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NORTHEAST NEWS



MAJOR INDUSTRIAL 4 ALARM FIRE in Northwest Aldine took 4 fire departments over 4 hours to control. Story, page 7

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 9 TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

COVID-19 Cases as of February 23, 2021
HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES
560,654 POSITIVE 5,606 DEATHS 494,990 RECOVERED
TEXAS
2,616,768 POSITIVE 42,521 DEATHS 2,353,741 RECOVERED
UNITED STATES
28,257,908 POSITIVE 502,594 DEATHS --- RECOVERED
WORLDWIDE
112,085,967 POSITIVE 2,484,865 DEATHS 63,267,510 RECOVERED

AOC raises \$5 million in Storm Relief

Historic Texas Ice Storm Victims Receive Aid From New York Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – Saturday, February 20, 2021 - Houston's Food Bank (HFB) President and CEO, Brian Greene welcomed and introduced Congresswomen Sylvia Garcia, New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Sheila Jackson Lee to the facility. He said the HFB is a non-profit organization and the nation's largest food bank in the United States by size and distribution; providing access to 159 million nutritious



At a press conference at the Food Bank L-R: Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) & Sylvia Garcia (Allan Jamail photo)

meals in 18 counties in southeast Texas.

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia told how New York's 14th Congressional District Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) contacted her and said she'd like to help Texas' ice storm victims. Garcia invited AOC to Houston so she could visit the HFB and see how they provide meals year-round to the needed. She said about one in four children in our area are at-risk of hunger. Kids must have consistent nutritious food for the body, mind, and spirit in order to be suc

See AOC raises \$5 million, page 5

COVID-19 RESOURCES

City of Houston Pre-Screening & VACCINE SHOTS 832-393-4220
Harris County Ask a Nurse 713-634-1110
Harris County Pre-Screening 832-927-7575 or readyharris.org
Harris County Mobile Tests 713-439-6000
MD Medical 1-888-776-5252
Methodist Hospital Download mymethodist app.

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

CITY OF HOUSTON Registration HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 832-393-4220
HARRIS COUNTY Registration at readyharris.org OR https://vacstrac.hctx.net 832-927-8787
RETAIL PHARMACIES Registration at Websites CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Sams Club, HEB, Kroger, Randal's
HOSPITALS houstonmethodist.org

President Biden tours Houston Relief sites

HOUSTON – President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden traveled to Houston last Friday, February 26 as Harris County slowly recovers from the winter storm and power and water outages.

The president was greeted at Ellington Airfield when he landed by a delegation including Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, and Congresspersons Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee. They met with Gov. Greg Abbott at the FEMA



TOUR of the Harris County Emergency Center included L to R, Mayor Turner, Governor Abbott, President Joe Biden, and HC Judge Lina Hidalgo, explaining the details of operation in the emergency center.

vaccine super-site at NRG around 5 p.m. Friday. This will be Biden's last stop after touring several locations, including the Houston Food Bank and the Harris County Emergency Management Center.

Biden earlier surveyed damage and recovery efforts following the deadly winter storm.

White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki said this is not a partisan issue for the president.

"The president doesn't view the crisis and the millions of people who have been impacted by (the storm) as a Democratic or a Republican issue" Psaki said. "He views it as an issue where he's eager to get relief, to tap into all the resources in the federal government, to make sure the people of Texas know we're thinking about them, we're fighting for them,

Continued, see Biden tours Houston, page 2

Woman survives brain bleed thanks to Emergency Corps

Pauline Cras Survived a Brain Bleed and Heart Attack

On February 22, at 2:00pm at Harris County Emergency Corps (2800 Aldine Bender, Houston), Pauline Cras will meet the healthcare heroes who saved her life following a brain bleed and cardiac arrest.

For 27 year old Pauline Cras, she is considered miracle by her family and See Thanks to HCEC, page 2



Pauline Cras recovers from a Brain Bleed and Heart Attack in the hospital. (HCEC photo)

METRO offers Late-Night custom rides

HOUSTON – METRO is now offering "Custom Connector" service in three North Houston areas, including Kashmere. The service is known as the Kashmere Community Connector.

The service provides personalized, curb to curb transportation in a defined zone within Northeast Houston, north of Interstate 610 and east of U.S. Highway 59/ Interstate Highway 69. METRO picks you up, and then drops you off at your intended destination. Community Connector vehicles connect you with METRO's larger transportation network at anchor points within the zone. For instance, your "first mile" of traveling may be on a Community Connector between your residence and

the Kashmere Transit Center, where you transfer to another METRO service. Your "last mile" of traveling may be on a Community Connector between the Kashmere Transit Center and your residence.

The service zone covers the Northeast Houston area just north of Interstate 610 and just east of U.S. Highway 59/ Interstate Highway 69, as

See METRO, page 2

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SCHOOL NEWS

TO OUR READERS:
The current Covid-19 Pandemic, weather and economic conditions have caused us to combine some issues every two weeks, and to change distribution to Pick-up locations. See page 5 for 50 locations where you can get a copy of the Northeast News, and page 7 for email subscriptions. We thank you for your continued support.

COVID-19
Cases as of February 7, 2021

HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

530,278 POSITIVE
5,208 DEATHS
434,520 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,494,861 POSITIVE
39,322 DEATHS
2,091,113 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

27,004,529 POSITIVE
463,433 DEATHS
--- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

106,056,229 POSITIVE
2,315,156 DEATHS
59,144,675 RECOVERED

NEWS NOTES

Food Fair at BakerRipley Mar. 3

Drive-Thru Free Food Distribution starting at 11:00 am at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 2131 Lauder Road. Stay in your vehicle, we will place the food in your car. No Registration required.

