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NORTHEAST NEWS

Americanisms



“The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get.”
— Tim Russert

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NEWS NOTES

New Dean named for Lone Star College-East Aldine

Tippetts was once the Housekeeper, now is the Keeper of the House

JUNE 22, THURS.

Small Business Seminar & Lunch at East Aldine District

Small Business Free Seminar & Luncheon Series continues, on Thursday, June 22nd from 12pm noon to 1pm at the District Offices, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive, off Aldine Mail Route.

Speaker: Mark Winchester, Deputy District Director of the SBA. Topics include Sources of Counseling, Access to Capital, Disaster Assistance, and Federal Contracts.

RSVP AldineDistrict.org/RSVP or 512-658-4985.

MONTH OF JULY Movies on the Green at East Aldine

Every Friday Night in July, 8:30pm at the Amphitheater. Free Popcorn & Snowcones. Just bring a blanket or chair. Enjoy.

JULY 7 - PUSS N BOOTS

JULY 14 - JURASSIC WORLD

JULY 21 - MINIONS

JULY 28 - GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

ALDINE – Twenty-one years ago, when she spoke very little English, an immigrant mother of three children went to work at a Lone Star College campus as a part-time night custodian.

Now Reyna A. Gomez Tippetts, from a small Mexican town, is the new dean of Lone Star College-East Aldine Center in the town center built by the East Aldine Management District.

Along the way, she earned an associate's degree from Lone Star College, a bachelor's degree in accounting from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, and a master's degree in business administration from Lamar University in Beaumont.

Archetype. Paradigm. Role Model. Ideal. Exemplar. Paragon. Those are just a few of the words that would describe the 45-year-old dean—if one uses the kind of wonky



Dean Reyna A. Gomez Tippetts

Radio Shack electronic translator she desperately needed to communicate in English in her manual labor job with the Lone Star College system.

The gadget had been a gift from her new husband, Roscoe Tippetts, a graduate of MacArthur High School in East Aldine. They happened to meet for the first at a Christmas party in 1998 in her hometown of Ebano, Mexico.

Roscoe Tippetts, recently widowed at the time, was visiting the parents of his late wife with their two young sons. He had brought the boys to visit their maternal grandparents for the holiday.

Reyna, then a 19-year-old Spanish speaker, admits that she “fell in love with a blue-eyed, blonde-haired baby boy” in his father's lap at the party.

“That's how I ended up marrying my husband, a gringo!” she said with a laugh.

“I always tell my son that he is the reason I came to this country. I fell in love with the little baby, and yes, his cute daddy.”

After what she describes as “a whirlwind romance,” the young couple married and moved to the East Aldine area, where they had a baby girl.

With the family struggling to make ends meet in 2001, she took the night custodian's job at the Lone Star College-Harris North campus.

While working and attending school in the same place, Tippetts also helped raise the two young sons, Nelson and Brandon. They have followed in her academic footsteps.

Nelson holds a bachelor's in criminal justice from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and Brandon has his associate's degree from Lone Star College. Their daughter, Alma, holds a bachelor's in geology from Baylor University and is pursuing her master's degree at Ohio State University.

Now it is the new dean's goal to convince other students and their parents in East Aldine that education is the key to their future.

Tippetts also wants the East Aldine community to know that Lone Star-East Aldine is home not only to Rose P. Avalos P-Tech High School, but also offers community college classes to help English-language learners and business owners improve their educational and economic opportunities.

But education had always been important to her. Even as a little girl in Mexico, Tippetts recalls, “I studied very hard. My parents didn't really understand why I worked so hard.”

Tippetts was barely able to communicate when she first enrolled in English as a Second Lan-

Continued. See New Dean at LSC-EA, Page 8

Walle named in Top 10 Legislators

AUSTIN – At the end of each biennial session of the Texas Legislature, the Texas Monthly magazine does an evaluation of the actions of the legislators, and names the 10 best and the 10 worst according to various categories and their actions.

This year Armando Walle, District 140 (Aldine) was one of 10 named in the top category. Here is what Texas Monthly had to say about Walle:

“Rep. Armando Walle D-Houston

Time was running out, and the families of children and teachers killed in Uvalde were getting anxious. Months had passed

Continued. See Walle in Top 10, page 2

Walle Town Hall updates Community

Reports on actions in the 88th Legislature

ALDINE – State Representative Armando Walle was the featured speaker at last Thursday's regular meeting of the East Aldine Civic Association, with about 30 persons in attendance at the BakerRipley building.

Walle presented a Town Hall style presentation of activities and his actions during the 140 day session of the 88th Texas Legislature, just ending on May 29th. He explained the workings of the Legislature, gave information on his committee work and bills he authored or promoted, and then took held a question and answer session with the audience.

Walle explained how the Texas Legislature meets



State Representative Armando Walle, standing, presents a report on Activity in the 88th Legislative Session, to the East Aldine Civic Association meeting.

only every two years, for 140 days, and in the first 60 days cannot vote on bills. Hearings, bill filings and committee work is done then, and the only

legislation that they must pass, by constitution, is the budget. He said over 6000 bills are filed, but less than 1000 are voted into law.

Walle was on four com-

mittees: Appropriations, Licensing & Administrative Procedures, Health Care Reform, and House Administration. He was Chair of an Appropriations subcommittee, which helped him commit funds for natural resources, business and economic development, and regulatory. He was able to secure money for flood and water infrastructure projects, port and ship channel projects, and targeted pay raises for state employees.

Walle authored and filed about 30 bills for his constituents and interests, he said.

He noted that the Legislature failed to pass some important bills, including pay raises for teachers, and property tax relief for home owners. He said that the governor and House have one idea of property

tax relief, and the lieutenant governor and Senate have a different approach, and have not been able to agree within the time limits of the session. Therefore he expects there will be addition Special Sessions called this summer, to deal with these issues.

Budget highlights that Walle specifically called out include \$18 million for Halls Bayou in District 140; \$50 million for improvements to the Lake Houston Dam; \$7 million for the TCEQ to strengthen their regulatory activities.

Walle especially was proud of \$1 billion that was allocated to expand and improve state parks;

Several bills dealt with food insecurity, including

Continued. See Walle Town Hall, page 2

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Walle Town Hall at East Aldine Civic Association,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Representative Walle speaks to the East Aldine Civic Association last Thursday evening at the BakerRipley building.

\$10 million for Texans Feeding Texans; \$6.6 million for students for free breakfasts; and \$10 million to expand the Houston Food Bank, to be built in our District 140.

