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NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 08 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Sheriff's Safety Forum presents picture of crime fighting in Aldine

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.



Kite Festival

Come fly a kite at the East Aldine Town Center, 2800 Aldine Mail Rt., March 7, 2020 from 10 am - 2 pm. Come and create a unique kite or bring your own. No kites larger than 5 ft.

There will be games, face painting, raffles, food trucks, moon walks. Zumba in the courtyard from 10 am - 11 am.

EAST ALDINE – Deputies from the Harris County Sheriff's Office presented crime statistics to a large audience of residents, Aldine educators, and other officials that filled the meeting room at the East Aldine offices last Wednesday evening. After the presentation, they answered questions from residents on individual crime problems.

Captain Mike Koteras, patrol head for District 2, led the discussion. He said that in the last three months, there had been a

See Sheriff's Forum, Page 3



Sheriff's Deputies made a presentation of crime statistics for the Aldine area, and answered questions from a large audience. ABOVE, East Aldine's Brian Burke, Captain Mike Koteras, Deputy Ray Scholwinski, and State Representative Armando Walle.



The meeting room at the East Aldine offices was full, as residents met with Sheriff's deputies to hear about public safety issues, and to question and voice their concerns about specific issues in the Aldine neighborhoods.

Primary Election Early voting now underway

You have until Friday, February 28th to vote early in the 2020 primary election! Election Day is Tuesday, March 3rd. Texas has open primaries. That means that ALL Texas voters can participate. The Texas primary is an extremely important election in Texas!

All Texans' ballots will include the statewide races, but the rest of the races on there will be determined by where you live. On the federal level, Texans are divided among 36 congressional districts. On the state level, Texans are divided into 150 House districts, 31 Senate districts and 15 State Board of Education districts. All congressional and Texas House districts are up for election this year, along with one U.S. Senate seat, several Texas Senate seats and eight State Board of Education seats.

Remember to bring an acceptable form of photo ID to the polls to cast your ballot.

When you take your vote to the polls, make sure to take one of the following:

- Texas Driver Licence
- Texas Election ID Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card
- Texas Handgun License
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate with photo
- U.S. Military ID Card with photo
- U.S. Passport (book or card)

All these forms of ID are acceptable for voting in person.

Voting early is quick and convenient, allowing you to vote at any polling location in your county! To find a location near you, visit www.VoteTexas.Gov

Don't wait for Election Day, vote early!

You can vote at any Early Voting location in Harris County. The closest poll location for Aldine residents is BakerRipley on Aldine Mail Route.

Bonding Against Adversity celebrates 10 years of service to the community

On January 31, 2020 BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY (BAA) celebrated their 10th year of service to the community with a "Launch Breakfast" at the Lone Star Community College – North Harris Student Building. Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez was the keynote speaker.

Reggie Gray, President/CEO of the Houston Intercontinental Chamber Of Commerce welcomed the participants and thanked all the people, organizations and volunteers who have given their financial contributions, time and

knowledge, and their efforts of support to help BAA to fulfill their mission of "Helping Others Help Themselves".

The keynote speaker, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, started by giving the statistics about crime in Houston and Harris County. Then, he reported about the difference that organizations involved in helping the community, such as Bonding Against Adversity, have made and the improvements resulting from their contribution in the education, assistance, caring and support provided to individuals in



Mariana Sanchez, second from left, Director and founder of BAA poses with special guests and community leaders at the 10th year anniversary celebration.

need. He encouraged BAA to continue their efforts and work with the educational and faith organizations, businesses and corporations, volunteers and all the people to make our community better and safer every day.

Mariana Sanchez, VP/Chief Operating Officer and founder of Bonding Against Adversity, said ... "10 years... it seems easy to say... but I still remember that 10 years ago, when I started Bonding Against Adversity, I worked from my car during

See BAA Anniversary, Page 8

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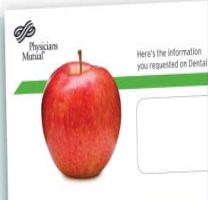
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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

MacArthur teacher Eva Lanczos named finalist for H-E-B Excellence in Education Award

Wednesday, Feb. 19, was quite a day for MacArthur High School teacher Eva Lanczos.

It was on that day that Lanczos, a foreign language/ESL teacher at MacArthur, was surprised by representatives from H-E-B who named her one of five state finalists for H-E-B's Excellence in Education Leadership Award.

The Leadership Award honors teachers with more than 20 years of experience. The overall winner, who will be announced in San Antonio May 2-3, will receive a \$10,000 check for themselves and a \$10,000 grant for their school.

By being named a final-



MacArthur foreign language/ESL teacher Eva Lanczos, center, poses with MacArthur High School Assistant Principal Maria Bauhs, Principal Heather Peterson, Assistant Principal Jason Babcock and H-E-B mascot HEBuddy at a presentation naming Lanczos one of five state finalists for H-E-B's Excellence in Education Leadership Award.



Eva Lanczos poses with members of her ESL class after she was named one of five state finalists for H-E-B's Excellence in Education Leadership Award.

ist, Lanczos was presented with a \$1,000 check on Feb. 19 when H-E-B representatives, along with mascot HEBuddy, visited the Aldine ISD campus. In addition, MacArthur High School also received \$1,000 from H-E-B.