Citizenship Workshop Mar. 13

Bonding Against Adversity will hold a Free Citizenship Workshop Saturday, March 13 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. Pre-registration required. Call 281-799-9076 or Text 832-906-4214. Limited to 10 applicants. See Details in English and Spanish on Page 6 of this issue.

Studeio 59 Market Square Event Mar. 6

Studeio 59 presents "Babes Support Babes" on Saturday, March 6th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. 12411 Eastex Freeway, Houston 77039. Food, Giveaways, Vendors, Live Music, and Family Fun. Everyone welcome.

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Biden tours Houston sites,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



THE BIDENS were greeted upon their arrival at Ellington Airfield by Congresspersons Al Green, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Governor Abbot with his wife Cecelia. Joe and Jill Biden are at right in the photo.



HOUSTON FOOD BANK president Brian Greene explains how they operate, during a tour by Jill and Joe Biden.

and we're going to continue working on this as they're recovering."

According to the White House, the president and first lady arrive at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base at noon. Then they will make stops at the Houston Food Bank, Harris County Emergency Operations Center before taking a tour at the FEMA super-site.

Here is a look at their full schedule:

9: 40 a.m.: President and the first lady depart the White House en route to Joint Base Andrews 12 p.m.: The couple arrives in Houston

12:50 p.m.: First lady visits Houston Food Bank
12:55 p.m.: Biden tours Harris County Emergency Operations Center

2:20 p.m.: President, the first lady tour Houston Food Bank and meet volunteers

5 p.m.: Biden delivers remarks at the FEMA COVID-19 vaccination facility at NRG Stadium 6 p.m.: The couple departs from Houston en route to Washington, D.C.

Governor Abbott said he will join the president during the tour to discuss several key issues impacting Texans.

"The first thing that we will talk about will be the winter disaster that occurred," Abbott said. "And then, on top of that, we will be visiting one of the vaccine super sites they have located in Houston."

According to the White House, Biden will deliver remarks after touring the vaccination site.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo told people to expect traffic delays throughout the day, especially along Loop 610 where most of the tour will occur throughout the afternoon.

Woman survives, thanks HCEC,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many healthcare workers. Pauline and her family were not given a chance for survival.

For five weeks, she was in a coma with a brain drain, breathing tube and feeding tube. Physicians found a 4mm aneurysm and drilled a hole in her skull to release pressure.

Philippe Cras, Pauline's father credits Harris County Emergency Corps (HCEC) for saving her life on September 21, 2020.

"Doctor's were saying Pauline had 0% chance of survival," said Philippe Cras. "But her mother kept saying she was going to live."

She woke up in early November. She arrived home in time for Christmas. She is starting to look like herself again.

Cras said, "First we prayed for total peace and now we pray for total healing. She was given a second chance, and she is asking frequently if she can meet the people who saved her."

Every day, "our teams commits to providing the highest quality pre-hospital care," said Jeremy Hyde, CEO and President at HCEC. "I am thankful we were able to make a difference in their family."

HCEC's dispatcher and call taker were Amy Schmidt and Shemekia Turner, and the HCEC EMS Crew who responded were Isiah Black and Gab-



Pauline Cras today, recovered from medical emergency

riela Barrios. Eastex Fire Department personnel who responded were Nicole Nelson and Brian Munoz. Pauline Cras will get to meet all of these people.

About Harris County Emergency Corps

Committed to preserving lives through clinical excellence, progressive medicine, and professional service, Harris County Emergency Corps (HCEC) is a premier EMS agency and the only Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services accredited agency with headquarters in Houston. HCEC was the first EMS agency formed in the state of Texas. Serving approximately 400,000 citizens, HCEC provides 911 EMS operations in north Houston for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 1. For more information, visit www.hcec.com

METRO Late-Night custom rides available,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A variety of vehicles will be used to provide the custom Connector service.

shown in the Kashmere Community Connector Map on the next page.

When does the Kashmere Late-Night Connector operate?

Daily, 8 p.m.-midnight. **When would it make sense to use this service?**

Here are 3 examples:
1. You're taking a night class at HCC Northline. You can take the Route 29 back to Kashmere Transit Center, but your connecting route doesn't run late enough to get you home.

2. You want to attend an evening Astros game downtown. You can take the Route 51/52 back to Kashmere Transit Center, but your connecting route doesn't run late enough to get you home.

3. You work at Memorial City Mall until closing. You can take the Route 26 back to Kashmere Transit Center, but your connecting route doesn't run late enough to get you home.

What safety precautions are in place to help fight COVID-19?

- Extensive cleaning and disinfecting of vehicles
 - Limited number of riders per vehicle
 - Mask or face covering required to ride
 - Protective shield between you and the operator
 - Hand sanitizer available on board
- Here is Fare Information:**
- Regular fare: \$1.25 per ride
 - Discount fare: \$0.60 per ride*
 - Seniors (70+) and METROLift customers

with a valid ID ride for free.

* Discount fares apply to students, seniors (65-69), Medicare cardholders and disabled passengers.

How do I pay to get on board?

The only form of payments accepted are a METRO Q@ Fare Card or METRO Day Pass.

Where can I purchase or reload a fare card?

