

Baird Star

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Volume 115 Number 30

Baird, Texas 79504

Monday, July 21, 2003

17th District Looks Safe In Senate Map Out Thursday

It's far from a done deal but at least the 17th Congressional District looks basically in tact in the most recent Senate map released Thursday. There could be modifications as it passes full Senate and joint Senate-House negotiations, but at least there appears to be a breath of hope for it now.

Basically it remains 'as is' with the removal of Dawson, Hood, Somervell and Wise counties and the addition of all or part of Archer, Baylor,

Cottle, Crockett, Crosby, Dickens, Foard, Garza, Gillespie, Hamilton, Kimble, King, Knox, Llano, Lynn, Mason, Menard, Mills, Motley, San Saba and Sutton counties.

The basic core bounded by San Angelo, Snyder, Haskell, Stephenville and Brownwood with Abilene in the middle and Callahan and Eastland counties still a part of the mix.

Other districts in the state appear headed for major reshuffling:

NEW PROPOSAL'S LOCAL CHANGES

Here is how North Texas congressional districts would change under a GOP-backed plan unveiled in the Senate on Thursday:

3rd DISTRICT: Sam Johnson, R-Plano, absorbs all of Collin County, keeps Richardson, sheds Rowlett, Sachse, part of Garland. The district grows even more strongly Republican.

4th DISTRICT: Ralph Hall, D-Rockwall, sheds east, north Collin County, picks up Texarkana, all the I-30 counties east of Dallas, keeps Tyler but not Longview. The district tilts less to the GOP.

5th DISTRICT: Jeb Hensarling, R-Dallas, keeps the White Rock Lake area but shifts from the southeast to northeast corner of Dallas County, gains all of Kaufman and Cherokee counties and parts of Navarro but sheds five counties east of Waco. The district remains GOP-friendly.

6th DISTRICT: Joe Barton, R-Ennis, absorbs all of Arlington, sheds much of southern Tarrant County, the northwest tip of Johnson County and Corsicana. The district is still GOP turf.

12th DISTRICT: Kay Granger, R-Fort Worth, sheds part of southwest Tarrant County, Hurst, keeps Parker County, much of Fort Worth, gains Wise County. The district remains GOP-friendly.

24th DISTRICT: Martin Frost, D-Arlington, connects Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Coppell, Grapevine, Grand Prairie, Mansfield, Cedar Hill, Duncanville, but loses Arlington, southeast Fort Worth. The district becomes GOP-friendly.

26th DISTRICT: Michael Burgess, R-Highland Village, keeps most of Denton County, sheds Frisco, part of Carrollton, fishhooks into southeast Fort Worth. The district tilts less to the GOP.

30th DISTRICT: Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, sheds Irving, gains southeast corner of Dallas County. The district grows more strongly Democratic.

32nd DISTRICT: Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, gains Irving, the northeast edge of Dallas, sheds Addison, Carrollton, Coppell, Farmers Branch. The district remains GOP-friendly.

SOURCE: Dallas Morning News research

Rollover Accident Near Baird Leaves One Dead

An accident occurring on I-20, marker 317 just outside of Baird, left a young woman, Melissa Andersen, 18, of Arizona dead.

Ms. Andersen and her father, Stephen Andersen, were towing another car with a jeep when the driver lost control.

The jeep and the towed car went into a slide, rolling down I-20.

Ms. Andersen died on the scene.

According to sources, her father was airlifted to Hendrick. His condition is unknown as of this edition.

The accident occurred Sunday afternoon. The DPS was called to the scene.

Cheerfulness keeps up a kind of daylight in the mind, filling it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

—Joseph Addison

Cash in with a classified

June 2003 Callahan County Unemployment Rates and Labor Force

Labor Force - 6,776
No. of Employed - 6,420
No. of Unemployed - 356
Unemployment Rate - 5.3%

Nation To Commemorate 50th Anniversary Of Armistice Signing

by Margaret Hetrick

Korean War Veterans will be honored across the nation on July 25-27 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice.

Let us not forget Callahan County's own who gave their lives in service for their country in the conflict.

They names are: Billy Wayne Cox, James K. Damon, Archie Parisher, and Elvie P. Reed.

We would also like to honor all Callahan County Korean Veterans. Your service to our country and its principals is not forgotten!

A wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial will take place at 10 a.m. July 27, the exact date and time the armistice was signed to end the fighting 50 years ago. Keynote speaker and host of this ceremony is Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz. During the event, the United States Postal Service will also unveil a Korean War Veterans Memorial stamp.

The Korean Conflict hit very close to home in our family. My cousin, Glenn Payne, 2nd Lt. Air Force, was killed as his plane crashed in a combat mission in Sept. 1950 - only months after the U. S. actively entered the conflict.

I would also like to honor his memory at this point.

We should not forget, that U. S. troops are still stationed in South Korea. The problems are not yet resolved there, and have in fact escalated recently with the fear of North Korea obtaining nuclear weapons.

Let us remember our men and women in service all over the world and their dedication to the tasks they must accomplish.

Texas Unemployment Falls In June

Austin - Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in June from 6.8 percent in May, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

After three consecutive months of growth, total non-agricultural employment in Texas fell slightly by 4,200 positions in June. Education & Health Services posted the largest employment gain over the month with 5,300 jobs, on the heels of an increase of

2,800 jobs in May. Despite the over-the-month decline in jobs, the annual growth rate for Total Nonagricultural Employment edged up to 0.2 percent in June, its highest level since August 2001.

"The decrease in the Texas unemployment rate in June is positive news," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "Though it may be too soon to tell for sure, I also am hopeful the higher annual growth in Total Nonagricultural Employment will mark the beginning of a trend."

The largest job decrease in June was in Manufacturing, which lost 6,000 jobs. Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (TTU), which includes airline and other travel-related industries, fell for the fourth consecutive month, with a loss of 5,100 jobs.

"I believe last month's decline in unemployment gives us cause for some cautious optimism," said Commissioner for Employers Ron Lehman. "I'm especially pleased with the job growth in Construction, an industry which has faced some challenges, but has shown overall improvement in the last year."

Overall, four of the Total Nonagricultural industries experienced job growth in June, with four recording losses.

Texas Legislature Passes Driver's License Bill

Lufkin, TX - The Texas Legislature passed a bill during the 78th Regular Session that allows the voluntary listing of medical information on a driver's license.

HB 1330, sponsored in the House of Representatives by Rep. Jim McReynolds and in the Senate by Sen. Todd Staples, provides an applicant for a driver's license the opportunity to voluntarily list any health condition that may impede communication as evidenced by a written statement from a licensed physician.

Through this legislation a person can now voluntarily alert a peace officer, through information noted on the driver's license, of significant medical information that would assist in the communication between both parties.

Joining in support of this legislation were members of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD), the Texas Rural Health Association (TRHA) and the Texas Forestry Association (TFA). Dennis Borel, Executive Director of CTD, said, "This is a voluntary program that is proactive in improving communications in the field. A simple code on the driver's license will go a long way in alerting the peace officer of any communication problems that a driver may have."

Robert Turner representing TRHA said, "HB 1330 is most beneficial for those Texans who, because of some physical condition, have difficulty communicating. This is a very important step in making sure that everyone can drive safely and legally. We support this legislation and hope it will be passed quickly." **continued**

Miss West Texas Fair & Rodeo Queen And Teen Queen Pageant

Entry forms are available at the offices of the West Texas Fair & Rodeo for young ladies interested in the 2003 Miss West Texas Fair & Rodeo Queen and Teen Queen Pageant. The pageant dates are Sept. 5th-7th, 2003.

Entries must be received in the West Texas Fair & Rodeo Office by 5:00 p.m., August 8th.

Winners will reign over the 2003 West Texas Fair & Rodeo PRCA Rodeo Sept. 9th - 13th. The winners will also represent the West Texas Fair & Rodeo at various other rodeos, parades and other activities in the West Texas area during the year. The winners will also be eligible to com-

pete in the Miss Rodeo Texas Pageant held in San Antonio, Texas in June of 2004.

Age limits for the "Miss" division are 19-24 years of age and for the "Teen" division they are 14-18.

Entrants will be judged in three categories: Horsemanship, Western Attire and Personality. We are looking for talented young ladies who will represent the West Texas Fair & Rodeo well.

Entrants must live within a one hundred mile radius of Abilene.

Call the West Texas Fair & Rodeo Office at (325)677-4376 for entry forms or they may be picked up at 1700 Hwy. 36, Abilene, Texas.

West Texas Festival Set Aug. 8-10 Right Next Door

A new music festival starting more than a dozen award-winning songwriters debuts August 8-10 on a 600-acre festival site at Double-Mountain Ranch between Breckenridge and Eastland County on Highway 183.

Popular Texas acoustic performers make up the major part of the three day lineup.

Headlining will be Gary P. Nunn, writer of "London Homesick Blues" ("I want to go home with the armadillo"), the rousing melodic theme of the PBS music series "Austin City Limits."

Joining Nunn on the newly built outdoor stage are such noted and diverse performers as Kevin Welch, Tish Hinojosa, Grammy-nominated Trout Fishing in America, Sisters Morales, Jimmy LaFave and his band, Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, the fast-rising South Austin Jug Band, and Odessa's celebrated Kay Kay and the Rays blues band. Add seven more beloved stars from the overflowing Texas Music Scene to cap off the vent, the affable virtuoso Jack Williams will host the festival with his own appealing ballads and stunning acoustic guitar style.

The David Crum family of Eastland has been working on the festival site for two years and is building a replica of the

fine acoustic stage at the famed Kerrville Folk Festival. The ranch includes camping, craft booths (featuring the work of handpicked artists from all over Texas), food and beverage service areas, shade shelters, and both washstands and showers. Then if you need a swim, there are two lakes within an hour's distance.

The festival name recalls a formerly lively ghost town of Harpersville not far from the festival site. Consultant on the project, which benefits the nonprofit June LeLand Wildlife Foundation, is Kerrville Folk Festival founder Rod Kennedy.

The bargain announcement for the weekend is the adult advance-discount three day ticket priced at only \$49, including free camping! Whether in a tent or a motor home, camping out is one of the best parts of the outdoor musical festival complete with singing around the campsite.

For all ticket and schedule information, fans should call the festival office toll-free at 866-631-0707 or check the festival website at www.harpersvillemusic.com. Mail orders for both single day and three day ticket purchases are also being accepted payable to Harpersville Music, PO Box 712, Eastland, TX 76448.

Call Margaret with all your local news and upcoming events at 854-1008 or 254-629-1701 or fax your news to 254-629-2092

Remember to Renew Your Subscription

**from pg. 1
Driver's
License Bill**

cal disability, cannot respond adequately if questioned by a peace officer. Rep. McReynolds and Senator Staples are to be commended for their positive action on this important issue. Ron Hufford, Executive VP of TFA said, "A TFA member in Jasper County brought this to our attention as a means of helping on of his employees. It is a law that will benefit many other Texans and we were honored to support the passage of this bill."

The effective date of this legislation is January 1, 2004.

Texas Forestry Association is a nonprofit trade association representing over 3,400 members who grow, manage, harvest and process forest resources.

The four cornerstones of character on which the structure of this nation was built are: Initiative, Imagination, Individuality and Independence.
—Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker

Help Wanted

The Eastland County Commissioners' Court is accepting Applications supported by resume for the position of Eastland County Cooperative Dispatch Administrator.

The position is a Department Head Supervisor/Administrator position. Applicants should possess skills consistent with management of eight (8) employees, scheduling, emergency dispatch, law enforcement and emergency services procedures, intergovernmental coordination and emergency management coordination. In addition, Applicant's should possess general management skills that support record maintenance, payroll, reporting, budgeting and general operations of an emergency service organization.

The position will pay \$10.00 per hour with benefits (or \$21,000.00 a year, plus benefits). Applications may be obtained at the Eastland County Auditor's office in the Eastland County Courthouse, 100 West Main, Ste. 205, Eastland, Texas. Applications, with resume are due in the Eastland County Judge's office on or before 5:00 p.m. July 24, 2003. Eastland County is an equal opportunity employer.

Mexican Palm Straw Hats- 4" brim, vented crown, 'The Farmer's Friend', \$16.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

B30

Resistol George Strait Straw Hats- 'The San Antone' model, \$49.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

B30

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B30

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—Dodie Smith

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B52

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CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR

Publication No. (USPS 085-520)
©2003 Eastland County Newspapers, Inc.
(915) 854-1008 211 Market St. Baird, TX 79504
Periodical Postage Paid at Baird, Texas under Act of Congress in March, 1870.
Published every Thursday
Publisher.....H.V. & Gaynell O'Brien
Editor.....Margaret Hetrick
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Callahan County Star, 211 Market St., Baird, Texas 79504.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$16 per year in Callahan County; \$17 per year for Counties Adjoining Callahan; \$19 per year in Texas, out of Callahan County; \$22 per year out of Texas.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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49				50				51		
52				53				54		

ACROSS

- Candyland or Monopoly
- Public transport
- Center of commerce
- Room freshener's target
- Bull, in Barcelona
- Bobby of the Bruins
- Colorado ski resort
- Scott Joplin tunes
- Where "The Boss" was born
- Acquire
- Bummer
- Cable channel
- More cerise
- Debtor's letters
- Constitution
- Jewish teacher
- Uncover, with "out"
- Buffalo hockey team
- Flotilla
- "Autumn" (1941 song)
- When We Were Kings subject
- On dry land
- Receptacle
- Object
- Come forth
- "I've Got The World String" (2 wds.)
- She came between Kukla and Ollie
- Violinist Bull et. al.
- Geog. or geol.
- Disintegrates
- Implores
- Actor Mineo
- Bustle
- Put away carry-ons

DOWN

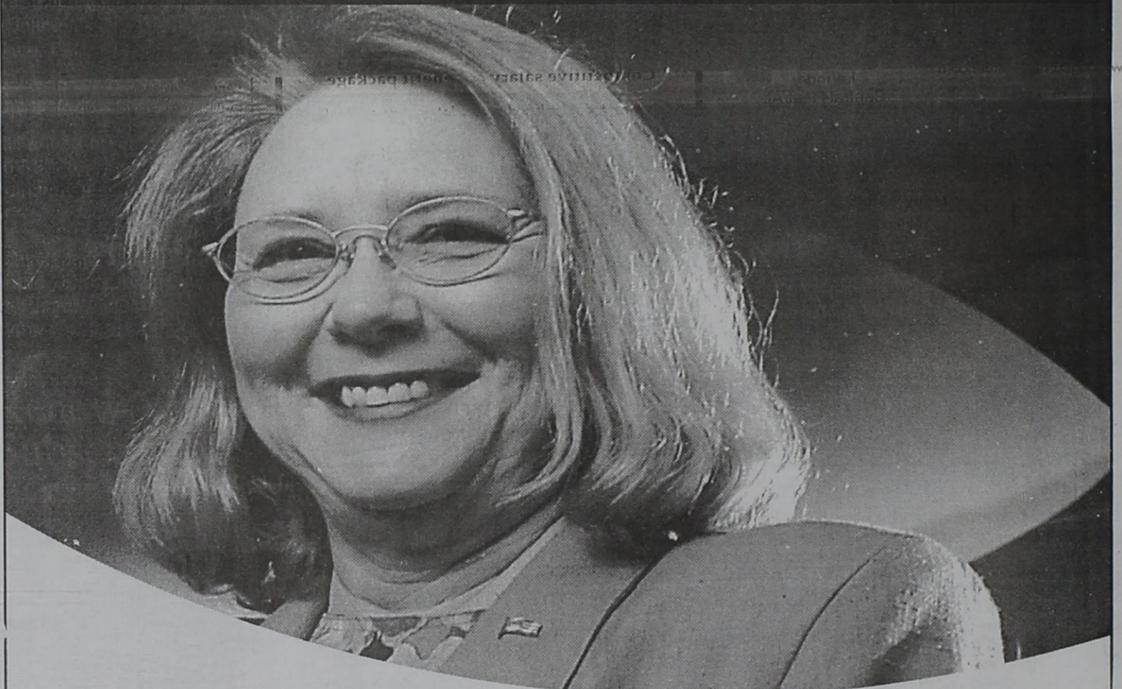
- State head: abbr.
- Birthplace of Oral Roberts
- Dampness
- Writer Gardner
- Basketball rebounds, informally
- Prodded
- Signal from the stranded
- "Their Finest"
- Bear constellation
- Strut one's stuff
- Most loyal
- Condiment bottles
- Bland
- Lovers' quarrel
- Seasonal song
- Chalk remover
- Charm collector
- Hungarian king
- "The look of love" your eyes... (2 wds.)
- Librarian's urging
- Tempresses
- Heckler's missile
- Mariamne's suspicious spouse
- Tree growth
- Old Peruvian
- Carpenter's fastener
- Tars
- Brother's title
- Freudian subject
- Opposite of NNE

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It didn't take long for me to realize my heart surgery was successful. The afternoon following my surgery, I told my mother I was already better. I could feel the blood circulating again. It was great! I received excellent care at ARMIC and recommend their Heart Program without hesitation. If you're having chest pains like I was, my suggestion is — get out to Abilene Regional and have it taken care of!

— Shelle Stautzenberger
Insurance Agent

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Eastland County Classifieds

Monday, July 21, 2003

REAL ESTATE

NEW LISTING: Sipe Springs, very neat and attractive 3-1 frame, 1200' LA, well and water meter, app 1 acre lot. Reduced to \$30,000.

NEW LISTING: 37 A N/W of DeLeon, good sandy land, app. 5 A coastal, stock pond, 3 water wells, pavement access, great building spot. \$1,250 per A.

NEW: 47.65 A 4 miles west of Gorman, 25 A coastal, 20 A cult, 2 ponds, barn/pens, good deer area. \$1050 acre.

New Listing: 80 A, app 70 A heavy oak timber, good deer/turkey hunting, CR frontage. \$1,250 per acre.

142 A, app 120 wooded, 20 A field, deer/turkey hunting, CR frontage. \$875 A. REDUCED TO \$795 A.

NEW LISTING: 175 A, 100 A heavily timbered, some cultivation, CF frontage on 2 sides, water well, good deer, turkey, hog hunting. \$1,250 per acre.

NEW LISTING: 212 A, investment/cattle property, near Desdemona, all in coastal, 15 irrigation wells, fenced, pipe corral, pavement, large peanut base. \$1,600.00 per acre.

979 A W. Comanche Co. frontage, rural water, deer & turkey. \$675.00 per acre, will divide, no small tracts.

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RS104

FOR SALE: Carbon, TX. Approx. 1 acre, Highway 6 frontage, close to caution light. Good well, city water, double wide mobile home, 5 bedroom, 3 full baths, total elect., Central Air & Heat, cover of metal roof, double carport, 14 x 70 shop, and small 2 Bedroom house. Priced to sell, 629-2984.
E61

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Rural Land in the Carbon area; interested buyers, mail: Land Offer, P.O. Box 5, Eastland, TX 76448 or call 254-629-2384 for information.
E72

HOMES FOR SALE

FOR SALE IN CISCO: Large house, corner lot, 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, utility room, 2 storage buildings, carport. (254) 629-8023.
C61

LAKE LEON HOUSE FOR SALE: Nice 2/1, C/H, window units, fireplace, deck. Two large lots, many trees. Water frontage, two sides. Guest house, attached carport, Dock and storage buildings. Call 254-647-1662 after 6 p.m.
E51-104

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

1995 16 x 80 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, to be moved, \$25,000. (254) 631-1624.
E63

SICK OF RENTING?

We sell clean late model manufactured homes for less per month than your rent (180 to 300 per month range) easy quality repos, wholesale repos. I hate for you to pay rent, give me a chance to help. Call Terry 325-672-1490.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Duplex 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, 1 car garage, fenced yard. 915-665-9909.
E53-104

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT: 2 BR, \$350 mo. No deposit, utilities included, 647-1941.
R48-104

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT: 2 BR, 2 BA, Central H/A, in nice park. No Pets. \$300 + deposit. 629-1848.
E104

FOR RENT: No deposit with utilities paid. 3 or 2 bedroom mobile home. Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, furnished. SUNSHINE VALLEY, Leona Morton, 442-1365.
C104

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SABINE TERRACE APARTMENTS
Available For Immediate Occupancy

*Large 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
*All Utilities Paid
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EHO

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Clean Furnished or Unfurnished Apartments
Security Guard on grounds
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C104

COUNTRY VILLA APTS
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E104

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R104

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1992 Silverado Extended Cab Short bed, stepside, auto, PW, tinted windows, CD player, real nice. Excellent condition. 647-5474.
T59

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E59

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USED APPLIANCES
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E66

FOR RENT

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E104

FOR SALE

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Eastland Memorial Hospital
Immediate opening for **Paramedic**
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Call Required
Competitive salary & benefit package
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RN S AND LVN S NEEDED!
Earn excellent pay for part time work! Girling Health Care needs fee for service staff for home health visits in Eastland and surrounding area. Please come by our offices at 957 East Main for an application or call 629-1268 for more information.
EOE.
T61

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VACATION SPECIAL LUXURY GMC DESIGNER TRAVEL VAN
Heavy duty; one owner; low mileage; always garaged; clean, luxurious interior; large automatic double bed; well maintained.
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E59

FOR SALE

Need experienced Body Man at Joel's Paint & Body 254-629-1195.
E63

The Eastland County Commissioners Court is accepting Applications supported by resume for the position of Eastland County Cooperative Dispatch Administrator. The position is a Department Head Supervisor/Administrator position. Applicants should possess skills consistent with management of eight (8) employees, scheduling, emergency dispatch, law enforcement and emergency services procedures, intergovernmental coordination and emergency management coordination. In addition, Applicant should possess general management skills that support record maintenance, payroll, reporting, budgeting and general operations of an emergency service organization. The position will pay \$10.00 per hour with benefits (or \$21,000.00 a year, plus benefits). Applications may be obtained at the Eastland County Auditor's office in the Eastland County Courthouse, 100 West Main, Ste. 205, Eastland, Texas. Applications, with resume are due in the Eastland County Judge's office on or before 5:00 p.m. July 24, 2003. Eastland County is an equal opportunity employer.
E59

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E52-104

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C60

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E104

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Wanted: Season or year round deer lease. 4 to 6 hunters. Day 1-800-766-9488 or Night 1-888-304-6636.
E104

WANTED: House, building, that will hold semi-load of furniture and household goods. Rent or purchase. Call 442-3040.
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WANTED: I want to buy your old Direct TV receiver or system, if priced right. 254-734-3651.
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Scrap Metal Wanted. Paying cash for all types of scrap metal. Mid Texas Recycling 1411 E. Main, Eastland, 254-629-8305.
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R78

GARAGE, YARD, CARPORT SALES

OTHERS
Strawn Historical Committee Garage Sale, July 25 & 26 at Old Hardware Store, downtown Strawn. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
R60

FOR SALE
FOR SALE: Wedding Dress - hand beaded, size 5, w/crown. Beautiful dress- must see. 631-0624 after 5 p.m.
E104

FOR SALE
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R78

GARAGE, YARD, CARPORT SALES

OTHERS
Strawn Historical Committee Garage Sale, July 25 & 26 at Old Hardware Store, downtown Strawn. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
R60

FOR SALE
FOR SALE: Wedding Dress - hand beaded, size 5, w/crown. Beautiful dress- must see. 631-0624 after 5 p.m.
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John's Travel Notebook...

John C. Jones
Travel/Food Writer



and late evenings of sitting on the veranda, looking at the water and the city lights does not calm you -- you are beyond help!

A 'must do' is the night ride on Freedom Schooner, a 72 foot topsail! You see the beautiful St. Augustine at night and hear the story of pirates as they 'take over the ship' and entertain you for the entire journey. I highly recommend this experience.

St. Augustine is a reasonably priced - fun filled - vacation area. I recommend at least three days to see it all. Happy Traveling.

Read The Classifieds

One of the great places in America to visit is historic St. Augustine, Florida. It is no wonder that CNN selected this community as one of the top 10 Historic Sites in the nation. The one thing you don't want to bring is clothing beyond 'resort casual.' Tennis shoes, shorts and a cool short sleeve shirt, and perhaps a sweater for night is all you will need. The location is the northern part of Florida's Highway One.

St. Augustine was founded in 1565 -- 42 years before Jamestown was colonized, and 55 years before the Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock. It is the oldest, continuously occupied European settlement in the continental United States. There it stands for you to see!

For the RV and camping crowd there are five state parks within less than an hour of downtown St. Augustine. These can be located at www.floridastateparks.org. There is great fishing in the area, as well as boating, bird watching, kayak and canoe areas, and fantastic beaches.

First, there is the famed Castillo De San Marcos! Ruggedly beautiful as it juts out into the emerald waters! Quietly standing there since the Spanish built it in 1672-1695. It is the oldest masonry fort in the continental U.S.

As you move about the city you will find the nation's oldest drug store, the oldest jail museum, the oldest wooden school house of the nation, an 18th century Spanish military hospital, historic houses, the 125 year old lighthouse and museum -- just to mention some of the great landmarks. A visit to the Old St. Augustine Village will lead you to historic houses from the late 1700's to early 1900's. In that one city block you will experience four centuries of history! The grounds also include the site of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation reading, which freed all the slaves in Florida.

The golfers will enjoy the World Golf Hall of Fame with memorabilia covering 600 years of golf history.

One of the 'don't miss places' is the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. It was established in 1893, and still in operation today. I took pictures of birds that a photographer only dreams of. Photographers come from over the world each month to take pictures of Egrets, Herons, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, and many other birds -- all in the wild, as they fly in and out of the Natural Bird Rookery and Alligator Swamp. The 'contest winning' photograph in July 2003, issue of Popular Photography was taken of a bird family in this very Alligator Farm. All 22 species of the world's crocodilians are located here for your viewing. This is not the usual 'beside the road' alligator farm! This is a, never-to-be-forgotten experience. The web connection is

alligatorfarm.com.

There are plenty of Bed and Breakfast Inns, motels, hotels, and unique lodging experience within the city. I stayed at an older, and charming motel with a veranda right on the water's edge -- the Edgewater Inn, which has AAA rating. www.stayatedgewater.com. If a couple of early mornings

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Tree Identification Guidebook Is Available From NADF

"What Tree Is That?", a pocket guide for identifying trees, is available from The National Arbor Day Foundation.

The 72 page guide will help you identify 135 different trees found in the eastern and central U.S.

Well-know trees are included: oaks, maples, spruces, and pines. Species also such as horsechestnut and mockernut hickory, sassafras and shadbush, persimmon and pawpaw and pagodatree and pecan.

Dozens of drawings

illustrate the trees' leaves or needles and their acorns, berries, seed pods, cones and other identifying features.

"What Tree Is That?" is organized to make it easy to identify trees in a simple step-by-step fashion.

"Helping people enjoy and appreciate trees is central to the educational mission of

Monday, July 21, 2003

the Arbor Day Foundation, John Rosenow, the Foundation's president said. "Being able to identify trees is important to knowing how to care for them and how to plant the right tree in the right place."

To obtain your tree ID guide, send you name and address and \$3 to "What Tree Is That?" The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410, or go online to arbor.day.org.

Dyess Air Force Base Big Country Air Power Day

The Dyess Air Force Base Big Country Air Power Day is Saturday, Aug. 16, in Abilene. Gates will be open

to the public at 9:30 a.m. The numerous aircraft aerobatics and ground demonstrations promise something for everyone.

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2003 Dodge Lonestar 20" Wheels, 9K Miles, V8, #E02086A \$20,990		2001 Ford F-150 Super Cab, Lariat, 4x4, Sportside, #E01285A \$16,990	
1997 Chevy 1500 Ext Cab, Silverado, Auto, #E01410AA \$7,990		1999 Dodge 3500 SLT, Quad, Cummins, 85K Miles, #E01919B \$18,990	
2001 Dodge 2500 4x4 Quad, SLT, 6 Speed, H.O., Clean, #E01845AA \$24,990		2000 GMC 2500 Crew Short Bed, Auto, 350, LS, Clean, #E01984A \$14,990	
2001 Dodge 1500 4x4 Quad, Auto, SLT, Must See #E01492A \$17,990		2002 Dodge 2500 Quad SLT, 6 Speed, Cummins, Long Bed, Low Miles, #E01914A \$23,990	
2002 Dodge 1500 4x4 Quad, V8, SLT, Auto, 20K Miles, #E01487B \$23,990		1995 Dodge 2500 4x4 Club Cab, 5 Speed, SLT, Flatbed, #E02053A \$10,990	
2000 Dodge Durango V8, Auto, Sport, Clean, #E01405A \$13,990		1997 Dodge 1500 4x4 SLT, Sport, Auto, 88K Miles, #E01558A \$11,990	
2001 Dodge 1500 4x4 Quad, SLT, Auto, V8, #E01572A \$19,990		2003 Jeep Wrangler Sport, V6, 5 Speed, 2 Tops, #E01440A \$20,490	
1999 GMC Yukon SLT 4 Door, Leather, Rear A/C, Clean, #E01098E \$15,990		2002 Dodge Durango SLT, 3rd Seat, V8, Low Miles #D00152 \$19,990	
2001 Toyota Tacoma Crew V6, Auto, Pre-Runner, Lots of Extras, #E01505A \$18,990		2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser Auto, V6, Limited, #E01026A \$11,990	
2000 Chevy Malibu Loaded, LS, Low Miles, One Owner #E00647B \$8,990		2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Quads \$19,990 Auto, V8, Loaded, 5 Available	

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Calcium Research Focus On Other Health Issues

Calcium research has moved beyond bones and is focused on many other health issues. In particular its relation to body weight. When people are trying to lose weight they misguidedly cut entire food groups in their wrestle with the scale. They stop picking any kind of fruit or they cut anything from their diet that comes from the meat department. Dieters also discard dairy products from their diet when trying to lose weight based on the common belief that all dairy products are fattening. Not only are there many diet-friendly dairy products that offer slim to no fat, the latest news in nutrition circles is building a case for the role of calcium and weight loss. Research indicates that dieters who get enough calcium from low-fat dairy products may lose weight more efficiently than someone who cuts dairy and calcium while dieting. Could there be a link to successful weight maintenance simply by including low-fat dairy daily?

Recent research has linked diets high in dairy products with decreased body fat and increased rate of weight loss. Some researchers believe there is a relationship between calcium and its role in fat cell activity in the body. Researchers propose that a low calcium diet leads to greater calcium activity in fat cells. Also, researchers propose that the greater calcium level in fat cells leads to greater body fat storage, an inhibition of fat breakdown and ultimately weight gain. A high calcium diet, some researchers believe, leads to less calcium in fat cells which slows fat storage and stimulates fat breakdown.

How do you increase calcium in my diet? Simply put, milk and dairy products can and should be a part of any balanced diet. Excessive calories contribute to obesity, whether from milk or milkshakes, potatoes or potato chips. Keep fat and calories in check by choosing low or non fat dairy products. They taste great and have the same calcium benefits as whole milk without a lot of calories from fat. Remember...calcium is not the "magic bullet" and is only one of many factors in weight loss and weight maintenance. It is the totality of what you put on your plate that matters. A diet high in fruits and vegetables, low in saturated fat, rich in whole grains, lean protein sources and dished up with milk and dairy foods is the diet for you. Here is what you can do:

*** Do Not Give Up Dairy!!!** Choose at least three low fat dairy products a day. This is equal to three glasses of milk, three 8 ounce containers of yogurt or 5 ounces of cheddar cheese (or any combination of the above, please more!).

*** Be sure and eat breakfast!** Add low or nonfat milk to your cereal or cook your oatmeal with milk instead of water.

*** Make a snack of it!** Enjoy some cheese on a cracker,

some fruit in your milk or a fruit and yogurt parfait.

*** Mix it with you favorites!** Mix some milk in with your mashed potatoes, or sprinkle some shredded cheese onto some steamed vegetables.

*** Try it flavored!** A recent study found that children who consumed flavored milk (vanilla, banana, strawberry and chocolate) improved their calcium intake without increasing their overall energy or sugar consumption.

You have the power: Use It or Lose It! You have the power to eat right and live right, and the choices you make today will impact how you look and feel tomorrow, and the next day and the next day. How you can do the right thing is: 1) Mix It Up...cover all your food bases by eating a variety of foods every day; that way, your body will get the energy and essential nutrients it needs, and 2) Balance It Out... balance what you eat with what you do by giving your body the exercise it needs.

Exercise: why and how.

* It builds strong bones and muscles, strengthens your heart and lungs.

* It is an instant stress-buster, confidence-builder, and energy-booster.

* Get moving by rollerblading, hiking or biking with a friend.

* Sign up for a class, any class: dance, exercise, self-defense.

* Sign up for a team, any team: basketball, soccer, volleyball.

* Lend a hand and break a sweat by helping to rake a neighbor's leaves, walk their dog or wash the car.

POWER SMOOTHIE

- 2 cups low or nonfat milk
- 1 peeled and sliced large banana, frozen
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 cup chocolate syrup

Place all ingredients in blender; process on high speed until smooth. Share with a friend or two.

Calories - 224, 1 g saturated fat; 4 mg cholesterol; 10 g protein; 47 g carbohydrate; 310 mg calcium



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Cisco Writers Club Contest Entry Deadline Is July 31

Too hot to be outside? Stay out of the heat this summer with the Cisco Writers Club Contest.

The 27th Annual Cisco Writers Club Contest is now underway. Entry fees are small and the rewards are enormous. There's even the chance of winning cash prizes!

Entries will be accepted through a July 31, 2003, postmark. There are a total of eleven categories. Writers

can enter as many categories as they like, but no more than two entries per category. Categories include poetry, inspirational articles, children's stories, nostalgic articles, books and more.

For complete details and rules, please contact the Cisco Writers Club at or visit the group's web site at [ciscowritersclub@cs.com](http://ourworld.cs.com/ciscowritersclub) or visit the group's website at <http://ourworld.cs.com/ciscowritersclub>.

D.P.S. Report

07-06-03 to 07-12-03
Cases Investigated
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Complaints 87
DWI 1
Accidents

There were 3 accidents investigated during this time span.

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4X2 XLT **\$20,575***
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SUPER CAB, STK# C404 **\$16,330***
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1999 Mercury Sable GS A/C, T/C, #C372A \$7,990	2001 Chrysler PT Cruise Limited Woodgrain, leather, #C393 \$14,990	1999 Ford Escort LX 4 Door, Super A/C, #C377A \$4,990	2001 Ford Taurus SE A/C, #C312 \$10,990	1989 Chevy Reg Cab Super, V8, A/C, #C318 \$4,990	2000 Ford Mustang LX Coupe Power Seat, #C311 \$10,990	2002 Ford F-150 S/C 4x4 5.4 V8, A/C, #C313 \$21,990	2000 Ford F-150 S/C 4x4 A/C, T/C, #C317 \$16,990	2000 Chevy C1500 Reg Cab Super, LWB, #C349 \$9,990	1996 Ford F-250 Reg Cab V8, A/C, #C344 \$9,990	2002 Mercury Sable GS A/C, #C344 \$10,990	2001 Ford F-250 Crew Premium Edition, 4x4, #C312 \$28,990
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Callahan County (Baird) Star Constitutional Amendment Elections Cost County Taxpayers Millions

By Sam Seale

On Saturday, September 13, Texas voters have the opportunity to approve or disapprove 22 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution on a wide range of issues. Let's just hope the voters go to the polls because millions of their local tax dollars will be utterly wasted if they don't.

Special elections on amendments are unfunded mandates from the state to counties. In conducting the special Constitutional amendment elections, the counties carry out responsibilities dictated by the state legislature, but the costs are shouldered by the local governments. Hence, the property taxpayers in each county are paying the tab.

Texas counties spend a total of \$9 million to conduct elections every year. This is according to reports the counties filed with the Texas Secretary of State's Elections Division, with the most populous counties in the large urban areas spending over \$1 million each, and the smaller rural counties spending anywhere from slightly under \$1,000 to several thousand dollars. Varying costs for the counties include their registered voter population, number of polling places and ballots needed and the type of voting machine (whether paper or electronic).

Unfortunately, voter turnout for such special elections on Constitutional amendments is historically poor, according to Secretary of State records. In fact, turnout is downright shameful. In November 2001, the most recent amendment election, statewide turnout was 834,846, a scant 6.9 percent of the 12 million registered voters. And that low turnout is not an anomaly for Constitutional amendment elections. In the past 20 years, turnout never reached higher than about 30 percent and most often was less than 10 percent.

The costs of conducting the special elections don't decrease when so few vote. Officials still have to print ballots, hire the judges and clerks and run the polling locations, although the costs can be reduced somewhat in special elections by consolidating polling places and having fewer of them. But to have so few vote diminishes a most fundamental right of free Americans, the right to directly participate in government decision-making.

This year, the legislature decided the election on the 22 amendments will be held on a special date in September, not a month that voters normally think of as a time to vote. There is a chance turnout could even be lower than previous years.

Changing this year's election date also will negatively impact numerous county budgets because of the legislature's decision to

hold the special election in September instead of November as historically done.

The majority of counties in Texas operate on a budget year starting in October. Those counties got a surprise when the legislature decided to change the election date after counties were already operating on budgets set the year before. Hence, many counties will struggle to find election funds in already tight and established budgets.

Opinion:

In Case Anybody Wonders We're For A Strong 2-Party System

Molly Ivins looks better every day

Question: Is redistricting absolutely necessary and required by law this year? We think not? The present arrangement was done by the courts because the Legislature didn't act the last time around. Right or wrong? Now they want to act and their only visible reason is to strengthen their own power bases, here, there and everywhere.

Such has a ring of danger. It has been the death kneel in many places and it could be here. Our wise Founders realized that there MUST be balance, with give and take among those of unselfish character.

While the Texas Association of Counties is not in a position to advise voters how to cast their ballots on the individual amendments, as an organization representing the counties that foot the bill, we are in a position to urge you to go to the polls and cast your vote however you choose. Information on the amendments is readily available on-line at the Secretary of State's Web site: www.sos.state.tx.us

We had hoped that the redistricting mess in Austin would have been scuttled as of Tuesday, but lo and behold, midweek finds the powers that be still wallowing in greed.

After the House split the 17th District to sunder, we had pinned our hopes for its recitation on the wisdom of the Senate. We kept hearing that under the long standing rule, it would take a three-fourth majority to even bring it up, and that there were enough Democrats with convictions and some Re-

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and through such non-partisan organizations as the League of Women Voters: www.lwvtx.org — who will soon publish a voters guide explaining the amendments.

Read up on the amendments. Early voting begins August 28, and Election Day is September 13.

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publicans with backbone who would keep it from even rising, and that the whole bloody mess would just die a natural death.

But, alas we now learn that the Lt. Gov. who cracks the whip over the Senate, lets it be known that the Guv has tipped him that "if the deed isn't done, he'll by golly, call another \$1.7 million session to get it done." So there -- take it or leave it. It is going to be interesting to see what happens.

It is amazing that the folks down there can so easily ignore the wishes of the folks who sent them there and pay their salaries. (Even the Abilene Reporter editorialized again ripping up the 17th.)

Some of us have allegiance to Charley, but it's far more than that. To destroy the current 17th would absolutely rip up the last vestige of what little rural West Texas influence there is left in the Flag Pole known as Washing-

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
SPECIAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 68, Section 1)

HJR 68, Section 1 would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the Veterans' Land and Veterans' Housing Assistance funds for payment of revenue bonds, and use excess assets in those funds to provide veterans homes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 51)

HJR 51 would expand from six months to two years the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that was sold for unpaid property taxes may buy back the mineral interest.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 55)

HJR 55 would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation land owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that will be used to expand or construct a place of religious worship that yields no revenue.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 30)

SJR 30 would authorize the legislature to allow conservation and reclamation districts to use taxes to develop and finance certain parks and recreation facilities. Also, the amendment would authorize the legislature to allow local elections for the issuance of bonds to improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities in the Tarrant Regional Water District or a conservation and reclamation district located in whole or in part in Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller or Williamson County.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 25)

SJR 25 would authorize the legislature to exempt from all property taxes certain tangible personal property, which could include a travel trailer not substantially affixed to real estate and not used as a residential dwelling.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 23)

HJR 23 would authorize a qualified homeowner to refinance a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 44)

HJR 44 would reduce the number of persons who make up the jury in a district court criminal misdemeanor case from twelve to six.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial."

PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 62)

HJR 62 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies to state and local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 18 applies only to local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 68, Section 2)

HJR 68, Section 2 would redefine the com-

position of the permanent and available school funds by requiring during the next two fiscal years, and authorizing thereafter, annual distributions to the available school fund of a percentage of any increase in the value of the permanent school fund's total investment assets.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund."

PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 61)

HJR 61 would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would be authorized to distribute based on need the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."

PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 85)

HJR 85 would authorize the legislature to regulate the operation of wineries in Texas, regardless of whether a winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has been authorized by local option election.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state."

PROPOSITION 12 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 would immediately authorize the Legislature to limit non-economic damages assessed against a provider of medical or health care and, after January 1, 2005, to limit awards in all other types of cases.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages."

PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 16)

HJR 16 would authorize a county, city, town, and junior college district to freeze property taxes on a residential homestead of a person who is disabled or aged 65 or older.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses."

PROPOSITION 14 (HJR 28)

HJR 28 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to issue

notes or borrow money to fund highway improvement projects. The terms of the notes or loans may not exceed two years. The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund."

PROPOSITION 15 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would prohibit a local retirement system and the political subdivision that finances the retirement system from reducing or otherwise impairing certain accrued benefits under the local retirement system.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The Constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired."

PROPOSITION 16 (SJR 42)

SJR 42 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow home equity lines of credit and allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans."

PROPOSITION 17 (HJR 21)

HJR 21 would prohibit an increase in school property taxes on residence homesteads of disabled persons.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person."

PROPOSITION 18 (HJR 59)

HJR 59 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies only to local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 8 applies to state and local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 19 (SJR 45)

SJR 45 would repeal the legislature's

authority to create rural fire prevention districts. Effective September 1, 2003, all existing rural fire prevention districts will convert to emergency services districts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts."

PROPOSITION 20 (SJR 55)

SJR 55 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in a total amount not to exceed \$250 million that will be used to provide loans for economic development projects that benefit defense-related communities in Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations."

PROPOSITION 21 (SJR 19)

SJR 19 would authorize current and retired faculty members of a public institution of higher education to receive compensation for service as a member of the governing body of a water district.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district."

PROPOSITION 22 (HJR 84)

HJR 84 would authorize the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to serve on behalf of a state, district, or local public officer who is called into active military duty for longer than 30 days.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 13 de septiembre de 2003. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis llamando al 1/800/252/8683 o escribiendo al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

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Ag Talk

By Charlie W. Stenholm

July 11, 2003

Beef Check-Off Ruled 'Illegal'

On Tuesday, a federal appeals court ruled that it is illegal to force U.S. ranchers to pay a \$1 per head fee on their cattle to support the marketing campaign, "Beef: It's What's for Dinner."

The appeals court ruled that the beef check-off program violated the First Amendment rights of cattle ranchers by mandating that they pay for ads that promote beef.

The case originated when three South Dakota ranchers sued the USDA and the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, arguing that they should not be forced to pay for a message with which they did not agree.

In their case, they argued that the mandatory program promoted beef in general, not just U.S. raised beef.

The appeals court agreed and said that by making producers pay for ads with which they did not agree, the government was interfering with the right of private speech.

The court also determined that the collection of all fees must stop, even though some of the money was used for other activities such as education and research.

Since the program began in 1985, U.S. livestock producers have been required to pay a fee for the beef check-off

program.

More than \$80 million is collected each year, half of which goes to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board and half to the state beef councils.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman expressed her disappointment with the court's decision, saying that USDA believes that such programs are effective marketing tools, when properly administered.

Secretary Veneman went on to say that the USDA has not made any decision about whether or not to appeal the court's decision.

As a cattleman myself, I share Secretary Veneman's disappointment. I realize that not everyone agrees with check off programs, but producers need to be willing to work together to accomplish common marketing goals and to help our industry.

Canada Wants End to Beef Ban

This past Tuesday, President Bush expressed his desire to see a quick resolution to the ban on Canadian beef

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that followed the closure of the U.S./Canada border after an isolated case of mad cow disease was found in the Alberta Province of Canada.

The President's comments followed the warning from the Canadian government last Friday that, unless the U.S. lifts its ban on Canadian beef, Canada may possibly stop importing both U.S. cattle and beef.

According to one official, Canadian might raise their regulatory standards on beef and cattle imports, effectively blocking any U.S. imports from entering Canada.

In fact, there is the potential for a total ban on imports into Canada, such as beef from New Zealand, Australia and the U.S.

Understandably, Canadian officials are trying to protect their beef industry, however U.S. officials must proceed carefully when determining whether or not to reopen the border to Canadian beef.

Mexican Could Be the First To Reopen Border

Even though there is still discussion over when the U.S. border will again be open to Canadian beef Mexico is quickly becoming the leader in being the first country to lift its ban on Canadian beef.

According to Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S., Mexico would be the first to reopen the borders, but only when they are completely sure that Canadian beef is safe.

In terms of the amount of beef that Canada exports to

other markets, Mexico is second only to the U.S.

Last year, however, Mexico imported three times more beef from Canada than Japan did.

The U.S. must be sure there isn't a BSE problem in Canadian beef and as soon as that determination is made the borders should be reopened or we'll get into some terrible market disruptions that won't be in the best interest of the U.S. beef industry.

State Budget Cut Hit Extension Programs

By now, many folks are aware of the budget cuts the State of Texas has been implementing.

It seems this year that the County Extension Agent Program is one that has been hit especially hard, and I have heard from a number of individuals who are concerned about this.

Forty-six positions were identified for reductions throughout Texas, however the actual number of those that will be lost is still unclear at this time.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is working with many county courts to determine whether some courts are willing to continue increasing funds for their specific agent in order to ensure that their position is

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held.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is also looking at shared positions with corresponding counties in some instances.

I would like to ask you to give this some time. The people in the Extension Service are doing the best they can at this point in time, with limited financial resources.

I ask that you please give

serious consideration to this as the work and services that 4-H and the Texas Cooperative Extension Service provide are too valuable to be cut.

Congressman Stenholm represents the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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Aug. 8-10

Best Of Best Due At Harpersville

Acoustic Notions

By Lindsay Meeks

Rod Kennedy is a man of ethics.

He insists that 'either it's ethical or it's not.' His intentions are as pure as the concerts he puts on. But don't confuse purity with passivity. He is a man who get things accomplished. After running the Kerrville Folk Festival for 31 years, he has moved on to other projects, one of them the Harpersville Music Festival.

"After meeting everybody we kind of decided we fit," Kennedy said about the people at Harpersville Productions. "The family is a family and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Mr. Kennedy did 'more than a 1000 events' before starting his new well known projects, the Austin summer concerts in Zilker Park back in the 60s.

"I went out and sold advertising and had them free open to the public," Kennedy said, about the summer festivals. "We broke the 42 year attendance record in the history of the theater (where the event was held)."

He prides himself on achieving success without losing sight of the goal. He recognizes that 'most of the rewards are not money' and focuses on putting on a great show.

His biggest success has been the Kerrville Folk Festival that is currently on its 32nd year. The festival has over 1600 artists play throughout the years and has featured artists like Peter, Paul and Mary, Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith, Robert Earl Keen, Ani DiFranco, Janis Ian and a host of other well known artists.

But even with all of these celebrities, Rod Kennedy insists that, "we're not interested in celebrities for the sake of celebrities. If they happen to be celebrities, that's fine."

The festival caters to good music. Many young artists get their start from the festival through the songwriters contest that hears only the music and not the name.

"We're looking for artists who sing and write from the heart."

Matt and Josh of Harpersville Productions approached Rod Kennedy earlier this year and after talking with him, he agreed to take on the Harpersville Music Festival as a client.

"I was excited about seeing people in their early 20s who are willing to work for a living who were self starters and had integrity who had an idea and further than this was to benefit wildlife," Kennedy said.

Through all of his connections as the founder of the Kerrville Folk Festival he arranged for more than a dozen very talented award winning artists to play at the upcoming event on August 8-10, located north of Eastland County.

"This is really a showcase of the best songwriters we could put our hands on and it ranges from two Latina artists who are very, very popular," Kennedy said of the lineup. "Tish Hinojosa who has put eight or nine albums out nationally and internationally, and the Sisters Morales who I think have six albums and are very, very popular artists singing both in English and Spanish. We have for blues and out of the gospel tradition Kay Kay and the Rays. Jack

Williams is from Carolina and just moved to Texas as everyone does when they wake up and realize they're not having a full life. He can probably play any song in the world. He's hosting the opening for each of the concerts."

Gary P. Nunn, Jimmy LaFave, Trout Fishing in America, Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, the South Austin Jug Band, and many other artists will join these to make up the entire lineup for the three day event.

The nights will be filled with music while the days are filled with "sitting around and

Monday, July 21, 2003

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Texas Department of Health will hold the following Immunization clinic in Callahan County Monday, August 11th Baird Cafetorium, 400

West 7th 10-12. Cross Plains Housing Authority 233 N. Main 2-4. Wednesday, August 13th Clyde Community resource Center 306 N. 1st 10-12 & 1:30-5. Please bring child's Immunization Records. For more information call 915/754-4945.

talking to people which we don't do anymore," Kennedy said. The heart of the event is still centered around Rod Kennedy's original notion of getting together with family and friends to experience the humanity in all people while listening to great music.

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Well Versed

Same State, Different Worlds For Two Texas Poet Laureates

By Carlton Stowers
Reprinted from the Dallas Observer
June 26-July 2, 2003

"My goal has always been to make my poetry accessible to everyone."

*They came from opposite directions,
Glowing like the stars they would become,
Arriving in the same place
To shed their remarkable light.*

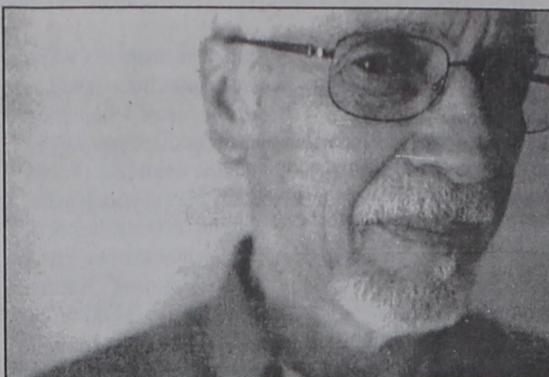
Old friends Cletus Rattan and Jack Myers have, at first glance, little in common aside from a passionate devotion to their faded art and the fact one of the state's highest literary honors has been bestowed on each. Current Texas Poet Laureate Myers, 61, came from the postcard venue of the Boston, Massachusetts area, a product of the now-gone beatnik coffee houses to teach at SMU; 67-year-old Rattan, whom the Texas Commission on Arts recently selected as poet laureate for 2004, flunked out of SMU. Only after a four-year stint in the Marines did he make an academic comeback and ultimately find a teaching position at tiny Cisco Junior College.

Thus, the distance between the two could be measured in

light-years. There was Rattan, tending polled Herefords on his 150-acre ranch just a few miles outside a community of 3,000 when he wasn't instructing a classroom filled with rural kids raised in the hard-scrabble small towns of West Texas. He made no apologies for dipping Copenhagen and drinking beer with buddies at Mary's Cafe in the nearby whistlestop community of Strawn, and thought nothing of the fact no one in town made a fuss when he won awards like the *Texas Review* Poetry Prize, the Mesquite Prize, the *New Texas* Poetry Prize or published a new book of poems.

Myers, meanwhile, attended Highland Park cocktail parties and book signings, has twice been honored by the National Endowment for the Arts, lectured to classes of tweedy young men and cosmopolitan women and steadily gained high ranking in the Dallas literary scene.

One talks in the language of a deep thinker: "Every morning," Myers recently recalled, "this solitary bird would sit on my roof, singing his heart out. Yet no other bird ever came. And for a long time I wondered if he was lonely or simply singing to lift the spirits of the world." The other deals more in plain speak: "Aside from my wife, my kids and a couple of good horses, nothing has stirred my passion



Cletus Rattan, Texas poet laureate for 2004

like poetry," Rattan says.

It is that passion both men embrace and share, begrudgingly accepting the fact their creative efforts reach only a small and dwindling audience. Understand we're not talking about the tepid and often thoughtless messages heard at the currently popular open-mike poetry gatherings in Deep Ellum. ("I like seeing the involvement of so many young people," Myers says, "but much of what they're doing is hip-hop, rhyming, stream-of-consciousness stuff that I'm afraid is only a fad.") Or the chic cowboy poetry currently in vogue. ("It's nice and certainly entertaining," Rattan says, "but it isn't poetry. What they're writing is short stories in verse.")

What Myers and Rattan write is not quickly crafted over a latte at Starbucks or during a DART ride to the office. In their works, thoughtful reason replaces rhyme. ("In my classes," Myers says, "I forbid my students to use rhyme and instead concentrate on the shape and balance of their words.") Theirs is a solitary and often tedious endeavor wherein the search for the perfect word and perfect image is the goal. Rattan has chosen to write about the bygone days of hard-life Texas, while Myers' poetry is set in the here and now and often autobiographical. Both men mix humor, insight and matters of the heart with their verse.

And, despite their acclaim,

graduate courses. "I knew I had to find something else to do. I felt like a jail trusty, locked up during the day, taking up lunch money, monitoring the halls, until I was allowed to go home in the evening. It was as close to hell as I ever want to get."

It was then that he began writing poetry seriously, hoping that getting published might provide a gateway to a more palatable academic venue.

Perhaps, he thought, teaching at the college level would offer an improved atmosphere. "I started sending out resumes, but no one would have me," he says. "The only positive response I received was from Cisco Junior College. I didn't even know where it was. But I took the job." He's been teaching English there for 34 years.

And along the way, the writing, which he routinely does in the early morning hours, has become a compulsion.

He even commuted to Dallas to take a poetry course taught by Myers, where the two first met.

The SMU professor, meanwhile, started writing what he terms "moon/June" type poems at age 12. "I was serious; the poetry wasn't," he remembers. By the time he'd earned his degree in English literature at the University of Massachusetts, he had even sold his furniture one whimsical summer to finance a trip to San Francisco to pay a visit to Beat poet guru Lawrence Ferlinghetti. And back in Cambridge there was Club 47, a jazz and poetry nightspot that had become his second home. "Most of us wore old dungarees we'd paid five bucks for," he remembers, "but every Saturday night this swanky limo would pull up and this beautiful woman would get out, come in and spend the evening. I came to really hate her. So, one night, I just went up to her and told her off, letting her know exactly how I felt about dilettantes invading our turf. Afterwards, I felt pretty pleased with myself." Until, that is, he arrived to teach at SMU in 1975 and learned that same woman, Bonnie Wheeler, was on the faculty, teaching medieval literature.

"Fortunately," Myers says, "she's not only forgiven me but become a good friend." Now director of creative writing at Southern Methodist and, along with wife Thea Temple, a founder of Dallas' Writers Garret literary center, Myers' bibliography lists seven critically praised volumes of poetry, the most recent being

it is rare when either is completely satisfied.

For two years, Rattan has been rewriting and fine-tuning a collection of poems he hopes will eventually follow his much applauded book *The Border*. "Every time I think I'm finished," he says, "I find something that needs work, a line that can be improved. With a poem, you never really know when you're through. You just eventually reach a point where it's time to stop and move on to something else."

This from a man who once rebelled mightily against any form of academia. Born in Dallas and raised in suburban Irving, he left no mark as a high school student. "As a kid, I was one of those who bought into the idea that to be popular you had to make it perfectly clear that you had absolutely no interest in learning," he says. By his own admission he was a roaring success, and went on to again prove the fact as a SMU student in the mid-50s. "I flunked out after my third semester and joined the Marines," he recalls.

It was while in the service that he developed the habit of reading, beginning with biographies of sports figures, advancing to books on history and finally to poetry. "I reached a point," he says, "where I carried a poetry anthology in my backpack, and anytime there was an opportunity I'd read from it. I even reached a point where I felt like I was beginning to understand some of it."

After his return to civilian life, a changed Rattan enrolled at then-North Texas State University and launched into an academic pursuit that would not end until he'd earned three master's degrees and a doctorate. "I can't really call myself a scholar," he says, "but I'm certainly frequently educated."

It is, he admits, as if he's spent much of his life making up for the wasted years of his frittered youth. "I went from being certain I was too stupid to ever get a college degree to feeling I had to learn everything while always making the best grade in class," he remembers. Even during the two years he taught high school English, he took



2003 Texas Poet Laureate Jack Myers

OneOnOne, and five works about his craft.

"What interests me as a writer," Myers says, "are the ordinary but universal things in life, the spiritual comfort that comes from the most simple of activities. My goal has always been to make my poetry accessible to everyone."

It is, he realizes, an ambitious undertaking. "Modern poetry lost its readership back in the '40s when it became so elitist. Instead of poets telling stories, they began writing for other poets," he says. And the audience disappeared.

Long gone are those glory days of the Romantic Age of the art when Alfred Lord Tennyson commanded the following and adulation now reserved for a rock star. "His popularity reached a point where he even had to request that the British railroad not announce his arrival time when he was scheduled to give a reading," Rattan says, "because he was being literally mobbed by crowds of waiting admirers."

Today, however, theirs is a subsidized art. They can only ponder ways they might regain even a modest audience. "I'm not optimistic," Rattan says. "Nor am I," Myers adds.

In fact, when time comes for Myers to pass his honorary torch, it's a safe bet that Rattan's bucolic country life will not be interrupted. The position of Texas poet laureate carries no responsibility, no salary, no schedule. With 2003 now half over, Myers can count only 11 invitations to give readings. And only one of those included mention of paying travel expenses or an honorarium.

So, what is it that drives these men to continue seeking perfection of yet another line, another metaphor, another way to describe life's tangled journey? "I don't think any of us can explain it," Rattan admits. "We write and read and think and scratch our butts-and still don't have any good answers."

To such straightforwardness, there is a certain poetic ring.

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