H-E-B's Excellence in Education Awards is the largest monetary award program for educators in Texas, and among the largest in the nation. The honor was kept a secret from Lanczos, who learned they were finalists when representatives from H-E-B visited their classrooms and presented them with cookies and flowers.

Representatives from H-E-B surprised Lanczos during her fourth period ESL class and surprised she was.

"I can't believe it," she said, when she was told of the good news. "It's an unbelievable experience. I'm so happy to do this for my students and I'm glad they could share in this positive experience."

Lanczos added she is happy to share her good news with her students.

"This is just as much a part of their work as it is mine," she said.

Lanczos has 30 years of experience as a foreign language and ESL teacher and taught in Dabas, Hungary, and Ames, Iowa before moving to Houston and joining Aldine ISD in

2001 where she has taught ESL, reading and German.

MacArthur High School principal Heather Peterson, who has served as MacArthur's principal for the last three years, said Lanczos richly deserves to be a state finalist.

"Over the last few years I have observed her work closely with a myriad of students,

Peterson said. "She continuously goes the extra mile to support students in class and during after-school tutorials. She is constantly advocating for our students who are new to the country.

"Mrs. Lanczos is charged with the task of teaching students from other countries to speak the complicated English language with the hopes of graduating with a diploma in four years. Imagine that task. It would require having a very strong bond with students, compassion and empathy for their situation and the ability to empower students to believe in their own abilities."

Peterson said Lanczos is well respected among her peers because of her commitment to education.

"She has a wonderful rapport with students, parents and colleagues," Peterson said. "She works tirelessly to find ways to continually engage students in the classroom and increase teacher produc-

tivity in her department. Her initiative, ingenuity, and tenacity all make her a valuable asset to our staff and students at MacArthur High School. She is the exemplar for excellence in education!"

H-E-B asks customers, Partners (employees) and community members to nominate teachers, principals, districts, early childhood centers and school boards in Texas. Each nominee is sent an invitation to complete an application online and is asked about their professional experiences, educational philosophies and achievements both in and out of the classroom.

A team of judges reviews the applications, narrowing the field to semi-finalists. From that pool, five regional judging panels comprised of former winners, administrators and university and community leaders not affiliated with H-E-B select 40 teachers and principal finalists.

Lanczos is one of five finalists from across Texas in contention for The Leadership Award. She has been invited to compete on a statewide level for larger cash prizes totaling more than \$400,000. A statewide panel of judges, not affiliated with H-E-B, will conduct a personal interview with finalist to select a winner.

Davis High School Aeronautics & Aviation Course Takes Flight

Aldine ISD is now offering an Introduction to Aviation & Aerospace course to students in Grades 9-12. The Aeronautics and Aviation elective is currently held at Davis Senior High School for students who have an interest in aviation.

The new course is significant to Davis High School because of its namesake, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was an American United States Air Force general and commander of the World War II Tuskegee Army Air Corps, predecessor of the U.S. Air Force.

The new course has come right on time. Due to a large population of retiring pilots and global growth in the industry, there is an increase in demand for pilots, airframe and powerplant mechanics, air traffic controllers, technicians and other careers in the industry.

The electives will give students an opportunity to obtain a private pilot certification license and/or a remote pilot certification before graduation for free.

Max Franco, Davis Senior High School sophomore, has plans of joining the Air Force after college and becoming a pilot.

"I look forward to completing both my remote pilot and private pilot certifications," Franco said. "There is more to aviation than just flying. So far I have learned that you really have to have a basic understanding of math to excel in this career."

The Remote Pilot Certification and Private Pilot Certification courses consist of ground school and hands-on training. During ground school, students will learn the basic rules and regulations. This work will help them pass the Federal Aviation Administration written exam and practical application. To complete the private pilot certification course, students will need a minimum of 40 hours of dual instruction in a single engine airplane with a certified flight instructor.

Aldine ISD's partner



Davis High School sophomore, Max Franco, is using a flight simulator at the Lone Star Flight Museum.

flight school, Texas Flight at David Wayne Hooks Memorial Airport in Spring, will help Aldine students achieve all of their flight hours and hands-on training. Texas Flight will provide the aircraft, Certified Flight Instructors and Federal Aviation Administration Testing Center for the private pilot students enrolled in the course. Texas Flight was named the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Best Flight School in 2017 and has been recognized for flight training excellence every year since!

"Flying is one of the best feelings in the world," Xavier Samuels, United pilot, OBAP representative and Aldine ISD CTE Advisory Board member said. "The opportunities in the industry are limitless right now. The more that we can expose our students to STEM related fields, like aviation and aerospace, the more we can open their minds to their individual possibilities."

The school is also working closely with the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) and organizations that exist to promote aviation, such as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

According to Chris Norris, Davis High School aeronautics & aviation instructor, this course will allow students to learn about the various opportunities to start a career in the aviation industry.

"A mechanically inclined student interested in working with his or her hands might only consider a career as an auto mechanic," Norris said. "They

may not be aware of the high demand or salaries available to those who maintain and repair aircraft. A student interested in the medical field could start a career as a flight nurse or another aeromedical specialty. Aviation literally offers something for everyone!"

