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## NEWS NOTES

### Flood Bond Community Meeting

A Community meeting has been scheduled in Aldine District to solicit neighborhood input on an expected \$2.5 billion bond issue that would help reduce much of the catastrophic flooding that has struck the area in recent years and describe proposed projects. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at East Aldine District Office, 5333 Aldine Mail Rt. from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm with discussion on Halls and Greens Bayou Watershed projects. See AD, page 8 for more details.

### Learn how to start or grow your business

Academy enrollments for the Academy of Entrepreneurs are now open. The BakerRipley Entrepreneurs Connection Program is the place where you will find all the tools and advice necessary to start and have a successful business. The classes of the Academy, which last 9 weeks, begins in August and will take place on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. at 12:00 p.m. at the new BakerRipley East Aldine Campus center located at 3000 Aldine Mail Route Road. If you are ready to start this trip, register online at: <https://goo.gl/bvhiqN>

For more information about this program, call us at 346-226-1591.

## Optimist Club recognizes Partners

ALDINE – The Optimist Club held a special luncheon last week, to recognize partners who have helped them with community projects over the last year, and to introduce the new Aldine ISD superintendent, Dr. LaTonya Goffney.

Club president Steve Mead recounted for the attendees the many projects that the club has accomplished, almost all of them benefitting students of Aldine ISD.

Mead said the club had funded two named scholarships with the Education Foundation, at \$15,000 each fund. Also, last year

*See Optimist Partners, Page 8*



THE ALDINE OPTIMIST CLUB held a recognition ceremony last Wednesday, thanking all who have partnered with the club in their programs, and honoring the new superintendent. Seen above at center are club president Steve Mead, flanked by Doris Davis on the left, and new Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney, on the right. Also pictured, l to r, Gilbert Hoffman, Oliver Newman, Newt Newman, and Aldine police officers Lt. Kevin Northey, chief Craig Goralski, and Cpl. Marc Harris.

## Emmett, Culberson announce 5 billion more for flood work

Funding will Complete Every Federally Authorized Flood Control Project in Houston and Harris County

HOUSTON, TX – Congressman John Culberson (TX-07) and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett last week announced the influx of more than \$4.5 billion in federal aid headed to Texas for flood prevention and mitigation efforts.

"This funding was secured as part of the hurricane relief bills I helped



Congressman John Culberson, Harris County Flood Control District Executive Director Russell Poppe, and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett (photo courtesy HPM)

shepherd through Congress and, as promised, allows the Harris County Flood Control District to finish every federally authorized flood control project," Congressman Culberson said. "We know this money is vitally important, but it is only part of the solution. I will continue to fight for legislation that will help protect families, homes and businesses in the future."

Judge Emmett joined Congressman Culberson at the Jewish Community Center, which is located close to Brays Bayou. It suffered extensive damage be-

cause of flooding during Harvey. The current project underway by the Harris County Flood Control District is purposed to reduce flooding along the Brays Bayou and will receive \$75 million. The other projects receiving money are:

- Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries - \$1.4 million
- Clear Creek - \$295 million
- Hunting Bayou - \$65

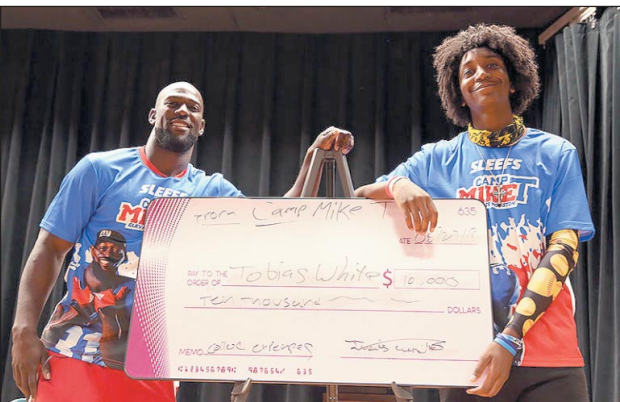
*See 5 Billion, page 8*

## NFL player, Aldine ISD alumnus Michael Thomas gives back

The 2008 Nimitz HS grad recently held his fourth annual free summer camp, but before it was over, he surprised a student with a \$10,000 academic scholarship.

Former Nimitz High School football star Michael Thomas has not forgotten Aldine ISD. He recently held Camp Mike T at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, the stadium where he made his mark 10 years ago.

This is the fourth summer camp that Thomas has held at M.O. Campbell. The free two-day



Michael Thomas, left, gives Tobias White, right, a \$10,000 academic scholarship.

camp works with kids between the ages of 12 and 14 on Day 1, and focuses on high school student-

athletes on Day 2. The event is open to kids across

*See NFL Player, p. 2*

## Aldine ISD's new Superintendent is down to business

Dr. LaTonya Goffney officially started work this month. Here are her plans for the transition and the future of Aldine ISD.

In addition to steering one of the state's largest school districts, Dr. LaTonya Goffney plans to spend her first few months on a listening tour, meeting with staff and getting a crash course in District operations and finances.

Dr. Goffney has a busy schedule over the next few months.

According to Goffney's transition plan, she has

outlined specific goals for the year. The overarching themes of the her Entry Plan in the early months are relationship building and community engagement. The listening tour will run through mid September.

After talking with key stakeholders within and outside Aldine ISD, she will then analyze the information and data collected.

