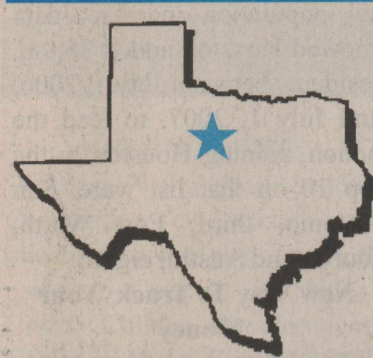


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Wednesday, July 16	Thursday, July 17	Friday, July 18	Saturday, July 19	Sunday, July 20	Monday, July 21
High/Low 92°/70° 40% Isolated T-Storms	High/Low 95°/70° 30% Isolated T-Storms	High/Low 95°/70° Partly Cloudy	High/Low 96°/71° Partly Cloudy	High/Low 96°/71° Partly Cloudy	High/Low 97°/71° Mostly Sunny



THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Proudly Serving Knox and King Counties

Volume XXXVII Number 38 Thursday, July 17, 2008 Knox City, Texas 8 Pages + 1 Insert Price 75 ¢

Looking Ahead

BOB EASTERLING RETIREMENT

Come join with us as we celebrate Bob Easterling's retirement! After 40 years he is calling it quits! Sunday afternoon July 20th 2:00 to 4:00 women's club downtown Rochester.

CREATIVE WRITER'S GROUP

The Creative Writer's Group will meet this Saturday the 19th of July, at the Senior Citizen's Center at 500 E. Belknap St. in Seymour, TX at 2 PM. The group was pleased last month to have two visitors from Wichita Falls and in May Dr. Joe Miller of Wichita Falls brought our program. We welcome all visitors. Please join us.

K.C.R.A 2ND ANNUAL RANCH RODEO AND OPEN BRONC RIDING

Knox City, Texas July 25th and 26th. Begins at 7pm both nights. Ranch Rodeo: \$500 per team (team of 4 or 5). Open Ranch Bronc Riding: \$100 per man. Only taking first 20 entries for rodeo and bronc riding. For more information call: Riley Carver 940-256-1866, Tony Hunter 940-256-8807 or Andy Paul Jones 940-256-1050. Come join the fun at the Watermelon Festival and Rodeo.

WATERMELON FESTIVAL

The Chamber of Commerce announces the 20th Annual Donald Johnson Seedless Watermelon Festival July 26, 2008. Plans are shaping up for a fun filled day in the park, beginning with a Parade on Saturday, followed by the Classic Car Show, activities for the kids, various vendors and booths in the city park. Mark the date and tell your family and friends.

JOHN WESLEY ADVENTURE SERIES

Knox City & Benjamin United Methodist Churches will be hosting the Amazing John Wesley Adventure Series on July 27-29, 2008 at the Knox City First United Methodist Church at 406 SE 2nd Street. Dr. Rev. Tom Fuller, General Evangelist for the United Methodist Church will present the series starting on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. during the regular church service and each evening at 6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided prior to each of the evening programs. The Amazing John Wesley Adventure is a concentrated, three day presentation Dr. Fuller brings to local churches, on the life and beliefs of John Wesley. The public is invited to attend. Please call Knox City FUMC office (940)658-3517 if you plan to attend or need more information.

O'BRIEN HOMECOMING

Mark your calendar and check your mail---the O'Brien Homecoming is scheduled for October 10-12, 2008. If you are an O'Brien Ex-Student or O'Brien Ex-Teacher please share your email and postal address with us. We want to keep you informed about the Homecoming this year. Email: derobe@srcaccess.net Or O'Brien Homecoming Committee P. O. Box 11 O'Brien, TX 79539

The Watermelon Festival Is Almost Here

As you can see throughout town Knox City is gearing up for the 20th Annual Donald Johnson Watermelon Festival, which is going to be held on Saturday, July 26. Events are to begin at 9:00 am with a parade.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come participate in the parade including Businesses, Individuals, Groups, Organizations, Clubs, Churches, Bicycles, Classic Cars, Motorcycles, Horses, Golf Carts, Classes, ect. Categories for the parade include, Best Decorated, Most Original, Best Business, Best Out of Town, and What were you thinking? The Grand Marshals in the parade are the members of The Ministerial Alliance.

The festivities at the the park will begin at 10:00 am which will feature Arts and Crafts Booths, Food Booths, Free Swimming, Free Watermelon Slices, Watermelon Eating Contest, Classic Car Show. A bounce house, whizzer, giant slide, ring the bell, indian rope, spinning tubs of fun, octopus ride, ferris wheel and more will be available for the kids to participate in throughout the day.

Activities include something for every age group. For those interested in a fun game of horseshoes or Washers, a tournament for both games will be held. Please contact the Chamber office to enter or for more information regarding the tournaments.

Melon Money Drawings are at various times throughout the day. Shopping downtown will enter you in the drawings, every \$10.00 spent gets you one chance closer to winning. You must be present to win.

The Classic Car Show sponsored by Bailey Toliver in Haskell will be going on all day. Judging for the Car Show will be at 12:30 pm. To enter the show please contact the Chamber office at 658-3442. Awards are set to be held at approximately 3:00 pm.

Live music will be performed by Glory Band, Becky Kinniburgh, and Country Recording Artist Gary Helms. Closing out the festivities is going to be a Street Dance from 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm featuring Battle of the Bands winner "Brazos Stone". You can check out their Myspace at www.myspace.com/brazosstone. The Street Dance is sponsored by Citizens Bank of Knox City.

