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**NEWS NOTES**

**Free Infant Care classes**  
 -Dec. 11: What to expect at home.  
 Registration is required.  
 Text: 832-350-8406 or email: Acorbett@hccc.com.  
 All classes begins at 6 p.m. at Harris County Emergency Corps, 2800 Aldine Bender Rd.

**Citizenship Workshop**  
 Saturday, December 14, 2019 at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Catholic Church (5356 11th Street Katy, TX 77493) from 8:00AM - 1:00PM. Volunteers are asked to be present for the training that begins at 8:15 a.m. A light breakfast, and coffee will be provided. Bring a friend! Questions? 713-471-5832.

## New Bus Service for Northeast Harris County



See MAP of Bus Routes, page 8. Routes connect with METRO buses in three locations, allowing Aldine riders to reach areas such as Channelview and Baytown.

**Free Ridership for the first 60 Days**  
 The hurricane.  
 A soft launch of the new service will occur on December 2, 2019. The first 60 days are free to riders; and after the first 60 days, rides will be \$1.00 per ride. There will be an inaugural ceremony to mark the launch on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at Joe V's Parking Lot, 5609 Uvalde, Houston, Texas.  
 Riders will be able to connect with METRO

Route 14 at the Mesa Transit Center, and Route 11 at WoodforesT and Uvalde, and I-10 and Uvalde.  
 The new service will add roughly 65 additional route miles to the infrastructure for a total of 185 route miles. Five proposed new routes will serve Channelview, Cloverleaf and Sheldon with service for a three-year period. If  
 See New Bus Service, Page 8

## Run-Off Election December 14

Early Voting from Dec. 2 to Dec. 10



SYLVESTER TURNER

Harris County residents head back to the polls on December 14 to vote in runoff races for the Mayor of Houston, several city council seats, and multiple HISD Trustee positions.  
 The runoff elections are required for the November races in which neither candidate was successful in securing more than 50% of the vote.



TONY BUZBEE

Early voting runs from December 2 through December 10. Thanks to the new countywide polling system, residents can vote at any polling location during early voting and on election day.  
 For more information on the races and polling locations, visit [HarrisVotes.com](http://HarrisVotes.com).  
 Races on the ballot include Houston Mayor, incumbent Sylvester Turner vs. Tony Buzbee;  
 Council Position 1 Mike Knox vs Raj Salhotra;  
 Council Position 2 David Robinson vs Willie R.

Davis;  
 Council Position 3 Michael Kubosh vs Ja-naeya Carmouche;  
 Council Position 4 An-  
 See Runoff Election, Page 3

## East Aldine board honored by Sheriff's office at monthly meeting



In Recognition of their support for the "Sweat IV Vets" program of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Terry Garza presented the East Aldine Board members with a Certificate of Appreciation for the support. L to R, receiving the award are Board Chairman Gerald Overturff, Carlos Silva, Deborah Foster, Reyes Garcia, Joyce Wiley, Patti Acosta, Deputy Garza, and Gilbert Hoffman.  
 See Page 3 for additional information about the work of the East Aldine District and its Board of Directors.

## Fire damages Mi Casita apartments on Aldine Mail



Harris County, TX - An apartment complex caught on fire and families were evacuated last Tuesday morning. The fire occurred at Mi Casita Apartments located at 5001 Aldine Mail Route Road in Aldine. The Eastex Fire Department was on scene as well as Harris County Sheriff's units to evacuate adjacent tenants. Authorities reported that at least 8 units in the complex were affected by the fire and smoke and water damage. No injuries were reported. The complex has had multiple fires in the past two years, according to news records.

**MARKETPLACE - Please Mention the NORTHEAST NEWS when you visit our Advertisers.**

**CONFESSIONS:**  
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 6 TO 6:50 PM,  
 SATURDAYS FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,  
 FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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**Pan Riko BAKERY**

Steve Hayden

5216 Aldine Mail Rte.  
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**Wednesday 4 Bolillos for \$1**

**PREMIERE CINEMAS**  
 FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 12/6-12/11

Opens THURSDAY, Dec. 12  
 \* JUMANJI: NEXT LEVEL (PG13) - 4:00p, 6:40p, 9:30p  
 \* BLACK CHRISTMAS (PG13) - 7:00p, 9:30p

\* FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 12:30pm, 6:00pm Spanish Dubbed  
 \* FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 3:30pm, 9:30pm  
 FORD V FERRARI (PG-13) - 12:45pm, 4:45pm, 8:45pm  
 PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG) - 7:20pm, 9:40pm  
 HARRIET (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm  
 TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (R) - 12:15pm, 3:10pm, 6:00pm, 8:50pm  
 COUNTDOWN (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:10pm  
 MALEFICENT: Mistress of Evil (PG) - 12:00pm, 5:30pm Spanish Dubbed  
 \* MALEFICENT: Mistress of Evil 3D (PG) - 2:40pm, 8:30pm Spanish Dubbed  
 JOKER (R) - 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

MOVIES have Stadium Seating & Closed Caption & Audio Description

\*No passes on these movies \*\* No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies.  
 \*New Releases, no passes accepted for the first two weeks \*\*\* Sorry No Passes \*\*CLOSED CAPTION  
 \*\*Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after Ep. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I don't ask for much but what I really want for Christmas is that you help all the poor people. Why? God says that it is good to help others and not treat them badly. Thank you Santa. Nadia Valadez, 11 years old