You can purchase or reload a METRO Q@ Fare Card or METRO Day Pass at:

- METRO RideStore (1900 Main St. Houston, Texas 77002) - Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Select vending machines located at METRO rail platforms, Park & Rides, and transit centers

-- Participating retail locations
You can also purchase or reload fare cards through the online METRO RideStore - however, it may take several days for you to receive them, as all fare cards purchased through the online store are physically mailed.

Additional options for reloading a fare card:

- Use our reload machine located next to the rear exit doors on all local buses
- Reload your card online at RideMETRO.org/reload

What retail locations in the area sell METRO fare cards?

- FIESTA #50 - 5815 Lockwood Drive - Houston, Texas 77026
- TEXAS FOOD MARKET - 6301 Jensen Drive

- Houston, Texas 77028

How do I get on board?
You can walk right up and board the Kashmere Late-Night Connector at the Kashmere Transit Center (5910 Hirsch Road) at the top of every hour (daily, 8 p.m.-midnight), to travel to your destination anywhere within the zone.

At the Kashmere Transit Center, you can connect to the following routes:
3 Langley - Little York
26 Long Point/Cavalcade
29 Cullen/Hirsch
51 Hardy-Kelley
52 Hardy-Ley
80 MLK/Lockwood
97 Settegast

What if I want the vehicle to pick me up where I am?

If you can't get to an anchor point, there are two ways you can book a ride and have the vehicle pick you up at your exact location within the zone:
-- Use the METRO curb2curb app
-- Call 713-739-4611 (agents on call daily, 5 a.m.-midnight)

Reservations are subject to availability.

Does my fare entitle me to free transfers?

After tapping your fare card on the validator upon boarding the Kashmere Late-Night Connector, you can transfer for free to any local METRO bus route service for the next 3 hours.

Download the METRO curb2curb App

The METRO curb2curb app allows you to book a ride on the Kashmere Late-Night Connector, on-demand via your smartphone.

LEGAL NOTICE

AISD to hold public hearing on 19-20 APR at March 9 Board meeting

TEC §39.306 requires each district's board of trustees to hold a public hearing to discuss the district's annual report. Within two weeks following the public hearing, each district must widely publish its annual report, including posting it on the district website and other public places. Aldine ISD will hold a public hearing for discussion of the 19-20 Annual Performance Report at the March 9 Board meeting.

The March 9 Board meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Donaldson Administration Building and will begin at 7 p.m.

Texas Department of Insurance gives Winter Storm Insurance Tips

Winter Storm Insurance Tips

If your home has been damaged by a broken water pipe, fallen tree limbs or other winter damage, you should contact your insurance company to file a claim as soon as possible.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) recommends the following tips to help make the process go smoother:

Make a list of damaged property. Take pictures or video of the damage. Don't throw anything away until your insurance company tells you to.

Take steps to protect your home from further damage. Turn off the water and cover broken windows and holes in your roof if possible.

Save all receipts. Your policy may cover these costs.

Try to be there when the insurance company comes to inspect the damage. If you can't stay in your home, leave a note with information on where you can be reached.

Keep a list of everyone you talk to at your insurance company. Be ready to answer questions about the damage.

Ask about additional living expenses. If you can't live in your home due to the damage, your insurance policy may pay for some of those expenses.

For questions on how to file a claim, please visit the TDI website FAQ page or call the TDI Helpline from Monday to Friday between 8:00AM and 5:00PM at (800) 252-3439.

If you are unsure of who you should contact at your insurance company to file a claim, TDI has compiled a Company Lookup resource guide with updated information.

