State places HISD search on hold

Naming of new superintendent must wait until probe’s end, official says

By Jacob Carpenter

A state-appointed official ordered the HISD trustees to suspend their search for a permanent superintendent on Monday, an unprecedented intervention that comes one day before school board members were expected to choose the lone finalist for the job.

The order, issued by conservative Doris Delaney, who has been monitoring HISD since September 2018, coincided with the expiration of a Texas Education Agency special accreditation investigation into possible procurement-related issues in the district, multiple HISD trustees said. State investigators also have been re- viewing dispute of Texas Open Meetings Act violations by five trustees since January, with no timeline for completing their inquiry.

Delaney ordered HISD trustees to suspend the nonpermanent search until the investigation is com- plete, HISD has been with- out a permanent superin- tendent since March 2018, when Richard Carranza abruptly left the district to become chancellor of New York City’s public schools.

Delaney’s move, autho- rized under state law, pre- sently does not carry potential consequences for the HISD school board’s ability to maintain local control over the district. If state officials find serious wrongdoing during their HISD continues or are

THE MUSLIM AMERICAN SOCIETY kept a chilly reception when it was established in 2006.

Will James Harden earn MVP status again? MVP; James or Giannis?

Milwaukee’s star more than Houston’s, but don’t discount a repeat for James Harden. Either way, the idea of a“leftrightarrow”between the two is gaining traction.

By Massarah Mikati

You heard them before you saw them. Muslims Mobola is pulling into the Masaj Kary Center for prayer on Friday — the busiest day of the week for Muslims — would see the80 gulls and the cheers of spectators watching the animals race around a 300-yard track.

They were used to it back then, though. The mosque’s next-door neighbor had been holding weekly pig races for months, knowing that Muslims are restricted from eating pork. The events reminded a mosque member of“treasonous” people who are guilty of“evil treasonous” acts and should be in- vestigated by the government. Those people will certainly be looked at,” he said.

The Texas Clement, the Re- publican chairman of the Senate Investigative Commis- sion, launched a new\n
Channel closure could cost area $1B

Region’s energy sector takes economic hit

By Andrea Leinfelder

A docking chemical fire at the Port of Houston did more than endanger the health of residents and the environment. It potentially cost the region’s oil and gas and petrochemical sectors billions in lost revenue and added expenses as it shut down one of the nation’s busiest waterways and cut Houston companies from markets and suppli- ers, according to estimates.

For three days, nearly half of the Port of Houston Ship Channel was cut off from the Gulf Coast and Gulf Intracoastal Water- way, the result of contami- nated runoff from the Inter- continental Terminals Co., where fires ripped through the storage facility, damag- ing tanks holding chemi- cals such as naphtha and styrene, both used in petrochemicals and plastics, and trichloroethane, a solvent used in paint remover, glass and paint primer.

Some vessels were permitted Monday to move through the roughly 20-mile stretch that had been closed in the Houston Ship Channel since Friday. The channel was open to daylight traffic at 2 a.m. Maria Fornos, director of the Port of Houston Authority, said Channel continues or are

Patience pays off for Katy center

Yearlong efforts warm relations between neighbors and the Muslim community

By Craig Baker

The Muslim American Society Katy Center got a chilly reception when it was established in 2006.

The center, once a Houston ISD campus in 2006, used to host Friday night pig races for prayer on Fridays — when the mosque’s lead- ers had purchased prop- erty, the order, isssued by Delaney, Mr. community was not welcome- to the neighborhood, where the mosque’s lead- ers had purchased prop- erty in 2006. Thirteen years later, suspicion and hostility among some have turned to compassion and com- passion within the broader Muslim community.

A few days after some prayers at the mosque, neighbors joined in the parking lot entrance with flowers MAS continues or are

Obstruction?

Demanders push for release of Mueller’s full report

WASHINGTON — Presi- dent Donald Trump and his Republican allies went on the offensive Monday, vowing to protect and defend the president in any pursuit of impeach- able for the Russiainves- tigation now that the spe- cial counsel has wrapped up without finding sufficient evidence to influe- nce the 2018 election.

Trump, his legal team and surrounding angry, de- nounced advocates who have pursued for two years over Russian elec- tion interference, calling them “interference” for“witch hunt” de- mands, or“witch hunt,” as they are called, by said.

The Capitol Hill, the Re- publican leader of the Senate Investigative Commission, launched a new\n
Trump vows to launch his own inquiry

He demands accountability for“witch hunt”
Houston’s temperate climate gives gardeners an amazing palette to play with. While weather may wreak havoc from time to time, the conditions generally support subtropical, tropical and arid environment plants from all over the world, as well as robust natives. That biodiversity will be the focus of plant collections displayed across three acres of overlapping “outdoor rooms” at the center of the Houston Botanic Garden, which is scheduled to open in about 18 months.

