



NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 43 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 09 TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Rodeo time...



WILLIE NELSON PERFORMS MARCH 4 AT THE HOUSTON RODEO, ONE OF 20 MUSICAL ACTS THIS YEAR.

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NEWS NOTES

Addiction Program at High Meadows Library Mar. 4

An adult program where Dr. Michael Weaver of UT Health will be at the High Meadows Library, 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX 77039, presenting a general overview of addiction, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.



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.

NHA Little League Opening Day

Join to celebrate de opening with a parade and festival, Saturday, March 21, 2020. Parade starts at 10 am, at MacArthur High School, 4400 Aldine Mail Rt. and ends at the Squatty Lyons Park, 1601 Cromwell-77093. Little League games from 11 am-5 pm. Questions, call 281-536-4062.

Lone Star College holds Open House at East Aldine campus

EAST ALDINE – The District and Lone Star College held a joint Open House Celebration last Saturday, at the new campus of the community college. Prospective students and their families were shown about the facility, got information on academic programs, and financial considerations.

Dean Luis Lucio said that almost 600 have signed up for classes. The college will eventually have 1500 students.

Features of the new building include welding and air conditioning shops, and a beautiful lake and park behind the building.



Dean Luis Lucio was at the front desk to greet the public and prospective students as they entered the new Lone Star College-North Harris East Aldine campus.



The East Aldine District, BakerRipley, Harris County Sheriff's Office were a few of the many information tables at the Open House.

See Open House, Page 8

Houston Rodeo starts today, March 3

LET'S RODEO!
HOUSTON – The annual Houston Rodeo & Livestock Show will run from March 3 to the 22nd, but many events have already started.

These include 12 Trail Rides last week, a huge Parade on Saturday, a Rodeo run, the BBQ Cook-off over the weekend at NRG park, a high school art competition, the Carnival on the NRG grounds, and of course the entertainers.

The opening act March 3 is Midland, followed by Willie Nelson the next night. The closing act on the 22nd will be Luke Bryan.



Last Year's Western Heritage float at Saturday's Rodeo Parade in Downtown Houston to celebrate the beginning of Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.



12 Trail Rides arrived at Memorial Park last Friday, February 28, 2020 to take part in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo parade on Saturday, February 29, 2020 in Downtown Houston. The Rodeo will run from March 3 to March 22, 2020 with a variety of entertainment and livestock show.

Schools, colleges, businesses close due to water main break

By Gilbert Hoffman

Aldine schools were closed last Friday, due to a water main break on the east side of Houston in a line that fed about half the city. Houston ISD schools, colleges and many businesses were also closed, or events cancelled, as a precaution against contaminated water or low water pressure.

A 96 inch wide water main, carrying water from the Houston water treatment plant in Galena Park



to about half the city, burst on Thursday about noon. Workers from Harper Brothers were performing repair work on a small leak, according to authorities, when the whole pipe burst open flooding nearby streets and the six lane

See Water Main breaks, Page 8

PICTURED TO THE LEFT: SITE OF THE BURST 96 INCH PIPE AT CLINTON DRIVE AND N. CAROLINA.

MARKETPLACE - Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.

PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-THURSDAY 2/28-3/5

Opens FRIDAY, MARCH 6
* THE WAY BACK (R)
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

* THE INVISIBLE MAN (R)
12:25pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:10pm
Closed Caption

* THE INVISIBLE MAN (R)
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm, Closed Caption
Spanish Subtitles

* BRAHMS: THE BOY II (PG-13)
12:10pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

* THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG)
12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:05pm, 9:20pm
Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed

* THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG)
12:00pm, 2:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

* IMPRACTICAL JOKERS: The Movie (PG-13)
12:25pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:10pm, 9:25pm
Closed Caption

* MY BOYFRIEND'S MEDS (Las píldoras de mi novio) (R)
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:50pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm

FANTASY ISLAND (PG-13)
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
Closed Caption

THE PHOTOGRAPH (PG-13)
12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG)
12:00pm, 2:25pm, 4:45pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm
Spanish Dubbed

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG)
12:15pm, 2:40pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:40pm
Closed Caption

