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NORTHEAST NEWS



Remembering 9-11... See Page 3

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years
VOL. 44, NO. 36/37 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15/22, 2020 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

TO OUR READERS:
The current Covid-19 Pandemic and other economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues every two weeks, and to change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 7 for 50 locations where you can get a copy of the Northeast News, and page 3 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.

COVID-19
Cases as of September 8, 2020

HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

174,880 POSITIVE
2,301 DEATHS
145,601 RECOVERED

TEXAS

661,536 POSITIVE
13,735 DEATHS
553,409 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

6,326,696 POSITIVE
189,580 DEATHS
2,359,111 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

27,454,713 POSITIVE
894,830 DEATHS
18,417,846 RECOVERED

Pct. 2 offers Free COVID-19 Testing

Free COVID-19 Testing
Northeast Community Center (10918 Bentley St, Houston, TX 77093)
Open: Monday – Saturday, 8am – 4pm.
Walk-ups are welcome. Appointments are available by calling 346-280-4133 during business hours (Monday-Sat 8am-4pm).
Results within the hour!

Mammogram Screenings

Mobile Mammography Screenings at Greater Pure Light Church.
September 11 and 18.
9am to 3:30pm, 12330 Vickery Street. Appointments: Call Irma Warren at 281-987-1908 ext 2.
Last Day to register, August 28.

Virtual New Citizens workshop

Bonding Against Adversity will hold a "Virtual" workshop, Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10:00am to 2:00pm to help applicants complete the Form N-400 Application for Naturalization to become a U.S. Citizen. 281-799-9076 or info@baatexas.org.

Hurricane relief sent to disaster areas

Harris County Sheriff's Office Supports Our Friends in Louisiana

Message from Sheriff Ed Gonzalez:

Thank you for helping us fill trailers and truckloads of non-perishable food and high-demand supplies for first responders and their families in Louisiana hit hard by Hurricane Laura. The outpouring of support from across the county was seen as an act of gratitude to our neighbors in Louisiana that rushed to our aid and worked shoulder-to-shoulder with our agency and other public safety partners three years ago following Hurricane Harvey's devastating blow to our region. We're on our way to make our initial delivery to those in need. We know first-hand about what hurricanes can do and what those affected need. We

See HCSO Relief, page 3



ABOVE: City of Houston Relief items assembled at G.R. Brown Convention Center prior to delivery; BELOW: Harris County Sheriff's Deputies escorted 12 Kroger Trailers filled with Essential items to Louisiana residents affected by Hurricane Laura.



City of Houston "Paying It Forward" Volunteers Deliver Hurricane Laura Supplies

HOUSTON - Help was sent for some East Texas residents who are working to rebuild their communities after the devastation caused by Hurricane Laura. Volunteers spent last Friday collecting and packaging supplies that Houstonians have generously donated to the Paying it Forward Hurricane Laura relief effort.

Saturday morning, A-Rocket Moving and Storage drivers left Houston and headed east to deliver more than two truck loads of diapers, nonperishable food, cleaning materials, bottled water, pet food and other supplies.

The trucks arrived by 8 a.m. and staged at the West Orange-Stark Middle School, located at 1402 Green Ave., Orange, TX 77630

See HOUSTON RELIEF, page 3

Education Foundation names new head Director Aldine ISD celebrates Hispanic Heritage month

Linda Flores Olson to head Aldine Education Foundation



LINDA FLORES OLSON

Linda Flores Olson has joined Aldine ISD as Director of the Aldine Education Foundation.

Mrs. Olson brings 34 years of non-profit managerial experience to her new role.

See AEF NAMES OLSON, page 2

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates a diverse group of people. They trace their roots to Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries in North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Of the district's nearly 70,000 students, more than 73 percent are Hispanic. They represent many Spanish-speaking countries.

By the Numbers:
• Depending on how you count, there

are 22 Spanish speaking countries in the world.

• Spanish is the second most widely spoken language on the planet. The number of Spanish speakers worldwide has soared to 572 million, which includes native and non-native.

See HISPANIC HERIGATE, page 3

Public input by ZOOM meeting for Pct 2 Parks & Trails Comprehensive Plan

Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia held a Zoom meeting last Monday night, to get the public's input and ideas on how to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Trails in Precinct 2.

About 100 persons participated in the session, which lasted about an hour, exceeding the time planned because of the enthusiasm of the callers and the commissioner.

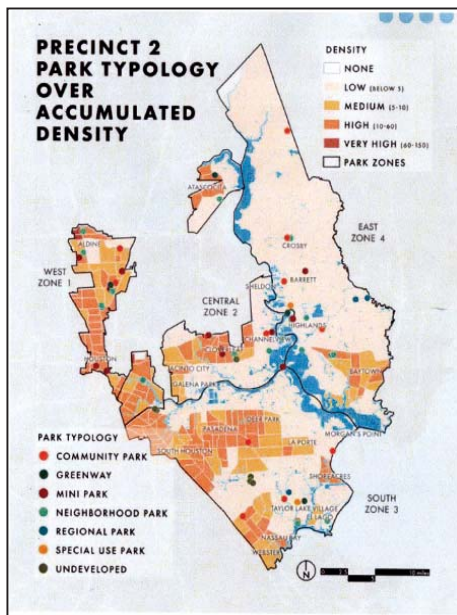
Adrian Garcia said that he wants Pct. 2 to have a reputation for outstanding parks, that attract people and publicity, and where people can have a good time. He noted that good parks also increase property values.

Garcia revealed that he has an experienced architectural landscape and urban planning firm working on the project. This is Asakura Robinson, headed by Keiji Asakura.

Also participating in the Zoom meeting and the planning for the parks are representatives from Pct. 2 and also the Harris County engineering department. Another consultant is Jose Eduardo Sanchez, a community engagement specialist.

- The team's goals are:
1. Outline how parks, trails and open spaces can best serve the communities in the precinct.
 2. Examine existing parks and trails.
 3. Make recommendations for new and improved facilities.
 4. Develop clear goals and objectives for the future of parks and trails in the precinct.