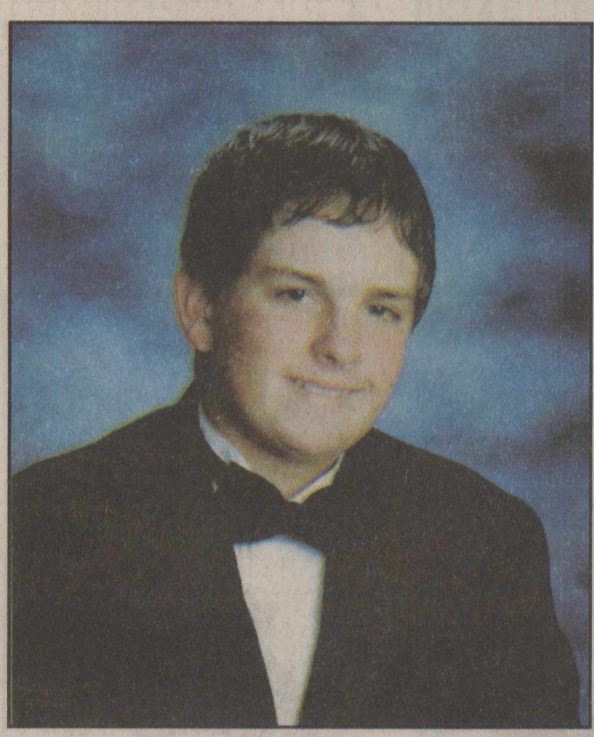
Don't forget to get your 20th Annual Donald Johnson Watermelon Festival t-shirt which is available at The Chamber Office, Knox City Florist, Peppers, or Counts Real Estate. The shirts are \$12 add \$2 for each X after XL.

The Chamber Board needs your help! Volunteers are needed for various activities including slicing melons, set up and clean up, running the 'bounce house', driving the watermelon train, and more. Step up and contribute your time and energy! The Festival depends on YOU!



206 E Main St. Knox City, Texas 79529 940-658-3715

Knox 4-H'ers Compete at Centennial Texas 4-H Roundup



Trimble



Esquivel

Knox County 4-H had two judges compete at the 2008 Texas 4-H Roundup in College Station.

This year's roundup was a special occasion because it marked 4-H's 100th birthday. 4-H is a national organization which has been teaching young people across America leadership, citizenship and life skills for over 100 years.

There are more than 7 million members from eight to eighteen years of age involved in 4-H.

Samantha Esquivel and Cody Trimble were fortunate enough to be invited to the Centennial Celebration to partake in this year's State 4-H Contests. Esquivel qualified for State by placing 2nd High Individual at the District 3 Range and Pasture

Grass Identification Contest in Breckenridge.

During the contest, Samantha had to identify and classify 40 to 50 live or mounted grass specimens according to their life span, season of growth, origin, and grazing value for livestock and wildlife.

She did a great job this year and she plans on winning the entire contest next year.

Trimble qualified for the State Livestock Judging Contest by placing High Individual Overall at the District 3 Livestock Judging Contest in Weatherford.

The livestock contest was made up of eight classes consisting of three beef, two sheep, and three swine. Cody had to place all of the classes and then give

oral reasons on four classes. Trimble placed 6th High Individual Overall and was 3rd High Point in reasons and beef.

Knox 4-H would like to thank Livestock Judging Coach Tim Trimble and Grass ID Coach Rudy Esquivel for all their time, patience, and support.

SEQ CHAPTER 1 Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County Extension office at (940)459-2651.

In Taking Aim At Credit-Card Fees, Congress Shoots Consumers In The Foot

By James Terry
 Americans hold nearly \$1 trillion in credit-card debt, according to data just released by the Federal Reserve. Now Congress wants to make that burden even heavier. Some misguided lawmakers are pushing legislation that would saddle consumers with fees that retailers don't want to pay.

Under the deceptively named "Credit Card Fair Fee" Congress would effectively fix the rates that merchants pay to accept

credit cards. That'd be good news for retailers. But it would be disastrous for consumers, who could see the fees on everything from their credit cards to their checking accounts rise.

To see why congressional intervention would harm consumers, it's important to understand how credit- and debit-card transactions work. When you swipe a card at the local store, the storeowner typically keeps just over 98 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 2 percent goes from the retailer's bank to the bank that issued your card, or perhaps your local bank or credit union. It's called an "interchange fee." Why do retailers accept this cost?

For starters, credit card transactions are guaranteed and secure.

Storeowners don't have to worry about a consumer's check bouncing, extending credit, or

See Credit Card on Page 8

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Governor Touts Survey Showing Texas Best State For Business

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry, on his Web site July 9, published that "Texas Is America's Top State for Business," citing results of the CNBC "Top States for Business 2008" survey.

The survey scored each state on 40 different measures of competitiveness, using publicly available data.

Among measures used in the survey: cost of doing business, workforce, economy, education, quality of life, technology and innovation, transportation, cost of living, business friendli-

ness and access to capital. Texas' strongest showings were in economy, technology and innovation, transportation and cost of living.

Meanwhile, state Comptroller Susan Combs, had this to say in her "Comptroller's Economic Outlook" dated July 10: "So far, the Texas economy continues to be in better shape than most other states.

While we see a cooling in the economy, there are aspects like good job growth and revenue growth that show the state is faring better than what's happening on the national front.

"Employment in Texas continues to expand. From May 2007 to May 2008, Texas gained about 238,700 jobs, which is more than the next seven top job growth states combined. Texas accounted for 53.4 percent of the jobs gained in the nation during that time period. "Sales tax revenue is the

state's largest source of general revenue. So far this year, sales tax revenue is 5.8 percent higher than the same period last year."

Tape Of Arson Remains Secret

A security camera videotaped the June 8 arson fire that gutted the Governor's Mansion.

The Texas Department of Public Safety sought a ruling from the Texas Attorney General's Office to prevent release of the tape, or copies of it, to the public.

If the fire had been ruled an act of terrorism, the tape would have been deemed confidential under federal and state homeland security laws. But there has been no such ruling.

However, the contents of the tape may be kept confidential under the Texas public information law, because it is part of an ongoing criminal investigation, the Attorney General's

Ag Looks At Religious Lit Courses

The Attorney General's Office completed its required review of proposed rules by the State Board of Education regarding "religious literature" courses that Texas public high schools can offer under a law passed by the Legislature in 2007.

