

NORTHEAST NEWS

New chamber for Chamber



The Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce has moved to 550 Greens Parkway, Suite 230 in Northeast Houston.

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years
VOL. 41, NO. 05 TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

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NEWS NOTES

Mercer Botanic Gardens gets Security Upgrade

Mercer Botanic Gardens now has the ability to monitor its parking lot in real-time thanks to a security camera upgrade. Staff will be able to monitor the parking lot remotely from two locations and review high quality footage. The new cameras are part of Commissioner R. Jack Cagle's mission to keep Precinct 4 parks safe. Last year, Commissioner Cagle worked closely with Precinct 4 Constable Mark Herman to restore the parks patrol division to its pre-economic downturn level. Now, 24 deputies patrol Precinct 4 parks around the clock. "My staff and I want to take a proactive approach to safety in Precinct 4 parks," said Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. "We're hoping the new cameras and additional officers eliminate any concerns residents have about visiting Mercer." The new cameras replace unmonitored, motion-activated cameras that had to be serviced weekly by Mercer staff. "This technology greatly enhances our ability to provide a safe environment for garden visitors," said Mercer Director Darrin Duling. "If a criminal does strike, we'll be aware of it instantly." Mercer Botanic Gardens is located one mile north of FM 1960 at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road in Humble, 77338. For more information, please call 713-274-4160.

North Houston Day/Austin Trip

Join the HICC for the 2017 "North Houston Day" Trip to Austin, Monday, Feb. 27-Tuesday, Feb. 28. Cost: \$25 Day Trip Only (Feb. 28, 2017), \$125 both days, includes dinner at Carmelo's. Call 281-408-0866 for more details.

North Houston District Recognizes Community Champions

HOUSTON - The North Houston District recently celebrated community and corporate partners who contribute to the area's growth and success. North Houston District President Greg Simpson highlighted the importance of the honorees by saying, "Our ability to continue building this community is closely tied to our partnerships and volunteers." Melody Douglas, vice president of Finance & Administration for Morganti and vice-chair of the District's board, joined Simpson in awarding outstanding community servants for 2016.



Community Spirit award winner Aldine ISD. From left: District Vice President of Strategic Planning & Development Robert Fiederlein, Aldine ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg, District President Greg Simpson.

Hardy Properties at Intercontinental was recognized as Company of the

Year for its substantial investment in a 34-building business park along West Hardy near the San Houston Parkway. Improvements at their business park changed the landscape of the District in that area.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office took home the award as Partner of the Year for the commitment and dedication of the Harris County Task Force. Launched in March of 2016, the Task Force has contributed to an overall reduction in crime. Furthermore, their efforts to build relationships with

See Community Champions, Page 8

Governor Abbott releases 2018-19 Budget that fully funds key priorities within available revenue

AUSTIN - Coinciding with his State of the State address, Governor Greg Abbott today released his budget for the 2018-19 biennium. The Governor's budget ensures Texas will live within its means while fully funding key priorities without raising taxes or debt, and without looting

the Rainy Day Fund. The budget released by the Governor builds on the successes of the 84th Legislature and looks to the future by strategically investing in priorities that protect the safety and security of Texans, furthers educational advancement of our future workforce,

and empowers the private sector to create jobs, while also defending individual liberties and guarding against government overreach.

"This upcoming biennium will be a time for addressing essential needs and eliminating the non-essential wants," said Gov-

ernor Abbott. "That is why my budget proposal ensures that state government lives within its means while maintaining funding for important, but limited priorities. Fostering a climate of fiscal responsibility, low taxes, reasonable regulation, and

limited government will enable Texas to remain the envy of the nation and encourage private sector investment, expansion, and innovation."

See Budget, Page 2

Aldine Family Hope Center teens graduate

The Buckner Aldine Family Hope Center graduated 13 students from their Fall 2016 "Empower 2 Employ" Teen Program. They completed their semester-long paid internship, covering 8 topics, including courses in Career Exploration, Marketing, Customer Service, and Financial Literacy. The internship culminated with each student creating a resume and participating in a mock interview.

These students learned important skills to support their future educational and vocational goals. The majority of the graduates are students at area schools and attend the program after school and during the summer months.

Thank you to everyone



The graduates were Ana Alcaraz, Scarlett Baeza, Juliet Duran, Manuel Galvan, Stephanie Herrera, Ana Martinez, Mayra Lizet Paras, Billy Ramey, Ricky Ramey, Jorge Rendon, Luis Reynoso, Esmeralda Rodriguez, Breanna Thomas.

who supported the Teen Program, including East Aldine District, Neighborhood Centers, Lone Star College North Harris, Wood Forest Bank, Hilton Houston North Hotel, Better Business Bureau of Houston, Pilgrims Place Residential Care, Adam McKinney, Percy Kennedy, all staff at the Aldine Family Hope Center, and Mrs. Sylvia Bolting.

If any teens are interested in registering for this program which is held after school and during the summer, please contact Wesley Bumpus or Chandra Dean-Teen Life Skills Trainers at 281-987-8700 or come by the Center. For information on all of the other programs and services offered at the Center, call 281-449-4828.

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Capt. Mike Richmond-District 11

SCHOOL NEWS

Hall of Famer Warren Moon addresses AISD student-athletes

Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon returned to the place where his NFL career started when he addressed more than 100 Aldine ISD student-athletes on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Moon's NFL career began in Houston in 1984 when the Houston Oilers signed him to as a free agent after playing in the Canadian Football League, where he led the Edmonton Eskimos to five straight Grey Cup championships.

Moon's visit to Aldine was sponsored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Extreme Sports. The event was streamed live across the country via the Internet.

Moon played for the Oilers from 1984-93 and led them to six straight playoff appearances. After leaving Houston, Moon also played for the Minnesota Vikings, the Seattle Seahawks and Kansas City Chiefs.