Opportunities For A Career In Aviation After High School:

Students with a UAV/drone license can apply for jobs in:

- Aerial photography
- Videography
- Cartography surveying

Students with their Private Pilot Certification can continue their training to gain additional experience and ratings to become an Airline or Commercial Pilot.

•Aerospace Engineers – Structural, Propulsion, Electrical, Human Factors Engineering

•Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians

•Air Traffic Controllers

•Aircraft and Avionics Equipment Mechanics and Technicians

•Airline, General Aviation & Military Pilots

•Air Transport Pilots – Scheduled Carriers for Passenger & Cargo

•General Aviation / Business Aviation including Charter

•Agricultural Aviation

•Military Aviation – Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard

•Rotorcraft (Helicopters)

•Passenger Transport

•Air Ambulance

•Law Enforcement

•Search & Rescue

•Combat Helicopters

•Airframe & Powerplant mechanics

District High School students receive scholarships

Eight Aldine ISD, high school seniors, turned their efforts into scholarships. The winning students made between \$500 and \$2,000 each, totaling \$8,500 in scholarship money.

Applying to college is a complicated process, so the College Board created the Opportunity Scholarships and Recognition program that guides high school students through it. This scholarship program is open to all students, and it doesn't require an essay, application, or minimum GPA. Instead, it rewards students' effort and initiative. By completing key steps along their path to

college gives them a chance to earn scholarships.

The College Board launched the new scholarship program with \$5 million of scholarships each year, beginning with the class of 2020.

"What is great about the program is that it doesn't award scholarships based on grades or class rank. It focuses on what the students do on their way to getting ready for college," Dr. Susan Pelezo, executive director of advanced academics, said. "They earn scholarship opportunities by building a college list, practicing for the SAT, im-

proving SAT scores, strengthening their college list, completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and applying to colleges."

Pelezo added that her office will be working with the high schools to get more students to take advantage of the opportunity.

The more effort you put in, the more opportunities you have to earn a scholarship. Complete all six, and you're eligible to win \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded through monthly drawings to students who complete each action.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to speak at Lone Star College-North Harris

HOUSTON (Feb. 19, 2020) – Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the first woman and the first Latina to be elected to the position, will speak at Lone Star College-North Harris for an event celebrating Women's History Month.



Hidalgo will speak on Wednesday, March 4, in the Academic Building, Room A-126, from noon – 1 p.m. on the campus located at 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX. The event is free and open to the public.

Lone Star College, Baker Hughes, Texas Workforce Commission announce new partnership

HOUSTON (Feb. 20, 2020) – A collaborative effort to launch a pilot program between Lone Star College, Baker Hughes and the Texas Workforce Commission was announced.



Lone Star College, Baker Hughes and the Texas Workforce Commission are launching a pilot program to provide accelerated training for students interested in a Field Service Technician career in the energy industry.

"We are pleased to be working with Baker Hughes and the Texas Workforce Commission to offer this very specialized training," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor.

The first-of-its-kind program will address the industry's urgent need for qualified candidates while providing proficient students with key skills and a direct path to potential employment after graduation.

"Changing workforce dynamics demand that we collaborate within our communities in new ways to ensure a qualified pipeline of potential employees," said Muzzamil Khider, vice president of HR for Oilfield Services, Baker Hughes.

program aimed at giving Lone Star College students a jump-start on a rewarding career.

The seven-week program will feature hands-on training in technical labs and time on the Baker Hughes training rig located in Tomball.

Field Service Technicians provide service and customer support during

field operations. They also help manage all on-site installation, repair, maintenance and test tasks.

"We look forward to this collaboration and the opportunities it will provide for our students," said Head.

Contact Herb Garcia at Herbert.Garcia@LoneStar.edu or call 281.296.7827 to learn more.

Police looking for a Hit and Run driver who left bicyclist injured

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for Hit and Run- Failure to Stop and Render Aid.

On Thursday, February 6, 2020, at approximately 6:14 p.m., the victim was riding a bicycle in the 4100 block of Laura Koppe Road in Houston, Texas. The

suspect's vehicle (an older model Toyota Camry, silver or tan in color) struck the victim from behind, knocking them to the ground. The suspect vehicle fled the scene without rendering aid to the victim.

The victim was treated at a local hospital for major injuries as a result of the incident.

Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case.

Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitted online at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app. Only tips and calls DIRECTLY TO Crime Stoppers are anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

Suspect arrested, charged in fatal pedestrian crash on Airline Drive

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in a fatal crash at 7000 Airline Drive about 7:25 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The suspect, Sergio Noe Palacios, 20, is charged with failure to stop and render aid.

According to Houston Police Officials, a blue GMC pickup truck was travelling northbound on

Airline Drive as a vehicle was braking due to a pedestrian (victim) crossing the street in a crosswalk. The driver of the GMC changed lanes, accelerated through the intersection and struck the pedestrian. The driver then fled the scene without rendering aid. Paramedics pronounced the victim deceased at the scene.

A witness travelling behind the suspect's vehicle followed the truck and observed its bumper and license plate fall to the ground. North Division patrol officers were advised, canvassed the area and located the suspect and the truck. The suspect, identified as Palacios, was transported to jail and subsequently charged.

