



Up The Enterprize™

A View from Below the Texas Health and Human Services Enterprize System

The

J a n u a r y 2 0 1 5

IN THIS ISSUE (or not)

Alabama Coushatta Casino lays odds on Enterprize Commissioner Firings

Breaches (not pants) of law impacting thousands of senior Texans and children by DADS and DFPS, and multiple illegally-awarded multi-million HHSC contracts have prompted Alabama Coushatta Casino to laid odds on the possible firings of three Enterprize commissioners. If you're considering a wager, here's some tip-of-the-iceberg background:

- HHSC awarded a \$110 million no-bid contract to Austin technology firm 21CT. HHSC top lawyer Jack Stick and Inspector General Wood have resigned. It's looking like this was a Stick family affair. In a separate case, Truven Health Analytics was given inside information during a \$40M contract bidding process by senior HHSC manager Leah Rayne. And, oh my gosh, Tom Suehs, former HHSC Executive Commissioner, is a consultant to Truven! How strange is that? Odds are running 50-50 that Ms. Rayne will be able to make the \$123,725 she was making at HHSC before she was fired, when she lands a job at Truven.
- DADS never reported 1,533 cases of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation to law enforcement. State law requires these incidents be reported within 24 hours. The law makes sense, but gee-whiz, it's sure inconvenient to have to report that many incidents in such a short period of time.
- Texas couldn't protect its own foster children from abuse and death, so a New York advocacy group called Children's Rights filed a class-action lawsuit representing 12,000 Texas kids in long-term care. Also in 2014, another state created for Texas, and is now implementing, a whole new plan for DFPS Child Protective Services (see New Hampshire Rides to the Rescue of DFPS Executives). God Bless ~~Texas~~ New York and New Hampshire.

Alabama Coushatta Casino odds:

- **93% chance:** the \$110M contract gets much more attention than the 1,533 cases of unreported senior abuse.
- **89% chance:** former-Senator Janek will be slightly reprimanded by the 84th Legislature.
- **79% chance:** former-judge "*this problem was at CPS way before when I got here*" Specia will retire after the 84th session with Legislative accolades.
- **97% chance:** any Enterprize staff member will get fired if they do their job like these commissioners do theirs.
- **91% chance:** the pre-holiday mea culpa from DADS Commissioner Weizenbaum makes it all right. No problem.
- **101% chance:** two of the three Commissioners will land sweet consultant deals before September 2016.

Governor Abbott removes a "t" and a "b" from name to save on printing costs.

Raging debate ensues.

How come white people don't help out a little more on Black History Month celebrations?

Raging debate doesn't ensue.

Sunset Commission reconsiders recommendations: decides on zero HHS agencies

Up The Enterprize (UpThe) is published bi-monthly and employs these very clever acronyms: **HHSC** – Health and Human Services Commission; **EC** – Texas Health and Human Services Enterprize Executive Commissioner; **DFPS** – Department of Family and Protective Services; **RP** – Rick's Pony; **DSHS** – Department of State Health Services; **HM** – His Majesty; **DADS** - Department of Aging and Disability Services and, oh yeah, **DARS** – Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. UpThe is a friend to re-tweeters, people afraid of clowns, and different-sock wearers. Please forward all inquiries and requests to Y.Y. Redates at editor@uptheenterprize.com. All Rights Reserved. Copyright January 2015.

DON'T MISS THESE STORIES IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Off-Congress production of *Up the Enterprize, The Musical* is underway!

Latin scholars discover that "sine die" actually means "F-you, I'm going home."

2014 Action Memo of the Year winner to be announced in February.

Is the Winters Building leaning or is this just another leaky toilet?

EC Janek to outsource his own job with no-bid contract.

Abused and neglected foster children illegally cross border ... into Mexico.

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A view of the future through the lens of the past

Before we boldly venture into the pre-apocalyptic, post-Sunset world that awaits each and everyone of us, let's take a little peek into the funhouse rear-view mirror of life and review the successes of 83rd Legislature from whence we came.

The intent of this article is to provide indepth analyses of policy changes mandated by the august 83rd and delve deeply into the responsive Enterprize agency rules and programmatic innovations promulgated to enact, to the letter of the law, the will of the Texas Legislature and the people of Texas.



Second thought, why bother? However, we would like to officially endorse the unconcealed handgun bill ([HB 415](#)) so that foster children and older folks can protect themselves ... without firing a shot.



UpThe UpThe

Free Radical Guest Writer article with an amazing headline HERE!

This is the lead sentence of an article you wrote as an *Up The Enterprize* Free Radical Guest Writer. The sentence is bold, concise and provocative. It thrills readers to the depths of their beings. If the sentence were a person, most readers would invite it out for drinks.

Your elegant writing style beguiles and fascinates. It edifies the masses. The counterpoint clarity of your prose is as fire to ice, or legislators to smart people.