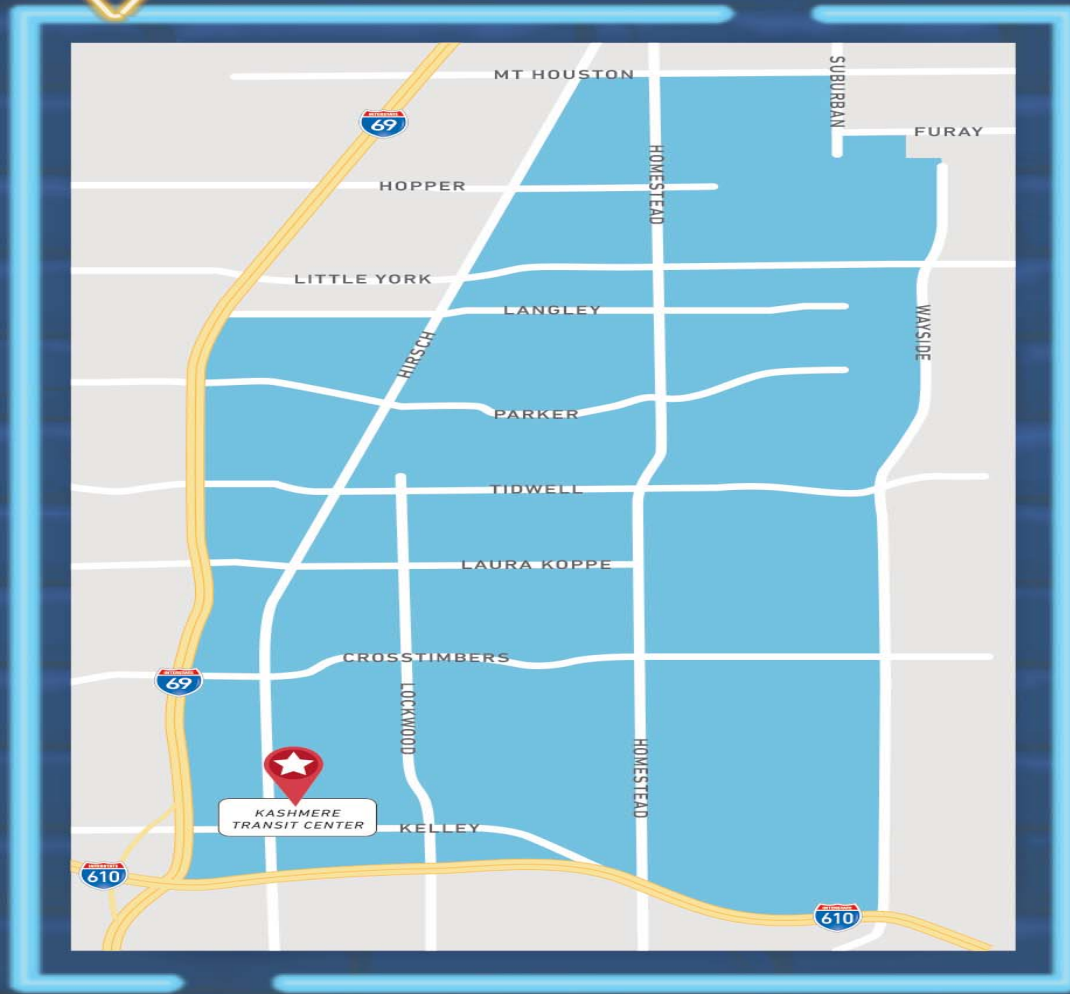


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↩ ZONE MAP



**Catch it at the Kashmere Transit Center
or scan the QR code to download
the curb2curb app and book a ride.**



PCT. 2 TALK
By Commissioner Adrian Garcia



Understanding Precinct 2

Dear Residents of Precinct 2

Even after living within the precinct lines for most of my life, now two years into my term as your County Commissioner, every day, I continue to learn so much about my neighbors I serve. For example, readers of this publication may not realize that the 4 publications that Gil manages (Northeast News, North Forest News, Highlands Star Crosby Courier, North Channel Star) ALL cover areas located within Precinct 2. On top of that, you all share a precinct with folks living as far south as Webster, just outside downtown in the East End, as well as parts of Huffman. None of my colleagues on Commissioners Court has within their precinct boundaries anywhere near as diverse of a geographic area as that of Precinct 2, not to mention that I also have more incorporated cities within my precinct than any other precinct in Harris County.

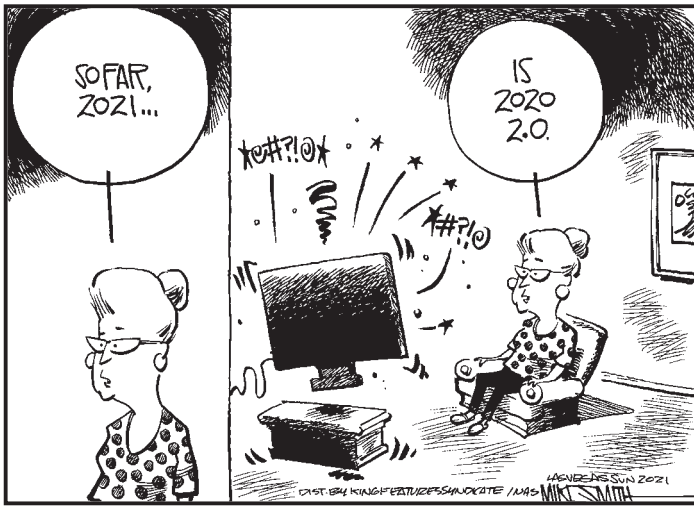
I've started this column because I want to speak directly to you and have you more connected to your county government. Many ask me what role the county has in their lives. To me, there are 4 pillars of priorities: infrastructure, economy/jobs, health, and public safety.

My top responsibility as your County Commissioner is managing infrastructure such as road, bridges, and flood control projects. When it comes to the economy and job issues, we focus on giving residents an opportunity to flourish and doing as much as possible to attract good paying jobs that will hire Precinct 2 residents. Finally, we work to improve health and public safety through investment in accessible care and law enforcement. As long as I have the opportunity to contribute this column, I will do my best to share the status of our work in each of the pillars.

I'm just about out of space for this introductory column, so I will close with the latest on the county's ongoing efforts to deal with the COVID crisis and distribute vaccines. Right now, supplies are extremely limited, so we urge everyone to be patient. The fastest way to get in line for the vaccine is to contact your current health care provider if you have one. Health care systems such as Methodist, Memorial-Hermann, or others are getting direct allocations of vaccines.

In addition, for anyone without a current health care provider, Harris County Public Health has opened a waitlist portal for anyone to sign up to be notified when doses allocated to the county become available. Please visit ReadyHarris.org or call (832) 927-8787 to get on the list. Again, supplies remain extremely limited, so exercise patience, and continue to follow protocols to keep you and your loved ones healthy until the vaccines arrive and can be delivered to your shoulders.

Hopefully soon, we will see either increased supply or other vaccines approved to be used. In order to achieve herd immunity and get back to normal, the shortage must end. Incidentally, I have sent President Biden a letter urging him to understand that Precinct 2 has challenges and that we need his administration to prioritize Harris County and our precinct. I'm not sure about you, but I look forward to the column I write celebrating the vanquishing of this vicious virus and returning to normalcy.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Entertaining Remington

I remember, a long time ago, when I used to have a social life.

