

ANA HDEZ.
FOR SENATE
DISTRICT 6, PAGE 8

NORTHEAST NEWS

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 41 Years
VOL. 42, NO. 47 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

Artist's Showcase:



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NEWS NOTES

Toy Drive & Open House

Aldine Family Hope Center is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for boys and girls ages newborn to 17 years old for Bucker Houston. Also in need of wrapping paper, tape, boxes, ribbon and bows. Drop location: 4700 Aldine Mail Rt. OPEN HOUSE, December 11 from 11 am - 1 pm.

Citizenship Workshops

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE
DECEMBER 1ST, 2018, REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM
5356 11TH STREET, KATY TX 77493
Registration starts at 8 a.m. for all workshops. Questions? call Bonding Against Adversity at 281-799-9076 or 713-471-5832.

Nadine Kujawa Senior Citizen Gala

Aldine Council of PTAs, Aldine ISD and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren presents this annual Senior Gala. Monday, December 10, 2018 from 10 am - 1 pm at M.O. Campbell Arena located at 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032. All seniors welcome (lunch will be provided). Please R.S.V.P. by December 7 to Shirley P. Reed at shirleyportier@gmail.com

Mattress Mack provides free Turkey dinners to families



Jim "Mattress Mack" (left), Astros stars Alex Bregman and Max Stassi provide Thanksgiving meals for needy families. About 500 turkeys were distributed to families in need on Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Gallery Furniture location on 6006 North Freeway.

"It's part of our continuing responsibility for the well-being of the community and having Alex here just makes it that much better. People like him. He's a very likable guy, great ballplayer and a great role model for all of us," Mattress Mack said.

Families had to complete a form to be able to receive a turkey, and they are thankful because they will be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner.

Mattress Mack also hosted another complete feast on Thanksgiving day with food trucks, turkey and all the fixings from 11 am to 2 pm.

Eastex Fire Dept. sends help to combat California wildfires



EASTEX FIREFIGHTERS that went to California to help fight wildfires included, L to R, EO Jeremy Shaw, Capt. Mark Houge, EO Matthew Horrigan, and Capt. Justin DuBois.

A tired group of four firefighters from the Eastex Fire Department returned to Houston last Wednesday, after 10 days in California and on the road, helping contain the blazes ravaging the state. The Eastex department

was one of 40 departments from Texas, involving 200 firefighters, that traveled to California as part of a national "mutual aid" system.

See Eastex Fire Dept, Page 8 Photos courtesy Eastex FD.

Why businesses move to the North Houston District



Photo credit: Bisnow/Tierra Smith

North Houston District Chairwoman and Transwestern Executive Vice President Michelle Wogan, Meridian Energy Group Vice President John Cloward, Texas Children's Hospital Business Operations Manager Rodney David, Newmark Knight Frank Executive Managing Director Rob Stillwell, Emser Tile Vice President Mark Comstock host a tenant roundtable to discuss what major tenants look for regarding industrial space in Houston.

Local and new tenants join panel on relocating and growth

Approximately 150 guests gathered at the City North Conference Center

for the Bisnow Commercial Real Estate Event (CRE) co-hosted by the North Houston District and Lincoln Property Company on October 4. Bisnow, an online CRE

trade publication with 17,000 subscribers in Houston, was a strategic partner in the planning of

See Industrial Sector, Page 3

Castlewood Civic Club elects new Officers



Newly voted-in officers of the Castlewood Civic Club. Pictured are Secretary Judy de la Garza, left, and former Secretary Carmen Schnur, right.

CASTLEWOOD - Despite the low turnout on November 8, 2018 at Bethel Community Church, elections were held in order to keep the civic club in an active status. Voted in results were Connie Esparza, President; Judy de la Garza, Secretary; Alex V. Rios, Treasurer; and Ciprano (Cip) Ramon, Advisor. Former secretary, Carmen

Schnur, graciously agreed to help in the transition of the new secretary. As we move forward, the Board will be looking to fill the vacant positions of Vice President and Assistant Secretary through appointment. Stay tuned as the Board continues to work together to improve our subdivision. -- By Connie Esparza

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PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 11/23-11/28

* Creed II (PG-13) 12:30pm, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm SS-CC-AD
* Instant Family (PG-13) 12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm SS-CC-AD
* Creed II (PG-13) 11:45am, 2:35pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm SPA-Spanish Subtitles;SS-CC-AD
* Widows (R) 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm SS-CC-AD
* Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) 12:30pm, 4:30pm, 9:00pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;SS-CC-AD
* Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (PG) 12:00pm, 4:15pm, 9:00pm SS-CC-AD
* Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) 11:30am, 4:30pm, 9:30pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;SS-CC-AD
* Dr. Seuss' The Grinch in 3D (PG) 2:10pm, 6:30pm SS-CC-AD
* Ralph Breaks the Internet in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 3:30pm, 9:15pm SS-CC-AD
* Dr. Seuss' The Grinch in 3D (PG) 2:15pm, 6:45pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;SS-CC-AD
* The Nutcracker and the Four Realms in 3D (PG) 1:30pm, 6:30pm SS-CC-AD
* The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 11:30am, 4:10pm, 9:00pm SS-CC-AD
* Halloween (2018) (R) 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm SS-CC-AD
* Venom (PG-13) 12:30pm SS-CC-AD
* Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald 3D (PG-13) 2:45pm, 8:45pm SPA-Spanish Dubbed;SS-CC-AD
* Venom 3D (PG-13) 6:00pm SS-CC-AD
* SS-CC-AD denotes Stadium Seating & Closed Caption & Audio Description

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SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Honoring women in public safety



(left to right) Houston Police Department North Belt Division Lt. Bridget Lummus, Sgt. Jen Kennedy (HPD), Harris County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Sarah Malkowsky, Sgt. Monica Lopez (HPD), Sgt. Susana Salazar (HPD), North Houston District Public Safety Director Tracy Harrison

This fall, police women throughout the country were celebrated on National Police Woman Day, September 12, and we'd like to salute all the women in law enforcement and public safety that tirelessly make the North Houston District (NHD) better every day. Meet and learn more about the ladies in charge of the latest increased efforts for a safer North Houston.