Harley Quinn: BIRDS OF PREY (R)
3:00pm, 9:00pm

Harley Quinn: BIRDS OF PREY (R)
12:00pm, 6:00pm
Spanish Dubbed

GRETEL & HANSEL (PG-13)
5:00pm, 7:15pm

GRETEL & 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)
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
Closed Caption; Spanish Dubbed

Bad Boys for Life (R)
12:15pm, 3:00pm
Closed Caption

MOVIES have Stadium Seating & Closed Caption & Audio Description

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD teen photographer humanizes homeless

HCDE's Scholastic Art & Writing American Visions Nominee

Feb. 21, 2020 - It all started with a 6-year-old boy's daily commute with his parents and a homeless man playing guitar on a busy northeast Houston street corner.

Eleven years later, Aldine Independent School District student artist Anthony Abarca returned to that corner to photograph and meet the man named Northside Ray and tell the old man's story through imagery.

The teen's photograph entitled "Love Affair" depicts a weathered homeless man with dried, caked blood on his face. The man's piercing blue eyes make the case for hope, not despair.

The photo earned the Carver High School senior an American Visions nomination, one of five best-of-show art awards judged in a pool of more than 5,000 entries with Harris County Department of Education as regional affiliate of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Teacher Matthew Kirkpatrick says the often cliché influence of photography on teens via social media and advertising is strong, but he tries to show students the meaningful side of photography.

The storytelling concept stuck with high school senior Abarca.

"It sparked my idea of how every day we see less fortunate people and how we never really get the chance to know their story," said Abarca, reflecting on his teacher's influence. "Mr. Kirkpatrick taught me that I can't be afraid to try new things and that my work must have meaning



(left) Teacher Matthew Kirkpatrick and student and American Visions nominee Anthony Abarca

through a story that I want to tell. I will never forget that and will continue to show it through my work."

Setting out to find Ray wasn't that hard. Abarca found the homeless man on the same street corner he left him in his memories a decade before. His decision to photograph Ray helped him understand the plight of the homeless.

As Ray grew older, homelessness became more difficult and dangerous. In fact, the day Abarca took the man's photo, the old man had just been beaten. Two months after taking the photo, Abarca returned to Near Northside to share the photo and an award he had won in a juried art show.

ter being stabbed on the streets. Abarca never got the chance to share Ray's infamy.

The photograph "Love Affair" will now be judged at the national level through Scholastic Art & Writing in New York City, and that feels good to both student and teacher. Awardees will be notified on March 16, and an awards ceremony will be held in New York City Carnegie Hall in June.

"I am both nervous and excited for Anthony and what this means moving forward," said Kirkpatrick.

"I appreciate this contest (Scholastic) in comparison to the others that my students participate in for it's high regard to concept. I often tell my students that this contest will judge their work as that of an adult artist."

District takes part in Go Texan Day



Aldine ISD students celebrate Go Texan Day

Rodeo fans, it is time to dust off your boots and cowboy hats. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is right around the corner.

The rodeo will begin its annual run at the NRG Park complex on March 3, 2020.

To recognize Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's significant contributions to public education, Aldine ISD observed "Go Texan Day" on Friday, Feb-

ruary 28, 2020. District employees and students who wished to take part went to work and school dressed in their best "Western wear."

For more than 80 years, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been a valuable educational partner. Each year, more than 800 scholarships are awarded to Texas students by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. As one of the

largest scholarship providers in the U.S., the Rodeo has presented more than 19,000 scholarships valued at \$230 million since 1957. Currently, more than 2,300 students — including Aldine ISD grads — are on Rodeo scholarships, attending more than 80 different Texas colleges and universities. The value of these scholarships is more than \$50 million.

Getting more students to eat a healthy school breakfast

The "Save the Day With a Healthy School Breakfast" campaign encourages families to have their children choose breakfast at school. The district offers multiple opportunities for students to eat breakfast free.



This breakfast meal is one of the several options the district offers to students.

The Aldine Independent School District is looking to encourage more families to take advantage of the healthy choices available for school breakfast. Aldine families and students will see lots of school breakfast promotion in early March. District campuses will celebrate National School Breakfast Week during March 2-6, 2020.