The schedule for the Parks & Trails plan is a Hike and Bike Trail map by October 2020; a Priority Parks Plan by December 2020; and a Comprehensive Parks Plan by June 2021.



A map of Precinct 2 shows the extent of population density, and location of parks as indicated by colored dots.

Garcia is also working on a more general Community plan, and this parks plan will synchronize with that one.

Ideas expressed in the Zoom meeting included diverse uses, all day/every day useage, different personalities for different parks, unique designs, parks that reflect the types of neighborhoods, inclusion of WiFi capabilities, and several more.

A website is available for more information and to make suggestions: www.pct2parksandtrails.com. There is also a survey at that site for your input.

Garcia said that he will add parks where needed, hopefully using old unused land, and flood control land. With great enthusiasm, Garcia said "Now more than ever, parks are essential public spaces. Let's make sure they're serving you."

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

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713-595-1226
Veronica Sanches, Director of Services
VSanches@haweshill.com
713-595-1232
Richard Cantu, Deputy Executive Director
5333 Aldine Mail Rt. Houston, TX. 77039

Harris County Sheriff's Office
911-Emergencies
713-221-6000 Dispatch
Aldine Storefront
281-449-6600
Capt. Mike Koteras District II

CONFESSIONS:
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SCHOOL NEWS

Time is running out to be counted in the Census

Reply to the Census!

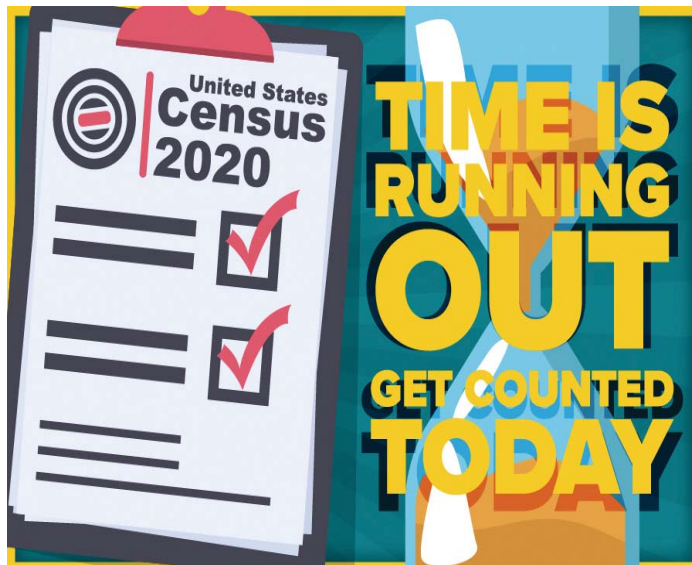
Time is running out to reply to the Census. Money to help Harris County prepare for and recover from disasters like Harvey depends on knowing how many people live here. Do your part to make sure we have the dollars we need to make bouncing back from disaster possible. Get counted today.

Call 844-330-2020 or visit <http://my2020census.gov>

¡Responder al Censo!

El tiempo para responder al Censo, está por concluir. Recuerde que los fondos del censo ayudan al Condado Harris a prepararse y recuperarse de desastres naturales como Harvey y de ello depende el número de residentes en el área. Por eso, ayúdenos a cerciorarnos que obtengamos los fondos necesarios para recuperarnos de todo tipo de desastres. Hágase contar.

Llame hoy mismo al 844-468-2020 o visite <http://my2020census.gov>



HARRIS COUNTY PURCHASING FREE PPE REQUEST

Harris County is now offering the ability for businesses and nonprofits to obtain and utilize personal protective equipment (touchless thermometers, face masks and gloves) to help protect their employees for FREE. This is critical in helping our community get back to work and stay at work.

WHO QUALIFIES?

All commercial and nonprofit entities in Harris County providing goods or services directly to the public are eligible to register for FREE.



Supplies will be offered for FREE. Due to limited supply, every consideration will be given in an attempt to meet demand.

HOW TO APPLY:

For PPE request form or questions, please visit:

<https://purchasing.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/PPERequest.aspx>

E-MAIL BusPPEReq@pur.hctx.net
call 713-274-4400.



Dr. Keena Bradley selected for Superintendents Academy

Human Resource Director Dr. Keena Bradley has been selected for the AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy.

Howard University and the American Association of School Administrators (also known as AASA, The School Superintendents Association) partnered to develop the Urban Superintendents' Academy. The selection process for the premier leadership academy is highly competitive.

The Urban Superintendents Academy offers a revolutionary approach to increase the supply of job-ready candidates of color to match the rapidly changing demographics in American schools and urban settings. The Academy provides a coordinated sequence of executive leadership and field experience modules, such as strategic thinking and planning, critical issues facing the urban superintendency, governing board and public

relations, and social justice leadership over nine months.

The Academy brings together Howard University's deep and historical commitment to academic excellence with some of the country's most influential and inspiring thought leaders and practitioners to serve as instructors, mentors, and presenters. In addition to monthly sessions, participants are required to attend the Academy's annual conference and complete capstone projects that address local problems of practice in ways that meet professional standards set by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council and the National Policy Board for Educational Administration.

"This is an incredible opportunity to learn from and collaborate with an elite group of educators from across the country. The program develops leader-

ship capacity toward superintendency in an urban setting. Students in urban settings need leaders who believe that all students deserve access to high-quality schools and positive educational experiences," Bradley said.

The program prepares each cohort to deal effectively and creatively with community relations and politics in the urban setting. Participants hone facilitative skills for relationship building and become strategic leaders who demonstrate critical reasoning and problem-solving.

AASA launched the partnership with Howard University to bolster school district leadership's effectiveness in the nation's urban areas. The cross-institutional partnership offers a dynamic approach to urban superintendent preparation and certification. McGraw Hill Education sponsors the Academy.