Dear Santa, Guess What? I have not talked back to my elders. I have been 100% nice. Therefore, I want a Pc desktop to play my favorite games. Sant I love and thank you! David Prado, 10

Dear Santa, This year I have been excellent! I know you have your elves checking the good list. I work hard in school and I recently earned a 90% on my report card. Santa I hope you leave me calice critters under the tree! Isabela Buenas, 9 years old

Dear Santa, Every day I help people with their school work or just being their friend. There are some naughty kids at my school and Santa I wish they could be nice. All I want for Christmas is a spider man poster and toy. Estras Aviles, 10

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, How are you? I know you are busy so I'll be quick please keep my family safe and send me a I-phone and a box of smile. Also, stay safe on your busy trip. Love Destiny Cruz, 10

Dear Santa, I know you have been watching me so you know I have been a terrific 4th grader. I have listen to my mom and dad and did everything they told me to do. Santa I want the new iPhone with the blue and gold case. I love you Santa. Damari Simmons, 10 years old

Dear Santa, HoHo! and Merry Christmas. I am counting the days down to your stop at my house. I am the best son a mother could want. Please bring me a laptop and leave my mom a new purse. My mom works hard to take care of me. Justin Diaz, 10 years old

Dear Santa, I know you have been watching to see if I have been naughty or nice. You know I have helped my mom and dad around the house. When you come to visit I'll have milk and cookies ready. Catherine Beltran, 10 years old

Dear Santa, I have been a wonderful kid this year. My mom is always asking me to help her cook. I don't want to do it, but I do it because I love her. By the way, I want new games for my PS4. Thank you. Angel Coronado, 10 years old

Dear Santa, On Christmas Day will you please bring joy to all kids. I hope you tell Jesus top heal all the sick kids with cancer. Also, I hope you take care of my family and give us gifts that we need on Christmas Eve. Bryan, 10

Dear Santa, I know I have been a little bad, but I still helped my parents clean. For example, I cleaned my little brother's room. Well, I think I deserve a special present. Santa do you agree? Teresa Tzintzun, 9 years old

May the Season fill your home with love and joy through the closeness of friends, family, and the comfort of home. And may our nation renew ourselves to serving the least amongst us and treating one another with respect and dignity. Sylvia R. Garcia

Happy Holidays from Armando and Debbie Walle & Family. Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you at the Texas House of Representatives.

Dear Santa, I've been a great boy this year and every year. Every day I help my mom feed the chickens and I clean up my toys. After playing with them all I want is a Stick-Bot. Trixten Lochart, 10

Dear Santa, I know you watch me all the time. I have been a wonderful kid and helpful. For example, I take care of my brother and help with his homework. I want everyone to have a present. I would want a Xbox one to play. Rogelio Hidalgo, 8 years old

Dear Santa, I am a hard working kid but I act-up sometimes. I make up for it by helping my teachers and getting good grades. So I think I might deserve a one of a kind prize. Juan Plasencia, 11 years old

Dear Santa, I do my homework every time I get home and to tell you the truth I don't like it. Since, I complete my homework please, please give me a brand new PS4 on Christmas morning. Also, don't forget all the children in the world! Eddie Moreno, 9

Merry Christmas From the members of The Aldine Optimist Club Supporting the youth of Aldine. Optimist International Friend of Youth.

Season's Greetings from BEASLEY TIRE BEASLEY FIRE SERVICE INC. A FULL SERVICE TIRE COMPANY

North Houston District Season's Greetings & Best Wishes for the New Year! 281-874-2131 northhouston.org

Merry Christmas from STEVE MEAD Aldine School Board & Optimist Club President Component Sales & Service 281-442-8127

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO THE EAST ALDINE COMMUNITY HAWES HILL & ASSOCIATES LLP

Best Wishes to Everyone in our Community For a Happy New Year Airline Improvement District 281-757-1788 airlinedistrict.org

We thank you for another Year of Support for your Community Newspaper Best Wishes for the Holiday Season News

Happy Holidays Best Wishes to all the residents of Aldine and Northeast Houston Have a safe and prosperous New Year! EAST ALDINE DISTRICT 713-595-1232

Best Wishes for the Holidays McDONOUGH ENGINEERING CORPORATION 5625 Schumacher • Houston, Texas 77057 Tel: (713) 975-9990 • Fax (713) 975-0464 mcdonough@mectx.com

COMMUNITY NEWS



# Be Part of the Solution

It is beginning to feel like the holidays are quickly approaching. Everywhere you look, you see decorations, signs for sales and unfortunately more reports of crime. On Tuesday night, I went to bed earlier than usual and when I woke up several hours later, I had text messages, voicemails and emails of concern. Apparently there had been a robbery at the Walgreens located at the intersection of Uvalde and Woodforest.

Perhaps the worst part about the robbery was the number of people who were quick to be upset about the lack of security at local stores as well as the length of time that it takes for law enforcement to respond to 911 phone calls. Suddenly, the same community members who were there to support the deputies and officers at First Responder events in September were the ones who were complaining that there is a lack of coverage as well as response time when they have a crisis.

To begin to understand the issues, we all need to understand that there is a lack of qualified applicants to fill the vacant positions within the various agencies. Then, we need to think about the way many people in the community show no respect for a profession that for years was honored. We need to understand what a true emergency is and we need to do our part in keeping the community safe.