My husband, Peter, and I have been visiting his sister, Lori, once a week while she battles cancer. She was in yesterday for another radiation treatment, and we are waiting to hear if she will be feeling well enough for a visit this weekend. And so we stay home, as we have since March of last year.

Lately, we have taken to picking up our groceries at the curb. I was skeptical. I'd never had another person choose my broccoli for me. They did a surprisingly good job, and it's one more thing we can do to feel a little safer while visiting Lori. But it's also a little sad because the grocery store is the only place I go.

Now, I go nowhere except on my long daily walk and to visit Lori. And the only person who comes to our house is our neighbor, Yvonne, and the dog, Remington.

Yvonne's dad is 90 and frail. He hasn't been out of his house other than for a couple of doctor appointments and the occasional drive around town. Yvonne is keeping extra safe so she can bring him meals and groceries. Yvonne just retired and thought she'd be going places and doing things she couldn't do while she was working. Instead, she's walking her son's dog, Remington.

Our twice-weekly visits from Remington have become the center of our social life.

Yvonne rings the doorbell and then steps back off the stoop. But Remington strains on his leash in anticipation. Yvonne confirms these visits are the highlight of his week.

Peter makes a wonderful smoked salmon, and we save the skin for Remington. I bring it out on a plate, along with a bowl of water. Remington eats the salmon and has a drink and then waits, poised, for the entertainment.

Entertaining Remington has become an elaborate affair.

Peter brings out exactly six "pub snacks," which are crackers he has renamed "pup snacks." He tosses them high in the air and Remington catches them. Peter calls this Remington's "circus trick," and Yvonne and I cheer wildly every time Remington catches a cracker. You can see Remington's fierce concentration as he performs for three adults, focused on his performance. It's a lot of pressure for one young dog, becoming the center of three adults' social calendar.

This routine has become so firmly established that, one day, I was late with the salmon and Peter tossed the crackers before its arrival. Remington was visibly confused but caught the crackers. Then, one by one, he carefully placed them on the step to eat after the salmon because he knew that was the way it was supposed to be done.

And all the while we have been entertaining Remington, we have missed important milestones, experiences we will never have, moments lost forever.

My parents are in their 80s and I missed both their birthdays. My niece turned 18, which is impossible to believe. I hardly recognize my nephew on Zoom. He seems to have grown a foot and his voice has changed. I have missed attending the theater, missed seeing the ocean, missed entertaining friends, missed going to restaurants, missed hugging my family. And those are just things I know I have missed.

Meanwhile, Remington competes twice weekly for the title of "World's Best Circus Dog," my only live entertainment for the past 11 months. "See you soon!" Yvonne says when she leaves. "Goodbye, Remington!" I say, and Remington leaves, tail wagging.

I hope he comes back soon. Till next time, Carrie

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Millions of Texans dealing with water supply issues

Warmer temperatures over the weekend and continuing this week melted most of the snow from the state's roadways and roofs. But Texans are still dealing with broken pipes that flooded homes and businesses, damaged municipal water systems, and continued power outages in scattered areas, mainly in East and Central Texas.

At the height of the power crisis, more than 4 million Texans were without electrical service — a number that shrank to less than 32,000 as of Sunday, according to the PowerOutage.Us website.

As of last weekend, more than half the state's population had some type of disruption in their water service, from having no water to low pressure, which made it necessary to boil water before safely using it for drinking, cooking or bathing. Tiffany Young, spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, reported Friday that more than 1,300 water supply systems and 62% of Texas counties were affected.

STATE'S POWER GRID 'MINUTES' FROM FAILING; ABBOTT URGES LEGISLATIVE ACTION

As electricity demand overwhelmed capacity last week during the height of the storm, the chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the power grid for most of the state, told the media that the grid came close to having a catastrophic failure that could have taken months to repair. Grid operators began rolling blackouts to cut demand. "It needed to be addressed immediately," said Bill Magness, president of ERCOT. "It was seconds and minutes (from possible failure), given the amount of generation that was coming off the system."

Abbott last Tuesday



added reform of ERCOT as an emergency item this legislative session, calling the organization "anything but reliable." Also, Attorney General Ken Paxton has issued civil investigative demands to ERCOT and 11 power companies demanding documents and data related to the power outages, emergency plans, energy pricing and other items related to the winter storm power failures. Paxton said in a press release that ERCOT and other entities "grossly mishandled" last week's winter disaster.

Abbott met with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dade Phelan and eight members of the Legislature on Saturday to discuss how to address the spike in energy bills affecting many Texans after the power outages.

The Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, also has begun an investigation into the outages. Chairman DeAnn Walker, said, "We must act swiftly to discover not only how this crisis came together, but also take meaningful steps to protect electricity customers."

TIPS ON FILING INSURANCE CLAIMS FOR DAMAGED HOMES

The Texas Department of Insurance offers several tips if filing a homeowner's claim for damage caused by broken water pipes, downed tree limbs or other

damage from the storm. TDI advises contacting your insurance company or agent as soon as possible to file a claim. Also:

- Make a list of damaged property. Take pictures or video of the damage.
- Take steps to protect your home from further damage. Turn off the water, cover broken windows and holes in your roof if possible. Keep receipts on anything you spend to make temporary repairs.
- Try to be present when the insurance adjuster comes to inspect the damage or leave a note on how you can be reached.
- Keep a list of everyone you talk to at your insurance company.
- Get more than one bid, check references, and don't pay up front.

