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NORTHEAST XIEWS

"Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God."

— Ronald Reagan

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years VOL. 45, NO. 10 TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

COVID-19

HOUSTON AREA

572,627 POSITIVE 5,756 DEATHS 512,350 RECOVERED

TEXAS

2,668,091 POSITIVE 44,186 DEATHS 2,441,882 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

28,717,629 POSITIVE 516,476 DEATHS --- RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

114,794,551 POSITIVE 2,547,493 DEATHS 64,868,267 RECOVERED

COVID-19 RESOURCES

City of Houston

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

COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

mymethodist app.

CITY OF HOUSTON
Registration
HoustonEmergency.org/
covid19
832-393-4920
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,Randalls
HOSPITALS

Governor lifts Mask mandate, opens businesses 100% against heavy criticism

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott stirred up a major controversy Tuesday, by issuing an Executive Order (GA-34) lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent. The Governor made the announcement at Montelongo's Mexican Restaurant in Lubbock in an address to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

The announcement immediately drew criticism from County and City governments, labor unions, and public health officials that have been attempting for over a year to reduce the number of illnesses and deaths caused by the COVID-19 virus. This highly contagious virus is



GOVERNOR ABBOTT makes announcement at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Lubbock.

spread through human contact, and masks and social distancing, and "lockdowns" are the major elements in the fight against the disease.

Abbott said "With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas

now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," said Governor Abbott, "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations. and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed. Today's announcement does not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny"

During his remarks, the Governor discussed the incredible advancements that Texas has made that allow the state to open fully and lift the mask mandate-noting the rapid increase of vaccines. Nearly 5.7 million vaccine shots have been administered to Texans, and the state is now administering almost one million shots each week. By next Wednesday, about 7 million shots will have been administered in Texas and over half of seniors in Texas will have received a vaccine shot. By the end of March, every

See ABBOTT OPENS

Pct 2 provides Storm Aldine ISD Principal Shares his Debris Drop-Off Inspiring Weight-loss Journey

ALDINE – Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia has announced that Precinct 2 has opened a free storm debris drop-off location for Harris County residents. The location for Pct. 2 is Pep Mueller Park, at 14750 Henry Road (between Aldine Mail Route and Aldine Bender).

Hours of operation are 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week. Questions call 713-274-2222.

Harris County residents may drop off residential storm debris related to water damage from burst pipes due to the recent severe winter weather.

The following guidelines should be followed:

- Residential storm de-
- bris only
 Acceptable debris includes pipe, sheetrock, insulation, flooring, and other damaged household materials
- No contractors or business debris
- No tires, batteries, or
- hazardous materials
 No appliances or elec-

tronics

• No household garbage For questions or more information, please contact Harris County Precinct 2 Community Assistance Department at 713-274-2222.

Harris County has also established three other free storm debris drop-off sites, depending upon which Precinct you live in. These are:

These are:
PCT. 1
Miller Road Camp
15530 Miller Road 1
9am - 6pm 7 days
346-286-3180

Bear Creek Pioneers Park 1 Abercrombie Drive 9am - 6pm 7 days 281-463-6300

PCT 4 13928 Humble Road Tomball 7am to 6:30pm Monday-Saturday 832-927-4444

Precinct 2 is also continuing their food and water giveaways, and has opened several community centers for FEMA Recov-

By Jada Mier

ALDINE - Gerald Schattle, who has lived in Aldine all his life, lost 80 pounds with diet and exercise and then started running. The Aldine Education Center principal not only embarked on a weight loss journey but used it to connect with the community.

He was inspired to run a marathon that connected the kids he serves. He explained, "I don't look like the kids I serve, so I knew I needed to find a way to build connections. Whenever kids talk with me, I can make connections with the neighborhoods because

I ran them."
Schattle was able to actively inspire his students by explaining that weight loss is not just one event but a process and a lifestyle change. He says, "I am changed by my journey. Not only did I lose weight, but I incorporated prayer and became more active in my church." It





"I am changed by my Journey." Gerald Schattle before and after his weight losss.

helped him apply what he learned and relate it to his students' process.

Weighing 397 pounds at his heaviest, his goal was to finish a marathon; he trained by running through the neighborhoods where he and his students live. What inspired him to lose the weight, he said, "I am a father of 2 girls and have been married for 15 years. When I was a firstyear principal, I was 35 years old and almost 400 lbs. By doing the math, I knew there were not many 80-year old's that big. I

would not live to see my kids grow if I kept going on this path." He explained that after prayer asking God for help, and journaling, he started tracking his weight and using a weight loss app called "lose it." He went on, "over the course of one year, I started tracking my food and lost a significant amount of weight and then in summer of July 2018, I wanted to train for a marathon, and I want to run it in the Al-

Continued. See Weight

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NORTHEAST NEWS

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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.

NEWS NOTES

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.