Deputy Attorney General Andrew Weber, in a July 9 letter to SBOE Chairman Don McLeroy, wrote that it could not be concluded whether Bible courses would comply with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and that the attorney general's office is unable to "preclear" courses.

Constitutional challenges may arise over the way these courses are taught.

Ag Files Medicaid Fraud Lawsuit

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on July 9 filed a lawsuit

in a Travis

County state district court charging a list of generic drug manufacturers with reporting false, inflated drug prices to the Texas Medicaid program.

The lawsuit alleges that the manufacturers falsely reported prices, and as a result, Medicaid reimbursed pharmacies at vastly inflated rates.

The false reporting of drug prices is a violation of the Texas Medicaid Fraud Prevention Act.

The lawsuit names Watson/Schein Pharmaceuticals Inc. of California; Alpharma Inc. of New Jersey; Par Pharmaceutical Inc. of New Jersey; and Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc. of New York.

Census Ranks Fast Growing Cities

The U.S. Census on July 10 released data showing that in 2007, McKinney, Killeen and Denton ranked in the top 10

fastest growing cities in the nation.

In another category, numerical population increase, data showed Houston added 38,932 residents between July 1, 2006, and July 1, 2007, to lead the nation. Joining Houston in the top 10 on that list were: San Antonio, third; Fort Worth, fourth; and Austin, eighth.

New Way To Track 'Your Money'

For Texans interested in how their tax dollars are being spent, there is a new Web site: TexasBudgetSource.com.

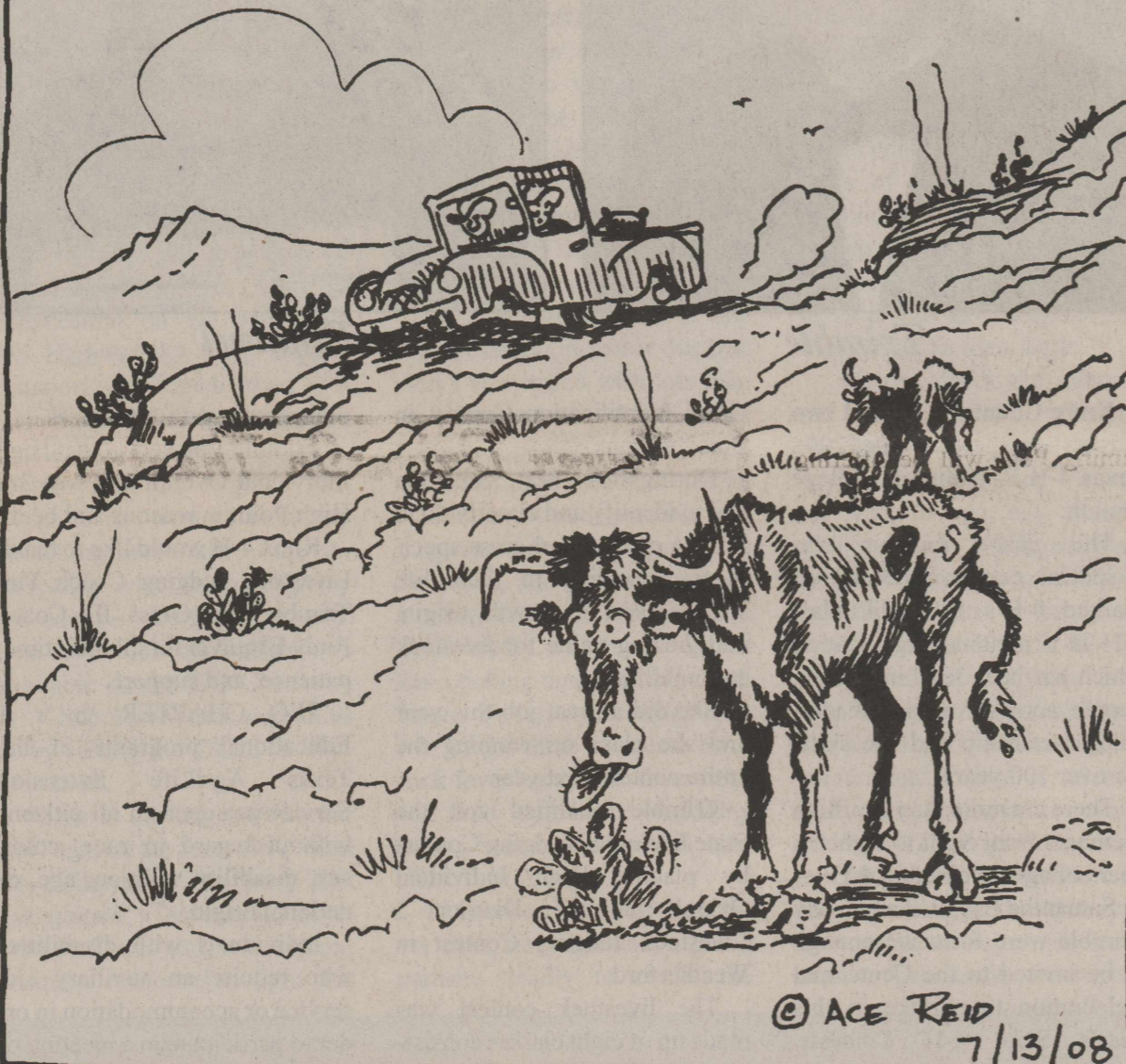
The site is a project of the Austin-based conservative think tank, Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Talmadge Heflin, a former state lawmaker, is director of the foundation's Center for Fiscal Policy. He said the purpose of the Web site is to bring greater transparency to government spending.

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid

http://www.cowpokes.com



© ACE REID 7/13/08

"Wilbur if you want to lose weight so bad why don't you eat what you feed yore ole cows?"



Kay Bailey Hutchison UNITED STATES SENATOR, TEXAS

Equipping Our Troops For The Battlefield - And The Future

In 1944 the Congress passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill of Rights, which rewarded World War II veterans with higher education benefits paid for by the federal government. As a result some 7.8 million returning veterans were afforded the chance to complete their education and prepare for the future - at four-year colleges, vocational schools or agricultural training programs.

The resulting efforts and enterprise of these veterans allowed the United States economy to flourish and laid the foundation for the technological, industrial and agricultural boom that would last for decades.

The men and women of today's military match the service, valor, and sacrifice of that Greatest Generation. Up until very recently, however, some of the benefits our active duty troops and veterans depend on for their education have not kept pace with rising education costs, or the needs of military families. They deserve benefits that will place a prosperous future within their grasp - whether in career military service or in the civilian job market. A substantial enhancement of our veterans' financial assistance has been long overdue.

In June, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, an emergency funding bill that included a sweeping measure to provide expanded education benefits to educate and equip our troops and veterans and their loved ones for

future opportunities.

I am pleased that the legislation addressed an inequity that I have actively worked in the Senate to correct - the transferability of education benefits to veterans' family members. For more than a decade, troops and veterans have implored Congress to extend these benefits to military families. In 2005, the Army launched a pilot program allowing GI Bill funds to be transferred to the spouse of a service member with a critical skill. Although a good start, the provision was restrictive and limited transferability to a narrow group of beneficiaries.

The new GI Bill will allow a broader group of military personnel to transfer up to half of their unused benefits to their spouse or child after six years of service and the full amount after ten years. In January, I introduced the Education Assistance Transferability Act of 2008, a separate bill that goes even further by allowing any service member - active duty, Guard or Reserve - who has paid into the GI Bill program the ability to transfer education benefits to his or her spouse or child once the service member has served six years and commits to additional service.

The revised GI Bill that passed broadens education benefits for all active duty military personnel, as well as eligible activated National Guard and Reserve members, who have paid into it and have served at least three years since September 11, 2001. Veterans may receive educational benefits along with a cost

of living stipend.

The law doubles the value of education assistance, and restores today's veterans' benefits to the levels of aid that enabled World War II veterans to thrive.

The bill signed by the President also included a provision I authored to forgive VA debts that are owed by the courageous service men and women who have lost their lives in combat. Previously, the VA Secretary was required by law to notify the fallen hero's family of the outstanding debt, most commonly educational payments, and attempt to collect it.

It was unconscionable to compound the grief of military families with this insensitive requirement. Finally, this bill will fund operations in two theaters of conflict well into 2009. It will provide our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan the resources and equipment they need to complete their mission and to help safeguard our nation from the violent threat of global terrorism.

In a time of war, when our nation's servicemen and women are bravely carrying out the Global War on Terror, it is critical that lawmakers come together and stand behind our troops.

With passage of this legislation, Congress has provided our outstanding military service men and women, and their families who sacrifice so much, what they need and deserve - both on the battlefield, and for their futures.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

The Knox County News

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Reporter

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Knox County News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. All letters must be signed and will be published with the name of the writer. Letters must include an address and telephone number to allow verification. Please keep letters to a reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to edit any letter for any reason and to reject letters for publication for any reason. Letters deemed libelous and/or not for the public good will be rejected. Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Knox County News.

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The Knox County News reserves the right to reject unsolicited submissions for any reason. Articles and news items submitted are subject to be edited by KCN staff. Article and photo reprints submitted from other publications require the KCN to get permissions from copyright holders and owners. Such articles will be printed in the KCN dependent on time and space requirements.

PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

The KCN reserves the right to reject unsolicited photographs for any reason. Photographs submitted to the KCN will kept in the KCN office for no longer than one year past the date submitted. Photographs can only be returned to submitter if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

NOTICE

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ACROSS

- 1 Amarillo TV station
- 5 This Baldwin didn't leave U.S. after George W. election
- 6 in Starr Co. on 83
- 7 TXism: "shaking like ___ dog"
- 8 State Fair sight: "Big ___"
- 9 TX Blue Bell ingredient
- 16 Estrada of "Border Blues" with TX-born Gary Busey
- 18 got shutout
- 21 Gov. ___ Culberson
- 22 fancy party
- 23 TX Busey '88 film: "___ of Piracy"
- 24 Arbor Day activity: ___ tree
- 30 noted bluebonnet painter, TX Julian
- 34 Buna h.s. class
- 35 TXism: "feel like I had a long drop on ___ rope" (sore throat)
- 36 TX Storm who was "Margie" on TV
- 37 TXism: "keeping my eyeballs peeled"
- 39 Houston mayor (92-'98)
- 43 soothing ointment
- 44 one who works with horses
- 45 TXism: "can a donkey fly?"
- 46 competes
- 47 TXism: "tight enough to pick ___" (good fence)

- 49 young birds of prey
- 52 site for h.s. B-Ball
- 53 "7" precoder for agent James Bond
- 54 TXism: "heavy as the front end of a John ___"
- 55 product pushers
- 58 Dodge engines
- 59 patriotic song "Bless the USA"
- 60 had some chicken fried steak

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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14 FLDS site in TX: ___ dorado

15 maiden name of Houston's wife Margaret

17 Weatherford h.s. mascot

19 to a cowboy, these are bandanas

20 Cornyn is a United ___ senator

24 Gov. ___ Ferguson

25 Sul Ross State was named after this Gov. (init.)

26 TXism: "she dropped him like ___ horseshoe"

27 TXism: "___ just fact"

28 famous Austin tree: ___ Oak"

29 hotel lobby often TX Jenkins who wrote "Semi-Tough"

32 UT grad Wallach portrayed emotion

33 a local KKK unit

38 Cowboys in NFL? ___ Daniels

40 cable TV network before it was Spike

41 this Greenwood wrote 59-across

42 rest area sites

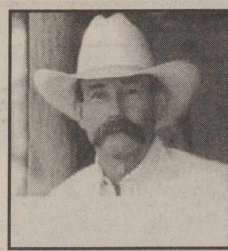
48 TX Powers Boothe is VP ___ on TV "24"

50 topaz & opal in TX

51 TX-born actor Tommy ___ Jones

56 TXism: "___ eagle" (attorney)

57 portray emotion theatrically



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

THE DUMP TRUCK

Have you seen the movie, The Phoenix? A group of adventurers crashed a big twin-engine airplane in the Sahara Desert. Over a period of weeks they rigged together a single engine plane out of the pieces and flew off to a happy ending. That movie crossed my mind as I shouted down to Mel, "Follow me, I'll get it rolling and coast to the truck stop!"