STORM SLOWS RATE OF VACCINATIONS ACROSS TEXAS

Scheduled COVID-19 vaccinations were rescheduled in metro areas and vaccine hubs throughout the state due to the storm.

People in Texas vaccinated with at least one dose passed the 3 million mark, and 1.313 million people were fully vaccinated as of Sunday. COVID-19 vaccine distribution will ramp back up as the state recovers from the winter storms, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Nearly 600,000 first doses are coming this week from the Centers for Disease Control and are being shipped to 563 providers in 230 Texas counties.

In addition, the state has ordered 364,830 second doses intended for people first vaccinated a few weeks ago. A TDSHS news release stated that people who had their second dose appointments delayed by the winter weather "should rest assured knowing that vaccine will be available, and their appointments will be rescheduled."

For more information, go to this site: <https://tinyurl.com/duocrgb>. People without internet access can dial 2-1-1 to access information about vaccine providers.

COVID-19 CASES IN STATE CONTINUE TO DROP


While some reporting may have been delayed because of the storms, the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine reported 33,423 cases in Texas last week — fewer than half reported the previous week. The number of new deaths also dropped by more than half, with 892 reported. Again, the numbers may be skewed by the storm's effects on power outages at Texas hospitals and other factors. We'll see what next week's numbers indicate.

top ten

Creative Hobbies During COVID

1. Trying new recipes
2. Gardening
3. Painting
4. Photography
5. Drawing
6. Creative writing
7. Dance
8. Interior design
9. Digital design
10. Non-fiction writing

Source: Canava



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Asst. Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

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AOC raises \$5 million,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cessful. Garcia told of how AOC began raising funds to aid the ice storm victims. The first day AOC quickly raised over a million dollars so she then decided to continue raising donations. On the second day, the day before her trip to Houston AOC had raised over two million and Saturday on the day she arrived here AOC had raised 3.2 million dollars. After leaving the HFB Garcia's took OAC out to some Houston communities to

visit and see first-hand how devastating the brutal storm struck millions of people. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez said, "Many Texas families and those across the country are already on the brink of financial collapse because of the COVID 19 pandemic that's preventing them from working. They can't afford another emergency like these ice storms. This can set people back for years, not just days." She said the funds raised will go to non-

profit organizations to help the elderly, homeless and hunger victims. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee said so many of the ice storm victims are essential workers, living on a low income budget, this places them in danger more so than others. These folks went without power and or water for days; we know they suffered and are still suffering. They're our brothers and sisters, let us not let them go hungry or without decent shelter.

Senator Alvarado organizes relief for Storm Victims



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, (UAF) President John Alex and Senator Carol Alvarado. Also present was Judge Joe Stephens. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - February 22, 2021 - State Senator Carol Alvarado, Judge Joe Stephens and New York City's United Aid Foundation (UAF) President John Alex teamed up to help the North Channel areas residents with food, water and household essentials.

Hundreds of citizens lined up in vehicles for blocks to get the free supplies. Most of them having to maintain with shortages brought about from the February 15th ice storm that paralyzed the state over a week. The storm brought a halt to millions of Texans to be able to go to work. With their home's electricity out their refrigerated food had to be tossed out causing a food shortage. Public water suppliers weren't able to maintain a safe pressure to

prevent bacterial infiltration from seeping into the resident's water system. This health concern forced millions of Texans to have to boil their water to make it safe for consumption. The large demand for bottled drinking water caused a shortage that eventually ran out.

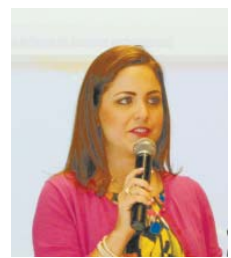
Senator Carol Alvarado hosted and organized the event and Judge Joe Stephens arranged to get the use of the parking lot of the Uvalde Baptist Church on Uvalde Street to distribute from. I'm very grateful to my friends at United Aid Foundation who traveled from New York to bring water, food and other essential to East Harris County. So many people in need, happy our office can assist. Appreciate Congresswoman Garcia and Judge Joe Stephens for their efforts," Alvarado said.

United Aid Foundation (UAF) out of New York City provided the funding for everything given away. John Alex, UAF President is no stranger to helping Houstonians, he came here in August of 2017 after Hurricane Harvey to help the flood victims. It was then during his Harvey work he met Senator Carol Alvarado. When he learned of Texans devastated by the ice storm and hunting empty shelves for food and water he contacted Alvarado to give UAF's helping hand.

Knowing Houston had low supplies of food and water Alex and team members Cenovio Villa, Louis Cordona and Abby Hayo flew to New Orleans they bought all the supplies there, they loaded it in a rented Uhaul truck and drove it to Houston in time for the planned distribution day.

Representative Hernandez to investigate power failure

Ana Hernandez as Vice Chair of the House Committee on State Affairs, and the Energy Resources committee will hold a joint public hearing on Thursday, February 25th, 9:00am to address the failure of ERCOT in ensuring power to our communities during this unprecedented cold weather event. The committees will consider the factors that led to statewide electrical blackouts; the response by industry, suppliers, and grid operators; and any necessary changes to avoid future power interruptions.



During the winter storm, millions of Texans across our state were left without water and power, unable to heat their homes and provide their families with the bare essentials

needed for survival. Texans deserve answers for this failure.

As Vice Chair of the House Committee on State Affairs, I am committed to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure nothing like this ever happens again.