The district will be joining the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) celebration. This year's theme — Save the Day With a Healthy School Breakfast! — zaps into everyone's love of superheroes! It's a fun way to give Aldine students a chance to become more aware of the benefits of starting the school day with whole grains, healthy dairy, fruits, lean protein, and other nutritious foods.

Dani Sheffield, executive director of child nutrition services, hopes families encourage their students to take advantage

of eating a healthy, free breakfast at school.

Mornings can be hectic, making it a challenge for many families to find time for a healthy breakfast. However, studies show that students who eat school breakfast are more likely to:

- Reach higher levels of achievement in reading and math
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Have better concentration and memory
- Be more alert
- Maintain a healthy weight

The CNS Department has come up with creative contests and a menu to engage students during

National School Breakfast Week.

Contests During National School Breakfast Week

- Primary school students will take part in a matching contest. They will have to match the origin of their favorite breakfast foods.

- Elementary school students will participate in a breakfast word scramble and word search contest.

- Middle and high school students will take part in a breakfast selfie contest, where they will take a picture with their favorite breakfast during NSBW and post it on social media for a chance to win a prize.

Advertisement for Anthem Tax Services. Title: Tax Problems: RESOLVED. Text: Millions Of Dollars Saved In Back Taxes. Anthem Tax Services provides world class personalized tax debt relief and tax preparation services. Call 877-370-2127.

Advertisement for AARP Auto Insurance Program from The Hartford. Title: No Clipping Required. Text: \$449 SAVINGS ON AUTO INSURANCE when they switch from companies like GEICO, State Farm and Allstate. Call 1-844-927-0268.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harvey households covered by FEMA group flood insurance should prepare now to buy standard flood insurance by Oct. 24

Lack of coverage may affect eligibility for future disaster assistance

AUSTIN, Texas – Many families affected by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 did not have flood insurance.

As part of its disaster assistance, FEMA provided Group Flood Insurance Policies (GFIP) to 6,704 households across counties impacted by Harvey.

These three-year policies end Oct. 24, so policyholders must plan now to switch to a standard flood insurance policy to ensure continuous coverage.

Those who received a GFIP policy as part of their FEMA disaster assistance after Harvey but don't buy a standard flood insurance policy will likely not receive federal disaster assistance for home repairs if they experience another flood event. Just 1 inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to a home.

Purchasing a flood insurance policy is one of the best ways to prepare for future disasters and to protect from financial loss. Here are flood insurance requirements for Harvey households:

If you are a homeowner

who received a GFIP policy: Flood insurance coverage must be maintained for the address of the flood-damaged property. The flood insurance requirement is transferred to any new owner of the address and continues for as long as the address exists. If you sell your home, call the NFIP direct servicing agency at 800-638-6620 to transfer your policy to the new homeowner.

If you are a renter who received a GFIP policy: Flood insurance coverage must be maintained on the contents of the rental property for as long as the renter remains at the flood-damaged address. If you move from your damaged rental property, the flood insurance requirement is not transferred to the next renter.

How to get or renew an NFIP policy: Contact your insurance agent to discuss the cost of a standard flood insurance policy. If you don't have an agent, you can call 800-427-4661 for an insurance agent referral.

Visit www.FloodSmart.gov or www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program for more information about flood insurance.

The National Flood Insurance Reform Act and FEMA regulations require applicants who receive federal financial assistance to buy and maintain flood insurance as a condition to receive assistance for future flood damage to any insurable property for acquisition or construction purposes. If your household received disaster assistance after Harvey, and you live in a special flood hazard area, you are required to maintain flood insurance. To find out if you have a flood insurance requirement, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS - Video Relay Service) (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).

To learn more about GFIP, visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/133710>.

Harvey impacted 41,500 square miles of Texas. If it rains it can flood, which means all Texans should purchase or renew flood insurance policies. The 2020 hurricane season begins June 1, but a policy protects you from financial losses from other flood events all year.

