

The Baytown Sun

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White House denies bombshell report Memo: Trump asked FBI director to end Flynn probe

BY ERIC TUCKER, JULIE PAGE
AND CATHERINE LUCEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump personally appealed to FBI Director James Comey to abandon the bureau's investigation into National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, according to notes disclosed late Tuesday that Comey wrote after

the meeting. The White House issued a furious denial near the end of a tumultuous day spent beating back potentially disastrous news reports from dawn to dusk.

The bombshell Comey news came as the beleaguered administration was still struggling mightily to explain Monday's revelation that the president had disclosed highly classified information to the Russian foreign

minister and the country's ambassador to the United States.

Defending Trump's actions, officials played down the importance and secrecy of the information, which had been supplied by Israel under an intelligence-sharing agreement, and Trump himself said he had "an absolute right" as president to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia. Yet U.S. allies

and some members of Congress expressed concern bordering on alarm.

As for Comey, whom Trump fired last week, the FBI director wrote in a memo after a February meeting at the White House that the new president had asked him to shut down the FBI's investigation of Flynn and his Russian contacts, said a person who had read the memo. The Flynn



TRUMP

SEE PROBE • PAGE 3

SUNNEWS COMMUNITY



Breaking news
IMPACT senior surprised with KPRC scholarship
Page 2



• Today: Officers will be at Payton's Blend, 4318 Hugh Echols Blvd., from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. where residents can enjoy a cup of coffee with them.
• Thursday: From 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., Baytown officers will join a Zumba class at 24 Hour Fitness, 3501 Garth.

OBITUARIES

• Vivian Winnie Hayes
• Abel Mitchell Rossi III
• John Turbeville
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WEATHER

High 83
Low 76
Partly cloudy • Page 2

BIBLE VERSE

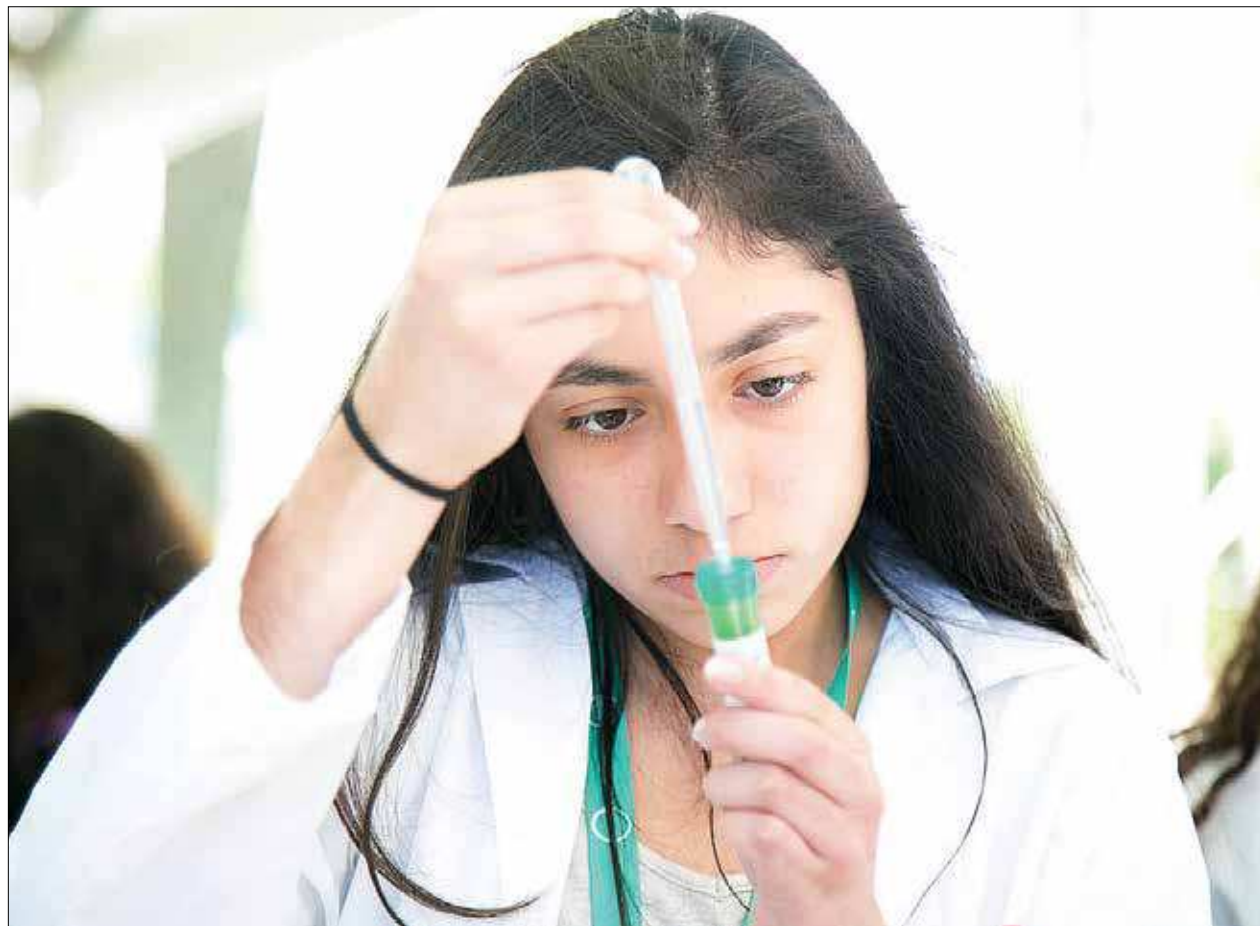
My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.
— Proverbs 3:1-2