During his 17-years in the NFL, he completed 3,988 passes for 49,325 yards and 291 touchdowns. If you factor in his CFL stats, Moon passed for 70,533 yards and 435 yards.

Moon was raised in Los Angeles. When he was seven-years-old, his father Harold passed away, leaving his mother to raise him and his six sisters alone. Moon said he was driven to reach the NFL so he could pay back his mother for the sacrifices she made to raise him and his sisters.

"My goal was to succeed so I could take care of my mother," Moon said. "She's definitely my hero."

Moon played collegiately at the University of Washington where he led the Huskies to a victory over Michigan in the 1978 Rose Bowl.

He knew he could play quarterback in the NFL, but he was not drafted or signed as a free agent coming out of college, so he went to the CFL where he



Davis High School senior Kalina Taylor interviewed Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon after Moon addressed a group of Aldine ISD student-athletes at Davis High School on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Moon shared information concerning his 17-year career in the NFL with the student-athletes. Moon's appearance was sponsored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Extreme Sports.

proved he could play quarterback at the professional level.

"Football has been invaluable to me," Moon said. "I put in the work and proved I could play the position. I appreciate the Oilers for giving me the opportunity to play in the NFL and I think we did some good things for the city."

When asked what he learned from playing football, Moon said it was all about teamwork.

"Football is the ultimate team sport," he said. "I learned a lot about hard work and setting goals and how to deal with low times. We had some good teams when I was with the Oilers, but we just did not get the job done to get to the Super Bowl."

Moon reminded the student-athletes that only 0.1 percent of college football players make it to the NFL, so he suggested the young people in the audience should think about setting life-long goals.

"Find what you are passionate about," Moon said. "Find out what it is you want to do and keep setting your

goals high."

Today, Moon is the color analyst for the Seattle Seahawks radio crew. While he never won the Super Bowl ring with the Oilers or the other three teams he played for, he did receive one when the Seahawks defeated Denver in Super Bowl XLVIII.

During Moon's stellar career, he received many honors. In 1989, he was named the Walter Payton Man of the Year and in 1990 he was named the NFL MVP and the Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year. He was named to the Pro Bowl nine times and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006.

"I'm one of only 303 Hall of Famers, so that's pretty special," Moon said. "Long after I'm gone, my bust will still be in the Hall of Fame."

Mike Myers, the Youth Education Manager for the Hall of Fame served as the moderator for the event. AISD student-athletes also asked questions and Moon was introduced by AISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson.

Honor Choir performs at Aldine Senior High



Mendel Elementary School Honor Choir performed at Aldine Senior High recently.

LSC-North Harris hosts month-long series of events to celebrate Black History Month

HOUSTON (February 1, 2017) — Each February, Lone Star College-North Harris recognizes Black History Month by hosting various cultural and educational events that highlight the important achievements of African-Americans in U.S. history. These events are free and open for the community to attend.

Mark your calendar today and remember to stop by to hear from a variety of guest speakers, authors, musicians and more!

- Tuesday, February 7
A West African Drum Circle, 11:00 a.m. LSC-Victory Center, Room 102
- Thursday, February 9
Why Your Vote Matters: A Brief History on Voting in America Presented by J.R. Wilson, Noon, LSC-North Harris, Community Education Building, CE-101
- Monday, February 13
Black Men in Educa-

tion Presented by Dr. Hilton LaSalle, 11:00 a.m., LSC-Greenspoint Center, Room 106

- Wednesday, February 15
Speak Truth to Power: The Story of Charles Patrick, A Civil Rights Pioneer Presented by author Mignette Dorsey, 2:30 p.m., LSC-North Harris, Library GroupSpot, Third Floor
- Thursday, February 23
Women of Color Panel: The Impact of an Advanced Degree Presented by Amber Moore, Sandra Velazquez, Terrance Overshown and Lashun Griffin, Noon, LSC-North Harris, Student Services Building, SB-204

For more information, visit LoneStar.edu/BlackHistoryMonth.

Lone Star College-North Harris is located at 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive, one-half mile south of FM 1960 East, between Aldine-Westfield and Hardy Roads. For more information about the college, call 281.618.5400 or visit LoneStar.edu/NorthHarris.

LSC-North Harris, Academic Building, A-126

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Investigation into man found dead on Tidwell

Houston police are awaiting autopsy results in the death of a male found at 3300 Tidwell about 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, February 2.

The male's identity and cause of death are pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

HPD Homicide Division Officers D. Stark and G. Sullivan reported: HPD patrol officers responded to the Tidwell Inn

at the about address and were told by the cleaning crew they found a male in a state of decomposition inside a room. There were no signs of forced entry to the room.

At this time, there are no known witnesses.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Budget,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Highlights Of The Governor's Budget:

- Adds \$500 million for reforming Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Maintains \$800 million in funding for border security
- Fully funds \$5 billion in additional road construction without new taxes, fees, debt, or tolls
- Fully funds optional, high-quality PreK programs
- Fully funds job cre-

ation programs like the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF)

- Fully funds the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI)
- Fully funds disaster-relief programs
- Cuts taxes on employers (franchise tax) by another \$250 million
- Maintains funding for development grants that support Texas military bases

