

LOCAL
BUSINESSES!
PAGES 3 & 7

NORTHEAST NEWS



Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 12 TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Sheriff's Safety Meeting
March 21 7pm
See Details on Page 8



NEWS NOTES

North Houston Little League Opens Mar. 23

NHA Little League Opening Day, March 23. Parade & Festival at MacArthur HS, 4400 Aldine Mail Rt. Parade begins at 10 am, Festival at 12 pm. Little League games from 1 pm - 5 pm at Squatty Lyons Park, 1601 Cromwell, 77093. For more information call 281-226-0552. AldineDistrict.org.

Green Forest Civic Club meeting

Come meet the new officers at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 3415 Aldine-Mail Rte. Guest speaker will be Veronica Sanches, East Aldine (Management) District's Director of Services. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Marina Flores Sugg at 281-684-9751.

Donna Burrell, Shannon Decena named Aldine's top educators

Donna Burrell was named Aldine ISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year and Shannon Decena was named the district's Secondary Teacher of the Year during Aldine ISD's Educator of the Year Breakfast, held Friday, March 8 at the Hilton North Houston Hotel.

The four Teacher of the Year finalists were Krystle Harvey of Dunn Elementary School, Kari Dierks of Smith Elementary School, Kevin Guenther of Davis Ninth Grade School and Jarrod Fredericks of Victory Early College High School.

In addition, the district's Principal's of the Year were also announced at the breakfast. Raymond Stubblefield of Smith Elementa-



Aldine ISD Board President Steve Mead and Members Dr. Viola M. Garcia and Rose Avalos, along with Aldine Education Foundation Board members and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa posed with the Aldine's Principals of the Year and Teachers of the Year following the Educator of the Year Breakfast, held Friday, March 8 at the Hilton North Houston Hotel. Seated are, (l-r): Raymond Stubblefield, Aldine's Elementary Principal of the Year, LaTonia Amerson, Aldine's Secondary Principal of the Year, Shannon Decena, Aldine's Secondary Teacher of the Year and Donna Burrell, Aldine's Elementary Teacher of the Year.

ry School was named the Elementary Principal of the Year and LaTonia Amerson of Eisenhower Ninth Grade School was named the district's Secondary Principal of the Year. Elementary finalists were LaDon Ward of Conley Elementary School, and Sandra Doria of Thompson Elementary School. Secondary finalists were Jeana Morrison-Adams of Hoffman Middle School and Dr. Phylliss Cormier of Victory Early College High School.

"As a school leader, it is my responsibility to model and support structures that enhance open and honest communications," Stubblefield said about how he sees

See Top Educators, Page 2

HB3 Education reform could add money to schools, lower property taxes

AUSTIN: State Rep. Dan Huberty, R., District 127, has ridden shotgun on a \$9 billion school finance reform bill that is to send more state money to public schools and lower school property tax rates, according to lawmakers. To enact the plan, passage is required by both the House and the Senate.

"The Texas Plan" or House Bill 3, has had Huberty hopping around explaining to Republicans

and Democrats that a \$9 billion increase in the base funding for each student and compressing school districts' property tax rates by 4 cents statewide, among other policy items is not only possible but necessary. Pre-K for full days for eligible students also benefits, and sending more money to school districts with higher concentrations of disadvantaged students. In his State of the State Address, Governor Abbott

named three "emergency items," they are teacher pay, school finance reform and property taxes reform.

Huberty and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, held a Tuesday news conference with other House members at the Capitol to publicly lay out the proposal. The lawmakers seemingly indicated that the bill would

See Education Reform, Page 3

Aldine Westfield Detention Basin Project updates

The East Aldine District joined Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) in presenting the Aldine Westfield Detention Basin project to the Greenbriar Townhomes HOA last month.

The community was informed about the timeline and general pa-

rameters of the project which is set to begin by late April 2019, and last for approximately a year.

The members of the Greenbriar Colony community, which is adjacent to the detention

See Aldine-Westfield Detention Basin, Page 8



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COMMUNITY / SCHOOL NEWS

Aldine ISD holds annual Transitional Job Fair



Aldine ISD special education students filled out job applications during the district's annual Transitional Student Job Fair, held Wednesday, March 6 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center.

The job fair was collaboration between Aldine ISD and Texas Workforce Solutions. The partnership between AISD and Texas Workforce Solutions was to assist students with disabilities transition from

high school to adult life. The goal of the job fair was to provide sustainable employment for Aldine students with disabilities in the Aldine community. Businesses and organizations that took part in the

job fair were ABM, Chick-fil-a, Aldine Buildings and Properties Department, Aldine's Transportation Department, Lowe's, Union Pacific and the Greater Houston Disability Chamber of Commerce.

TxDOT joins statewide effort to end human trafficking

AUSTIN – March 12, 2019 – As part of a statewide effort to raise awareness, increase vigilance and report signs of human trafficking, the Texas Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Office of the Governor, law enforcement and industry partners, is launching its "On the Road to End Human Trafficking" initiative.

"Human trafficking is a horrific crime that knows no boundaries and, sadly, affects hundreds of thousands of women, children and men across our state and around the world," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "We are proud to work with the Governor's Commission for Women and other partners to bring an end to this modern-day slavery."

Similar to a neighborhood watch program, the initiative encourages everyone to know, watch for and report signs of trafficking. According to University of Texas research, more than 300,000 people are trafficked in Texas at any given time, including 79,000 youth victims. These innocent human beings are horrifically abused by being forced into slavery, either in the form of hard labor or sex/prostitution.

