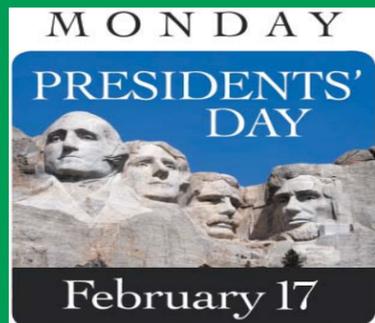


**INSIDE:**

- SHERIFF'S SAFETY FORUM
- EAST ALDINE DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE
- SHERMAN EAGLETON
- MARIA T. JACKSON
- DIAZ INSURANCE

# NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years  
 VOL. 44, NO. 07 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

**NEWS NOTES**

## Harris County "Promise" launches in three Aldine ISD schools

Provides full tuition to local community college

### Black History month at library

Friday, February 21st @ 1:30pm, Black History heroes laid the groundwork for some of the most amazing discoveries of the modern era, especially when it comes to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Hosted by the incredible scientist, George Washington Carver, a man who invented thousands of uses for the lowly peanut, this show introduces students to other incredible scientists, entrepreneurs and groundbreakers from Black History. Meet Madame CJ Walker, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall and more!

### North Houston Improvements Final Public Meeting, Feb. 25

The North Houston District team along with the Houston Galveston Area Council spent 2019 working on the North Houston Livable Centers Study - a plan that focuses on improvements to Greenspoint. It's now time to announce the findings and hear the recommendations for implementation.

To learn more, attend the Public Meeting on Feb. 25 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the City North Conference Center, Oak Room, 12190 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060. Reserve your spot no later than Feb. 20. at District@NorthHouston.org

### FEMA at the Library

If you have questions or would like to learn about Flood Insurance stop by Wed., Feb. 26 from 1-3 p.m. FEMA will be at High Meadows Library, 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., 77039.

### Affected by storm Imelda?

The Harris Center will be at High Meadows Library, 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., Thur., Feb. 27 at 1:00 p.m. to talk about resources available to those affected.

More than 4,000 high school seniors will have the opportunity to earn a tuition-free, postsecondary education through Harris County Promise, a new program that provides students with last-dollar scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and fees at participating community colleges.

This partnership between school districts, community colleges, and Good Reason Houston, aims to increase the number of Harris County students who graduate college and receive their degree. In this first year, Harris County Promise brings seven high schools in Aldine, Alief, and Pasadena Independent School Districts together with Houston Community College, Lone Star College and San Jacinto College to create a unique pathway to college graduation for Promise Scholars.



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney with future Promise scholars at Aldine Senior HS. An Aldine Senior HS student shows her Promise SWAG at the launch pep rally.

In January, Harris County Promise launched in Aldine, Eisenhower, and Nimitz high schools.

Harris County Promise is available to all Texas resident high-school seniors from participating schools, regardless of high school GPA or income. The

program provides a scholarship to cover any remaining tuition and fees not covered by other grants the student receives. Promise Scholars also receive assistance with books

See Promise Program, Page 3

## Fatal Shooting at McDonald's



Officials at scene investigation fatal shooting at McDonald's.

HOUSTON - A man is dead after he was shot multiple times in the parking lot of a McDonald's in north Houston, according to the Houston Police Department.

The shooting was reported around 8 p.m. on Airline and West Tidwell Road.

Witnesses told investigators the man was shot as he was getting out of his vehicle, police said. Investigators said the 27-year-old victim, identified by police at Christopher

Howard, was waiting outside while his girlfriend used the restroom. Witnesses heard at least five shots and then saw Howard running towards the McDonald's, calling for help, police said.

"I heard a car go off. As soon as I stood up, my granny came outside to see if I was OK, and I look in front of me and here is a man drenched in blood and

See Shooting at McDonald's, page 3

## INCUMBENTS ON THE BALLOT

NORTHEAST residents will head to the polls once again to cast their vote at the Texas Primary on March 3, 2020. The first day of Early Voting begins February 18, 2020 through February 28, 2020. For poll locations and voting information visit www.harrisvotes.com



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## OPPONENTS ON THE BALLOT



MARIA T. JACKSON HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1



DEBORAH FLORUS HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3



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# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Kids Healthy Heart Challenge



Students jumped rope raising money for the American Heart Association at Vardeman! We are so proud of all of our heart heroes they have been collecting money for the American Heart Association!! Students can still donate until March 1! Pandas are the best at Vardeman!!