Tracy Harrison
Public Safety Director North Houston District. Tracy's 20 years of experience ranges from the military, law enforcement, to the public sector. She identifies needs and develops programs by building partnerships and guiding public safety standards in the District. She ensures collaboration among all public safety entities serving

each of our quadrants. **Bridgett Lummus** Lieutenant HPD, North Belt Division. Lt. Lummus manages the day shift patrol at the North Belt Division and has proudly been an officer for 21 years.

Susana Salazar Differential Response Team (DRT) Sergeant HPD, North Belt Division. A tenured police officer of 18 years, Sgt. Salazar oversees undercover operations, enforcement of city codes in local businesses including convenience stores, nuisance abatements and community service in the Humble, Greenspoint and Willowbrook areas.

Monica Lopez Administrative Sergeant HPD, North Belt Division.

HPD's current home on

the northside at 100 Glenborough Dr. is managed by Sgt. Lopez, who supervises the operations of the administrative unit. She has served in law enforcement for 17 years.

Sarah Malkowsky Sergeant HCSO. Sgt. Malkowsky has been a sheriff's deputy for 13 years and leads the HCSO Task Force created specifically for the NHD. The task force was created to proactively improve safety and combat criminal activity.

Jen Kennedy Crime Suppression Team Sergeant - HPD, North Belt Division.

Sgt. Kennedy has been a police officer since 2007 and is tasked with combating violent crimes such as robberies and identifying active gang members.

Marcella Elementary holds SPARK Park dedication ceremony



Marcella Elementary School held a dedication ceremony on Friday, Nov. 16 to officially open the school's SPARK Park. Pictured are individuals who played a key role in seeing that Marcella Elementary received a SPARK Park. Pictured are (l-r): Elizabeth Love of Houston Endowment, Carmen Posey, landscape architect on the project, Carla Wyatt, SPARK Park board member, Austin Werner, SPARK Park board member, Kathleen Ownby, executive director of SPARK Park, Marcella Elementary Principal Demedia Edwards, Betsy Vernier of McKenna Construction and Patrick Mouton, Aldine ISD's executive director of facilities planning and construction.

A dedication ceremony for the Marcella Elementary School's SPARK Park was held on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Aldine ISD school.

The Marcella SPARK Park was a cooperative venture between Aldine ISD, Marcella students, parents and the community. The park includes new play equipment with a shade canopy, a whirl spinner and musical instruments. Two entry columns feature "M" for Marcella. The center wall features the Falcon mascot in mosaic. Marcella students participated in drawing and green ware workshops. Local artist Marsha Dorsy-Outlaw designed the artwork and was assisted by former Marcella art teacher Alexandra Rizk and Marcella students. Trees for Houston planted 16 trees in the park.

The park was designed by architect Carmen Posey of Environments. The contractor was McKenna Construction. The total cost was \$154,000. The project received \$144,000 of "park

desert" funding from Houston Endowment, Kinder Foundation and Powell Foundation. Marcella raised \$5,000 by holding a fall dance and selling chips and candy on Snack Fridays. Aldine ISD contributed \$5,000 and managed construction.

In honor of the occasion, U.S. Congressman Gene Green's office presented a United States Flag that will fly on the canopy. Jon Garcia represented Congressman Green at the dedication ceremony. State Rep. Senfronia Paige Thompson's office presented the school with a Texas Flag to mark the occasion. Ximena Magana represented former State Senator and Congresswoman-elect Sylvia Garcia's office.

Aldine ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa represented Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Latonya M. Goffney at the ceremony and thanked the foundations for their generous contributions.

"We want to thank

Houston Endowment, the Kinder Foundation and the Powell Foundation for their generous contributions to build this beautiful playground," Dr. Chapa said. "We appreciate you all so much."

Marcella Elementary Principal Demedia Edwards delivered opening remarks and Marcella Assistant Principal Nancy Paredes introduced special guests who attended the ceremony. Fellow assistant principal Crystal St. Julian introduced the Marcella Choir, which sang the National Anthem.

The Aldine Middle School LOTC presented the colors and Marcella students Irma Rios and Isabel Garcia led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Kathleen Ownby, executive director of SPARK Park, presented certificates to individuals for the contributions they made in assisting with the construction of the park.

Aldine ISD Board Trustee Steve Mead takes part in AKA School Safety Forum



AISD Board President Steve Mead (far left) and other area school district leaders sat on the panel during the AKA community meeting held Nov. 14. The discussion centered on school safety.

Aldine ISD Board President Steve Mead represented the District at the Bridging the Gap: Between Advocacy and Education Forum held Nov. 14 at the Klein Multipurpose Center.

Mead and representatives from Klein, Cypress-

Fairbanks, Humble and Spring ISDs sat on a panel. They shared how districts strive to keep students and staff safe.

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Selina Chapa, Assistant Superintendent Pat Leon-

Wade and Police Chief Craig Goralski were also present. They discussed District policies, what districts can do and listened to concerns from community members present.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted the event, which was open to the public to attend.

NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT First New Coca-Cola Plant built in U.S. in decade breaks ground in Pinto Business Park



Local leaders, Representatives and Coca Cola officials taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony of new facility.

With a theme of classic red throughout the scene, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages (CCSWB) held a special event in the North Houston District to celebrate the groundbreaking of its new facility in Pinto Business Park on September 25.