Your inner-Hemingway submitted this less-than-200-word article to editor@uptheenterprize.com thus proclaiming your willingness to provide commentary and insight through art to the world. You harbor no expectations of remuneration or claims to the future earnings of *Up The Enterprize* and its intergalactic subsidiaries, so help you *insert your deity here* blah, blah, blah.

Write on, brothers and sisters.

Cruz and Abbott Clash over the “One Finger Thing”

Twitter tempers flared up recently as Texas Senator Ted Cruz and Texas Governor-elect Greg Abbott argued about whose thing the “One Finger Thing” is. (#OneFingerThing)

“I can’t imagine why he thinks it’s his thing,” Abbott said during a three-hour primetime interview with *UpThe*. I remember doing the “One Finger Thing” during the 2002 election, first with my right hand and then with the left!”



Moments later Senator Cruz tweeted: “All due respect to my learned, one-fingered, governor-elected friend and colleague, you and your hick Tennessee law-degree are mistaken.” He attached this photograph, presumably taken prior to the 2002.



Abbott was ready, and fired back: “So busy studying at Haaa-vard and convincing the world that Daddy didn’t really mean it when he fought **for** Castro, that you missed this?” He attached the above photo.



“Okay Mister first elected governor to use a wheelchair since George Wallace in 1982. Here’s me pointing to America from my Cuban refugee boat!” The Senator attached a cute little picture of himself on the high seas.



“Fine, illegal immigrant boy,” tweeted Abbott, “while I’m checking out your papers, behold the master of the “Quintuple Finger Thing. Boom!”

Texas Governor-elect Abbott files suit against Governor’s Office

Texas Governor-elect Greg Abbott filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Austin today, seeking legal remedies to allow him to be named the “Governor General of Texas” on January 20, 2015 when he is scheduled to take the oath of office.

“I’ve grown accustomed to everyone calling me ‘General’ for the last 14 years,” said Texas Attorney General Abbott at a December press conference, “and I don’t see why that cannot continue as I assume the office of governor in January.”

Unfortunately, Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code does not allow Texas governors to be called anything but Governor.

“If ‘Governor’ was good enough for Ma Ferguson, it’s good enough for Greg Abbott,” said the Governor’s

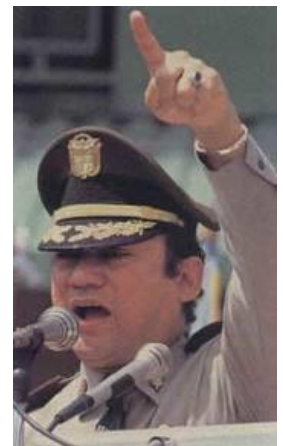


Office attorney yesterday after an 18-hour negotiating marathon.

Insiders tell *UpThe* that General Abbott, at one point, withdrew his demand to be called “General” if he could be called “Strong Man” instead, as was Panamanian Strongman Manuel Noriega during the 1980s.

When pointed out to Abbott that Noriega’s full moniker was actually “Panamanian Strongman, General Manuel Noriega,” Abbott then insisted on being called “Texas Strongman Governor General Abbott” and directed his staff to order his new business cards immediately.

As his swearing-in ceremony on January 2, Texas General Land Office Commissioner, General George P. Bush, had no comment.



These people have nothing to do with *Up The Enterprize*

In response to the relentless witch hunts to identify individuals responsible for *Up The Enterprize*, this publication is embarking on an occasional series which will identify Texas HHS Enterprize employees and other individuals who are **not** involved in any way with the writing or production of *Up The Enterprize* or its global operations. If you or your family members are under surveillance, notify us immediately and we will include your information on this list.



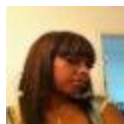
Dianna Velasquez, DFPS Director of Special Projects has zilch to do with *Up The Enterprize*.



David Brown, KUT-FM or Jim Morrison circa '66. Anyway, this person is clearly too earnest for the likes of *UpThe*.



Tia Marta. No way.



Ivy E., an HHSC Program Supervisor does not waste her valuable time hanging out with us.



Octavius Bonacquisti is the DARS Office of Autism Services Manager. *UpThe* needs a hair consultant if you're interested, O.



Debbie Hiott, Editor, Austin American-Statesman. She's got a real news job.



Cecilia Cavuto, DADS Media Relations Manager, probably wouldn't touch us with a ten-foot pole. Not true? Let us know.



Mike Gilliam assesses and benchmarks stuff at the Department of State Health Services, not *Up The Enterprize*.



Karl Urban is DFPS Director of Performance and Policy Development... and apparently quite an orator. We don't know him.



Cheryl Fuller, DARS Assistant Commissioner, has never even emailed us to say hi.



Stacy Alexander Smith writes sometimes for the Austin Chronicle, but not for *UpThe*.



We have begged Keith Graf (Director of Aerospace, Aviation & Defense at Office of the Governor) to work with us. He won't.



Jessica Conway, does her policy thing for DADS State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at DADS, not *UpThe*.



Andrew Barlow was Communications Director at Office of the Lt. Governor. We checked but he hasn't applied to *UpThe* yet.



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