AEF names Olson new head of Foundation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We are super excited to have Linda join our team and lead our Aldine Education Foundation," said Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney. "Linda brings a wealth of experience to her new position and I am confident she will serve as a strong leader and bring fresh ideas to the Foundation."

Mrs. Olson comes to Aldine after serving as the Development Director of the Houston Community College Foundation. She has also served as Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director of the Wesley Community Center, as Executive Director of the Houston Hispanic Forum, as Deputy Director of Children At Risk, as Director of Development of Houston PBS, as Director of Major Goals & Planning for Houston PBS, as Director of Corporate Affairs of the Alley Theater, and as Manager of Member Services for the Greater Houston Partnership.

Mrs. Olson earned her bachelor's degree in biological and physical sciences from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

She said she is looking forward to her new role and has set a number of goals for the Foundation.

"I want to increase funding that promotes and fosters educational endeavors in alignment with Aldine's overall goals and mission," she said. "I would also like to diversify funding by increasing gifts from individuals, corporations and private foundations to continue supporting scholarships for deserving students and grants for our teachers to bolster their important work."

Mrs. Olson would also like to build out an alumni relations program, increase recognition in the Aldine community, increase partnerships that benefit Aldine students and create a brighter future for Aldine ISD students.

Mrs. Olson has ex-

tensive experience in working with boards, staffs and volunteers to accomplish strategic mission and goals. She also has managerial experience, fundraising experience and networking experience.

She credits her parents with making sacrifices so she and her siblings could experience the American Dream.

"I am the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and am honored that our parents loved us so much that they risked lots for the American Dream," she said. "I had lots of help along the way to reach where I am today, and now it's my turn to lend a hand to the next generation. My motto is: 'I'm on a journey to become a positive life-alerting agent for at-risk kids. Join me!'"

She and her husband Michael, a retired aerospace engineer, have a daughter, Maya, and a four-year old fur child Shih-Poo Bear.

2020 TX Election Deadlines

- REGISTER TO VOTE: OCT 5
- UPDATE REGISTRATION: OCT 5
- IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING STARTS: OCT 13
- APPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL: OCT 23
- IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING ENDS: OCT 30
- VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT BY: NOV 3
- ELECTION DAY: NOV 3

<https://my.lvw.org/texas/voting-elections>

COMMUNITY NEWS

City of Houston Relief effort,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am proud that Houstonians have opened their hearts and wallets to help our neighbors recover from Hurricane Laura," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Our city will never forget the help that poured into Houston after Hurricane Harvey. We will continue to pay forward the volunteerism and generosity with every chance we get."

The Mayor's Health Equity Response (H.E.R) Task Force is working with Kroger President Joe Kelly, Gallery Furniture owner Jim McIngvale, A-Rocket Moving and Storage and the Relief Gang to coordinate "Houston's Paying It Forward" Hurricane Relief Response to Hurricane Laura.

All donated items will be sent to our neighbors in Port Arthur, Orange, and Beaumont, Texas as well as Sulphur and Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The relief effort will accept donations through Thursday, Sep-

tember 10. People can drop-off donations at the George R. Brown Convention Center and Gallery Furniture from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kroger Stores will also have collection boxes at each of its locations.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, all donated items must be new and unused/unopened.

Drop off locations:
George R. Brown Convention Center
Hall D off Chartres Street/Walker Street - Ground level
1001 Avenida de las Americas Drive
Houston, Texas 77010

Gallery Furniture
6006 North Freeway
Houston, Texas 77076

Kroger Store locations

Requested supplies:
Diapers
Cleaning supplies (especially with bleach)
Personal hygiene items

Nonperishable food
Bottled water
Pet food and supplies

Classic Gun reproduction will help fund Battleship Texas Foundation restoration work

HOUSTON- September 1, 2020. In order to help fund the Foundation's Come On Texas plan, the Battleship Texas Foundation will partner with Browning & Baron Engraving to produce a Browning 1911 380 Caliber Side Arm. Proceeds will help in the restoration of the Battleship Texas and fund the planned new homeport.

Battleship Texas Browning 1911 380 Caliber. Hear the cry "Come on Texas." It was the cry associated with the Battleship Texas. Soldiers would see her drawing near and yell, "Come on Texas." They knew that her approach meant great power. Come on Texas meant help had arrived. Her presence was a game-changer.



The Battleship TEXAS Foundation will partner with Browning and Baron Engraving to produce a Browning 1911 380 Caliber Side Arm.

Fast forward to today and it remains our favorite battle cry. So, once more we shout, Come on

Texas. Come on to the shipyard where much-needed restoration will occur. Come on Texas to a

new home where more people can enjoy her great history. Come on Texas to a bright and shining future.

To commemorate that future, we have partnered with Baron Engraving and Browning to produce this 1911 380 Caliber masterpiece. Images of Texas from 1914 to 1948 are engraved and proudly mark the famous cry of Come on Texas.

You can help with your purchase of one or more. The price is \$1,250. You will also receive a charitable tax deduction of \$400.

Purchases can be made by contacting the Battleship Texas Foundation at 713-827-9620 and info@battleshiptexas.org

Production is expected to take 120 days.

HCSO Relief efforts,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also know that first responders work around-the-clock during disasters and are not able to take time off to care for their own families. The first phase of our Hurricane Laura relief efforts focused on supporting those on the front lines.

When a resident from Richmond, Texas, heard about our Hurricane Laura Relief effort, he decided to drop off his own groceries. This is a testament to who we are as Texans, our commu-

nity spirit, and generosity.

Since last week, our deputies stepped in to help those impacted by Hurricane Laura by coordinating with the Houston Food Bank, escorting food and pharmaceutical convoys, transporting supplies in high demand, and setting up donation collection supplies.

Our friends in Louisiana helped us during Harvey. Now it's time to help them on their road to recovery.

Hispanic Heritage month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive speakers.

- Around 754 million people are expected to speak the Spanish language globally by 2050, report shows.

