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RICK PERRY SHAKES UP HIS STAFF

Seen as a precursor to the Presidential run—[Peggy Fikac, Houston Chronicle](#)

Gov. Rick Perry, who is eyeing another run at the presidency, has hired a communications director who worked for Mitt Romney when he was Massachusetts governor and for former U.S. Sen. Scott Brown. Felix Browne – who most recently worked for a high-tech coalition that defeated a proposed Massachusetts tax on custom software – replaces Mark Miner, Perry's office announced Monday.

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HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL IS ONE VOTE FROM A BIG N-D-O

LGBT protections include private employment—[John Wright, Lone Star Q](#)

Last week I reported that Houston Mayor Annise Parker's current draft of a Human Rights Ordinance doesn't include citywide employment protections for LGBT people.

I also mentioned that the city's largest LGBT group, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, is calling on Parker to include citywide employment protections in the proposed ordinance, which she's expected to introduce to the City Council later this month.

Parker's fear, according to reports, is that if the ordinance covers employment in the private sector, it won't have enough votes to pass the City Council.

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RAILROAD COMMISSIONER GOP PRIMARY GETS HEATED

Wayne Christian & Ryan Sitton trade barbs—[Jim Malewicz, The Texas Tribune](#)

A former Texas Railroad Commission chairman is helping Ryan Sitton fight back against conflict-of-interest allegations in the Republican primary runoff for an open seat on the commission. Meanwhile, Sitton is redirecting ethics questions at his opponent, former state Rep. Wayne Christian, who led Sitton by 12 percentage points in the party's initial vote last month.

On Monday, Elizabeth Ames Jones, a former Texas state representative who served on the Railroad Commission from 2005 to 2012, endorsed Sitton, an oil and gas engineer, calling his experience an asset. She said Christian's claims of a looming conflict of interest were "completely false."

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WALLACE HALL, UT REGENT, ALLEGEDLY BROKE THE LAW

New damning report released—[Nolan Hicks, *Houston Chronicle*](#)

University of Texas Regent Wallace Hall likely committed impeachable offenses, including abusing his office and possibly breaking state and federal law – in his campaign to oust University of Texas at Austin president Bill Powers, according to a draft report prepared for the Texas House committee investigating Hall.

The 176-page draft report, which was made available to committee members Friday and obtained by the San Antonio Express-News/Houston Chronicle, alleges that Hall leaked confidential student information in apparent violation of state and federal law in an attempt to silence his critics in the Texas Legislature. The report also accuses him of manipulating the investigation and coercing witnesses.

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SBOE WILL CONSIDER ADDING MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

But the Tea Party is opposed— [Lisa Gray, *Houston Chronicle*](#)

Juliet Stipeche, president of the Houston ISD board, throws out a challenge: Name five historically important Mexican-Americans.

There's Cesar Chavez, the farm worker activist. And ... who?

Stipeche, who's Hispanic and grew up in east Houston, knows how it feels to be stumped by the question. A year and a half ago, when it came up in conversation, she and two close friends were appalled to realize that none of them could do it - though they could easily name five European-Americans or African-Americans.

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LAWSUIT AGAINST BATTLEGROUND TEXAS IS THROWN OUT

Judge calls complaints frivolous— [John W. Gonzalez, *San Antonio Express-News*](#)

Project Veritas allegations that Battleground Texas illegally acquired voter information in San Antonio have been rejected by a Bexar County district court after a pair of special prosecutors called it “political disinformation.”

The ruling was based on an investigative report from those special prosecutors who found no wrongdoing and described hidden-camera evidence produced by conservative activist James O'Keefe III's Project Veritas group as deliberate falsehoods.

Three people had alleged that a Battleground Texas staffer violated state election law last year by mining voters' personal data while registering them.

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RANDOM CHAOS EXISTS IN JUDGE PRATT'S OLD COURT

Disgraced former Judge left behind pandemonium— [Kiah Collier, *Houston Chronicle*](#)

Hundreds of divorce, child support and custody cases dating back to 2012 will have to be revisited - and possibly sent back to trial - as a court administrator sorts out what he called the "random chaos" left behind by former District Family Court Judge Denise Pratt.

The freshman jurist, who abruptly resigned late last month, left nearly 300 court orders stacked on the floor and desk of her 311th District Court, according to Judge David Farr, the administrative judge for Harris County's nine family courts. Most of the orders, Farr said, are final agreements needing only a judge's signature, meaning families are waiting to hear that their cases have been concluded or think they already are.

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THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

^{new}
The Houston Post

LIES & POLITICAL DISCOURSE BLUR LINES

Please make it stop—Noah M. Horwitz, The Daily Texan

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

At first glance, a suit such as this, about corporate personhood and religious liberty, would appear to be a good-faith dispute made over legitimate political convictions.

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BEST OF THE BLOGS!

BIG JOLLY POLITICS

N/A

BRAINS & EGGS

[“The Weekly Wrangle”](#)

BURNT ORANGE REPORT

[“Van de Putte talks to bloggers”](#)

DOS CENTAVOS

[“The SBOE sounds ignorant”](#)

EYE ON WILLIAMSON

[“Attn: Texas Businesses”](#)

OFF THE KUFF

[“Who’s afraid of the GOP slate?”](#)

RHYMES WITH RIGHT

[“I <3 Denise Pratt; lol jk”](#)

TEXPATRIATE

[“Parker pulls an Obama”](#)

TEXAS LEFTIST

[“It’s time for Leticia”](#)

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THE EDITOR'S RANT

Noah M. Horwitz

THE PEANUT GALLERY

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Upper limit of 200 words, all submissions will be published!