

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the Superintendent, Page 2, 5 (Spanish)
- Lone Star College Congratulations, Page 3
- Aldine TOP TEN Students, P. 3
- COVID Level Orange, Page 4
- HCC Registration, Page 6

NORTHEAST NEWS

Americanisms



"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

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MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY MAY 31, 2021

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 21 TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Aldine ISD votes Pandemic bonuses for Employees

One-time Check amounts will be \$1000 to \$1200

ALDINE – During the May 18 Board meeting, Aldine ISD Trustees approved a resolution to give all district employees a one-time incentive and retention payment. The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to give all employees a one-time incentive and retention payment of \$1,500 to exempt staff (teachers and administrators) and \$1,000 to non-exempt staff (hourly employees) for going above and beyond their duties and responsibilities during an unprecedented school year.

The Aldine ISD Board of Trustees has always been intentional when allocating financial resources, and has made it a priority to invest in recruiting, retaining, and developing the best team for Aldine

ISD students and families. They believe without a doubt, that there is no better investment to make than in our incredible educators and staff.

At the meeting Superintendent **Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney** expressed that dedication shown by district staff has not gone unnoticed.

"Please accept this check on behalf of the Aldine ISD board of trustees as a tangible expression of appreciation for the dedication you bring to work each day. Thank you for teaching and working in extraordinary ways this school year."

Staff can expect to receive their one-time check in June.

Board President **Paul Shanklin** said he was proud he and his fellow



Aldine ISD Trustees Connie Esparza, left, and Rose Avalos, right, hold up novelty checks after the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution to give all district employees a one-time bonus for going above and beyond during the 2020-21 school year.

Trustees had the opportunity to thank Aldine ISD's hard-working staff members.

"This last year has been challenging in so many

ways, but our employees never wavered," Mr. Shanklin said. "They came through for our students, parents and the community and we as a Board are

proud we can show you all how much we value you and the work you have done."

Board Vice-President **Dr. Kimberley Booker**

also thanked the district's employees.

"We can't thank all of you enough for the long hours, the innovative ideas you came up with to continue educating, feeding, transporting and supporting our students. This bonus is well deserved by all of our devoted staff members," she said.

Board Secretary **Connie Esparza** said she was impressed with how the district's staff addressed on-line learning and other issues that arose during the pandemic.

"Every time we asked questions, you had the answers," she said. "You all were innovative and creative in your approach to

Continued. See BONUS PAYMENTS, Page 2

Robbery, shooting at Wells Fargo ATM

HOUSTON – A guard was shot in the face during a robbery at the ATM machine at the Wells Fargo bank on Tidwell near the Eastex Freeway. The crime took place Friday at about 12:20 pm, in the drive-thru of the bank.

HPD Asst. Chief Yasar Bashir reported that two guards were inside the truck when it arrived, and one left to service the ATM machine. Shortly thereafter, the guard was accosted by a robber who shot him and took the money he was carrying.

The second guard exited the truck, and fired at the robber, who was escaping in a waiting vehicle. According to Bashir, there was an exchange of gunfire between the two men.

The wounded guard was transported to the hospital, and the second guard was not injured.

Police indicated that the



FBI and HPD investigators examine the ATM machine at right, and the Armored Truck left, in the Drive-thru.



Police Crime Scene tape surrounds the Wells Fargo building on Tidwell, after an Armored Truck robbery and shooting of the guard.

robbers got away with an undisclosed amount of money, and police and the FBI are now searching for

them. If you have any information, call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS for a reward.

GLO, Feds deny flood funds to Harris County

Harris County and Houston officials learned Friday that the state GLO (General Land Office) and the federal HUD (Housing and Urban Development) had determined that these two governments would not receive any Flood Mitigation funding of the approximately \$1 billion that was available, in the first round of allocations by the state.

The allocations are based on a formula to determine which communities are the neediest, according to GLO. Within Harris County, approximately \$90 million was allocated to Baytown, Pasadena, Galena Park, and Jacinto City for flood mitigation projects that they had applied for.

Harris County had submitted an application asking for \$900 million, according to Pet. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia. Commissioner Garcia, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner issued statements expressing their displeasure and disbelief in news of the allocations not including local jurisdictions.

Commissioner Garcia said that he was upset, and "incredibly frustrated." Judge Hidalgo said "It is unconscionable that the very community hit with the most flooded structures by far during Hurricane Harvey received nothing as part of



COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA
HARRIS COUNTY PCT. 2



JUDGE LINA HIDALGO
HARRIS COUNTY

this Harvey Mitigation allocation."

Mayor Turner said "For the State GLO not to give one dime in the initial distribution

Continued. See FLOOD MITIGATION, Page 8

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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 8 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 May 22, 2021
HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES
657,197 POSITIVE 7,508 DEATHS 614,567 RECOVERED
TEXAS
2,939,736 POSITIVE 51,170 DEATHS 21,926,464 SHOTS
UNITED STATES
33,099,293 POSITIVE 589,604 DEATHS 281,310,627 SHOTS
WORLDWIDE
166,289,153 POSITIVE 3,446,347 DEATHS 1,630,344,868 SHOTS

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
memorialhermann.org
ehhc.care (EH Hospital)



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Dr. Goffney named NABSE President-Elect

The National Alliance of Black School Educators recently held elections for its leaders and announced its new leadership on May 15. Members of NABSE submitted votes between May 8-14. Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney will serve as President-Elect before replacing current President Dr. Michael D. McFarland (Crowley ISD).



NABSE is a nonprofit organization devoted to furthering the academic success of the nation's children — especially children of African descent. The organization provides professional development to members and encourages members to share information about innovative instructional and learning strategies that have successfully motivated African American youth and increased academic performance. Members also actively support policy to ensure high standards and quality in public and private education systems.

"The National Alliance of Black School Educators is a respected network of education leaders who put

children's interests first, especially our African American youth whose scores on literacy, math, and science fall far behind white and brown students. I have made raising positive outcomes for black students one of Aldine ISD's goals. All means all. Truly, I am honored to be a part of the organization. Their mission aligns with my own beliefs that we must reimagine education for all students. We must develop strong leadership and create school choice systems that provide quality, equitable access, and equitable funding," said Goffney.

Dr. Goffney will focus on literacy, leadership, legacy, and legislation.

Education leaders, including teachers, administrators, superintendents, school board members as well as corporate and institutional members, comprise NABSE.

As a NABSE leader, Dr. Goffney will continue to improve African American youth's educational experiences and achievements by developing and using instructional and motivational methods that increase positive outcomes for students.

To meet the organization's goals, NABSE empowers educational leaders through professional development and provides a network of leaders to share information to transform schools giving more students access to high-quality educational experiences and opportunities.