- According to the official US census, the United States will have the highest number of Spanish speakers in the world after Mexico by 2060, and around 28.6% of the population will be Hispanic.

- Houston's Hispanic population is increasing rapidly as more Latin American immigrants move to the area to work. Houston now has the 3rd largest Hispanic population in the United States.

- Texas' Hispanic population on pace to be the largest share of the state by 2021.

AISD recognizes the diversity in our schools — virtually and in-person.

National Hispanic Heritage Month falls during the anniversaries of independence for several Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico's Independence is September 16.

We Are More Alike Than Different

Hispanic and Latino-Americans can have European, African, Asian, and indigenous ancestry. The district encourages everyone to learn about Hispanics' various cultures, customs, traditions, and history.

Contact your child's school for information about how they will celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month.

¡Siéntete orgulloso de tus raíces! — Be proud of your roots!

September Mornings

As I drop my daughter in love off at her job every morning, I am blessed to see one amazing sunrise after the other. It may be my favorite part of the day. To see the matchless colors, fill the eastern sky makes my heart happy.

As I turn to travel back to my apartment, I see 10 to 20 active older adults walking along Castlegory between the baseball park and Wallisville Road. As I go through the neighborhood, I see young adults out jogging and even some young mothers pushing strollers with their toddlers. There is a certain feeling in the air, perhaps it is just the anticipation of cooler weather. As I cross Uvalde Road, I see some retired community members making their way from one end of Woodforest North to Normandy. In talking with one of these couples, it is amazing how many new friends they have made since beginning

their daily walks throughout the neighborhood.

This week as I passed by Green Valley Elementary as well as North Shore Elementary, I saw parents walking with little ones trying to finish up the details of getting everything straight for virtual learning. I joked with my son that perhaps that first day were the parents out and now they were trying to drop the students off at school. If nothing else comes from the pandemic, it is a new respect for educators. Having worked for San Jacinto College for 22 years, I saw the transition from "chalk and talk" classes to online teaching and learning. It is a big difference and sadly some of the most devoted teachers have decided to retire instead of "shortchanging" their students. Learning to move to

online teaching finally go the best of several of my friends who at taught at local community colleges 25 years and longer.

With the Labor Day Holiday opening this work week and September 11 closing out the week, it seems like extra emotions are added to the stress of the virtual learning. I have found that anytime you try to cram five workdays into four, you are exhausted. You add in the experience of the "new normal" of working from home or monitoring children with virtual teaching and you are so ready for Friday to arrive.

Yet this Friday marks the 19th Anniversary that Americans will never forget. In the words of country singer Alan Jackson, "Where were you on that September morn'?"

is deeply ingrained in many of our minds. Some lost loved ones, some enlisted in the military. Many turned to God for the first time in years. Many others decided it was time to slow down and spend time with family and those that mattered most to them. I do not think any of us will remember where we were or how we felt when we learned of the attacks that morning.

Perhaps these next few September mornings, you will remember to look at the community. You will notice changes and while you are out, notice some of the familiar businesses that have been here and are still standing strong. Stop in an support them if you can. Count your blessings. Love people.

NORTHEAST NEWS
Pick-up Locations

Jed's Hardware & Paint 5415 Aldine Mail Rt Greenspoint Mall Greenspoint Drive Lone Star College - Greenspoint 250 Sam Houston Pkwy E. Lone Star College - East Aldine Aldine Mail Route Baker Ripley 3000 Aldine Mail Route East Aldine District Office 5333 Aldine Mail Route RED BOX 5327 Aldine Mail Route Dance Town USA Bingo 7214 Airline Drive Pan Frico Bakery Aldine Mail Rt MacArthur High School Aldine Mail Rt High Meadows Branch Library 4550 Aldine Mail Rt Prosperity Bank Eastex Fwy 3945 Little York Prosperity Bank Little York 1615 Little York Prosperity Bank Aldine 1906 Aldine Bender Mobile Station 9140 Eastex Freeway Texaco Food Mart 9225 Eastex Freeway Conoco 11219 Eastex Freeway Handy Plus #69 11420 Eastex Freeway Hartz Chicken 12231 Eastex Freeway Beasley Tire Eastex Freeway Dairy Queen E. Mt. Houston @ Eastex Fwy Ranchero King Buffet North Freeway Mi Rancho 11132 Aldine Westfield Aldine ISD Services Office Aldine Westfield Houston Discount Sales 101 Little York & Airline Drive You & I Grocery 8009 Airline Airline Grocery 8104 Airline Quick Mart 8320 Airline Harris County Branch Library 11379 Airline Medical Clinic 8002 Airline	Aldine High School Airline @ West Rd Las Banderas Meat Market 11381 Airline Food Store 1700 Airline Pilgrim Place Apts 4655 Aldine Mail Rt Aldine Y.O.U.T.H Comm. Ctr. 4700 Aldine Mail Rt Harvest Time Church Imperial Valley 7&9 Grocery 330 Gulf Bank K Stop Food Store 340 Gulf Bank Office Building Parker Road HC Senior Center Hardy Road HC Senior Center Bentley HC Courthouse Annex Wil Clayton Parkway METRO Park & Ride Eastex Freeway Stripes Aldine Bender Beltway 8 Travel Plaza N. Sam Houston Pkwy UT Health Clinic Crosstimmers @ Jensen Mannie's Seafood & Grille E. Mt. Houston Maxim's Seafood Eastex Freeway Rosita's Restaurant Bentley Drive Shell Station Aldine C.J. Gas Station Airline Drive Sol Restaurant Aldine Mail Route La Michoacana Market Aldine Mail Route Sellers Brothers Little York Food City Aldine Mail Route
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Westfield

OPINION PAGE

COUNTY TALK
Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Time is Running Out

We got lucky, but we also did everything right as a community. As Tropical Storm Laura travelled through the gulf, our team was data-driven, relying on projected storm surge data from the National Weather Service's Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model, traffic patterns, and evacuation timelines to guide our decisions. We carefully considered forecast and tracking information from the National Hurricane Center advisories and advice from local meteorologists. When it became clear Laura was going to be a bad storm, we considered every possible scenario and weighed the dangers with each. We discussed mandatory evacuations and were ready to make the call, knowing the herculean effort that it would take. Human life is always the priority, and when there is potential for a catastrophic event, we must err on the side of information.