PREMIERE CINEMAS

<p>2D - A DOG'S PURPOSE (PG) 11:00 2:00 4:30 7:25 9:55</p> <p>2D - GOLD (R) 9:00</p> <p>* LA LA LAND (PG-13) 12:35 3:35 6:35 9:35</p> <p>* MOONLIGHT (R) 12:00 2:40 5:20 8:00</p> <p>2D - PASSENGERS (PG-13) 12:05</p> <p>* 2D - RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER (R) 12:20 6:20</p> <p>* 3D - RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER (R) 3:20 9:20</p> <p>* RINGS (PG-13) 11:40a 2:15 4:40 7:15 9:45</p> <p>SPLIT (PG-13) 12:30 3:25 6:25 9:20</p> <p>2D - XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE (PG-13) 1:00 7:00</p> <p>* 3D - XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE (PG-13) 4:00 10:00</p> <p>2D - esp XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE (PG-13) 2:30 6:30</p> <p>* 3D - esp XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE (PG-13) 3:30 9:30</p> <p>2D - SING (PG) 12:45 3:30 6:15</p> <p>SLEEPLESS (R) 4:45 5:00 7:20 9:40</p> <p>2D - MONSTER TRUCKS (PG) 1:45a 4:45</p> <p>* 3D - MONSTER TRUCKS (PG) 2:15 7:25</p> <p>HIDDEN FIGURES (PG-13) 1:15 4:10 7:10 10:00</p> <p>* 2D - FENCES (PG-13) 9:50</p> <p>THE BYE BYE MAN (PG-13) 11:50a 2:25 4:50 7:20 9:40</p> <p>* THE SPACE BETWEEN US (PG-13) 12:10 3:10 6:10 9:10</p> <p>* UN PADRE NO TAN PADRE (PG-13) 12:00 2:40 5:20 7:40 10:00</p>	<p>Digital Surround Sound All Stadium Seating Plush Hi-Back Seats Advanced Internet Ticketing Available</p> <p>FRI-WED 2/3-2/8 *Call for updates</p> <p>Times Subject to Change Weekly. Call the Theater to Verify Times!</p> <p>MOVIE HOTLINE 281-873-8888</p> <p style="background-color: #000; color: white; padding: 2px;">Greenspoint Mall</p>
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*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
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COMMUNITY NEWS

State Sales Tax Revenue totaled \$2.5 billion in January

(AUSTIN) — February 2, 2017 — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today that state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.45 billion in January, 0.7 percent less than in January 2016. "Sales tax collections reflect tepid spending by both businesses and consumers," Hegar said. "Receipts" from the information sector were up, but declines were seen in receipts from the construction and mining sectors, as well as retail trade.

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in January 2017 was up by 0.3 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax revenue is the largest source of state funding for

the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections in fiscal 2016. Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes, motor fuel taxes and oil and natural gas production taxes also are large revenue sources for the state.

In January 2017, Texas collected the following revenue from those taxes:

- motor fuels taxes — \$295.7 million, up 1.4 percent from January 2016;
- oil and natural gas production taxes — \$248.4 million, up 28.4 percent from January 2016; and
- total tax collections — \$3.71 billion, up 2.2 percent from January 2016.

Three women wanted in robbery of clothing store

Crime Stoppers and the Houston Police Department's Robbery Division need the public's assistance identifying the suspects responsible for a Robbery.

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, at approximately 4:12 p.m., three black female suspects robbed a clothing store located in the 10800 block of the North Freeway in Houston, Texas. During this incident, three female suspects assaulted a store employee as they took over \$800 worth of clothes out of the store without paying. The three suspects fled the location in a newer model Mercedes Benz that traveled south bound on Antoine Drive.

Video surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects during the Robbery.

Suspect #1: Black, female, approximately 30-32 years old, 5'08" - 5'09", 230 lbs., wearing a long denim dress.

Suspect #2: Black, female, approximately 28-30 years old, 5'06" - 5'07", 180 lbs., wearing a green shirt and black shorts.

Suspect #3: Black, female, approximately 26-28 years old, 5'06" - 5'08", 170 lbs., wearing a white shirt and blue jeans.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the charging and/or arrest of the suspect in this case. Information may be reported by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477). Tips may also be sent via a text message by texting the following: TTP610 plus the information to CRIMES (274637). All tipsters remain anonymous.

Suspects wanted for Mesa Rd. robbery

On Wednesday, November 23, 2016, at approximately 7:35 pm, two unknown black male suspects wielding pistols robbed a dollar store located in the 8500 block of Mesa Road in Houston, Texas. During this incident, the suspects entered the business and pointed pistols at employees as they demanded money from the registers. The suspects took an undisclosed amount of money from the cash registers and fled the location on foot in an unknown direction of travel.

Video surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects during the robbery.

Suspect #1: Black, male, approximately 18-25 years old, 6'00"-6'05", 180-200 lbs., wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt with white stars, black pants and shoes.

Suspect #2: Black, male, approximately 18-25 years old, 6'00"-6'05", 180-200 lbs., wearing a black and gray hooded sweatshirt, black pants and shoes.

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

Lone Star College awards scholarships at 24th annual Chancellor's Breakfast



Pictured are winners of the Lone Star College Foundation student essay contest. Pictured left to right are: Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor; Bianca Bravo, LSC-University Park; Janeth Del Carmen Castellanos, LSC-Tomball; Jessica Tovias, LSC-North Harris; Diego Zaragoza, LSC-CyFair; Chelsea Nail, LSC-Montgomery; and Alexis Duke, LSC-Kingwood.

HOUSTON (Feb. 2, 2017) — Lone Star College students shared their personal stories of overcoming obstacles and finding success at the 24th annual Chancellor's Breakfast presented by the Lone Star College Foundation.

"This is one of my favorite events of the year because we get to hear some remarkable stories from Lone Star College students who have worked hard to find success," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. "It is truly a privilege to listen to them share their personal stories of accomplishment."

The Chancellor's Breakfast recognizes six students, one from each of the Lone Star College campuses, for their winning essay. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship which is made possible due to the generosity of LSC Foundation donors and supporters.

College students reach their goals," said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, LSC Foundation executive director. "The students' stories are truly inspiring."

Excerpts from this year's student essay winners:

Diego Zaragoza, LSC-CyFair
 "To me, Lone Star College-CyFair is not just a community college. It is not just a place where you take classes and leave. Lone Star College is what you make it! I think that is what makes this college special; it gave me the opportunity to change and grow. Lone Star College-CyFair has more than influenced my life; it completely changed my life."

life. Then, after seeing how Lone Star College-Montgomery helps our veterans, I knew that was what I wanted to focus on, helping the men and women who serve our country."