To raise public awareness and help eradicate this criminal activity, TxDOT is educating its employees as well as travelers. For employees, a wallet card along with an information sheet to keep in TxDOT vehicles provide details on signs to look for and steps to take to report

trafficking. Posters and restroom stall signs also will be displayed in TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers and Safety Rest Areas across the state to provide critical information to victims of human trafficking on how to reach out for help. The public is encouraged to use a toll-free, 24/7 confidential phone number, (888) 373-7888, to report suspected trafficking; victims are encouraged to call 911. TxDOT's human trafficking materials are available for others to download and use at www.txdot.gov.

By taking part in this initiative to eradicate human trafficking, TxDOT is living up to a core agency value – the well-being, safety and quality of life for Texans and all travelers.

Aldine ISD leaders attend the MASBA/TCBSBM Equity Symposium

The Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA) and the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members (TCBSBM) hosted the Equity Symposium on February 27.

Dr. Viola M. Garcia and Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, who attended the symposium with a cohort of AISD leaders, discussed the importance of equity in public education as well as policy and best practices from across Texas.

The event brought together public education leaders. Each one had one common focus – improving outcomes for all students.

The Equity Symposium also featured several other recognized speakers on equity, including Kimberly



Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Viola M. Garcia, AISD School Board Trustee

McLeod of the Harris County Department of Education, Jacinto Ramos Jr. of the Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees, and Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs of the National School Board Association Council of Urban Boards of Education. This event was co-spon-

sored by MASBA and TCBSBM, with support from Texas Association of School Boards, the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators, the Texas Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, and the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Top Educators,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his role as a principal. "The structures of effective communications must also be based on mutual respect and trust. I model and share my learning and goals to foster a culture of openness."

Amerson said she believes it is imperative to develop trust with her staff and stakeholders.

"Establishing trust is key in opening the lines of communication with stakeholders," she said. "My leadership style promotes trust, ensures a healthy culture, creates and builds partnerships, fosters collaboration, and demands respect for all people. When conversations are open and honest, our work as educators can move forward."

Burrell believes it's imperative that students buy into their education.

"Students are more likely to succeed if they believe that they are valuable as individuals," she said. "I believe that students must gain ownership of their education to accomplish this goal. My desire is to ensure each of my students experience love for learning, an excitement in discovering and a secure feeling of belonging in a classroom."

Decena said she relishes challenging her students to develop a love for math. "My role as a teacher is to introduce students to a higher level of mathematics, which often leads to a new way of thinking about the world," she said. "I love to teach my kids about the mechanics behind everyday items. I show them how the topic they are learning now will be applied and built upon in the next class or grade."

All Teachers of the Year received cash prizes from the Aldine Education Foundation supported by donations from Presenting Sponsor: H-E-B Tournament of Champions; Platinum Sponsors: Aetna, Dahill and WCA; Gold Sponsors: Beasley Tire Service and Caldwell Companies; Silver Sponsors, CenterPoint Energy, Cigna, McDonald's and PBK Architects; and Campus Sponsors: WC Lighting & Associations Edgenuity, North Houston District, Jostens, Prime Contractors, Tandus Centiva, TCG Group/TCG Advisors and

Eric Walsky.

Burrell, Decena, Stubblefield and Amerson each received airline tickets from United Airlines and Doggett Ford provided a one-month summer car rental to Amerson, whose name was selected in a drawing of the two Teachers of the Year and the two Principals of the Year. Amerson can choose any vehicle on the Doggett lot for her use for an entire month this summer. Representing Doggett Ford were Libby Covington and Randy Carner.

Additionally, all Teachers of the Year received gift bags with items donated from Barcelona Sports, the East Aldine District, Invest-Ex Credit Union, Jostens, Magoo's Print Shop, and Raising Cane's. Door prizes were donated by Double-Tree Houston IAH Hotel, Hilton North Houston Hotel, Raising Cane's and Solid IT.

Reed, Aldine's chief communications officer, served as emcee and introduced members of the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees, and members of Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney's Executive Leadership Team.

All Teachers of the Year were introduced as "Superstars" by Raul Fonseca and Sheleah Reed and walked the red carpet into the ballroom as Davis High School "paparazzi" took photos of them. The student journalists who snapped photos were Drayton Turner, Jorge Rodriguez and Tania Campos Martinez and their teacher Jalisa Skipworth.

Following the posting of the colors by the Aldine High School JROTC, Pastor David L. Smith delivered the invocation and following breakfast, AEF President Richard Cantu recognized sponsors and introduced a special presentation.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa then presented the Principal of the Year presentation, which included a video of the "surprise" visit made by Dr. Goffney and members of her Executive Leadership Team when they made their visits to the winner's respective schools to announce they had been named Principals of the Year.

Javier Villarreal, chief human resource officer, then introduced the Teacher of the Year Committee and asked the six finalists to stand and be recognized.

A video of each finalist was played and then he announced Burrell and Decena as the Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year. Board President Steve Mead, Dr. Chapa, School Assistant Superintendent Janet Ray and Cantu presented the two winners with their gifts.

Mr. Mead then delivered remarks, congratulating the two winners and thanking all of the Teachers of the Year for their service to Aldine.

"I'm never going to make it to Hollywood, but I don't have to because this room is full of stars, our teachers," Mr. Mead said. "I want to congratulate Donna and Shannon on being named Aldine ISD's Teachers of the Year. What an outstanding accomplishment."