## District Teachers Honored at annual HAABSE Teacher Awards and Recognition Ceremony



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney (center) poses with Aldine ISD educators and district leaders.

## 7 Aldine High swimmers earn all-state academic honors

Pictured are six of the seven swimmers from Aldine High School who were recently named to the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) Academic All-State team. Pictured are, front row (l-r): Kimberly Gaspar, Brahian Ortega and Kimberly Garcia. Back row (l-r): William Gonzales, Christian Barrera, Noemi Rocha and coach Richard Bolduc. Not pictured, Ozil Flores.



Aldine ISD is proud to announce that 39 district educators were honored at the annual Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators' (HAABSE) Outstanding Teacher Awards and Recognition Ceremony, held on February 7, 2020, at the Bayou City Event Center.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner welcomed and presented a proclamation to HAABSE. He also talked about the importance of increasing diversity in the teaching field to support diversity in the classrooms, and better meet students' needs, as well as improve student outcomes.

HAABSE President Kwabena Mensah also praised teachers for not giving up on students and for lighting a fire in students. He added that strong mentors, such as the teachers honored by HAABSE, help increase leadership capacity.

Aldine ISD had a presence at the event. The Aldine High School Jazz Band provided guests with entertainment before the start of the ceremony. AISD also had more than 30 schools represented. Additionally, students Destiny Mack of Nimitz High School and Trysten Williams of Carver High School served as masters of ceremony. Several district leaders were also present to support Aldine teachers.

The Alliance invited Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney to speak at the event, where she lauded the work of the educators and encouraged them to

continue to bring out the best in their students.

"Remember why you are here," Goffney said. "Remember your best teacher or your best learning experience and bring it every day to your students. Bring your best because our students deserve it. You have the power to impact children."

This year's AISD honorees were:

- Primary/Elementary Level**
- Anderson Academy — Luxjoria Thibodeaux
- Calvert Elementary School — Loretta Lang
- Caraway Elementary School — Teresa Jackson
- Carter Academy — Brittney Smith
- Conley Elementary School — Monica Abram-Jamilla
- Conley Elementary School — Erica Kelley
- Conley Elementary School — Teshawana Jackson
- Conley Elementary School — Kristina Thompson
- Cypresswood Elementary School — Jasmine Crowell
- De Santiago Primary School — Princess Graves
- Ermel Elementary School — Charlis Paige
- García-Leza Primary School — Misshombj Alexander
- Greenspoint Elementary School — Angela Coffey
- Griggs Primary School — LToya Manning-McKinney
- Harris Elementary School — Rowena Rabaya
- Hill Elementary School — Ashley Sims
- Jones Elementary School — Darilyn Daniels
- Jones Primary School — Stephanie Vann
- Keeble Primary School — Dulce Wikstrom
- Kujawa Elementary School — Meirha Bridges-Roberts

- Kujawa Primary School — Maggie Abrego
- Kujawa Primary School — Martha Suarez
- Magrill Elementary School — Erica Anthony
- Marcella Elementary School — Rachael Caldwell
- Oleson Elementary School — Chad Lane
- Smith Elementary School — Jennifer Hill
- Stovall Primary School — Christen Anderson
- Vines Primary School — Taria Usher
- Wilson Elementary School — Angela Crowe
- Worsham Elementary School — Brea Batro
- Secondary Level**
- Blanson CTE High School — Kerris Crier
- Aldine Ninth Grade School — Sheena Nichols
- Davis High School — Dawn Brimhall
- Davis Ninth Grade School — Vanessa Williams
- Eisenhower Ninth Grade School — Jill Hines
- Hoffman Middle School — Jasmine Oguntuga
- Houston Academy — Alice Hill
- Nimitz Ninth Grade School — Eric Barrett
- Victory Early College High School — Thomasina Gatson

The Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators' primary mission is to enhance the education of all students. The Alliance also exercises leadership in providing valuable professional services and strategies to institutions, agencies, and communities engaged in creating an environment in which students can achieve academic excellence.