Beasley Tire believes in supporting Aldine ISD

Since 1968, Beasley Tire Service Inc. has been a mainstay in the Aldine community.

Founded by E.B. Beasley, the commercial/retail tire company is now run by his son Bob, who has carried on his father's commitment to supporting Aldine ISD.

Bob, a 1973 graduate of MacArthur High School, said he believes it's important for local businesses to support their local school district.

"I think a business should be part of the community and support the school district in your community," he said. "Aldine is a special place. We think it's important for our business to provide resources for kids who don't have a lot."

While at MacArthur, Bob played basketball and said he truly believed MacArthur's administrators, teachers and coaches took a special interest in him and his fellow classmates.

"I was raised on the North side and I've always liked the people here," he said. "I felt my principal and coaches took an interest in me. I made life-long friends while I was at MacArthur."

In addition to the location at 11802 Eastex Freeway, Beasley Tire also has a location in Kingwood, which is run by Bob's brother David. Beasley Tire also has locations in Kenedy, San Antonio, Pleasanton, Victoria, Corpus Christi, and Alice.

Beasley Tire has been a strong supporter of Aldine ISD's FFA (Future Farmers of America) program and Bob and his employees are a fixture at the annual Sale of Champions. Beasley Tire's walls at the Eastex Freeway location are



Bob Beasley and Beasley Tire Service has been a strong supporter of Aldine ISD, especially the district's FFA (Future Farmers of America) program. Beasley is pictured next to a wall of pictures of student projects the local tire company has purchased over the years.

full of pictures of students' projects the local tire company has purchased over the years.

Bob is also a member of the Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) Board and he and his managers speak at career days at a number of Aldine schools. For years the company has supported Escamilla Elementary School's Christmas drive.

Bob said he is proud to serve on the AEF Board and has seen first hand the

positive influence it has had on Aldine ISD graduates who have received AEF scholarships to assist with their college educations.

"I think it's (AEF) a tremendous thing for this community," he said. "It provides a tremendous benefit to Aldine students. It's just tremendous."

In his free time, the father of four and grandfather of 12 teaches an adult Bible class at his church and enjoys playing golf.

How to clean to avoid the corona virus

With our nation's top docs now alerting local businesses and schools to prepare for a potential coronavirus crisis, local companies are scrambling to disinfect their workspaces the right way to keep employees and customers safe. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now urging U.S. businesses to vigorously and routinely wipe down workplace surfaces to contain the spread of the potentially deadly virus.

Tips to keep your place germ free

- **One-Way Wipe Down** - Wipe down a surface in one direction and don't go back over it in the opposite direction because you will deposit germs you just cleaned up. Routinely wipe down all frequently

touched surfaces such as workstations, countertops and don't forget doorknobs.

- **Smart Spraying** - On the bottle, common household disinfectants tout their ability to kill 99.9% of bacteria and viruses, including human coronavirus, flu strains, E.coli and salmonella among others. But will they work against the new "novel" coronavirus? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says these disinfectants are "thought" to be effective against the new coronavirus strain, but until tests confirm it, this has not been scientifically proven

- **Disinfect** - Don't forget to wipe down laptops, mouses and especially cell phones. One study by a web-based researched

platform found we touch our cell phones 2,000 times a day. Other recent studies indicate the average adult brings their fingers to their nose, mouth or eyes about 16 times per hour, and germs thrive on human touch and the tech we touch.

- **Hand-Washing Warnings** - Post handwashing and drying signs EVERYWHERE - from the kitchen to the bathroom - as a reminder to wash hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol or with warm water and soap for at least twenty seconds. (as long as it takes to sing the Happy Birthday song!) Dry hands thoroughly because germs spread with moisture.

Man dies after being shot while driving on Tidwell Road

Houston police are investigating the death of a man at 4901 Tidwell Road about 5:50 a. m. on February 21, 2020.

According to Houston Police investigators, patrol officers responded to a shooting call on Tidwell Rd. and learned the victim had been struck by a vehicle, described as a pickup truck, while walking in

and out of a moving lane of traffic. According to witnesses, the man struck by the vehicle, Garrett D. Washington, 22, had been shot at by an unknown suspect in an older model, four-door sedan of unknown make and model prior to being struck. The driver of the pickup truck returned to the scene and spoke with investigators.