Jessica Tovias, LSC-North Harris
 "Lone Star College-North Harris has directed my life in a positive way. I am more than glad that my first college experience was from attending Lone Star College. I have learned many things here that will continue to help me in the future. I've had many challenges while attending college, some with the classes and other outside of class but I have been able to overcome all of them. I feel confident that I am prepared for any challenges that come my way."

Alexis Duke, LSC-Kingwood
 "The tools I have gathered such as listening, understanding, then reacting have shaped me to become a diverse person. The ability of realizing other perspectives has assisted me, as I hope to pass this on in the future to my clients after I become a psychologist. The ability to learn from others and have an open mind is something Lone Star College-Kingwood has taught me and something I am very grateful for."

Chelsea Nail, LSC-Montgomery
 "Like most people, I found my voice in college. I finally found how I was going to help people and make the world a better place. The psychology classes at Lone Star College-Montgomery lit a fire in me that burns hotter and brighter with every class. It's because of our psychology department that I found my calling in

Janeth Del Carmen Castellanos, LSC-Tomball
 "I have grown so much as a person and through my education because of Lone Star College-Tomball. I feel like I have been given the tools and the confidence to succeed in whatever I set my mind to. Thanks to all of the amazing people I have met through Lone Star, I now have that many more people to make proud one day and I will not let them down."

Bianca Bravo, LSC-University Park
 "I've never been so inspired so much by so few people in such a short time. I've been pushed out of my comfort zone time and time again and learned I can thrive in that space too. Not only that, but the students are amazing. I learn just as much, if not more, from them. They're so diverse and I'm grateful for that."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Citizenship Classes

- SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017, ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EVERY SATURDAY - 8 WEEKS), 2131 LAUDER ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77039.
- FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2017, ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE CHURCH, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EVERY FRIDAY - 8 WEEKS), 5356 11TH. ST. KATY, TX 77493. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL : 281-799-9076 & 713-471-5832

Citizenship Workshop

- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2017 - REGISTRATION AT 9:00 AM, HOSSANA LUTHERAN CHURCH, 16526 ELLA BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77090
- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2017 - REGISTRATION AT 4:00 PM, LONE STAR COLLEGE GREENSPRING CENTER, 250 N SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY, HOUSTON, TX 77060
- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2017 - REGISTRATION AT 9:00 AM, HAMBRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL, 4600 ALDINE MAIL ROUTE RD. HOUSTON, TX 77039 FOR INFORMATION CALL: 713-471-5832.

Neighborhood Centers Programs

- Internet Essentials/Basic Computers, Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm at Hinojosa Pre-K Center, 1620 Lauder Rd., Houston, TX. 77039.
- Sewing/Alteration Class, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 pm - 6 pm at Pilgrims Place II, 4663 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX. 77039.
- GED Ongoing, Monday & Wednesdays, 5:45-8:45 pm at MacArthur High School, 4400 Aldine Mail Rt., Houston, TX. 77039.
- Intensive ELS Ongoing, Tue. & Thur., at Hinojosa Pre-K Center, 1620 Lauder Rd., Houston, TX. 77039. Call 832-819-7118 for more information on these and other programs offered.

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

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By Congresswoman
Sheila Jackson Lee



ADMINISTRATION GAG ORDER:

Affordable Quality Health Insurance

Washington, DC - January 27, 2017
— Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and founder and Chair of the Children's Caucus, provided the following statement today in response to the gag order issued by the Trump Administration directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to cease outreach activities to assist persons obtain health insurance through the healthcare marketplace, including pulling television ads promoting enrollment:

"I strongly oppose the action by the Administration to gag HHS from offering assistance to people in search of affordable, assessable, high quality healthcare made possible by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Republicans seek to take away health coverage from tens of millions of Americans; and their first act is to sabotage the existing health system even though it is the only avenue that guarantees health insurance for American families. Yesterday, the Trump Administration ordered

an end to all outreach to inform Americans of their health coverage options during the final days of open enrollment for 2017.

"President Trump and senior Republicans, including Secretary of Health and Human Services nominee Rep. Tom Price, promised Americans that they would not lose access to their ACA plans or their doctors. They are breaking that promise by pushing for repeal policies that would throw 30 million people off their insurance plans, raise premiums for millions of others, and create uncertainty in the marketplace that would upend our entire health care system. The Administration's decision to gag HHS and prevent the agency from informing consumers about their options under open enrollment directly undermines access to affordable and accessible healthcare.

"HHS should resume informing Americans of their rights and options under open enrollment so they can take advantage of affordable marketplace plans and find out if they can save money on their monthly premiums."

"Protecting Religious Liberty"

Washington, D.C. - January 30, 2017 - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees today released the following statement after introducing H.R. 735, the Universal Security of American Values Act of 2017 (USA Values Act), which will invalidate the discriminatory Executive Order issued by the President banning visitors and refugees from certain countries from entering the United States simply because they exercise their right to religious liberty by adherence to the Muslim faith:

"The United States of America is a country founded by persons escaping religious persecution and freedom of worship has been a bedrock national value since the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620. It is no coincidence that the first of the amendments comprising the Bill of Rights protects inviolate the free exercise of religion

"Neither the Constitution nor the First Amendment recognizes an exception to the free exercise of religion in the case of persons of the Muslim faith. The executive order issued by the President last Friday is discriminatory Executive Order because it has the effect and intent of excluding from the United States those persons from predominantly Muslim countries whose religious faith is Muslim. This is the type of invidious discrimination that our Constitution, laws, customs, and traditions do not countenance.

"That is why I have introduced H.R. 735, the Universal Security of American Values Act of 2017 (USA Values Act of 2017), which declares the Executive Order issued by the President on January 27, 2017 to be null and void of no force and legal effect. In addition, USA Values Act

prohibits the issuance or implementation of any Executive Order that has the effect of abridging religious liberty or any of the privileges and immunities guaranteed under the Constitution or laws of the United States.