Walk through the average parking lot in our community. It can be at Walmart, the courthouse, an apartment complex or even the college. You will

be able to look into vehicles without trying and see items that should be out of sight. I remember just a year or so ago that a college official had her laptop stolen out of the front seat of her car in a parking lot. I hear reports all of the time about homeowners leaving their garage door open and then being upset that someone stole items from it. Too often people are walking through a parking lot, talking on the phone and making themselves an easy target for a crook.

When there is what is perceived as an emergency, people pick up the phone and call 911, yet they do not understand that the operator must determine first which agency the call should be routed to and the level of need. Often I hear people asking why Houston Police Department is not doing something or why the Mayor does not assign more money to help our area. Please take the time to understand that the majority of us live in the unincorporated area, which means HPD and the Mayor cannot do anything for our area. People need to take the time to know who represents them and which agencies serve their area. People need to do their part in being alert and perhaps one of the greatest things that we can all do, is pray.

You are invited to join others at the monthly Eastside Prayer Gathering on Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. to pray for our community. The event will be held at Skatetown USA located at 13831 Longview, just west of Freeport Street.

## Runoff Election,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thony Dolcefino vs Letitia Plummer;  
Council Position 5 Eric Dick vs Sallie Alcorn;  
Council Position A Amy Peck vs George Harry Zoes;  
Council Position C Abbie Kamin vs Shelley Kennedy;  
Council Position D Carolyn Evans-Shabazz vs Brad "Scarface" Jordan;  
Council Position F Tiffany D. Thomas vs Van Huynh;  
Council Position H Karla Cisneros vs Isabel Longoria;  
Council Position J Sandra Rodriguez vs Edward Pollard;  
HCC Trustee District I Dave Wilson vs Monica Flores Richart;  
HCC Trustee District II Kathy Lynch-Gunter vs Rhonda Skillern-Jones;  
HISD Position 2 Kathy Blueford-Daniels vs John Curtis Gibbs;  
HISD Position 4 Patricia K. Allen vs Matt Barnes.

## Man found shot next to stolen vehicle

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that occurred at 9700 Mesa Drive about 4:05 a.m. on Saturday, November 30.

According to Houston Police Patrol officers, they responded to a report of a shooting at an apartment complex on Mesa Dr. and found Larry Collins, 29, lying outside a stolen vehicle in the parking lot. He had suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. At this time, there is no known suspect or motive in the shooting.

The victim, Mr. Collins, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

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

## Jose Rivera takes over leadership roll at Greenspoint YMCA



East Aldine District members and community leaders recently attended a lunch to welcome Jose Rivera, middle, as the new Executive Director of the Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA location. Jose brings over 15 years of public service experience in community development, governmental relations, and intergenerational programming.

## DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant, report suspicious activity

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans to stay vigilant and report any suspicious behavior or activity they observe to law enforcement. With today's threat environment, advanced warning and information can mean the difference between life and death. Texans are urged to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement or through the iWatchTexas program, a system that captures and connects potential criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats in Texas.

"We urge Texans to always pay attention to their surroundings and use the iWatchTexas program to report anything unusual they might see," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "This suspicious reporting system has already proven successful in leading to law enforcement action that very likely prevented criminal activity. We are committed to deterring and, when possible, preventing mass casualty attacks from taking place in our state. The public's vigilance and tips could very well be the key to helping law enforcement prevent

the next attack." Included in the governor's executive orders following the mass shootings in El Paso and Odessa is Order No. 4 — to increase the public's awareness of the value of suspicious activity reporting.

The iWatchTexas mobile app is designed to make it quick and easy for the public to report suspicious activity in Texas, including criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats. All reports are confidential, but there's the option to provide contact information so officials can follow up with any additional questions. Reports should take less than five minutes to complete. The iWatchTexas app is free and available on iTunes and Google Play. The public can also submit a report at [www.iwatchtx.org](http://www.iwatchtx.org) or by calling 1-844-643-2251. If there is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

Things that could be reported via iWatchTexas include:

- Written or verbal comments or implied threats of violence through words, images or other expressions;
- Praising past success-

ful or attempted mass casualty, active shooter or school attacks;

- Statements or images indicating ideology connected to acts of violence;
- Preparing and/or sharing a martyrdom or last will video or statement;
- Strangers asking questions about building security and procedures or taking photos or video of these security features;
- A briefcase, package or other item that's been left behind where it shouldn't be;
- Vehicles left in no-parking zones;
- Chemical smells or fumes that are unusual for an area;
- People requesting sensitive information, such as security plans, blueprints or a person's travel schedule when they shouldn't have it;
- Purchasing supplies that could be used to make a bomb or weapons; or
- Purchasing uniforms without the proper credentials.

If you see something, say something. It's far better to report something and be wrong than to stay silent and wish you had spoken up when your instincts told you something was suspicious.

## East Aldine board meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The East Aldine District Board of Directors meets every third Tuesday of the month for a business meeting. The public is welcome to attend, and speak on subjects of interest to the community.

At last month's meeting, the board heard a report on progress on plans to build their new office building in Town Center. Brookstone Management LLC told the board the guaranteed price of the new building, bandstand, park improvements, and water feature was \$12,042,833.

The board also heard a report from the Sheriff's office on patrols and arrests for the previous month.