The shooter was described only as a black male in his mid-20s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and about 170 pounds.

The victim died at the scene.

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

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NORTHEAST BELTWAY 8 News

OPINION PAGE



Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Does Social Security Ever Make Mistakes on Benefits?

Dear Rusty: Can or does the Social Security Administration occasionally make mistakes in determining the benefits due? I'm now 72 but I retired early at age 61 and knew that my benefits would be reduced. I've always wondered if my monthly benefit calculation was incorrect but did not know how to address my concerns. If it is possible, could you direct me in how to handle with the SS Administration? Signed: Skeptical of My Benefit

Dear Skeptical: Can the Social Security Administration ever make mistakes? Of course they can, and do, but not really very often considering that they are dealing with tens of millions of beneficiaries, and especially when it comes to computing benefit amounts. Since nearly all benefit computations are done by computer, the usual source of any error is almost always from using incorrect input data. The actual benefit computation formula, while complex, is very standard and well proven; if an error occurs in a basic benefit computation, it is usually because a person's lifetime earnings record contains an error. Having said that, let's explore why you feel your benefit may not be correct.

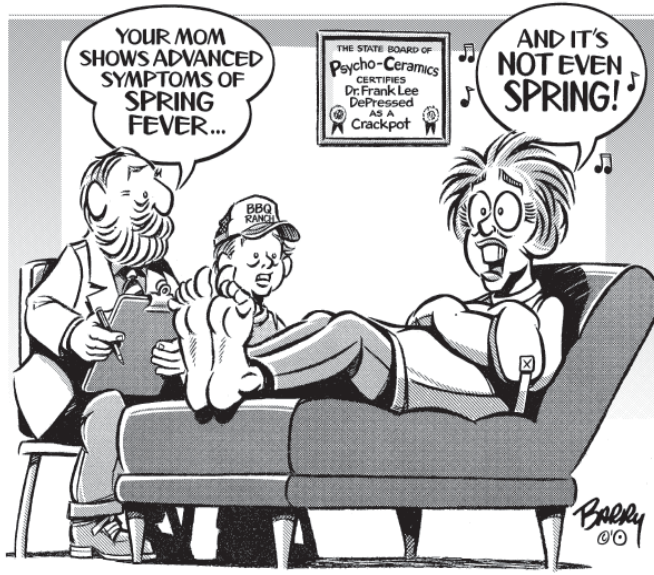
When you say you "retired early at age 61" I assume that means you claimed your Social Security early at age 62 (the minimum age). Since your full retirement age is age 66, that means that by claiming at age 62 your benefit was cut by 25% from what it would have been at age 66. Also, any benefit estimate you had from Social Security prior to claiming made the assumption that you would continue to earn at your current level until you reached your full retirement age. If you "retired" and stopped working and earning at age 61, the benefit you are entitled to is less than that estimate you had from Social Security at age 61.

So, how can you address your concerns? I suggest the first thing you do is get a copy of your lifetime earnings record from Social Security. You can do this by calling them and requesting it or, if you have a "My Social Security" personal account, you can obtain it online. You should verify that all of your lifetime earnings are properly

reflected in Social Security's records (SS gets your earnings data from the IRS). Note that only your earnings up to the maximum payroll tax for each year count because that's all you paid SS FICA tax on; if your actual earnings in any year were more than the annual payroll tax cap, only the amount up to that year's tax cap is used. Be aware that if you find an error, you will need to prove it to Social Security by showing them a copy of your W-2 or your Federal Income tax return for the year(s) in question. If your lifetime earnings record is in order, then you are almost certainly getting the correct benefit. When computing your benefit, Social Security adjusts each year of your lifetime earnings to today's dollar value, so inflation shouldn't be a factor either. The highest earning 35 years over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) are used to determine your benefit amount.

If you're still uncomfortable that you may not be getting the correct benefit, you should call Social Security directly and ask them to review your benefits to make sure you are receiving the correct amount. Social Security has all of your lifetime earnings data immediately available and can quickly determine if your benefit amount is correct based upon the earnings history shown in your record.