"As Americans we are best when we are true to the values we hold dear, beginning with fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The executive order, which represents the President's attempt to make good on his pledge to impose a ban on Muslims from entering our country, is a radical departure from the values, principles, and practices that heretofore have made America the envy of the world.

"Former president Barack Obama 'fundamentally disagrees with the notion of discriminating against individuals because of their faith and religion.' The former president is right, the current president is wrong and I call upon the President to rescind this discriminatory order immediately."

"Arbitrarily excluding Muslim visitors to our country will not make us safer and makes a mockery of our reputation as the world's most welcoming nation. The USA Values Act, which affirms the nation's core values, complements the 'Statute of Liberty Values Act' (SOLVE Act), which bars ethnic and religious discrimination against refugees that was also introduced today by my colleague, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren of California, and sponsored by me and more than 125 Members of the House."

Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a Democrat from Texas's 18th Congressional District. She is a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security and is Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.



Abbott tells sheriff to reverse sanctuary policy or lose funding

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has stepped up the pressure on Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez to participate in immigration enforcement, warning that she could lose state funding if she refuses.

In a Jan. 23 letter, Abbott urged the sheriff to reverse her policy directive "forbidding Travis County Sheriff's Office employees from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests."

Failure to reverse her directive would put in jeopardy millions of dollars in funding from the governor's office to Travis County, Abbott warned. Abbott mentioned that last year, he conditioned all Criminal Justice Grant funds from his office to counties on their enforcement of federal immigration law. Furthermore, Abbott said, he is committed to signing legislation that bans sanctuary cities throughout the state of Texas.

Sheriff Hernandez posted a news release in reaction to the governor's letter, saying: "I respect the job of our state leaders, but I will not allow fear and misinformation to be my guiding principles as a leader sworn to protect this community. I am following all state and federal laws, and upholding constitutional rights to due process for all in our criminal justice system. Our community is safer when people can report crimes without fear of deportation. I trust the court system and our judges to assess the risks and set appropriate bonds and conditions for all who are incarcerated. The voters, who elected state leaders and me, expect and deserve a collaborative effort to come up with solutions to this very complex issue. That is precisely what I'm committed to."

Court rules against regent

Outgoing University of Texas regent Wallis L. Hall Jr. has lost the latest round in his legal battle to obtain admissions records from the university.

The Court of Appeals for the Third District on Jan.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



27 ruled unanimously in favor of the defendant, UT System Chancellor William H. Raven, in a lawsuit brought by Hall.

Hall sued over McRaven's refusal to grant Hall complete access to records containing student-admissions information. McRaven had the legal standing to deny Hall's requests for certain information, the court ruled.

The underlying dispute began in 2013, when Hall raised concerns about potential improprieties in the admissions process of UT Austin and requested information to conduct his own investigation.

Hall was appointed to the board of regents by then-Gov. Rick Perry in 2011. Hall's term of office ends in February.

Jobless rate stays same

The Texas Workforce Commission on Jan. 20 reported that Texas added an estimated 210,200 seasonally adjusted jobs since December 2015, with the addition of 800 nonfarm jobs in December.

Furthermore, according to the agency, the state has added jobs in 20 of the past 21 months. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate maintained a 4.6 percent rate in December, the same rate as in November, according to information posted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Education and Health Services industry recorded the largest private-industry employment gain over the month, with 7,300 jobs added. Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 3,900 jobs in December and manufacturing employment expanded by 1,400 jobs.

Abbott reappoints two

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 25 reappointed Charles Smith as executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, effective Feb. 1, for a term to expire on Feb. 1, 2019.

Smith, first selected for the post by the governor on June 1, 2016, earlier served as deputy for child support in the attorney general's office.

Abbott also reappointed Donna Bahorich of Houston as chair of the Texas State Board of Education, effective Feb. 1, for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2019.

Bahorich was elected to the board in November 2012. She serves on the board's Committee on School Initiatives that oversees agenda items related to charter schools, State Board of Educator Certification rules and the appointment of school board members for districts located on military bases.

Both appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

Vehicles to be tested in Texas

The U.S. Department of Transportation has picked Texas as one of 10 testing locations for autonomous vehicle technology.

In a Jan. 24 news release, the Texas Department on Transportation suggested the designation establishes Texas as a leader in the research and development of new transportation technologies that could make roads safer and less congested.

TxDOT will be involved in a "Texas Autonomous Vehicle Proving Grounds Partnership" with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, The University of Texas at Austin's Center for Transportation Research, Southwest Research Institute and 32 municipal and regional entities.

"This partnership puts Texas at the forefront of automated vehicle technologies that likely will shape the future of transportation around the world," said Marc Williams, deputy executive director of TxDOT.

Governor Abbott: Property and Franchise Tax Reduction

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott today listed property and franchise tax reduction as legislative priorities in his State of the State address. Low-tax advocates were quick to offer praise for the Governor's call to action:

On Property Tax Reduction:

"Americans for Prosperity is applauding Governor Abbott for pledging to support property tax reform here in Texas. Currently, too many hard-working families in the state are literally being taxed out of their homes and that is simply unacceptable. Lower taxes have played an essential part in Texas' role as an economic leader in the nation. Burdening Texas families with higher taxes is not a sensible solution for our state budget. We are proud to stand alongside Governor Abbott in his effort to give taxpayers greater control over rising property tax rates."

Jerome Greener, State Director, Americans for Prosperity-Texas

"There is a revolt brewing in Texas over soaring property tax bills that are neither realistic nor sustainable. In 2015, Texas' 4,171 local governments walloped homeowners and businesses for more than \$52 billion in property taxes, or about \$1,900 for every man, woman, and child in the Lone Star State. As mammoth an amount as that is, trends suggest that the burden is likely to get heftier still, with tax levies historically outpacing standard economic measures by a wide margin. Governor Abbott's call for structural property tax reform could not have come at a more urgent time. Texans everywhere are struggling to cope with the relentless onslaught of local property taxes, and systemic change is needed to secure needed and lasting relief."