"The goal is to gain a solid understanding about

*See Aldine ISD projects, page 2*

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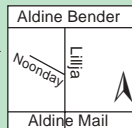
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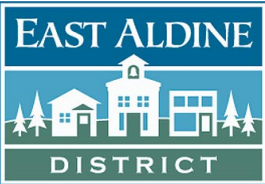
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine ISD Projects,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the community we serve and the organization itself,” said Goffney. “This includes identifying strengths we can build on. It also means identifying critical issues to address and opportunities to seize. This will be a community effort. By working together we can improve Aldine ISD as a whole and ensure equity and excellence for all students.”

Phases 1 and 2 will consist of meetings with constituent groups, internal leadership groups, as well as external leaders, parent groups and community organizations. She will provide updates to the Board of Trustees along the way for feedback and will give a formal report at the conclusion of each phase of the Entry Plan. The reports will include information learned during the entry process and will assist the leadership team in defining the current state (external reality and internal perceptions) of Aldine ISD. Leading staff (e.g. specific goals, plans, changes, monitoring) will dominate the second half of Phase 2 and Phase 3. The last phase will run from mid September to November 1.

Dr. LaTonya Goffney sits among a panel of award-winning superintendents at the Texas Association of School Board’s (TASB) Summer 2018 Leadership Institute. They shared great advice and information with attendees. Goffney is the 2018 American Association of School Administrators Texas Superintendent of the Year. She is also the 2017 Texas Association of School Board Superintendent of the Year.

A summary of what



Dr. LaTonya Goffney with Candis Houston (center), president of the Aldine-American Federation of Teachers; and Dr. Selina Chapa (far right), assistant superintendent of human resources.

Goffney learns from these discussions will be collected in a document, which she will present to the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees, and used to facilitate the movement to strategic planning and intentional excellence.

Although her official start date was July 2, Goffney has already met with the Board of Trustees. She also met with Donna Bahorich, chair of the Texas School Board of Education.

Goffney said Aldine is an outstanding District with exceptional programs, remarkable students and impressive results.

“Aldine ISD has been the one of the shining stars in the State of Texas. It is my desire to build on the foundation of success that has already been established by the Board, my predecessors, staff and community leaders. I look

forward to working together. Truly I am humbled that the Board of Trustees chose me to lead the District. It is my goal to make a positive contribution to Aldine ISD, its students, staff and community.

“We are going to make this year the best we ever had for kids, for parents and employees. Then next year we’re going to do the same thing. Every move forward will always be to improve. We will provide the best education possible to prepare students for their future.”

Former Houston Texans players host ‘Lessons by Legends’ camp at Thorne Stadium



Aldine ISD’s Thorne Stadium played host to former Houston Texans greats Arian Foster and Andre Johnson who hosted their “Lessons by Legends” football camp July 7-8. Approximately 200 Houston-area athletes participated in the camp, where they were put through offensive and defensive drills and also learned life skills from Foster, Johnson and other NFL players. Johnson, far left, is pictured with coaches from Santa Fe High School, former Texan defensive tackle Travis Johnson and Aldine ISD Director of Athletics Dre’ Thompson prior to the start of Sunday’s camp.

NFL Player gives back,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Houston area.

The young athletes learn to fine tune their football skills on the field, but Thomas’ camp is about much more than making the right moves on the field. He wants kids to make the right moves in life too.

On hand were college representatives from the University of Texas-Austin, Prairie View A&M University and Lone Star College. They discussed topics ranging from financial aid, courses to prepare for college, and working to achieve their dreams. Raphael Vallier, founder and senior partner of the financial consulting firm I.N.F. Solutions, was also present. He focused on financial literacy.

Thomas encouraged the athletes to have a fallback plan. He encouraged everyone to focus on earning a college degree.

“I’m all about Aldine,” said Thomas. “I’m passionate about giving back to where I came from. It’s important that these guys see me, one of their own, returning and giving back. We learn football skills. There are life skills we can

all learn from the game of football. I hope that I am motivating them to have a plan. I want these young men to have grit and work toward achieving their dreams. And I hope the other life skills we teach and share at the camp help them grow.”

The New York Giants’ player shared how he was recruited to play football for Stanford University. While there, he took advantage and earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology. Later when he was playing for the Miami Dolphins, he went on to earn his MBA.

Few may also be aware that he was a political intern. He encourages today’s youth to be active in their communities.

Thomas told students to have grit. He shared how initially he was told that he was too small or too short for football. He worked hard because he believed in himself.

The young safety has a lot of supporters in Aldine. One of those is Athletic Director Dre Thompson. He calls Thomas a “leader and great role model for this community.”

Before the financial literacy skills lessons ended on Day 2, Thomas had a surprise for one young man. Tobias White from Nimitz High School received the first Camp Mike T Academic Scholarship. Tobias was floored when he realized that the scholarship was in the amount of \$10,000. Funds raised for the scholarship included money from an auction of an Eli Manning autographed jersey.

Thomas thanked his Nimitz Class of 2008 alumni. Brittani Hightower, Gwen Foster, Courtney White and Thaddeus Wesley formed the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. LaTonya Goffney was also present. Goffney thanked Thomas for giving back and for inspiring youth to live the dream by teaching valuable skills on and off the field. She also lauded his scholarship as an opportunity for area students.