Man acting erratically struck by car on Tidwell Road

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred at 4900 Tidwell Road about 5:30 a.m. last Friday, February 21.

According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant L. Ross and Officer L. Ho, witnesses stat-

ed the victim was acting erratically and running back and forth across Tidwell. A gray Nissan Frontier traveling eastbound on Tidwell struck the victim and failed to stop. The male victim was pronounced

dead at the scene.

The driver of the Nissan later returned to the scene and gave a statement to officers. No charges have been filed at this time.

The investigation is continuing.

Sheriff's Safety Forum,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Sgt. Kelly Hudson, and Deputy Robert Ellis, explain how the CIRT mental health team responds to crisis intervention calls.



State Legislator Armando Walle demonstrated on his mobile phone how to use the app "closewatch" to report a crime tip.

decrease in violent crimes, but an increase in non-violent crimes.

Koteras said that in the near future, District 2 would have its own gang unit, and 19 trainees are designated for this district and will become probationary officers after their graduation.

He said that District 2 has 440,000 residents and covers 290 square miles. The average age of a robber is 17 years old, varying from 14 to 21.

Deputy Scholwinski reviewed detailed statistics of various types of crimes experience in Aldine in the last two months, and in a year-to-year comparison.

For January 2020, he noted that in District 2 there were 147 burglaries of motor vehicles, 170 thefts, and 93 auto thefts as well as other smaller amounts of crime categories. There were 317 traffic citations issued, and 13,842 calls for service.

Some of the topics discussed with the audience included the danger of wild hogs in Keith-Wiess park. Trapping of the animals is happening now, was the response. The park is a Houston city park, but it is patrolled by off-duty Sheriff's deputies under an agreement with the Houston Parks Department.

Some residents said they wanted "speed humps" on their streets to control speeding automobiles, but they were told

that Harris County does not usually approve these, even when residents on the street want them.

A question was asked about who has jurisdiction on Little York, the city or the county. Koteras explained that the city usually has first call, and then the county will respond if asked. But he said the decision is actually made by the 911 operators, who use a "Geo-coding" system to determine location.

Sgt. Kelly Hudson, and Deputy Robert Ellis, made a presentation about their CIRT team, which handles mental health calls. These include drug overdoses, suicides, and similar cases. They are one of seven teams in the Sheriff's office that responds to these, and they work with the Harris County mental health and Psychiatric Hospital.

Koteras urged citizens to use a new internet app known as "closewatchharriscounty" to report crime tips.

One audience member said that she had a serious problem of ditches on her street never being cleaned. Another reported slow response times, 1 or 2 hours, for deputies to answer a drug report in Pine Village North.

Koteras explained that HCSO was reclassifying many calls, so that there are fewer Priority One calls, helping to answer other calls in a more timely way.

Premiere Cinemas Friday-Wednesday 2/21-2/26. Includes movie listings for Invisible Man 2020, Brahm's The Boy II, The Call of the Wild, My Boyfriend's Meds, Downhill, Fantasy Island, The Photograph, Sonic the Hedgehog, Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey, Gretel & Hansel, Bad Boys for Life, Jumanji: The Next Level, and Underwater.

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OPINION PAGE



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Will Selling Large Asset Affect Wife’s Social Security?

Dear Rusty: If I have reached full retirement age (FRA) and wish to sell a \$500,000 asset, will it affect my wife’s Social Security if we file jointly? I have heard that it will affect my Medicare (the amount withheld each month) but she still has three more years before she can receive benefits. Is it better to liquidate assets before she reaches FRA if we will be penalized? Would her Medicare be affected as well as mine? Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Only earnings from working can affect Social Security (SS) benefits, so passive income from selling a large asset won’t affect your wife’s future Social Security benefits (nor yours). However, if your “combined income” from all sources (which is your Adjusted Gross Income plus any other non-taxable income you may have, plus 50% of your SS benefits) exceeds certain levels, your Medicare premium will be subject to the Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) rule, which will add a supplemental amount to your base Medicare Part B premium. If your combined income (including that sold asset) for the 2020 tax year is between \$326,000 and \$750,000 then your Medicare premium for 2022 will be at least \$462.70 (I say “at least” because the Medicare Part B premium can increase each year).

The IRMAA premium increases on a sliding scale starting at \$174,001 of combined income for a married couple filing jointly (\$87,001 for an individual). If you liquidate that large asset this year, it will be reported on your 2020 income tax return which will be filed in 2021. That will mean that your Medicare premium for 2022 will be affected by IRMAA, and so will your wife’s if she has enrolled in Medicare at age 65 in 2021 (which

she need not do if she has other “creditable” healthcare coverage through an employer).

So, should you liquidate that large asset before your wife reaches her SS full retirement age? It doesn’t matter for Social Security purposes because that passive income will not affect your wife’s SS benefit. But, if your wife enrolls in Medicare at age 65, her Medicare Part B premium, as well as yours, will be subject to IRMAA and, thus be considerably higher than the standard premium of \$144.60 (the amount for 2020). Note that if your combined income for the following year is low enough to reduce your IRMAA premium, the Medicare premium will revert back to the lower level. Medicare typically uses income data from 2 years ago to determine current year premium, so they wouldn’t normally change your IRMAA premium back until they receive your income data for the previous year from the IRS. But, it is possible for you to contact Social Security earlier and provide them with proof that your income is now lower than reported in a previous year (causing the higher IRMAA premium) and they will adjust your Medicare premium sooner than they otherwise might.