## Stehlik Elementary student crowned Champion at Chess Tournament

More than 200 students recently participated in the Scholastic Chess Tournament at Spring Forest Middle School. Emiliano Ariaza, Stehlik Elementary School fifth-grader, took home the 1st place trophy in the elementary division.

This is Ariaza's second year playing chess and his love for the game of chess has grown. Ariaza is a member of Chess Kings, the Stehlik Elementary chess club. The club is fairly new to the campus and was created two years. Members of the Chess Kings meet once a week after school. The chess club is open to all first through fifth-grade students at the campus.

The club currently has 30 members. Most of the students did not know how to play chess when they joined. The members are taught chess basics by chess sponsors, Betzabel De La Rosa and Peter Nahua. As students learn more about the game they are trained how to think strategically and how to use analytics skills to help them anticipate their opponent's next move.

"Chess teaches students to concentrate, to think ahead, to take risks, to be prudent, and that every move has its consequences," De La Rosa said. "We teach them how to demonstrate good sportsmanship, and how to win and lose graciously. All of these attributes translate to real world experiences."

Since beginning the chess club, the sponsors have seen



Emiliano Ariaza receives the 1st place trophy at the Scholastic Chess Tournament.

the students self esteem increase. The Chess Kings have participated in several citywide chess tournaments.

In addition to Ariaza's win, several of the Chess Kings placed in the tournament.

Eduardo Castrejon, Stehlik fifth-grader, and Gilbert Morales, third-grader, won 7th place in their skill level. Jansen Paguada, Stehlik second-grader, won 6th place in his skill level. As a team, the Chess Kings brought home a 3rd place trophy.

"Chess changes lives and we are lifting up our students one checkmate at a time," De La Rosa said.

Upcoming Chess Tournaments:

- Kingwood Middle School Tournament, February 29
- State Championship Tournament, March 13-15
- Lanier Middle School Tournament, April 18
- Aldine ISD Tournament in May 2020

## Aldine celebrates Black History Month

February is Black History Month!

Schools across the district will celebrate the culture, traditions, and contributions of African Americans.

Black History Month celebrates the achievements of African Americans and recognizes the prominent role of African Americans in U.S. history. Black History Month, cre-

ated by American Historian Carter G. Woodson, originally began as Negro History Week. Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month is also celebrated in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Black History Month has inspired schools and communities across the nation to organize local celebrations, create black his-

tory clubs and host performances and lectures.

Aldine ISD schools will be celebrating Black History Month throughout the month of February. Join us in celebrating the many achievements and contributions of African Americans.

AISD recognizes the diversity in our schools. Contact your child's school for information about planned events.

## Aldine Trustees approve 2020-21 academic calendar

Aldine ISD Trustees approved the 2020-21 academic calendar during the Feb. 11 Board meeting.

The first day of instruction will be Monday, Aug. 17.

Other key dates are:

- Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 23-27
- End of first semester – Dec. 17
- Mid-winter break – Dec. 18-Jan. 5 (students), Dec. 18-Jan. 2 (teachers)
- Spring break – March 15-19

- Last day of school for students – May 27
- Last day of school for teachers – May 28
- Inclement weather days will be Feb. 15, 2021 and April 5, 2021.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY WATCH

Motorcyclist killed while stopped at a red light

February 10, 2020 - Houston police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash that occurred at 9000 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) service road about 9:05 p.m. on Friday, February 7.

According to Houston Police, a motorcyclist was stopped at a red light at 9000 I-45 North and West Gulfbank Road when he was struck from behind by a dark-colored SUV traveling at a high rate of speed. The motorcyclist then struck the rear of a white

Nissan Cube, also stopped at the red light. Paramedics responded to the scene and transported the motorcyclist, 26, to the hospital where he died.