"I also want to thank all of our four district finalists and all campus Teachers of the Year for the tremendous job you do every day for our students. We can't thank you enough for the vital role you play in our students' lives. You do make a difference each and every day and we appreciate you for choosing Aldine as the place to share your tremendous talents with our students."

Dr. Chapa then delivered closing remarks.

"I want to congratulate all of our Teachers of the Year, along with a big thank you for all you do for our students," Dr. Chapa said. "I also want to offer a deep appreciation to our sponsors for supporting the teachers and students of Aldine ISD through the Aldine Education Foundation. Thank you all for joining us today."

The Principal of the Year Committee consisted of Dr. Robin Williams, Cindy Bunge, Betsy Haisler, Sherrie Batro, Bryan Savant, Efrin Uribe, Twiana Collier and Stacey Smith.

The Teacher of the Year Committee consisted of Dr. David Villarreal, Dr. Keena Bradley, Mark Mitchell, Lynette O'Neal, Chelsea Davis-Bibb, Rose Sosa, Lisa Perkins-Jackson, Natasha Prudhomme and Bill Ginder.

Prior to the start of the breakfast, the MacArthur Jazz Band, under the direction of Jose Diaz, provided entertainment.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Education Reform,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increase the base funding per student by \$890 to \$6,030. This while lowering school district property tax rates statewide by 4 cents per \$100 of taxable property value, to reduce redistribution of money from wealthier school districts to poor ones. That should work out to reduce tax for a \$1/4 Million estate by about \$100 year.

Senate Bill 3, which would give all full-time classroom teachers and certified librarians a \$5,000 pay raise, passed easily, but it will likely face an uphill battle in the House. Bonnen has said he prefers giving local districts the flexibility to use



Dan Huberty excitedly explaining legislation related to school finance reform in Austin.

increased funding for teacher pay as they see fit. The House proposal is expected to provide districts with \$140 million to help recruit and retain teachers.

March gardening tips...

The weather outside is frightful...one day in the 70s, followed by another in the 40s, followed by torrential rains, then sunny enough to make the weeds grow. Ah, spring in Texas. If you can just manage to get some garden tasks done right now whenever the weather cooperates, it will make April and May really enjoyable.

Fired up your mower lately? Even if you don't mow, it's a good idea to crank it monthly. And now is a great time to get blades sharpened, before it gets consistently warm, and before you have to stand in line at the mower shop. Of course, mowing will definitely aid in keeping the cool weather weeds down, so keep that in mind.

It's pruning time as well. Whack at everything that has already bloomed if you want to shape it. Roses typically get their haircuts on Valentine's Day, but if you missed that, get it done soon. Wisteria needs a severe cutting after blooming to control its unruly growth. Leave the crepe myrtles, gardenias, and confederate roses till much later. They won't perform well if you slash them now.

Pruning and shaping of trees follow those same rules. Generally, you don't mess with citrus at all; other fruit and nut trees get trimmed to provide air flow within the branches. When pruning, don't train your tree to make narrow "v" looking areas between branch and trunk; you want more of a "u" shape. The shorter angle can lead to splitting as the branch gets weightier with age.

There are a lot of annuals and vegetables that can get into the ground right now. Radishes, carrots, onions, and of course, leafy greens all come to mind. Strawberry plants are popping up at local stores, and if you keep them high and dry, will do well until ear-

ly summer, when they struggle mightily. Wait a few more weeks for the green beans, and get the tomatoes in about the end of the month. You'll thank me later for those early tomatoes!

It's a little early for most summer bloomers, but petunias, pansies, snapdragons and alyssum will provide quite a show in the next few weeks. This is a great time for bed clean-up; you can get rid of all the frost-bitten tops, and clean out the unwanted weeds before you plant in earnest. If you've never considered a "pollinator garden," you might look into the idea. Our bee and insect friends, along with a few of the birds and butterflies, enjoy the feast when you allow some of those native weeds to flourish among your traditional pretties. Many "weeds" are often the very food and nesting sources that the wild critters need to continue their existence, and if you can enjoy them for what they are, they can become a valued part of your planting program.

If you're a first-time vegetable gardener, start small, and start now. If you are going to dig in the existing ground, prepare the area now by digging and turning, clearing out the weedy growth, and ideally, getting a soil sample from Texas A&M to find out what nutrients you already have, and what you are going to add. Information on how to take a soil sample, and the form to send it in, are located on the "aggie-horticulture" site at A&M. Get that done before the spring rush.

If you are making raised beds and ordering "garden soil," keep in mind that the definition has more to do with the sand/clay percentages. It doesn't have anything to do with the nutrients that are needed to help the plants grow. Once again, you should

take a soil sample, and as that guy on tv says, "feed it!" Ninety percent of gardening, whether lawn, tree, flower, or vegetable, depends on the right kind of soil for the particular item you're growing.

Probably by the end of the month, the anthills will start to make themselves visible all over your yards. You can clear yours completely, but if your neighbors don't do the same, expect invaders to enter your territory, since you've so lovingly prepared them ideal sites! Mount a neighborhood campaign and share the ant poison.

If you have a brushy area near your vegetable and plant beds, it may help to know that while it's a wonderful spot for wildlife, it may also harbor those very insects you hate on your tomatoes in June. They overwinter in those protected areas, just like the birds do. If you want to continue to help the wild ones, you might want to move your bed further away, or let the brush area grow up somewhere else in the property.

