletic shirt started talking trash to the man across from him. They were having a heated discussion, topping each other by speaking louder and louder. I clutched my suitcase a little tighter. Then I saw the young man reach inside his bag. I watched closely as his hand disappeared into a large satchel and emerge with a cigar box.

If I now asked you to guess what was in the box, no matter how many guesses you were given, I'm betting you would be wrong.

Thread. In that box was every color of thread in the rainbow. The young man, without missing a beat in his argument, reached into the box and pulled out a spool of black thread and a needle, threaded it and—right before my eyes—began stitching up a small tear in the sleeve of his athletic jersey.

His satchel was full of sewing paraphernalia, I realized. He was clearly much better outfitted than my mother who, to the best of my knowledge, has never attempted a stitchery repair while on a moving subway.

I got to my Airbnb. When Peter and I travel together, we always rent an Airbnb we can have to ourselves but, as I was alone and New York is expensive, I found a place with one other room and a shared bath. It was neat as a pin and very convenient. The first night there was a sweet young woman named Emily staying there. She was interviewing for a job at a big publishing house. Emily checked out, the room was cleaned, and I had the place to myself until the second evening when the door opened and a large, swarthy young man with more than a five-o'clock shadow appeared. His name was Manu, he said, in a strong accent.

I said hello and went about preparing to go out for the night. I had to perform in a couple hours, so I had hair to curl and other equally important duties to perform. Manu parked his bag in his room and prepared to leave.

But just as he was about to go out the door, he stopped and turned.

In a deep baritone voice, he asked, "Is it safe? Will I be safe in this neighborhood?"

I studied the extremely capable looking Manu. I remembered the young man stitching on the subway. I thought of all the assumptions I make, every day, every time I encounter another person.

I smiled at Manu. "It's okay, I think you'll be safe," I told him. Manu grinned at me and headed out onto the streets of New York.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

Governor requests presidential disaster declaration

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 13 asked for a presidential disaster declaration for three counties that sustained widespread damage attributed to severe thunderstorms, straight-line winds, hail and tornadoes.

The stormy weather on Oct. 20-21 hit Cameron, Dallas and Erath counties. Abbott's request includes public assistance and hazard mitigation.

"The State of Texas is committed to ensuring the people of Cameron, Dallas and Erath counties have the resources they need to continue rebuilding the public infrastructure," Abbott said. "With the help of our federal partners, these communities can rebuild quickly and gain access to important recovery resources. I ask that the president swiftly grant this request in order to expedite valuable support to these counties."

If Abbott's request is granted, local jurisdictions will be eligible for federal reimbursement for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency measures to protect life and property and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, parks and publicly owned property.

Proclamation extended

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 14 extended the disaster proclamation he originally signed on Aug. 23, 2017, and amended several times thereafter, pertaining to 60 counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Texas law authorizes the use of all available resources of state govern-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



causes. They deserve to know exactly where their contributions go and how they are handled," Paxton said. "The agreement reached today marks a recognition of the responsibilities charitable funds have to donors, and we are grateful for the new PayPal Charitable Fund provisions that will better inform all who choose to give to charity through the online platform."

Agency set record again

During calendar year 2019 the Texas Railroad Commission processed a record 11,654 new drilling permits.

The Lone Star State's oil and gas industry regulating agency announced its staff also set a record in taking just two days on average to process standard drilling permits, one day below the Legislative requirement.

Also, according to a Jan. 13 news release, the agency processed permits at this faster-than-required rate for two years in a row, beginning in calendar year 2018.

"The Railroad Commission's technological solutions enable operators to quickly apply for and receive drilling permits," said Wei Wang, executive director of the agency. "Nearly 99 percent of operators apply for drilling permits online. This allows our staff to thoroughly and quickly review each application to ensure operators meet all drilling permit requirements."