The driver of the unknown SUV fled the scene. The driver of the Nissan, along with a pregnant front-seat passenger and two children, ages 7 and 13 months, were not injured.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Teen wounded at shooting on Greens Road

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a teenager that occurred in the 700 block of Greens Road about 5 p.m. on Monday, February 10.

The victim, Antonio Gaitan, 19, was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening wounds.

According to investigators, a male, 27, was in the parking lot of a shopping center on Greens Road when he got into a dispute with a suspect.

The male left the location, but returned a short time later to get a refund from a restaurant within the shopping center. When the male returned, he was confronted by the suspect holding a gun at the en-

trance of the restaurant. The suspect then fired several rounds at the male, who ran across the street and jumped the fence into an apartment complex at 707 Greens Road. There, the male found the teenager, Gaitan, who was sitting outside. When the male asked to use Gaitan's phone to call police, the suspect began firing in the direction of the two men. Gaitan was struck in the leg and was transported to the hospital. The suspect fled the scene on foot in an unknown direction.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Shooting at McDonald's,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said they call the police and he just collapsed in front of me," one witness said.

The witness said Howard's girlfriend came outside and urged her to call the police.

"I guess his girlfriend or whoever comes outside and just starts, like, freaking out and coming at me to call police," she said. "I rolled the window up. She was drenched in blood. It

was too much screaming. It was chaotic."

Howard was taken to a nearby hospital where police say he later died.

Investigators said the victim and shooter may have known each other.

No arrests have been made. The shooter is believed to have gotten away in a red car.

The shooting is under investigation.

Bonding Against Adversity celebrates 10th anniversary



Bonding Against Adversity (BAA) celebrated its 10th anniversary "Helping Others Help Themselves" on January 31, 2020 with a breakfast at Lone Star College - North Harris. Special guests were Reggie Gray, and Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. Pictured are BAA volunteers with Mariana Sanchez, Director and Founder of BAA.

BAA will continue its celebration through this year with an Anniversary Extravaganza on October 10 for reaching 10,000 people helped by 2020. BAA helps with Citizenship classes and workshops to help legal residents become U.S.A. citizens. The next available citizenship classes are from March 5-April 23, 2020 at Lone Star College-Greenspoint Center, 250 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Houston, TX 77060. AND the next citizenship workshop where BAA assist on filling our application to become a U.S.A citizen is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2020 with registration from 8:00 am - 9:30 am. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 19222 Tombal Pkwy., Houston, TX 77070. You may call 281-799-9076 or text 832-906-4214 for more information. Also, visit www.baatexas.org.

Promise Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and a coach to help them navigate college life.

"We believe it is imperative to increase the number of students earning a degree or certification from our colleges to help meet the growing demand for an educated workforce," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "The Harris County Promise program provides a real opportunity for students in the Aldine Independent School District to further their education."

Today, 65% of jobs require more than a high school education, but in Harris County, only 21% of students earn a postsec-

ondary credential.

Promise Scholars from Aldine ISD will attend Lone Star College; those from Alief ISD will attend Houston Community College; and Promise Scholars in Pasadena ISD will attend San Jacinto College.

"Harris County Promise removes barriers and improves access to a postsecondary education for our students," said Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, superintendent of Aldine ISD. "We are excited to be a part of the Promise program as it gives our students choices and opportunities beyond high school."

After leveraging grant funds, the scholarships are funded by the three participating community colleges through foundations, individual donor contributions and other resources. Staff and support services for Harris County Promise are funded by the partner colleges and Good Reason Houston, an education nonprofit dedicated to increasing the number of students learning in a great, public school.

and meaningful work for all students. We are honored to work with our education partners to provide access to learning opportunities."

"This is an unprecedented partnership that demonstrates a community-wide investment in our students and a dedication to ensuring all students can earn a post-secondary credential and enter the workforce ready to succeed," said Paris Woods, managing director of Harris County Promise at Good Reason Houston. "Our hope is that Promise can close the equity gap in college completion and change the life trajectory of our students for years to come."