It all began Monday afternoon the day before. We had hauled dirt for four hours until the F750 dump truck that Mel had rebuilt and Elmo was driving, stalled while trying to unload. Mel popped the hood and Elmo climbed up beside him. Mel is a windmill man, well driller, mule man, machinist and tinkerer of heavy equipment. Elmo grew up in Mexico and can make anything run if he has enough rebar and duct tape!

"A solenoid..." they deduced. "Maybe the wiring. Rats, ya know. Wiggle the battery cable. Hand me that 7/8 wrench." I did. He short-circuited the solenoid and you could hear the starter whine. It was 4:45pm when I headed to town for a new solenoid and rebuilt starter. We agreed to meet at 6:00am next day.

Tuesday morning with the new parts installed and the handy 7/8 wrench they kept it running until noon when it froze again at the dump spot... still loaded, of course. They diagnosed bad ignition. Then checked the fuses to find that the fuel pump was blown! Back to town for parts. The truck ran for the next fifteen minutes, allowing us to unload and giving us the false illusion that we had it fixed. Enough so that we hooked up the trailer and loaded the backhoe. Mel babied the dump truck and made it a hundred yards, where it stalled again. Diagnosis: out of fuel.

Back to my shop, return, pour in 2 gallons, put in second fuse, short circuit the solenoid, and the parade of truck, trailer, loader and two pilot cars made it to the paved farm road, where it gasped and stopped again. Fuse blown, plus Mel and Elmo concluded it was the wiring on the fuel pump...rats, again. I go back to the shop to bring electrical wire and black tape.

When I returned to what now looked like a roadside attraction, they had concluded it was the fuel pump itself. Plan: to circumvent the fuel pump altogether! Mel and I arrived at the Auto Parts just before it closed at 6:00pm. He built a detour fuel line that began with a brass nipple that screwed into the carburetor inlet, followed 9 feet of rubber gas line and ended taped to the spout of a two-gallon gas can.

Back at the scene of the crime, Elmo is waiting for us. The two-gallon can is suspended from high up on the side mirror with baling wire and the rubber gas line wending itself under the hood, around the moving parts and carrying gas by gravity into the carb. Voilà. Third fuse replacement, 7/8 wrench, and we are on our way. In the next mile it stalled twice more but at 7:30pm I coasted the brave little dump truck the last 500 yards into the Truck Stop parking lot. As we swung off the four-lane highway in single file, hood not quite latched, and a gas can hanging off the right rear view mirror I thought of The Phoenix. And of Tom Joad and the Grapes of Wrath. I concluded that if I had to drive from Oklahoma to California during the Dust Bowl depression days in a beat-up Model A with four kids and a mattress on the top, the two guys I'd want with me would be Mel and Elmo. God bless 'em.

Texas Teens Gather At Capitol For State 4-H Congress

AUSTIN - The Texas 4-H Congress convenes at the State Capitol next week, bringing together some 283 young delegates from across the state.

Participants will learn about state government by acting like elected state leaders, legislators, lobbyists and news reporters.

"This is our premiere leadership program in 4-H," said Dr. Toby Lepley, who coordinates the Congress July 13-16.

"The kids get involved in role-playing situations that call upon their skills as speakers, debaters, negotiators and collaborators.

They get a good sense of what the legislative process involves, and for some it's a life-changing experience."

Lepley said 20 to 30 delegates from each Congress typically seek additional experiences in a legislative setting, such as serving in internships, becoming full-time aides to senators or representatives, or working to influence legislation as lobbyists.

At the Capitol, the 4-H delegates debate in the House and Senate chambers the legislation that they've drafted themselves. Bills that are passed are sent to the 4-H Congress governor, who this year is Loni Woolley

of Johnson County.

Those bills that she signs will eventually be presented to Gov. Rick Perry, to give him an idea about what these young people see as important issues affecting the state, Lepley said.

"From time to time, we will see a 4-H Congress proposal receive serious consideration by our state leaders," Lepley said, recalling, for example, that a 4-H measure to enhance the use of wildflowers along the sides of state highways led to actual legislation that made it happen.

Texas 4-H, which is the youth development program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, has held the Congress on alternating years for 4-H members ages 15-18 since 1980. The Congress has been supported by four major donors: Blue Bell Creameries, the R.S.M.I.S. Foundation, the Ed Rachel Foundation and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Texas 4-H this year marks its 100th anniversary; each year it engages more than 640,000 young people in an array of pursuits aimed at learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. For more information, check the 4-H Congress Web site at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/txccongress/index.html>



By Dr. Alex Mills

Mr. T. Boone Pickens is back in the news, again. He's singing an old tune - America is addicted to foreign oil - but he has a new arrangement that includes wind energy and natural gas.

"In 1970, we imported 24% of our oil," Pickens said in a full-page, color ad in The Wall Street Journal on July 8. "Today, it's 70% and climbing."

He notes that the U.S. will send \$700 billion to foreign countries this year.

"Money that is building their countries. Not ours," the ad stated as it unveiled PickensPlan.com.

"It's time to stop America's addiction to foreign oil," the ad proclaimed.