To watch the committee hearing live, you may visit the Texas House of Representatives website. If you have any questions about activities at the Capitol or would like assistance with an issue, please do not hesitate to give us a call at (512) 463-0614.

Visit our website for current news and events, and back issues. www.nenewsroom.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Posting Date February 22, 2021

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sweater has decoration. 2. Doorknob is missing. 3. Boots are taller. 4. One shoe is gone. 5. Fence is higher. 6. House is missing.

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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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ACROSS

1 June honoree
4 Say it's so
8 Pretzel topper
12 Past
13 Travel permit
14 Done with
15 Brock of baseball
16 Alaskan city
18 Heron's kin
20 Army address
21 Dalai --
24 Slow, in music
28 Right to vote
32 Cash advance
33 201, in old Rome
34 Heat to near boiling
36 GOP org.
37 Priestly vestments
39 Cheap ride section
41 "Yum!"
43 Novelist
44 Steal from
46 Cowboy's workplace
50 Spur on
55 Tic-tac-toe win
56 Nerd's kin
57 Hostels
58 Hooting bird
59 Big wind

DOWN

1 Valley
2 Awestruck
3 Gloomy
4 Online images
5 Sportscaster
6 Computer key
7 Stadium
8 Reddish-brown horse
9 "Selma"

director
DuVernay
10 Table support
11 Three, in Rome
17 Texas tea
19 Sprite
22 PC alternatives
23 Marble type
25 Asta's feeder
26 Tart flavor
27 As soon as
28 "Shool"
29 Bruins' sch.
30 Little lies
31 Mountain ht.

35 Most loved
38 Painter's motion
40 Genetic letters
42 Thee
45 Telly watcher
47 Cranny
48 Batman's hood
49 Actress
Celeste
50 Early bird?
51 PBS funder
52 Cartoon frame
53 Yucatan year
54 Wildebeest

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GAMES: Which chess piece can only move diagonally?
- U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Nevada?
- LANGUAGE: What is a lexicon?
- HISTORY: What was the first sport played on the moon?
- LITERATURE: In his will, what gift did Albus Dumbledore give to Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter book series?
- MOVIES: What was the first Disney song to win an Academy Award for best original movie song?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Bermuda?
- INVENTIONS: Who first invented a successful vaccine for rabies?
- ASTRONOMY: Which two planets in our solar system do not have moons?
- MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MDCCCXII?

Weekly SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Trivia Test Answers

1. The bishop; 2. Carson City; 3. A dictionary; 4. Golf; 5. A delimitator, which takes away or restores high sources; 6. "When You Wish Upon a Star"; 7. Hamilton; 8. Venus and Mercury; 9. Venus and Mercury; 10. 1812

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Child and adolescent psychiatrists can



Dr. Anuj K. Shukla, M.D.

provide comprehensive care for a wider range of conditions. They are medical doctors, are able to prescribe medications, and have additional training to recognize physical problems and any links to behavioral issues.

Dr. Shukla has an interest in ADHD

(attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and autism spectrum disorders but also sees patients for other conditions, such as anxiety, OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder), substance abuse, bipolar disorders, mental trauma, depression and more. He works with a large network of physicians and is able to collaborate with other agencies and organizations.

If you need care in northeast Houston and beyond, visit Dr. Shukla at the UT Physicians Multispecialty – Jensen Clinic. Call 888-488-3627 to book an appointment for your child.

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- OCD (Obsessive compulsive disorder)
- PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorder)
- Response to life trauma
- Substance abuse

Anuj K. Shukla, MD
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
UT Physicians Multispecialty – Jensen
2620 E. Crosstimbers Street, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77093



Former AISD Trustee A.W. Jones Passes Away

A.W. Jones, who served as an Aldine ISD Trustee for 30 years, has passed away.

Mr. Jones, the first African-American to serve as an Aldine ISD Board member, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 13.

Mr. Jones, a lifelong resident of Aldine, served as a Trustee from 1976 when he was appointed to the board to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Ray Shottwell until he retired from the board in December of 2006.

During his 30 years of service, Mr. Jones held all four board offices and chaired numerous committees, more than once.

He was also a community leader and public servant and was the recipient of numerous service awards. He was recognized for his work with those who were less fortunate and received the Jefferson Award from Channel 13, which honors Houstonians for their community service.

In February of 2008, the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees honored Mr. Jones for his dedicated service to the district by naming a pre-k center and elementary school in his honor. A.W. Jones Primary School and A.W. Jones Elementary School make up the A.W. Jones Educational Center, located on Forest Point Drive.

All seven of Mr. Jones' children are Aldine ISD graduates, having earned MacArthur High School and Nimitz High School diplomas.

Mr. Jones was a Carver High School graduate, and he and his wife Bettie left their footprints in the Aldine community as business owners, role models, and outstanding citizens.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney fondly remembered her first meeting with Mr. Jones.

“I will never forget my first meeting with Mr. A.W. Jones when I was transitioning as the recently named superintendent,” Dr. Goffney said. “I had read about his work on the Aldine ISD Board and visited the schools named for him. I eagerly said yes when he and (current Board member Steve) Mr. Mead invited me to lunch at the Humble City Café. His passion for Aldine ISD was evident as he wel-



A. W. JONES

comed me and began to share some history. We ended the lunch date with a tour of the Bordersville community and a visit to his local businesses, where I met some members of his beautiful family. Every time I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Jones or talk to him, one thing was always clear, he loved Aldine ISD.”

Former Superintendent Nadine Kujawa cherished the time she spent with Mr. Jones as a principal, district administrator, and superintendent.