As you gather all that dead plant material, and the sticks that fell from your trees during the windy days, consider using it all for the beginnings of a compost heap. Turning it into useable garden nutrients, instead of into a landfill, helps in two ways. You can be a lazy compost-er, and just pile everything up to rot slowly, or you can be more of an activist and turn it frequently and water it down if it doesn't get much rain. Add grass clippings to the brown stuff, and it will cook some more. Cooking scraps and eggshells (no meat products) can be added, if you can do it in a way that won't attract unwanted animals looking for a meal. The presence of earthworms after a short time will prove that your heap is working well.

Financially friendly, conveniently close by, LSC-North Harris Summer class registration now open

HOUSTON (March 4, 2019) – Students and parents concerned about the high cost of college education now have an answer - Lone Star College-North Harris summer classes!

Students home for the summer can register now for one or more LSC-North Harris summer classes at affordable community college rates and transfer the credits earned to their primary college or university.

It's a win-win!

Summer classes begin on June 3 with a wide variety of selections. For students with a busy summer, the college offers a "mini-semester," a fully engaged academic program designed to deliver traditional college courses in much less time. The May mini-semester classes begin on May 13 and end on June 2, allowing plenty of time to

do other things with your summer.

Good news! Financial aid is available and LSC-North Harris offers payment plans to all students. Financial aid and academic advisors are available and ready to answer your questions.

For more information, visit www.LoneStar.edu/registration or contact an advisor at 281-618-5481.

Aldine ISD students hear Michelle Obama speak



Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney (center) poses with the group of students before heading to hear Michelle Obama speak at the Toyota Center.

The former First Lady gave everyone in attendance "a sense of possibility, self-belief, and confidence."

Saturday, March 2 is a day that Angela Cruz will never forget. Not only did she have a nice dinner with Superintendent LaTonya M. Goffney and met a few other nice young ladies from schools across Aldine but she heard former First Lady Michelle Obama speak.

It was surreal. It was an

honor to have been in the presence of such an admirable female leader, especially to start off Women's History Month," said Angela Cruz, a senior at Victory Early College High School. "It was life-changing. I truly felt as though she was talking directly to me more than a few times."

Houston stop of Obama's book tour *Becoming: An Intimate Conversation* with Michelle Obama. The tickets were provided by Obama herself through non-profit Good Reason Houston. Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee also invited six students to attend through her Girl's Empowerment Initiative.

"Opportunities like this only come once in a life-

See *Self-belief*, Page 8

Investigation into shooting at West Hardy Road

Houston police are investigating the shooting of two men at 12629 West Hardy Road about 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 9.

According to Houston Police Officers, the victims, Jorge Aguiniga, 41, and Joe Andrade-Lopez, 25, and a third male got into

an altercation in the parking lot of a night club. During the altercation, the suspect pulled out a gun, shot Aguiniga and Andrade-Lopez and threatened the third male. Paramedics transported both victims to the hospi-

tal and are expected to survive.

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

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US (NR) 9:45pm

CAPTAIN MARVEL in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 6:10pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

CAPTIVE STATE (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm
Stadium Seating

FIVE FEET APART (PG-13) - 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:35pm
Stadium Seating

NO MANCHES FRIDA 2 (R) - 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm
Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK (PG) - 2:45pm, 7:15pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK (PG) - 3:00pm, 7:30pm
Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK in 3D (PG) - 12:15pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK in 3D (PG) - 12:30pm, 5:15pm, 9:45pm
Stadium Seating

CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) - 3:10pm, 9:10pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) - 12:45pm, 3:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:00pm, 9:45pm
Stadium Seating

CAPTAIN MARVEL in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 6:00pm
Stadium Seating

CAPTAIN MARVEL in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) - 12:10pm, 6:10pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm
Stadium Seating

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) - 12:45pm, 7:00pm
Stadium Seating

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) - 3:30pm, 9:30pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD 3D (PG) - 12:30pm, 6:30pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK (PG) - 2:45pm, 7:15pm
SPA-Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating

WONDER PARK in 3D (PG) - 12:15pm, 5:00pm, 9:30pm
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WONDER PARK in 3D (PG) - 12:30pm, 5:15pm, 9:45pm
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OPINION PAGE

Congresswoman Garcia comments on Resignation of Southwest Key Founder and CEO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 11, 2019 – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia lauded the sudden resignation of Dr. Juan Sanchez, Founder and CEO of Southwest Key Programs. The non-profit Southwest Keys manages one of the largest networks of child detention centers for migrant children in government care.

“While Dr. Juan Sanchez’s resignation as Southwest Key Programs’ CEO is welcome news, the departure of one man will not erase the many allegations of self-dealing and abuse reported from their facilities or stop the increase of holding times for immigrant children under their supervision,” said Congresswoman Garcia. “His resignation will in no way shift our commitment to holding Southwest Key Programs accountable for their negligence and misconduct or deter us from opposing the opening of the new facility east of downtown Houston.”

Congresswoman Garcia continued, “I again call on federal officials and agencies to cease cooperation with Southwest Key Programs. We must finally put an end to the cruel policy of family separation.”

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2018, becoming the first Latina ever to represent Texas 29th Congressional district.



Lawmakers start rolling out high-priority legislation

AUSTIN — With the filing of legislation that would give teachers an across-the-board pay increase, Texas lawmakers showed progress toward solving the complex issues of school finance and property tax reform.

Senate Bill 3, passed March 4 by the full Senate on a voice vote, would entitle each classroom teacher and full-time librarian to a state-financed \$5,000 increase above their 2018-2019 school year salary. The bill would not stop school districts from providing merit-based raises to teachers in addition to the state’s \$5,000 increase.