"I have a plan that uses American technology and alternative energy to reduce our dependency on foreign oil by more than one third - and it can be done in 10 years," the ad stated.

Pickens believes that the "Great Plains states are home to the greatest wind energy potential in the world - by far."

"The Department of Energy reports that 20% of America's electricity can come from wind. North Dakota alone has the potential to provide power for more than a quarter of the country," according to the web page PickensPlan.com.

"Today's wind turbines stand up to 410 feet tall, with blades that stretch 148 feet in length. In one year, a 3-megawatt wind turbine produces as much energy as 12,000 barrels of imported

oil," the web page noted.

Building turbines from Texas to North Dakota would cost about \$1 trillion and produce 20% of electricity for U.S. and another \$200 billion to build the capacity to transmit that energy to cities and towns.

Pickens wants to take the natural gas that is used to generate electricity and put it in cars, pickups and trucks to back out imported oil that is used to make gasoline and diesel. Pickens believes that using natural gas as a transportation fuel would be good for the U.S. economy and the environment.

It would be sort of a double whammy for the U.S. economy and environment: wind energy generating clean electricity and domestic natural gas replacing gasoline and diesel that generate carbon dioxide when burned.

"According to the California Energy Commission, critical greenhouse gas emission from natural gas are 23% lower than diesel and 30% lower than gasoline," Pickens' web page stated.

PickensPlan.com notes that natural gas currently is less expensive than gasoline and diesel.

Let's recap: use U.S. wind to generate electricity; take the natural gas saved from electric generation and use it as a transportation fuel; replace foreign oil used to make gasoline and diesel with U.S. natural gas. Lower fuel costs, boost U.S. economy, and clean-up the environment. Mr. Pickens may be on to something.

American Red Cross Swimming Lessons

Next week the Knox City Swimming Pool will be offering swimming lessons given by Terri Fletcher an American Red Cross instructor. Terri has been teaching swimming lessons for over 40 years. She even taught lessons while living in Edinburgh, Scotland. When asked what the best part of giving lessons was Terri said "Watching how the kids progress".

Swimming lessons will be held July 22 - 25 from 10:00 am to 12 noon. The lessons are \$25.00 per child 4 years and older. To sign up contact Melissa Eads at the pool 658-3431 or at home 658-1016.

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Connect to Customer Choice

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for over 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. While we no longer sell electricity or send out monthly electric bills, we recognize this is going to be a long, hot summer.

Since AEP Texas and its 1,700 employees are directly connected to the many communities we live in and serve, we'd like to share some information on how you can help manage your electric bills through active retail choice and where you can go for additional help if need be.

One of the best ways to lower higher electric bills is to shop around for a less expensive retail electric provider (REP). Finding different offers can be done quickly and efficiently.

- 1) Visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) electric choice website at www.powertochoose.org. If you don't have access to a computer, you can call the PUCT's Electric Choice hotline at 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (797-4839).
- 2) Use the information you need to contact different REPs to collect more information on various services and offers. Also contact your current REP at the number listed on your electric bill for other offers that may be available. Ask about contract terms and prices and be sure to look at the REPs' Electricity Facts Labels to make a good comparison.

Need some help?

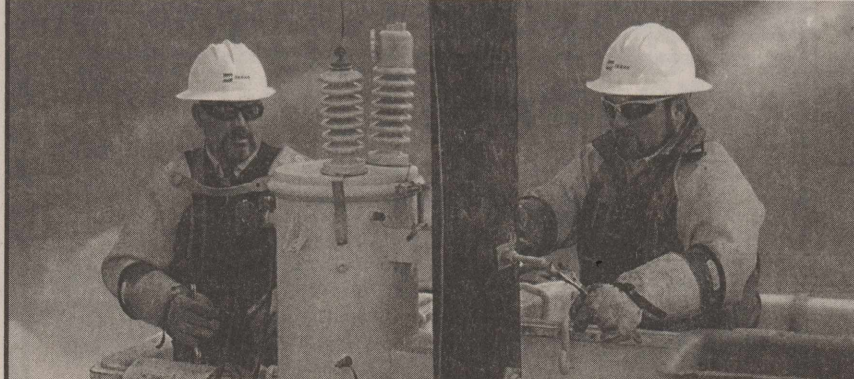
Customers having trouble paying their electric bills and wishing to avoid disconnection should discuss their concerns with their current retail electric provider. All REPs are required to offer deferred payment plans to eligible customers who express an inability to pay. REPs also offer balanced billing plans, which allow eligible customers to pay an average amount each month year-round.

Additionally, many community action agencies may be able to help with electric bills or energy efficiency programs. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 1-800-525-0657, e-mail at info@tdhca.state.tx.us or visiting one of the following websites.

TDHCA Utility Bill Help and Other Assistance
www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist_energy.htm

TDHCA Home Repair Assistance and Weatherization
www.tdhca.state.tx.us/assist_repair.htm

www.aeptexas.com



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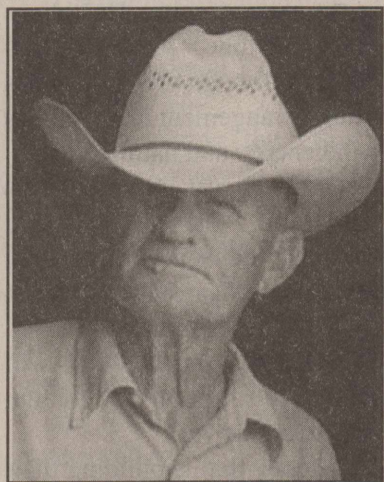
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OBITUARIES

Orel LaMoyné Patterson

LaMoyné was born to Orel Lee and Eula Veta Love Patterson on December 18, 1917 in the original family homestead located 5 1/2 miles east of Benjamin. He graduated from Benjamin High School in 1935. He attended West Texas Teacher's College for two years then transferred to Texas A&M University, where he graduated in 1941, with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture Education. He married Wilma Christine Mitchell on September 7, 1940 in Archer City. She preceded him in death on July 12, 2001. He taught vocational ag. at Mobettie, Texas for a term and also was an assistant county agent in Abilene. In 1943, the family moved to Johnson City, Texas where he served as Blanco County Agriculture Agent for 24 1/2 years. He served in the United States Army for a few months in 1945, but was discharged from his post to return to work as a county agent. It was felt at the time, that his agricultural work was more important to the war effort than his service in the army. LaMoyné moved his family back to Benjamin in 1967 to assume responsibility of the Patterson Ranch until 1993.