James Quintero, Director, Center for Local Governance-Texas Public Policy Foundation

On Franchise Tax Reduction:

"We are pleased with the Governor's commitment to continue working to eliminate the franchise tax. The compliance cost plus payment makes this tax one of the most burdensome taxes Texas businesses have to contend with."

Talmadge Hefflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy-Texas Public Policy Foundation

"Governor Abbott's call to ultimately phase out the franchise tax is an approach that the state must continue to pursue. The franchise tax was created in 2006 to help lower property taxes and to keep the school finance system out of court, yet it has failed in both of those objectives. Texas has slipped in national rankings for tax policy and economic outlook, in part, because of it. Economic projections show that eliminating the franchise tax would produce 41,500 net new jobs, \$3.4 billion in net new investment, and \$9.8 billion in new personal disposable income. Eliminating the franchise tax would make Texas one of only four states without a corporate income tax or gross receipts-style business tax, which would be a boon for investment, job creation, and economic growth."

John Colyandro, Executive Director, and Tom Aldred, Director of Policy & Research-Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

COUCH THEATER – DVD PREVIEWS

By Sam Struckhoff

PICKS OF THE WEEK "Manchester by the Sea" (R) -- After the passing of his brother, loner Lee Chandler (Casey Affleck) finds that he has been left as the sole guardian of his 16-year-old nephew, Patrick (Lucas Hedges). Having lived in self-imposed exile for years after an unspeakable tragedy, Lee doesn't want to stay in the town where he'll have to face his memories or see pain reflected in the eyes of his ex-wife (Michelle Williams).

Writer and director Kenneth Lonergan makes a movie that deals with hard emotions without being hard to watch. It's painful without wallowing and life-affirming without falling for the traps of cornball "uplifting movies" (don't confuse this with one of those). Great performances from Affleck and Williams come as little surprise, but Hedges, the newcomer, really makes a splash as a teen who is complicated in the right ways.

"Hacksaw Ridge" (R) - Desmond Doss was a pacifist who refused to carry a weapon on the frontlines of World War II, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor without ever firing a shot. This dramatization shows Doss (Andrew Garfield) as he disobeys his father to enlist -- he believes that the war is just, that it must be won, but he is firmly against killing and enlists as a medic. Many in the Army take issue with his convictions, but Doss later proves his courage during one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Mel Gibson directs, and it really shows during the high-action scenes. Many have noted that for a movie that champions the pacifist, it sure seems to get a kick out of brutality. The



Photo Credit: Summit Entertainment
Andrew Garfield in "Hacksaw Ridge"

pre-war scenes aren't as strong and don't give a complete picture of how Doss, a Seventh-Day Adventist, fits in with his religious and secular communities at home. However, scenes with his father (Hugo Weaving) have considerable weight.

"Bad Santa 2" (R) -- Foul-mouthed and unrepentant jerk Willie Soke (Billy Bob Thornton) has been out of jail for a while, and after some poorly timed ogling, he's out of a job, too. His old partner in crime, Marcus (Tony Cox), recruits Willie for another Santa-and-his-elf heist, this time stealing a seven-figure score from a charity in Chicago. Joining the crew is Willie's mother (Kathy Bates), who is predictably just as abrasive as her son. It's not Bates or anyone else on screen throwing off the vibe, but

this sequel misses the tone and laughter of the first.

"Nocturnal Animals" (R) -- Susan (Amy Adams) has the big house in the hills and the handsome husband, but she can't sleep. Her husband's acting shady, they might not be wealthy for long, and she's just received a novel by her ex-husband (Jake Gyllenhaal) called "Nocturnal Animals" -- based on a pet name he had for her. The novel's story takes over much of the film, and follows the terrible arc of a father (also Jake Gyllenhaal) whose wife and daughter are taken by crazies in some dusty corner of Texas. The whole film is twisty turny with uneven results as Susan tries to find some meaning in the connections between the violent story of the novel and the decisions she made with her ex-husband.

Fifteen AISD student-athletes sign national letters of intent



MacArthur High School student-athletes D'Angelo Braxton, second from left, and Brandon Cowart, seated next to Braxton, signed national letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 1 to continue their academic and athletic careers in college. Pictured with the two are Braxton's mother La'Swaul Dicken, and Cowart's brother Keishawn Cowart. Back row, (l-r): MacArthur High School head football coach Andy Garza, MacArthur High School principal Dr. Craig Mullenix, Director of Athletic Services Sandra Mader and Director of Athletics Richard Delgado.



Five Eisenhower High School student-athletes signed national letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college. All five are football players.



Pictured are the eight student-athletes at Davis High School who signed national letters of intent during a National Signing Day ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 1. The student-athletes are pictured with their parents and grand parents. Four football players, two baseball players, a volleyball player and track athlete signed letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Paid player
- 4 Taxi
- 7 Expert
- 12 Potential syrup
- 13 Lennon's lady
- 14 Similar
- 15 Citric beverage
- 16 Underwent reduction
- 18 Jeremy of basketball
- 19 Tijuana toodle-oo
- 20 Rolling stone's lack
- 22 Poetic night-fall
- 23 Antitoxins
- 27 -- de deux
- 29 Maintenance
- 31 Quibblers split these
- 34 Senorita's wiggle?
- 35 "Rabbit, Run" author
- 37 Feedbag morsel
- 38 Piratic quaff
- 39 Paving goop
- 41 "-- is life!"
- 45 Con game
- 47 Pair
- 48 Absolutely
- 52 Use a towel
- 53 Photoshop company
- 54 Reading matter, for short