Walle said that the Texas University Fund would be expanded to include more universities that just UT and TAMU. It would know benefit the University of Houston, Texas Tech and many others statewide. \$3 billion was set aside for this new development in higher education funding. However, Walle cautioned that this must be ratified by a public vote in the next November elec-

tions, and is no guaranteed.

In other local matters, he said that Keith-Wiess Park will receive an additional \$5 million for development, as well as the \$1 million already allocated. Also an additional \$1 million has been allocated for improvements in Melrose Park.

TCEQ will add two mobile air monitors to the two they already use, and one will be designated for use in Harris County on a regular basis.

Questioned about noise pollution, Walle said that in unincorporated areas such as Harris County, it is very difficult to regulate, especially since the Republican legislature has passed a number of bills limiting the power of cities and counties to regulate local infractions of noise and other matters. However, the penal code already limits noise levels to below 85db, which needs to be enforced.

On questions about the power grid, he noted that most of our electricity comes from gas-fired gen-

erating plants, and in the last freeze they were not able to keep up due to frozen supply equipment. This legislature has allocated monies to improve this situation, but it is not sure if enough has been done.

Walle said that one item that will affect many locally is the elimination of paper temporary license plates on cars. This goes into effect in 2025, and will curb abuses and illegal activities related to counterfeit and stolen tags.

Car inspections will also be eliminated, except for air emission tests in large counties such as Harris County. Other criteria will be eliminated, and fees will be reduced.

The meeting lasted almost two hours, and the audience also stayed after adjournment to get more details on some of the issues discussed.

East Aldine Civic Association president Ruben Salazar thanked all for coming, and invited them to the next monthly meeting, on July 20.

Walle Top 10 Legislator,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with very little action on their top priority: legislation raising the legal age to purchase certain semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. The families at least wanted a committee vote, something only an unyielding Republican committee chair, Ryan Guillen, could grant.

On May 2 survivors of the shooting victims gathered for an emotional, last-ditch plea to Guillen. Standing alongside them were three lawmakers, including Walle, an eight-term liberal Democrat who represents part of Houston and a section of unincorporated Harris County. His attendance was risky—even if the bill got a hearing, it had little chance of becoming law and, moreover, poking his finger in

the eye of the GOP leadership could cost him dearly. But Walle is a relative rarity in the Lege: a Democrat on good terms with the Republican inner circle who doesn't compromise his principles. The bill got a committee vote—it passed with two Republican ayes—and Walle went back to work.

Key to his success was his relationship with Greg Bonnen, the irascible and vindictive Republican chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee, whose brother Dennis used to be Speaker of the House. With Greg Bonnen's blessing, Walle put his mark on the \$321 billion state budget. As one of five House budget negotiators, he helped secure an additional 3 percent raise for low-

level state employees and fresh funding to tackle air pollution in his industry-heavy district. Bonnen also trusted him to carry popular, bipartisan legislation creating the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, the \$1 billion endowment to help buy land for new state parks. He risked the Republican's ire by passionately speaking out against GOP efforts to strip diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from Texas universities. And he was one of only 36 lawmakers to vote against HB 5, a Dade Phelan priority.

Walle, a high school football player, pulled off a trick play this session: he ran with team Phelan but played the game the way he wanted.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY JUNE 19.

Summer Reading Program
Babies, Kids, Teens, and Adults - win prizes for reading! Also earn prizes for attending programs! Sign up for the **Summer Reading Program on Beanstack** <https://hcpl.beanstack.org/reader365>. You can also register in person at the library.

Every day, All month: This summer we want to focus on Kindness/Friendship/Unity. Let's get together as a community and **make a mural**. Each participant will be given a post-it to create a mini piece of art. Just ask at the front desk.

TEAM PUZZLE RACE
Sign up today to participate in our Team Puzzle Race on **June 29 at 4pm!** Four teams will get the same 500 piece puzzle, and the first to assemble it wins a prize!
Teams can be 2 - 5 people, ages 6 and up. All teams will get to keep their puzzle at the end of the event. Only 4 teams will be able to compete in the race, and spots are filling up, so sign up TODAY! Sign up at the front desk.

SING! MOVE! PLAY!
Sing! Move! Play! is an engaging and kinetic workshop, celebrating opera's greatest hits, using rote music instruction. Through singing, dancing, and playing with instruments, we can all learn opera! Perfect for Pre-K to 2nd grade. Opera: Carmen; Composer: Georges Bizet. Tuesday, June 20, 11am.

KIDS CRAFTS/ MANUALIDADES PARA NIÑOS

Let's get creative! Join us at **6pm every Tuesday** for our weekly summer crafts at Aldine! (Don't forget, this is a great opportunity for kids to work on essential life skills like sharing, reading instructions, cutting, gluing, and working in a group.)

¡Seamos creativos! Están invitados a las **6 pm todos los martes** para nuestras manualidades semanales de verano en Aldine! (No olvide que esta es una gran oportunidad para que los niños trabajen en habilidades esenciales para la vida, como compartir, leer instrucciones, cortar, pegar y trabajar en grupo).

¡APRENDA A USAR SU CHROMEBOOK!

¡Aprenda a usar su Chromebook para el trabajo o uso personal en 4 sesiones! Áreas cubiertas:
Sesión #3 June 20, 5pm - 6:45pm - Usando su Correo para acceder a servicios de la nube (Google Apps y Office 365)
Sesión #4 June 27, 5pm - 6:45pm - Vistazo general de las aplicaciones

gratuitas de la nube (Office 35 y Google Apps Workspace)

PARA LOS NIÑOS
Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week. For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!)
Cada taller incluye actividades de aprendizaje para usar en casa relacionadas con el tema del taller.

Para padres y niños menores de 8 años (¡y hermanos también!) **Wednesday, June 21, 11:00am - 12:30pm.**

PERLER BEAD MAGIC
Drop by Kids Club to flex your creative muscles. Make a photo frame for Father's Day or celebrate National Donut Day with a donut of your choice. Limit one per child. Wednesday, June 21, 4:30pm.