Report Storm Damage

HOUSTON - The City of Houston Emergency Operations Center has demobilized for its response to last week's severe winter storm. The Joint Information Center media line and media email are no longer being monitored for this response. Media can visit cityofhouston.news for a list of department media contacts.

The City of Houston has begun focusing on recovery efforts and is urging residents to report residential damage caused by last week's Severe Winter Weather.

Houstonians can submit damages via the following "Personal Property Damage Reporting" forms: • English - http://bit.ly/

DamageReportEn

• Español - http://bit.ly/
DamageReportES

Affected residents are urged to report severe winter weather damage to their homes. This will help the City of Houston provide an accurate summary of affected structures, which is required for the City and State to qualify for federal recovery

Additionally, it will allow City of Houston staff to understand the type of help the community needs as staff coordinates local resource with area partners. Please do not use the survey to request direct assistance or disaster relief. Submitting this form is not a way to receive aid.

Residents should continue to report broken pipes and water mains to 311 so that Houston Public Works can isolate the leak. To keep call wait times low, report service requests to 311 online at https://houstontx.gov/311 or via the Houston 311 app.

via the Houston 311 app.
Houston residents should continue to visit
www.HoustonEmergency.org
for updates on the City's
ongoing response to the
winter storm. Recovery
resource information is also
available.

H.U.D. Efficiency/ One Bedroom Housing for the Elderly and Disabled

• UTILITIES &
APPLIANCES FURNISHED
ELIGIBILITY:

- Age 62 or older
- Physically Disabled Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment

CALL **713-692-8541**

APPLY TO:
W. Leo Daniels Tower

8826 Harrell
Off Jensen between
Berry Road & Aldine
Westfield



Schattle Weight Loss,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Gerald Schattle runs in his Aldine neighborhood, to lose weight and prepare for the Marathon.

dine community."

Schattle started running at 320 pounds and lost a significant amount of weight, then weighing 290 pounds. After running his first marathon in February USA Fit down in Sugarland, Spring of 2019, he "decided to go plant-based, no meat or dairy and that also helped me lose weight and keep it in check." When discussing how to stay motivated when beginning a weight loss journey, Schattle explained that it was a "lifestyle change" not just a diet. He said if you're doing a diet, that means you're going back to your old habits, and if you do that, you're going to get the same old

results. He went into how much of his change was really a mindset; in his past, he identified himself as a "big person" and made choices that reinforced that identity.

Schattle's message to the community is, "We all have greatness inside us, and we get discouraged. The kids I serve have been told they weren't good enough or weren't smart enough, or weren't capable. You can always change the narrative by making a choice a conscious choice. That's the beauty of education, and of choosing to make yourself better, the journey of self-improvement is the best thing you could do for yourself."



Schattle at almost 400 pounds, with wife.

Abbott Opens Texas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

senior who wants a vaccine should be able to get one. The vaccine supply continues to increase so rapidly that more and more Texans will soon be eligible to receive a vac-

The Governor noted that Texas has a surplus of personal protective equipment and can perform over 100,000 COVID-19 tests a day. The state has invested in a variety of anti-body therapeutic drugs that have kept thousands of Texans out of hospitals. Texans have also adopted daily habits that reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection. More than 2.5 million Texans who were lab confirmed for COVID-19 have recovered nce the beginning of the pandemic, and experts note the total number of Texans who have recovered from COVID-19 is likely 4-5 times that amount. The number of active COVID-19 cases is the lowest since November-meaning more Texans are recovering from COVID-19 than contracting it.

This executive order rescinds most of the Governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19. Effective next Wednesday, all businesses of any type may open to 100% capacity. Additionally, this order ends the statewide mask mandate in Texas. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion.

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15% of the hospital bed capacity in that region for seven straight days, a County Judge in that region may use COV-

ID-19 mitigation strategies. However, County Judges may not impose jail time for not following COV-ID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. If restrictions are imposed at a County level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50% for any type



of entity.

Judge Opposed

County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued this statement on the Governor's announcement:

Taking away critical public health interventions that we know are working won't make our community safer, nor will it hasten our return to normalcy. Quite the opposite, every time public health measures have been pulled back, we've seen a spike in hospitalizations. If we start the climb now, we'd be starting from the highest starting point ever when it comes to our hospital population, an unacceptable and dangerous proposition. With the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, we're inching closer to the finish line of this pandemic - now is not the time to reverse the gains we've worked so hard to achieve.

At best, today's decision is wishful thinking. At worst, it is a cynical attempt to distract Texans from the failures of state oversight of our power grid.

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 shown in the Kashmere Community Connector



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

Map on the next page.
When does the Kash

When does the Kashmere Late-Night Connec-

tor 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 connect-

ing 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 be-

-- Protective shield between you and the operator

-- Hand sanitizer available on board

Here is Fare Informa-

-- 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.

board?
The only form of payments accepted are a

How do I pay to get on

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

-- 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 lo-

-- 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:

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 MAR-KET – 6301 Jensen Drive - Houston, Texas 77028 How do I get on board?