Aldine ISD Bonus Payments,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on-line learning and we could not have gotten through this pandemic without all of you working as a team."

Assistant Secretary **Rose Avalos** said she was not surprised by the way Aldine's staff responded to the call to action.

"As a former educator, I know how important teamwork is, and we have a wonderful group of team members throughout Aldine who put their students and their community first," Ms. Avalos said. "I am proud to be a product of this great school district and am proud to be a member of a Board that recognizes and rewards hard work." Board Member **Dr. Viola M. Garcia**, who serves as President of the National School Boards Association, said she was proud to share Aldine's story with her cohorts from across the country.

"I love to brag to my cohorts across the country and in Texas about how special Aldine ISD is and it is truly a special place with so many special people," Dr. Garcia said. "The dedication our teachers and staff show to our stu-

dents and the community is something worth bragging about."

Board Member **Randy Bates** was impressed with the work ethic displayed by staff members during the pandemic.

"As the newcomer to the Board, I have been impressed with the work ethic displayed by our teachers, child nutrition staff, custodians, operations personnel and our support staff. You put our kids first," Mr. Bates said. "These bonuses are our way of saying we appreciate you and are so fortunate you chose Aldine ISD."

Board Member **Steve Mead** said there is a special spirit among Aldine staff that shines through during challenging times.

"I've been in Aldine most of my life and I am always amazed of the can-do spirit that exists," Mr. Mead said. "We faced many challenges when the pandemic began, but our wonderful staff was up to meeting those challenges and seeing to it that our students continued to learn. I'm glad we could say thank you with a little boost."

Aldine ISD Schedule of Graduation Ceremonies May 27-29

Aldine ISD will hold high school graduation ceremonies May 27-29. All of the ceremonies will be held at Thorne Stadium.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, May 27 – Hall Success Academy – 8 a.m.
Thursday, May 27 – Blanson CTE High School – 10 a.m.
Thursday, May 27 – MacArthur High School – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 28 – Victory Early College High School – 8 a.m.
Friday, May 28 – Eisenhower High School – 10 a.m.
Friday, May 28 – Aldine High School – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Carver High School – 8 a.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Nimitz High School – 10 a.m.
Saturday, May 29 – Davis High School – 7:30 p.m.
Lane School students will participate in their home school graduation ceremony.

A MESSAGE From Dr. LaTonya Goffney Aldine ISD Superintendent

Message From the Superintendent, May 11, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

We only have 12 days left of the school year, and we are well on track to Finish Strong and Finish Safe.

The month of May is full of observations and celebrations. This week we are celebrating National Police Week. Please join me in thanking Chief Paul Cordova and the Aldine ISD Police Department, including the newest member, K-9 Officer Queen Delta, who protect and serve all 111 square miles of the district.

May is mental health awareness month. The national observation is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental and/or behavioral health struggles and reduce the stigma associated with this, which often prevents individuals from seeking help. Schools play an important role in providing behavioral health care and helping students find resources available in their community. These strategies improve the overall value of health care and can lead to improvements in student outcomes. Aldine ISD is committed to supporting the mental, physical and behavioral wellness of students and staff. Our SEL and Culture Department will share a series of social-emotional learning (SEL) information and resources throughout the month. I encourage you to read Installment 1 and Installment 2.

Last week, students from Kujawa Primary and Carmichael Elementary schools visited the district's administration buildings to showcase traditional song, dance, and dress to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It was also an honor to celebrate our Top 10 Scholars from every Aldine ISD high school. Ninety students joined us on May 6 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. It was awesome to meet and hear from AISD Class of 2012 grad Juan José Jaramillo Montezco, who shared words of wisdom with the soon-to-be graduates. We ended the week with a salute to our School Lunch Heroes.

Start Strong

As we look to wrap up this year — a year full of change and uncertainty — we are also busily planning for the start of the 2021-22 school year. Teams are currently evaluating district protocols, student and staff dress codes, and learning options to ensure our students are successful. As we finalize the plans, we look forward to gathering your input and sharing as quickly as we can. Our planning continues to be based on our guiding principle, that we will go as fast as we can but as slow as we must.

Two more weeks of STAAR

Testing

We are in the home stretch of STAAR testing. I want to take a moment to commend all of our students for working so hard as they continue to adapt to the changes implemented this year. Keep up the good work!

Transportation and meals are available to everyone, and dates will be available for students to make up the exams.

It is important for all students — whether learning at home or on campus — to engage with their lessons and complete assignments, quizzes, and projects. If you do not have a Home Access Center (HAC) account, please sign up via the Home Access Center website.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Preregistration for PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten is Open — Families can pre-enroll their eligible students for the 2021-2022 school year in three grades — prekindergarten (PreK) for three-year-olds (PreK3), Pre-K for four-year-olds (PreK4), and kindergarten. Again, pre-enrollment is for new, eligible students entering AISD for the first time. Families can click here to begin the preregistration process by completing online documents. The deadline to pre-enroll students to PreK and kindergarten is May 31, 2021.

District's Newest School, La Promesa, to Host In-Person Enrollment Assistance Event on May 13 — Staff will be available to help families enroll incoming ninth-graders for the 2021-2022 school



year. The school will focus on students who have lived three or fewer years in the U.S. and are from non-English speaking countries or have limited English proficiency.

Thursday, May 13, from 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Aldine High School
11101 Airline Drive • Houston, TX 77037

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

Keep up with the Aldine ISD FACE Department's May newsletter for this month's event dates and family resources. Happening this week:

Thursday, May 13
Immigration Chat/Charla Sobre Inmigración
Click here to attend the session at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 17
Be Inspired/Ser Inspirado
English Presentation at 9:00 a.m.
Spanish Presentation at 11:00 a.m.

COVID-19 REMINDERS

– Testing, Safety Protocols, and Vaccination News
As of May 10, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expanded the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for everyone ages 12 years and older. Aldine ISD has partnered with Texas Children's Hospital to provide COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer) for Aldine ISD staff, students, and the community.

Appointments for Aldine ISD students 12 and up, families, and staff will be available at the M.O. Campbell Center — 1865 Aldine Bender, FM 525 Houston, TX 77032 — on May 14 and 15.

To schedule an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine from Texas Children's Hospital, click here. After you complete the registration form, you will be registered to receive a free vaccine from Texas Children's. You will then receive an email to schedule your vaccine appointment.

Quarantine Protocols

Following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, Aldine ISD will no longer require fully vaccinated students and staff without symptoms to quarantine if exposed to a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case. Students who are fully vaccinated are encouraged to provide a copy of their vaccination card to their campus nurse to enter into their student health immunization records. Staff will only be asked to provide their vaccination records to their supervisor in the event they are identified as an exposure to a positive case.