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THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

“Raising the Roof”

The roof fell in on the church I started attending. The collapse occurred after I’d been coming only a couple of weeks. While I have not always been a regular churchgoer, I thought this was kind of an over-the-top response to my unexpected appearance in church.

The collapse was pretty serious, as it turned out. Several roof joists snapped and the rest were badly compromised and we were not permitted to return to the sanctuary. So, services had to be held in the basement (which was not directly underneath). The roof came down in January—of last year—we are still in the basement.

“What’s our word for the year?” one of the church’s two pastors would ask at the start of every service.

“Flexibility!” the congregation would reply, in unison.

It might have been my imagination but I sensed that a fair portion of the parishioners felt that yoga class would be a better place to practice this than church.

The first few weeks were a bit disorienting. The basement is long and narrow so it was hard to know how to set up the folding chairs. One arrangement was tried the first week but when we arrived the second week, the chairs were in an entirely new set-up. Older parishioners would enter the room and stand for several long moments, surveying the landscape, to get their bearings.

When the formation of the building committee was announced, there were plenty of eager volunteers. The thing about church committees is that they almost always involve: 1) cooking something, 2) visiting very sick people or, 3) asking people for money.

No one actually likes going to the hospital or asking for money and going to battle with an insurance company beats making a tuna noodle casserole any day of the week. But, as the months went by, I began to worry that this committee was, perhaps, having just a little too much fun. They spent months going back and forth with the insurance adjusters and the committee chairman became a minor celebrity. He’d announce who’d won the latest round in church and folks would cheer as if it were some new kind of competitive sport.

Apparently, we are now getting close.

The project grew, as projects like this almost always do. The pews were in need of refinishing and the radiators needed an upgrade and the lighting was pretty badly damaged when the roof dropped down like the underside of a boat.

“I think we’ll be in for Easter!” the chairman announced. That will be sixteen months after the collapse, and far longer, I am sure, than anyone imagined it would be.

On the way out last Sunday, I looked at the pews, lined up in the narthex with a new coat of stain and brand-new cushions on them. It’s going to be nice, no question.

But I wondered if I would be the only one to feel a little nostalgic for our year of “flexibility.” I wondered if joining this new church would have been as rich an experience if I’d been comfortably sitting in a pew the whole time.

Every week, we’ve had to move and adapt to change. Every week, the church has faced the challenge of how it can fit everyone in and still accomplish its many other functions the other six days of the week. Every week the congregation has had to work together in ways they never have before.

While I’m certainly not wishing for the roof to fall in on anyone, I’m not sure it’s been such a bad thing.

Till next time,
Carrie

Governor charges agency heads with developing workforce plan

AUSTIN — Requirements in House Bill 3, the sweeping school finance law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2019, require the state to plan for long-term workforce development.

On Feb. 13, Gov. Greg Abbott cited HB 3 in assigning the commissioners of three state agencies to identify strategies to meet the state’s future workforce needs through his 2016 Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. He instructed them to deliver a report to him by Sept. 1.

“The passage of House Bill 3 marked the most significant transformation of our education system in decades and an unwavering commitment to shaping the future of our workforce,” Abbott said. “We must continue in our efforts to ensure Texans of all ages have access to high-quality education and workforce skills training that empowers them to achieve their full potential.”

Abbott assigned Commissioners Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency; Harrison Keller, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and Bryan Daniel, Texas Workforce Commission, to:

- Recommend strategies to ensure students are prepared for future growth at each stage in the educational pipeline;
- Ensure students who pursue higher education and workforce educational programs can complete those programs in a cost-efficient and timely manner;
- Analyze and make recommendations regarding strategies to streamline educational pathways, ensuring students can seamlessly transition into high-wage and high-demand careers;

- Improve the capacity within the state to produce credentials of value aligned with the needs of high-wage and high-demand occupations;
- Analyze and make recommendations to increase the supply of highly qualified and well-trained individuals entering the teaching profession across the state;
- Explore and recommend options for increasing economic activity in rural Texas, reducing regulatory burdens, and expanding educational partnerships between businesses, school districts and colleges; and
- Identify strategies to align agency operations, increase program efficiency, improve data analysis and capacity.

AG sues over travel ban
Texas is on a list of 11 states banned by a California law for state-funded travel. The law, Assembly Bill 1887, applies to states that since June 26, 2015, have enacted laws that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

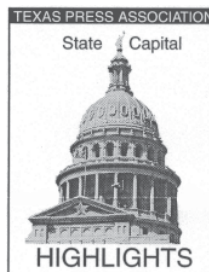
Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Feb. 10 filed an original action against the State of California in the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to strike down the travel ban for states that uphold First Amendment protections for religious liberty.

What put Texas on California’s list was HB 3859, a 2017 law allowing faith-based foster care and adoption agencies to decline placements they believe would violate their religious beliefs.

Meanwhile, federal and state health officials ask that travelers stay home, monitor themselves for symptoms and contact their health care provider if they develop fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of being in China.