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:

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

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.

ject 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.

<u>Download the METRO</u> curb2curb App

curb2curb App
The METRO curb2curb
app allows you to book a
ride on the Kashmere
Late-Night Connector, ondemand via your smart-

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.

away until your insurance company tells tional 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.

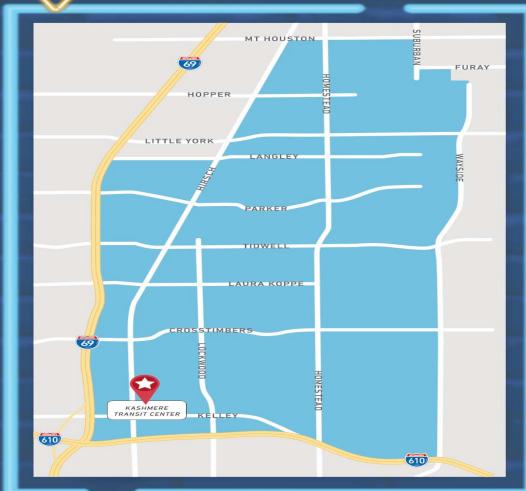
If you are unsure of who you should contact at your insurance company to file a claim, TDI has compiled a Company Lookup resource guide with updated information.



CUSTOMIZE YOUR RIDE FROM HOME AND IN THE ZONE

- 8 p.m. to midnight / 7 days a week
- Safe, clean and sanitized vehicles
- Just \$1.25 per ride





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







PAGE OPINION \bigstar



Current Disaster is Not an "Act Of God" But a Lack Of Action by State Leaders

TMO, The Metropolitan Organization, denounces the lack of state leadership which has produced a desperate and dire situation for Texas families. Cities have nursing homes without electricity, apartments and mobile home parks have no water and power, and whole counties are without shelters or warming stations.

"Ideology, greed, and incompetence at the state level have come together as a perfect storm to threaten the lives of Texas families," said Bob Fleming, TMO leader.

Texas saw similar power and infrastructure failures in 1989 and again in 2011 as a result of similar weather events. Notwithstanding these warnings, state leaders failed to prevent it from happening again.

"The storm may have been an act of nature, but the devastation of the electrical grid shut down is an act of sheer negligence", said Pastor John Ogletree of First Metropolitan Church with TMO. "It was foreseeable based on similar occurrences in the past, and so a failure on the part of state leaders to address the basic energy infrastructure needs of a growing state. There needs to be a full accounting by state leaders as to what happened and what is being done to address this critical need.'

TMO and the Network of Texas IAF Organizations calls on Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and state leaders to immediately supply Texas communities with power, water, food, supplies and emergency shelter.

- · Release state funds to local governments for direct assistance in food, water, supplies.
- Work with federal government and FEMA to bring immediate national assistance to Texas.
- Force ERCOT to get service running and ensure that PUC prevents further rate spikes.

Over the long term, TMO calls on state leaders to invest in "winterizing" our power, water, and other utilities to prevent future disaster. TMO leaders demand that state leaders own up to the anti-regulation ideology that has done damage to Texas's infrastructure, and to take action to turn it around.

TMO is a non-partisan organization of institutions that works on issues coming out of hundreds of face-to-face conversations in our communities. TMO brings together institutional leaders across lines of race and class to work on issues of their choosing to create the common good.



with Slim Randles

Dad-gum ol' Doc

Nature hates a vacuum, and so does Windy Wilson. The other day, emerging from the drug store, he looked around, and, finding no handy audience, spoke instead

"Dad-gum ol' Doc, anyway," he said. "He's one-a my bestest pals, but if you go to him for a mizz-ry, he makes you do some things and quit doin' some other things. Them things Doc wants you to do you don't wanna do, and the things he wants you to quit doin' are stuff you bin savin' up to do a buncha years now

"Now ol' Doc didn't even know he done it, but he proved to me that we had some a-them space alienated bein's for ancestors. Oh, they's hidin' out now, but they got a job ... as pill namers!

"Doc told me to quit shoein' horses, which was jest fine with me. Missable back-breakin' nasty work, anyway. But then he give me two subscriptions for pills that I am 'sposed to take for my mizz-ry.

"And when the nice girl here at the drugstore give 'em to me, she asked me if I had any questions about 'em. And I ast her how to say the pill names. And she told me, and thass when I knew.

'Ya see, ya can't jest name them pills in American. Oh no. First off ya gotta give 'em a name that's too much and a half too long \dots like oh \dots syna-broliam-fester-ine.