I encourage everyone to continue doing their part: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

District Updates

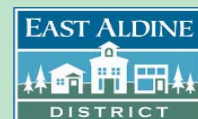
We have so many wonderful things happening in our district! Please make sure to check out the District News page to stay up to date on everything happening in our district.

I wish you a wonderful week ahead.

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent

Take Pride in our
Community
Keep it Clean



COMMUNITY PAGE

Aldine ISD announces Top Ten Scholars at each High School

Ninety students representing the very best of Aldine ISD's Class of 2021 were honored at an event at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, Thursday, May 6.

The Superintendent's Top 10 Scholars were joined by Aldine ISD chief administrators. They gathered to celebrate years of hard work, study, and dedication.

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, superintendent of Aldine ISD schools, congratulated both the students.

"As I listened to Juan José and our Scholars' Reflections, I cannot help but feel an immense sense of pride," Goffney said. "We are here today to honor all the hard work you did to get to this point in your lives. We are all very proud of your accomplishments."

Goffney encouraged the students to continue reaching higher achievements.

The soon-to-be graduates got a special treat hearing from a former Aldine ISD grad. Juan José Jaramillo Montezco from the Class of 2012 at Nimitz High School shared words of wisdom and inspiration. Juan José, who graduated from MIT, is a scientist working for Lyndra Therapeutics.

Everyone in attendance also had the opportunity to listen to Scholars' reflections on their last year and their hopes for the future.

Each Superintendent Top 10 Scholar received a medal to commemorate their achievement.

The students honored were from each Aldine ISD high school.

The students who were honored were:

ALDINE HS
Christopher Rodríguez
Sara Sánchez
Jazmin Navia
Kevin Ponce

Marvin Huerta Méndez
Stephanie Michelle González
Darlyn Nazarely Enamorado
Jaclyn Amaro
Alberto Rodríguez
Joanna Fortanella

BLANSON CTE HS
Miguel Ángel Chacón
Stephanie Montoya
Rafael Turruhartes
Jose Manuel Calvillo
Jeriel Amner Hernández
Victor Ángel Trejo
John Edward Castanaza
Jayla Alana Jackson
Jaydon Leon Johnson
Isaias Daniel Gallegos

CARVER HS
Thuy-Vi Madison Tran
Khalil Armenius Peterson
Joshua Isaac Muise
Laila Arianne Chinn
Cindy Aguilar Vega
Axel David Benito Camey
Francean Denesia Hounbo
Kayla La Nea Robinson
Jalinn Adairia Smith
Tyranica Ja'nee Casey

DAVIS HS
Suchanut Namcharoen
Aiyana Vázquez Ochoa
Anum Badat
Chantille Hermosilla
Abetzi Vázquez Ochoa
Mia Paz
Melisa Sánchez
Alexis Flores
Andy Buu
Katrine Franco

EISENHOWER HS
Karen Cordova
Vuong Duong
Esmerald De Le Fuente

Thanh Quach
Lisbet Sorto
Eva Cruz
Clarissa Banegas
Jonathan Johnson
Selena Vázquez Villasano
Leslie Mata

Hall Center for Education
Keyanni Young
Ebony Segundo
Ray'Neisha Hafford
Angel Rivera Perdomo
Ammy Almdarez
Figueroa
Nauteka Loav
Nygeria Gaskin
Naisa López
Claudedreka Lewis
David Hernández

MACARTHUR HS
Cassandra Isabel Chapa
Roxanna Méndez
Jarely Leal
Jessica Isabel Lozoya
Jesús Rivas Jr.
Gabrielle Nicole García
Alexandria Angeles Alonso
Asiria Martínez
Alicia Zamarripa
Noriah Alexis Duron

NIMITZ HS
Alejandra Arroyo
Luis Diaz Vázquez
Desiree Fernández
Alyssa Cossio
Kennedy Coleman
Marlon Merida García
Soraida Sosa
Weyatta Kpinkin
Raphael Bevil
Jonathan Limbrick

VICTORY EC HS
Hannah Omoruyi
Jocelyn Goodman
Anna de la Cuesta
Adam Guenoun
Arelly González Fonseca
Bryanna McClain
Lizbeth Muñoz
Esmeralda Ledezma
Wyatt Fernández
Marisa Meléndez



Wanda and Franklin Higgins were two of many Aldine ISD employees who were honored for their long service to the district during the May 18 Board of Trustees meeting. Wanda Higgins has devoted 35 years to Aldine ISD, while her husband Franklin has devoted 40 years to the district. Pictured with the two is the AISD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney.

Aldine ISD honors employees with 30-, 35- and 40-years of service to district

During the May 18 Trustees meeting, Aldine ISD recognized and honored employees who have devoted 30-, 35- and 40-years to Aldine ISD.

The 30-year recipients were featured in a Power Point presentation. Those receiving their 30-year pins this year were: Bettie "BJ" Schroeder, Caroline Villarreal, Cheryl Ballard, David Isaac, Dawnelle Carroll, Deborah Butler, Dora Recio, Dorothy Ayala, Elizabeth Hensley, Innetta Carter, Jeanette Mercer, Kathryn Kelly,

Laura Wong and Lori Herzik. Other 30-year pin recipients were: Lynda Eastland, Mary Bishop, Misty Cartwright, Delma Molina, Peggy McCanna, Perla Davila, Phyllis Brown, Regina McGrough, Rhonda (RJ) Clark, Shannon Pearson-Bobb, Sonia Pace-Inkster, Timothy Mrazek, Tony Padgett and Colleen Powell. Other 30-year pin recipients were: San J. Benavides, Barbara Fontenot, Jerri Moss, Robert Thomas, Thomas Tillman, Dora Trevino, Vincent Cartwright,

Debra Edwards, Priscilla Lindeen, Kelly Turner, Wilma Wilkerson, Tomas Zamora and Maria Perez.

The 35-year pin recipients were introduced at the Board meeting. They were: Francisco Bernal, Pamela Burgay, Wanda Higgins, Denise Keaton, George Molina and Melissa Raymond.

The 40-year pin recipients were also introduced at the Board meeting. They were: Allison Hamacher, Franklin Higgins and Linda Hamlin.

Lone Star College-North Harris celebrates graduates with drive-thru commencement

Lone Star College-North Harris honored the achievements of the class of 2021 with a drive-thru commencement Saturday, May 22, from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The event was the college's first in-person event celebrating commencement since Fall 2019. The event was held

at the Student Services Building parking lot, 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, Houston, TX 77073

The drive-thru commencement featured Dr. Archie L. Blanson, president, LSC-North Harris, college leadership, faculty, staff, and graduating students from the class of

2021.

The drive-thru commencement was held to commemorate the accomplishments of our graduating class of 2021. Graduates received their diploma covers and an LSC-North Harris alumni gift presented to them by faculty and staff.