Texas leads the nation in oil and gas production, with the Permian Basin in West Texas ranking as the nation's top energy production region. In the last 12 months Texas operators reported 1.438 billion barrels of oil produced and almost 10 trillion cubic feet of gas.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the Permian Basin contains 66 billion barrels of oil, nearly 300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 21 billion barrels of natural gas liquids in the Midland and Delaware Basins.

"Texas will continue to be the nation's leader in energy production," Wang said. "The Railroad Commission's efficient, timely permit review processes are essential to the continued development of the state's energy resources and ultimately support Texas' economic prosperity."

ment and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

Miller hails trade deal

When President Donald Trump signed the "Phase One" trade agreement with China on Jan. 15, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller called it "huge, Texas-sized news." The agreement calls for China to increase its purchase of U.S.-produced goods by \$200 billion, including the import of agricultural products by \$40 billion to \$50 billion over the next two years.

U.S. negotiators agreed to cut tariffs in half on goods from China, from 15% down to 7.5%.

Goal: donor protection

Texas Attorney General Paxton on Jan. 14 joined the attorneys general of 23 states in an agreement with PayPal Charitable Fund Inc., the charitable arm of PayPal.

In the agreement, the states seek to ensure donors are given clear information and disclosures on where their money goes when making charitable contributions through the company's online payment platform.

Previously, the platform aggregated and distributed funds to the donors' chosen charities without collecting fees; however, charities that maintained a PayPal account received contributions more quickly than others. That fact was not disclosed to donors, nor was the fact that sometimes contributions were redirected away from the donor's selected charity and given to a different organization with similar purposes.

"Texans are generous people who selflessly give to countless charities and

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Super Bowl LIV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas Tech University (disclosure, I am a proud Tech grad), has a plethora of weapons to throw to and hand off to. Wide receiver Tyreek Hill (5 receptions, 67 yards, 2 TDs in playoffs; 58 receptions, 860 yards, 7 TDs for season) is one of the fastest, if not the fastest, players in the league. Fellow wide receiver Sammy Watkins had a huge day in the AFC title game hauling in seven catches for 114 yards, including a game-clinching 60-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter. And then there is tight end Travis Kelce. Kelce (13 receptions, 164 yards, three TDs in playoffs; 97 receptions, 1,229 yards in regular season, five TDs) destroyed the Texans with his three touchdown receptions and his Mahomes security blanket. The SF linebacking corps is one of the best in the league and has the speed and athleticism to cover Kelce.

But the Chiefs are not simply a pass team. Head coach Andy Reid, one of the brightest offensive minds for decades in the NFL, has a stable of capable running back led by Damien Williams, who has scored four touchdowns in the post season (three rushing, one receiving). The Chiefs can also light up the scoreboard with their special teams, which is led by speedy rookie return man Mecole Hardman. Look for Hardman to come up with a key return or two in this game and he might make some noise on offense.

The 49ers are no slouches on offense, but they would rather bludgeon teams with their potent running attack rather than throw over opposing defenses. Don't get me wrong, quarterback Jimmy Garapolo (3,978 yards, 27 TDs in regular season) is capable of putting up Mahomes-like numbers, but Kyle Shanahan's team is a run-first team as evidenced by the 287 rushing yards they put up against the Packers. The 49ers have a three-headed rushing attack of Raheem Mostert, Matt Brieda and Tevin Coleman. In their win over the Vikings, Coleman was the man with 105 rushing yards and two touchdowns. He sustained a dislocated shoulder in the Green Bay game, but he hopes to be ready for the Super Bowl.

Once Coleman went down in the Packers game, Mostert responded in spectacular fashion, rushing for 220 yards and four touchdowns. For the post-season, Mostert has picked up 286 yards on the ground and the 49ers are averaging 236.5 rushing yards in post season play. If the Chiefs hope to win, they will have to slow down the running game early. KC can't let Brieda, Coleman and Mostert gash them for big gains early. If that happens, Garapolo could have a field day in the passing game. In the NFC title game, Jimmy G, who ironically saw his first season with SF end in Week 3 at Kansas City in 2018 when



Kansas City Chiefs vs San Francisco 49ers at Super Bowl LIV

he sustained season-ending knee injury, also has a stable of quality pass receivers to go to.