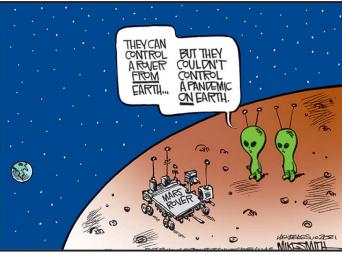
"We should take pill namin" back from them alien guys and create jobs fer Americans! Give them pills names people can actual say.

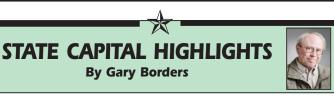
"It wouldn't be too awful dang hard to remember a pill for pain if you called it

Mizzryfixer, now would it? And for a hangover cure, va jest pop va a happy little pill called Betcha-wish-vahadn't. If ya come down with the sugar diabeets, ol' Doc could tell ya to bullsnake down some pills we could call Too-sweet-by-half-odone. Now, for a instance, if you get plagiarized by them roamin' 'round peewaddles, you could take a pill called Limp-be-gone, or mebbe-so Gimpy-blocker, and you'd know jest what it was for,

"Betcha them space guy's jest laughin' theirselves sick. But hey, at least Doc told me to quit shoein' horses, and that there's a constellation dee-voutly to be wished

"And you kin tell 'em I said so."





Political fallout from Winter Štorm continues

As Texans across the state continue to deal with the damage from the mid-February winter storm, so does the political fallout in

So far, seven of the 16 board members of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas have resigned. CEO Bill Magness defended ERCOT's decision to order widespread blackouts while testifying before a joint hearing of two state House committees last week.

Meanwhile, the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, says it has opened an investigation into retail electric providers whose flexible pricing plans inflicted electric bills in the thousands of dollars on some Texas customers in the wake of the storm. In a televised address on Wednesday, Gov. Greg Abbott said he had ordered that Texans will not have their power shut off because of unpaid bills until the Legislature has had time to act. He acknowledged that power generation from all sources failed under the harsh weather, including natural gas, coal, nuclear, wind and solar. Abbott has made it a legislative priority to mandate and fund winterizing the Texas power infrastructure.

However, the head of Irving-based Vistra energy testified at last week's committee hearing that winterizing power plants could backfire in summer months. According to the Texas Standard, Curt Morgan said, "We don't put structures around our equipment down here. Why? Because in the summer when it's 105 degrees you'd bake inside there; the equipment would fail."

Additional hearings are scheduled this week in the Texas Senate.

MORE COUNTIES ADDED DECLARATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has



added an additional 31 Texas counties to the federal disaster declaration, making a total of 108 counties covered. Abbott originally asked that all 254 Texas counties be included. Texans across the state are urged to fill out a form to help the state identify damages that occurred during the storm, which can be accessed at: https:// tdem.texas.gov/ warming-

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR LOW-**INCOME PERSONS** AFFECTED BY STORM

The State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association and legal aid providers remind Texans that free legal assistance is available through a toll-free hotline to help folks pursue government benefits, insurance claims, home repairs and other issues. The hotline — 800-504-7030 — is available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. It connects low-income callers with local legal aid provid-

Push to expand broadband continues The latest issue of Fis-

cal Notes from the state comptroller's office provides a comprehensive look at the issue of expanding broadband, which Abbott made an emergency legislative priority item in ear-February.

COVID-19 pandemic accelerated demand for broadband Internet service as

Take Pride in our Community **Keep it Clean**



NORTHEAST*NEWS

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schools went virtual and telemedicine became more

common. As of January, educators had paid for

more than 4.5 million broadband devices and Wi-

Fi hotspots, using funds from the Texas Education

Agency, local school districts, businesses and federal funding. A bipartisan group of 88 Texas legislators in November recommended that the state create a compre-hensive broadband plan and establish a state broadband office. Jennifer

Harris is state program director of Connected Nation Texas, which partners with private and public entities to push for expansion of broadband. She noted, "The pandemic has shown everyone how important broadband is. Ten years ago, we had to tell people why broadband would be good for the community. We don't need to tell anyone that anymore.'

AFTER STORM, COVID-19

VACCINES RAMP UP AGAIN Nearly 700,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vac-cine are coming to Texas this week, with 429,600 second doses arriving as well, according to the Tex-as Department of State Health Services. Providers quickly resumed vaccinations after power and water service were restored across the state. The state continues to provide shots for health-care workers long-term facility residents, people over 65 and those with existing medical conditions. TDSHS says vaccines are limited to the capacity of vaccine manufacturers to produce them, and there is not enough vaccine to supply

every provider every week. The Centers for Disease Control this week is ship-ping doses to 522 providers in 199 counties. As of Sunday, 3.4 million Texans had received the first dose and 1 728 million were ful ly vaccinated, according to TDSHS. More than 40% of adults 65 years and older have received the first dose, and nearly 20% in that age group are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS UP FROM PREVIOUS WEEK

The winter storm likely muddied last week's reporting, but new cases of COVID-19 in Texas totaled 55,547 in the last week according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. A total of 1,478 deaths were reported. Both figures are considerably higher than what was reported the previous week, but that could be a result of delayed data due to the storm. A better comparison can be made next week, with two weeks of relatively normal weather conditions. Regardless, health officials across the state are still urging Texans to wear masks in public, practice social distancing and wash our hands frequently.