CONGRATULATIONS

2021 Graduates

Lone Star College is celebrating your accomplishments with a virtual commencement ceremony.





LoneStar.edu/CongratsGrad

LSC-CyFair • LSC-Houston North • LSC-Kingwood • LSC-Montgomery • LSC-North Harris • LSC-Tomball • LSC-University Park

★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION
Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Harris County Judge Moves COVID-19 Threat Level to Level 2: Orange

Key COVID-19 Trends Continue Downward Trajectory; Hidalgo Commends Community for Driving Indicators Down By Getting Vaccinated, Urges Continued Vigilance and Action to Reach Non-Vaccinated Population

Harris County, Texas - May 18, 2021, Judge Lina Hidalgo today announced that she is moving the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 1: Red to Level 2: Orange, the system's second highest threat level. The move comes as a variety of indicators demonstrate significant progress in reducing the threat of COVID-19 and the availability, administration, and efficacy of vaccines for eligible age groups.

Over the past several weeks a convergence of factors has led to the lowering of the threat level. Among them, a variety of key indicators used to inform the county's threat level system made significant improvements. These include hospital population trends, hospital usage trends, case trends, and positivity rate. Additionally, the on-demand availability of vaccines, their efficacy against variance, an increasing number of individuals getting vaccinated, and updated CDC guidance regarding mask usage and testing. These indicators have been used by the county in conjunction with health experts to make decisions about policy changes and community guidance.

"Thanks to the hard work of our residents, we have made substantial progress in turning a corner against this virus," said Judge Hidalgo. "This is not a mission accomplished moment, but we should feel encouraged that these vaccines have helped us finally trend in the right direction. Let's continue to pull together and help persuade friends, family members, and others those who haven't been vaccinated to do their part."

Level 2: Orange signifies substantial transmission of COVID-19 still remains in Harris County. Given the efficacy of vaccines, guidance within each threat level will now apply primarily to unvaccinated individuals. In accordance with CDC guidelines, masks should still be worn while traveling by plane, bus, or train as well as in certain settings like hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and businesses/workplaces where required by rules and regulations.

For a complete list of indicators, guidance, and related information visit ReadyHarris.org.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is the head of Harris County's governing body and Director of the Harris County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Judge Hidalgo, alongside four county precinct commissioners, oversees a budget of approximately \$5 billion that funds services and institutions for the third-largest county in the nation, home to nearly 5 million people. For more information about Harris County and the Office of the County Judge, please visit: cjo.harriscountytexas.gov.



Too Many Pancakes

Dud Campbell was at the kitchen table, contemplating what to do next on his novel, "Murder in the Soggy Bottoms." It's been a constant concern to him for several years now, since the idea struck him. The idea was a love affair between a duchess in a castle in Europe and an American truck driver on special assignment to her home country.

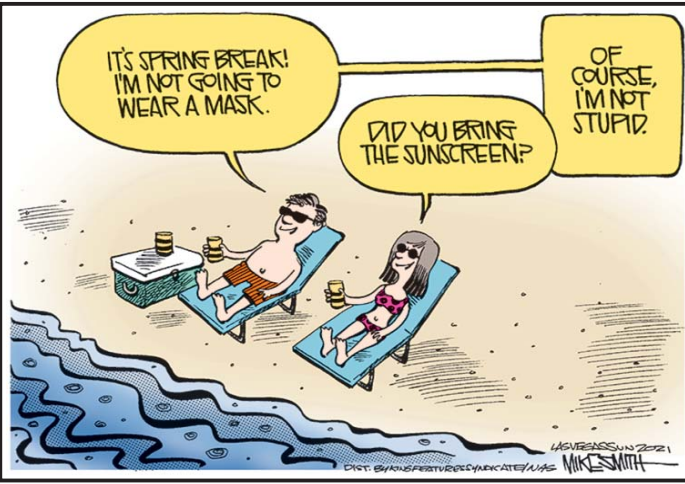
Try as he might, he had yet to overcome a few roadblocks in the writing, such as what to do with the love child the duchess had from him the last time he was on special assignment, what the special assignment was, and how many murders to put in the first chapter.

A guy can't just rush into these things, of course. On top of all that, he still had never heard of a place called Soggy Bottoms, and didn't even know which state it was in. The guys down at the Mule Barn thought his book should be called "The Duchess and the Truck Driver," but Dud didn't think it was mysterious enough. And Doc thought Soggy Bottoms sounded like a diaper change was called for.

But maybe he could conjure up something from his own past that at least might give him an idea of what to write next. So he took the lid off his cast-iron Dutch oven and walked into the back yard. He built a fire in his barbecue and tended it until it was down to coals, and then turned the lid over and put it on the coals. He smeared a little oil on the lid and poured pancake batter on it.

After eating too many pancakes even before Anita woke up, he walked back in the house and began writing. How on earth, he asked himself, does anyone anywhere write more than one book in a lifetime?

For a treat, go to the heart of Louisiana with Shari Hearn's books. <https://books2read.com/ap/nmPreX/> Shari-Hearn.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By
Carrie Classon

The Fanciest Desk in the World

Everyone knows that I am attached to my desk. I would argue I have good reason. My desk is an extension of myself. Whereas other people are attached to their phones, I frequently lose track of mine. (Just writing this made me wonder where it was. Don't worry; I found it.) My desk is my home inside my home.

I hear about people working from their couch or from their kitchen table or even from their bed and I cannot imagine it. My desk is always tidy. I always have fresh flowers sitting on it—even if it's just a rose from the garden or a bouquet from the grocery store.

My desk came from a junk shop that my parents and I visited a few years ago. It's a child's desk and was painted fire engine red. It did not look promising.

But my dad knocked on the wood beneath the red paint. "It's solid maple," he declared. I bought it for \$15. We took it to my dad's wood shop, refinished it, and I have used it ever since. One hot summer night a fan came flying off the windowsill, making a deep gouge in the top. I sanded out the gouge, but then put water-soluble polyurethane on the surface. That was a mistake. The surface has begun to dissolve beneath my hands, peeling like a snake losing its skin.

So now my desk is getting refinished before it gets loaded into a big truck and taken to our new home. In the meantime, my husband, Peter, said I could use his reject computer desk, which is being left behind.

Peter's old desk had a storage tower on top, which he knew would get in my way, so he removed it. It also had a slide-out thingy the keyboard was supposed to sit on and that was never going to work, so I yanked it out. Below that was a shelf, which bumped my knees, so I threw that away as well. There was one last brace I had to straddle and Peter smashed it out with the back side of an ax.

I was still unsatisfied. The little desk rolled around every time I moved. I felt as if I was typing on a boat. "This isn't going to work!" I told Peter, who was doing his best to get his old desk to meet what seemed to me like minimal requirements: a stationary typing surface that my knees fit beneath.