Lone Star College - East Aldine Campus's dean, Luis Lucio, made a report on programs offered presently and in the future at the campus.



The East Aldine Board took time at their meeting to wish Board Member Gil Hoffman a Happy 80th Birthday. They even got him a cake, his favorite, a Cherry Cheese Cake.

## Letter to Santa

Dear Santa, \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Letters can be mailed to Santa,  
5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX. 77057  
or e-mailed to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).  
Letters must be received by  
Dec. 14 for publication in  
our Special Christmas Editions

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## Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By FRANCIS P. CHURCH.  
First published in The New York Sun in 1897

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia  
O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the The New York Sun in 1897, almost a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.

### Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been a wonderful boy all year. My parents have even said so. When I hear your sleigh come I thank you for leaving me a PS4 gift card.  
Edward Avila, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Yes, I was super nice this year. I hope all the boys and girls around the world get something they love from you to open up. Santa all I want are some building Legos.  
Andres Turrubiates,  
10

Dear Santa,  
I have been amazing this year you see. I always take care of my mom and sister. Lets not forget the dogs to! I can't wait to see you and all my gifts!  
Remington, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been nice for about a year. I hope you give Joy to all the Children around the World. I wish for is to a lot friends at my new school. Thank you Santa!  
Annantiyah Ojeda, 10 years old



## Hegar transfers excess revenue into rainy day, highway funds

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 25 announced the transfer of \$3.33 billion into the State Highway Fund and into the Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund.

Each fund received more than \$1.66 billion, or 50% of the total transfer. The transfer amounts are based on crude oil and natural gas production tax revenues in excess of 1987 collections. If either tax generates more revenue than the 1987 threshold, an amount equal to 75% of the excess is transferred, according to an agency news release.

In November 2014, voters approved a constitutional amendment allocating at least half of these severance taxes to the Rainy Day Fund, with the remainder going to the State Highway Fund for use on non-toll highway construction, maintenance and right-of-way acquisition.

### Patrick appoints committee

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick on Nov. 26 announced his appointment of a committee to review the history and procedures for the placement of art and other decor in the historic Texas Senate Chamber.

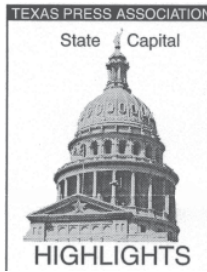
Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, will serve as chairman of the committee. Members appointed include Sens. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston; Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels; Borris Miles, D-Houston; Beverly Powell, D-Burleson; Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown; and Kirk Watson, D-Austin.

According to the State Preservation Board, the chamber's two brass chandeliers have been in place since 1890 and 15 historical Texas paintings were hung in the room before 1915. Also, a portrait of Stephen F. Austin by an unknown artist behind the lieutenant governor's desk dates from circa 1836, making it one of the oldest pieces in the Capitol.

In the announcement, Patrick mentioned that in 2015, he resumed the annual practice of placing a Christmas tree in the his-

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



toric chamber after many years with no tree.

Disaster funds: Plan set  
Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 21 announced the release of the state's action plan detailing the distribution and eligible uses of some \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds.

The funds, coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are to be used to assist Texas communities with mitigation projects, addressing risks within the areas impacted Hurricane Harvey and floods in 2015 and 2016.

"Hurricane Harvey was a storm of historic proportions with more than \$100 billion in property damage and immeasurable disruption to the lives of Texans," Bush said. "Many communities in Texas have faced repeated flooding...With this action plan, the General Land Office will prioritize large-scale projects to maximize available infrastructure funding to improve the resiliency of Texas homes, businesses and infrastructure from future storms."

### Grant to enhance Lifeline

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips, Texas Health and Human Services executive commissioner, on Nov. 26 announced the agency is receiving a two-year grant of more than \$3 million from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's State Capacity Building Initia-

tive.

The goal is to increase the state's capacity to provide free, confidential emotional support and services to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Grant funds will be used to assist Texas call centers in answering more calls from residents, reducing wait times and connecting them to local treatment facilities, support and nearby crisis or emergency service centers, Phillips said.

Health and Human Services plans to contract with four local mental health authorities to implement the grant in March 2020: The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, Integral Care (Travis County), MHMR of Tarrant County and Emergency Health Network in El Paso County.

### Antitrust claims resolved

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 25 announced that his office has reached a settlement with T-Mobile resolving the state's antitrust claims against the proposed merger of mobile wireless telecommunications service providers Sprint and T-Mobile.

According to an agency news release, the agreement is designed to prevent the New T-Mobile from increasing prices for wireless services on Texans for five years after the merger is complete.

Also, it commits the New T-Mobile to:

—Give all Texas customers access to T-Mobile limited data rate plans at a cost far below what is currently offered in the industry;

—Commit to provide 5G wireless broadband coverage to areas where most Texans live, including most Texans living in rural portions of the state within the next three years and to expand that 5G coverage dramatically within the next six years; and

—Offer Texas residents that are currently employed by Sprint and T-Mobile substantially similar employment with the New T-Mobile.

## Sales Tax Revenue \$3.2 Billion in November

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said that state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.18 billion in November, 6.2 percent more than in November 2018.