ANDYROO'S MUSICAL JOURNEY

You're invited! Andyroo's musical show has delighted kids of all ages. Andrew has booked shows at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, PBS Kids show at SXSW, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo with Radio Disney on the Kids Country Stage! Free at your local library! **Thursday, June 22, 11:30am.**

TEEN THURSDAY

Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! **Thursday, June 22, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

HARRIS COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION

Are you registered to vote? Do you have questions about the process but never had an opportunity to ask? Well, here is your chance! A representative from Harris County Elections Administration will be on site at the Aldine Branch Library to get you registered. They will also be able to answer any questions you have as well. Don't delay, register today! Your vote is your voice! **Thursday, June 22, 1pm - 5pm.**

¿Está registrado para votar? ¿Tiene preguntas sobre el proceso pero nunca tuvo la oportunidad de hacerla? ¡Aquí está su oportunidad! Un representante de la Administración de Elecciones del Condado de Harris estará presente en la Biblioteca Sucursal de Aldine para registrarlo. También podrán responder cualquier pregunta que tenga. ¡No se demore, regístrese hoy! ¡su voto es su voz! **Jueves, 22 de junio, 1pm - 5pm.**

CHROMEBOOK WORKSHOP SERIES

Thursday, June 22, 5pm - 6:45pm
Learn how to use your Chromebook for work or personal use in 4 sessions!
Covered areas:
Session #3 June 22, 5pm - 6pm - Using your Mail to access cloud services (Google Apps and Office 365)
Session #4 June 29, 5pm - 6:45pm - Overview of Free Cloud Apps (Office 365 and Google Apps)

ROBLOX FRIDAYS

Join us every Friday for Roblox Fridays! Compete against your friends in a variety of games. May the best player win!
For ages 9-13. **Friday, June 23 4:30pm.**

SUMMER SPANISH LEARNING CLUB

¿Dónde está la biblioteca?

Want to learn what that means and more? Join our Summer Spanish Learning Club! This program is meant for beginner and intermediate Spanish language learners. A Spanish speaking staff member will be there to help you learn. Meets every Saturday at 10 am - 11 am this summer. First meeting will be June 10, 2023. See you there! You can record 5 points in Beanstack for every time you participate in the Summer Spanish Learning Club

Crafty Corner - Shrinky Dink Charms

Make your Shrinky Dink charms that can be used on keychains, bracelets, and more!

This is a family event, we ask parents attend with their children. Saturday, June 24, 1pm.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? We are looking for adult volunteers to help with tasks and programs at the library as well as volunteers to teach English language classes, citizenship classes, or computer classes in person and virtually. Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library, call 832-927-5410, or click here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qSzMSpiaTL>.

PASSPORT SERVICES

Do have plans to travel out of the country soon? Get on the ball and make sure you get your passport in order NOW! You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>

Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm - 7pm; Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, photos, copies, and required people present with them.

MICHELLE PICHON LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY 11331 AIRLINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77037 832-927-5410

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HOUSE DISTRICT 140 TOWN HALL

WITH **REP. ARMANDO WALLE**

JUNE 21, 2023

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Blanson Career and Technical Education High School
311 West Road

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Golden Outlook

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Aldine ISD Police Commander Graduates From FBI National Academy

Aldine ISD Police Chief Paul S. Cordova recently announced that Commander Orville W. Wright III has graduated as a member of the 286th session of the FBI National Academy. The graduation occurred at the National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, on June 8, 2023. Commander Orville Wright is the first officer in department history to complete this prestigious program. Nationally, fewer than one percent of officers can attend the program.



Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

The 286th session consisted of 238 law enforcement officers from 47 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 25 countries, five military organizations, and six federal civilian organizations.

Commander Wright was already an exceptional leader before attending the FBI National Academy. But now, having graduated from the FBINA, I am expecting new and innovative ideas from him combined with increased vigor and motivation. I am very proud of his outstanding accomplishment. As a fellow FBINA graduate, I

know how much this educational experience will allow him to problem solve and overcome barriers." Chief Cordova said.

Commander Wright is a 26-year law enforcement veteran with 19 years of serving the Aldine ISD community. Commander Wright currently serves as the Support Services Division Commander. Commander Wright oversees the department's telecommunication division, investigations, property and evidence and records, community outreach, training, k9, emergency response team, and the department's honor guard. Commander Wright is an FBI National Academy session #286 graduate, FBI LEEDA Trilogy award recipient, and a Master Peace Officer through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The Aldine ISD Police Department serves 61,000 students from various backgrounds, at 83 school campuses, on a footprint of 111 square miles.

About the FBI National Academy

FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other advanced-level staff provide the training; many instructors are recognized internationally in their fields. Since 1972, National Academy students have earned undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia, which accredits many courses. A total of 54,366 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.

AISD Partners With METRO for Bus Shelter Art Contest



On Wednesday, May 24, Aldine ISD and METRO held an event for METRO's Adopt a Bus Shelter Contest, which asked Aldine ISD students to create school pride inspired designs to be featured on future bus shelters closest to their respective campuses. The event was to showcase the winning students, along with unveiling the winning designs.

The winners consisted of students from Avalos P-Tech, Blanson CTE, MacArthur High School, MacArthur 9th, Aldine High School, Aldine 9th and Carver High School. The submitted artwork will be interpreted by a professional artist; they will pull inspiration from the submissions, and then use that design to decorate the five bus shelters.

The mediums allowed were hand drawn on paper or tablet, or through electronic art programs such as Adobe, Canva, ect.

Along with the art submissions, the students submitted a two to three paragraph description in order to give more insight to their piece. The writing consisted of what school spirit means to them, and what inspired their piece.

This contest is the byproduct of a long standing relationship AISD has had with METRO that spans several years. The partnership was formed through Aldine's Visual Arts Department and METRO's art and transportation initiative, to provide students of Aldine with opportunities to create and see their work and talent showcased in their own communities.

Congratulations to the following:



ALONDRA GALLEGOS FROM ALDINE HIGH SCHOOL



JORDON BARNES FROM CARVE



ESTEFANY RAMIREZ-GONZALEZ

How Much the Aldine ISD Class of 2023 Earned in College Scholarships



This school year, the Aldine Independent School District celebrated over 3,460 graduates from 10 high schools.

Along with their diplomas, many grads in the Class of 2023 are also celebrating their scholarships. The district will know if the Class of 2023 has set a new record this summer when the final seniors wrap up any lingering scholarship requirements.

During the Community Meetings held in late spring, the total scholarships were \$43,606,912. According to the Scholarships Office, this total is now \$50,260,846, representing a 48% increase in scholarships from the previous year.

Get a Head Start on Financial Aid

The FAFSA and TASFA applications typically open on October 1 each year.

Questions?

Visit the district's Scholarship Office website for information and contact details.