Peter looked at me like I was the resident prima donna, then removed the wheels. Now all that remains is a small, gray box. I think it will work.

Meanwhile, I pulled out the drawers in my old maple desk and I noticed where the wood had warped and the construction was not the best. I wondered if I shouldn't just replace the old desk, start with something new in a new place.

But I remember all the time I've spent at the little desk, looking out one window or another, and I feel as if the old desk and I have too much invested in one another to part ways now. I wiped it down and was astonished how much coffee had managed to splash all over. I lined the drawers with cedar shelf paper and refinished the peeling top.

I'm imagining it in a new place, working on new projects, with fresh flowers sitting on it, and I know it will be fine.

I don't need the fanciest desk in the world. I just need a desk that's all mine.

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Deaths of Unbuckled Texans spike

The number of traffic accidents decreased in 2020, but the number of Texans killed while not wearing a seat belt increased by 16%, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

In 2020, 1,073 fatalities were attributed to not wearing seat belts, up from 926 fatalities in 2019. Buckling up reduces the risk of dying in a traffic accident by 45% for people in the front seat of passenger cars and 60% for people in pickups, according to TxDOT.

"This past year we have all been reminded of the simple acts we can take to protect our lives and those of our loved ones," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass.

"Wearing a seat belt is the most important step we can take to protect ourselves from serious injury or even death in a traffic crash. Instead of putting yourself and others in danger, remember: buckle up day and night, every rider, every ride."

Texas officers will step up enforcement of the state's seat belt and child car seat laws May 24 through June 6. Fines for not having everyone properly secured range up to \$250.

OVER HALF OF ELIGIBLE TEXANS VACCINATED

More than 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Texas as of last week, fully covering more than half of eligible Texans 12 and older. Gov Greg Abbott hailed the effort.

"Vaccines are the most effective defense against the spread of COVID-19, and I continue to urge all eligible Texans to get the vaccine," Abbott said. "The COVID-19 vaccine will always remain voluntary and never forced in Texas, but it is up to all of us to ensure that we defeat this virus — which is why it is



so important for Texans to seek out these safe and effective shots."

The Texas Department of State Health Services announced last week that the Pfizer vaccine is now authorized for anyone 12 years and older. Also last week, the federal Centers for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing.

Local businesses still have the option of requiring employees and patrons to wear masks while inside their establishments.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas last week dropped to 14,909, down 17% from the previous week and down 90% from the record high in mid-January, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalization of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas stood at 2,199 last week, down slightly from the previous week.

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PLANS TO BE BANNED

With time running out in the legislative session, which ends May 31, just one bill addressing the blackouts during February's winter storm has made it to the governor's desk thus far.

House Bill 16 bans residents or small businesses

from signing up for the type of electricity plans that allow wholesale electricity prices to be passed to customers. Those plans resulted in huge electric bills for some customers after the power outage, in some cases more than \$15,000.

Griddy, the main company offering such service to about 29,000 Texas customers, has filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations.

Meanwhile, the interim CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas testified before a Texas Senate committee that ERCOT overrode its protocols in deciding to set pricing for wholesale electricity at the highest level, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

Brad Jones said that "market rules were not followed." The maximum price of \$9,000 per megawatt hour was held for 32 hours, far longer than normal intervals of 15 minutes or so. The move cost Texas utilities billions of dollars.

Brazos Electric Power Cooperative filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after being billed \$1.8 billion by ERCOT. The cooperative's 16 members serve 68 counties from the Panhandle to Houston.

BILL TO INSTALL AC IN PRISONS PASSES HOUSE

The Texas House on Friday voted to require the state prison system to install air conditioning in state-operated prisons and jails, according to The Dallas Morning News. The measure now heads to the Texas Senate.

If the measure passes and is signed into law, its implementation would be dependent on the state providing funding.

"This is the right thing to do. It's the humane thing to do," bill sponsor Terry Canales, D-Edinburg, said. "The reality is in Texas, we are cooking people in prison."

According to the Prison Policy Initiative website, only 30 of the state's 109 prisons have air conditioning in all inmate housing areas.

CORRECTION

Last week's Capital Highlights column contained a mathematical error, stating that almost two-thirds of Texans of all ages had been vaccinated as of that time. The actual number of all Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of Sunday account for about 40% of residents. We regret the error.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

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SPANISH PAGE

Mensaje del Superintendente, 11 de mayo de 2021

Estimada comunidad de Aldine:

Solo nos quedan 12 días del año escolar y estamos bien encaminados para Terminar fuertes y terminar seguros.

El mes de mayo está lleno de observaciones y celebraciones. Esta semana estamos celebrando la Semana Nacional de la Policía. Agradezca conmigo al Jefe Paul Córdova y al Departamento de Policía del Distrito Escolar de Aldine (Aldine ISD), incluido el miembro más reciente, la Oficial K-9, Queen Delta, que protegen y sirven las 111 millas cuadradas del distrito.

Mayo es el mes de concientización sobre la salud mental. Esta celebración nacional es un momento para concientizar a las personas que viven con problemas de salud mental y/o conductual y reducir el estigma asociado con esto, que a menudo impide que las personas busquen ayuda. Las escuelas desempeñan un papel importante al brindar atención de salud conductual y ayudar a los alumnos a encontrar recursos disponibles en su comunidad. Estas estrategias mejoran el valor general de la atención médica y pueden conducir a mejoras en los resultados de los alumnos. Aldine ISD está comprometido a apoyar el bienestar mental, físico y conductual de los alumnos y el personal. Nuestro Departamento de SEL y Cultura compartirá una serie de información y recursos de aprendizaje socioemocional (SEL por sus siglas en inglés) durante todo el mes. Lo animo a leer la Parte 1 y Parte 2.

La semana pasada, los alumnos de las escuelas primarias Kujawa y Carmichael visitaron los edificios administrativos del distrito para presentar canciones, bailes y vestidos tradicionales para celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Asiático-Americana y de las Islas del Pacífico. También fue un honor celebrar a nuestros 10 mejores becarios de todas las escuelas secundarias (high schools) de Aldine ISD. Noventa alumnos se unieron a nosotros el 6 de mayo en el M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Fue increíble conocer y escuchar al graduado de la promoción 2012 de Aldine ISD, Juan José Jaramillo Montezco, quien compartió su sabiduría y experiencias con los futuros graduados. Terminamos la semana con un saludo a nuestros héroes del almuerzo escolar.