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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"An Awful Lot of Cheese"

My husband, Peter, likes buying in bulk. Peter hates paying shipping fees. He never wants to run out of anything and he loves a bargain. This is why we buy coffee in enormous bags, crackers by the case, nuts and raisins ten pounds at a time, rice in 20-pound bags, and beans in 50-pound bags. It is sometimes a little alarming when the boxes arrive.

I'm not quite sure how he got this way. Peter was the youngest child of six, but I don't think his family went through any extraordinary hardship. My mother is the ninth of eleven children raised during the depression and she buys in modest quantities that last for no more than a week or fit in a small canvas bag—whichever is less.

Most recently, Peter decided to start ordering cheese direct from his favorite cheesemaker, but when he learned what he was going to be charged for shipping he began to fume.

"Ha! If I buy \$100 at a time, I don't pay shipping!" Peter announced, looking over the fine print on the cheesemaker's website. He spoke with Ricky at the cheese shop and Ricky confirmed there would be no shipping charge if Peter just ordered enough cheese. Ricky recommended a nice gouda in addition to the lacy baby swiss Peter is fond of. Peter was delighted.

"Doesn't \$100 buy an awful lot of cheese?" I asked. Our house is small and our refrigerator generally filled to capacity.

"Oh, it's not that much..." Peter did the calculations. "It's only about twenty pounds!"

I couldn't deny that was a good price per pound, but twenty pounds still sounded like an awful lot of cheese.

Then things were further complicated. I had used this cheese company to buy birthday presents for my dad and they still had that address on file. Even though Peter made it quite clear this cheese was for us—not my father—we got a phone call from my dad about the time Peter was expecting his big cheese delivery.

"Hey, Peter!" my dad said. "Did you order us a big box of cheese?"

"Oh no!" Peter said. My parents, who buy little tiny blocks of cheese which they cut into little tiny slices and serve on little tiny crackers at precisely five o'clock every evening with a small glass of white wine, were understandably taken aback by the arrival of twenty pounds of cheese.

"That's a heck of a lot of cheese! Should we mail it to you?" my dad asked.

Peter said they should just eat it and my mother expressed doubt that they would ever eat so much cheese in their lifetime. "Oh! You'll eat it!" Peter insisted.

"That's an awful lot of cheese!" my mother protested. "We can pick up what you don't eat next time we see you!" Peter told her, and promptly ordered more cheese.

Ricky at the cheese company was appropriately contrite and gave Peter a generous discount on his new order so now we have forty pounds of cheese—twenty here and twenty in storage with my parents. I suspect this situation gives Peter a further feeling of security.

And, while I do shake my head from time to time, I also note that I have never once run out of coffee since I married Peter. We always have plenty of beans and rice to eat and now, I am quite certain, we will never run short of cheese.

In a chaotic world filled with unknowns, uncertainties, and nearly constant change, it's good to know we've got the essentials covered.

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

Governor establishes clemency application for certain survivors

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 20 established a clemency application specifically for survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence.

The application, crafted in coordination with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, includes a section that affords the applicant an opportunity to provide a statement to the board regarding their human trafficking or domestic violence victimization.

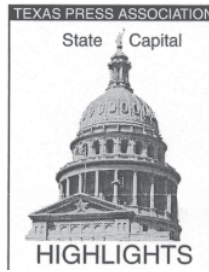
Human trafficking and domestic violence, according to the governor's office, often lead victims down a path of offenses that entraps them in a vicious cycle of abuse and associated crime. Abbott's announcement coincides with the launch of a new public awareness campaign informing survivors that they can submit an application for Board of Pardons and Paroles to review and consider recommending that the governor grant a full pardon for crimes committed while under the grips of a trafficker or an abusive partner.

"Texas is committed to empowering the survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking, and one of the surest signals of that goal is laying out a true path to redemption and restoration," Abbott said.

"The gubernatorial pardon plays an important role in this redemption process, because it offers a second chance to survivors with criminal convictions resulting from their abuse or exploitation. I am grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles as we work together to develop a stronger justice system that promotes redemption, restoration and transformation," Abbott added.