For Thomas, this scholarship is just the beginning. He envisions his program will grow to offer more in the future for student-athletes.

# High Meadows Library Summer Reading Program

- Join Senior Inspector Petty and Cinder the dog as they provide tips on fire safety, July 18, 10:30 a.m.
- Houston Grand Opera brings stories to life with their pleasing picture book presentation, July 25, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
- Join us for the Science Show! It's musical! And its science, August 1, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
- Summer Reading Party, August 8, 10:30 a.m.

The library is located at 4500 Aldine Mail Rt., 281-590-1456 (next to MacArthur High School).

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COMMUNITY PAGE

ALDINE FAMILY HOPE CENTER

Buckner inspiring others

The Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine, 4700 Aldine Mail Rt., annually holds an 8 week summer program for teens. This year they have 25 teens who come together, 4 days per week, to learn life skills and business skills. This summer, the teens, Buckner Inspiring Others (BIO), planned a variety of projects. They formed teams, developed a budget for each project, learned about marketing, customer service, and financial management.

As one of their special projects, 10 teens chose to participate in the Salvation Army's "Christmas in July 5K"! They raised \$275 dollars, all of which was donated to the Salvation Army. They had lots of fun giving back and participating in the event. It is important for our teens to understand that no matter where you are life, you should make time to give back. This was a great opportunity for them to make a positive difference in the lives of others and represent the heart of Buckner.

The teens are also having a "Movie Night in the Park" on Wednesday, July 18th. This event will be held in the park located at



Teens participate at Salvation Army's :Christmas in July 5K.

the far back section of the Family Hope Center property, rain or shine. Admission is \$2 per person. "Jumanji 2" will be showing (rated PG 13). Gates will open at 5:00 pm, movie starts at 6:00 pm sharp. Bring your own lawn chair and feel free to bring food, but the center will be selling snow cones and snacks. Free games will be provided before the movie for the kids to enjoy. Arrive early

so you can get a good spot!! Invite your friends and family to this fun event! The teens are also having a Car Wash on Friday, July 27th, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Cost is \$10 per vehicle and an extra \$3 for vacuuming. Please come out and support the Teen Program to encourage them to learn and practice business skills to help them in their future. The profit from the movie night

and carwash will allow them to earn money at the end of the program to help with their back to school needs.

Please help spread the word about these upcoming activities.

For more information about this program or any of the other 20 programs and services offered at the Center, please come by or call 281-449-4828.

CRIME WATCH

Suspects charged in shooting on Homestead

Charges have been filed against two suspects arrested in the shooting of a man and a woman at 11510 Homestead about 11 p.m. on Friday, July 6.

The suspects, Nicolas Villarreal, 22, and Nihad Nassim El-Meaary, 19, are charged with two counts each of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. They are accused of shooting Emerald Johnson, 33, and Jeremy Garder, 29, who were subsequently transported to an area hospital for treatment. At this time, their conditions are not known.

According to Officials, Houston Police patrol officers responded to a shooting call at the Blue Steel Lounge on Homestead and found Ms. Johnson and Mr. Gardner had been shot in a drive-by shooting following a disturbance. Witnesses reported Johnson and Gardner were shot by a suspect, armed with an AR-15 rifle, in the passenger seat of a white BMW convertible, driven by another suspect. A description of the vehicle was then broadcast over the police radio.

Houston Police officers from the Northeast Patrol Division Tactical Unit located the suspect vehicle about six miles from the shooting scene and conducted a traffic stop. Villarreal and El-Meaary were detained without incident and officers recovered an AR-15 rifle, determined to be stolen, that matched the witness description. Villarreal and El-Meaary admitted to their involvement in the shooting and were subsequently charged.



El-Meaary



Villarreal

Man charged in woman's death

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the death of a woman at 10500 West Hardy Road about 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3.

Eddie Roy Olvera, 28, has been charged with murder Police is looking for him.

According to Houston Police, Olvera was driving a burgundy, newer model Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck and following a vehicle driven by the victim southbound on West Hardy Road. One of Olvera's former girlfriends was inside the victim's vehicle. After stopping her vehicle, the victim got out of her car and began arguing with Olvera. At some point, Olvera then intentionally struck the victim with his vehicle and fled the scene.

Paramedics transported



the victim to Memorial Hermann Hospital where she died, her identity is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Eddie Roy Olvera is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

FEMA releases the 2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 12, 2018 – The Federal Emergency Management Agency released today the 2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report. The report examines the agency's performance during the record breaking season. Last year, hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria devastated the nation at a time when FEMA was already supporting 692 federally declared disasters. During response to the three catastrophic hurricanes, FEMA also responded to the historic wildfires in California. The report captures transformative insights from a historic hurricane season that will help FEMA, the emergency management community, and the nation chart the path into the future. The report identified 18 key findings across five focus areas and offered targeted recommendations for FEMA improvements, as well as broader lessons for

partners throughout the emergency management community.

"I'm extremely proud of how FEMA and the whole community performed under extraordinary circumstances," said FEMA Administrator Brock Long. "We are prepared for the 2018 hurricane season and have already applied lessons learned from last year to improve how we as an emergency management community do business. We are driven by continuous improvement and remain committed to helping people before, during, and after disasters."