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- 8 "The last words
- 9 Kin of "i.e."
- 10 -- out a living bloom
- 11 Homer's neighbor
- 17 Bourgeois, to Brits
- 21 Parsley serving
- 23 Revue segments
- 24 Conger or moray
- 25 Roulette bet
- 26 Mimic
- 28 Request
- 30 Sch. org.
- 31 Embrace
- 32 Spring mo.
- 33 Bachelor's
- 36 Needle case
- 37 Corsage
- 40 Point of view
- 42 Milk dispenser
- 43 Moe's brother
- 44 Rulebook compiler
- 45 A "Desperate Housewife"
- 46 Director
- 48 Doo follower
- 49 Praise in verse
- 50 Took the prize
- 51 Peacock network

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Fifteen Aldine ISD student-athletes signed national letters of intent during National Signing Day ceremonies at their respective schools on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Davis High School led the way with eight signings. The school had four football players, two baseball players, a volleyball player and a track athlete earn scholarships. The football players who signed were: quarterback Kameron Pryor, who signed with Houston Baptist University, linebacker Detrick Bell, who signed with Lamar University, linebacker Bruce Bivens, who

signed with the University of East Carolina and defensive back Konterius Walker who signed with Texas Southern University. Baseball players who signed were: short stop Victor Cruz, who signed with Texas Southern University and catcher Fabian Chapa, who signed with West Point Academy. Volleyball player Amara Martinez signed with St. Mary's of San Antonio and track athlete Shauntezz Austin signed with the Air Force Academy.

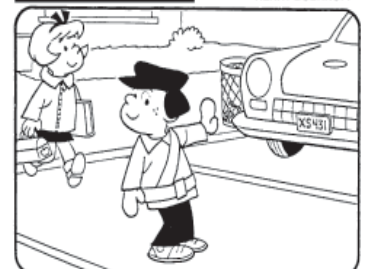
Eisenhower High School had five football players sign national letters of intent. Defensive back

George Nyakwol signed with Rice University, defensive back Adrian Frye signed with Texas Tech University, athlete Jaelon Darden signed with the University of North Texas, linebacker Cameron Lawrence signed with Southwestern University and linebacker Terrence Oliver signed with Navarro College.

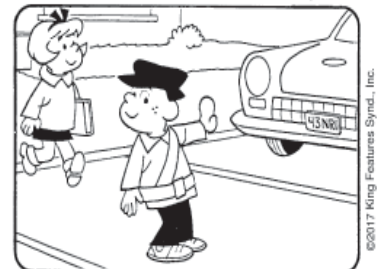
MacArthur High School had two football players sign national letters of intent. Tight end D'Angelo Braxton signed with Northwestern Oklahoma and defensive back Brandon Cowart signed with Chadron State.



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



- 1. Split (PG-13) James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy
- 2. A Dog's Purpose (PG) Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid
- 3. Hidden Figures (PG) Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer
- 4. Resident Evil: The Final Chapter (R) Milla Jovovich, Iain Glen
- 5. La La Land (PG-13) Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
- 6. xXx: Return of Xander Cage (PG-13) Vin Diesel, Donnie Yen
- 7. Sing (PG) animated
- 8. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (PG-13) Felicity Jones, Diego Luna
- 9. Monster Trucks (PG) Lucas Till, Jane Levy
- 10. Gold (R) Matthew McConaughey, Edgar Ramirez

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4. Milla is missing; 5. Teeth can be missing; 6. License is missing; 7. License is missing; 8. License is missing; 9. License is missing; 10. License is missing

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- Center of Life Baptist Church, 11250 Bentley St. 281-442-5433
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- First Baptist Church N. Houston, 4422 Lauder Rd. 281-449-7201
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- Tomb of Jesus, 1301 Aldine Mail Rt. 281-987-1371
- Word of Deliverance Life Ctr 4001 Darwin St. 281-227-0700

- Phuc Vien Temple, 14101 Eastex Fwy. 281-449-1900
- Gospel Shop 14341 Lee Rd. 281-227-8898
- Jimmie Guillory 13120 Luthe Rd. 281-449-6016
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<p>AGRICULTURE</p> <p>We broker Agriculture! Land agricultural consultants, over 100 years of experience, petroleum and minerals, wildlife and ranch management, land brokerage and auctions. Ag Brokers, 1- 806-679-2645, www.agbrokersd.com.</p>	<p>LOCAL FAIR</p> <p>MOTHER EARTH NEWS FAIR! Bringing the magazine to life. Get Half-Price Admission Today at www.motherearthnews.com/store/offer/mmefnfr3 *February 18-19, 2017</p>	<p>SPORTING EVENTS</p> <p>The Yards of Cameron opening day! Pitch ceremony. Run the bases ages 4 to 9. Farmers market. Wiffle Ball Tournament. Home Run Derby. CH Yoe High Alumni Game! Saturday, February 18th 9am-4pm.</p>
<p>ADOPTION</p> <p>Adopt: Creative, musical, nurturing teacher wishes to adopt a baby into her loving & secure home. Expenses Paid. Call Lillian 1-888-861-8427. Or www.lilliadopts.com.</p>	<p>LOCAL RODEO</p> <p>San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. February 9-26. PRCA LARGE INDOOR RODEO. For full entertainment lineup and to purchase tickets, go to www.sarodeo.com. For information call 210-225-5851.</p>	<p>AVIATION</p> <p>AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING - Get FAA certification. Approved for military benefits Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 1-800-475-4102.</p>

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LIFESTYLE PAGE

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Nikolaos Andreas Vionis

Catherine Piazza
William Ray Hescht
Aiden Bentley Cabrera
Roland Samuel
Jim Lincoln Jr.
Billie Joe Evans
Dorothy L. McIvrene Conner

BIBLE TRIVIA

- 1. Is the book of Valentin in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in ..."? Hope, Abundance, Touch, Truth
3. Solomon exchanged the memorable line "For love is strong as death" with whom? The Shulamite, Delilah, Queen of Sheba, Rachel
4. From Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all ..."? Sins, Beings, Creation, Enemies
5. What biblical couple's tragic death was comparable to Romeo and Juliet's fate? Samson/Delilah, Annanias/Sapphira, Jacob/Rachel, Hosea/Gomer