In his recent announcement proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Abbott applauded state lawmakers

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



for passing legislation to provide survivors with "streamlined access to a clean criminal record and a fresh start."

Update: Coronavirus
The Texas Department of State Health Services on Feb. 21 announced the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed three cases of novel coronavirus 2019 in people under federal quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The first was a traveler who returned on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight from Wuhan City, China. The others returned on a State Department flight for passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama, Japan. The individuals are currently isolated and receiving appropriate care at medical facilities.

There were no other reported cases in Texas and officials said the risk of contracting the virus for all Texans remains low. The Department of State Health Services offers information on "COVID-19"

for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

In other news, the DSHS on Feb. 21 reported there have been 15 pediatric flu-related deaths reported this season in Texas.

The agency urged Texans who have not taken this season's influenza vaccine to get vaccinated without further delay. More information can be found online at www.texasflu.org.

AG sues over explosion

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Feb. 21 announced that Texas Attorney General Paxton had filed a lawsuit against TPC Group Inc. and TPC Group LLC for violations of the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Water Code pertaining to the Nov. 27, 2019 explosion at its Port Neches plant.

The lawsuit requests that the court grant injunctive relief, civil penalties, reasonable attorney fees, court costs and investigative costs to the state. The lawsuit also includes claims that TPC Group caused numerous violations of TCEQ's air quality program from January 2018 through September 2019.

TCEQ Executive Director Toby Baker and House State Affairs Committee Chairman Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, applauded Paxton for taking legal action. "Through this suit, the state can learn what caused the incident, how to prevent such occurrences in the future and adequately penalize all violations," Phelan said.



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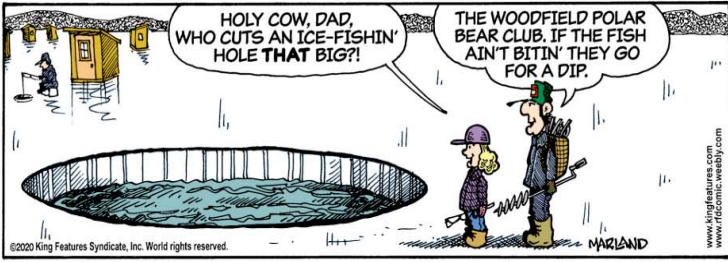
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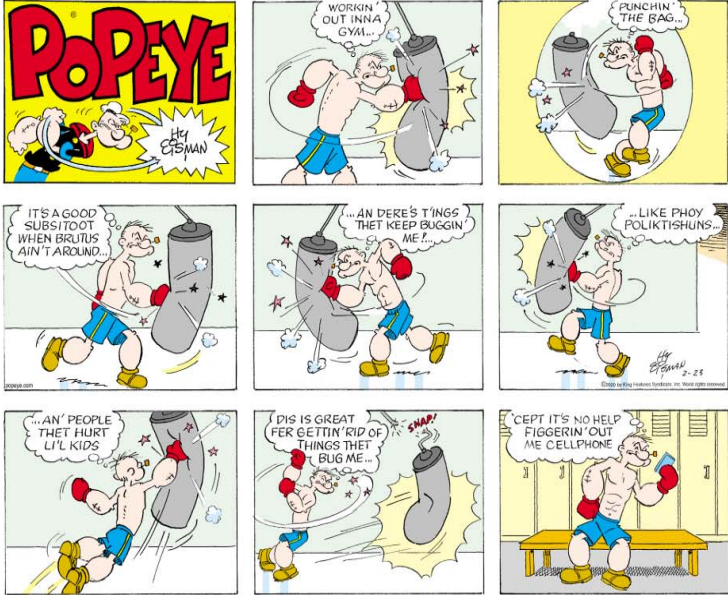
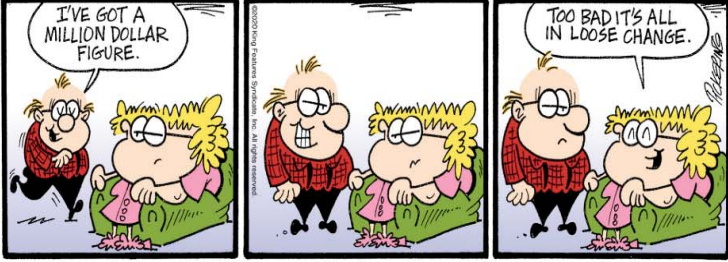
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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