According to Tom Lynch, senior vice president of CBRE in an RealtyNewsReport.com article, demand for land in Pinto has been strong since Hines opened the business park. Last year, Amazon opened its fulfillment center at Pinto, and in May of this year, CCSWB, a Dallas-based subsidiary of

Mexican Coca-Cola bottler Arca Continental, announced it would consolidate its Houston facilities and also open a \$250 million production and distribution facility in the District. The 1-million-square-foot facility will be the first new Coca-Cola plant built in the U.S. in a decade.

Guests were invited to a ceremony at the Hilton Houston North where Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos presented Coke officials with a proclamation on behalf of Governor Abbott, which was followed by a check presentation to the local Big

Brothers and Big Sisters chapter from Coca-Cola. The event culminated at 600 Fallbrook for the unveiling of the facility art rendering, groundbreaking ceremony and a toast Coke style with Coca-Cola bottles.

Among the special guests were Mayor Sylvester Turner, Senator Sylvia Garcia, Consul General of Mexico Oscar Rodriguez, Council Member Jerry Davis and many more community leaders.

Coca-Cola officials said the project will modernize their entire infrastructure servicing Houston, create jobs and that the facility will open in 2020.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Industrial Sector,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo by Bisnow/Tierra Smith
Lee & Associates partner Reed Vestal, JLL Global Energy Practice Leader Bruce Rutherford, Vigavi Development Associate Christen Hatfield, Austin Industrial Vice President Russell Carter, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region CEO Chad Burke and CBRE Senior Vice President Tom Lynch discuss the impact of oil and gas on commercial real estate in Houston.

the event and hosts CRE events all over the country and internationally, focusing on topics related to the developments in key markets.

The first panel included area tenants and representatives from Emser Tile, Meridian Energy Group, Texas Children's Center for Women and Children and Conn's Distribution Center. From affordability, accessibility to customers and proximity to the airport, guest speakers shared their reasons for moving or expanding their businesses to the District.

"Why do business here?" Emser Tile's vice president of real estate, Mark Comstock asked, "Because it's easy," referring to Houston's license and permit process. In addition, a second panel of experts discussed the impact of oil and gas on commercial real estate.

Want to invest in industrial asset in Houston? One answer is to build near the Grand Parkway

By Tierra Smith

Unlike the office industry, the industrial sector was able to stabilize under the oil downturn due to the expansion of the petrochemical industry in Houston. It had a transformative effect, Austin Industries Vice President Russell Carter said. Fracking and other energy-related technological advances led to the decoupling of natural gas and crude oil prices, which spurred demand and expansion within the petrochemical industry and its related suppliers. "The long-term supply of natu-

ral gas in North America because of shale gas and fracking has changed the global dynamics," he said. "Houston sits at the epicenter of what the impact is going to be." And now, offshore drilling is making a recovery. Within the next two months, the major oil and energy companies will begin finalizing their capital budgets and determining new platforms to launch, JLL Global Energy Practice Leader Bruce Rutherford said. The first place to invest in offshore drilling is in the Gulf of Mexico, he said. Oil extracted there is filtered through the undersea pipeline network, which is connected to the world's largest petrochemical complex, which is then connected to the largest market for refined products. The second-largest market is the North Sea, he said. JLL research indicates the offshore business will be in full bloom by the second half of 2019 and predicts a boost in real estate demand in late 2019.

Originally, Houston-based industrial developer Vigavi wanted to have a significant presence in the southeast submarket to be close to its oil and gas clients, Vigavi Development Associate Christen Hatfield said. But as the price of oil began to slip, the growth of the petrochemical companies filled the manufacturing space. For example, all of the tenants at the Fairmont Industrial Center in La Porte service chemical plants. Vigavi has four industrial parks in southeast Houston near the Houston Ship Channel. The company is paying over \$7/SF for a build-to-suit development

currently under contract, she said. That is a big leap from between \$2 and \$2.50 in the same area about eight years ago, according to Lynch. "When we thought the price of oil was going to affect our business, it actually did the opposite and brought new players into the market," Hatfield said.

Industrial Demand Picking Up Along Grand Parkway

As space runs out in southeast Houston, developers are looking elsewhere. Industrial product is thriving along the Grand Parkway, which is expected to have a similar effect as the Beltway 8 in terms of connectivity and access for industrial end users. The toll road will connect the suburbs from Conroe, Freeport to the south, Baytown to the east and west to Katy. Hatfield, whose company operates two industrial parks in Katy, one of the fastest-growing submarkets in Houston, said Houston suburbs are ideal for industrial because of the reduced tax rate, lower cost of living and cheaper land cost. "Land is too expensive if you are anywhere close to the Beltway 8," Lynch said. Industrial space along the Grand Parkway is picking up interest from institutional money, Lee & Associates partner Reed Vestal said. "[At first], they were kind of scared of investing in areas they seemed to think of as prairies," Vestal, who specializes in land and industrial assets, said. "Now, I can tell you over the last six to nine months, we have seen an enormous amount of activity along the Grand Parkway."

Lone Star College SBDC names 2018 Small Business of the Year winners



Petra Oil Company, Inc. receives the 2018 Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year Award, at the 32nd annual Small Business Awards Luncheon. Shown (left - right) are Dr. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor; Lisa Renko, Woodforest National Bank Community Development Relationship manager; Heather Washburn, U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, district director; Arnold Gacita, Petra Oil Company, Inc. president; Josh Fowler Woodforest National Bank assistant vice president, South Montgomery County market manager; Miguel Lopez, LSC SBDC executive director; and Tim Jeffcoat, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration Houston District Office.

HOUSTON (Nov. 20, 2018) —The Lone Star College Small Business Development Center named its 2018 Small Business of the Year Award winners.