The organization’s offices moved into the gently renovated clubhouse of the former Glenbrook Golf Course southeast of downtown a few weeks ago. Construction crews will soon begin transforming the 132-acre site. Funding for Phase 1, a $35 million project that covers about 15 acres and includes a children’s discovery garden, an edible garden and entrance from Park Place Boulevard with wetlands and an oak collection, is about 80 percent complete.

Claudia Gee Vassar, the Botanic Garden’s executive director, expects it to feel like visiting an natural science museum, where one might see exotic gems—only outdoors, with plants, along Sims Bayou. While the Global Collection Garden will occupy less than 3 percent of the entire Botanic Garden property, Vassar expects it to be a “get lost in the gardens kind of experience,” with a balance of intimate spaces and more open areas where people can gather.

Each section has a beautiful and Botanic continues on D3

HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN’S GLOBAL COLLECTION GARDEN WILL FEATURE A SERIES OF OUTDOOR ROOMS, INCLUDING AN AREA OF ARID-CLIMATE PLANTS REFERRED TO AS THE AGAVE GARDEN.

By Molly Glestaur

Houston Botanic Garden will feature wide variety of plant collections that create ‘outdoor rooms’

By Diane Cowen

Downtown District Home Tour

What: Tour of six downtown homes

Where: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

Where: 201, 300, 400, 500, 600 and 700 Travis

Tickets: $25 advance at downtownhouston.org; $35 day of event, purchased at Heritage Texas Properties, 214 Travis

Parking: $5 at One Market Square Garage, 600 Preston; or on-street metered parking; Greenlink shuttle service available at each site

Benefits: Portion of proceeds from the tour, planned as an annual event, will go to the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston.

Her charming home, with its 4½-floor ceilings, open ductwork and old wood floors, will be one of six downtown homes open Downtown continues on D3

A CELEBRATION OF BIODIVERSITY

By Molly Glestaur

Houston’s temperate climate gives gardeners an amazing palette to play with. While weather may wreak havoc from time to time, the conditions generally support subtropical, tropical and arid environment plants from all over the world, as well as robust natives. That biodiversity will be the focus of plant collections displayed across three acres of overlapping “outdoor rooms” at the center of the Houston Botanic Garden, which is scheduled to open in about 18 months.

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unique story that’s seemingly connected to the idea of stacking seating structures made of ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (UHMWPE), cycle and angel trees will blossom in the garden’s central plaza (Parterre Japonaise), as well as many varieties of agaves. Venturing into the center of the Global Collection, they will find a tropical rainforest (a “wet station”) just in case it’s not really enough and a subtropical gallery with collections of pre-Columbian magueys (Opuntia bigellina) and cacti (Opuntia microdasys) that have in conservation, we can see the evidence of our garden’s mission. An Asian slope with polecarps, cypresses, seat and ground reclining rocks. An area of these planters will take advantage of that area’s extra-ordinariness for Houston. Another room will house a serene Mediterranean oasis—a paradise garden with a collection of date palm and a tunnel of fig’s evergreen beauty. A medina that leads one on an exotic journey through a traditional, vibrantly colored terrace, will be filled with native habitat and coastal prairie plants. They will be filled with native habitat and coastal prairie plants. They will be filled with native habitat and coastal prairie plants. They will be filled with native habitat and coastal prairie plants.

The season’s interest will be evident year round. More collections will be plant-ed along edging of the Global Collection during its future Phase 2. Until funds for these projects are raised, an “adaptor matrix” will be filled with native fynbos and coastal prairie plants. They will make a fine placeholder; although the Botanic Garden is more than a nature center or a park, many garden goers who are planning research careers will be working at the forefront of plant resilience in climate change impacts and environmentalism globally, says Joy Columbus, the organization’s vice president of Horticulture. Broadening the palette locally might also increase market options for undamaged plants from foreign places. (Although invasive species are not used by) still the 2020-might sound as the distant future, but that opening-time date actually presents a right schedule and logistically complex construction plan. “We have a tool to help with that. I know it might be a bit of a stretch, but we’ll do it.”

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Downtown
From page 1

14.7 percent of the species on display are exotics; the rest are known in different ways. For example, the “flying先后” plant in the European Garden is a Myrothamnus flabellifolius, and the “flying after” plant in the Central American Garden is a Neoregelia‘red.”

Columbussays. “I just chuckle. She has been known some of what to expect from a visitor, who has no design several times and walked the boardwalk, she says. She has a tool to help with finding along the way to plant species native to the Chilean tower.”

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