"November state sales tax growth was led by collections from the wholesale trade, construction and restaurant sectors, while collections from the oil and gas mining sector declined since last year," Hegar said. "Texas realized an increase in the state's sales tax revenue collections from remote sellers and online marketplace providers, pursuant to new collection requirements resulting from the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, Wayfair v. South Dakota, and passage of House Bill 1525 during the 86th Texas Legislature."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November 2019 was up 4.8 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

In November 2019, Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$422.3 million, up 4.2 percent from November 2018;

motor fuel taxes — \$327.3 million, up 5.1 percent from November 2018;

natural gas production taxes — \$119.6 million, down 33.1 percent from November 2018; and

oil production taxes — \$344.4 million, down 1.8 percent from November 2018.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch. For an extensive history of tax policy developments and fees since 1972, visit our updated Sources of Revenue publication.

## Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I can hear bells which means you are coming soon. I know Texas has no snow but you will still come. On Christmas Eve I plan to go to bed real early because in the Morning I will quickly open the Nintendo switch sitting under my tree.  
Anthony Vasquez, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been a good kid. I helped my mom with the table by cleaning it. I only have 2 wishes that are really important. My 2 wishes were that people around the world would never be sick or poor. My second wish is that my family would be safe.  
Briana Diaz, 9

\*\*\*

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Mei-Ing Hoffman.....Associate Publisher  
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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Texans, Titans meet in key AFC South battle: Cowboys look to get in swing of things against Rams

It's amazing what a victory over the defending Super Bowl champions can do for a team's confidence and standing in the AFC playoff pictures.

Two weeks ago, Bill O'Brien's team defeated New England on Sunday Night Football, 28-22, as O'Brien earned his first victory over Patriots head coach, and his former employer, Bill Belichick (O'Brien served as Belichick's quarterback coach for three years).

Quarterback DeShaun Watson was remarkable, throwing for three touchdowns and catching another from wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins on a bit of trickery from O'Brien.

That win improved the Texans to 8-4 on the season and left them a game ahead of the surprising Tennessee Titans in the AFC South. Houston hosted Denver last Sunday and assuming they won that game, they would head to Nashville on Sunday with at least that one game lead on the Titans on Sunday for a key divisional game.

While the Texans playoff chances are looking up, the same can't be said for the Dallas Cowboys. On Thanksgiving Day, Jason Garrett's (dead coach walking?) team lost at home to the Buffalo Bills, 26-15. The Cowboys failed in all three phases of the game as the offense could not generate yards or points after an opening drive that resulted in a touchdown. The defense was pushed all over the field by the Bills and kicker Brett Maher missed two very makeable field goals.

Football as those pesky Bills visit Pittsburgh. That game has been flexed by NBC into the prime time window.

Before we take a look at this weekend's NFL schedule, let's review last week's record. A 9-2 week upped the season record to 101-49 (67%).

Now, onto this week's games.

NFL Houston at Tennessee

Two of the hottest teams in the NFL hook up in Nashville on Sunday. As it has been stated before, the Texans ended years of frustration and misery at the hands of the Patriots with their 28-22 win two weeks ago on Sunday Night Football. Watson (3,133 yards, 23 TDs) had another stellar performance and Hopkins (86 receptions, 903 yards, 6 TDs) gave O'Brien another option in the passing game with his scoring toss to Watson on a trick play. Houston faces a Titans team that has turned its season around since inserting Ryan Tannehill (1,602 yards, 11 TDs) as the starting QB. The Titans are 5-1 with the former Aggie under center and with Derrick Henry (1,140 yards, 11 TDs) handling the rushing duties, the Titans are a handful to deal with on offense. They are pretty good on defense as well, but something tells me Watson is heating up for a big finish to the season. He will be the difference maker in this one as the Texans moves closer to defending their AFC South title. My pick, Houston 24, Tennessee 20

Seattle at Carolina

Speaking of guys who are pretty good at this quarterback thing, Russell Wilson (3,117 yards, 26 TDs) leads the Seahawks into Carolina to face a Panthers team that two weeks ago reached rock bottom with a 29-21 home loss to the Redskins. What makes matters worse is the fact the Panthers jumped out to an early

14-0 lead, but got conservative and let Washington back in the game. Panther running back Christian McCaffery (1,167 rushing yards, 12 TDs/75 receptions, 4 TDs) will be a handful for the Seattle defense, but so too will Wilson for the beleaguered Carolina defense. My pick, Seattle 27, Carolina 18

Philadelphia at Washington

Speaking of disappointing teams, the Eagles lost at then two-win Miami two weeks ago as the defense gave up 37 points to a team led by journeyman QB Ryan Fitzpatrick. But because the NFC East is so weak, the Eagles could still win the division by winning out. They host the Cowboys next week and have an easier schedule down the stretch than do the Cowboys. Carson Wentz (2,840 yards, 20 TDs) and tight end Zach Ertz (70 receptions, 736 yards, 3 TDs) should have a big day against a porous Washington defense, but I expect the Redskins to give the Eagles a game. They picked up a lot of momentum in their win at Carolina but Philly knows it can't afford any more slip ups from here on out. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Washington 20

Minnesota at Los Angeles

Chargers - Two weeks ago, the Vikings made a valiant comeback at Seattle, but fell 37-30. I don't expect them to have much trouble this week against a Chargers team that has pretty much mailed it in for the rest of the season. Two weeks ago, Los Angeles allowed Denver to drive for the winning field goal with just eight seconds left in the game

thanks to a long pass interference call against its defense. Look for Kirk Cousins (3,032 yards, 23 TDs) and running back Dalvin Cook (1,046 yards, 12 TDs) to have big days as the Vikings cruise on Sunny Southern California on Sunday. My pick, Minnesota 31, Los Angeles Chargers 17