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Getting the Greenlight



Photos by Nicki Evans for Covestro

Eight-grader Britney Martinez from Gentry Junior School in Baytown studiously watches the effects of mixing chemical at the Greenlight for Girls event Monday in Houston. The event, sponsored by Covestro, is intended to increase girls' interest in the science, engineering and technology fields.

Event inspires girls in the sciences

BY CHRISTOPHER JAMES
christopher.james@baytownsun.com

To help grow the number of women pursuing careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math field by means of inspiration, Covestro sponsored the Greenlight for Girls Day in Houston Monday.

For the first time in Texas, hundreds of local girls, ages 11-15, participated in the day-long interactive, hands-on science event with retired NASA astronaut Brian Duffy along with nearly 100 Covestro scientists, engineers and other employee volunteers.

Girls from Cedar Bayou, Gentry,

Highlands and Horace Mann junior schools and girls from underserved school districts around Houston spent the day code-breaking, making batteries from fruit, building their own Mars Rover and creating their own polymers.

"They told us that anything is possible and I like that," said Mariah Smith, eighth-grader at Gentry Junior School who wants to be a neonatal nurse. "It made me believe that I can do anything, and no one can tell me I can't."

At each Greenlight for Girls event, they want girls to take away the idea that "anything is possible." In fact, they yell this at the end of every Greenlight for Girls event.

"They said that anything is possible in the future as you make it happen," said Amanda Lopez, eighth-grader from Baytown Junior School. "And that was encouraging because I want to be a pediatrician. I don't like seeing children that are sick and I just want to make a difference in children's lives."

Founded five years ago by engineer Melissa Rancourt, Greenlight for Girls has volunteers operating in every continent of the world, encouraging girls of all ages and backgrounds to get involved in science-related careers, through a variety of activities.

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LEE COLLEGE Carry on College preps for guns on site

BY MATT HOLLIS
matt.hollis@baytownsun.com

Lee College has taken steps to become prepared for handguns to be carried legally on campus.

On Aug. 1, community colleges in Texas will begin to allow students and visitors to carry concealed handguns on campus.

Steve Evans, the college's vice president of finance and administration, had headed a task force designed to look at how the college's policy on campus carry would form.

They took portions of other college policies, including at the University of Texas and the Texas A&M University. The law began allowing campus carry on four-year universities since last year. Some other area community college policies, such as from San Jacinto College, were also used to make Lee College's draft policy.

Evans also said their task force had held town hall meetings on the subject as well as campus meetings. A survey was handed out to make people aware and to see what ideas they may have on how to enhance the policy. In addition, the policy underwent legal reviews by the college attorney John Hopkins and the Texas Association of School Boards.

"This has been looked at from every angle and should have a modified policy for approval in June," Evans said.

Evans said before they bring a draft policy to the board in June for final approval, they plan to work

SEE CAMPUS • PAGE 9

Chamber salutes school volunteers

■ ExxonMobil, Baytown Junior School named Partner of the Year

BY MATT HOLLIS
matt.hollis@baytownsun.com

Mentoring and tutoring students with trained, seasoned professionals is always a good thing.

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce hosted the 29th Annual Partners in Education and Scholarship Luncheon Tuesday to honor those who shined a light for students to follow toward success. Beacon Federal Credit Union presented the event, which was held at the Baytown Community Center.