The Texas Department of State Health Services offers additional information on COVID-19 for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



“Boycotting states based on nothing more than political disagreement breaks down the ability of states to serve as laboratories of democracy while still working together as one nation—the very thing our Constitution intended to prevent,” Paxton said.

Revenue is distributed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Feb. 12 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$1.04 billion in local sales tax allocations for February, which was 9.4% more than the amount distributed for February 2019.

The allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2019 sales by businesses that report tax annually.

In his announcement, Hegar pointed out that Christmas shopping typically occurring in November was shifted into December due to the relatively late date of Thanksgiving (Nov. 28), helping make the February allocations substantially higher than in previous months.

Report: Coronavirus case

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported Feb. 13 that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed one case of COVID-19 in a person who has been under quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland since returning from China on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight.

The individual reportedly is currently isolated and receiving medical care at a local hospital. Authorities said that because the patient has been under quarantine, the case does not change the risk of infection for people in San Antonio or other parts of Texas.

Meanwhile, federal and state health officials ask that travelers stay home, monitor themselves for symptoms and contact their health care provider if they develop fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of being in China.

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Aldine Senior returns to Basketball Court after accident

"I am a miracle," Clyde Thompson, Aldine Senior High School senior, explained.

Last summer, Thompson and two of his friends were walking home from the gym when they were struck by a drunk driver.

After being transported to the hospital and placed in a medically induced coma, doctors gave Thompson less than a 50% chance of fully recovering. He had sustained a head injury that would require multiple surgeries and physical therapy.

Thompson wasn't the only one hit by the car that night. Reggie Smith, Aldine Senior High School junior, was also struck by the car. Smith, his teammate and childhood friend, was also injured. Although Smith's injuries were not as critical as Thompson's, he still required hospital care. As soon as Smith was released from the hospital,

he was by Thompson's side.

"I would visit Clyde in the hospital, talk to him and pray for him to recover," Smith said. "I just wanted him to be okay."

The two have been best friends since elementary school, they live in the same apartment complex and play basketball together at school. They are more than teammates. They are brothers.

"I think my family, friends and teammates kept me going when I was in the hospital," Thompson said.

After waking up in the hospital, Thompson's mother and his doctors explained to him that he had been struck by a car. Thompson does not remember much after beginning the walk home that evening but he did remember his love for basketball. One of the first questions he asked his mom was, "Will I be able to play bas-



Clyde Thompson

ketball this year?"

Thompson's mom contacted Aldine Senior High School Varsity Basketball Coach Ronald Jones to inform him that Thompson was concerned about his spot on the team. Jones ex-

plained that he knew Thompson was passionate about the sport. His response to the question was, if he focused on getting healthy, a uniform would wait for him. "My main concern was

making sure Clyde was mentally and physically ready to come back to the basketball court," Jones said.

On January 3, Thompson was cleared to play

basketball again.

During the Aldine Senior High School vs. Spring High School basketball game, he was open for a shot and scored a 3-pointer. Thompson received a standing ovation.

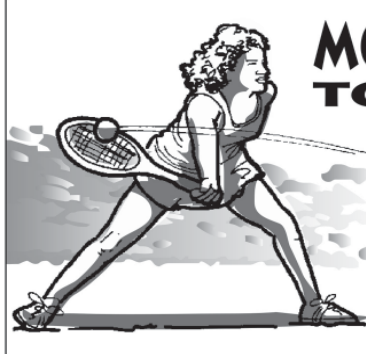
"That moment was emotional for all of us," Jones said. "I think it made everyone on the team play even harder the rest of the game."

Thompson is happy to be back on the basketball court with his teammates and playing the sport he loves.

"I've learned not to take anything for granted," Thompson said. "I am proof that you can not let obstacles you are facing stop you from pushing forward."

Thompson plans on studying to be an athletic trainer after graduation. He wants to stay close to sports but also help others who share his passion for the game.

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



MOVE QUICKLY TO THE NET

When moving to the net, you should always try to hit the ball in the air. Unfortunately, many players are slow to move to the net and are caught in the middle of the court, making them late hitting the ball.



If you are slow to the net, the ball may bounce at your feet, so you will have to "short-hop" the ball — take a short backswing, bend at the knees and keep your wrist firm. If the ball manages to go in, by all means, get out of the middle of the court!

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Posting Date February 24, 2020 King Crossword

ACROSS

- Tummy muscles, for short
- Slapstick arsenal
- Scallopini meat
- Press for payment
- Ireland
- Not working
- Classic Anne Murray song
- Location
- Charlotte's creation
- Capitol VIP
- Pamper
- Gun the engine
- Melody
- Sprite
- Thin smoky streaks
- Messy sort
- Cut the grass
- Fit of peevishness
- Sagan or Sandburg
- Shooter ammo
- Michael Jackson album
- Adolescent
- Has bills
- Dr. Ruth's subject
- Increase rapidly
- Scandinavian city
- Passover feast
- Compared to
- Tend texts
- Choir member
- Ogle
- Marry
- Fresh
- Money
- Unctuous
- Shade provider
- Billboards
- Chignon
- White-flowered
- Curved line
- Neighbor of Cambodia
- Square root of IX
- Blunders
- Ply oars
- Talks Dixie-style
- Mirror-ball venue
- Sphere
- Basis for a whodunit
- Relaxation
- Portrayal
- Chew like a chipmunk
- Tramcar contents
- Bowlers' tar-
- Remiss