CLASS OF 2023

Total Scholarships
\$50,260,846*

*figure might increase over the summer of 2023

Scholarship Amount Increase
From 2022
48% increase

Where Their Headed
Local and State Colleges and Universities • Trade Schools • Military • Johns Hopkins University • Harvard University • Yale University • Emory University • University of Chicago • And More!

By the Numbers

- 90.65% applied to at least 1 college
- 81.25% submitted a FAFSA or TASFA

You can read the Northeast News current and back issues on our website: www.nenewsroom.com

OPINION PAGE

TEXAS GLO

By Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

Hurricane Season 2023 Begins June 1
Don't Ignore Your Risk, Be Prepared and Stay Prepared

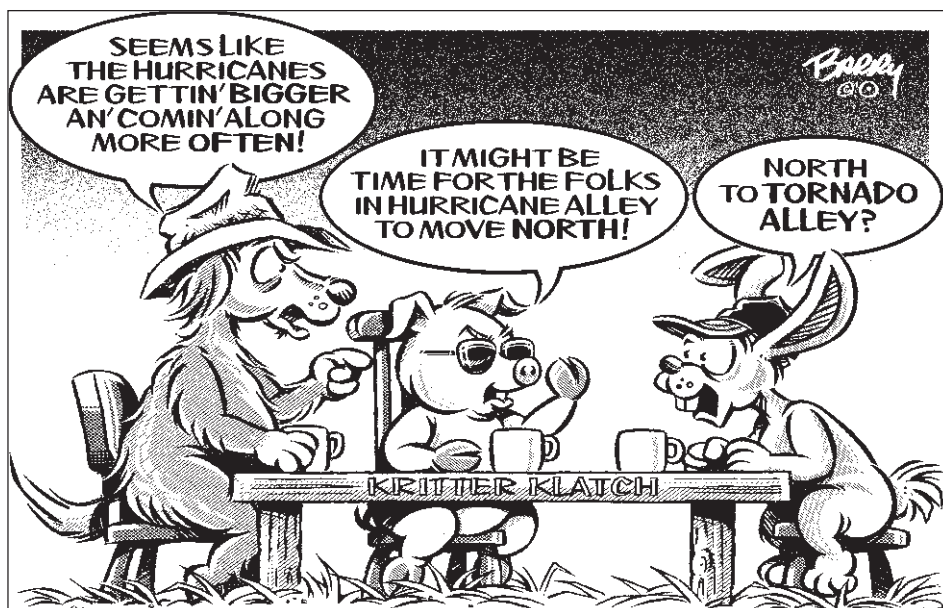
AUSTIN – Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is encouraging all Texans to prepare for the 2023 hurricane season, which begins Thursday, June 1 and runs through Thursday, November 30, 2023.

“Because of the GLO’s disaster recovery programs, Texas is better prepared for natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires,” Commissioner Buckingham said.

The GLO encourages all Texans to prepare for hurricane season by doing the following:

- Know Your Risk - Sign up for your community's emergency warning system.
• Make Your Evacuation Plan - Check with local officials about updated evacuation shelters for this year.
• Gather Supplies - Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities or access/functional needs, and pets.
• Secure Documents - Remember to secure copies of important personal documents.
• Protect Your Property - Shutter your home as needed, review your flood insurance policy...

The Texas General Land Office continues to promote preparedness through “Don't Ignore Your Risk,” a public outreach initiative to encourage Texans to be prepared and stay prepared for hurricane season.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

“So Much”

I heard him yelling before I saw him. He was in front of the church. His possessions were loaded into a shopping cart, and it appeared he was trying to navigate the steep hill. And he was yelling.

He stopped yelling immediately. He looked surprised—as if his yelling had been happening in a private place, and he hadn't expected anyone to notice.

I looked back at this man. He was no longer yelling. He looked as if he might cry.

“Well, you're not,” I said. He looked at me in a peculiarly intense way, as if to see if I could be trusted to tell the truth.

“You are absolutely not an animal,” I told him firmly.

I saw his shoulders drop as if he was setting down a heavy weight. The person or phantom behind the trees seemed to be forgotten.

I didn't know what else to say. So I patted my heart, and I told him, “And I want you to know that I care.”

I held his eyes for a moment longer and then headed off home. He might have said something after that. It sounded as if he was trying to say something, to explain something, but I knew there was nothing more I could do.

We all carry so much. All the way home and for much of that night, I thought about that lonely man with the shopping cart and his outrage at being called an animal.

Later that night, lying in bed, I told my husband, Peter, about the man and what I'd said.

“You are kind,” Peter told me.

I don't know if that's true or not, but I know for certain that strangers have helped me when I needed help, and kind words have changed my day from terrible to something better—something more hopeful.

But more than anything, when I think about that lonely man, fighting off his demons, I realize I have no idea how it feels to face anything as large or as terrifying as that man faces every day.

And for that, I am terribly—selfishly—grateful. Till next time. Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott vetoes bills; Feud with Patrick grows

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick claimed last week that Gov. Greg Abbott is sabotaging the Senate's work because of their ongoing feud over which approach to property tax reform is best.

Abbott has threatened a string of vetoes if the House and Senate can't agree on a compromise on property tax relief. In each veto proclamation, Abbott has issued the following statement: “This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Patrick took issue with that. “The governor's suggested threat today to veto a large number of Senate bills is an affront to the legislative process and the people of Texas,” he said.

WILL THE STATE'S ELECTRIC GRID HOLD THIS SUMMER?

Much of Texas is in the throes of a sweltering heat wave, prompting concern that the electric grid will be strained as Texans try to keep cool. However, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the grid, predicts it will be able to handle forecast peaks in energy usage.

The biggest factor is demand for air conditioning of homes and businesses, according to Robert Hebner, director of the University of Texas Center for Electromechanics.

“Any rapid change in temperature causes great difficulty. If you have a gradual change, (companies) usually adjust to it fairly well,” Hebner said. “This summer, there's a good chance they've anticipated well enough that we'll be able to get through.”

The first official day of summer is Wednesday, June 21.

NEW LAW BANS PAPER LICENSE PLATES

Temporary paper “deal-

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

er tags” will soon be a thing of the past after Abbott signed House Bill 718. The new law phases out the tags and requires dealers to issue \$10 metal plates to buyers purchasing vehicles.