The winners, representing a variety of small businesses, were announced at the LSC SBDC 32nd Annual Small Business of the Year Award Luncheon held at the Lone Star Community Building Star of Texas Ballroom, Thursday, Nov. 15. The event included more than 270 guests and business owners who were welcomed by Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. Tim Jeffcoat, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration Houston District Office and Linda Leto Head, LSC senior associate vice chancellor External and Employer Relations also spoke at the luncheon on the importance of supporting small businesses in our community.

"More than half of Americans own, or work for a small business," said Miguel Lopez, LSC SBDC executive director. "The Lone Star College Small Business Development Center is proud to recognize these successful owners."

The 2018 32nd Annual Small Business of the Year awards were given to:

- Family-Owned
 - Flying M Feed & Company (Trace Menchaca, Lea Menchaca, Max Menchaca and Mike Menchaca)
 - Franchise Owner
 - Primrose School of Conroe (Jennifer Millington)
 - Home-Based
 - Home Exterior Systems, LLC (Patrick McCollim and Caleb McCollim)
 - Minority-Owned
 - Petra Oil Company, Inc. (Arnold Gacita)
 - Small Business
 - Norris Training Systems, Inc. (David Norris and Linda Hampton Norris)
 - Veteran-Owned
 - Hanigan + Johnson Orthodontics (James B. Hanigan and Daniel H. Johnson)
 - Woman-Owned
 - Animal ER of Northwest Houston (Dr. Jennifer Hennessey-Bremseth)
 - Young Entrepreneur
 - Pretty Little Things Boutique (Nikole Davis)

The awards ceremony was hosted by Leslie Martone, CyFair Houston Chamber of Commerce president and

Brian Bondy, Conroe Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce president. Woodforest National Bank, Hello Woodlands and Community Impact Newspapers sponsored the event.

The LSC SBDC Advisory Council recognizes successful small businesses that make an impact in the local community each year. More than 200 nominees were submitted from the community and narrowed down to the 23 finalists. The finalists were selected by the members of the voting committee, which is a subcommittee of the SBDC advisory council, on the basis of leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, business growth and contribution to the community. Click here for a list of the finalists.

The LSC SBDC works with companies to help them grow and compete in today's global economy. SBDC services are available for companies in every phase of the business life cycle, helping entrepreneurs make sound decisions and succeed.

For more information about the SBDC visit sbdc.LoneStar.edu.

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OPINION PAGE

Defensive Driving Tips

(NAPSI)—These five tips can help you be prepared for the perils of the road.

1. Know Your Car. Like people, each car has a unique personality. Some features work better than others, and conditions can cause a vehicle to react a certain way. Knowing your car's limits and behavior patterns can help you predict how it will respond in certain situations. How long does it take you to stop and how much pressure is required on the brake pedal? What's your turn radius? Does your vehicle lean when you round a corner? Does it quake when you hit a certain speed? Knowing the answers can help you avoid accidents.

2. Use Extreme Caution During a Lane Change. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that one of the most common causes of two-lane auto accidents is unsafe lane changes.

3. Know Your Blind Spots. Most cars have at least one line of vision that's not clearly evident in the rearview or side mirrors. Even carefully placed mirrors often cannot cover every possible angle. Move the side mirrors far outward so that the angle of view barely overlaps the view of the rearview mirror.

4. Keep Your Hands on the Wheel. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration now advocates keeping your hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions instead of 10 and 2 because of air bags.

5. Keep Up on Maintenance. Routine work on your auto, like oil changes, fluid refills and tire rotations, can make all the difference in your car's drivability.

Learn More

For further facts and tips about good driving from the experts at Driving-Tests, founded on the universal belief that everyone can be a safe driver, go to <https://driving-tests.org>. There, budding drivers can also learn how to pass the written test the first time.

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Field of candidates for House speaker narrows to one

AUSTIN — Eight members of the Texas Legislature filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission to declare themselves candidates for speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and as of last week, only one remained.

The candidacy of state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, gained momentum in October, and Bonnen on Nov. 13 announced he had the support of 109 members of the 150-member House. At minimum, it takes 76 votes to elect a speaker, which is 50 percent, plus one, of the 150 members of the House.

The other candidates for the speakership who withdrew from the race include: Travis Clardy, R-Nacogdoches, vice chairman of the House Committee on Local and Consent Calendars; Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee; Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, vice chair of the House Redistricting Committee; Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, chairman of the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee; Tan Parker, R-Flower Mound, chairman of the House Investments and Financial Services Committee; Rep. Walter "Four" Price, R-Amarillo, chairman of the House Public Health Committee; and Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

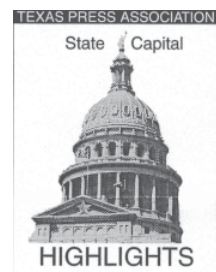
Bonnen, 46, first was elected to represent House District 25 in 1997. The district includes Matagorda County and part of Brazoria County. Bonnen currently is chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee and serves as speaker pro tempore of the House.

The first order of business for the House when the 86th Texas Legislature convenes on Jan. 8 is the election of the speaker, who will succeed Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio. Straus chose not to seek reelection and is finishing a record fifth consecutive term as speaker.

McCall to lead transition

Bonnen on Nov. 13 announced that he had named former longtime Texas House member Brian McCall, who has been chancellor of the Tex-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling



as State University System since 2010, to serve as chairman of his transition team. Bonnen said McCall would assist him in recruiting senior staff, planning the swearing-in ceremony and working with outgoing Speaker Straus and his staff to facilitate a smooth transition.

"I've known Rep. Bonnen since his first day as a House member and quickly recognized his leadership ability," McCall said. "He possesses all of the qualities to be a successful speaker; he is a straight shooter, compassionate, principled and determined to unify the House and work constructively with the Senate and governor."