Like Mahomes, Garapolo's safety valve is tight end George Kittle (85 receptions, 5 TDs), who has been quiet in the playoffs, but I expect him to have a big day in the biggest game he will have played in come Sunday in Miami. Kittle and Kelce are two of the top five tight ends in the league and expect both of them to put on a show in SB 54.

While Kittle handles the middle stuff for Garapolo, he has two quality wide receivers in veteran Emanuel Sanders (36 receptions, 502 yards, 3 TDs and rookie Deebo Samuels (57 receptions, 802 yards, 3 TDs). The 49ers also like to use Samuel on end arounds because of his blazing speed.

Because the 49ers had such ease running the ball against the Packers, Garapolo threw just eight passes in the NFC title

game. I don't think he will get that luxury in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs are solid on defense and have a big and fast defensive front led by Chris Jones, Terrell Suggs (who KC claimed off waivers late in the season after Arizona released him) and Frank Clark. The front line and linebackers must slow down the SF running game early because if they don't it could be a long day for Reid's team.

Since their 35-32 loss at Tennessee on Nov. 10, the KC defense has allowed just 12.5 points per game, while the offense has averaged 32 points per game during their current eight-game winning streak.

There is no doubt the 49ers have the best defense of the two teams who are playing on Sunday. During the regular season and playoffs, that defense allowed just 18 points a game. SF has one of the best front sevens in the league led by defensive



lineman Nick Bosa (9 sacks), Arik Armstead (10 sacks) and former Chief Dee Ford (6.5 sacks). As stated earlier, SF has an active group of linebackers who can roam sideline to sideline. As a unit, this defense recorded 48 sacks during the regular season and added six more in the playoffs.

The secondary is led by veteran cornerback Richard Sherman, who has brought a winning attitude with him from Seattle where he won one Super Bowl and played in another (losing to Brady and the Patriots).

While Mahomes and Reid have their work cut out for them, the mastermind head coach has had two weeks to prepare a scheme to attack the 49ers. I would not be surprised if the Chiefs come out running the football and if they are successful early, Mahomes should have plenty of chances to make big plays downfield to Hill, Kelce, Watkins and others.

I do think this game will live up to the hype and most assuredly should be a big improvement over last year's bore fest that saw the Patriots win a defensive struggle against the Rams, 13-3.

One big key to this game will be how well Mahomes handles the pressure of playing in the biggest game of his life. He never

had that opportunity at Tech and he will be facing the best defense he has seen this season. Garapolo has experienced the Super Bowl before, but that was as a spectator as Brady's backup.

One big key to this game will be how well Mahomes handles the pressure of playing in the biggest game of his life. He never had that opportunity at Tech and he will be facing the best defense he has seen this season. Garapolo has experienced the Super Bowl before, but that was as a spectator as Brady's backup.

I have a feeling Reid out coaches Shanahan, one of the top young coaches in the league, and comes up with a gadget or two that turns the tide in the Chiefs favor. Let's just hope this one will be worth watching come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 30, San Francisco 27



Posting Date January 27, 2020

Amber Waves



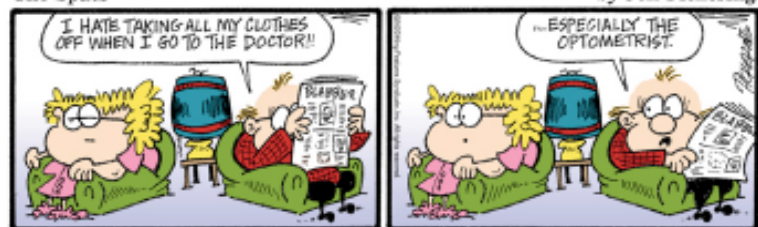
by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes two panels of a man and woman walking and a 'Find at least six differences in details between panels' challenge.