Empezar fuertes

Mientras esperamos concluir este año, un año lleno de cambios e incertidumbre, también estamos muy ocupados planificando el comienzo del año escolar 2021-2022. Actualmente, los equipos están evaluando los protocolos del distrito, los códigos de vestimenta de los alumnos y el personal, y las opciones de aprendizaje para garantizar que nuestros alumnos tengan éxito. Mientras finalizamos los planes, esperamos recopilar sus comentarios y compartíroslos lo más rápido posible. Nuestra planificación continúa basándose en nuestro principio rector de que iremos tan rápido como podamos, pero tan lento como debamos.

Dos semanas más de exámenes STAAR

Estamos en la recta final de los exámenes STAAR. Quiero tomarme un momento para felicitar a todos nues-



tros alumnos por estudiar tan arduamente mientras continúan adaptándose a los cambios implementados este año. ¡Sigamos así!

El transporte y las comidas están disponibles para todos, y las fechas estarán disponibles para que los alumnos recuperen los exámenes.

Es importante que todos los alumnos, ya sea que estén aprendiendo en el hogar o en el campus, participen en sus lecciones y completen tareas, cuestionarios y proyectos. Si no tiene una cuenta de Home Access Center (Centro de Acceso Desde el Hogar o HAC por sus siglas en inglés), regístrese a través del sitio web del Home Access Center.

RECORDATORIOS IMPORTANTES

La preinscripción para prejardín de infantes 3. prejardín de infantes 4 y jardín de infantes está abierta — Las familias pueden preinscribir a los alumnos elegibles para el año escolar 2021-2022 en tres grados: prekindergarten (PreK) para niños de 3 años, PreK para niños de 4 años y kinder. Nuevamente, la preinscripción es para alumnos nuevos y elegibles que ingresan al AISD por primera vez. Las familias pueden hacer clic aquí para comenzar el proceso de preinscripción completando los documentos en línea. La fecha límite para preinscribir a los alumnos en prekindergarten y kinder es el 31 de mayo de 2021.

La escuela más nueva del distrito, La Promesa, organizará un evento de asistencia para la inscripción en persona el 13 de mayo — El personal estará disponible para ayudar a las familias a inscribir a los alumnos que ingresan al noveno grado para el año escolar 2021-2022. La escuela se enfocará en alumnos que han vivido tres años o menos en los Estados Unidos y son de países que no hablan inglés o tienen un dominio limitado del inglés.

Jueves 13 de mayo, de 3:00 a 4:30 p. m.
Escuela Secundaria Aldine
11101 Airline Drive • Houston, TX 77037

Participación de la familia y la comunidad (FACE) Manténgase al día con el boletín de mayo del Departamento FACE de Aldine ISD para conocer las fechas de los eventos de este mes y los recursos familiares. Esta semana:

RECORDATORIOS DE LA COVID-19: Pruebas, protocolos de seguridad y noticias de vacunación

A partir del 29 de marzo de 2021, todas las personas en Texas de 16 años o más ahora son elegibles para recibir la vacuna contra la COVID-19. Aldine ISD se ha asociado con Texas Children's Hospital para proporcionar vacunas contra la COVID-19 (Pfizer) para el personal, los alumnos y la comunidad de Aldine ISD.

Las citas para los alumnos de Aldine ISD de 16 años en adelante, las familias y el personal estarán disponibles en el M.O. Campbell Educational Center — 1865 Aldine Bender, FM 525 Houston, TX 77032 — el 14 y 15 de mayo.

Para fijar una cita para vacunarse contra la COVID-19 en el Texas Children's Hospital, haga clic aquí. Después de completar el formulario de inscripción, estará registrado para vacunarse de forma gratuita en Texas Children's. Luego recibirá un correo electrónico para fijar su cita de vacunación.

Protocolos de cuarentena

De acuerdo con la guía de los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades, Aldine ISD ya no requerirá que los alumnos y el personal completamente vacunados sin síntomas hagan cuarentena si se exponen a un caso de COVID-19 positivo confirmado en laboratorio. Se anima a los alumnos que estén completamente vacunados a que proporcionen una copia de su tarjeta de vacunación al enfermero de la escuela para que la ingrese en sus registros de vacunación de salud del alumno. Solo se le pedirá al personal que proporcione sus registros de vacunación a los Beneficios de Aldine ISD si se identifica como una exposición a un caso positivo. Los miembros del personal completamente vacunados, que pueden proporcionar su tarjeta de vacunación, pueden ser autorizados por el departamento de Beneficios de Aldine ISD para regresar al trabajo.

Recomiendo a todos seguir haciendo su parte: usar cubreboca, lavarse las manos y mantener el distanciamiento.

Actualizaciones del distrito

¡Están pasando tantas cosas maravillosas en nuestro distrito! Asegúrese de visitar la página de Noticias del Distrito para mantenerse actualizado sobre todo lo que sucede en nuestro distrito.

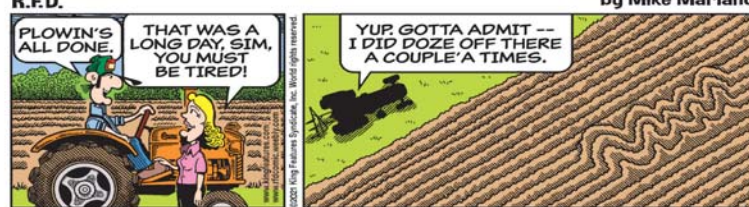
Les deseo una gran semana.
Con orgullo Aldine,
Dra. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendente

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Posting Date May 24, 2021
King Crossword

ACROSS

- Met melody
- "CSI" settings
- Apply cream
- Fender bender
- Gumbo need
- Mode lead-in
- Instrument panel
- Homer's neighbor
- Thread holders
- "Tiny Alice" playwright
- "Heavens!"
- Spud
- Green gem
- Church seat
- Ken or Barbie
- Glamorous Gardner
- Shoe width
- Teeny
- Baseball glove
- British "Inc."
- B'rith
- Soil
- Opposite of nyet
- "Yippeel"
- Vile
- Ghostly greeting
- Music group at a New Year's Eve party

DOWN

- Tosses in Nellie
- Harvest
- Not — many words
- Not on the road
- Novelist Anita
- Alias letters
- "It's c-c-cold!"
- Nasser's successor
- "The Da Vinci Code" author
- Out of the storm
- Ordered
- Journalist
- Tiki bar necklace
- Eastern path
- Sweeney Todd, for one
- Actress Winona
- Female hare
- Theater award
- Aspiration
- Gulf War missile
- Pedestal part
- Hostels
- Crucial time
- " — was saying ..."
- Meadow
- Indian bread

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed the Louisiana Purchase?
- MOVIES: Which 1960s movie featured the theme song "Foggy Mountain Breakdown"?
- ADVERTISING: Sailor Jack and dog Bingo are the mascots for what snack?
- SCIENCE: When was the International Space Station launched?
- U.S. STATES: 1-75 runs between which upper Midwest state and Florida?
- TELEVISION: The long-running TV drama "ER" is set in which U.S. city?
- LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase, "aut viam inveniam aut faciam"?
- INVENTIONS: When did the FDA approve the first oral contraceptive in the U.S.?
- HISTORY: The ancient city of Rome was built on how many hills?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for the condition known medically as pyrexia?