Travel **Fantasies**

I know I am not the only one having travel fantasi My husband, Peter, and I were not planning to do a lot of traveling in the past year. That was our plan, and we certainly made good on it. We didn't realize at the time that, "not a lot of traveling," would mean a bi-weekly trip to the grocery store. Like a lot of folks, we've been tracking how many months we're

getting on a gallon of gas. is sounding better all the

time.
My parents are also making travel plans. Over the past year, they decided to sell the little cottage they have in Florida. Instead, they have a list of places they'd like to take their RV.

"There are too many other places we want to go!" My mother explained.

A year of sitting in their cabin has made them realize how many places there are to see and how little time there is to see them.

It's true. A year of sitting and watching the months fly by makes a person realize how quickly the time passes. Sometimes, without the normal milestones, I completely lose track of time. I've caught myself glancing out the window with a feeling of panic, looking at the trees to give me a clue what season it is. (I am embarrassed to admit this-but now I have.)

Peter's oldest sister, Shelley, lost her husband to Alzheimer's early in the pandemic. She's now living with her son and daughterin-law, waiting for a return to something like normal before finding a place of her own. She missed the trip to Norway two years ago, where Peter and a bunch of his older cousins all went to the small town his grandfather emigrated from. We met the Norwegian relatives who still live there, and they were unbelievably welcoming. It's a sweet town. nestled in the mountains, sitting on a river, miles away from any major city.

"I think we should go back," I told Peter. "And I think we should bring Shelley." Peter liked the idea.

So, the next day, we called up Shelley. She had just gotten home from a dental appointment and had a sore

"Shelley! You are coming with us to Norway in September 2022!"

I held my breath, but I didn't have to wait long. "OK!" she said.

And, yes, it is more than a year and a half away, but it still feels wonderful to have a plan to go somewhere other than the gro-cery store. Just thinking about seeing a new landscape fills me with excite-

Later in the day, I went for the hike I take every aftermoon It seems as if I've seen every tree along the way, noticed every rock, and as I walked, I thought how nice it would be to hike in completely unfamiliar surroundings.

But just as I was thinking this, I stopped and looked at the tree directly in front of me, caught in the afternoon light. I don't remember ever really looking at it before. It's a beautiful tree, in a forest of beautiful trees, and I have walked by it thousands of times without giving it a second look.

"You are a beautiful tree," I told it (just in case it was

Norway will be wonderful, I am sure. And I am sincerely looking forward to more travel in the coming year. But as I stood before that one beautiful tree, I $promised\,myself\,I\,would\,try$ to pay more attention to the place I am visiting nowright here, today.

Till next time.

Carrie

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

Aldine's Child Nutrition Dept. ranked 2nd in area



CAFETERIA STAFF AT OLESON ELEMENTARY

Aldine ISD's Child Nutrition Services Department was ranked second in the Houston area and third in the state among large school districts in Kroger and Children at Risk's School Food Rankings.

The announcement was made on Tuesday March 2 The 2021 Kroger School Food Rankings evaluate how school districts across Texas provide meals to low-income area school children by focusing on meal participation rates and after-school meal programs offered in each district.

This year, Aldine's CNS Department, and school nutrition departments across the state, went the extra mile to address food insecurity needs in their community at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and found ways to make those efforts sustainable as it continues.

Dani Sheffield, Aldine ISD's Executive Director of Child Nutrition Services, participated in a virtual press conference on Facebook, moderated by Mandi Kimball, Vice-President and Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs for Children At Risk. Kimball was joined by Brian Greene, President and CEO of the Houston Food Bank, and April Martin, Corporate Affairs Manager of

Sheffield explained Aldine's plan to continue feeding its students during the pandemic.

"Aldine ISD is ensuring students learning at home and students learning at school have access to breakfast and lunch meals for an entire week," she said. "Students learning at home have access to curbside meals distributed two times per week at 13 school sites. Additionally seven days' worth of heat-and-eat meals is offered for free to all children 18 years of age and younger.

"Students learning at school may select free breakfast and lunch daily along with Weekend Meal Bundles every Friday that includes Saturday and Sunday break-

Nimitz High Named a Dr. Jay Cummings **Demonstration School**

Black School Educators (TABSE) has named Nimitz High School a Dr. Jay Cummings Demonstration School.

Nimitz earned the designation by providing a level of excellence in its administrative and teaching staff's commitment to ensure all students have an opportunity to an excep-tional and quality educational experience regardless of their socialeconomic background or ethnicity.
"This designation pro-

foundly communicates that a student's current demographic or zip code does not dictate, determine nor decides his/her destination or potential," TAB-SE said in a press release announcing Nimitz High School as a Dr. Jay Cummings Demonstration School. "You and your team are the model of actualiza-tion of the vision Dr. Cum-



Nimitz High School Principal Aisley Adams.

mings has for all children in every school throughout the world."