As a cornerstone of the discipline, emergency managers use lessons learned in order to improve outcomes, minimize errors, and better serve survivors. The agency has already taken immediate actions based on the findings from the After-Action Report including updated hurricane plans, annexes, and procedures for states and terri-

ories; increased planning factors for the Caribbean and disaster supplies; and updated high priority national-level contracts, including the National Evacuation Contract, Caribbean Transportation Contract, and National Ambulance Contract. FEMA has also tested its response and initial recovery capabilities in the National Level Exercise (NLE) 2018, which occurred in May and focused on areas identified from real-world continuous improvement findings in this report.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria caused a combined \$265 billion in damage and each ranked among the top five costliest hurricanes on record. As a result, FEMA coordinated large deployments of federal personnel, both before and after the storms' landfalls, to support response and initial recovery efforts across 270,000 square miles. FEMA facil-

itated logistics missions that involved more than \$2 billion worth of commodities moving across several states and territories using multiple modes of transportation. FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, composed of state and local emergency responders, saved or assisted nearly 9,500 people across the three hurricanes. In total, the hurricanes and wildfires affected more than 47 million people—almost 15 percent of the nation's population. FEMA registered nearly 4.8 million households for assistance.

FEMA has incorporated many of the findings from this report into its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, which will guide implementation of long-term goals to build a more prepared and resilient nation. For a copy of the full After-Action Report, go to: [www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/167249](http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/167249).

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\* EQUALIZER 2 (PG-13) 7:00 10:00pm

\* MAMMA MIA 2 (PG-13) 7:00 9:30pm

\* HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: Summer Vacation (PG) - 11:15am, 4:00pm, 9:00pm

SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: Summer Vacation (PG) - 11:45am, 4:45pm, 9:45pm

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\* HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: Summer Vacation 3D (PG) - 1:40pm, 6:30pm

SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: Summer Vacation 3D (PG) - 2:15pm, 7:15pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* SKYSCRAPER (PG-13) - 11:15am, 4:15pm, 9:15pm

SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* SKYSCRAPER (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 5:15pm, 10:15pm

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\* SKYSCRAPER 3D (PG-13) 1:45pm, 6:45pm

SPA-Spanish Dubbed;Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* SKYSCRAPER 3D (PG-13) 2:45pm, 7:45pm

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\* ANT-MAN and the Wasp (PG-13) 1:00pm, 3:15pm, 4:00pm, 9:00pm

SUMMER KIDS FEST

TUES/WED July 17 & 18

DESPICABLE ME 3 (PG) 10:00am

TUES/WED July 24 & 25

LEGO MOVIE (PG) 10:00am

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* ANT-MAN and the Wasp in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 12:30pm, 6:00pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* SORRY TO BOTHER YOU (R) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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\* THE FIRST PURGE (R) 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* SICARIO: Day of the Soldado (R) 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

JURASSIC WORLD: Fallen Kingdom (PG-13) 12:15pm, 1:00pm, 6:15pm, 7:00pm

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\* JURASSIC WORLD: Fallen Kingdom 3D (PG-13) 3:15pm, 4:00pm, 9:15pm, 10:00pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\* THE INCREDIBLES 2 in Disney Digital 3D (PG) - 4:45pm, 10:15pm

THE INCREDIBLES 2 (PG) - 11:15am, 12:15pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

DEADPOOL 2 (R) - 11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Stadium Seating;CC-Closed Caption

\*No passes on these movies \*\* No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies.

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**News**

OPINION PAGE

Harris County Flood Control District responds to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Harvey Recovery Work Plan

On July 5, 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a summary of their work plan for studies and construction projects related to funding provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which was passed and signed into law on February 9 of this year. The Harris County Flood Control District is pleased to report that many of our requests are included in the posted work plan.

Studies, which are at full federal expense, include:

- \$3 million for the Section 216 Study led by the Corps, which will evaluate the existing Addicks and Barker reservoirs and recommend operational changes and/or physical projects to improve the effectiveness of the reservoirs in reducing flood risks upstream and downstream; and
- \$3 million for a county-wide drainage study to look at Harris County's drainage infrastructure as a system, identifying potential inadequacies and potential improvements to the overall system.

Also included is federal funding to complete ongoing construction of four active federal flood risk reduction projects that the Flood Control District is currently working on with the Corps. These construction projects include:

- \$75 million for the Brays Bayou Federal Project, consisting of around 21 miles of channel improvements, 11,400 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume, and 30 bridge replacements or modifications;
- \$295,165,000 for the Clear Creek Federal Project, which includes 15 miles of

channel improvements and around 1,400 acre-feet of additional stormwater detention volume in several basins;

- \$65 million for the Hunting Bayou Federal Project, which calls for around 4 miles of channel improvements, 1,000 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume, and 17 bridge replacements or modifications; and
- \$45 million for the White Oak Bayou Federal Project, consisting of over 15 miles of channel improvements and almost 3,000 acre-feet of stormwater detention volume.

The timing of the release of funding and important procedural details still need to be addressed in the near future, but the fact that these investigations and projects were specifically named and have targeted funding is “very positive news,” said Russ Poppe, Executive Director of the Flood Control District.

“The Corp’s work plan announcement is great news for us as we have been advocating for project funding of these critical projects for many years,” Poppe said. “This secured funding will allow us to complete these projects in a much shorter timeframe – as compared to the uncertainty of annual appropriations – and will reduce flood risks for thousands of Harris County residents.”