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\* CALL OF THE WILD (PG) 6:00 8:30

\* DOWNHILL (R) - 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 6:40pm, 9:00pm  
\* FANTASY ISLAND (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm  
\* THE PHOTOGRAPH (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm  
\* SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG) - 12:15pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm  
\* SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG) - 12:00pm, 2:25pm, 4:45pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm Spanish Dubbed  
\* Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey (R) - 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm  
\* Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey (R) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm Spanish Dubbed  
\* GRETTEL & HANSEL (PG-13) - 5:00pm, 7:15pm  
\* GRETTEL & HANSEL (PG-13) - 12:20pm, 2:45pm, 9:30pm Closed Caption  
\* BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (R) - 5:45pm, 8:30pm

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (R) - 12:15pm, 3:00pm Closed Caption  
BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (R) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed  
DOLITTLE (PG) - 12:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed  
DOLITTLE (PG) - 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm Closed Caption  
DOLITTLE (PG) - 3:00pm Spanish Dubbed  
UNDERWATER (PG-13) - 7:30pm, 9:45pm Closed Caption  
SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm Closed Caption  
Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 6:00pm Closed Caption  
Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13) - 8:45pm Spanish Dubbed  
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OPINION PAGE

**POINT OF VIEW**  
By **JERRY FALLIN**



*Secret History -  
Masons and the  
Boston Tea Party?*

**SECRET HISTORY?** Do you ever wonder about the real history of America, the stuff that often does not make it into the text books? There is lots of historical information that never made it into the history books, and this is just one of many. There has been a long standing rumor that the Masons were actually responsible for the "Boston Tea Party."

In the 1700s, the Green Dragon Tavern was a community center in Boston. Downstairs was the Tavern. Upstairs was the St. Andrews Masonic Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. It was the largest place for meetings in the north east end of Boston. Historians often called it the headquarters of the American Revolution. According to documents from the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, the statement was made, "Where we met to Plan the Consignment of a few Shiploads of Tea, Dec 16, 1773." It seems the King of England had given a tea monopoly to his preferred friends, and the colonists were unhappy with the quality of such. The tea was reported to have been rotting in warehouses in England and the owners needed to be rid of it. They were also unhappy with the fact that the King had placed a tax on it, just to prove he had the power to tax. The colonists stated "taxation without representation, along with a tea monopoly, is tyranny!" On December 16th, the evening of the famous Tea Party, records of the St. Andrew Lodge show that only five members were present. A note says "Lodge closed on account of too few members present." It seems the members might have been pre-occupied that night by the Boston Tea Party. The whole Tea Party was in range of a 60-gun warship, and the British Admiral watched from the upstairs window

of a nearby house. Afterwards, the "perpetrators" marched by under his window. The Admiral opened the window and shouted, "Tomorrow you'll have to pay the piper!" But that was never to be. Although 2,000 people stood on Griffin's wharf in Boston and watched the Boston Tea Party in silence as sixty men dumped 90,000 pounds of tea into salt water, not one witness could be found to testify. It is not strange that no one could be found to identify the "perpetrators." It was the same the year before in Rhode Island. Some Patriots dressed as Indians attacked the Gaspee, a British Customs Schooner that was baited into shallow water and run aground. It was then attacked, looted and burned. The British claimed that Brother Abraham Whipple (St. John's Masonic Lodge, No. 1, Providence, RI) was the leader. They promised to hang him. Brother Whipple said they would have to catch him first. No one was ever prosecuted for it either.

To this day no one knows for sure who actually planned the Boston Tea Party. Many years later Sir Winston Churchill - Prime Minister of England, Historian and Freemason - commented on the act of Parliament that had given the East India Company a monopoly on tea. Brother Churchill called it "a stupid blunder." Americans have been drinking coffee ever since. You decide: were the Masons deeply involved in the Boston Tea Party? Were they also involved in American Independence?

*Jerry Fallin has been a contributing writer for several news outlets over the years, born and raised in the North Channel Area. He now lives in Baytown and can be reached at Jerry7111@aol.com*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Editor,**  
I want to thank you to all of the volunteers who were able to make it to last weekend's citizenship workshop at Hambrick Middle School! We are in need of more volunteers at our workshops. If you are able to volunteer any Saturday, we would love to see you! Please tell a friend about us. Each of you make a difference at Bonding, at each workshop, and in the lives of those we serve.