As a TABSE Demonstration School, Nimitz High will carry the exemplary torch and distinction of being one of a small and unique select group of high-performing, majority-minority schools that all schools across the state

will be eager to emulate.
Aisley Adams is the Principal of Nimitz High School.

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fast and lunch. Mobile Breakfast is offered at all grade levels to students in various locations throughout each ampus for convenience and safety." Sheffield added that AISD had served 56,000 Week-

end Meal Bundles since the beginning of the 2020-21

She added that the success of the undertaking had

been a team effort.
"We are fortunate to have a wonderful staff and wonderful support from our administration," she said. "The Aldine community has trust in the Child Nutrition Services Department to do a good job. We have provided collective and continuous communication through social media to all stakeholders, including parents and district staff. We offer good food products, and our dedication to service is visible at all of our schools

Book author, and illustrator, meet and talk with students

Students from 20 elementary school campuses across the district got the opportunity to hear and talk with author Matt de la Peña and illustrator Christian Robinson. The duo is be hind the #1 New York Times bestseller, Last Stop on Market Street. The book is also a winner of the Newbery Medal and is a Caldecott Honor Book and a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book, Other collaborations include the New York Times estseller Carmela Full of Dreams and Milo Imagines the

Author visits provide opportunities for students to make connections to books. When children read, they interact with

the stories, emotionally connecting to the characters and imagining being a part of the world within the pages.

"Meeting the authors and illustrators adds another dimension to the relationship," said Marco Zannier Virginillo, program director of library media services. "Students get a chance to see the people who built those imaginary worlds and get to hear about the thoughts and inspirations that created the stories. It is often a revelation to children that authors and illustrators are people just like them."

Virginillo added that author visits give children an opportunity to understand that other people have experienced similar experiences to theirs. It is those experiences that are stories that can become books. Students often think of authors as celebrities and people not like them. In reality, many authors and illustrators had normal childhoods very similar to those of our students. Authors who visit with our students are humanized. Students connect with the real person behind the book and realize that the stories sound like their own lives because the authors have lived similar lives. Each time a student realizes "they are just like me," we chip away at the "them' and "us" idea. Events like this inspire students to seek out books and stories they can connect to and write their own.

Elementary school students weren't the only ones to benefit. MacArthur High School Principal Heather Peterson thought it would be beneficial for art students to hear from a published illustrator. Overall, at least 500 students and staff cross AISD joined the virtual event.

The elementary school students asked questions about writing and illustrating books and asked about how the two met and how they work together. One very thought-provoking ques-tion was, "What makes a good story?" The authors agreed that a good story is open and honest. A good story allows readers to imagine parts of the story that don't exist in the words and illustrations; good stories inspire readers to think.

At the end of the visit, several classes unmuted their mic to

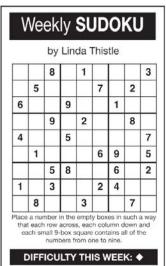
thank De la Peña and Robinson.

Blue Willow Bookshop, a local independent bookstore, does

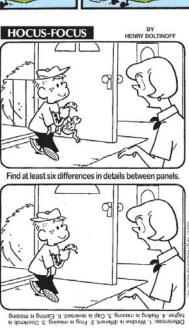
more than sell books. The shop's owners proactively seek op-portunities to reach out to schools and connect local students with the authors they love. To date, Blue Willow has brought six authors to Aldine, with more scheduled this spring. Traditionally, authors would physically visit schools. Due to the pandemic, Blue Willow has provided virtual author visits to involve even more students and engage them with books.

ENTERTAINMENT





♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging





10. milliliter or ml L. "Roseanne"; 2. All; 3. Roy Orbison; 4. Red; 5. Mammoth Cave, Kentucky; 6. Involuntary muscle twitch; 7. Andrew Johnson; 8. Beryl; 9. Delaware; Trivia Test Answerst

Posting Date March 1, 2021 **King** Crossword

Labyrinth 12 Altar constell 13 Isaac's eldest 14 Modern taxi alternative 15 World of organized crime 18 Earth (Pref.) 19 Poetic feet Ohio city 24 Actress Long 25 Mentalist 26 Candied veg-28 Knight wear Hot dog con- 31 Colonial

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King Crossword —

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58

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55 Just out

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30 Aware of

rivia
est by Fifi
<i>EST</i> by Fifi Rodriguez

1980s-'90s sitcom featured the Conner family? 2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix

'pan" mean in English? 3. MOVIES: Which artist sang the song that inspired the movie title "Pretty Woman"?

4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the first primary color that babies can see?