The work plan also includes short-term funding for repairs to damaged drainage infrastructure, and while several projects within Harris County are listed, exact dollar amounts have not yet been allocated.



Paxton sends letters to cities that passed bag ban ordinances

AUSTIN — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on July 2 notified 11 Texas cities that their ordinances against plastic shopping bags had been knocked down by the Texas Supreme Court.

Paxton said he issued letters to the cities of Austin, Sunset Valley, Port Aransas, Laguna Vista, Fort Stockton, Eagle Pass, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Kermit, Freer and South Padre Island “to ensure awareness of the recent ruling and waste management responsibilities Texas law places on municipalities.”

In January, the state Supreme Court heard arguments in the City of Laredo v. Laredo Merchants Association and on June 22 the court struck down the bag ordinance. The city maintained it was not a bag ban but “an incremental implementation plan towards a cleaner city.”

However, the Supreme Court upheld an appeals court ruling siding with the merchants association in finding that the state’s Solid Waste Disposal Act preempts the city’s ordinance, and no city ordinance may conflict with a state law.

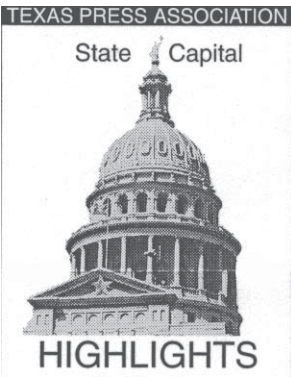
**Request for aid granted**

Gov. Greg Abbott’s federal disaster request for individual assistance for Cameron and Hidalgo counties following recent severe weather and flooding has been granted, the governor’s office announced July 6.

Abbott made the request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on June 26 after visiting Edinburg, where local officials briefed him on the flooding and response and recovery efforts following a storm that hit South Texas June 18-22. The weather event and its aftermath are being referred to as “The Great June 2018 Flood.” The National Weather Service has estimated that the event’s breadth and impact could turn out to be greater than that of Hurricane Dolly in 2008.

“I thank the president and his administration for their swift response to aid Texans in the Rio Grande Valley as they continue to recover from these devastating floods.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



Going forward, the state of Texas will continue to work with local leaders to ensure the needs of those affected by the floods are being met,” Abbott said.

Illnesses tied to parasite

The Texas Department of State Health Services on July 2 announced some 56 cases of illness caused by the microscopic parasite Cyclospora had been identified since the beginning of May.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the consumption of food or water contaminated with Cyclospora. The main symptom of the illness is watery diarrhea lasting from a few days to a few months.

State and local health agencies are working to determine if there is a common source for the infections. They recommend thorough washing of all fresh produce.

Revenue total increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on July 3 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.77 billion in June, an amount 13.7 percent more than reported for the month of June 2017. \_Sales tax revenue increased for almost all major economic sectors, Hegar said. “The strong revenue growth was led by collections from the mining and manufacturing sectors. The construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors also saw strong gains,” he added. \_Also, total sales

tax revenue for the three months ending in June 2018 was up 12.4 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections. Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuel and oil and natural gas production also rose in June 2018, Hegar said.

More details are available online via the Comptroller’s Monthly State Revenue Watch at [comptroller.texas.gov](http://comptroller.texas.gov).

Inspection totals released

The Texas Department of Public Safety announced some 7,980 commercial motor vehicles were inspected in Roadcheck 2018, a national commercial motor vehicle safety effort conducted June 5-7.

Commercial vehicle enforcement troopers, specially trained highway patrol troopers, civilian inspectors, compliance review investigators and local partner agencies participated in the effort, in which 1,975 of the 18-wheelers, buses and other commercial vehicles inspected were placed out of service for a variety of safety violations until appropriate repairs could be made. Issues with brakes and defective tires were among the most common infractions that led to out-of-service violations.

Drivers also were checked for compliance with state and federal laws, and 301 drivers were placed out of service. Among the violations were failing to have the proper type of driver license for the vehicle being driven and violation of hours-of-service limits.

In all, 1,258 citations and 18,178 warnings were issued, the DPS said.

FEMA grants \$76 million to Texas General Land Office

AUSTIN, Texas – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded \$76.7 million to the Texas General Land Office as a reimbursement for the management and execution of the Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS) program following Hurricane Harvey.

The PREPS program provided emergency repairs and power restoration to single-family, owner-occupied homes. These repairs made the home safe, sanitary, and secure so that the homeowner could return home, rather than shelter in a hotel or rental property, while they continued to work on their full recovery.

The measures taken during the PREPS repair process provided only the minimal and essential repairs necessary to make the home safe and sanitary.

This FEMA grant of \$76 million requires a 10 percent non-federal match, or \$8.5 million, of the nearly \$85 million award. The total cost of the PREPS program, with previous reimbursements, was more than \$170.5 million.

This funding comes from FEMA’s Public Assistance grant program which reimburses state agencies for actions taken during response and recovery from disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey. Eligible applicants include states, federally recognized tribal governments, U.S. territories, local governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations.

FEMA obligates funding for these projects directly to the state. It is the state’s responsibility to ensure that the eligible final recipients receive these awards. Following the state’s review process and upon receipt of appropriate documentation, they will provide funds to the final recipients on a reimbursable basis.

For additional information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the Hurricane Harvey disaster web page at [www.fema.gov/disaster/](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/) 4332 or the Texas Division of Emergency Management website at [https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/](http://https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/).

