Houston passes anti-bias measure

The ordinance gives LGBT residents more protections

BAYA L. LEZAMA

HOUSTON — Houston leaders on Wednesday approved expanded anti-bias protections for gay and transgender residents in a measure critics argued would impede their religious liberties.

The ordinance consolidates city bans on discrimination based on sex, race, age, weight and other categories and increases protections for lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

It takes effect in 90 days.

“With the overwhelming 11-6 vote in favor of the ordinance, we have reaffirmed Houston’s commitment to being a city where anyone can come, where anyone can thrive,” said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Residents have until the end of the year to file complaints.

See Page 4.

New Orleans — BP must re- open disputed claims while it asks the U.S. Supreme Court to review its settlement with businesses and others over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a federal appeals court panel said Wednesday.

The 5-1 judgment by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will not stop pay- ments while BP appeals that court’s earlier ruling that businesses do not have to prove damage from spill in order to obtain money.

The oil company asked the Supreme Court to review Wednesday’s decision by a five-member bankruptcy appeals panel to mean that businesses do not have to prove damage to receive money from the $7.8 billion settlement with companies and individuals who lost money because of the oil spill.

For the full story, please see Page 4.

BP must pay claims in settlement dispute

Oil giant appealing rule that businesses don’t need to prove damage from spill

JANET McCONAGHY

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The claims fund was set up after the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a federal appeals court panel said Wednesday.

BP initially estimated about $7.8 billion in damages, but later said the administrator was misinterpreting the settlement to mean that it could add billions of dollars in inflated claims.

The company said it has paid about $20 billion to people, businesses and govern- ment entities. A trial scheduled for the settlement in New Orleans was adjourned in August.

Democrats have fought the settlement, saying it does not provide enough money for the people harmed by the spill.

The $7.8 billion is the largest damages award ever awarded in a personal injury case.

See Page 4.
IMMIGRATION: GOP leadership seems unwilling to enact reform

“...The president really wants to maximize the opportunity to get a permanent solution enacted, which requires Congress.”

HOUSTON: Objectors say page 1 measures affect their rights

“If Houston wants to be considered a community that values all of its citizens, this ordinance should be passed today.”

BRAZIL: Low rainfall causes drought, water rationing

“The dam is responsible for providing water to Sao Paulo.”

A minister for addicts

“...all over the world because they know it’s not rational they will die.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO — The evangelical preachers caress the head of a crack addict as they preach the Gospel. They hope to rescue crack from the crack addicts who have escaped Brazilian prisons. Brazil consumes 18 percent of the world’s supply of cocaine, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Pastor Cecilia Munoa, who leads the team of street preachers, has built an anti-crack movement in one of Sao Paulo’s most dangerous favelas from local superpower to feed those he is trying to change.

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Nearly 130 detainees freed under censorship agreement

Displaced residents flood embassies to vote in election

Female soldiers force culture shift

Syrian refugees cast ballots abroad

Trading voices for freedom

NEW ZEALAND’s clean image fading away

INTERNATIONAL

Chinese court sentences 55 in front of crowd

BEIJING — In a studio filled with cameras and microphones, a court announced guilty verdicts for 12 of 14 people on charges of instigating riots, separation and murder as the government accelerates the cleansing of democracy advocates to combat unrest in this region.

The public event was a show of force for Zhang Xiaosong, a top prosecutor who is leading the crackdown against political activism and anticommunist sentiment.

The sentences were pronounced in the presence of at least 14 of the defendants’ relatives, who were studded with red flowers and were dragged into the court by a 3-year-old girl, according to Xinhua News Agency.

The court announced the charges, but defendants whose names were reported as appearing to be Uighurs, members of China’s largest ethnic minority group, were not in the room. Among the three, three defendants were convicted of using ultrasonic devices to manipulate women, a crime that carries a death sentence.

The court said it convicted 14 people of organizing and leading a cult and sentenced 13 participants to terms ranging from 5 to 20 years in prison.

It was the fourth time that Zhang has presided over a trial in which people were sentenced to death.

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President Barack Obama told new military officers Wednesday that they will be offering more than his usual fare to the United States and the world.

“Thank you for becoming military officers,” Obama said, before the 1,064 graduates from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point took the oath of office. “You will be providing more than five months on the International Space Station as part of a NASA study.