"Chancellor McCall knows the Capitol and the people who make it work. More importantly, he has a reputation as both a legislator and a higher education leader for his fairness, decency and ability to bring people together," Bonnen said.

Bonnen gets thumbs up

Gov. Greg Abbott on Nov. 12 congratulated Bonnen, saying, "no one works harder or more passionately for Texas" than Bonnen. "There are a number of important and pressing issues facing Texas as we head into this next legislative session, including reforming school finance and elevating our education system and I look forward to working with the new speaker and the entire House of Representatives to address these topics and much more," Abbott added.

Also, in a joint state-

ment released Nov. 14, Bonnen and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the state Senate, said they had a phone conversation in which they agreed to work together "to move Texas forward" in the upcoming legislative session. "The lieutenant governor and I share a strong commitment to do the people's business," Bonnen said.

DPS expands social media

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Nov. 12 announced the launch of seven regional social media accounts, covering every corner of the state and all seven DPS regions, including North Texas, Southeast Texas, South Texas, West Texas, North-west Texas, Central Texas and the Capitol Region. "Each DPS region is unique, and we look forward to using these regional social media accounts to highlight the work of the department in those areas and bolster our ties with communities throughout Texas," DPS Director Steven McCraw said.

TEA releases district ratings

The Texas Education Agency on Nov. 15 released final financial accountability ratings for the 1,200 school districts and charters across the state.

Each school district or open-enrollment charter received one of four possible letter grades — A, B, C or F — and a financial management rating of Superior, Above Standard Achievement, Meets Standard or Substandard Achievement.

Ninety-nine percent of the districts and charters earned a successful final rating, as measured by the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, a system designed to encourage public schools to better manage financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes, the TEA said.

Congressional Briefing Supports Humane Farming

(NAPSI)—America has been blessed with a bountiful supply of safe, abundant and affordable food. To make sure that food is also humanely raised, a diverse delegation convened a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill called "The Humane Table."

Led by American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, farmers, and leading food producers who have committed to humane practices, the briefing outlined advances in humane agriculture, called on the American public to support humane farming practices for more of the 9 billion animals raised in U.S. agriculture each year, and spotlighted the farmers and ranchers who work to feed the world and raise their animals right. Right now, only about 1 billion of those animals are living under independently verified, science-based welfare standards, most of those through the American Humane Certified™ program, which helps ensure everything from adequate space to air quality, proper heating, cooling, lighting and shade, humane treatment, and the ability of animals to express natural behaviors.

"More people than ever before are concerned about how their food is raised and want to make choices that are in line with their values," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "We urge all Americans to set a humane table every day and support American farmers and ranchers who not only put food on our tables but do so humanely."

American Humane research shows overwhelming popular support for the humane treatment of farm animals and humanely raised foods. Its last poll of 5,900 Americans revealed that more than nine in 10 (94.9 percent) said they were "very concerned" about farm animal welfare. Three-quarters (75.7 percent) stated that they were very willing to pay more for humanely raised eggs, meat, and dairy products. And in a ranking of the importance of food labels, "humanely raised" scored highest among labels including "antibiotic-free," "organic" and "natural."

Speakers at the briefing stressed the importance of verifiably humane agriculture.

"Animal care and well-being are central to who Butterball is as a company, and we are committed to maintaining the health and well-being of our turkeys," said Dr. Alice Johnson, Senior Vice President for Animal Well-Being at Butterball, the iconic turkey brand that has been an American Humane Certified producer since 2013. "Partnering with our family farmers, we commit daily to achieving industry-leading results in animal care and well-being."

Others spoke of building on a past history of good stewardship. "Coleman Natural

Foods has been around since 1875—one year before Colorado was a state," says Bart Vittori, the company's vice president and general manager. "It is important that we carry on the family heritage of high animal welfare practices from the 1800s. Coleman Natural has earned American Humane Certification to provide further assurance of third-party audits and greater transparency of pork production, and Coleman is the first national retail pork producer to fully implement a crate-free hog environment—both gestation and farrow crate-free, verified by third party and with USDA approval."

"In less than three generations, the United States has gone from a predominantly agrarian society to one where the family farm is the exception rather than the rule," said Byron Shaffer, Food Safety and Quality Manager for Kreider Farms, which produces American Humane Certified eggs. "Today, there are many with differing opinions on what farming and, particularly, what animal agriculture should look like. We are happy to be associated with a group that not only recognizes the need for the farmers of today but provides invaluable resources in making the practices transparent and based on what is best for all. Like American Humane, Kreider Farms, and America's family farmers, know that animal welfare is truly in everyone's best interest."

"I have a lifetime of expertise caring for animals and I take the responsibility of providing a comfortable environment for my pigs every day very seriously," said Pat Bane, an Illinois pig farmer who was recently named America's Pig Farmer of the Year. "I work closely with my employees to guarantee the best care for our pigs."

American Humane was founded around the issue of farm animal welfare in 1877 and has been at the forefront of protections for animals for 141 years. In 2000, it created the American Humane Certified program, the nation's first third-party farm animal welfare certification with some 200 science-based standards built upon the internationally accepted values of the Five Freedoms, created by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as well as input from animal science experts, veterinarians and animal husbandry specialists. These standards are reviewed regularly by a Scientific Advisory Committee including many of the world's leading animal experts and advocates. Today, the American Humane Certified program is the nation's largest third-party farm animal welfare program.

To help set your own humane table, support humane farming, and find a list of American Humane Certified producers, visit www.AmericanHumane.org.

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Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin

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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com

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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Alabama, Georgia meet for SEC title: Texans hope roll continues against improving Browns

It's hard to believe that the 2018 regular season in college football has come to an end. The first weekend of December brings with it a number of conference championship games across the land.