He was very active in the Methodist Church both in Johnson City and Benjamin. He was a 32nd Degree Mason. He was a member of the Benjamin School Board and the Farm Bureau for many years. He continued to support his Aggies to the end. He spent his later years going from one community social to another. Always finding time for coffee at the Munday Dairy Queen. He also made sure to check on the "old" folks at the Munday Nursing Home. He never met a stranger and never had a bad word to say about another. He loved his family, community and his Lord. He will be missed daily.

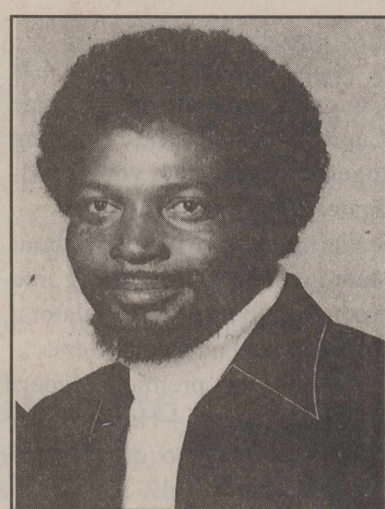
He is survived by: 3 children - Orel Lynn Patterson and wife, Lu of Amarillo; Michael Kynn Patterson of Benjamin and Veta LaNay Cash and husband, Freddie of Truscott 5 grandchildren - Danneva Patterson; Kim Gray and husband, Brandon; Lynn Patterson and wife, Candy; Timmy Cash and Jason Patterson and wife, Anna

8 great grandchildren - Chris Miller; Teri Miller; Jet Cash; McKenzie Gray; Bryce Kelley; Eryn Kelley; Leo Patterson; Zoey Patterson and Joe Patterson 1 great grandchild - Evan Miller

The family suggests memorials to Benjamin First United Methodist Church.

J.C. Swearingin

J.C. Swearingin was born October 3, 1936 to the late James Swearingin and Annie Bell Rogers Swearingin. He departed from this life July 5, 2008 at the age of 72.



A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 12, 2008 at the First Baptist Church, Knox City with Pastor Gene Ward officiating. Burial will follow in the Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Mansell-Smith Funeral Home. A visitation will be held Friday, July 11, 2008 from 7:00 to 8:00pm at the funeral home.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Barbara Martin Swearingin of Knox City; seven sons James Swearingin of Hale Center, Michael and Sean Martin of Lubbock, Earnest and Earl Swearingin of Abilene, Lonnie Ray Swearingin of California, and Regionald Swearingin of Munday; three daughters Ann Moore of Morton, Ollie Pearl Swearingin of Chicago and Gladys Walton of Knox City. He is also survived by twenty-eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren; brothers Floyd Swearingin of Martin, Tommie Swearingin of Lubbock, William and Lue Roy Swearingin of Midland, Andrew Swearingin of Odessa; sisters Rosie Rigsby of California and Linda Faye McCrary of Knox City; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Be not worried, JC will not be alone, meeting him in glory will be his parents James and Annie; one son Robert Swearingin; four brothers John Ed, John L, James Jr., and Jessie Swearingin; three sisters Annie Mae Armstrong, Dorothy Hill, and Melinda Robinson.

Rex Allsup

Rex Allsup of Lubbock formally of Knox City, Texas departed this life on July 9, 2008 at the age of 55 years. He was born on January 31, 1953 to Walter Dewitt and Betty Bratton Allsup in Mangum, OK. Rex attended Dimmitt High School and graduated in 1971. He was a member of Gillespie Baptist Church in Knox City.

Those left to cherish his memory are one son, Jeremy Allsup of Conroe, Texas; two grandchildren, Lena and Chance Allsup; and one brother Eddie Allsup.

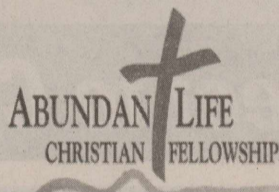
He is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; one grandson, Jeremy Allsup, Jr., and one brother, Gene Allsup.

Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, July 12, 2008 at Gillespie Baptist Church in Knox City, Texas.

Cremation arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home of Lubbock. Online condolences may be sent at HYPERLINK "http://www.whitefuneralhome.com" www.whitefuneralhome.com.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE END TIMES OR THOUGHT THAT THE BOOK OF REVELATION WAS CONFUSING?

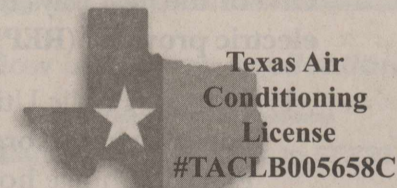
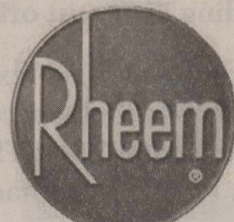
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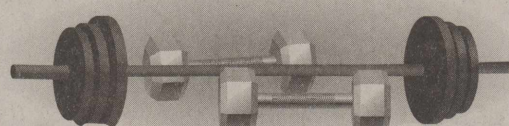
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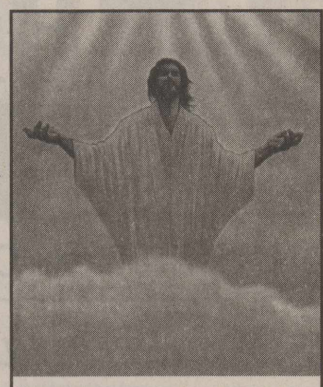
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PHYSICAL FITNESS

God's Promises



By Jim Reid, Pastor O'Brien Baptist Church

God puts so many opportunities before us each and every day. Do you wonder why? Or do you not see these opportunities? Many people miss so many blessings each and every day simply because they are not expecting to be blessed of God. He so desires to bless us when we follow His leadership in all things.