“I was so saddened to hear of A.W.'s passing,” Mrs. Kujawa said. “I first met A.W. when I was principal at Magrill Elementary. His son, Ken, was one of my students. A.W. was a caring parent who valued education. Through the years, he became a friend, a role model, and a mentor. He was a compassionate leader in the community and the Aldine School District, always ready to help. His many years on the school board provided the district with solid decision-making, consistency, and strong leadership. He was a man of faith who loved God, his wife Bettie, his family, and the Aldine School District. His presence will be missed.”

Trustee Dr. Viola M. Garcia, the current longest-tenured board member, served with Mr. Jones for 14 years. She said she was honored to serve with him and to get to know him and his family.

“Over the years we served together, there are a few things I learned about his personal character and life,” Dr. Garcia said. “The most important thing I learned was that A.W. Jones was a devoted family man. He loved his wife, Betty, and loved his extended family and the Aldine community. He loved to spend time with his family and friends.”

A.W. was a very patient, caring, and giving man. These qualities endeared him always, not only to his friends, but especially to his children, grandchildren, and their friends. And for another, he enjoyed antique cars. Earlier in his life, he reveled in Sunday afternoon rides and car shows. While on the school board, I knew him to be honest. He had integrity, he was direct, and he always had a positive attitude, particularly about the students. All of these things tell us of the richness of God's blessings and A.W.'s life. A.W. Jones was a good man. A good man is a blessing to his family, friends, and community. He was a joy to be around, and his happiness spread to you, and you were happy when you were around him. I feel blessed and honored to have known such a very good man.”

Trustee Rose Avalos said Mr. Jones was a true leader who did so much for Aldine students and staff.

“A.W. Jones was a trailblazer in Aldine ISD, having served as a trustee for so many, many years,” Ms. Avalos said. “He was an active and true participant in the events and activities supporting the students of Aldine. His experience and wisdom and genuine concern for children were invaluable in the decisions that benefitted all of the students of Aldine.”

Board Member Steve Mead said Mr. Jones influenced him to serve as an Aldine ISD Trustee.

“A.W. was my mentor,” Mr. Mead said. “He was such a kind and respected man who did so much good for so many people. I know he had a great impact on me and was one of the main reasons I ran for the school board. He will be deeply missed by the Aldine community.”

“A.W. was a leader in the community, a respected person who had a strong faith in God,” said former Superintendent M.B. “Sonny” Donaldson, who worked with Mr. Jones for 14 years when he served as superintendent. “He was thoughtful when decisions had to be made concerning students and the school district. He was always ready to attend every school activity to support students and teachers.”

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 3. Current spouse's prior spouse name, date of birth, date of marriage, date that the marriage ended. Bring a copy of the Divorce Decree
 4. All your children: Names, dates of birth, addresses, and Resident Card numbers (if any).
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COMMUNITY WATCH

Firefighters work into the night extinguishing warehouse fire near Willowbrook
The burning building is visible from SH-249 and Beltway 8. No injuries have been reported.

HOUSTON — Multiple firefighter units and hazmat crews responded to four-alarm fire at a burning warehouse late Saturday afternoon along SH-249 and the Beltway near the Willowbrook area.
It started around 5:30 p.m. in the 62000 block of Tomball Parkway (SH-249).
As of 9:40 p.m., firefighters were still working to put out hotspots. There's

also been reports of a building collapse at the scene.
It's still unclear what caused the fire. No injuries have been reported.
Residents were asked to avoid area.
The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office confirmed the building has been vacant the past two years. It's currently owned by IQ Products Company, which supplies household, auto-

Aldine FD, 3 others fight industrial blaze for 4 hours



ALDINE FD TANK TRUCK was one of many that had to bring water to the fire site due to inadequate hydrants.

motive and personal care products.
The fire took place on the storage side of building where they keep the finish products.
"You could start hearing aerosol cans popping off.
Bam. Bam. Bam. ..." Paul Kalimantan, a witness to the fire, said.
Video also shows multiple firetrucks from 4 different departments, including Aldine Fire & Rescue, at the scene as they worked from daylight and into the night.
Firefighters initially had issues accessing water to fight the fire, so some tankers were brought in to assist.
"One thing the fire de-

partment does do is Pre-planning so they know where the hydrants are around here and they knew they were going to have an issue with water which is why they went to multiple alarms to bring more tankers in So they could tanker operations and get more water faster," Rachel Neutzler with Harris County Fire Marshall's Office said.
The warehouse was also once used to store WD-40 products, fire marshals said.
WD-40 is an American brand and the trademark name of a water-displacing spray. The company also makes penetrating oil, lubricant, cleaner, degreaser and solutions to protect against or remove rust.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of 2 Peter in Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 4, how many days and nights did Jesus fast before his temptation by Satan?
3. In Genesis 24, who played the matchmaker for Isaac and Rebekah? Nahor, A shepherd, Bethuel, Abraham's servant
4. From Proverbs 6, what is held up as an example to

the lazy man? Bee, Flea, Locust, Ant
 5. Who said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away"? Satan, Adam, Job, Haman
 6. Who/what was Shishak? Roast lamb, Birthplace of Moses, Serpent, King of Egypt
 ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) 40; 3) Abraham's servant; 4) Ant; 5) Job 1:21; 6) King of Egypt
 Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair!
 You have dove's eyes behind your veil.
 Your hair is like a flock of goats,
 Going down from Mount Gilead.*

Song of Solomon 4:1

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