The Big 12 entered its final weekend (Thanksgiving weekend) still trying to determine which two teams would play for the league title at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. The winner of the Oklahoma-West Virginia game earned one spot, and if Texas defeated Kansas last Friday it would land the other spot.

There was no confusion for the SEC, Alabama and Georgia clinched their respective divisions weeks ago and will meet in Atlanta at Mercedes Benz Stadium. This game probably means more for Georgia's College Football Playoff hopes than it does for Nick Saban's team.

The ACC title game will match Clemson against Pittsburgh, it what should be a cake walk for Dabo Swiney's team.

The Big 10 title game will feature Northwestern against either Michigan or Ohio State.

Before we talk about this week's NFL offerings, that was quite a show the Rams and Chiefs put on for Monday Night Football viewers as Los Angeles earned a wild 54-51 win over KC. The game featured 14 touchdowns, which included three defensive scores (two by the Rams and one by the Chiefs). It sure would be cool if these two teams met again in the Super Bowl, but a lot has to go right for both teams to give football fans another treat of a game.

This weekend, the Texans

host the Browns and will be out to continue their hot streak. Two weeks ago Bill O'Brien's team won a hard-fought game at Washington (23-21) to run its winning streak to seven games.

The Cowboys turned their season around three weeks ago with a win at Philadelphia and followed that up with a win at Atlanta two weeks ago. Dallas has let Ezekiel Elliott loose and he has been the difference maker for the offense. He rushed for close to 300 yards in the wins over Philly and Atlanta and with the running game clicking, quarterback Dak Prescott looks more relaxed in the passing game.

Things get a bit tougher for the Cowboys this week when they host the hot New Orleans Saints on Thursday Night Football.

Before we take a look at that game and a host of others, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 88-56 (61%).

Now, onto this week's games. NCAA

ACC title game - Pittsburgh vs. Clemson: Clemson is getting hot at just the right moment and should have little trouble against Pitt in the ACC title game. The Panthers have won five of their last six games and have a solid quarterback in Kenny Pickett (1,695 yards, 12 TDs) and a solid running back in Qadree Ollison (1,106 yards, 10 TDs). But they will face one of the best defenses in the country this weekend. Clemson has a pretty fair signal caller in Trevor Lawrence (2,093 yards, 21 TDs) and a stud at running back in Travis Etienne (1,157 yards, 17 TDs). Look for the Tigers to roll as they set their sites on the CFP playoffs. My pick, Clemson 38, Pitt 17

SEC title game - Alabama vs. Georgia: After missing the SEC title game a year ago, the Crimson Tide return with hopes of landing another conference title for head coach Nick Saban. This will be Georgia's second straight trip to the SEC title game and will match Saban against his



former defensive coordinator Kirby Smart. Bama has one of the most explosive offenses in the country led by quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (2,865 yards, 31 TDs, just 2 interceptions) and bevy of big-play receivers led by Jerry Jeudy (51 receptions, 1,002 yards, 10 TDs), Jaylen Waddle (34 receptions, 617 yards, 5 TDs) and Irv Smith Jr. (32 receptions, 586 yards, 7 TDs). Georgia has plenty of playmakers on offense as well led by quarterback Jake Fromm (2,061 yards, 20 TDs) and running backs D'Andre Swift (857 yards, 8 TDs) and Elijah Holyfield (817 yards, 6 TDs). This Georgia defense isn't as talented as last year's team and that could pose a problem against the explosive Tide offense. My pick, Alabama 38, Georgia 20 NFL

New Orleans at Dallas: A good one to open Week 13 brings the Saints to Arlington to take on the Cowboys. The Cowboys have played well on defense this year and that unit will get its biggest test of the season when it faces Drew Brees (2,964 yards, 25 TDs), Alvin Kamara (617 yards rushing, 56 receptions, 510 yards, 15 total TDs) and wide receiver Michael Thomas (82 receptions, 1,082 yards, 8 TDs). The Cowboys have been playing better on offense now that Elliott (953 yards, 5 TDs) has found his groove and the offensive line is playing better as well. Prescott (2,138 yards, 11 TDs; 266 rushing yards, 4 TDs) is also using Elliott in the passing game which is opening up things down

field for Amari Cooper and Cole Beasley. I think the Cowboys will hang with the Saints, but Brees will be the difference maker in the fourth quarter. My pick, New Orleans 34, Dallas 30

Cleveland at Houston: The Texans host a Cleveland team that has improved dramatically this year and might be a year or two away from contending for a playoff spot. The Texans can't take Baker Mayfield (1,984 yards, 13 TDs) and running back Nick Chubb (579 yards, 5 TDs) lightly or it could cost them dearly. This is a gritty Houston team is led by quarterback Deshaun Watson (2,597 yards, 18 TDs) and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (68 receptions, 950 yards, 8 TDs) and defenders J.J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney. Look for Watson to come out and attack the suspect Cleveland secondary as Watt and Clowney first slow down Chubb and the running game and then set their sites on Mayfield. My pick, Houston 26, Cleveland 17

Los Angeles Rams at Detroit: The Rams come off their bye week with a trip to Detroit to take on the Lions who have had an up and down season. Two weeks ago, the Lions upset Carolina at home 20-19, while we all know what the Rams did two weeks ago as Jared Goff (3,547 yards, 26 TDs) led LA to 54 points in their win over the Chiefs. Look for another big day from the Rams as they will love playing on the artificial turf at Ford Field. Todd Gurley (1,043 yards, 17 total TDs) and his fellow offensive mates should be licking their chops at the prospects of playing on the fast turf. Matthew

Stafford (2,605 yards, 17 TDs) will lean on rookie running back Kerryon Johnson (641 yards, 3 TDs) to control the clock and keep the Rams offense off the field. That won't be enough though as the Rams continue to roll on offense. My pick, Los Angeles 39, Detroit 23