Authored by Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, SB 3, if approved by the House, would make the raise effective for the school year beginning in the fall. Nelson said it would cost \$4 billion to give the state’s estimated 350,000 teachers the raise, and that funds to cover the pay hike will be in the state budget.

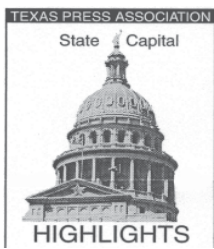
“The one thing we should do, first and foremost, is to recognize the need to uplift our entire teaching profession,” she said.

Meanwhile, in the west end of the Capitol building, House members have been working on their own school finance reform legislation. House Bill 3 is called “The Texas Plan” by its author, House Public Education Committee Chair Dan Huberty, R-Houston.

Huberty said his bill, which has gained bipartisan support and has more than 80 members signed on as coauthors, would invest \$9 billion above enrollment growth while addressing student achievement, teacher quality and property tax reform. HB 3, Huberty added, represents “the first major rewrite of the state’s public school finance system undertaken without threat of a court order.”

A few of the bill’s attributes include:
 - Lowering school property tax rates by four cents statewide;
 - Funding for full-day pre-kindergarten for low-income students; and
 - Increasing the mini-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



protect people and property from flooding. The state would ensure that those plans work with each other and combine them into a statewide plan, according to the Senate News Service.

num teacher salary schedule.

Disaster relief is goal

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick on March 6 joined Senate members in announcing a package of bills dealing with disaster relief and recovery from Hurricane Harvey, which caused widespread devastation in the late summer of 2017.

“We said at the time we would dedicate ourselves to helping people rebuild their homes, their businesses, their communities,” said Patrick.

- SB 6 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, makes use of the knowledge gained in dealing with Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. “Senate Bill 6 will serve as a road map to prepare our state for future hurricanes and natural disasters,” said Kolkhorst.

- SB 7 by Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, would create a financial structure to pay for aid, planning and flood projects, considering that many federal aid programs require that local entities put money up front to qualify for fund matches. Creighton’s bill would tap into the state’s Rainy Day Fund to help local governmental bodies satisfy buy-in requirements.

- SB 8 by Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, would create a statewide flood mitigation plan that divides Texas into regions based on river basins, then allows regional officials and stakeholders to decide what projects they need to

protect people and property from flooding. The state would ensure that those plans work with each other and combine them into a statewide plan, according to the Senate News Service.

Revenue total announced

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 4 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.796 billion in February, an amount 7 percent more than he announced in February 2018.

“Growth in sales tax revenue was led by remittances from the construction, manufacturing and services sectors. Receipts from information services and restaurants also grew significantly. Receipts from oil- and gas-mining firms remained about the same as a year ago,” Hegar said.

On March 6 Hegar announced the comptroller’s office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special-purpose taxing districts \$711.7 million in local sales tax allocations for the month.

The amount is 6.1 percent more than the amount reported a year ago. These allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Texas lawmaker dies
Former U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall of Rockwall died March 7 in Rockwall. He was 95.

Hall served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945 and received a law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1947. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 1962 and served until 1972, when he was first elected to Congress as a Democrat.

He changed from a Democrat to a Republican in 2004 and continued to serve as a member of Congress until January 2015.

Harris County residents reminded that Spring weather can be unpredictable

(Harris County, TX) – Springtime in southeast Texas offers plenty of pleasant days, but it also brings the threat of severe weather. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) and the National Weather Service (NWS) want to remind residents of the unpredictability of the season during its Spring Severe Weather Safety Campaign that run March 4-8, 2019.

“Spring is a time of renewal and we want to take this opportunity to give a refresher on the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to stay safe,” said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. “Preparation is important year round and we can best do that by staying informed, having an emergency plan and essential supplies.”

Understanding the difference between a warning and a watch:

- A watch indicates that the potential exists for the development of severe weather.

- A warning is more serious and requires more immediate action. It indicates that severe weather conditions are occurring or imminent.

HCOHSEM reminds residents that severe weather can develop rapidly and with little warning, and offers some life-saving tips for the following threats:

Thunderstorms

- Keep an eye out for signs of a coming storm, including darkening skies, increasing winds or flashes of lightning.

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be in danger from lightning, which kills 40-50 people per year.

- Postpone outdoor activities if a storm is imminent; lightning often strikes where it is not raining.

- Take shelter in a sturdy building or vehicle, with doors and windows securely fastened.

- Stay away from windows and avoid taking a bath, shower or using plumbing until the storm has passed.

Flash Flooding

- Drivers should

never underestimate the force and power of flood waters. If you see high water, turn around, don’t drown!

- Waters can rise so rapidly that they may be far deeper by the time you are halfway across, trapping you in your vehicle.

- Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide, 12 inches of water can float many cars, and two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs, and most other vehicles.

- Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to see how deep waters may be or how fast water is rising.

- Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Tornadoes

- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of a home or building away from windows: a stairwell, bathroom, hallway or storage closet.

- Do not stay in a mobile home.

- At work and school, follow the drill and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free-span roofs.

- If you are in a car, do not try to outrun a tornado and avoid bridges/overpasses. If you see flying debris, pull over and park. Keep your seat belt on and the engine running. Put your head down below the windows, and cover yourself with your hands/arms or a blanket.

- If outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If no shelter, lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.

Remember to always have a plan and stay informed to protect yourself from severe weather threats.