First Baptist Church Passover Presentation

FBC North Houston, on Lauder Rd., would like to invite you to:
Sunday, -February 12, 2017 - Passover Presentation during Morning service @ 10:50am by Chosen People Ministries.
FBC North Houston
4422 Lauder Rd.
Houston, Texas 77039
(281) 449-7201.
6. From Hebrews 13:4, what is honorable in all? Love, Trust, Marriage, Worship
ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Truth; 3) The Shulamite; 4) Sins; 5) Annanias/Sapphira; 6) Marriage

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AM Worship - 10:50 a.m.
Children's Church - 10:50 a.m.
PM Worship - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: All Ages - 7:00 p.m.
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Community Champions ,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

area residents, especially youth, is changing the dynamic between law enforcement and the community.

As Volunteer of the Year, Tom Wussow, a long-time District board member, was acknowledged as a leader whose vision and insight continues to be an integral part of the organization's progress. Credited with being the District's founder, Wussow still offers guidance that helps the area address tough challenges. Following the 2016 Tax Day Flood, Wussow led efforts for an engineering study that puts the community in a position to compete for federal funds for flood mitigation projects.

Three Community Spirit Award recipients were honored for the critical roles and resources provided to support flood recovery efforts. Aldine ISD helped rescue families and safely transport them to shelters. Its M.O. Campbell Educational Center served as the primary shelter for District families displaced by the flood. Harvest Time Church became a primary donation drop-off and distribution point in the heart of the community, offering hot meals and supplies within walking distance of many of hardest hit apartment communities. The City of Houston worked tirelessly to expedite recovery efforts. A team met weekly with property owners to assist with critical needs, like permitting for repairs, debris removal, additional law enforcement and providing housing options and resources for displaced families.

North Houston District board members are also recognized for their service at the luncheon. Donna Volkerding, area business travel manager for Interstate Hotels and Resorts, was recognized for one year of service.

The volunteer appreciation event began in 1992 as a way to acknowledge individuals and organizations whose partnership and efforts significantly enhance or expand programs in the North Houston District service area. About the North Houston District

Created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature, the North Houston District is a business improvement district that leverages public and private partnerships to provide enhanced services in transportation mobility, public safety, beautification and recreational development, marketing and strategic planning and development. Minutes from Bush IAH, the District's 12-square-mile service area has 20 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. The District includes more than 4,400 businesses, 74,000 employees and 115,000 residents.

For more information, visit www.northeastnews.org.



Community Spirit award recipient Harvest Time Church. Bishop Shelton Bady (center) accepted the award along with other members of the church's leadership from District President Greg Simpson (right).



Community Spirit award winner The City of Houston. From left: District Vice President of Strategic Planning and Development Robert Fiederlein, City of Houston Housing and Community Development (HCDD) Public Information Officer Jocklynn Keville, HCDD Director Tom McCasland, District President Greg Simpson.



Company of the Year winner Hardy Properties at Intercontinental. Terry Alexander, property manager, accepted the award along with other members of his team who represent the 34-building business park along West Hardy. District President Greg Simpson (right) and Executive Vice President and COO Bart Baker (third from left) presented the award.



The Harris County Sheriff's Office was recognized as Partner of the Year. Sergeant Christopher Gore (center) accepted the award along with other members of the Harris County Task Force. The District's Public Safety Director Tracy Harrison (front row, left) is pictured here with the team.



North Houston District Founder Tom Wussow was named Volunteer of the Year. District President Greg Simpson (right) and Executive Vice President and COO Bart Baker (left) presented Wussow with his award.

Altercation ends in stabbing



The new Beltway 8 Travel Plaza was the scene of an altercation between a store clerk and a potential customer, last Sunday evening. Sheriff's deputies report that the customer was stabbed during a fight between the clerk and the customer, after the clerk refused to turn on a gas pump. The knife allegedly belonged to the man who was the customer, according to the report, but he ended up being stabbed in the altercation. He was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The clerk was not charged with any crime.

House passes Legislation on FRIENDS Act

Jackson Lee: "We have a moral and civic obligation to protect those who place their lives on the line for the people of this country; and we cannot afford to be reactive in doing so. The FRIENDS Act of 2017 (H.R. 58) will provide additional resources to deal with these types of crises."

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee and Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee and Founder and Co-Chair of the House Children's Caucus, released the following statement after the U.S. House passed her "First Responder's Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations Act of 2017" or FRIENDS Act (H.R. 58):

"The FRIENDS Act of 2017 (H.R. 58) directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study and report to Congress re-

garding the impact of what first responder concerns over training, equipment and the safety of family members could play in their availability or readiness to respond during a terrorist event, threat or natural disaster. This legislation provides peace of mind to first responders because they will know that while they are doing their heroic duties, their families and loved ones are being cared for.

"We must be proactive instead of reactive in regards to protecting our emergency responders from eminent threat or legal repercussion for protecting their families. The anecdotes of the neglect of police needs are too prevalent and cover every region of the country.

"During the Ebola crisis, for example, first responders expressed three legitimate concerns regarding their responsibility during the outbreak. They were first concerned about their lack of knowledge about

the disease and how they could best assist those who may have been exposed. Second, they were concerned about their families and being able to move them to a location conducive to their well-being. Finally, they were concerned about having equipment to assure their personal safety.

"When disasters strike and outbreaks occur, it is emergency personnel that are immediately on the frontlines, meeting the needs of the people. The FRIENDS Act passed today by the House ensures that while first responders are caring for others during public emergencies, there will be others caring about their families and loved ones. I am gratified that the Friends Act passed by such an overwhelming margin and look forward to its passage by the Senate and being signed into law by the President at the earliest possible date."

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