1. Thomas Jefferson; 2. Bonnie and Clyde; 3. Cracker Jack; 4. 1998; 5. Michigan; 6. Chicago; 7. I shall either find a way or make one; 8. 1960; 9. Seven; 10. Fever

Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers
King Crossword

HCC plans “Big Saturday” on June 5; Job Fair, 50th Anniversary, and more

HOUSTON (May 20) – Individuals seeking jobs, college admissions assistance and free gifts as part of the celebration of Houston Community College’s 50 years of educating Houstonians are invited to “Big Saturday at HCC Central,” a one-day smorgasbord of job opportunities, college preparedness and on-campus fun in a festival-like atmosphere.

The event, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HCC Central in Midtown, is free and open to all.

“We are offering three excellent activities concurrently to bring the community back to the campus and to let them know HCC is open for business,” says Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, president of HCC Central. “Big Saturday at HCC Central” is about returning to college life as we once experienced and enjoyed it, and about offering the community the opportunity to resume their quest for higher education, a new career and to connect with the college again.”

WHO: HCC Central

WHAT: “Big Saturday at HCC Central”

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, June 5

WHERE: Learning Hub Science Building and San Jacinto Memorial Green - 1300 Holman St., Houston, TX 77004

Featured employers for the Job + Career Fair include Omni Hotel, Four Seasons Hotel, Therman Corp. | Nailor Industries, 84 Lumber Company, Iron Access and Skanska. HCC Central’s Career and Job Placement Services also will be on hand to help current HCC students refine their interviewing and job-prospecting skills.

Attendees can explore develop-

ing careers in such fields as: Construction, drafting, HVAC, industrial electricity, interior design, culinary and pastry arts, cosmetology, fashion design, fashion merchandising and hospitality.

Admissions and registration assistance will be available to new and returning HCC students. Other student-service resources, such as financial aid and library services, also can answer student questions.

As part of HCC’s celebration of its 50th anniversary, HCC Central is offering free gourmet cupcakes, commemorative 50th anniversary T-shirts and flying discs to toss across San Jacinto Memorial Green, the large expanse in front of the historic San Jacinto Memorial Building where HCC began in 1971. Visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and water to watch Frisbee-throwing contests as a DJ plays music from the 1970s and beyond.

Free parking for “Big Saturday at HCC Central” is available in the HCC Central’s five-story parking garage at the corner of Austin and Winbern Streets.

About Houston Community College

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit hccs.edu.

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JUNE 7

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- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Registration & Financial Aid assistance



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Northline Campus | 8001 Fulton Street | Houston, TX 77022

North Forest Campus | 6010 E. Little York Road | Houston, TX 77016

Northeast Campus | 555 Community College Drive | Houston, TX 77013

Automotive Tech. Training Center | 4638 Airline Drive | Houston, TX 77022

713.718.8300

hccs.edu



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Harris County denied Flood Mitigation Funding,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tribution to the City and a very small portion to Harris County shows a callous disregard to the people of Houston and Harris County.”

Judge Hidalgo said that she plans to ask HUD for a review of the criteria used, and assurance that the County will receive future fund allocations. She said the formulas that are used disadvantage large urban areas that are hardest hit.

The Official GLO statement on Harvey Mitigation Fund Allocation, which was released late on Friday, follows, with Editing:

“\$90.4 million granted by Texas GLO for historic disaster mitigation projects in Harris County

Funds to improve water infrastructure approved for cities of Baytown, Galena Park, Jacinto City and Pasadena

AUSTIN - Today in Pasadena, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush joined Mayor Jeff Wagner to announce the Texas General Land Office (GLO) approved more than \$90.4 million in drainage, water and wastewater infrastructure projects to mitigate the effects of widespread flooding that has long impacted eastern Harris County. The cities of Baytown, Galena Park, Jacinto City and Pasadena prioritized large-scale, majority low-to-moderate income (LMI) projects that would serve our most vulnerable populations and the community at large by protecting public health, safety and welfare.

“In recent years Texas has led the nation in disaster declarations, and the historic funding we’re announcing today will go directly to projects that will help fortify Texas homes, businesses and critical infrastructure against future disasters,” said Commissioner Bush. “The GLO re-

ceived more than \$6.5 billion in requests for mitigation project funding for low-to moderate-income communities, underscoring the urgent need for increased resiliency throughout the Texas coast. We continue to work hard every day to put these federal funds to work protecting our coastal resources and communities, from our ports to our most vulnerable residents.”

“The severe storms we’ve had in the past show just how much of southeast Texas, is vulnerable when watersheds converge in the Houston Ship Channel and that includes Pasadena,” said Mayor Jeff Wagner. “We’ve got one of the busiest ports in the world right in our backyard and it’s a vital link in the regional economy,” said Jeff Wagner, Mayor of Pasadena. “Many people also don’t realize that floodwaters can threaten our wastewater treatment plants, putting our residents at risk. Since I became mayor in 2017, my administration has been committed to flood mitigation and drainage, and this \$47 million grant from the Texas General Land Office is a fantastic partnership. Many communities will see relief from this generous grant award program. What’s even more amazing is Pasadena’s grant is only part of an overall \$90 million that’s going to support several projects. This is really going to benefit residents throughout Harris County.”

“While I am disappointed that the City of Houston was not awarded flood mitigation funding, I am pleased that Pasadena, Galena Park, Jacinto City and Baytown in Senate District 6 received money for their proposals,” said Senator Carol Alvarado. “These flood control resources are desperately needed by smaller cities who often lack funding for infrastructure projects. Past severe storms have

shown how southeast Texas is vulnerable when watersheds converge in the Houston Ship Channel – which serves one of the busiest ports in the world and is a vital link in the regional economy. The \$90 million in project awards from the Texas General Land Office will support several projects that will benefit residents throughout Harris County.”

In May 2020, Commissioner George P. Bush announced the kick-off of the application process for the first round of more than \$2.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to protect Texas communities hit by Hurricane Harvey and severe flooding in 2015 and 2016. During the first round, the GLO conducted three competitive application programs from the CDBG-MIT Action Plan. Those programs include:

2015 Floods State Mitigation Competition – GLO awarded \$31,426,781 to four grantees.

2016 Floods State Mitigation Competition – GLO awarded 21 grantees with \$135,462,438.

Hurricane Harvey State Mitigation Competition Round 1 (\$1 billion of \$2,144,776,720 total)

Applications closed for the first round of funding October 28, 2020, and the GLO evaluated all 290 submitted applications in accordance with the HUD approved scoring criteria. Eligible applications with the highest scores were awarded funds. The second round of the competition will award the remaining \$1,144,776,720 in mitigation funding to Hurricane Harvey eligible entities.