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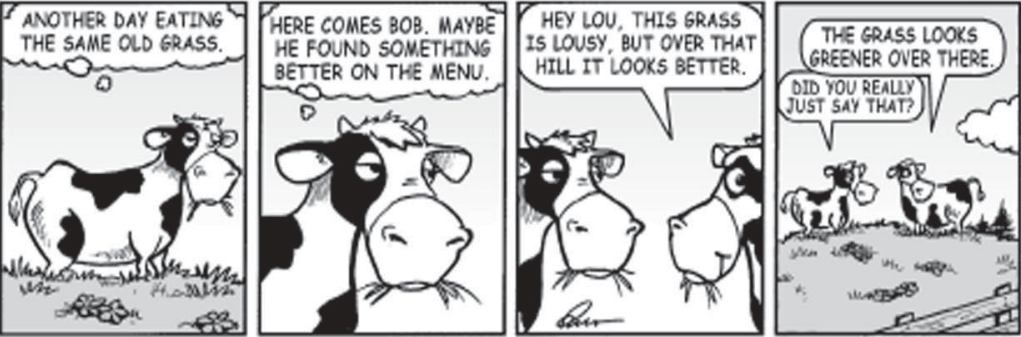
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# FUN STUFF

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



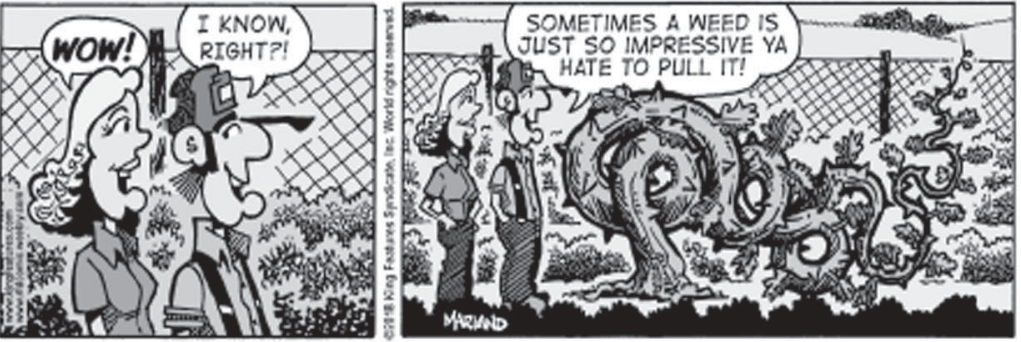
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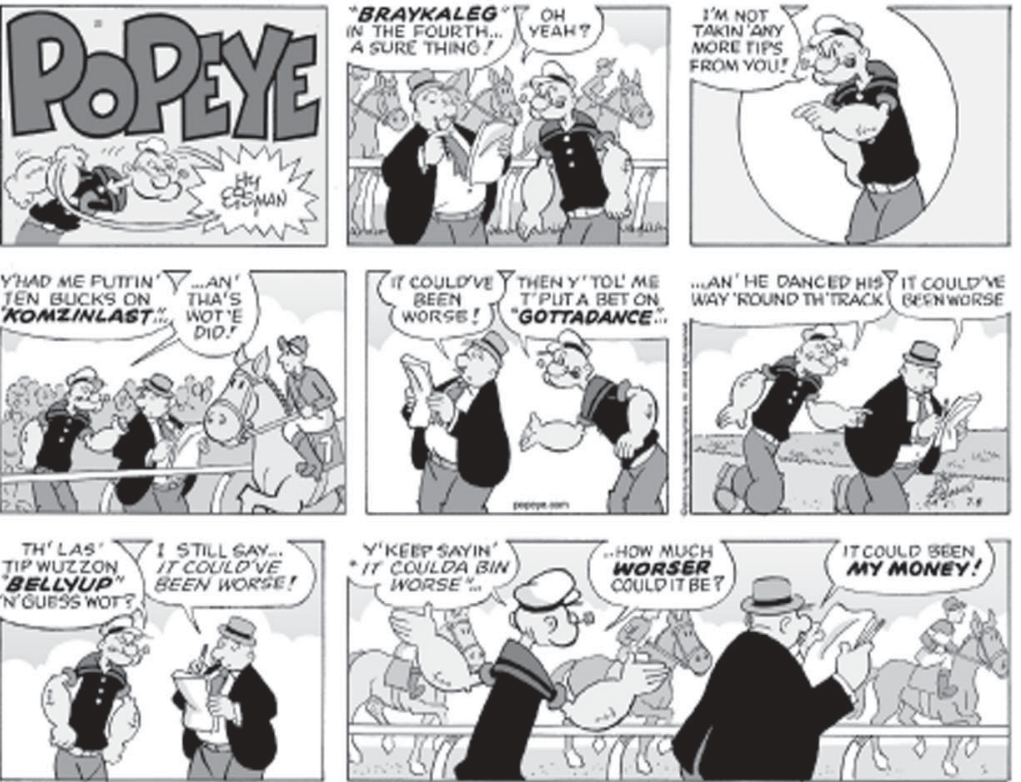
## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## LAFF-A-DAY



"I'm lookin' at the bright side  
—no dishes to wash!"

