

# Gary Job Corps celebrates National Correction Officers Appreciation Week

## Constable Peterson joins in

On May 5, 1984, then-President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation 5187: National Correctional Officers' Week, in which he called upon "officials of state and local governments and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities," to recognize "the contributions of correctional officers to our Nation."

Cadets from the Gary Job Corps Corrections/Security program rendered honors during ceremony. Lonnie Hall, Gary Center director, and Hays County Constable

David Peterson shared with the cadets and staff their appreciation for the students entering the corrections trade. Reagan was the first president to formally recognize the great work of those in the corrections profession and the very difficult, and at times dangerous, nature of corrections work.

He wrote that correctional officers are "essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control."



Pictured during the ceremony at Gary Job Corps with cadets from the corrections/security trade are Center Director Lonnie Hall; staff Rachel Garnes and Irma Pardo; instructors Eugene Edokpa, Evelyn Hernandez, Troy Oldbury, Betty Oliva, Sean Schultz, Preston Smith and Lauren Stevens; and Hays County Constable David Peterson. PHOTO COURTESY GARY JC

## Red Nose Day at Wonderland School



Wednesday was Red Nose Day, a promotion of Walgreen's where the purchase of a "Red Nose" will help feed hungry children, but students at Wonderland School celebrated early. Pictured are (top row, from left) Christine Cavazos, Gabby, Sydney, Layton, Chris and Bella; (second row, from left) Westyn, Jack, Silas, Kellee and Michael and (bottom row, from left) Jaxon, Caleb, Markey, T.K. and Sarah. PHOTO COURTESY WONDERLAND SCHOOL

## Tax free weekend on appliances lets Texas families save money

AUSTIN — Texas families can save on the purchase of certain water- and energy-efficient products during the state's Water-Efficient Products and ENERGY STAR® sales tax holidays. Both take place on Saturday, May 27, through Monday, May 29.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates shoppers will save an estimated \$10.2 million in state and local sales tax during the Memorial Day weekend sales tax holidays.

"Outdated water systems and inefficient appliances can put a tremendous strain on our water supplies and power grids," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "By taking advantage of these sales tax holidays, Texans can make upgrades that will help alleviate those pressures and lower their utility bills — all while saving money on state and local

sales taxes."

This is the second year for the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday. Products that display a WaterSense® label or logo can be purchased tax-free for personal or business use. These include showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls.

The sales tax holiday also applies to water-conserving products used or planted for conserving or retaining groundwater, recharging water tables or decreasing ambient air temperature to limit water evaporation. Items qualifying for the exemption include soaker or drip-irrigation hoses; moisture controls for a sprinkler or irrigation system; mulch; and plants, trees and grasses. These items can only be purchased tax-free for resi-

dential use.

There is no limit to the number of water-efficient or water-conserving products you can purchase. Go to the Comptroller's website for more information on the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday.

During the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday, the following energy-efficient products that display the ENERGY STAR logo can be purchased tax-free: programmable thermostats; air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less; refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less; ceiling fans; fluorescent light bulbs; dishwashers; dehumidifiers; and clothes washing machines (but not dryers). Go to the Comptroller's website for more ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday details.

## Standoff could doom school finance fix

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas House is rejecting the Senate's effort to scale back a \$1.6 billion plan to begin fixing the troubled way the state pays for public schools while tacking a voucher plan onto what's left.

The House previously passed a major school finance package increasing annual, per-student funding and spending for school transportation and educating dyslexic students.

But the Senate reduced the plan to about

\$500 million and offered some special education students vouchers, or state funding to attend private schools.

On Wednesday, the House voted 134-15 for a conference committee to try to reach a compromise.

The House has repeatedly rejected vouchers. The standoff could doom both school finance and vouchers this session.

Last year, the Texas Supreme Court ruled the school finance system barely constitutional though deeply flawed.

## EFFORT FROM PG. 1

reading but not on the third, Coleman said. Among the additions to the bill were rules requiring transgender Texans to use public restrooms that correspond to the gender listed on their birth certificates and other measures Coleman disagrees with. As a result, Coleman said he will kill the bill if it makes it out of the Senate and comes back to the House.

"The bill is dead," he said. "The bill was dead three days ago."

In a telephone interview, Coleman said that several measures Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and others added to HB 4180 had been the subject of bills that had already been in the House and failed.

"There are several measures in there that I've killed those bills, and I'm killing them again," he said.

Coleman added that he was expecting this fate for HB 4180 but is sympathetic toward his colleagues and voters who wanted to get legislation passed.

"I feel bad for people who wanted to get things done," he said, "but they only have the lieutenant governor to blame."

Local activist and business owner Ben Kvanli called tacking SB 965 on to HB 4180 a desperate move.

"I think the intentions are good, but the way you accomplish goals is as important," he said.

"We need to work toward solutions," Kvanli said. "... Even if it did pass, it wouldn't solve the problem."

Kvanli said if SB 965 had stood on its own merits in the legislature and passed, he would have supported it.

"I follow the law," he said. "I personally don't like new laws ... but I would support the law."

In the meantime, the Third District Court of Appeals has declared the city of New Braunfels' "can ban" unconstitutional, meaning tubers along the Comal and Guadalupe rivers could once again have to leave disposable beverage containers and large coolers at home. That could draw crowds to the lower San Marcos River, where no such ban exists and law enforcement is sparse, this summer.

## MOTORCYCLES FROM PG. 1

changing lanes, and all drivers should use extra caution during these situations.

Drivers and motorcyclists can significantly reduce their chances of being involved in a serious or fatal crash by adhering to basic safety measures, including:

- Perform a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or exiting a lane of traffic, and at intersections.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Allow more following distance — three or four seconds — when behind a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- Wear protective gear when driving or riding on a motorcycle.
- Never tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- Never drive while distracted.

Motorcyclists must be properly licensed to operate a motorcycle in the State of Texas. Currently more than one million individuals possess a Texas Class M (motorcycle) license. Proof of successful completion of a DPS-approved basic or intermediate motorcycle operator training course is required for licensing. Licensed motorcyclists can also take a refresher course to reinforce safe riding techniques. Each year the DPS Motorcycle Safety Unit trains approximately 38,000 motorcycle operators.

The Motorcycle Safety Unit coordinates training courses at 203 locations around the state for both basic and experienced riders. For more information on motorcycle training or to find a training location in your area, call 1-800-292-5787 or visit www.dps.texas.gov/msb

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