Paper Texas tags have been criticized by law enforcement officials for years, since they are easy to fake and often used on vehicles used to commit crimes. A report by KXAN in 2021 found that selling of fake Texas tags had become a \$200 million illicit business.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has until December of next year to come up with a plan for creating and distributing metal plates to dealerships. The law itself goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

BILL RESTRICTING LOCAL CONTROL SIGNED INTO LAW

Cities and counties will be further restricted from implementing ordinances or regulations on issues normally addressed by the state after Abbott signed House Bill 2127, the Statesman reported. According to the bill's language, it is a means to “provide statewide consistency by returning sovereign regulatory powers to the state where those powers belong.”

Previously, regulations put into place by cities were unenforceable if found to be in violation of a state code. An oft-cited example is an Austin ordinance passed in 2018 aimed at forcing most private employers in that city to provide sick leave. However, that ordinance never took effect since courts ruled it unconstitutional.

NORTHEAST NEWS

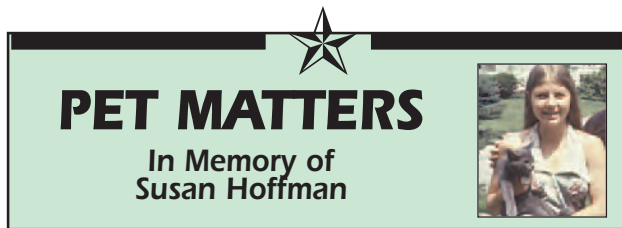
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2. Colorado
3. Virginia
4. Nevada
5. North Carolina
6. Florida
7. Arizona
8. New York
9. Georgia
10. Texas
Source: YouGov



Include Your Furry Friend in Your Emergency Plans

June is National Pet Preparedness Month

If You Are a Pet Owner, Make Sure to Include Your Furry Friend in Your Emergency Plans

HOUSTON – June is National Pet Preparedness Month and a great time to make sure you and your pets are ready for emergencies. Harris County Pets (HCP), resourced by Harris County Public Health (HCPH), reminds everyone that it is crucial to include pets in their disaster plans.

Disasters and other unexpected emergencies require readiness for every member of the family, including pets. Pets depend on their owners to keep them safe. Please do not wait until the last minute to prepare. Also, if you need to evacuate your home during an emergency, never leave your pets behind.

The following is a list of things you should do to prepare your pet(s) for emergencies:

Ensure your pet can be identified with a microchip or collar ID tag, and that your contact information is up to date.

Keep health/vaccination records in a safe place and take copies of these if you are leaving your home.

Prepare a pet emergency supplies kit that is readily accessible when needed. Include toys, treats and bedding.

Bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away

from home in a crisis.

Learn where your pet likes to hide in your house when frightened. Finding your pet quickly will help you evacuate faster.

If you need to evacuate, take a pet carrier or crate for transport and safe-keeping.

Identify a location to take your pet if you need to leave your immediate area. Keep in mind that disaster shelters for people may not be open to pets. Find hotels and motels with pet-friendly policies and ask relatives or friends if they can house you and your pet.

Carry a picture of your pet in the event of separation. (You can take a selfie of you and your pet together in advance to help others identify you as the owner if you need help finding them.)

For pet preparedness information and other resources, visit www.CountyPets.com or www.hcphx.org/vph.

###

Harris County Pets, resourced by Harris County Public Health, provides veterinary care and adoption services for homeless pets, a pet medical clinic for the public, responsible pet ownership education, as well as animal control services in unincorporated Harris County.

Visit our website, CountyPets.com, and connect with us on Facebook and Instagram.



Revive2Thrive: Infrastructure Project Updates



This week we kicked off the new drainage improvement project in the Pine Trails subdivision! This neighborhood faced various issues like street ponding, pavement distress, sidewalk buckling, and flooding.

The \$19.6 million improvements include:

- *Increase stormwater drainage out of the neighborhood
- *Increase the size of select drainage pipes
- *Replace pavement and sidewalks on streets where storm sewer is upgraded
- *Dead trees and tree stumps will be removed within the right of way
- *Minor water line adjustments when conflicting with storm sewer upgrade
- *Construction of detention pond at the northeast corner of subdivision east of Big Gulch

The construction of the project has been divided into 4 phases. Phases 3 and 4, on the east side of the subdivision, will be constructed first. Construction is scheduled to start in June 2023. Thank you to our dedicated partners at Harris County, Harris County Engineering Department, and Harris County Flood Control.

Next Wednesday, we will also break ground on Cedar Bayou East and West subdivision. This project includes a new detention pond for drainage and storage and approximately 25,300 linear feet of reinforced concrete storm sewers of various sizes.

And this Friday, we will mark the completion of Phase 2 of the Eastex Freeway Forest drainage improvements. This project upsized storm sewers, added storm drains, and lowered portions of neighborhood streets to reduce flooding within Eastex Freeway Forest Subdivision Sections 3 and 4.

This month in Commissioners Court, the following Precinct 2 infrastructure projects were approved:

High Meadows Drainage Improvements: Construction on our High Meadows and Fairgreen Subdivision Drainage Improvements is anticipated to start this August.

The project includes:

- *Modifying the outfalls along the flood control drainage channel
- *Upsizing the storm sewer system along John F. Kennedy Boulevard between Connorvale & Charrion and along Fern Meadow from Debeney to the flood control drainage channel
- *4,790 linear feet of concrete piping for stormwater

This project will benefit 374 structures when completed in the 1st quarter of 2024.

Western Homes Drainage Improvement Project: This investment in the Aldine Area is expected to provide direct relief to nearly 600 individuals in the surrounding area.

The project includes:

- *A new storm sewer system underneath all roadway ditches in the neighborhood
- *Restoring ditch and pipe culverts along 7,400 linear feet
- *A detention facility on the southern end of the subdivision of 50K cubic yards



This month, Commissioner Garcia led or voted in favor of the following items:

Savings for Senior and Disabled Homeowners: Commissioner Garcia made a motion, and Commissioners Court unanimously approved, to increase the homestead exemption equal to 20% of the appraised value of a home plus up to an additional \$275,000 exemption for eligible 65 and older or disabled homeowners. The exemption was previously \$250,000. This will produce average savings for qualified homeowners of about \$130 per year.

Substance Use Disorder Outreach Program: This agreement enables Precinct 2 to provide space at our community centers for the Harris Center substance use outreach team to conduct community engagement and connect residents to treatment options.

Water Agreement for Affordable Housing Project in East Aldine: Commissioners Court unanimously approved an Interlocal Agreement between Harris County and the East Aldine Management District providing wastewater capacity for the upcoming affordable housing subdivision in the East Aldine area. The Connorvale Project is an affordable single-family home development that will provide 47 newly built homes, and more than half will be affordable homes.