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HOUSING & ENTERTAINMENT

HOME Ways to boost your home's curb appeal

(StatePoint) When it comes to your home, you only get one chance to make a great first impression -- and that takes place before anyone ever steps inside, making curb appeal upgrades an effective way to beautify your home while boosting its value.

Here are some great ways to enhance curb appeal that will give you a great return on investment, according to Remodeling Magazine's 2019 Cost Vs. Value Report.



in older models, while reducing heat and cold transfer for lower energy bills.

Manufactured Stone Veneer

A manufactured stone veneer project can enhance the aesthetic appeal of any space, indoors or out, and can be customized to suit your needs and style. When applied to a home exterior, this project has an impressively high return on investment at 95 percent, according to the 2019 Cost vs. Value Report.

Maximize this upgrade by opting for high-quality materials that look like authentic stone, even upon careful inspection. For example, the choices available from ProVia are molded and colored to produce a realistic, dramatic effect, mimicking stones from unique geographic regions in a range of cuts. Their online resources, which can be found at

provia.com, include design ideas and tools for selecting harmonious color groupings, helping you make the best choices for your home.

Siding Replacement

Of all the home updates that will boost your curb appeal, new siding has the third highest return on investment, according to the report. When making this upgrade, consider materials wisely. Thanks to its overall low cost, ease of installation, minimal maintenance required and long-term durability, vinyl is the most popular home siding material. Whether you opt for insulated, traditional or decorative siding, this can be a great way to give your home a high-impact facelift that's well worth the cost.

To add beauty and value to your home, start with curb appeal, selecting projects that offer a great return on investment.

Get more bang for your buck with these Spring home improvements

(StatePoint) The warmer weather means it's time to start thinking about home improvement projects. Whether you're getting your home in tip-top shape for your own enjoyment, or getting it ready to put on the market, not all home improvement projects are created equal when it comes to return on investment (ROI). Here are top areas on which to focus:



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Tyler Olson / stock.Adobe.com

Interiors

The kitchen is the heart of the home and it's one of the best areas to renovate in terms of ROI, according to Remodeling magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report, which puts the price tag of the average minor kitchen remodel at \$22,507, with 80.5 percent of the cost recouped upon resale.

To give the kitchen an updated appearance, replace the flooring, countertops, sink and faucet. A fresh coat of paint in a trendy shade, such as Living Coral, Pantone's Color of the Year, can add a vibrant pop of color to energize any kitchen. Not looking to go that bold? Consider an accent wall, or stick to a classic palette of gray and white in terms of cabinets and countertops. White on white is also a popular new style for kitchens and bathrooms.

Other features home buyers are paying close attention to are laundry rooms and such energy-saving elements as Energy Star appliances and windows, according to the survey "What Home Buyers

Want in 2019" by the National Association of Home Builders.

Curb Appeal

The popularity of outdoor projects remains strong and it's for a good reason. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, the biggest bang for your buck in 2019 will come from replacing a garage door. The report says the average price is \$3,611, and 97.5 percent of it is recouped when the house is sold.

Other outdoor projects with high ROI include adding manufactured stone veneer to the exterior (94.9 percent), adding a wood deck (75.6 percent) and replacing siding (75.6 percent). Looking for a simpler way to make an impact? Sprucing up the landscape by planting flowers or bushes or even just clearing the yard of debris will make a big statement.

No matter what updates you end up making, it's al-

ways a good idea to notify your insurance agent. "Certain upgrades may change the value of a house, so homeowners need to make sure they're properly covered," says Bob Buckel, vice president of product management, Erie Insurance. "There are a few things to look for. Ask your agent about guaranteed replacement cost policies that can cover the cost to rebuild a home in today's dollars following a covered loss."

Some upgrades may also make you eligible for discounts, Buckel adds, especially if they make the home more secure. "For example, Erie Insurance offers certain safety discounts such as for installing smoke alarms or an automatic sprinkler system."

Now you have a checklist of DIY projects to focus on this spring. But before you start, take a moment to assess which ones are worth your time and money.

Posting Date March 18, 2019

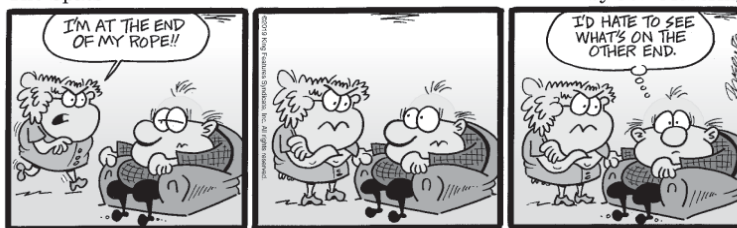
Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Window has been added 2. Drum design is different 3. Chair ruffie is missing 4. Picture has been moved 5. Mom's earnings is missing 6. Mom's hand is not seen

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18		19		20						
		21	22	23		24	25	26	27	
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41			42		43					
		44		45		46	47	48	49	
50	51	52			53	54			55	
56				57				58		
59					60				61	