One huge highlight of the event is the recognition of the 2016-2017



Photos by Matt Hollis

This year's 2016-2017 Partner of the Year award recipients are ExxonMobil Chemical and Baytown Junior School. They were honored at the Baytown Chamber of Commerce's 29th annual Partners in Education Luncheon Tuesday. Pictured are, from left, Macie Schubert, of Commerce's 29th annual Partners in Education Luncheon; Melissa Lehmann; Kendall David; Bob Catudal, ExxonMobil Chemical Plant site manager; and Chamber board Secretary Roger Elswick.

SEE PIE • PAGE 10

燒 H I B A C H I
GRILL & BUFFET

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Lunch \$8.69
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Photo by Nicki Evans for Covestro

Jayden Joseph from Gentry Junior School adds blue dye to a test tube during the Greenlight for Girls event Monday.

GREENLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"With the Covestro team, we look to areas around the world where we feel we can make a difference to inspire more young women to enter science," said Rancourt, whose collaboration with Covestro started more than four years ago. "We love to share the stories, projects, inventions and products that Covestro creates as a means to demonstrate future career paths and industries, especially with an innovative and creative company such as theirs. This is where inspiration can happen — and together, we can make a difference in the future of young women around the world."

Since 2010, more than 150 Greenlight for Girls days have been held in 45 cities across six of the world's seven continents.

"Covestro has long been committed to advancing STEM education and bringing more female and underrepresented minorities to the STEM table through

scholarships, internships and support of educational programs, like g4g," said Rod Herrick, vice president and site manager, Covestro Industrial Park Baytown. "As an innovation company, we know that the best ideas come from people who bring different perspectives, ideas and approaches to solving problems."

For Covestro and Greenlight for Girls, the mission is to expose more girls to STEM subjects and role models to increase participation in STEM careers. According to the National Science Foundation, while women have made gains in U.S. STEM fields, they remain underrepresented in engineering (15 percent), the physical sciences (31 percent) and computer and mathematical sciences (25 percent).

"Our advice is to seek out those who inspire you, connect with others of any age and experience who will help motivate and guide you — and reach out whenever you need help," said Rancourt. "At Greenlight for Girls, we're always here to help."

CAMPUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the TASB to summarize the administrative regulations and take out some procedural detail.

"What we've done is at this point constitutes administrative regulations," Evans said.

Evans told the board that there were only a couple of changes to the policy draft from the first time he presented it.

The first change was that a gun is allowed to be carried in a backpack or purse as long as it is holstered. The other change is that any faculty member or employee that has office assigned only to them has to put their gun in locked file cabinet or drawer. The gun must also be holstered in the locked drawer or file cabinet.

Newly elected Regent Gina Rivon asked if the backpack has to be on the person.

"It has to be on the person," Evans said. "It cannot be across the room or

down on the floor or on your desk."

The board questioned how a person carrying their weapon in a backpack or purse would change in motion if they needed to grab their gun. "If someone is carrying a gun in a backpack or purse, how can they be accommodated if they cannot wear it while sitting at a desk," asked Regent Mark Hall.

"My understanding is that they can reach it without a major movement," said Regent Weston Cotton. "If it is sitting on the floor by them or at their feet at a desk on top of the desk, they can reach it. It has to be within your arms' reach of space. They cannot leave it by the door and go get it."

Evans read from the policy, saying about the person carry a gun in a backpack or purse, that a "licensed holder may carry a holstered handgun in handbag or backpack and it must be close enough for the licensed holder to grasp it without materially

changing position."

"They must carry it with them if they leave or go to the restroom," Evans said. "Or if they lock it in office and leave, they must take it with them."

Regent Susan Moore-Fontenot asked if there was going to be a plan of communication to everyone about the campus carry policy.

"A subcommittee will do nothing but communicate the rest of the summer and also work with signage," he said.

Regent Pete Alfaro said they will be ready for the June meeting and have a game plan how to communicate with everyone.

"We all need to be on the same page," Alfaro said.

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Todays street closings in city

The city is micro-surfacing some streets from today until May 23. This means there will be some street closings. For today, expect portions of these streets to be closed while crews micro-surface the pavement:

- Bowie Street
• Allman Street
• Carlton Street
• Duke Street
• Dailey Street
• Denby Street

Cornyn doesn't want FBI job

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Sen. John Cornyn has told the Trump administration he isn't interested in serving as FBI director.