I'm proud of our community's response — we did everything we could do. Thank you to all the folks who took the steps to prepare, recognizing that hope is not a strategy. And we don't stop when the storm takes a different course or even at the end of hurricane season — we are constantly preparing for future storms. County mitigation projects are moving forward, faster than ever before. We've completed 21 flood mitigation projects valued at \$123 million. There are 144 active bond projects, and \$427 million in bond funds have been authorized. Read more about the county's spending on flood mitigation projects at HarrisThives.org. We are raising bridges to safer levels and carving out millions of gallons of increased detention capacity. With an eye toward smarter development, we tightened development standards in the county as much as legally possible, so upstream developments don't flood downstream neighbors. We're buying out homes that flood repeatedly and turning them into green space. We created a new framework for post-disaster recovery, so recovery happens first in the areas that are worst hit, not just in those areas with big pockets, or with connections downtown. We are exploring all possible alternatives when it comes to a coastal barrier, and we'll continue to leverage every local dollar to support flood control.

But we cannot do this alone. We need our federal government to discuss flood mitigation, invest more in long-term mitigation, and, on the most basic level, to acknowledge the reality of climate change and the historic storms we are seeing now. It shouldn't take a near miss of a catastrophic hurricane to force our national leaders to recognize the urgency of investing in flood infrastructure. Congress should follow our lead in expediting flood projects and they must do everything in their power to fund a coastal barrier for Galveston Bay, now. Time is running out.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Chris Cobler



High Tech Lincoln Logs

HIGH-TECH LINCOLN LOGS TURN HEADS IN TEXAS

Trees are almost as old as dirt in the construction industry, but they're new to Texas in the form of the state's first mass timber office building.

The Texas project generating the buzz is The Soto, which opened last week at Eighth and Broadway streets in San Antonio. The six-story building, which will anchor the Cavender neighborhood, has 140,000 square feet of leasable office space and 6,000 square feet of retail on the first floor.

The cost of the project was not released, and BOKA Powell partner Don Powell said "mass timber is not an inexpensive way to build an office building."

Proponents of mass timber construction say it's an attractive new way to build because it uses a renewable resource that allows developers to reduce their carbon footprint. The most common form is cross-laminated timber that allows for faster construction and is more resistant to fire.

"The Soto's beauty offers a striking alternative to mundane office buildings, and it takes my breath away when I see it," Powell wrote for D CEO Real Estate.

Walmart also sees the potential for growth in mass timber. The retail giant wants to build its new headquarters using Arkansas pine trees, so it recruited Structurlam to invest \$90 million in the country's first mass timber manufacturing plant. The operation is scheduled to open in



2021 in Conway, Arkansas.

The new construction also may be seen in Fredericksburg, where First United Bank recently opened the state's first full mass timber building. The bank features southern yellow pine, a native Texas species.

NEW GROWTH FOR WICHITA FALLS

A General Motors' Delphi assembly plant that closed 14 years ago in Wichita Falls will spring back to life as the country's largest hemp processing center.

Panda Biotech of Dallas announced that it had contracted for the 500,000-square-foot plant and 97-acre campus to create the Panda Texas Plains Hemp Gin. After opening in 2021, the plant will be the country's first to cottonize hemp fiber on a commercial scale, the company said in a news release.

In a recent post, Levi's touted cottonized hemp for its jeans because the plant grows faster, uses less water and leaves behind cleaner, healthier soils. "Something you'll see a lot of this season (and beyond) is cottonized hemp," the jeans company predicted.

Panda Biotech's move brings a capital investment of about \$110 million, a possible \$30 million investment in local farming and 50 jobs to Wichita Falls.

LOVING THAT SALARY

Texans may see how much their county elected officials are paid via a newly updated state report.

The Texas Association of Counties publishes the re-

port on its website during even-numbered years. Dice and slice the numbers as you will. Here's one way to look at them:

The county judge in Loving County, the least populated of the state's 254 counties, is paid \$98,045 to govern 169 residents. His counterpart in Harris County, home to about 4.7 million people, makes \$190,851.

'THAT'S WHAT TEACHERS DO'

The pandemic spotlights how indispensable public schools are, Texas' teacher of the year writes in an essay for the Texas Association of School Administrators.

"Educators provide vital community services such as childcare, regular meals, counseling, social services and even healthcare in addition to providing each child with a high-quality education in a safe and nurturing environment," said 2020 Teacher of the Year Karen Sams of the Weatherford Independent School District. "We do this in an underfunded education system and yet, we always find a way to make things work because that's what teachers do."

RETIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

If the pandemic is leading you to consider an early retirement, Forbes' annual list might be of heightened interest this year.

Two Texas cities, Dallas and San Antonio, made the 2020 list of the magazine's 25 best places to retire in the US.

Along with the lack of a state income tax, both cities made the list for affordable home prices, good climates and rich cultural scenes. Forbes knocked both for serious crime rates above the national average, however.

For the first time, the magazine considered climate change in forming its list, using data on the impact of future flood, heat, cold, sea level rise and drought. Both Dallas and San Antonio scored low on risks from climate change.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

Gladiolas

Yesterday, I bought gladiolas. They are nearly three feet tall and bright fuchsia. It is safe to say they are the most exciting thing to appear at my desk in ages.

When I walked in the front door my husband, Peter, said, "Oh my gosh."

Translated, that means: "You have gone overboard on the flowers." But Peter is too nice to say that.

I always have flowers on my desk. I used to feel guilty, spending good money on flowers every week. It seemed to me it was a little frivolous, an unnecessary expense like buying a coffee I could make at home or buying a book I could get at the library. Except, I can't make flowers or check them out from anywhere. I sit at my desk all day and, almost all day, I am looking at my flowers.