DOWN

- Billboards
- Chignon
- White-flowered
- Curved line
- Neighbor of Cambodia
- Thin smoky streaks
- Messy sort
- Cut the grass
- Fit of peevishness
- Sagan or Sandburg
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Trivia Test Answers
 1. 1942; 2. John Adams; 3. Jupiter, and the moon is Ganymede; 4. "Breaking Bad"; 5. Falstaff; 6. Tony Flow and the Miraculously Majestic Masters of Mayhem; 7. A tower; 8. Three: the head, the thorax and the abdomen; 9. "Midnight Cowboy"; 10. A wizard

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: When was the United Nations organization formed?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to reside in the White House?
- ASTRONOMY: Which planet has the largest moon in our solar system?
- TELEVISION: Which TV series featured a character named Walter White?
- LITERATURE: Which character appears in three of William Shakespeare's plays?
- MUSIC: What was the original name of the rock group Red Hot Chili Peppers?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of giraffes called?
- SCIENCE: How many main body sections does an insect have?
- MOVIES: Which famous 1960s movie features the theme song "Everybody's Talkin'"?
- MYTHOLOGY: In Arthurian legend, what was Merlin's profession?

Solution time: 25 mins

Answers

King Crossword

LIFESTYLE

Aldine ISD makes College Board's AP Honor Roll

The Aldine Independent School District is one of just 250 school systems in the United States and Canada to receive a spot on the College Board's 10th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll.

To be included on the 10th Annual Honor Roll, Aldine ISD schools had to meet two requirements: increase the number of students participating in AP since 2017 and increase or maintain the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

"We are very pleased with this recognition as we continue to ensure that all of our students are college, career, and community ready," Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney said. "One of our goals in our strategic plan is to expand options. We continue to work to

give our students more access to AP and opportunities to succeed in the AP college-level courses, and we will continue to do so as we move forward. We want more of our students getting a head start by earning college credit during their high school years. I applaud the teachers and administrators who promote advanced academics and work with students of all backgrounds to be academically competitive and successful."

Aldine ISD is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses. The district has plans to add two new AP courses next year — AP Human Geography and AP Computer Science.

The district leaders are also experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve

student performance. AISD is preparing to launch an Advanced Academics Boot Camp for students to help prepare them for advanced course work in both middle and high school. The annual Boot Camp will focus on skills such as note-taking, organizational habits, study skills, and social-emotional learning tools such as perseverance to achieve long-term goals. We will also continue to build our advanced academics pipeline by identifying and encouraging our elementary students to enroll in Honors courses in middle school.

Inclusion in the AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2017 to 2019, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

Districts must meet the

following criteria:

•Increased participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts.

•Increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native,

•Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and

•Improved performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2018 scoring a 3 or higher than those in 2016, unless the district has already attained a performance

level at which more than 70% of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30% or more are underrepresented minority students (American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander) and/or 30% or more are low-income students (students who qualify for College Board's AP fee reduction), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

National data from 2019 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are

participating. The first step to getting more of these students to take part is to give them access, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be opened equitably.

"Reaching the Honor Roll goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP," the College Board said in a statement.

In 2019, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process.

This is the first time the district has made the Honor Roll.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

1. Is the book of 2 John in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Esther 7, who met his death on the gallows he had built for another man? Ahab, Elijah, Haman, Dathan
3. In Proverbs 30, which is not listed as small, but exceedingly wise? Ants, Flies, Locusts, Conies, Spiders

4. From Genesis 37, who dreamed that the sun, moon and stars bowed to him? Moses, Abraham, Aaron, Joseph
5. Who were the two sisters of Lazarus: Mary and ... ? Ruth, Martha, Sarah, Miriam
6. The name Barnabus means "son of ..."? The field, Fasting, Encouragement, Tempest

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Haman; 3) Flies; 4) Joseph; 5) Martha; 6) Encouragement

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. JOSHUA 24:15

Detail of "The Exhortation of Joshua" by Marc Chagall

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East Aldine district names Abel Garza new board member



Aldine ISD's Abel Garza, assistant superintendent of community and governmental relations for the school district, has been appointed to the East Aldine District Board of Directors. In December, the District awarded Garza the Strategic Partner Award. The Strategic Partner Award in Education recognizes educational agencies, institutions, or individuals who are committed to helping students reach their full potential. Garza has been involved in Aldine education throughout his career for more than 20 years. Seen above is Garza with board members Carlos XXX, Deborah XXX, Joyce Wiley, Garza, Gilbert Hoffman, board chairman Gerald Overturff, Bob Beasley, and XXX.

BAA 10th Anniversary,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the hot summer, since my car had become my office, and the only purpose of my work was to serve the community in North Houston. After a year of hard work, my efforts started to grow thanks to the East End District, who gave us our first grant, and HICC's Reggie Gray, who felt sorry for me and invited us to share their office space. Then, Ken Fisher from Noble Energy gave us the next push with their financial contribution... and time went on and we kept growing. Now, thanks to the Lone Star College and Dr. Linda Head, Associate Vice Chancellor, we serve the community in our BAA offices at LSC Greenspoint Center and the East Aldine Center. From 2010 to 2020 BAA assisted 10,000 lawful residents to become U.S. Citizens and hundreds of students and their families to become better and more productive members of their community."