Los Angeles Rams at Dallas

The Cowboys are in badly need of a win. Losers of three of their last four games heading into last Thursday's game at Chicago, Dallas needs a spark on both sides of the ball if they hope to win a second straight NFC East title. The good news for Dallas is the division is weak. I mean, for gosh sakes, the Eagles lost at Miami two weeks ago, but then again, the Cowboys lost at home to the Bills. The Rams arrive knowing they must win out to even have a sniff of a shot of a Wild Card spot, but have been playing better lately thanks to quarterback Jared Goff (3,419 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Cooper Kupp (73 receptions, 945 yards 6 TDs) and Robert Woods (64 receptions, 835 yards). The Dallas offense needs to step and that begins with quarterback Dak Prescott (3,788 yards, 23 TDs), running back Ezekiel Elliott (990 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Amari Cooper (64 receptions, 971 yards, 7 TDs). This is a must-win for Dallas heading into next week's game at Philadelphia that could decide the NFC East title. My pick, Dallas 31, Los Angeles Rams 28

Chicago at Green Bay - The Packers host the Bears on what should be a rather brisk day at Lambeau Field. The Packers are rolling and would like nothing more than to sweep the series against their most hated rivals. Chicago struggled for most of the season, but has played better of late and would like nothing more than to upset the Packers on their home field. Two weeks ago in the snow in New Jersey, Aaron Rodgers (3,065 yards, 22 TDs) threw four touchdowns in a route of the Giants. Look for Rodgers to have another big day as running back Aaron Jones (645 yards, 11 TDs), wide receiver Davante Adams (52 receptions, 644 yards, 6 TDs) and the rest of the Packers offense puts all to the Bears' playoff hopes. My pick, Green Bay 26, Chicago 16

Denver at Kansas City

Two weeks ago, the Broncos picked up a hard-earned, last-second win over the Chargers behind rookie quarterback Drew Lock, but this week they face a Chiefs team that is building momentum heading into the playoffs. Two weeks ago, KC routed Oakland 40-9 as the defense played one of its best games of the season. Actually, the Chiefs have played much better on defense after struggling on that side of the ball for most of the season. That might be bad news for the rest of the AFC. If the defense keeps playing well, teams are going to have their hands full with an offense that is led by Patrick Mahomes (2,983 yards, 20 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (68 receptions, 923 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Tyreek Hill (38 receptions, 598 yards, 5 TDs). The Chiefs roll as they close in on the AFC West title. My pick, Kansas City 34, Denver 17

Buffalo at Pittsburgh

A good one for Sunday Night Football pits the surprising Bills against the even more surprising

Steelers. On Thanksgiving Day, Buffalo dominated the Cowboys in Arlington and looked very much like a team that could make a run in the AFC playoffs. Quarterback Josh Allen (2,591 yards, 16 TDs) made plays in the air and on the grounds, while wide receiver John Brown (61 receptions, 882 yards, 5 TDs) made plays with his legs and his arm as he threw a touchdown pass. The Steelers have been sparked by third-team quarterback Delvin "Duck" Hodges (530 yards, 3 TDs in two stats) and emerging star wide receiver James Washington (30 receptions, 578 yards, 3 TDs) and a stifling defense that has been a turnover machine all season. Look for the Steeler "D" to harass Allen early and often as the Steelers win another one to keep their Wild Card playoff hopes alive. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Buffalo 20

Indianapolis at New Orleans

The Colts travel to New Orleans for a Monday night encounter with a Saints team that is in contention for the top seed in the NFC. Don't expect Drew Brees (1,791 yards, 12 TD), Alvin Kamara (587 yards rushing, 1 TD/64 receptions, 44 yards, 1 TD), Michael Thomas (110 receptions, 1,290 yards, 6 TDs) and the rest of the potent Saints offense to let up against a Colts team that is playing out the string. My pick, New Orleans 33, Indianapolis 16

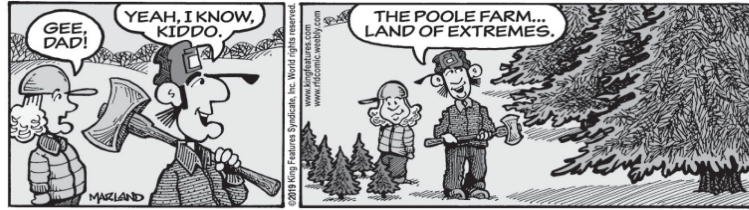


Posting Date December 9, 2019

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. Includes difficulty level 'Moderate' and 'Challenging'.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man and a woman looking at a picture. Includes a list of differences between the panels.

King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a list of answers at the bottom.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. THEATER: "West Side Story" was inspired by which earlier play?
2. MUSIC: What is the real name of songwriter/rapper Lizzo?
3. SCIENCE: How many people total have walked on the moon?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Under whose administration did Spiro T. Agnew serve as vice president?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
6. ARCHITECTURE: In what decade was the Empire State Building completed?
7. ADVERTISING: What was the name of Honey Nut Cheerios' mascot?
8. U.S. STATES: What is the least populous state in America?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of Dick and Jane's dog in reading books used in schools in the mid-20th century?
10. INVENTIONS: Who is credited for inventing the modern lockstitch sewing machine?