HUD defines mitigation as activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term

risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters. HUD requires that at least 50% of total funds must be used for activities benefiting low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons.

The State of Texas CDBG Mitigation Action Plan: Building Stronger for a Resilient Future outlines the use of funds, programs, eligible applicants, and eligibility criteria as required by HUD. The plan was sent to HUD on February 3, 2020, after an extraordinary public outreach effort including a 50-day public comment period and eight regional public hearings, far surpassing HUD requirements. HUD approved the plan March 31, 2020. For more information, please visit recovery.texas.gov/mitigation.

City of Pasadena: Flood Mitigation Project - \$47,278,951.21
LMI Percentage: 65.37%

The Vince Bayou and Cotton Patch watershed are contiguous and combine in the Houston Ship Channel during severe coastal flooding events caused by hurricanes and stalling tropical storms. The project represents a strategy to mitigate and relieve some of these impacts during Hurricanes and Tropical Storms that occur frequently in the upper Texas gulf coast.

The Vince Bayou portion of the project will separate disparate exposure of storm water distribution from the Little Vince Bayou branch of Vince Bayou, create additional storage through detention along Little Vince and taking advantage of existing freeboard in the existing channel, and reduce current major floodplain losses in Armand Bayou.

City of Baytown: East

District Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase II - \$32,394,113.86
LMI Percentage: 52.29%

Most of Baytown’s East District Wastewater Treatment Plant is located within the 100-year flood plain. This project will protect city assets and prevent potential damage from future flooding events and protect operational safety to serve the community. The sum total of these efforts will bring the major process areas of the plant above the 500-yr flood plain level by at least one foot and protect the plant in the future against severe damage such as that seen during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

To increase flood resiliency of the East District Wastewater Treatment Plant, the city of Baytown will execute the following:

Construct new two-story dewatering and chemical storage buildings.
Add a protective wall around the treatment units.
Raise vulnerable pump stations above the flood elevation.

City of Galena Park: Water Plant Improvements Project - \$5,482,123
LMI Percentage: 60.22%

The City of Galena Park has two water plants that operate in tandem to provide safe drinking water and adequate water capacity for fire protection throughout the city. During Hurricane Harvey, excessive flooding prevented city staff and operators from access to the plants due to flood waters blocking ingress and egress of major arterial streets that leads to the city’s water plants. To mitigate, the city will fortify and harden both water plants from excess leakage, and capacity, while adding Supervisor Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) remote mon-

itoring equipment. This project mitigates against stormwater impacts for existing water plants to provide safe drinking water and adequate water capacity for fire protection throughout the city.

SCADA to allow control from a remote location preventing the inability of the operators during flooding events.

Fortify and harden two water plants located: Plant (1) 301 Stewart Street and Plant (2) 1902 Keene Street, to reduce excess leakage and capacity improving effects of stormwater impacts.

Jacinto City: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project - \$5,319,717
LMI Percentage: 78.45%

Jacinto City’s wastewater treatment plant site, located next to Hunting Bayou, flooded during Hurricane Harvey. During the storm, the bayou overtopped its high banks which impacted the city’s ability to effectively treat wastewater. Hardening the plant by building a stormwater holding tank will help the city reduce the probability of the Wastewater Treatment Plant overflowing during storm events. The project will further increase the lifespan of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and improve the city’s ability to treat wastewater effectively during high flow events leading to Inflow and Infiltration and high water on the site. These improvements will contribute to the health and safety of the citizens by reducing the risk of exposure to raw sewage.

Through the project the city will:

- Build a stormwater holding tank to the wastewater treatment plant
- Replace/rehabilitate structures within the plant

COMMUNITY WATCH

Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Shooting at 9808 Bauman Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man at 9808 Bauman Road that occurred about 11:45 p.m. on Wednesday (May 19).

The suspect, Sergio Gutierrez (H/m, 35), is charged with murder in the 174th State District Court. He is accused in the death of Salvador Arredondo, 33.

A booking photo of Gutierrez is attached to this news release.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant M. Arrington and Detective M. Perez reported:

Officers responded to a shooting at the above address and found Mr. Arredondo slumped against the wall of the vacant building. Responding Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced

Arredondo deceased. A witness stated he and Arredondo are homeless and had been sitting at the location, drinking, when an unknown suspect walked up to them and began shooting. The witness stated he ran to a nearby friend's house and returned with the friend and found Arredondo deceased.

Further investigation identified Gutierrez as the suspect in this case. He was taken into custody on Thursday (May 20) without incident and admitted to shooting Arredondo multiple times.



Fatal Crash on Hardy Toll Road follows Police Pursuit of burglary suspect

Car burns, occupant dies

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash at 6000 East Hardy Toll Road that occurred about 3:50 a.m. today (May 21).

The identity of the deceased male, 18, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sergeant E. Fendia and Officer J. Hill reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to 18225 Eastex Freeway (North U.S. Highway 59) service road regarding a burglary of a business and observed a blue Dodge Challenger attempting to leave the location. The vehicle went to the back of the parking lot and, by the time officers arrived, the vehicle was left unoccupied and with the engine running.

As other HPD patrol vehicles arrived on scene, a gray Dodge Charger pulled out from a dark spot across the street and fled the area at a high rate of speed. HPD officers initiated a vehicle pursuit on the Eastex Freeway northbound to the North Sam Houston Tollway East westbound. Officers lost sight of the vehicle before the Hardy Toll Road exit and continued on the Sam Houston Parkway before ending the pursuit.

A short time later, a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle was found crashed into a wall at the intersection of the Sam Houston Parkway service road and the Hardy Toll Road. The vehicle was fully engulfed in flames and the male occupant of the vehicle was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Lydia in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Corinthians 11, Paul said women should have a symbol of authority because of _____? Life, Trust, Love, Angels
3. In Acts 10, who said, "Not so, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean"? Herod, Peter, Thomas, John the Baptist
4. From Hebrews 7, who was the only king said to have neither mother nor father? Solomon, David, Melchizedek, Sargon
5. Whose four daughters were considered prophetesses? Gad, Philip, Jonah, Noah
6. Which biblical name means, "God has helped"? Solomon, Paul, Lazarus, Amos

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Angels; 3) Peter; 4) Philip; 5) Lazarus; 6) Melchizedek; 7) Philip; 8) Lazarus; 9) Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreen.com/triviaguy.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

PSALM 85: 8-9

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