**Upcoming Event**  
What's happening: Citizenship Workshop  
Date: March 14, 2020  
Time: 8AM - 1PM  
Location: Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 19222 Tomball Pkwy, Houston, TX 77070.  
Please call 281-799-9076 or text 832-906-4214.

**Thank you,  
Bonding Against  
Adversity**

**NORTHEAST NEWS**  
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Member Texas Press Association*



*State defends system  
of choosing  
presidential electors*

**AUSTIN** — Texas Deputy Solicitor General Matthew Frederick on Feb. 6 defended the Electoral College system in a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Frederick, arguing on behalf of Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton, maintained that Texas' method of appointing presidential electors is consistent with the U.S. Constitution's requirement that "each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress."

As most other states do, Texas appoints presidential electors on a winner-takes-all basis to the presidential candidate who receives the most votes in a statewide election. The case, brought by the League of United Latin American Citizens and several individual plaintiffs, challenges the constitutionality of Texas' system, asserting that the voting power of minorities is diluted under winner-takes-all in violation of the Voting Rights Act and the 1st and 14th Amendments.

**Study: Teens, seat belts**  
In 2018, 111 of the 264 teens killed in vehicle crashes in Texas were not wearing a seat belt, the Texas Department of Transportation reported on Feb. 4.

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of deaths among teenagers. One simple click could help change that, TxDOT says in its current "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign. "For teens, getting a driver's license is a rite of passage, but when they start driving, they aren't thinking about how their

**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling



The majority of January sales tax revenue is based on sales made in December and remitted to the agency in January. Notably, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January 2020 was up 6.6% compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57% of all tax collections.

lack of experience places them at greater risk of getting in a crash," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Tragedy can strike in an instant, which is why we hope all parents, teachers and other influencers are urging teens to buckle up each and every time, no matter how short the trip may be."

**USDA OKs hemp plan**  
Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on Jan. 27 welcomed news that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had approved the Lone Star State's plan for the production and regulation of hemp.

Miller referred to hemp growing as "an exciting new crop opportunity." However, he cautioned would-be growers, saying, "It is still not legal to grow hemp - so don't put those seeds in the ground just yet. We've got to get our rules approved and get our licensing program up and running, but the dominoes are dropping pretty quick. We're almost there."

House Bill 1325, passed by the Texas Legislature last May, created a legal path for Texas to open itself to commercial hemp farming. The state submitted its hemp plan to the USDA for approval on Dec. 2. Now, with USDA approval, Texas must follow its administrative rule-making process, which includes public notice and public hearings, before farmers can plant hemp.

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**Social Security Matters**

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



**Ask Rusty - Why Did My Social Security Payment Go Down?**

**Dear Rusty:** Upon reading a magazine article about the 2020 COLA increase, I thought I'd share the following: Like others, I received the 1.6% raise in my Social Security benefit. However, after their manipulations with Medicare, the net result was a reduction of \$124 in my Social Security payment. I can't afford their "raise." I now pay double for Medicare! Signed: Disgusted

**Dear Disgusted:** Actually, Social Security and Medicare are two totally separate and financially independent programs, but the Social Security Administration handles enrollment and premium payments on behalf of CMS (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). For 2020, your gross Social Security benefit went up by 1.6% as a result of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), but at the same time the standard Medicare Part B premium went up by \$9.10 to \$144.60 per month. Most Medicare beneficiaries pay the standard premium amount.

If your Medicare Part B premium is deducted from your Social Security benefit you would normally be protected by a provision known as "Hold Harmless," which prevents your Social Security payment from decreasing as a result of an increase in the standard Medicare Part B premium. But if you have any change (other than a COLA increase) to your Social Security benefit amount, or if you pay an "IRMAA" surcharge on your Medicare Part B premium, the "hold harmless" provision doesn't apply to you. In either of those cases your net Social Security payment could go down as a result of an increase in your Medicare Part B premium.