Veterans Suicide Prevention: Commissioner Garcia was proud to approve the Veterans Services Department's request for a new Peer Support Specialist position to focus on suicide prevention. With one veteran suicide every six days on average in Harris County, this position aims to reduce this as much as possible.



Commissioner Garcia presented a resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month to highlight the critical role of the county in providing crucial behavioral health services and resources to its residents. Harris County continues its commitment to partner with our community members to ensure that mental health services are accessible, valuable, and culturally appropriate for all residents. Ms. Carrie Rys, Chief of Administration, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, appeared in court to accept the resolution. Ms. Donna Mohlman of Baytown spoke about the value of this program, and how it helped her son.



by Matilda Charles

When It's Time for a New Cellphone

Like it or not, sometimes we just have to buy a new cellphone. When the old one won't hold a charge anymore or it won't take the newest security updates, we have to cave in and begin a hunt for a new one.

Sometimes it's easy. You take the old phone to the same store where you bought it and tell them you want an upgraded version of that phone. You look it over, press all the buttons, like it, and there you go ... a new phone.

Most of the time, however, it's not that easy. Technology moves along so quickly, and so do the ca-

pabilities of new phones. If it's been more than three years since your last phone purchase, talk to friends and family. Play with their phones and see how they feel in your hand. Look up cellphones on the internet and compare the features — all before you even head to a phone store.

Your choice of phones depends in part on what you want it to do. If you want to keeps things simple, check out RAZ phones and the Jitterbug lineup. The RAZ phones, for example, only do regular voice and video calls.

For fancier options, do

you want to cruise the internet, send email, watch videos, make calls, take photos, send text messages or play games? Most of the phones out there now do all of this.

Decide in advance how you want to handle the purchase of the phone. Do you want it to be part of a monthly plan or pay for it completely? Do you want to be on a monthly plan at all, which may involve signing a contract?

Additionally, ask at the store whether they'll give you anything for trading in your old phone and whether they'll transfer your in-

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Nehemiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Ephesians 6:16, "Taking the — of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts." Vows, Leap, Shield, Sword
3. From Luke 1:56, how many months did Mary stay with Elizabeth? 1/2, 1, 3, 5

4. Eve's name appears in the New Testament (KJV) how many times? 1, 2, 46, 63
 5. From Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my ..." Rock, Glory, Salvation, Anointed
 6. After David, who wrote the most Psalms? Solomon, Paul, Job, Asaph
- ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Shield, 3) Three, 4) Two (2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:13), 5) Salvation, 6) Asaph
- Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," now available in bookstores and online.
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Detail of "Quietude" by Mary Cassatt (1891)

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

JAMES 1:27

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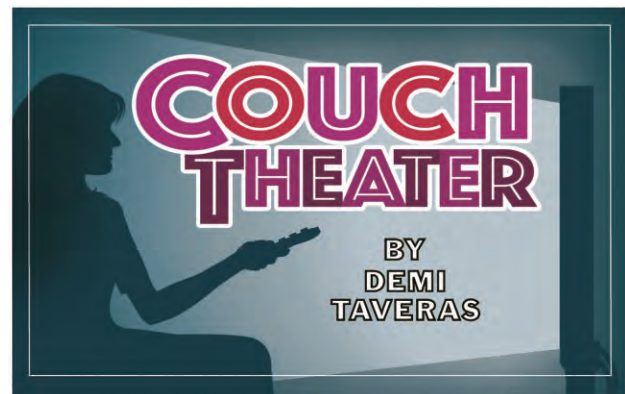
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Ben Barnes and Salma Hayek star in the episode "Joan Is Awful" from "Black Mirror: Season 6."

"Black Mirror: Season 6"

"BLACK MIRROR: SEASON 6" (TV-MA) — Ah, "Black Mirror," how deeply you were missed. Four years after the last season of the sci-fi anthology series premiered, fans are finally getting a new season, this time taking viewers to five different mind-bending realities in five separate episodes. One episode, titled "Joan Is Awful," follows an average woman named Joan who discovers that a major streaming platform has made a TV adaptation of her life ... starring Salma Hayek. Another episode — "Demon 79" — centers on a sales assistant who is forced to commit heinous acts to stop disaster from striking. All episodes are available to stream now. (Netflix)

"AND JUST LIKE THAT ... : SEASON 2" (TV-MA) — For the next

few Thursdays stretching into August, season two of the "Sex and the City" sequel series, "And Just Like That ...," will be occupying our television screens. Of course, more drama is headed the ladies' way, with Charlotte (Kristin Davis) having to deal with qualms about her daughter, Lily, growing up too quickly. A year after Big's death, Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) is learning to love again, perhaps with a certain old flame (Aidan Shaw), while Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) is still going strong with her partner, Che. But the most shocking dramatic moment of all is the return of Kim Cattrall as fan-favorite Samantha! After being adamant about not wanting to return for any more sequels, Cattrall will be featured in just one scene during the season

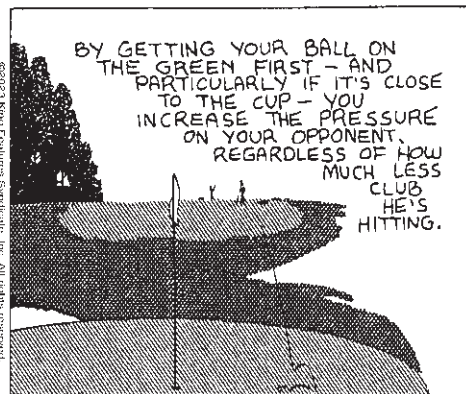
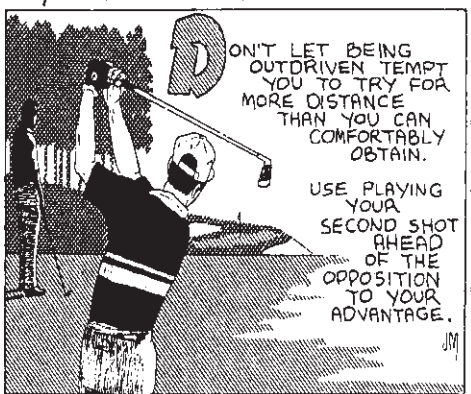
two finale. (And just like that ... she's back!) The first two episodes premiere June 22. (Max)

