Ogg urges police chiefs to oppose bail deal

District attorney sues attorney general to secure back pay for cops, fight historic reform settlement

By Gabrielle Banks

District Attorney Kim Ogg is rallying police officers across Harris County to show up in federal court on Monday to oppose a landmark bail reform agreement at a hearing set for that day. She gathered about 100 police chiefs to invite them to attend an Oct. 28 court proceeding before Chief U.S. District Judge Lee Bollinger to lend support on an is sue she says "emasculates the public safety of Harris County.

In addition to recruiting top brass to the hearing, Ogg also re quested that her legislators present to support her concerns about portions of the settlement that allowed most de fendants arrested on minor offenses in a home without posting up-front cash bail, accord ing to her spokesman, Dave Schlitter.

Ogg expressed misgivings about the proposed consent de cree approved last summer by Commissioners Court after an innovative meeting between county leaders, judges and the lawyers for the plaintiffs in the 2016 class action. "This is a defendant in the lawsuit, is among a number of parties, including many from the bail bond industry, who submit ted concerns about the settle ment in court during the sum mer.

"The district attorney has al ways supported bail reform, so that nobody is held just because of the police officer who also says public safety should always be considered," Schlitter said.

Public safety is also a concern of the Harris County commissioners who opposed the settlement.

Prosecutor Commissioner Steve Bock, a third-term incumbent, said this week that it "wasn't the correct thing to do and it was bad for everybody" that Boc k was掉了 on day two of the hearing was uncalled for and the new bail system is a "train wreck." Bock will cross-examine the commissioner's counsel , Reuben F. Dorchin, in the hearing.

Last year, the school's Student Government Association passed a resolution to enhance the stadium for at least one game.

For TSU, there’s no place like home at Third Ward stadium

By Julie Garcia

Bringing the Texas Southern University Tigers, same back to Darling Stadium meant a lot to many.

For senior Marcus Nash, pres ident of the university's Student Government Association, the game was a yearning quest to leave.

For alumni and former cheer leading captain Favorite Wiltz (class of 2016), standing again on the sidelines with her fellow cheering alumni brought her back in time.

For Kevin Granger (class of 1996), vice president of intercol legiate athletics and a former bas ketball coach for the school, seeing the filled stadium was a gratifying and humbling experi ence.

This year's homecoming was the first home game to be played at historically black univer sity's stadium in 60 years. The致使 Tigers fell to the Missouri State&M Tigers 22-10, but the team has played at BRB Compass Stadium downtown for few seasons and, at one point, played the Astros and other teams.

Brown Sanchez

It has attracted far less atten tion than the nearby Mayor’s race, but the contest for the city’s sec ond-highest office has intensified in recent weeks as Controller Chris Brown, a 48-year-old independently elected financial watchdog, fends off a challenge from Rep. Al Waxman, who is running on a ticket with the mayor’s political party.

Kendall Jenner’s, a former city councilman, mayoral candidate and former County commissioner, faced the challenge from Brown in August with an hour to spare before the Aug. 19 deadline. He has pledged to conduct a 10-day audit once the controller’s office more trans parent.

Brown, who is too closely aligned with Mayor Sylvester Turner to serve as a check on his power.

While it’s not to have a cordial relationship with the mayor, I don’t think you need a person of the mayor’s,” said Alx Morgan, 48.

Brown, who served as deputycontroller prior to his election in 2018, scoffed at Sanchez’s claims.

Sanchez conducted 39 audits during his Controller continues on A6

State ed board chair urges more civility in public arena

A number of Texas Republi cans, including the members of Congress, have decided to throw in the towel rather than seek re-election in 2020.

It’s not shocking that State Board of Education Member Donna Rikkers, a conservative who represents part of Harris County, dropped her re-election bid for the "Idiosyncrasy," she plans to step down at the end of the current term rather than seek a third one.

Rikkers has been a frequent Republican holdover since joining the the state board in 2001. She recently wrapped up a suit as her chairwoman, a post to which she was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2016. State law barred Rikkers from serving another term as chairwoman until 2024.

Unlike many of the retiring Republicans, Rikkers wasn’t interested in seeking another term. She also isn’t expecting the coming election cycle to be a pleasant one.

“I think it’s going to be a very long year and a half,” she said Monday over the phone at The Merry Feast in Katy.

She reflected on the tribal isation of politics, and the toxic ity of our conversations with each other on social media.

What is important is that people have calmed down and not given up the fight.

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How a Texas Ranger got a killer to talk

By Del Quentin Wilber

Longtime Texas Rangers pitcher and hall-of-famer Jeff Bagwell no longer has to worry about a mortgage in windscapes, cricket stentfixed, flies or fluorescent lights and is confronted by spectral visions during his lifetime.

Baltimore had the walls with dozen of haunting portraits of criminals, encased from memory by their killer. The macabre gal lery initially served as an investi gative tool to help Baltimore keep straight a serial murderer’s myriad confessions.

The woman appears in vibrant colors, with unique features — a fresh, luminous face. Some pictures capture inscriptions: "Texas Daily Gals," "New Orleans Reds Left Field 1903 April," "Aaron Left in Woods 1905."

Recently, the portraits have taken on a more haunting pur pose, reminders that Baltimore is running out of time to put names to more of their faces. He’s already found justice for some.

He’s still working on the case of a young man whose family was killed 22 years ago.

Digging Into the Renaissance Festival

ERICA GREDER

Commentary

2020 campaign has nuanced, unique flavor

Marshall Varn, 69, left, of League City, with his friend, Issyahl Huddleston, of Tomball, end another day at the Texas Renaissance Festival on Saturday in Todd Mission. The festival runs through Jan. 5. (Melissa Phillip/ Houston Chronicle)