Indianapolis at Jacksonville: Don't look now, but the Colts are playing as well as any team in the AFC South this side of Houston. Two weeks ago, Indy rolled over Tennessee at home as quarterback Andrew Luck (2,769 yards, 27 TDs) looks like his old self. He's making plays all over the field and is being well protected by his offensive line that appears to now be a strength after being a suspect unit for the last few years. Indy knows it needs to win on the road to remain in the division hunt and they face a Jacksonville team that appears to be playing out the string. Two weeks ago, the Jags led Pittsburgh 16-6 at home in the second half and allowed the Steelers to get back in the game and escape with a 20-16 win. Look for the Jags to lean heavily on running back Leonard Fournette (219 yards, 2 TDs) who is finally healthy after missing a chunk of the season with a hamstring injury. Look for the Jacksonville defense to get after Luck as the Jags earn a moral victory. My pick, Jacksonville 23, Indianapolis 20

Kansas City at Oakland: The Chiefs come off their bye with a trip to Oakland to take on their long-time rivals the Raiders. Look for another big day from quarterback Patrick Mahomes (3,628 yards, 37 TDs), running back Kareem Hunt (824 rushing yards, 14 total TDs) and speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill (1,106 yards, 11 TDs). Those three had nice games in their 54-51 loss to the Rams two weeks ago and should put up big numbers against a weak Oakland defense. The Raiders did get their second win of the season two weeks ago at Arizona, but they are facing a totally different beast on Sunday when they take


on the high-scoring Chiefs. My pick, Kansas City 42, Oakland 20

Minnesota at New England: The Vikings travel to Foxborough to take on a Patriots team that knows it probably has to win out to earn a first-round bye in the playoffs. Two weeks ago, the Minnesota offense had its hands full with the Chicago defense in its 25-20 loss in the Windy City. Kirk Cousins should fare much better this week against a so-so NE defense. But it's the Minnesota defense that has to contend with Tom Brady (2,748 yards, 17 TDs), running back James White (66 receptions, 562 yards, 6 TDs), Josh Gordon (26 receptions, 477 yards, 2 TDs) and Rob Gronkowski (29 receptions, 448 yards, 1 TD). Gronk should be back after missing almost a month with a knee and ankle injury. Look for the Patriots to start putting things together as the Vikings suffer another road loss. My pick, New England 30, Minnesota 21

Los Angeles Chargers at Pittsburgh: A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the Chargers against the Steelers. Two weeks ago, Phillip Rivers (2,860 yards, 23 TDs) and the Chargers lost at home to the struggling Denver Broncos and things get decidedly more difficult this week when they face one of the hottest teams in the AFC. Two weeks ago, the Steelers overcame a 16-0 deficit at Jacksonville and rallied for a 20-16 win behind Ben Roethlisberger (3,202 yards, 23 TDs) and Antonio Brown (62 receptions, 807 yards, 11 TDs) who connected on a 78-yard scoring play to get the comeback underway. The Pittsburgh defense will have its hands full with Rivers, running back Melvin Gordon (741 yards, 11 total TDs) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (62 receptions, 776 yards, 3 TDs). This should be a fun game to watch with plenty of offensive firepower. The Chargers will be in it for four quarters, but look for Big Ben to be the difference maker once again. My pick, Pittsburgh 33, Los Angeles Chargers 29

Newspaper Fun! Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone! We can't wait for the pumpkin pie... and the family football game. Kids: color stuff in! Time to talk turkey! Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with everything "turkey": 1. The turkey comes from the _____ of North America. 2. In a year, a female turkey can lay between 80-100 _____ - about 1,000 per lifetime. 3. Turkey eggs are brown and speckled. They are _____ than chicken eggs. 4. A baby turkey is called a _____. 5. Female turkeys are called _____. 6. Male turkeys are called _____. 7. Turkeys sometimes sleep in _____. 8. Only wild turkeys can _____. They travel short distances, up to 55 miles per hour! 9. If you scare a turkey, it can _____ up to 20 miles per hour. 10. Male turkeys can _____ to 4 feet long, and females to 3 feet long (including tail). 11. Wild turkeys eat plants and _____: nuts, seeds, flowers, ants, grasshoppers, small frogs and lizards. 12. In diaries describing the Pilgrims' "Thanksgiving," it doesn't say that the Pilgrims and Indians ate _____, but only "wild fowl." 13. Since the Wampanoag People - the Native Americans who ate the harvest _____ with the Pilgrims - ate wild turkey, it is thought that they introduced it to the Pilgrims. 14. Today, it is thought that at least 90% of families enjoy turkey for their _____ dinner. 15. The average wild turkey _____ about 12 pounds while a turkey sold in the supermarket averages about 15 pounds. Gobbling Pi(e)! Have you ever heard of Pi? I don't mean the apple or pumpkin kind! I'm talking about the Pi used in math. Pi is a number. It's the number you get when you divide the "line around" the outside of a circle by the "line going across" the middle point of the circle. Pi is the same for every circle! Pi is the number 3.14159...the numbers to the right side of the decimal point never end - they go on and on forever. Even supercomputers have not found the last number in Pi. Why do people care about Pi? It can tell you the area of a circle or the volume of a sphere (basketballs and soccer balls are spheres). Why should you have to learn about Pi? Because Pi is used in the math people use to design or build everyday things we need, such as machines. Read these statements to learn how Pi helps us. Then fill in the puzzle with the words in bold print: 1. Architects use Pi to design patterns like curves and arches in houses and buildings. 2. Scientists use Pi to learn how molecules work in our body, which helps them design new medicines. 3. Designers use it to make the curves in the print you are reading on this page! 4. Engineers use it to design every part of a bridge: arches, beams, wires. 5. Parts of a car - steering wheel, engine belts, tires and gears - are designed using Pi. 6. When an airplane travels around the earth it is on the path of an arc. The path must be figured out in order to know how much fuel the plane will need. 7. The computer program an artist uses to create 3-D drawings and artwork will use Pi. 8. TVs and radios are designed using Pi to let them receive programs over the air. 9. Sports stadiums and their domes were figured out and built using math with Pi! 10. Your bicycle tires and gears were designed using math that has Pi in it.