Some former participants shared their testimonies: Kenia Lugo started to volunteer at BAA when she was 9 years old and attended Aldine schools. She started by passing water or food to our volunteers and doing little chores. Later, after she finished High School, she helped providing Citizenship classes at San Charles Borromeo. Now, she is a very confident young lady attending Lone Star College for her basics still helping BAA along with all her family. Kenia said: "Thank you BAA for giving me confidence to be able to stand up today in front of everyone and share my testimony."

Eduardo Martinez, a Lamar University graduate with a degree in finances and a former MacArthur High School and Hambrick Middle School student, told the audience about the help and support that he received from BAA. He said: "Thanks to the help of a BAA tutor at Hambrick, I was able to go to MacArthur. When I started high school, my father was shot and BAA became my only support. They made it possible for me to graduate not only from MacArthur but also from Lamar University. Now I



Mariana Sanchez, Director and Founder of Bonding Against Adversity with Reggie Gray, President/ and CEO of the Houston Intercontinental Chamber Of Commerce at the 10th year BAA's anniversary.



Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, right, with community leaders at BAA 10th anniversary celebration.

have a good job, help my family and serve as a BAA volunteer."

Maria Loya, a single mother of 5 children, said: "BAA has given me their support to educate my children. Now, all my children are professionals. BAA has also helped me to adjust in place and start my process for legal status. They provided me all their assistance without any charge. I could have never been able to pay \$3,000 for services, which is the money that an attorney requested her."

Mr. Hernandez, a former Cuban refugee, said: "My wife and I had been living in the U. S. for several years and did not know how to apply for U.S. Citizenship due to our lack of knowledge of the

English language and financial restrictions. Mariana encouraged and helped us to learn English and assisted us in the process of our U.S. Citizenship. Now, thanks to the free BAA Citizenship classes and all the volunteer teachers, my wife and I are not only U.S. Citizens, but we speak English and can share our testimony in English."

Finally, Mariana thanking all the BAA supporters said: "We have never been alone during these past 10 years and it is our hope that Bonding Against Adversity will always have the support and participation of every member of our community to continue growing healthier and stronger to serve those in need."

Aldine ISD Names 2020 Principals of the Year

Principals Sandra Doria and Jeana Morrison-Adams were shocked after learning they were named District Principals of the Year. District leaders surprised the winners at their campuses on February 18.

The Aldine ISD 2020 Principals of the Year are Sandra Doria from Worsham Elementary School and Jeana Morrison-Adams from Hoffman Middle School. The school leaders were selected for numerous reasons including innovative leadership and collaboration to drive improvement. They will represent Aldine ISD at the Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC) Principal Recognition Ceremony in April.

Elementary Principal of the Year

Each year, Region 4 has the honor of recognizing the leadership, service, and dedication of two campus administrators — one elementary and one secondary — from each of the districts.

Sandra Doria, has more than 19 years of experience in education, including 10 years in administration. This is her first year as the principal of Worsham Elementary School. Doria has served as a math teacher, math skills specialist, and assistant principal. She also served as principal at Thompson Elementary School (2015-2019) before being named principal at Worsham Elementary School in 2019.

Secondary Principal of the Year

Jeana Morrison-Adams has more than 25 years of experience in education. Morrison-Adams joined Aldine ISD in 2002 as a U.S. History teacher at Plummer Middle School (2005-2008). She has served as a curriculum skills specialist and testing coordinator at Hall Education Center (2008-2011). She was also an assistant principal (AP) at Grantham Academy (2011-2015) before she was named principal of Reed Academy (2015-2018) and Principal of Hoffman Middle School in 2018.

Doria and Morrison-Adams learned of their wins during surprise visits from District leaders. The group was led by Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Chief of Schools Katy Roede, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Javier Villarreal, Chief Communications Officer Sheleah



Worsham Elementary Principal Sandra Doria, left, receives congratulations from Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney after being named Aldine's Elementary Principal of the Year.



Hoffman Middle School Principal Jeana Morrison-Adams receives congratulations from Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney after being named Aldine ISD's Secondary Principal of the Year.



Nimitz Ninth Grade Principal Aisley Adams receives congratulations from Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney after being named Aldine ISD Rookie Principal of the Year.

Reed, Executive Director of Employee Quality Robin Williams, Executive Director of Talent Acquisition and Development Dr. David Villarreal.

This year a new recognition was created. Rookie Principal of the Year was selected based on how the rookie principal has made an impact on their campus, overcome challenges, and showed significant growth.

Rookie Principal of the Year

Aisley Adams of Nimitz

Ninth Grade School was named Rookie Principal of the Year. Adams has 12 years of experience in education. She has served as an English Language Arts teacher, a skills specialist, a curriculum coordinator, and a dean of instruction, before being named principal of Nimitz Ninth Grade School in 2019.

Aldine ISD will recognize Adams, Doria, and Morrison-Adams during the Educators of the Year Breakfast on March 6 at the Hilton Houston North.

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