"IRMAA" is Medicare's "Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount" which is a surcharge assessed on Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums for those with higher incomes (the surcharge varies depending upon your IRS filing status and income level). I suspect that you are suddenly subject to IRMAA because of a sudden increase in your income and the 1.6% COLA increase to your Social Security was applied to your new Medicare premium. That, however, fell short of covering your entire IRMAA Medicare premium increase and, since you're not protected by the Hold Harmless provision, the remainder was taken from your Social Security benefit.

Most Medicare enrollees pay the standard Part B premium (\$144.60 for 2020) and are protected by the hold harmless provision from a decrease in their Social Security payment. But higher earning Medicare beneficiaries are affected by IRMAA, and I believe that is what happened in your case, especially because you say you suddenly "pay double" for Medicare. This might typically happen if you took a large one-time distribution from a tax-advantage investment, or received some other form of significant, but temporary, income. The good news is that if your premium doubled because you had a temporary increase in your income in one year, the Medicare premium increase will also be temporary, and you will automatically revert back to the lower premium the following year.

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# SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Davis High leads the way for Aldine ISD at Regional Decathlon meet

The Davis High School Decathlon team finished in fourth place at the Regional Decathlon Meet, held Feb. 8 in Montgomery.

The team, under the direction of Shannon Decena, compiled 35,582 points and missed finishing in third place by just 522 points.

"I am ecstatic with how well our students performed," Decena said. "This was the highest a Davis Decathlon team has ever placed at the Regional Meet. I'm very proud of our students for their hard work and dedication to this competition."

All five of Aldine ISD's high schools competed at the meet.

In the Super Quiz Division, Davis High finished in third place.

In the Honors Division, Davis High student Aiyana Vazquez Ochoa finished in first place in literature, third place in economics, second place in music and third place in social science. Aldine High School student Min Nguyen finished in first place in speech, while Victory Early College High School student Emilio Arguello finished in third place in interview.

In the Scholastic Division, Davis High student Marina Infante finished in second place in literature and in third place in economics and social science. MacArthur High School student Willie Lewis finished in second place in mathematics and Carver points.

Pictured are members of the Davis High School Super Quiz team, which finished in third place at the Regional Meet held on Feb. 8 in Montgomery.



High School student Adoriam Dewalt finished in second place in speech.

In the Varsity Division, Davis High School student Daniel Roa finished in second place in literature, while Victory Early College High School student Jaredt Meraz finished in second place in mathematics. MacArthur High School student Christopher Beltran finished in second place in social science and Davis High School student Alyssa Moore finished in second place in interview.



### What has Sherman Eagleton accomplished?

**Restructured** the department for the betterment of Precinct 3. In doing this, he has increased the number of patrol deputies on the streets by more than 45%.

**Implemented** the "Are You Ok" and CASA Senior Programs that currently protects nearly 400 seniors and its numbers continue to grow each month. Caring for the seniors in our community has been and will continue to be a priority.

**Created** the Crime Interdiction Unit to combat the distribution of illegal drugs, target wanted felons and investigate criminal activity in our community. To date, CIU, Patrol, and Warrants have cleared over 100 parole violators, stopped multiple theft rings, and confiscated over 350 pounds of drugs.

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### Amber Waves



### R.F.D.



### The Spats



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answers: 1. Towel is missing. 2. Toilet is added. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Hair is added. 5. Parts are different. 6. Soap is added.

Posting Date February 17, 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		
56				57				58		
59				60				61		

**ACROSS**

- Satchel
- Nowhere to be seen
- Visored military cap
- out a living
- State
- Object of worship
- Have a bug
- Dilute
- Up to
- Finish
- Second letter
- Sponsorship
- Negative aspect
- Took the bus
- Fire residue
- Oodles
- Wager
- Amorphous lump
- Onion rings, e.g.
- Takes to the skies
- Carry on
- "That feels so good!"
- Black board?
- Exemplar of dullness
- Cattle call
- Leading man
- Volcanic flow
- Request
- Floor cleaners
- Gasoline, e.g.