Answers: 1. Romeo and Juliet; 2. Melissa Viviane Jefferson; 3. 12; 4. Richard Nixon; 5. Santiago; 6. 1930s; 7. BuzzBeck; 8. Wyoming; 9. Spot; 10. Elias Howe

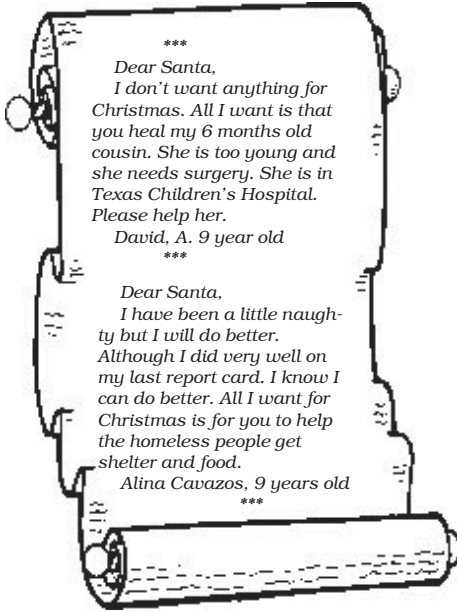
# LETTERS TO SANTA

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
You are one of the greatest people in the world and I try to be one of the goodest kids I can. For all The girls and boys who try to be nice do it everybody then you will be on the nice list. Thank you santa for all your doing around the world.  
Christy Reaux, 10 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been a wonderful kid this year. I know your thinking I want a gift but... No! All I want is for all these naughty kids to be looking at the bright side. I wish that they all look up to themselves but be their best.  
Ilda Buenrestre, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know you are busy making toys so I will be fast. I want you to not forget the kids with cancer. I know they want toys too. Also, I want a real puppy and please get my whole family a Merry Christmas.  
Sofia Narvaez, 10 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been trying to help my family and friends as much as I can. Also, I wish that kids all over the world are healed and get what they want in life. Love, Aspen and thank you Santa!  
Aspen Sanford, 9 years old



\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been good all year I've gotten good grades and I know That you have been watching me. I know I've been a little bad but I want you To bless the people in need. I would like a phone. Thank you.  
Israel Marin, 9 year old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been a little naughty but I help my family, I help my brother cur the grass. I help my sister clean her room and what I do is clean the house can I please have a ps4?  
Adrian G., 10 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know I've been bad but it is okay sometimes. All I want for Christmas is that you give my sisters brother mom and my dad what they want. I know they deserve it more than me.  
Elias Valadez, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been a excellent student. I have been helping other people. But what I'm gonna tell you is not for me it's for all the homeless people. They are on the street cold with very little to eat or clothes to wear. So please Santa help them.  
Daniela Vallejo, 9 years old

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—

- 1. Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi
3. With two different biblical answers, who was the father of Joseph? Jacob/Heli, Gideon/Ishmael, Solomon/Nahum, Samuel/Pilate

- 4. Which Old Testament prophet predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum
5. For the journey to Bethlehem how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Cart, Rode donkey, Small raft
6. Which of these wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Nazareth; 3) Jacob/Heli; 4) Micah; 5) Bible not specific; 6) Silver

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There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might... ISAIAH 11: 1, 2

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## Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know I have been little bad but I was good too. I hope you can bring joy and happiness to all the kids in the world. Plus, I hope you bless everyone with a good Christmas. Thank you Santa!  
Jasmine Brown-Lopez, 10 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been kinda of a good boy but I have made up for it. I always help my mom whatever she needs help with. Santa, I wish for an iPhone but most importantly I want my dad to come back to me. Merry Christmas Santa.  
Gabriel Vidaurri, 10 years old



Dear Santa,  
I am not always good at school or home. Please tell all the boys and girls around the world Merry Christmas. Also, can you make me a special toy.  
Jesses S., 10 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
You know I have been good this year. For Christmas I want a PS4. I pray that Jesus helps the poor people that have very little stuff. Thank you Santa!  
Luis Cristimo, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope that I'm on the nice list and not the naughty list, I've been helping people and caring for others as well, for Christmas I just a iPhone and I really really hope that you can tell God that if he can protect every one that would be awesome. Love DD  
Destiny Espino, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Do you think I'm good? Over the past year I took care of my mom and my family. I hope you bring me doll life dream doll for Christmas

I hope I am on you list.  
Love Leeann Zamora.  
Leeann Zamora, 10 years old



\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have some good news! I am a good boy at school. Every time I get home I rush to do my homework no matter what. Also, I love my

mom and I listen to her. All I want for Christmas is a PS4 game. Thank you.  
Andrew Alvarado, 10 years old

## Police investigate shooting on Aldine Westfield

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man at 9600 Aldine Westfield Road about 10:50 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019.


The victim, Jerome Ratcliff, 34, sustained a gunshot wound to the face and was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to officers, responded to a shooting call at 9501 Jenson Drive where they found Mr. Ratcliff with a gunshot wound. Officers learned Ratcliff was in a vehicle at 9600 Aldine Westfield when another vehicle pulled up next to him. A suspect(s) in the other vehicle started firing shots at Ratcliff and then fled the scene.