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

2. From 2 Samuel, what king confessed his adulterous affair after being confronted by the prophet Nathan? Silas, Josiah, Jael, David

3. In Acts 19, where were books worth 50,000 silver coins burned at a public bonfire? Gezer, Samaria, Ephesus,

Jericho

4. From Numbers 11, what personal assistant of Moses became jealous of Eldad and Medad? Isaac, Joshua, Job, Cain

5. What famous prophet was the Son of Amoz? Paul, Isaiah, Peter, John the Baptist

6. Who was the wife of Hosea? Gomer, Ruth, Sarah, Miriam

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) David; 3) Ephesus; 4) Joshua; 5) Isaiah; 6) Gomer

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



BROKEN PIPE IS UNDER REPAIR ALONG CLINTON DRIVE.



WATER CLOSES ALL TRAFFIC ON THE EAST LOOP AND CLINTON DRIVE

East Loop under Clinton Drive. Several feet of water covered the streets, stopping traffic and flooding about a dozen cars. Houston Fire Department said they conducted three deep water rescues. The location of the burst pipe was near the intersection of Clinton Drive and N. Carolina streets in the Clinton Park neighborhood, and buildings in that area had water inside, as outside it was several feet deep.

Water supply and water pressure were affected throughout the east side of Houston and into midtown. Schools and businesses were forced to close without water, and many indicated they would also be closed on Friday, until the pipe could be repaired and water quality restored.

In the meantime, Mayor Turner called for a "boil water" advisory to everyone.

Jacinto City avoided the problem by switching from city water supply to its own well system, filling the city water tower and maintaining pressure and a safe water supply, according to City Manager Lon Squyres.

Authorities held a press conference near the break, to inform the public of the severity of the problem and what measures were being taken to solve them. Mayor Turner and County Judge Hidalgo expressed concern about water quality, and availability of adequate pressure in case of fires. Tank trucks with water were being sent to the area as a precaution, they said.



RUSHING WATER CROSSING N. CAROLINA STREET AT CLINTON



WATER FLOODING NEARBY HOMES AT N. CAROLINA AND CLINTON

EXCLUSIVE ON-SITE PHOTOS BY ALLAN JAMAIL FOR THE NORTHEAST NEWS

COME FLY A KITE!

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

EAST ALDINE TOWN CENTER

KITE Festival

MARCH 7th

@10am - 2pm

10 - 11am: Zumba in the Courtyard
 2800 Aldine Mail Rt

East Aldine neighbors, families, and friends are invited to come create a unique kite or bring your own. No kites larger than 5ft.

Registration & Passport Raffle
 located in the East Aldine District tent

FREE KITES & FAMILY FUN!

- Games • Face Painting • Raffles •
- Food Trucks • Moon Walks •

AldineDistrict.org | [fb/EastAldineDistrict.org](https://www.facebook.com/EastAldineDistrict.org) | [@AldineDistrict](https://www.instagram.com/AldineDistrict)
 Questions? email Director of Services VSanches@AldineDistrict.org



NHA LITTLE LEAGUE

opening day

MARCH 21

Join us for food, fun & games!

2020

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

N.H.A.L.L.

Vendors needed!

PARADE & FESTIVAL

★ ★ ★ **MACARTHUR HS** ★ ★ ★

4400 ALDINE MAIL RTE.
 PARADE @10:30 ★ FESTIVAL @12PM
 parade starts @Macarthur & ends @Park

LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES

11 AM - 5 PM @SQUATTY LYONS PARK
 1601 CROMWELL - 77093
 info: 281.536.4062 | 832.731.4518
 AldineDistrict.org

Take Pride in our Community

Keep it Clean

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT