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Houston City Council may move to block 'robot brothel' from opening near Galleria



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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## Houston scientist Jim Allison awarded Nobel Prize

By Todd Ackerman

Houston scientist Jim Allison was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Medicine Monday for his pioneering research that has led to a new type of cancer treatment that frees the immune system to attack tumors.

Allison, MD Anderson Cancer Center's chairman of immunology, conducted research that's led to a class of drugs that unleash immune system brakes. The research realized the tantalizing promise of immunotherapy, which is now taking its place alongside surgery, radiation and chemotherapy as a prime weapon against cancer.

Allison shared the prize with Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University in Japan who also conducted research on immune system brakes. "Allison and Honjo showed how different strategies for inhibiting the brakes on the immune system can be used in the treatment of cancer," says the Nobel press release. "The seminal discoveries by the two Laureates constitute a landmark in our fight against cancer."

Allison showed a recently discovered protein known as CTLA-4 acts as a brake, then developed a drug to release it. Honjo discovered PD-1, another protein expressed on the surface of T-cells.

"I'm honored and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition," Allison said in a statement released by the university's MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "A driving motivation for scientists is simply to push the frontiers of knowledge. I didn't set out to study cancer, but to understand the biology of T cells, these incredible cells that travel our bodies and work to protect us," he said.

At the time of Allison's discovery, most scientists thought CTLA-4 activated T cells, the foot soldiers of the immune system. The drugs developed by Allison and others belong to a class known as checkpoint inhibitors. In some patients, they have produced lasting benefits in advanced cancers considered incurable, particularly in such diseases as lung cancer and melanoma. Scientists around the world are experimenting with different combinations of immunotherapy and other treatment in a bid to extend the benefits to more patients.

Allison started his career at MD Anderson in 1977, one of the first



Houston scientist Jim Allison on Monday was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery that led to a treatment that frees the immune system to attack cancer. Allison shared the prize with Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University in Japan who also conducted research on immune system brakes.

employees of a new basic science research center located in Smithville. He was recruited back to MD Anderson in November 2012. "Jim Allison's accomplishments on behalf of patients cannot be overstated," said MD Anderson President Peter WT Pisters, M.D. "His research has led to life-saving treatments for people who otherwise would have little hope. The significance of immunotherapy as a form of cancer treatment will be felt for generations to come." This marks only the fifth time a Nobel has recognized cancer research, following previous awards in 1966, 1975, 1989 and 2008. Discoveries about

the immune system were award Nobel prizes in 2008 and 2011. Previous Houston Nobel winners include Richard Smalley and Robert Curl of Rice University; Ferid Murad of the University of the Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the Houston Methodist Research Institute; and Roger Guillemin of Baylor College of Medicine. Allison in 2015 won the Lasker Award, which is often called the American Nobel. He has been awarded dozens of other prizes. Allison will be honored at Nobel ceremonies in Stockholm in December.

## Trump says FBI has free rein on interviews in Kavanaugh probe

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Monday he has given the FBI free rein to interview any witnesses it deems necessary for a comprehensive investigation of sexual misconduct allegations against Brett Kavanaugh, his U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

But Trump, speaking three days after he ordered an investigation lasting no more than a week, said he does not want the probe to become a "witch hunt" and he wants it completed quickly.

The FBI will be guided by what Senate Republicans want examined, added Trump, who ordered the investigation after Senate Republican leaders were pressed by Senator Jeff Flake and other moderates in Trump's own party.

"I want them to do a very comprehensive investigation. Whatever that means, according to the senators and the Republicans and the Republican majority, I want them to do that," Trump said at a White House news conference.

Christine Blasey Ford, a university professor from California, testified before the Senate

Judiciary Committee last Thursday that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in 1982 when both were high school students in Maryland. Kavanaugh denied her allegation, as well as accusations made by two other women, and accused Democrats of a political "hit."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the chamber will vote this week on Kavanaugh, a conservative federal appeals court judge. A spokesman for McConnell declined to clarify whether McConnell was referring to procedural votes or a final vote on whether to confirm Kavanaugh.

Trump said he instructed White House counsel Don McGahn over the weekend to give the FBI a free hand to interview whatever witnesses the agency considers necessary.

"I think the FBI should interview anybody that they want, within reason," Trump added, including all three accusers as well as Kavanaugh himself.

"We don't want to go on a witch hunt, do we?" Trump asked, mentioning a term he has used in the past to denigrate Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russia's role in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.



U.S. Senator Flake votes yes as members of U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee meet to vote on Kavanaugh Supreme Court nomination on Capitol Hill in Washington

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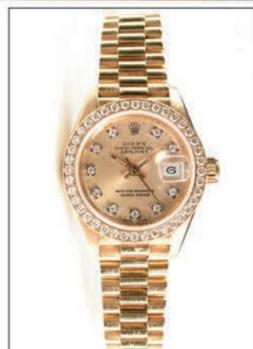
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# Houston City Council may move to block 'robot brothel' from opening near Galleria

Mayor Sylvester Turner will ask the City Council this week to change Houston's rules on sexually oriented businesses, a change that could prevent a proposed "robot brothel" from opening near the Galleria.

Toronto-based KinkyDolls had announced plans to open a Houston branch where "adult love dolls" constructed of synthetic skin and highly articulated skeletons would be available "to rent before you buy."

City inspectors, however, have stopped work at the company's chosen storefront at Richmond and Chimney Rock, saying a renovation job had begun there without the proper permits in place.

If the council agrees to bring such a shop under its sexually oriented business regulations this week, the business may be prevented from opening at that location entirely.

Traditional sexually oriented businesses like strip clubs long have been prevented from operating within 1,500 feet of churches, schools, day cares, parks and residential neighborhoods -- and city-owned Anderson Park is just a few hundred feet from KinkyDolls' proposed store-

front.

The portion of the ordinance Turner wants to revise addresses "adult arcades," where customers view adult content using an "arcade device."

The council would amend the definition of an "arcade device" to include not just machines displaying video but also "anthropomorphic devices or objects," and would prohibit "entertainment with one or more persons using an arcade device on the premises."

In short, the business could sell the dolls at its proposed location -- such models reportedly sell for about \$4,000 -- but repeated-use rentals would be banned.

"This is not the kind of business I would like to see in Houston, and certainly this is not the kind of business the city is seeking to attract," Turner said last week.



Doll from Real Love Sex Dolls, one of the largest sellers of ultra-realistic dolls in the U.S. located in Austin, Texas.

# Houston couple gets first Verizon 5G broadband installation in the U.S.

With a video crew documenting every step, a Houston couple became the earliest adopters of next-generation 5G wireless technology as Verizon's residential broadband service was being installed at their Heights home Monday.

In doing so, they were the first people to get 5G service, both in Houston and nationally.

Clayton and Emily Harris had signed up for a 9 a.m.

Monday installation time, and were the first to apply for the new service in Houston, one of four cities in which Verizon is launching its 5G initiative. They were almost beaten to the punch by a customer in Indianapolis, but that person had to reschedule the installation, making the Harrises pioneers of a sort.

But their reason for wanting to sign up was not quite so lofty.

"I was tired of Comcast bill creep," said Clayton Harris,

who is a mechanical engineer. "And I wanted better speeds."

5G is the latest version of wireless data access, the successor to the familiar LTE data service offered by the major U.S. cellular carriers. Speeds for 5G can rival those of wired services, so wireless telephone companies such as Verizon are using it as a way to expand their markets. The flavor of 5G that Verizon is using can offer speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, though the company is promising only 300 megabits. An engineer working on the installation at the Harris home said the signal was good enough that the couple should be able to get gigabit speeds.

Both Comcast and AT&T offer gigabit-speed services.

Clayton Harris said he is paying \$120 a month for 150-Mbps service from Comcast, which he will keep for now as a backup until he's confident in Verizon's reliability.



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# Editor's Choice



Oct 1, 2018; Chicago, IL, USA; Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Eric Thames (7) celebrates after defeating the Chicago Cubs in the National League Central division tiebreaker game at Wrigley Field. Mandatory Credit: Patrick Gorski-USA TODAY Sports



Christine Blasey Ford testifies during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh



FILE PHOTO: A student dressed as a plastic bag monster holds up a placard as he stands next to the art installation "A Bangkok Minute" made of plastic bags during an event organized by UNEP at a department store in central Bangkok



Weston Thelen, a research geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey, remotely monitors volcanic activity on Hawaii's Kilauea from the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. July 16, 2018. Thomson Reuters Foundation/Gregory Scruggs



Vanita Gupta talks with actor Alyssa Milano in the hearing room before a start of Christine Blasey Ford's appearance during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court of th



President Trump boards Air Force One for travel to Tennessee from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland



FILE PHOTO: Signage for Premier Inn is seen on the outside of one of their hotels in London, Britain



Nick Fraser carries a cross, representing his father Brian Scott Fraser, one of the 58 victims of the October 1, 2017 mass shooting, during the one-year anniversary of the October 1 mass shooting in Las Vegas

SUVA, Sept. 23 (Xinhua) -- The Chinese community in Fiji celebrated on Sunday the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 69th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China with the participation of Fijian president, members of the local Chinese community and representatives of the Chinese enterprises.

During a grand opening ceremony with a traditional lion dance, Fijian President Jioji Konrote said he is very happy to join the Chinese community in Fiji in celebrating the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival and the National Day.

"Thank you for kindly inviting me to join you in celebrating this important Chinese Cultural Holiday and the commemoration of the 69th Anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China," the president said.



Photo taken on Sept. 23, 2018 shows the performance during the celebration in Suva, Fiji. The Chinese community in Fiji celebrated on Sunday the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 69th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China with the participation of Fijian president, members of the local Chinese community and representatives of the Chinese enterprises. (Photo/Xinhua)

"On behalf of the Fijian government and all Fijians residing in Fiji and abroad, I congratulate the government and people of China on this historical and milestone achievement."

Konrote said praised Fiji's Chinese community for their "impressive, important and commendable contribution" to Fiji's global status as a truly democratic, peaceful and progressive developing nation.

## Chinese Community In Fiji Celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival And National Day

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Fijian President Jioji Konrote addresses on the celebration in Suva, Fiji, on Sept. 23, 2018. The Chinese community in Fiji celebrated on Sunday the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 69th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China with the participation of Fijian president, members of the local Chinese community and representatives of the Chinese enterprises. (Photo/Xinhua)

"In fact, the collective contribution of the Chinese community to Fiji's overall national development has been remarkably significant and although only consisting of about 4.5 percent of Fiji's total population of about 900,000," he said.

Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo said that the Chinese community is a firm supporter of China-Fiji friendship, playing an active role in promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and two peoples.

"I believe with active participation of the Chinese community and joint efforts by the people of different walks of life in both countries, we will be able to yield more fruitful results from our exchanges and cooperation, and achieve greater progress for our bilateral relations," he said.

Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo presents assistance to Fiji PM Bainimaram.



The ambassador also hoped that both Fiji and China can work together to size the great opportunity brought by the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative to strengthen mutual trust, promote cooperation, expand exchanges and add more dimensions to the China-Fiji strategic partnership, so as to push China-Fiji relationship to a new level.

brate National Day of China together with the Mid-Autumn Festival which will fall on Monday.

During the celebrations, performances from both the local Chinese Community and the China Cultural Center, including Chinese traditional dance and shadow (Taiji) boxing, also entertained the participants. (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english>)

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