5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the world's longest

6. MEDICAL: What is a fasciculation, the medical term for a common ailment?

7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the only one to be elected a U.S. senator after leaving office?

8. GEOLOGY: Emerald and aquamarine are types of which mineral? 9. U.S. STATES: What was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution?

10. MEASUREMENTS: What dosing measurement (metric) is used to administer liquid medication?

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COVID-19 Test Sites Move to New Locations and Vaccinations Ramp up

Vaccinations Will Deliver a One-Two Punch to COVID-19

Houston - Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is again vaccinating several thousand people a week at clinics across the county and helping support a large, new Federally operated site at NRG. Six thousand people a day will be vaccinated over the next couple of weeks, a total of 126,000 people. being Those vaccinated at NRG are chosen from the Harris County Wait List https:// vacstrac.hctx.net/ landing or 832-927-8787, and the City of Houston Wait List. Vaccine supplies are still limited, so only people in the 1A or 1B groups are eligible - health care workers, people over 65 or those with chronic underlying health conditions.

For people who can't be vaccinated yet, get tested! Four in 10 people who have COVID-19 don't know it because they don't

have symptoms but are Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m. still contagious. The more people who get tested and vaccinated. the faster we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Testing is free and you get the results in 3-5 days. Children can also be tested at the sites listed below. Sign up at hcphtx.org or call 832-

Monday, March 1-Sunday, March 7

• M.O. Campbell **Education Center** Open Mon-Fri 12 -Open Sun (3/7) 10a.m.-

1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

• Grayson Community Center Open Tues- Sat 8a.m.-

3p.m. 13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015

• Christia Adair Park Open Mon & Wed-Sat San Jacinto College 8a.m.-3p.m.. 15107 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77047

• St. Hyacinth Catholic Church Open Mon & Tues, Thur-Sat 8a.m.-3p.m. 2921 Center St, Deer Park, TX 77536

• St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church Open Mon & Tues, 527 S Houston Ave, Humble, TX 77338

• Redeemer Lutheran Church LCMS Open Mon-Fri 8a.m.-3 p.m. 1200 E Lobit Ave,

Baytown, TX 77520 • MAS Katy Center Open Mon-Wed 8a.m.-3p.m.

1800 Baker Rd,

Houston, TX 77094 Life Changer Community Church Open Fri & Sat 8a.m.-3p.m.

3115 N Fry Rd #407,

Katy, TX 77449

For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register

www.daineedacovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

<u>Monday, March 1</u> Saturday, March 6 Central Campus Open Mon-Fri 7a.m.-2:00 p.m. Open Sat (3/6) 8 a.m. -3:00 p.m. 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

Lone Star College-Cypress Center Open Mon-Fri p.m.-7 p.m. Open Sat (3/6) 8 a.m.-3p.m.

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Recognitions at Aldine ISD February Board Meeting





MacArthur High grad and current MacArthur teacher Patrick James, left, and Nimitz High ISD's Executive Director of Transportation at grad and Houston Texans defensive back Michael Thomas, right, pose with FACE Enamorado is pictured with his family after Executive Director Dr. Martha Escalante after bing introduced at the Board meeting. James and Thomas were honored at the Feb. 9 Aldine ISD Board of Trustees meeting. The two, along with Randall's provided 100 \$100 gift cards to families in Aldine ISD.

Houston Health Dept. opens new Waitlist for J&J COVID-10 vaccine

HOUSTON - The Houston Health Department today opened a new waitlist for its initial allotment of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. The department's original vaccine waitlist is for the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which require two doses.

Both waitlists are avail-

able HoustonEmergency.org/ covid19 and are open to all age groups eligible for vaccination under the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria. The waitlists are used to schedule the department's

 $allot ment\ of\ appointments$ at the FEMA community vaccination center at NRG Park and its other vaccination sites.

Waitlist registration is also available by phone to people age 60 and older through the Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301. People with disabilities can call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 832-393-5500. Anyone else needing registration assistance can contact the COV-ID-19 call center at 832-393-4220.

The Houston Health Department will receive half of a 12,000 dose allotment of Johnson & Johnson vaccine that arrived at NRG Park on Tuesday and will administer it at Bayou City Event Center and its other vaccination sites starting Thursday. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not being provided at NRG Park.

Phase 1A of the state's criteria focuses on frontline health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Phase 1B focuses on people 65 and older and people age 16 and older with medical conditions that put them at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Update on Harris County Winter Storm Recovery Information

Harris County residents impacted by last month's winter storm may be eligible for financial and other forms of assistance. Local, state and federal agencies are working to identify needs and identify what programs may be available to help meet them.

Harris County is included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration issued by President Joe Biden. Residents can apply for assistance from FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) by clicking here or calling 1-800-621-3362.

Lone Star Legal Aid has created a one-page document to help residents understand what to expect from FEMA. Click here for more information. You can also call their Disaster Legal Assistance Hotline at 1-800-504-7030.