"WILDFLOWER" (R) — Kiernan Shipka ("Chilling Adventure of Sabrina") leads this new coming-of-age film premiering June 23. Shipka stars as Bea, a senior in high school who's had a very non-traditional way of growing up. Since she had two disabled parents, Bea often switched between the "daughter" role and the "caretaker" role, and she grapples with the fact that she must make plans for her future with her parents' well-being in the back of her mind. It's ultimately up to her to find the right balance in her life with her family before she walks across that graduation stage. Alexandra Daddario ("The White Lotus") and Jacki Weaver ("Yellowstone") also co-star in the film. (Hulu)

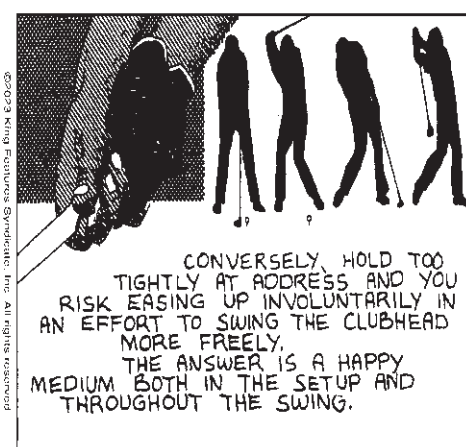
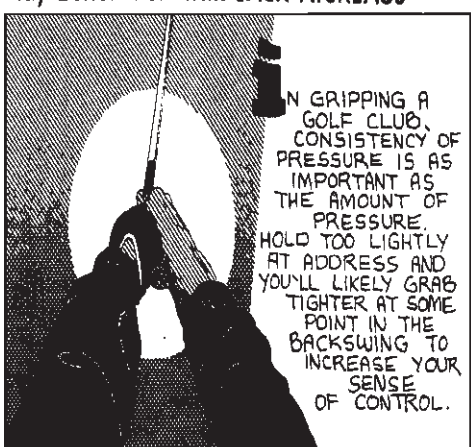
"I'M A VIRGO" (TV-14) — From Boots Riley, the creator of the surrealist film "Sorry to Bother You," comes a new comedy TV series with just as much absurdity as his previous project. Jharrel Jerome ("When They See Us") plays Cootie, a 13-foot, 19-year-old man who was raised by his aunt (Carmen Ejogo) and uncle (Mike Epps) in Oakland, California. Because of his gigantic stature, Cootie was kept from the outside world. But when he gets discovered by a group of teenage activists, Cootie becomes the world's latest obsession — and he finally gets to experience what it feels like to live an unsheltered life. All seven episodes of "I'm a Virgo" drop June 23. (Prime Video)

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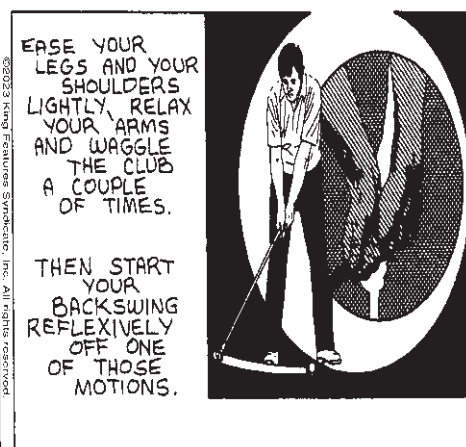
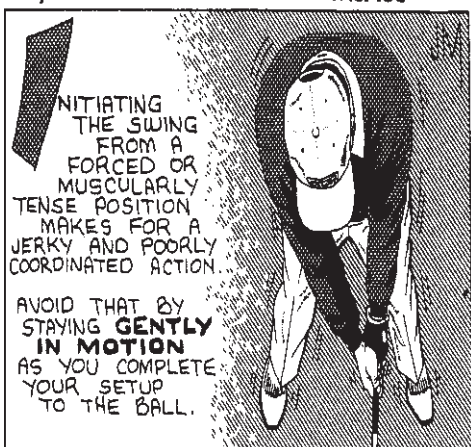
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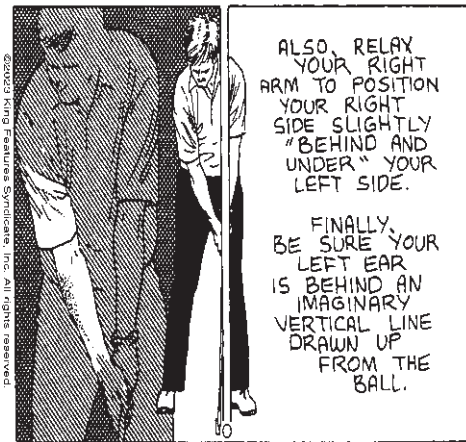
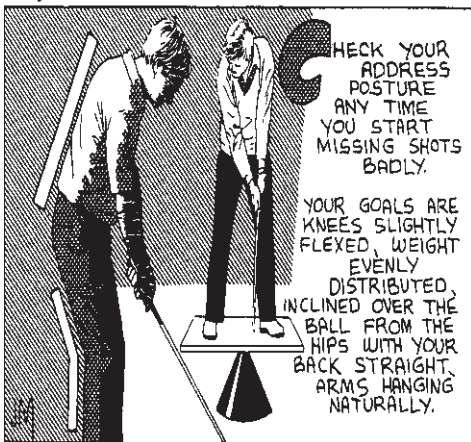
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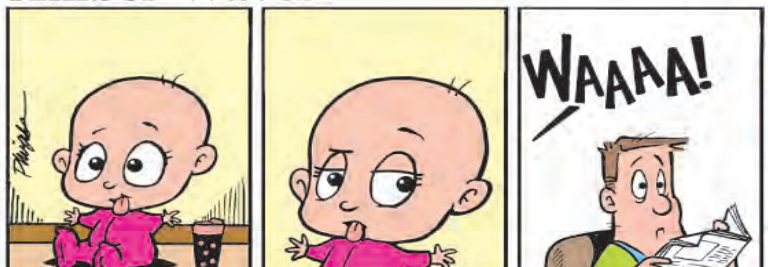