ACROSS

- Long sandwich
- Loathe
- Den
- Web address
- Pianist Gilels
- Competent
- Swelled head
- India's movie industry
- Happen again
- Thanksgiving veggie
- "Show Boat" composer
- Club used in sand traps
- Robin Hood's forest
- Night light
- Tin container
- Japanese wrestlers
- Movie trickery, for short
- Declare
- Actor Clint
- Archaeologist's find
- Approach
- Chow down
- Actress Winona
- "American Gothic" painter
- Hearty quaff
- Top-notch
- Spherical do
- Work with
- Bosc or
- Bartlett
- Goblet feature
- Foundation
- Dockworkers' org.
- Roulette bet
- Deviate off course
- Litigious one
- Incite (Abbr.)
- United nations
- New Testament
- Winona
- I love (Lat.)
- Up to
- May
- Clampett
- Marshals et al.
- Blood-group letters
- 10 Dockworkers' org.
- 11 Roulette bet
- 17 Deviate off course
- 19 Kiev's country (Abbr.)
- 22 Libertine
- 23 "— is an island"
- 25 Erte's style book
- 27 Oklahoma city
- 28 "The Lion King" villain
- 29 Own
- 30 Organic compound
- 31 Amount of medicine
- 35 Fame
- 38 Hot dog
- 40 Like some humor
- 42 Feline
- 45 "— the night before ..."
- 47 Smear
- 48 Otherwise
- 49 Clarinetist's need
- 50 Space
- 51 Fish eggs
- 52 Santa — winds
- 53 Frequently, in verse
- 54 Raw rock

DOWN

- 1 Litigious one
- 2 Incite (Abbr.)
- 3 United nations
- 4 New Testament
- 5 I love (Lat.)
- 6 Up to
- 7 — May
- 8 Marshals et al.
- 9 Blood-group letters
- 10 Dockworkers' org.
- 11 Roulette bet
- 17 Deviate off course
- 19 Kiev's country (Abbr.)
- 22 Libertine
- 23 "— is an island"
- 25 Erte's style book
- 26 Full of energy
- 27 Oklahoma city
- 28 "The Lion King" villain
- 29 Own
- 30 Organic compound
- 31 Amount of medicine

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ENTERTAINERS: Which pop music singer was born with the name Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou?
- HISTORY: Who was the first woman to hold federal office in the United States?
- MEDICAL: What is a more common name for "myocardial infarction"?
- MUSIC: Which singer had a 2010 hit single with "Rolling in the Deep"?
- GENERAL LANGUAGE: What is the NATO phonetic word for the letter "I"?
- SCIENCE: What is the only type of rock that is less dense than water?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of jellyfish called?
- MOVIES: Who voiced the character of "The Iron Giant"?
- LANGUAGE: What are the Carabinieri in Italy?
- U.S. GOVERNMENT: How many states are required to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

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1. George Michael; 2. Jeannette Rankin, elected in 1916 as a U.S. representative from Montana; 3. Heart attack; 4. Adele; 5. India; 6. Punnett; 7. A swarm, a bloom or a smack; 8. Vin Diesel; 9. Military police with civilian duties; 10. Three-fourths, or 38 of 50 states

LIFESTYLE

What Matters

Around here, February and March see area residents focusing largely on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, an event that draws people from all over. In fact, it's entirely possible I've crossed paths with some of you this year. While looking around me, people watching, I've always found one thing especially interesting: People come to the rodeo for all sorts of reasons. Many come strictly for the rodeo. There are actually events going on all day long, and the die-hard rodeo fans can occasionally be seen in the

mostly empty seats in these other arenas. Generally first in the gate, these attendees may or may not stay for the concert, but they'll follow the rodeo to the very end. Then there are those who come primarily for the concert, having carefully chosen their tickets according to their artist preferences; they may arrive early, but aren't necessarily in a rush to get to the main arena. Add the other draws like the carnival, the food, the animals and...as my wife would quickly point out...the shopping, and

when you ask ten different people why they came to the rodeo you may well get ten different answers. Regardless of who they are, they come. Regardless of why they come, they gather as one massive rodeo family. The energy is electric and the fellowship is unique, and in the end pretty much everyone is glad they took part in the festivities. Things aren't so different in the family of

God. Think of the disciples who joined Jesus, remembering their various professions, personalities, and reputations. We may not know why, exactly, each decided to give up his life to follow this stranger, but they all came when He called. Look at the family of God: The biggest hodgepodge in history, we openly welcome all types of people, and all types of people come to God's house. Why do

they come? What brings them in? Does the music draw them to a church? Does the preaching? Is it a sense of family and belonging that attracts them? Ask ten different people and, again, you may get ten different answers. But honestly, why they come to church really doesn't matter any more than why someone attends the rodeo. What matters is remembering that our example, Jesus, welcomed all kinds and

gave more grace than most of us would even consider giving. (Seriously, would you let Judas, a man you knew was stealing from you, stay on your staff?) What matters is that we pour out our love on those who join us in worship. What matters is that, when we leave our marks on their lives, those marks reflect Him. What matters is that we welcome them in and help them become a connected, vital part of the family. What matters is that, no matter why they come, we let them know they've come home. MyHillsideFamily.com @MyHillsideFamily



THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



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LIFESTYLE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey—


1. Is the book of 1 Timothy in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. What did the Lord cast down among the Israelites who complained about their wilderness misfortunes? Fire, Hail, Stones, Winds
 3. From Romans 3, who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? Jews, Gentiles, Heathens, All

4. What idol fell and broke after the Ark of the Covenant was placed nearby? Edrei, Dagon, Molech, Golden calf
 5. Who built an altar and called it "Jehovahhissi"? Isaiah, Baal, Moses, Malachi
 6. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother? Elisabeth, Miriam, Sarah, Ruth
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Fire; 3) All; 4) Dagon; 5) Moses; 6) Elisabeth

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."