There was another unidentified male with Ratcliff at the time of the shooting, but the male left before officers arrived. Detectives would like to speak with that male.

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.

# RUN-OFF ELECTION




**"FIGHTING FOR YOU!"**


## MICHAEL KUBOSH

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE 3


### KUBOSH IN THE COMMUNITY!



KUBOSH AND MARTIN LUTHER KING III



KUBOSH TAKES CUNEO HOMES KIDS TO THE UNIVERSAL SOUL CIRCUS



KUBOSH AND MAYOR LEE P. BROWN

**EARLY VOTE: NOV. 27th and DEC. 2 - 10th**

**ELECTION DAY: DEC. 14, 2019**

## New Bus Service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ridership levels are high enough, Harris County Transit Services will request more funding to continue the routes beyond the three years.

Harris County Transit bus routes have served the East Harris County Community since 2008 with the launching of routes in Baytown, a service that now includes La Porte, McNair Barrett Station, Crosby and the Highlands because they are outside the Metro service area. The proposed new routes will expand Harris County Transit by an estimated 50 percent.

Project Partners are Harris County Transit Services, Harris County Precinct 1, Harris County Precinct 2, Harris County Community Services Department, Metro Transit and METRO.



Harris County Transit and METRO have partnered together to provide Services in Channelview, Cloverleaf & Sheldon!

¡Harris County Transit y METRO se han asociado para proporcionar servicios en Channelview, Cloverleaf y Sheldon!

**New service in your area will begin on December 2, 2019!**  
**Complimentary rides will be provided until January 31, 2020!**

**¡El servicio nuevo en su área comenzará el 2 de diciembre de 2019!**  
**¡Se proporcionarán viajes de cortesía hasta el 31 de enero de 2020!**



HarrisCountyTransit.com @HarrisCountyTra transit@hctx.net facebook.com/harriscountyttransit

If you are hearing or visually impaired and need special accommodations, please contact Harris County Transit @ (832) 927-4950. Visit our website @ www.harriscountyttransit.com  
Si usted es oyente o discapacitado visual y necesita adaptaciones especiales, por favor contacte a Harris County Transit al (832) 927-4950. Visita nuestro sitio web @ www.harriscountyttransit.com



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

• UTILITIES & APPLIANCES FURNISHED  
**ELIGIBILITY:**

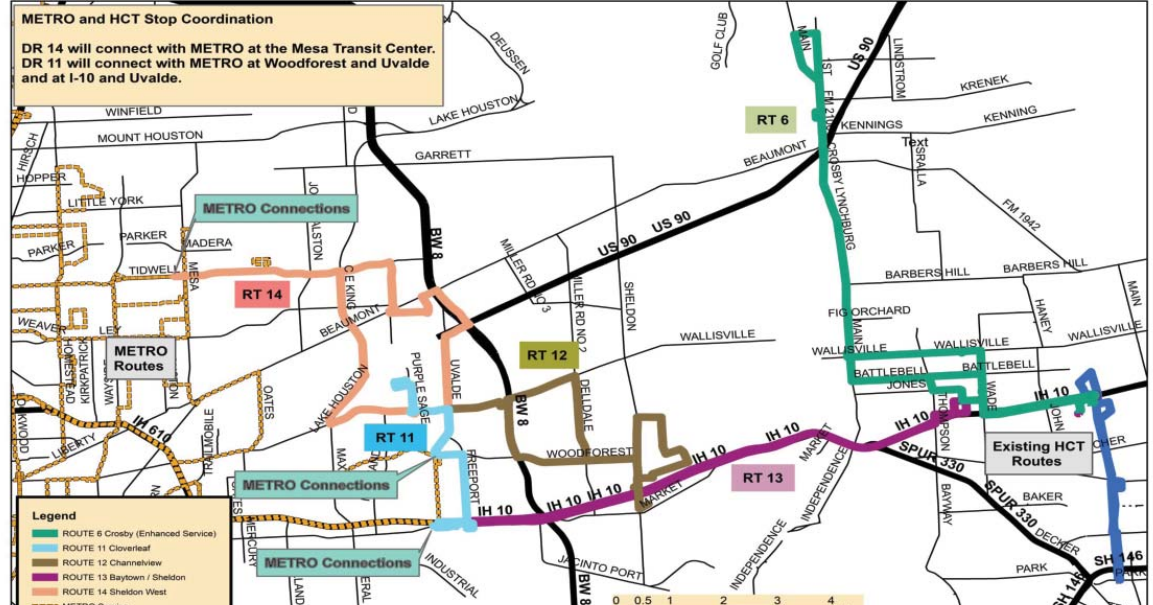
- Age 62 or older
- Physically Disabled
- Very Low Income

To schedule an appointment  
CALL  
**713-692-8541**

APPLY TO:  
**W. Leo Daniels Tower**  
**8826 Harrell**  
Off Jensen between  
Berry Road & Aldine  
Westfield

HARRIS COUNTY CSD OFFICE OF TRANSIT SERVICES  
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ROUTES with  
METRO and HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT CONNECTIONS



**Legend**

- ROUTE 6 Crosby (Enhanced Service)
- ROUTE 11 Cloverleaf
- ROUTE 12 Channelview
- ROUTE 13 Baytown / Sheldon
- ROUTE 14 Sheldon West
- METRO Service