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Lunch Bunch. Second Wednesday of the month from noon to 2 p.m. Join fabulous speakers at these free presentations covering diverse topics. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch Bunch is a free program offered at Mercer's East Side Gardens that is recommended for participants ages 12 and older. For more information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.

Holiday in the Gardens Festival and Market. Saturday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate the holiday season with music, food, crafts, shopping, and more during Holiday in the Gardens at Mercer Botanic Gardens. This family-oriented event offers a holiday market, a winter plant sale, and a Children's library and activity corner. Santa will visit the gardens, and photo opportunities are available. Entrance is free, and crafts and children's activities are available while supplies last. To receive additional information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.

Lunch Bunch: A Winter Wonder Garden. Wednesday, Dec. 12 from noon to 2 p.m. Winter gardens are colorful and structurally intriguing. Learn which plants add life to a winter garden and understand the proper care for these plants. Then, enjoy a garden tour focusing on winter flowering and fruiting plants at Mercer. Presented by Mercer Botanic Gardens education staff Jennifer Garrison and Melodie Hill. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Lunch Bunch is a free program and is recommended for participants ages 12 and older. To register or to receive additional information, call Mercer Botanic Gardens at 713-274-4160.

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of 1 Thessalonians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. To keep Adam and Eve away after the Fall, what did God place around the Tree of Life? Smoking pits, Deep moat, Cherubim with flaming swords, Walking vipers
3. In 2 Samuel 12, what personality did God name Jedidiah? David, Amos, Solomon, Joab

- 4. What "type" water did Jesus offer the Samaritan woman at the well? Fresh, Cool, Living, Clean
5. From John 10, to what type animals are Christians compared? Camels, Sheep, Lions, Serpents
6. Which was a type of food as found in Exodus 16:15 and other verses? Yoke, Manna, Prodigal, Mina
ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Cherubim with flaming swords; 3) Solomon; 4) Living; 5) Sheep; 6) Manna

RECENT DEATHS

Jaime Murillo
Sandra Johnson Fain
Quinn Bakari Carlis
Shirley Ann Lewis
Sara "Sally" Cox
Mildred E. Hill
Irene Ortega
Emma Grace Jean

Robert Kevin Reed
Martha Malita Priest
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Rosa Maria Hernandez
Leo A. Havel
Barbara A. Shepherd

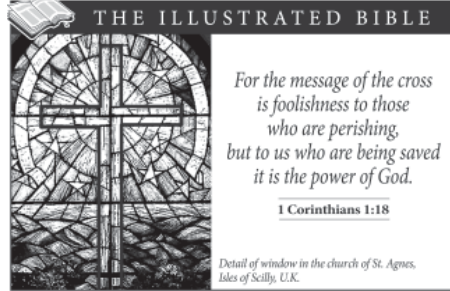
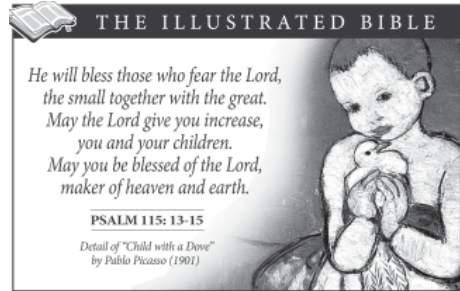
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Eastex Fire Department,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tem administered by the Texas A&M Forest Service. Departments that participated in a convoy from Katy to Los Angeles included Eastex, Baytown, Conroe, Forest Bend, Fulshear-Simonton, Galveston, Needham, New Waverly, Porter, Webster, and Willis.

signed to the Woolsey Fire in Malibu, northwest of Los Angeles.

Capt. Mark Houge, team leader, said that at first they worked a 24 hour shift, and then 12 hour shifts. Most of their work was "mopping up" because the major blazes had burned up.

The Eastex crew was as-

signed to the Woolsey Fire in Malibu, northwest of Los Angeles.

signed to the Woolsey Fire in Malibu, northwest of Los Angeles. in their area, and through the state at least 81 people lost their lives. Over 800 are still missing, and the number of homes destroyed has reached 12,000.

Eight different wildfires have erupted, the worst being the "Campfire" blaze that destroyed the town of ill-named Paradise.



FIREFIGHTER from Eastex Volunteer Fire Department were involved in "mopping up" and support for fire departments from California and Texas. Here they fight a brush fire similar to their work on the Woolsey wildfire.



EASTEX FIRE DEPARTMENT Brush Truck traverses the mountains in the foothills near Malibu and Camarillo, California.

A New Generation of Leadership for Our Future

Ana Hernandez
for Texas Senate • District 6
AnaForTexas.com facebook.com/AnaForTexas

ANA HERNANDEZ offers a new generation of leadership for the Texas Senate. She experienced life as an immigrant while growing up in Pasadena. She graduated from the University of Houston and went on to earn her law degree from the University of Texas. At the Young age of 27 she was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Ana is also the mother of a young son and a partner in a small law firm.

This breadth of real life experience is what gives Ana the drive and passion to represent you fiercely in the Texas Senate.

Ana Hernandez will be a fierce and effective advocate for the future of Texas

- Make full-day Pre-K the standard in Texas schools
- Expand Medicaid to provide affordable healthcare to all
- Provide quality training and education to prepare Texans for good-paying jobs
- Continue the fight to give veterans the services they deserve
- Protect our Dreamers and their families from Donald Trump and his right-wing allies

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