My love for flowers probably comes from my mother. My mother is good about bringing flowers into the house although, being my mother, she always goes with the minimalist approach. Her flowers are tiny, and they are in a tiny vase. The whole thing is lovely in miniature, a sort of bonsai bouquet. I admire what my mother does. But I am not like that.

When the pandemic started, it was hard to get flowers. The floral section of the grocery store was closed. But then the bushes and flowering trees started to bloom and I poached branches from the neighbors (usually with their permission) and put those on my desk. They shed something terrible and most of the flowers were dead the next morning. But the next day I would go foraging again.

Later, my roses started to bloom and that was nice. But now my roses have taken a sabbatical and so yesterday I went to the grocery store to buy more flowers.

I figured I'd end up with astromermeria. They are always cheap because, amazingly, they can be shipped flat as a pancake and they bounce back into shape. It's miraculous. Then they last for at least two weeks—three weeks if they are very fresh. Restaurants love them for this reason. I think they are pretty, and I can get them year-round.

But then I saw the gladiolas.

Once a year, the gladiolas come into the store. They are huge and weird-looking and absolutely splendid. I should note, I have a small desk. One bunch of gladiolas fills all the available space at my desk, towers high above it, and forms a canopy over my coffee cup. Gladiolas are not a decoration on my desk; they are the main event.

So now I am writing under the looming spikes of the gladiolas and feeling more than usually happy. The best part about gladiolas is that they are only four dollars a bunch. I can assure you that gladiolas provide far more than four dollars' worth of happiness.

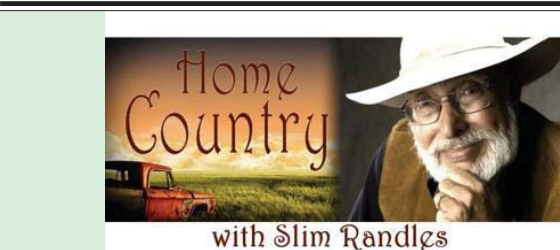
Being at home so much these days has made me realize that I own a lot of things I do not need. Like everyone I know, I've been cleaning out closets and cupboards and finding lots of things that have no reason to be in my house or my life.

But this time has also made me appreciate the things that make me smile every day: a good cup of coffee, clean sheets, an uncluttered desk, and flowers—always flowers. Having flowers on my desk makes me feel special, as if every day is a little celebration.

And flowers do not lie. Because the truth is, even the most ordinary day is worth celebrating.

Till next time,
Carrie

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



September

September. Our month of change. Our month of happy change. Once more we can stand the thought of wearing a sweater as the summer sun burns itself down. Once again we can think about a new school year and the special challenges we face this fall. Once again, the house is quiet during the day.

September. In the forest, the animals are polishing antlers, sleeking muscles for the mating ruts to come, marking their territories. The deciduous trees are showing those awe-

some changes of color as the mountains become a splendid quilt of transient beauty.

September. A resting time for the older folks. They can sit on the patio now even in the afternoons. It's a time for barbecued ribs and football, and picking fruit. On the farms, the canning pots are boiling with treasures for the coming winter.

September. Time for the Fall gather. Time to see what's out in those far pastures. Time to brand and work any late calves. Time to sort those who will stay

and those who will go to the sale. Time to make money for the ranch.

September. Time to sit and sip something hot and think about things past and yearn for certain future things and to plan ... plan how we can finish this year in a better fashion than last year.

September! Brought to you to honor those masked folks who wait on us in the coffee shops and take our temperature at the doctor's office. Thank you for your courage.

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email: nnewsroom@aol.com website: www.nnewsroom.com

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Mei-Ing Hoffman.....Associate Publisher
Lewis Spearman.....Advertising Director
Willie G Glasgow.....Marketing Executive
Julieta Paita.....Assistant Editor
Luis Hernandez.....Production Mgr.
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SPORTS PAGE

Texans host Ravens in Home Opener; Cowboys host Falcons in their Home Opener

The Texans and their new multi-million dollar quarterback host the Baltimore Ravens in their first home game of the season at what will be a fan-less NRG Stadium. Up I-45, the Dallas Cowboys will play their home opener at AT&T Stadium in what owner Jerry Jones hopes will host close to 50,000 fans.

There isn't much to choose from on the college schedule for the second straight week, but things should pick up the weekend of Sept. 26 when the Big 12 and SEC kickoff their seasons. We will definitely take a look at a number of key college games next week and hopefully the weeks to come.

This week's column will once again take a look at NFL games only. The State of Texas has two interesting games on the docket on Sunday as the Ravens and reigning MVP Lamar Jackson visit Watson and the Texans, while the high-flying Atlanta Falcons will pay visit Arlington to take on Dak Prescott and the Cowboys.

Other interesting games on tap this weekend feature the Rams at Philadelphia, the 49ers also head east to take on the Jets, while Minnesota visits Indianapolis. The defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs hit the road for the first time to face the Los Angeles Chargers in their new home, Sofi Stadium in an AFC West matchup, while New England also heads west to face Seattle on Sunday Night Football.

Week 2 concludes with New Orleans facing the Las Vegas Raiders in their first game in Sin City and their new billion-dollar stadium. So, without further ado, let's take a closer look at Week 2 in the NFL.

Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia: The Eagles host the Rams in their home opener looking to go to 2-0 on the season. The Eagles are hoping quarterback Carson Wentz (4,039 passing yards, 27 TDs) can stay healthy for an entire season. He's had a history of injury troubles in his first four years in the league. Philly fans are expecting a breakout season for second-year running back Miles Sanders (818 rushing yards, 3 TDs/50 receptions, 509 yards, 3 TDs), and if the second-year man from Penn State is as good as advertised, that will be a huge bonus for Wentz and the offense. Teams will have to deal with the running game first, which should open up the play action in the passing game. The Rams are hoping for a bounce back season from Jared Goff (4,638 yards, 22 TDs), but he will be without running back Todd Gurley who left LA for Atlanta in the offseason. Look for the Eagles to move to 2-0 with a win over the Rams on Sunday. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Los Angeles Rams 16

San Francisco at New York Jets: The



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

defending NFC champions make the long trip east to New Jersey to face a Jets team that should be improved from last year's 7-9 record. This could be a breakout year for third-year quarterback Sam Darnold (3,024 passing yards, 19 TDs in 13 games) and it would help if running back Le'Von Bell (789 yards, 3 TDs) returned to the form he had when he was putting up eye-opening rushing and receiving numbers for the Steelers. The 49ers will once again rely on the right arm of quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (3,978 yards, 27 TDs) and the pass catching ability of tight end George Kittle (85 receptions, 1,053 yards, 5 TDs). Something tells me the Jets show up and pull off the upset in their home opener on Sunday. My pick, New York Jets 24, San Francisco 20

Denver at Pittsburgh: The Steelers open host the Broncos in their home opener in what should be a competitive game. Both teams are coming off subpar years, but both could contend for a Wild Card spot this year as both teams improved in the offseason. The Broncos could be sneaky good on defense with the return of defensive end Bradley Chubb and the signing of former Tennessee Titan defensive tackle Jurrell Casey. The key to Denver's success or failure this year will be how well quarterback Drew Locke (1,020 yards, 7 TDs in five starts) plays in his second year in the league. He showed flashes as a rookie and has two solid running backs to help him out in speedy Phillip Lindsey and the productive Melvin Gordon. Steeler fans are hyped about the return to health of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who passed for more than 5,000 yards and 34 touchdowns in 2018. His 2019 season was cut short in the second game when he sustained an elbow injury. While the offense struggled without him, the defense played well and could be one of the best units in the league in 2020. Look for the Steelers to treat their fans, if any are allowed to attend the game, to a happy home opener on Sunday. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Denver 16

Minnesota at Indianapolis: This should be an interesting game as the Vikings visit the Colts in Indy's home opener. This will be a good test for new Colts QB Phillip Rivers (4,615 yards, 23 TDs), who left the Los Angeles Chargers for the Midwest and a chance to return to the playoffs after a two-year absence. Rivers has a lot of talent to spread

the ball around to led by running back Marlon Mack and rookie Johnathan Taylor (who gained more than 6,000 yards in three years at Wisconsin) and a plethora of talented wide receivers led by the speedy T.Y. Hilton. The Vikings have a top 10 defense and will provide a stern test for Rivers and Co. on Sunday. Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins (3,603 yards, 26 TDs) and running back Dalvin Cook (1,135 yards, 13 TD/53 receptions, 569 yards) will give the Indy defense a real test on Sunday. Look for Rivers to make the plays down the stretch to get his first home win as a Colt. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Minnesota 20

Buffalo at Miami: Many so-called experts have picked the Bills to win the AFC East and end New England domination of the division. If they are to do so, they will need to win on the road. This will be a good test for Buffalo as they will face an improved Miami team in what could be a steamy day in South Florida on Sunday. Buffalo fans are hoping quarterback Josh Allen (3,089 yards, 20 TDs) continues to improve and he has a new toy to throw to in former Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs (1,130 yards, 6 TDs). Diggs should open up the vertical passing game for Allen and if second-year running back Devin Singletary (775 yards, 2 TDs) has a breakout season that many are expecting, the Bills could very well be the team to beat in the AFC East this year. Look for the Dolphins to play hard, but the difference maker in this game will be Buffalo's defense, a top 10 unit in the entire league. My pick, Buffalo 27, Miami 14

Atlanta at Dallas: The Falcons bring their high-flying offense into AT&T Stadium to take on the Cowboys in their home opener. A year ago, Atlanta got off to a rough start, but won six of its last eight games to head into the offseason with a ton of momentum. Atlanta is



led by quarterback Matt Ryan (4,466 yards, 26 TDs) and wide receiver Julio Jones (99 receptions, 1,394 yards, 6 TDs). They also added running back Todd Gurley in the offseason, hoping he reverts to his 2017, 2018 self and not the subpar runner he was in 2019. The Cowboys are pretty good on offense as well led by quarterback Dak Prescott (4,902 yards, 30 TDs), running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,394 yards, 12 TDs) and three talented wide receivers in Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup and rookie CeeDee Lamb. This should be a fun, high-scoring game to watch with Prescott being difference maker in this one. My pick, Dallas 34, Atlanta 31

Baltimore at Houston: The Ravens and Texans meet at 3:25 in a nationally televised game on CBS, which will probably attract Jim Nantz and Tony Romo to call the game. The Houston defense will have its hands full trying to contain Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (3,127 passing yards, 36 TDs/1,206 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back Mark Ingram (1,018 yards, 10 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (64 receptions, 852 yards, 10 TDs) and speedy wideout Marquis Brown. The Ravens defense will also have its hands full trying to corral Watson (3,852 yards, 26 TDs/413 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and his new weapons on offense in running back David Johnson and wide receiver Brandin Cooks. The Texans must be able to run the ball against the stout Baltimore front seven if they hope to pull off the upset. Look for head coach Bill O'Brien to use Johnson and fellow running back Duke Johnson as

receivers out of the backfield to get one-on-one coverage with the Ravens linebackers. The Texans are usually good for one or two upset during the year and this would be as good a time as any for O'Brien's team to pull off a shocker on Sunday in front of an empty stadium. My pick, Houston 23, Baltimore 20