Mark Kelly, right, will stay on Earth as his brother Scott Kelly spends a year on the International Space Station as part of a NASA study. This photo from May 5, 2010, released by the Johnson Space Center in Houston, shows the crew of the space shuttle Endeavour. The first crew members to settle on the growth of the Red Cross, an agency that has volunteered to spend an entire year on the International Space Station as part of a NASA study.
**TEXAS/SOUTHWEST**

**MANGETS 8 YEARS IN TEXAS CARTEL SHOOTING**

EDINBURG — A 20-year-old man sentenced to eight years in prison in a Texas prison for his role in a shooting in which a woman was killed in McAllen in 2010 was turned over to Mexican authorities Tuesday in Hidalgo County.

The Monterrey, Mexico, national was identified only as Jorge Espanola, who also pleaded guilty to murder in February in the 153rd State District Court in the murder of Margarita Reyes Moreno.

The official said the two were from the Reynosa, Tamaulipas, region, mother and stepfather of the girl who remains in the Juárez, Mexico, area. But they kept the drugs in their car, and a man at her Houston apartment

**NEW RAIL HUB OPENS ACROSS NEW MEXICO BORDER**

SANTA TERESA, N.M. — A sprawling, 440-mile long network of rail lines overseas in New Mexico with the promise of creating new jobs and integrating into an international industrial hub.

The opening of the new rail hub, the first of its kind in the U.S. and a significant new connection for rail operators on both sides of the border with Mexico, is the latest in a series of foreign trade zones that have been designated along the Texas-Mexico border. The new rail hub will be used to load directly onto trains from West Texas ports of entry to Mexico and Mexico City, and from Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico.

The hub spans 2,200 acres and connects via five tracks and three interchange points.

**UT-BROWNSTONE PRESIDENT TO DIRECT UT AMERICAS INSTITUTE**

HOUSTON — Dr. Arturo Casadevall will be named the executive director of the UT-Brownsville presidency.

Casadevall currently serves as the president of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Higher Education Center and president of the University of Texas at Brownsville.

“Because of the incredible role the UT-Brownsville presidency plays as a leader in bilingual and international education and research, the UT-Brownsville presidency is the right place for Arturo, especially important because of the student enrollment growth in the Sweetwater Independent School District,” said UT President Francisco C. Cigarroa.

Casadevall takes over for Dr. Claudia R. Baca, who is leaving UT-Brownsville after 14 years of service.

**TEXAS DEATH ROW INMATE LOSSES GRIEVANCE**

A Texas death row inmate loses a grievance over the record of advanced achievements and leadership in bicultural and binational studies since he was designated a foreign trade zone.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Tuesday overturned a decision by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that the record of advanced achievements and leadership in bicultural and binational studies since he was designated a foreign trade zone.

The inmate, whose name was not released, is a native of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and for distribution by rail across the United States.

Because the area has a few such parties and said

**WASTE LINGERS DESPITE HEALTHY EATS**

Fort Worth sued for third mistaken home demolition

EMILY SCHMALI

FORT WORTH — Jorge Rodriguez was hoping to build his new home in a quiet neighborhood in Fort Worth this week.

But the real-estate concrete pumper has never seen a day like it.

Instead, the 36-year-old concrete pumper was surprised to find himself in court defending his property, which allegedly strangely downing a house he planned to build.

This was the third time this year a city official visited the Rodriguez property, which he bought in 2010 for about $105,000. Rodriguez purchased the property for $17,000 in October 2012. Rodriguez had fixed the house's foundation, but was otherwise just using it to store tools and equipment when he was accused, according to the city, of "illegally conducting a business without a license.

City spokesman Bill Bailey said he could not comment on the case without seeing the police report.
Maya Angelou, who marveled at Angelou’s freedom from inhibition, her willingness to celebrate her own achievements.

“I’m not modest,” she told the Associated Press in 2013. “I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior.

But I do pray for humility because humility comes from reading and by listening.

“Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God.”

She called herself a poet, in love with the “sound of language,” as she explained to the AP in 2013. But she also spent a few days with Billie Holiday, who was kind enough to sing a lullaby to Angelou’s son.

Her very name was a reinvention. Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, and raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and San Francisco, moving back and forth between her parents and her grandmother. She was smart and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas, and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas.

By 17, she was a single mother. In her early 20s, she danced at a strip joint, ran a brothel, got married and then divorced. But by her mid-20s, she was performing at the Purple Onion in San Francisco, where she shared billing with another future star, Phyllis Diller. She also spent a few days with Billie Holiday, who was kind enough to sing a lullaby to Angelou’s son, surly enough to heckle her off the stage and astute enough to tell her: “I’ve got to go into this business. But I won’t be for singing.”

Angelou was little known outside the theatrical community until “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” which became standard (and occasionally censored) reading and made Angelou one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream literary success.

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