King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues. Clues include: 1. Item on stage, 5. Relaxation, 9. 'Help!', 12. Emanation, 13. Picture of health?, 14. Demonic tyke, 15. Dance lesson, 16. Green land, 17. Grazing area, 18. Loafer, e.g., 19. Wrestling surface, 20. Small horse, 21. Tear, 23. Eggs, 25. Ought not, 28. Plunder, 32. Jellied dish, 33. Flat, 34. Neptune or Poseidon, 36. Makes baby food, maybe, 37. Id counterpart, 38. Allow, 39. 'Ironside' star, 42. Definite article, 44. 'Phooey!', 48. Past, 49. Desktop symbol, 50. Sheltered, 51. Under the weather, 52. Filly's brother, 53. Mountain goat, 54. Caustic, 55. TV trophy, 56. '- and the Tramp', 8. Storm center, 9. Missile shelter, 10. Portent, 11. Fix, in a sense, 20. Evidence of fraud, 22. Disguised, for short, 24. Cost, 25. 'More,' to Jose, 26. Work with, 27. Hot tub, 29. Word implied in 'been there, done that', 30. Born, 31. Golfer Ernie, 35. E-business, 36. More than enough, 39. Kind of bond, 40. Pre-swan, 41. Portrayal of Ian or Celeste, 43. Jessica of 'Fantastic Four', 46. Prepared to drive, 47. Alluring, 49. Lemieux milleu.

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Trivia test by Fili Rodriguez

- 1. MEASUREMENTS: How many inches are in a mile?
2. ASTRONOMY: What does the acronym SETI mean to the scientific community?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "sub-" mean in English?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms?
5. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century movie star penned the autobiography "Me: Stories of My Life"?
6. HISTORY: What was the first National Monument proclaimed in the United States?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the island of Luzon located?
8. MOVIES: Which sci-fi movie has the tagline, "Reality is a thing of the past"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of the United States' first nuclear-powered submarine?
10. GAMES: What are the four railroad properties in Monopoly?

Solution time: 24 mins. Answers

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1. 63,160 inches; 2. Search for extraterrestrial intelligence; 3. Below or insufficient; 4. Grover Cleveland; 5. Katharine Hepburn; 6. Devils Tower, 1906; 7. The Philippines; 8. "The Matrix"; 9. The USS Nautilus; 10. Pennsylvania, Short Line, Reading and B&O. Trivia Test Answers

LIFESTYLE

Aldine ISD Orff Ensemble Selected to Perform at TMEA Convention

The Aldine ISD Orff Ensemble has been selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) annual convention in San Antonio.

The ensemble includes students in Grades 3-5 from 40 schools across the district. The group is directed by Nickole Burr (Thompson Elementary), with the assistance of Sarah Prather (Caraway Elementary), Alex Perez (Orange Grove Elementary), and Kirsten Kurtz (Worsham Elementary). The ensemble is scheduled to perform at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, in the HemisFair Ballroom at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

This is a first for the group. They are one of only two elementary instrumental groups from across

the state chosen to perform at TMEA's Centennial Convention. When applying for the opportunity the group was required to submit a video of one of their performances from the previous school year. From those videos, only eight elementary ensemble groups were selected to perform.

Each Fall, students have an opportunity to audition for the Orff Ensemble at their campus. The 35 to 40 students chosen will rehearse each Monday evening.

"We have an amazing community and are indebted to the parents and families, because they are just as committed to the success of our ensemble," Burr said. "Without their dedication our young musicians would not make it to rehearsals."



Aldine ISD Orff Ensemble

In addition to district performances, the percussion group has performed at the Children's Music Festival of Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast Orff Association Festival.

According to Burr, her goal is to continue developing each individual musician while furthering the success of the ensemble.

Burr and her Assistant Directors work to ensure the students work as a team and use the ensemble to create a love and appreciation of the arts.