Kansas City at Los Angeles Chargers: Patrick Mahomes (4,031 yards, 26 TDs) and the Chiefs travel West to face the Chargers in their home opener in their fancy new Sofi Stadium. The Chiefs are definitely the better team, but this is a division game and the Chargers will want to make a good first impression in their new home. The LA defense is underrated led by defensive end Joey Bosa and linebacker Melvin Ingram. If Bosa can get to Mahomes early, that might slow down the Super Bowl MVP for a bit, but look for Mahomes to make plays to speed wide receiver Tyreek Hill (58 receptions, 860 yards, 5 TDs in 12 games) and big-play tight end Travis Kelce (97 receptions, 1,229 yards, 5 TDs). The Chargers have a new quarterback in Tyrod Taylor, but he still has a productive running back in Austin Ekeler (557 rushing yards, 3 TDs/92 receptions, 993 yards, 2 TDs) and the steady Keenan Allen (104 receptions, 1,199 yards, 6 TDs). I think this will be a competitive game, but look for Mahomes to be the difference maker in the fourth quarter. My pick, Kansas City 33, Los Angeles 30

New England at Seattle: This should be a good one for Al and Cris and the Sunday Night Football crew as Bill Belichick's Patriots head West to face Russell Wilson (4,110

yards, 31 TDs) and the Seahawks. The New England defense will get a real test on Sunday night as it faces a Seattle offense that can get it done in the air with Wilson and wide receiver Tyler Lockett (82 receptions, 1,057 yards, 8 TDs) and on the ground with running back Chris Carson (1,230 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Belichick to feature his team's running game to chew up clock and keep Wilson off the field. That might work for a bit, but look for Wilson to make some big plays down the stretch to lead his team to the victory. My pick, Seattle 27, New England 20

New Orleans at Las Vegas: The Las Vegas Raiders make their home debut when they host the New Orleans Saints on Monday Night Football. It does not appear Raiders ownership will allow fans to attend the opener in their swanky new stadium, which is a shame for a team that moved from Oakland to Vegas during the offseason. The Saints will once again be led by quarterback Drew Brees (2,979 yards, 27 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara and wide receiver Michael Thomas (149 receptions, 1,725 yards, 9 TDs). The Raiders and head coach Jon Gruden are hoping quarterback Derek Carr (4,054 yards, 21 TDs) is ready for a breakout season, if not, the Raiders might be looking for a new QB in 2021. The Raiders have a rising star in second-year running back Josh Jacobs (1,150 yards, 7 TDs). If fans were allowed to attend this game, I would go with the Raiders, but I'm going with the more experienced team, which is the Saints. My pick, New Orleans 31, Las Vegas 26

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 74 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION PROGRAM HURRICANE HARVEY STATEWIDE COMPETITION

The Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 74 will hold a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 4901 Sandydale Lane, Houston, Texas regarding the submission of an application to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for a Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of CDBG-MIT funding available, the amount of CDBG-MIT funds to be utilized to meet the LMI national objective, all eligible CDBG-MIT activities, and the use of past CDBG funds. The District encourages citizens to participate in the development of this CDBG-MIT application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to the District Office at the address listed above or by phone at (281) 442-9072. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the District to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the District at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Para más información en español, comuníquese con Melissa Gonzales al (281) 442-9072.

New Locations Offering Free COVID-19 Testing Sept. 14-19 Test Results Come Back in 1-3 Days

Houston - Starting Monday, September 14, there will be 6 new mobile testing locations and 2 stationary sites offering FREE COVID-19 testing. Getting test results back is much quicker now, 1-3 days.

Some children have returned to in-person classes and some people gathered for Labor Day without taking precautions. Since 40% of people infected with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, you could have it without knowing it and be spreading it to family and friends. It can be deadly for older people, those with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems. So don't guess...take the test.

Hours at the mobile sites are 7-2 and children can be tested at these sites. Register at www.hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575. Keep your authorization code to be tested.

Mobile locations for September 14-19, are Monday-Saturday and closed one day Hosana Lutheran Church 16526 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77090 Closed Tuesday, September 15 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 1124 Beech St, Baytown, TX 77520 Closed Wednesday, September 16

St. Peter's United Methodist 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450 Closed Thursday, September 17 Champion Forest Baptist Church 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd, Houston, TX 77069 Closed Wednesday, September 16 UH-Clear Lake, Delta Bldg - Lot 3 2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058 Closed Monday, September 14 San Juan Diego Church 3301 Pasadena Blvd, Pasadena, TX 77503 Closed Saturday, September 19

There is a stationary site at the M.O. Campbell Education Center in Aldine. Children can be also tested at this site. Hours this week are 7am-2pm. Register at www.hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575.

The Pasadena stationary site is still offering Surge Testing at San Jacinto College Central Campus. People must be 13 or older to be tested at this site. Hours this week are 7am-2pm, with expanded hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm-8pm. Register for the Pasadena site at www.doineadacovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575.



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You are eligible, if you: Are a female 35 years or older, due for a mammogram, have an order for a mammogram (if not, Irma will be able to help you get an order), do not have any breast health symptoms or problems, currently not pregnant or nursing, and have not been diagnosed with breast cancer within the past 5 years.

Note: August 28th is the last day to Register

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Boaz in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 3:16, to whom did Jesus speak, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son ...?" Mountain's multitude, Simon Peter, Shepherds in field, Nicodemus

3. Whose first chapter (KJV) begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God"? 1 Timothy, Titus, James, 2 John
4. From 2 Samuel, who killed a giant having 12 fingers and 12 toes? Mephibosheth, Jambres, Abimelech, Jonathan
5. What false prophet preached a message of peace during the days of Jeremiah? Simon Magus,

Noadiah, Bar-Jesus, Hananiah
6. In John 11, what city was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus? Corinth, Gaza, Bethany, Sardis

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Nicodemus; 3) 1 Timothy; 4) Jonathan; 5) Hananiah; 6) Bethany
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Amos 3: 7, 8

"His Royal Highness" by Herbert Dicksee (1892)



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1/16 page	\$70
1/8 page	\$125
1/4 page	\$250
1/2 page	\$475
Full Page	\$950

Example: 1/4 page first insertion FREE, second insertion \$125, third insertion \$250. Camera Ready Ads only, payment must accompany order. Other details apply.

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