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PRE-K STILL ABBOTT'S LIABILITY

Davis continues to hound Republican on education— Aamena Ahemd, The Texas Tribune

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis on Monday accused Republican opponent Greg Abbott of proposing increased testing and denying equal access to pre-kindergarten education. “We cannot afford another political insider like Greg Abbott,” Davis told supporters at the Texas State Teachers Association in Austin. She said Abbott “believes it’s a good idea to impose outdated, backward-thinking standardized tests onto 4-year-olds so that he can pick and choose which of our children get a fair shot and which do not.”

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POWERFUL CHAIRMAN IN THE STATE HOUSE BLASTS SITTON

Says RRC candidate unethical— Jim Malewicz, Texas Weekly

Ryan Sitton is headed “right into a buzz saw” — one that could further slice up the Texas Railroad Commission's reputation — unless he changes his response to the ethics questions swirling around his bid for a spot on the commission, a key state lawmaker said.

“It’s a loaded revolver he’s playing roulette with here,” state Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee, said in an interview Monday about Sitton’s plans, if elected, to stay involved with the oil and gas engineering firm he and his wife founded. “I think it’s going to become a negative issue for the whole commission.”

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GRAND JURY EMPANELED TO INVESTIGATE GOV RICK PERRY

Alleges corruption after PIU veto— Peggy Fikac, San Antonio Express-News

A judge seated a grand jury on Monday to look into the threat that Gov. Rick Perry carried out to veto funding for the Public Integrity Unit under Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg.

Perry last year said he would veto money for the unit, which prosecutes wrongdoing by public officials, unless Lehmborg resigned in the wake of a drunken-driving arrest. Lehmborg was caught on video after her arrest behaving in a belligerent fashion. Texans for Public Justice, which tracks money in politics, filed a complaint with prosecutors over Perry's threat.

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TALK OF HOARDING ORDINANCE CONTINUES IN HOUSTON

Hoarders seek help, neighbors seek refuge—Jayme Fraser, Houston Chronicle

David Weede has not invited anyone to his house for more than a year because of the nose-stinging smell and the holes that rats have chewed through his walls and couch pillows. For nearly eight years, Weede called city officials, looking for someone, anyone, to help clean up his next-door neighbors' townhome.

"The city did nothing," he said. "I went to the homeowners association, but they couldn't do anything because their hands were pretty much tied." Now, he hopes City Council will pass an anti-hoarding ordinance at its meeting Wednesday, so others do not have to wait so long for help. City officials and police officers supportive of the anti-hoarding proposal say that existing health and building codes do not give them clear authority or direction on what to do.

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PUBLIC INTEGRITY UNIT WILL CONSIDER CHARGES FOR HALL

Embattled UT regent has been in the news—Reeve Hamilton, The Texas Tribune

Gregg Cox, the director of the Public Integrity Unit in the Travis County district attorney's office, said he expected that it would take about one week for his staff to determine whether they would move forward on the case against University of Texas System Regent Wallace Hall.

Allegations that the regent may have violated criminal statutes in his handling of private student information were forwarded to the Travis County district attorney and the Travis County attorney on Friday by a legislative committee that has been investigating the regent. Cox said his office would coordinate with the county attorney's office to make sure no work was duplicated.

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WENDY DAVIS VOTED ON LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTED HER

Conflicts of interest have been noted—Wayne Slater, The Dallas Morning News

When Wendy Davis chose to work for local government agencies as a lawyer, she promised she would "not represent anyone on any issues" that came before the state. But Davis, the state senator who is the Democratic nominee for governor, has voted on bills affecting clients and her law firm's bottom line.

Records show Davis supported legislation governing a toll-road project for which the North Texas Tollway Authority hired her firm. She backed changes governing the collection of unpaid tolls that preceded an NTTA program in which law firms — including Davis' — were chosen to carry out the collections. And as a state senator, she sought federal money for a transportation project being handled by her law firm.

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TEXANS FOR LAWSUIT REFORM ENDORSE PATRICK, TROUBLE?

Days may be numbered for the Lt Gov—Marty Schladen, El Paso Times

President George W. Bush wrapped up the Civil Rights Summit on Thursday afternoon by calling for a continued push for quality education for all students, an issue he said "remains one of the most urgent civil rights issues of our time." Bush said it was no accident that many of the ideas and episodes of the Civil Rights Movement happened at schools and universities.

"King called education the road to equality and citizenship," Bush said, speaking of Martin Luther King Jr. "Lyndon Johnson knew the centrality of education in civil rights." Bush said there is a continued need for a federal role in education, "not to dictate methods but to help educate poor, minority and special-education children."

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THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

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The Houston Post

PRESIDENT OBAMA ON CIVIL RIGHTS

A different perspective—Erica Greider, Texas Monthly

The Houston New Post is an exclusive service of “Yes, race still colors our debates,” said President Barack Obama during his keynote speech at the LBJ Texpatriate (www.texpate.com). We strive to bring Library’s Civil Rights Summit yesterday. It is also the case, he said, that the country is still wracked by you the biggest news, from around the State, every political division and poverty, and that some government programs have fallen short of their goals; business day. Articles are property of the individual nonetheless, 50 years after Lyndon Johnson signed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, “we have proved author and publication, not of the Post. Any opinion that great progress is possible.” And the president ended his speech by promising, like LBJ before him, to use expressed are similarly those of only the author. the power of his office to pursue further progress.

While Texpatriate will offer editorials and endorsements, the Post will never take sides in an ongoing dispute or take political positions.

The Civil Rights Act banned discrimination in public accommodations and included a provision against unequal application of voter registration rules; the Voting Rights Act, which Johnson signed the next year, reinforced voting rights by establishing federal oversight of state election rules and outlawing literacy tests, among other things.

Presented by: Sophia Arena, Olivia Arena, George Bailey, Luis Fayad, Noah M. Horwitz and Andrew Scott Romo

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THE EDITOR'S RANT

Noah M. Horwitz

Jubilantly, I leaped off my couch last evening in triumph. King Joffrey, of the House Baratheon, the first of his name, is no more. The sadistic boy king, the one who beheaded Eddard Stark and sparked the War of the Five Kings, could no longer hurt anyone.

That reminded me, a right-wing blogger for the Houston Chronicle tweeted about the show this morning. Her choice of words was perfect.

"I tried to watch Game of thrones because I love stories about that time period, but the porn aspect of it made me turn it off."

Have I mentioned before that we need better history classes? Perhaps then this whole young-earth creationist fairy tale could finally be put to bed. Oh yeah, and maybe pundits could no longer be seen as suggesting a land of dragons and demons is a "time period" of history. That's all I got tonight.