If you sustained damage and have insurance on your property, contact your insurance company before applying for aid from the federal government (FEMA, Small Business Administration, etc.) FEMA requires this of all insured residents before they will consider assistance.

Help with basic needs such as food, clothing and housing is available from a variety of local organizations. Simply call 2-1-1 and operators will work to connect you with services to help meet your immediate needs

• If you are unable to work because of damage sustained from the winter

storm, you may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. You must apply by March 26, 2021. Learn more and apply at the Texas Workforce Commission. https:// www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/disaster-unemployment-assistance
• SNAP recipients are

eligible for assistance if their food was lost or destroyed due to the storm. Click here for more information.

Other resources are listed on the Winter Weather Recovery Resources page at ReadyHarris.org. This page is updated often as new resources become

All four Harris County Precincts have established a debris removal process







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9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- . Documents: Resident Card, Social Security Card, Driver's License and any other ID.
- List of Addresses: All the places where you have lived during the last 5 years.
- . List of Employment / School: Name, address and dates of your workplaces / schools for the last 5 years.
- List of Family History:
- Current spouse's name, date of birth, date of marriage, date of Citizenship or Resident Card number, and name and address of employer.
- 2. Prior spouse's name, date of birth, date of marriage, date that the marriage ended. Bring a copy of the Divorce Decree
- 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).
- List of Travel History: Name of any country outside of the United States that you visited during the last 5 years, including the dates of your departure and return.

Documentation about arrests or detentions, even if the charges were dismissed. (if you have any). All documentation about deportation (if you have any).

If your Resident Card will expire in less than 6 months, you will not be able to apply for citizenship.

For your convenience, BAA has 2 offices: Lone Star College Greenspoint Center 250 North Sam Houston Pkwy E.—Suite 3101 Houston, TX 77060

Lone Star College East Aldine Center 2430 Aldine Mail Route Rd.—Suite 105E Houston, TX 77039

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL 281.799.9076 OR TEXT 832.906.4214

COMMUNITY WATCH

Male found Deceased at 501 **Greens Road**

Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a male found at 501 Greens Road about 5:20a.m. today (March 4).

The identity and cause of death of the male are pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives E. May and C.

Sharp reported:
HPD patrol officers responded to the above address after a male was found deceased and lying in the eastbound lanes of the roadway. He had abrasions to his face and head. HPD Vehicular Crimes Division officers initially responded to the scene and conducted a preliminary investigation.

Due to the nature of the male's injuries, investigators believe he was not struck by a vehicle. The investigation is pending his cause of death.

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

Shooting at 6767 Bennington Street

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a male at 6767 Bennington Street that occurred about 12:10 p.m. on Thursday (February 4).

The victim was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

HPD Major Assaults & Family Violence Division Officers M. DeLeon and H. Martinez report-

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting in the parking lot and stairwell of an apartment complex at the above address and found the victim had been shot multiple times in the abdomen and lower body area. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the victim to the hospital.

The investigation is continuing.

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

Fatal Crash at 4300 North Freeway

Houston police have learned a woman critically injured in a crash at 4300 North Freeway (North Interstate Highway 45) service road about 8:25 a.m. on September 12 has died

The victim, Crisanta Retana, 51, was pronounced deceased on Sunday (Dec. 27).

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant D. Rodriguez and Officer J. Campbell reported:

Ms. Retana, a pedestrian, was standing next to the front passenger door of a white Ford F-150 work truck parked near a U-turn lane when she and the truck were struck by a black Chevrolet Suburban traveling northbound at the above address. Paramedics transported Retana to an area hospital. Doctors pronounced her deceased on Sunday (Dec. 27).

The male driver, 29, of the Chevrolet, stated he panicked and thought Retana was going to step into the roadway. He veered his vehicle to the left, drove up on a curb and struck both the parked Ford and Retana. The driver did not show signs of intoxication and was questioned and released pending further investigation.

The investigation is continuing.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

"O My people, what have I done to you?

And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. For I brought

you up from the land of Egypt,

I redeemed you from the house

of bondage; and I sent before

MICAH 6: 3, 4

you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

"Mothers" by Käthe Kollwitz (1919)

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by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or

neither?
2. In Acts 9, to what city was Saul traveling when suddenly there shined around about him a light from heaven? Jerusalem, Damascus, Anab, Ekron

3. How many days did it take Nehemiah to get the wall around Jerusalem completed? 6, 52, 100, 1,000 4. From Acts 17, at what church was Paul accused of

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

turning the world upside down? Antioch, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Galatia

5. In Genesis 3:15, the snake is supposed to strike at (bruise) what part of man? Throat, Hand, Heel, Eyes 6. From Revelation 12, what angel fights against Satan? Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, Cherubim, Michael

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Damascus; 3) 52; 4) Thessalonica; 5) Heel; 6) Michael Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com



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