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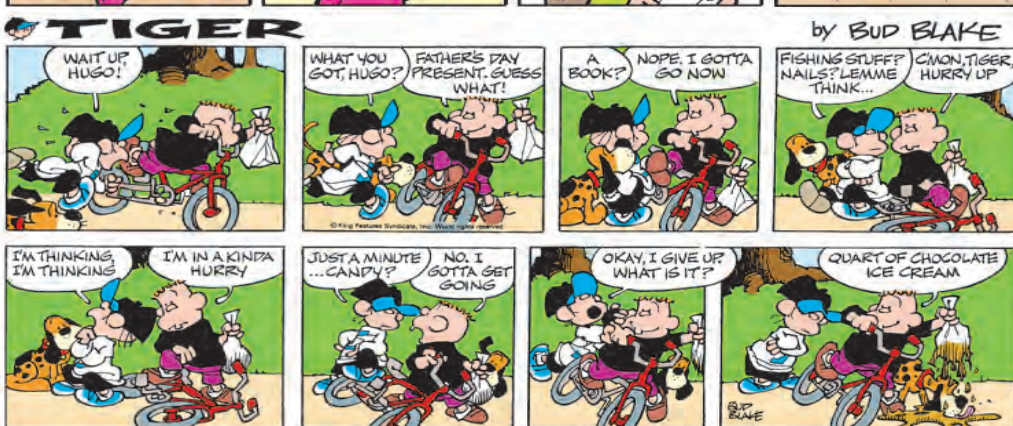


ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



by Bud Blake



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Trunks are different. 2. Arm is raised. 3. Pool design is different. 4. Fence is different. 5. Bow is smaller. 6. Ball is missing.

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June 19, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

ACROSS

- Fireplace residue
- Height of fashion?
- "Serpico" director
- Scary cry
- Oklahoma city
- Sports venue
- Takes too much, briefly
- First-rate
- Mafia boss
- "Once upon —"
- Send forth
- Author Umberto
- Hardly hirsute
- Do sums
- Composer Prokofiev
- New Zealand native
- Daydreamer Walter
- Hansel's sister
- Center
- Round Table titles
- Jargon suffix
- Winds up
- Michelangelo masterpiece
- Have the flu
- First-rate
- Bikini top
- Worth
- Samovar

DOWN

- Home
- Sin city
- Egypt's Mubarak
- "Funny!"
- Redacted
- Wizardry
- Chantilly, e.g.
- Web address
- "Give — break!"
- Em halves
- Prof's helpers
- Med. plan options
- Small fruit pies
- Outback bird
- Illegal payment
- Literary rep
- Allow
- Hobbyist's abbr.
- Conk out
- Outback bird cars
- Brit. sports cars
- Anassis nickname
- Not 'neath
- "Star Wars" royal
- Straight, for short
- Clinch
- Mogul
- Begrimed
- Roofing material
- Get ready, briefly
- "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- Den sets
- Feedbag bit
- Mideast org.
- Pair with an air

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Trivia test
by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which movie features the line, "Where we're going, we don't need roads"?
- HISTORY: Which serious disease was declared eradicated in 1980?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is the "black box" that is used to record data on airplanes?
- GAMES: How much does getting out of jail cost in the board game Monopoly?
- LITERATURE: What kind of animal is the novel "Black Beauty" about?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the youngest president?
- TELEVISION: Who played the Penguin in the original "Batman" TV series?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the northernmost point of the United States?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that spins clockwise?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food restaurant chain claims that "We have the meats"?

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

1. "Back to the Future"; 2. Smallpox; 3. Orange; 4. \$50; 5. A horse; 6. Theodore Roosevelt (42); 7. Burgess Meredith; 8. Point Barrow, Alaska; 9. Venus; 10. Arby's.

Lone Star College awards Chancellor Emeritus title

HOUSTON (June 8, 2023) – The Lone Star College Board of Trustees awarded the title of Chancellor Emeritus to Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor, during its June Workshop and Regular Meeting June 1. Head announced his plans to retire Aug. 1.

“Dr. Head has dedicated 39 years of service to Lone Star College in various capacities,” said Michael Stoma, LSC Board of Trustees Chair. “His valuable leadership has helped Lone Star College become a respected institution that offers quality educational opportunities locally, nationally and globally.”

The LSC Board of Trustees may confer the Emeritus title upon retiring faculty, administrators or staff to recognize significant contributions to the college through long and distinguished service in administration, teaching, support or other service.

Head began as a Financial Aid Director at what was then North Harris County Community College. He later became President at three campuses and served as Executive Vice Chancellor. The Board of Trustees appointed Head as LSC’s fourth Chancellor in 2014.

“Since I started in 1984, Lone Star College’s commitment has been to offer competitive educational opportunities to help students become valuable members of our community,” said Head. “I’m very proud of the work done



The Lone Star College Board of Trustees awarded the title of Chancellor Emeritus to Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC Chancellor during its June meeting.

annual catalog for the life of the honoree.

- Invitation to the annual May commencement ceremonies with special seating privileges.
- Introduction and recognition during the commencement program.
- Invitations to other college activities and special events.

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and know the college will continue to be a recognized leader in higher education.”

In addition to his tenure at LSC, Head has served on the board of five area chambers of commerce and three economic development districts or councils. He is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences on community college issues. Head also is active in community college issues through his participation and leadership roles in several local, state and national organizations.

“Dr. Head’s career epitomizes what One Lone Star College means,” said Stoma.

- Emeritus privileges include:
- The presentation of an appropriate commemorative.
 - Listing in the college’s

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and has been named a 2022 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year’s Best Workplaces in Texas™. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



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New Dean at LSC-EA,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Dean Tippetts, at left, with Family

guage classes at the North Harris campus.

She tearfully remembers another woman who worked there: “She was a dean who wore business suits to work, and she learned my name. I will never forget that I even called my mother to tell her” about the staff member’s caring gesture.

Tippetts eventually began working in other jobs at Lone Star.

She was a dispatcher for the community college police department, then advanced to a department position where she was responsible for paperwork ranging from time sheets to preparing required state and federal reports. She also eventually worked as an adjunct faculty member in computer sciences.

After she discovered

that she initially lacked some credits necessary for her associate’s degree, Tippetts made it a personal mission to ensure that other students stayed on track with course credits. For a while, she worked as an advisor to a “graduation specialist” to ensure that other students didn’t fall behind in their educational plans.

Tippetts, who took over as dean in March, plans to meet with business community leaders to spread the word about the importance of education in East Aldine.

“It’s very important in

the East Aldine community that working people know that education can be a business tool,” she said. “That’s why I really want to promote the classes that we will be offering on weekends.”

Every day, Tippetts carries the memory of that dean who remembered her name.

“I don’t care if I am the dean behind the desk or the housekeeper, I believe in giving it my all, my very best,” Tippetts said. “Because I really believe we all have the same aspirations.”

— by Anne Marie Kilday

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