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Waver  
REFLAT  
Pierce  
FRALE  
Tired  
WARDN  
Fit  
LOGBEN

TODAY'S WORD

Posting Date July 16, 2018

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Throat clearer  
5 Pinball boo-boo  
9 Moment  
12 Transcending (Pref.)  
13 Distant  
14 Weep  
15 Key with a left-pointing arrow  
17 Khan title  
18 Them  
19 Chef's garb  
21 Smallest st.  
22 Decorator's theme  
24 Bankrolls  
27 Party bowful  
28 Donated  
31 Mess up  
32 Illustrations  
33 Spy novel org.  
34 Boyfriend  
36 Part of TGIF  
37 Bartlett or Bosc  
38 Grind the teeth  
40 "Hello"  
41 Soda shop item  
43 Buck  
47 401(k) alternative  
48 Hearth  
51 "What's up, —?"  
52 Coffee shop array



- 53 The "I" in "The King and I"  
54 Storm center  
55 Plumbing problem  
56 Clarinet insert  
7 Fond du —, Wis.  
8 Halloween candy  
9 Capone's nickname  
10 Therefore  
11 Greenish-blue  
16 Lanka pre-der  
20 Glutton  
22 Merriment  
23 Makes up one's mind  
24 Charlotte's creation  
25 Exist  
26 Hot-rodgers' contest  
27 Raised platform  
29 By way of  
30 Listener  
35 Italian article  
37 Column  
39 Horrible  
40 Bound  
41 Faction  
42 Helen's place  
43 Dilbert's place  
44 Diane or Nathan  
45 Dermatology subject  
46 Peruse  
49 Rage  
50 Geneticist's letters

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president was the shortest?  
2. HISTORY: What agreement provided for the dissolution of the former Soviet Union?  
3. LITERATURE: Which book in the Harry Potter series has a mythical creature in its title?  
4. TELEVISION: Who played Thurston Howell III on "Gilligan's Island"?  
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is the method that involves cooking food in sealed bags, usually in water?  
6. GAMES: What company introduced the "Hot Wheels" toys and games?  
7. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states border the Gulf of Mexico?  
8. SCIENCE: What element makes up 47 percent of the Earth's crust?  
9. ART: Which art movements was painter Max Ernst associated with?  
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of kangaroos called?

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BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Q equals T

EU JI EIDFSO VJT J KXCFYURH  
EBKRHDF OX YXJB JWXRO  
SHXDEIP OVEIPD, CXRHT EO WF  
J DVROOFY WRP?

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## SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

3. Drawn; 4. Belong  
1. Fatter; 2. Feral  
solution



Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers



Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip  
If an insect had a powerful impulse to roam about, closing things, would it be a shifter bug?

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Wildlife Rehab at Jones Park

Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Saturday, July 21 at 10 a.m.

Wildlife rehabilitators provide a valuable service in helping to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Judith Odell, a licensed wildlife rehabber, will discuss wildlife rehabilitation and how humans can coexist with wildlife. All ages.

Tai Chi  
Wednesdays, July 25 at 9 a.m.

Interested in trying a new healthy outdoor activity? Doug Ebeling, volunteer Tai Chi instructor, leads this class based on the 24-step Yang form of T'ai Chi. The one-hour

class includes low-impact stretching, breathing, and range of motion exercises held in the outdoor classroom near the Nature Center.

Invasives Beware  
Saturday, July 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Join Jones Park staff and the Jesse Jones Park (JJP) Eradicator's to assist in finding, documenting, and removing invasive plant and animal species as well as conducting other habitat management tasks in Jones Park. Closed-toe shoes required, gloves and long pants are recommended. Ages 16 and up or accompanied by adult.

Native Tree ID Walk  
Saturday, July 28 at 1 p.m.

Join Jones Park Forester David Jamar for a leisurely guided walk to learn about the diversity of trees in the area. Learn how to identify and distinguish different species of trees, the benefits of native trees in the ecosystem, and the native species that thrive in home landscapes.

With leadership from Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility located at 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble. All programs are free

of charge and open to the public. Jesse Jones Park Volunteers (JJPV) welcomes applications from interested participants. For more information about the park or any of the activities and programs offered, please call 281-446-8588 or visit www.hcp4.net/community/parks/jones.

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CHURCH PAGE

Mercer Botanic Gardens Summer Program

*Mercer Botanic Gardens Student Research and Education Symposium at Big Stone Lodge.* Wednesday, Aug. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mercer Botanic Gardens partners with colleges, universities, and high schools to find motivated students who wish to conduct botanic research. Mercer is proud to showcase the work of these student partners. Refreshments are provided. This Mercer Botanic Gardens event will be held at Big Stone Lodge: 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring.

*Lunch Bunch.* Skins and Skulls. Wednesday, Aug. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. Examine skins and skulls of Texas mammals to learn about adaptations and predator-prey relationships. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch Bunch is recommended for everyone 12 and older. Participants should meet at Mercer's West Side Arboretum in the Post Oak Pavilion.

*Summer Garden Club.* Saturdays Aug. 18, and Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Participate in monthly hands-on workshops conducted by experienced artisans and gardening professionals. Topics include orchid care; local and migratory butterflies, nectar and butterfly-host plants; the art of kokedama; and terrariums. To register or receive additional information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.

Mercer Botanic Gardens is located at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Haggai in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What is the middle chapter of the New Testament (KJV)?
3. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, whose name was translated as ...?