**DOWN**

- Suitor
- Related
- Moolah
- Anarchic
- Eggs
- Prepared
- Genealogy chart
- Actress Margot
- "Green" prefix
- "Bam!"
- Hostel
- Genetic stuff
- Saud
- Twitches
- Fire-fighting legend Red
- Asian desert date
- Green or Rogen
- Slight touches
- Norway's capital
- "Halt!"
- Icelandic poetry
- More than just a few
- Lullaby composer
- Society newbie
- Tool with teeth
- Muscat's land
- Small winning margin
- Oxen's harness
- Water barrier
- Berlin's "What'll —?"
- Potential syrup
- Greek cross
- 56-Across' partner

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: What is dendrochronology?
- FOOD & DRINK: What are the ingredients in a Tom Collins drink?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is considered to be the father of nuclear Navy submarines?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Anne of Green Gables"?
- AD SLOGANS: Which product is advertised as "the quicker picker-upper"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the shortest president in U.S. history?
- HISTORY: Who was the oldest signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which country lies on the eastern border of Ukraine?
- MOVIES: Which 1980s movie featured the Top Ten hit song "Danger Zone" (Kenny Loggins)?
- MEDICAL: Who is the drug morphine named for?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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1. The scientific method of dating tree trunks; 2. Citrus, lemon juice, simple syrup and club soda; 3. Admiral Hyman Rickover; 4. Lucy Maud Montgomery; 5. Bunny paper towels; 6. James Madison; 7. Benjamin Franklin (70); 8. Russia; 9. "Top Gun"; 10. Morpheus (Greek god of sleep and dreams)

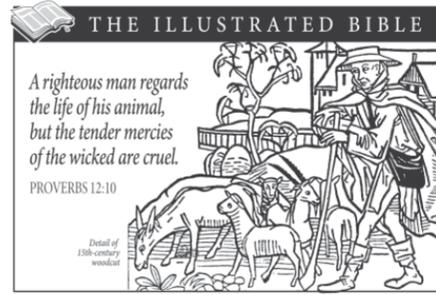


# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—  
 1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
 2. Which book could be summarized, "God will hold us accountable for all our actions"? Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Haggai  
 3. In Genesis 28, who had the vision of angels going up and down a ladder reaching into

Heaven? Joseph, Ahab, Ehud, Jacob  
 4. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the spirit to believers? Faith, Love, Holiness, Eternity  
 5. In Genesis 19, where did Lot encounter an angel? Wilderness spring, City gate, New temple, Tent door. Where did Jesus turn water into wine? Bethany, Nazareth, Cana, Gethsemane  
 ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Zephaniah; 3) Jacob; 4) Love; 5) City gate; 6) Cana



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## RECENT DEATHS

Johnny R. Escobedo  
 Ramiro J. Vallejo  
 Ricardo G. Oviedo  
 Isaias Tristan

Allyn Ray Pratt  
 Norma F. Wheelless  
 Lupe Corpus  
 Margaret Jeneen Lemond

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**East Aldine's Richard Cantu meets the Pope**

My wife and I just got home from the trip of a life time... meeting the Holy Father was an exhilarating experience... one that we will never forget! Grazie!.. to my brother Oscar for being the perfect tour guide and host! Photo is with Thelma Cantu at Piazza San Pietro - Vaticano, Roma, Italia.



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Tuesday - March 3, 2020

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Feb. 18 - Feb. 28

**ELECTION DAY**

Tuesday, March 3

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- ✓ Increased funds for Pre-K and early childhood education.
- ✓ Beat back a Republican-proposed sales tax increase, and voted instead to help lower your property taxes.
- ✓ Passed meaningful criminal justice reforms, including landmark bills to fight human trafficking.

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State Representative, House District 141



*Political Ad paid for by the Senfronia Thompson Campaign; Jarvis Thompson, Treasurer*

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Questions? email Director of Services VSanchez@AldineDistrict.org  
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Join HCSO Patrol Deputies in northeast Harris County to talk community concerns in your area.

**Wednesday, February 19**  
**7 pm**

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