



Journey sends message on Parkinson's

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Abilene Reporter-News

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HSU PRESENTS 'SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD'



Junior Hannah Cauthen sings about a not-so-happy Mrs. Claus during rehearsal for the Hardin-Simmons University production of "Songs for a New World" Tuesday. The musical production uses song to tell the stories of differing American experiences in the time since the discovery of the New World. Tickets for the performances this week at 7:30 p.m. April 9-10 and at 2 p.m. April 11-12 can be purchased at the Van Ellis Theatre box office. RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

Abilene student earns top JROTC award

Ronald W. Erdrich
Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

Abilene High School student Felicity Jones has been presented with the 2026 Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Smith Exemplary Service Award, a media release said.

She and four other Texas JROTC students have been honored with the award, according to a media release from Concerned Veterans for America Foundation.

CVA created the award in honor of Smith, who had multiple combat deployments to his name while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps when he died in the line of duty April 6, 2011, in Afghanistan.

The award is presented to cadets "who distinguished themselves throughout the year through academic achievement, community service, and citizenship," the media release said.

This is the third year for the award which recognized students from across the state. The organization plans to expand eligibility nationwide.

Angela Jander, the CVAF grassroots engagement director, congratulated all five awardees for their commitment to veterans, their academic studies, leadership and patriotism. In the release, she singled Jones out especially.

"JROTC cadets are already in a league of their own, but Felicity took it a step further to show what it means to serve," Jander said. "Her hard work and dedication to her studies and community is a direct reflection of the commitment to duty and country SSgt Jeremy D. Smith exemplified."

- The four other awardees are:
- Joana Ezepue, San Angelo Central High School JROTC
 - Rylan Huber, San Angelo Central High School JROTC
 - Deborah Roberts-Shah, Henderickson High School JROTC
 - Lilly Shakya, McAllen Memorial

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Mullin: DHS considering pulling customs from sanctuary city airports

Newsom says it would cut down international travel

Noe Padilla
USA TODAY

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin suggested removing U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers from airports in sanctuary cities, prompting criticism from the California governor over the prospect of "halted" international travel at some of the country's biggest hubs.

Mullin, who was appointed as the DHS secretary on March 3, told Fox News that his department was taking "a hard look" at how to handle sanctuary cities during an interview on the outlet's "Special Report" on April 6.

Specifically, he noted that the department was considering limiting or removing Customs and Border Protection officers from airports in cities that restrict cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities.

"If they're a sanctuary city and they're receiving international flights, and we're asking them to partner with us at the airport, but once they walk out of the airport, they're not going to enforce immigration policy - maybe we need to have a really hard look at that," Mullin said.

Mullin reiterated the idea on April 7, when speaking with reporters in North Carolina, citing the ongoing refusal of



Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin suggested pulling customs officers from airports in cities that don't cooperate with federal immigration policies. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Democrats to reach a deal to fund the Department of Homeland Security, including Customs and Border Protection. Mullin said he anticipated speaking with Trump about the idea of pulling customs officers, according to Reuters.

"If cities are going to sit there and

say that they're not going to enforce immigration policies, then I'll repeat myself and say it doesn't make any sense for us to process international travelers through that city," he said.

Two of the country's largest inter-

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