Ruth, Dorcas, Sarah, Esther  
4. What young man went to sleep and fell out of a window while listening to Paul speak? Eutychus, Goliath, Peter, Stephen  
5. From John 12, which disciple stole from the treasury? Thomas, Judas, James, John  
6. Who took the place of Judas as one of the apostles? Malachi, Matthias, Joel, Paul

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Romans 13; 3) Dorcas; 4) Eutychus; 5) Judas; 6) Matthias

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; and let the fish of the sea declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?*

JOB 12: 7-10




Sharp-shinned Hawk

RECENT DEATHS

Karl Franklin "Bubba" McLean  
Vito Mario Marrugo Jr.  
Mary C. Hodges  
Patsy Lavone Beddingfield  
Arlene Mendez  
Doris Celena Marek

Alexa Cerda  
Michelle Desai Ekpo  
Maria Gloria Ramirez  
Kenneth Wayne Mitchell  
Jimmy Keith Bunting  
James Edell Moore  
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NORTHEAST BELTWAY 8

News

A GrafikPress Newspaper

713-266-3444 email: nenewsroom@aol.com

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED BUSINESS

UPHOLSTERY & AWNING

Tapiceria PRAT Upholstery & Awning COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL RAPHAEL PRAT 2021 Aldine Mail Rt. Suite 902 Houston, TX 77039 281-590-7562

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Take Pride in our Community, Keep it Clean

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT



# Optimist Partners,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney and Steve Mead, president of the Optimist club, and the Aldine school board.

the club awarded every high school in the district a scholarship for a student, and this year plans to increase it to 2 students per high school.

Other projects included awarding 80 bicycles to students, and holding a raffle at the FFA show to raise money for more scholarships.

The club also sponsors the CHICKEN club, an awareness program promoting avoidance of drug use.

Mead mentioned that the main fund raiser for the club is the annual Golf

Tournament, coming up in October.

Mead then presented partners with appreciation certificates, including Doris Davis of Kidd Pipeline, Newt Newman, the American Legion, and the Northeast News, represented by Gilbert Hoffman, publisher. He also thanked Howard Kelly, owner of local MacDonald's stores, for donating 400 gift certificates of \$5, to be used by the Aldine police department to recognize good drivers.

Dr. Goffney then presented a brief history of

her career in education, and life, and her pleasure in being head of the Aldine district.

She told of a difficult childhood, raised by a grandmother, and how education and teachers that cared had given her inspiration to fulfill her dreams.

She noted that Aldine ISD had a legacy of the best, and she was "living the dream" to be here and part of the district.

In an inspiring message, she said "Our job is to pull out the potential of our children, and I consider it my ministry."

Houston Airport System is in search of  
Volunteers to Assist Passengers



Volunteers are needed to provide vital assistance to passengers and visitors who arrive in and depart at both George Bush Intercontinental Airport and William P. Hobby Airport.

Those wishing to join the volunteer airport ambassador program should contact us at 281-233-1173 or email us at [hasvolunteers@houston.tx.gov](mailto:hasvolunteers@houston.tx.gov)

# \$5 Billion,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

million

--Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Costal Storm Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Project - approximately \$4 billion

--White Oak Bayou - \$45 million


"If we truly hope to make our county and our region safer and more resilient, we will need a genuinely united effort -- by our federal, state and local officials and from our residents themselves," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. "I believe we are now seeing that united effort. Thanks to Congressman Culberson and the rest of our congressional delegation, this invest-

ment from the federal government will help us move forward with some of the key projects we need to protect ourselves and our neighbors."

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 that provided \$89.3 billion in emergency federal assistance to recover from disasters. This brought the total provided in the three emergency supplemental bills for disaster recovery to over \$141 billion. The bill included \$17.39 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the risk of future flood damage from flood and storm events.



The East Aldine District, Harris County Flood Control & Pine Village PUD invite you to the

FLOOD BONDS  
COMMUNITY MEETING

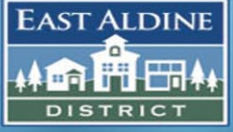


TUESDAY  
July 24  
6PM - 8PM

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With discussions on  
HALLS and GREENS BAYOU  
WATERSHED  
PROJECTS



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for more information contact Veronica at: [VSanches@AldineDistrict.org](mailto:VSanches@AldineDistrict.org)

ALDINE EARLY  
EDUCATION FESTIVAL



Saturday, July 21, 2018  
Aldine Senior High School  
11101 Airline Dr. Houston, TX 77037  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FESTIVAL DE EDUCACIÓN  
PREESCOLAR DE ALDINE



Sábado, 21 de julio de 2018  
Aldine Senior High School  
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9:00 a. m. a 1:00 p. m.

Fun for the Entire Family

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- FREE books
- FREE lunch and snacks
- Houston ZooMobile
- Activities and games

\*Texas Children's Mobile Clinic will provide immunizations. Vaccines are available for free to children 0 - 18 who have no insurance, are underinsured, or have Medicaid.

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\* La Clínica Móvil de Texas Children's Hospital proporcionará las vacunas. Serán gratuitas para los niños entre 0 y 18 años de edad sin seguro médico, con seguro médico insuficiente o con Medicaid.



For more information visit [prekhouston.org](http://prekhouston.org)



Para más información, visite [prekhouston.org](http://prekhouston.org)