ACTS 17: 22-24



View of the Areopagus today

RECENT DEATHS

Felipe Luna
 Doretta Marlene Kinatt
 Refugia Jasso
 Olga Garza

Margaret Elizabeth Barker
 Betty Joan Campbell
 Sarah Minori
 Bonnie Rae Bullock



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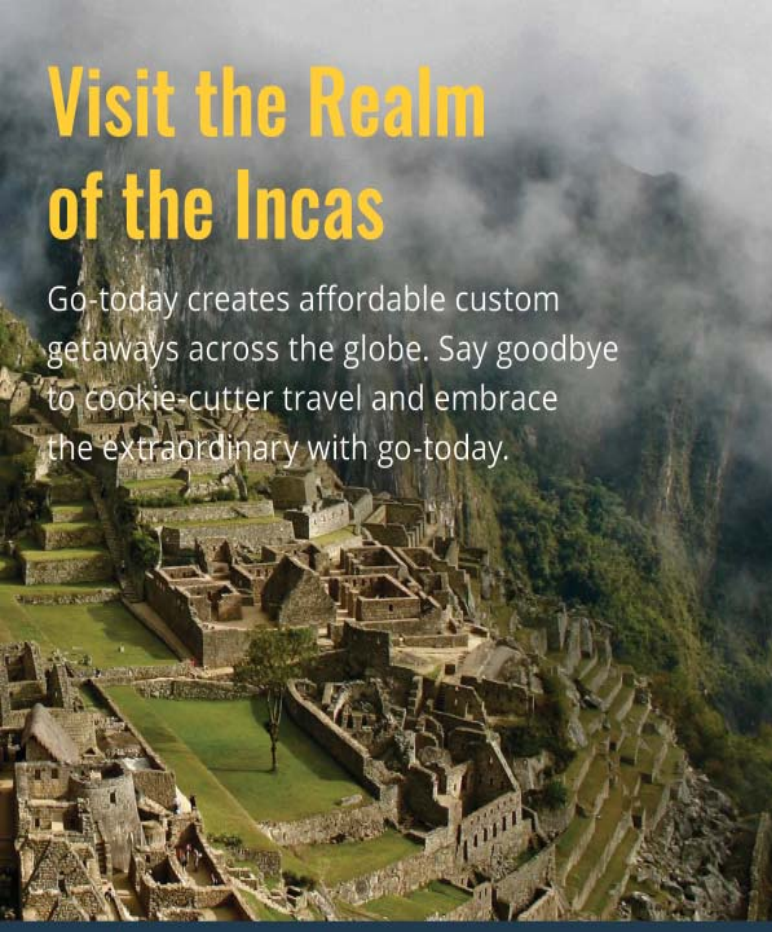
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldine-Westfield Detention Basin,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

basin (across Aldine Westfield), were asked to stay in touch with both the East Aldine District and HCFCD for any updates on this and any other projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construction bids were due in February 2019 for this project to construct a stormwater detention basin on a 113-acre site on Greens Bayou near the Sam Houston Tollway and Aldine Westfield Road in north central Harris County. On December 19, 2017, Harris County Commissioners Court approved a \$543,000 agreement with IDCUS Inc. for design, bidding and construction phase engineering services in connection with this project.

According to a conceptual engineering report completed in 2017 – and in keeping with its location just south of Bush Intercontinental Airport – the basin will be designed without a permanent pool so as not to attract waterfowl. South and north cells will be constructed in two phas-



Map of Aldine Westfield Detention Basin

es – the south cell first – to allow for necessary environmental permitting. Eventually, the two basin cells will be connected by a 48-inch pipe and will outfall into Greens Bayou. Portions of the basin -- formally identified as HCFCD Unit P500-04-00 -- have been partially excavated via an earlier excavation and removal agreement.

A preliminary goal is to design the basin to hold approximately 1,250 acre-feet, or more than 407.3 million gallons, of stormwater that otherwise might flood homes and businesses during heavy rain events. The benefits of this project are best understood as part of a suite of projects – Progress Greens – that will work together to reduce flooding risks within the 213 square miles of the Greens Bayou watershed.

The Engineer's estimate of construction cost for this project is \$8,400,000.00.

Self-Belief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time," said Superintendent Goffney. "I am glad that our students were able to hear her tell her story in her own words. I am challenging each one of them to use what they've learned as they make decisions about their life, college, and career."

During her talk, Obama shared her experience with her high school counselor who told her not to even apply to Princeton because she wouldn't get in. As the story goes she not only attended Princeton but graduated in the top of her class.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (center, in red) poses with Aldine ISD students she invited to hear Michelle Obama speak at the "Becoming" book tour visit held at the Toyota Center.

Suspect wanted for failure to stop and render aid

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Vehicular Crimes Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspect responsible for Hit and Run – Failure to Stop and Render Aid.

On Wednesday January 13, 2019, at approximately 12:55 p.m., the victim was riding a motorcycle eastbound in the 200 block of East Parker Road in Houston, Texas. During the incident, the suspect operated a silver 2006 RX360 Lexus, Texas license plate GZH6328. The suspect struck the victim then fled the scene without rendering aid to the victim. As result of being hit, the

victim sustained severe nerve damage to his neck.

A witness followed the suspect vehicle to an apartment complex located in the 300 block of Sunnyside Street. The witness observed five individuals exit the vehicle and flee on foot into the into the complex, leaving the suspect vehicle behind.

The individuals are described as five Hispanic juveniles. Two males sitting in the front seats of the vehicle and three females occupied the back seats.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. 713-222-TIPS (8477)

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