"These young musicians have shown me just how

dedicated and talented they are. It says a lot about their character and commitment when a group of students from across the district can come together to learn and perform high-quality music at the elementary level. I am immensely proud of how each student rose to the

challenge."

If you would like to catch a preview of the Orff Ensemble's TMEA performance, they will be hosting a Pre-TMEA concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 27, at M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender Rd, in the theater.

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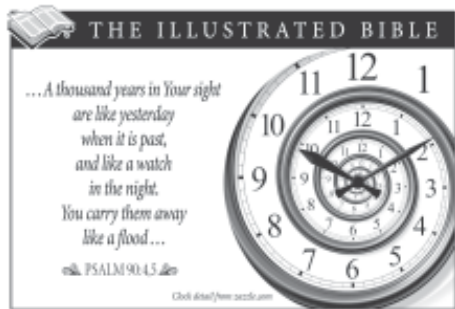
BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of Ezra in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Daniel 4, who had the vision of a tree growing higher and higher until it could be seen by everyone? Silas, Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon
3. Which book could be summarized, "God, why don't you stop bad things from happening?" Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi

4. What hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment something can be done? 1st, 3rd, 11th, 12th
5. Which king of Israel set up two golden calves as gods, one in Bethel, the other in Dan? Zimri, Jeroboam, Baasha, Ahaziah
6. From Judges 6, where did Gideon encounter an angel? Prison, Oak Tree, Temple, Well

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nebuchadnezzar; 3) Habakkuk; 4) 11th; 5) Jeroboam; 6) Oak Tree



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine Education Foundation Basketball Event Elevates Education

The Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) hosted its first Sports Spectacular for Scholars fundraising event on Wednesday, January 22 at M.O. Campbell Educational Center. The basketball show featured the Harlem Wizards battling the Aldine All-Stars, a newly-formed team for the event that showcased the basketball skills of Aldine ISD teachers, coaches, and even Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. Celebrity player Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen also joined the contest on the court.

The Harlem Wizards have a unique mission: create awe-inspiring events throughout the country to help communities raise funds for important causes. Their tricks, hoops, and ally opps definitely delivered; the event raised more than \$20,000 for AEF programs that support Aldine ISD students and educators.

More than 1,000 guests laughed as the Wizards enlisted audience participation and taunted their teammates and the Aldine All-Stars with tricks, fancy passes, and aerodynamic athleticism. The hi-jinx and hilarity continued during halftime entertainment and post-game picture opportunities.

The family-friendly fun was underwritten in part by Title Sponsor Aldine Noon Optimist Club. They were joined by scholarship sponsor Texas Children's Health Plan, which helped AEF award \$2,500 in college funds; MacArthur High School junior Naomi Mays was the lucky winner of the drawing for that award. Inspired by the excitement, Constable Alan Rosen added to the winnings by donating another scholarship.



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, center, and the Aldine All Stars get revved up to take on the Harlem Wizards in a charity basketball game benefiting the Aldine Education Foundation on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

Aldine High School junior Jessica Picaz's name was drawn for that \$1,000 award.

The community event definitely scored a WIN for all involved - fun for families, scholarships for students, and loads of laughter across all of Aldine.

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.



A member of the Harlem Wizards shows off his dunking talents during a charity basketball game between the Wizards and the Aldine All-Stars on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

High Meadows Library events

•Teen Dungeons & Dragons: Every Monday at 3pm. Teens that love Dungeons & Dragons can come to the library and play with other D&D fans in the afternoons.
•Senior Games: Every Thursday morning at 10am, seniors are welcome to play tabletop games at the library.

•College 101: Every Friday at 4pm we will have a college preparedness program. Learn about enrolling in college, financial aide, and programs that best fit you!
Customers can call us at 832-927-5540 if they'd like more information about these programs and more.

They can also visit our website at www.hcpl.net and view our catalog, look at events, and register for a free library card. We are located at 4500 Aldine Mail Route, Houston Texas 77039.
High Meadows Library located at 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX 77039.

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