"Now more than ever the country needs a well-credentialed, independent FBI director," Cornyn said. "I've informed the administration that I'm committed to helping them find such an individual."

pet Adoption ALERT! Visit Baytown Animal Services (705 Robert Lanier, 281-422-7600) to adopt one of these pets. The shelter is open from Noon - 5p.m. Tue - Sat

Money&Markets

A click of the wrist gets you more at www.baytownsun.com

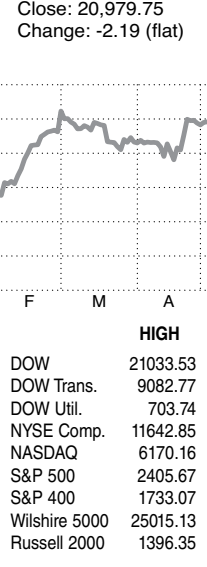
Local Stocks

Table with columns: NAME, DIV, PE, LAST, CHG. Includes entries for AT&T Inc, Allstate, AEP, Ashland, BP PLC, BkofAm, Boeing, CampSp, CenterPnt, Chevron, Cisco, Citigroup, CocaCola, ConAgra, ConocoPhill, ConEd, CrownHold, Disney, DowChm, DuPont, DukeEnergy, EnPro, EntProdPt, ExxonMbl, FordM, GenElec, HP Inc, Hallibrtn, HomeDp, Honwillnt, Intel, IBM, JohnJn, Kroger s, McDnlds, Merck, Microsoft, MorgStan, NRG Egy, OcciPet, Oracle, Penney, PepsiCo, Pfizer, ProctGam, Qualcomm, RoyDShIA, SpdrDJIA, S&P500ETF, Schlmbgr, SearsHldgs, SouthnCo, SwstAirl, Tenneco, 3M Co, TimeWarn, UnilevNV, UPS B, USSteel, VerizonCm, WallMart, WalgBoots, WellsFargo.

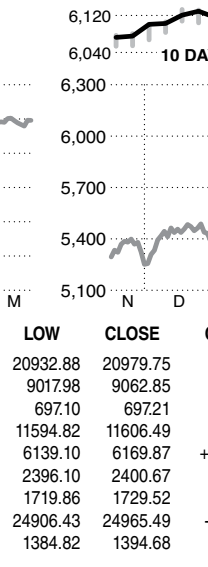
StocksRecap

Table with columns: NYSE, NASD, Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, Advanced, Declined, New Highs, New Lows.

Dow Jones industrials



Nasdaq composite



Interestrates

Table showing interest rates for Treasuries, Bonds, and Commodities. Includes sections for PRIME RATE, FED FUNDS, and various commodity prices like U.S. crude oil, Gold, Silver, etc.

Building a comeback?

2017 is turning out to be a good year for big homebuilders — except one. Shares of the 10 largest publicly traded homebuilders measured by number of homes sold have jumped 19.1 percent on average this year. Earnings and new-home orders in the January-March quarter were positive overall, reflecting a 12 percent increase in U.S. sales of new homes in the first quarter versus a year earlier. But Jersey City, New Jersey's Hovnanian Enterprises hasn't profited from its sector rally. Hovnanian, the U.S.' ninth-largest homebuilder according to Builder magazine, is down over 12 percent this year. It lost money in 2016 and remains saddled by billions of dollars in debt racked up during housing's last boom-bust cycle. Hovnanian has exited several markets and scaled back operations in hopes of being more competitive while tackling its debt. Even so, it's going to continue to struggle relative to other big builders through next year, says Peter Martin, a JMP Securities analyst. "The company's balance sheet, given its high leverage, has really neutered its growth," Martin said.

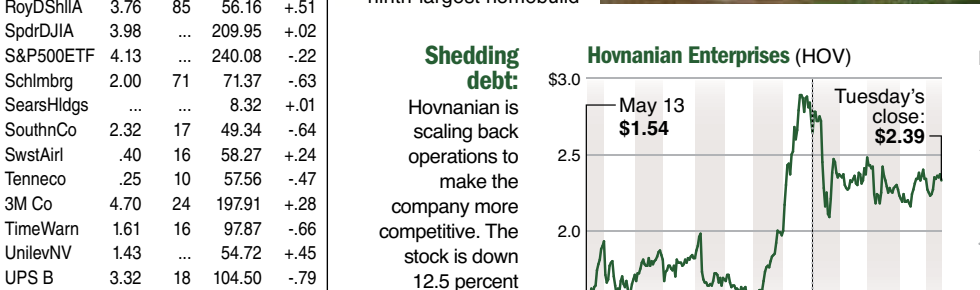


Table with financial metrics for Hovnanian Enterprises (HOV): P/E ratio: 32*, 5-Year Avg.: 28, Dividend yield: none, Avg. broker rating (2 analysts): Buy, Target price: \$1.75, 52-week range: \$1.51 - 2.96.

Table with sections: Foreign Exchange (USD per British Pound, Canadian Dollar, etc.), EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST (Israeli Shekel, Norwegian Krone, etc.), ASIA/PACIFIC (Australian Dollar, Chinese Yuan, etc.).