Too many people believe God expects too much of them. They believe He makes demands upon them; they couldn't begin to perform or complete. Therefore, they choose to ignore God's activity. His presence is all around us all the time.

Perhaps the reason you fear God's presence or even His blessings is that you fear Him. But fear can become a justified excuse to reject many new opportunities. Fear is not a blessing, but if you step into the disciplines of God you will experience blessings that you never could have imagined before.

Some people refuse to step into God's presence because they believe God will make them more than they have ever been before. Of course He will, or He wouldn't be God would He? He will always make you more than you are and more than you could ever be without Him. Would

you like to be more than you know of yourself, your talents, your abilities even your personality?

God is ready to equip you to be more than you have ever dreamed you could be and He will prove it to you, your family, your boss and your friends. If you're ready, all you have to do is to ask Him to show His person to you and to equip you to represent Him to a lost world. Really, it's that easy. Read and believe His word: John 5: 19-21 (NASB)

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

You can truly be God's children and marvel at all He does through you!

I pray that you experience the blessings of God every day in every way.

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Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Timothy Trimbel, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Knox City

Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.
"Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Don Jackson, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

Father Leo Schloemer • Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Bilingual Mass at 11 a.m.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Leo Schloemer • Deacon Ben
Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass
Saturday Mass at 7 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Timothy Trimbel, Pastor
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Jim Reid, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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The Paperboy

By CHRISTOPHER BLACKBURN

Ever heard of H.R. 6458? Probably not, but you should.

H.R. 6458 was introduced by U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier [D-CA] on July 10 and would change the national maximum speed limit to 60 miles per hour on highways, and 65 miles per hour on portions of the National Highway System located outside of an urbanized area.

All the time, at the local, state and federal levels, there are items introduced which can effect you directly.

Unless you are paying attention, many just slip by unnoticed until it is too late.

In recent months, T. Boone Pickens has been in the media regarding his giant wind farm in the Panhandle and the fact he wants to claim eminent domain on across a very large section of Texas.

He is able to claim such because of two items placed in legislation during the most recent session of the Texas Congress.

Despite the countless watchdog groups keeping an eye on various pieces of legislation in Austin and Washington, items are occasionally "snuck" in. It's not right, but it's the truth.

Other items recently introduced at

the national level include:

Senate Bill 3227, introduced July 7, is titled Iran Sanctions Act of 2008 and would impose sanctions on Iran.

House Bill 6453, introduced July 10, is titled Schoolchildren's Health Protection Act and would amend the General Education Provisions Act to prohibit Federal education funding for elementary or secondary schools that provide access to emergency post-coital contraception.

In the perfect world, it would be nice to be able to trust our elected officials to look out for the best interests of the vast majority. Sadly, many are looking out for a very small minority and are nothing more than agenda-driven puppets.

Next time you have a few minutes, go online and check new bills which have introduced.

A good place to start is <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. It is a bipartisan site and provides a load of information about the goings on in both the House and Senate.

Christopher Blackburn is the President and CEO of Blackburn Media Group, Inc. BMG owns several newspapers in Texas and Oklahoma including this publication.

Museum News

The staff at the Wichita Brazos Museum has been working hard for months to gather information on Knox County Veterans whose names are not on the Knox County Veterans Memorial, so new names can be engraved this fall in time for the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2008.

A new application form and information form has been developed and is available by calling or going by the museum at Benjamin. A completed application must be turned in to qualify for having a name engraved, just turning in a name is not sufficient. The information form is needed so information to the Veterans Albums can be added. A veteran must have an honorable discharge and have been a resident of Knox County or buried in Knox County.

Please call (940) 459-2229 Tues-Fri., or write to Box 124, Benjamin, TX 79505, or email kcnc@srcaccess.net, if you know of a veteran whose name is not on the memorial. The help of local friends and relatives of such veterans is needed so there are none missed.

We also have forms for adding family names to the granite wall at the Museum. There are a limited numbers of the granite plaques available, so if you are interested, please call soon.

The deadline for receiving forms for engraving veteran's names on the Memorial and engraving family names on the Museum granite wall is August, 15, 2008. Willis Granite of Granite, OK., will come here to do the engraving.

Other Museum News

The Wichita Brazos Museum is moving on, with all kinds of plans for Knox County in the coming year.

Friends of Knox County Historical Commission, the board of directors for the museum at Benjamin, met at the museum July 8th to make plans for everything from fund raisers to exhibits to volunteers for helping maintain the building and establish some themed exhibits. A favorite standby will start the year with the homemade ice cream and baked goods sale booth at Knox City's Watermelon Festival on Saturday, July 26.

At the meeting directors volunteered to make ice cream or baked goods. Anyone who wants to help with the cost of really good museum exhibits in the future is welcome to call the museum at 459-2229 to volunteer to bring baked goods or home made ice cream on July 26.

The next event discussed will be a big, big garage sale and grilled hamburger lunch on Saturday, September 13th, at the Perry Patton Center in Munday. Nearly every year this event has pulled in over \$1,000 for building the museum. With the help and enthusiasm of Knox County supporters an even larger net is being aimed at this year to help provide attractively designed exhibits inside the building.

The museum board has appointed a member to contact museum exhibit companies about helping with exhibit designs for the Wichita Brazos Museum. It is hoped a meeting can be arranged soon.

Meanwhile ideas for an area dedicated to the communities of Knox County are being explored. One idea is to give each community a space in which to tell the local story. These local exhibits could change from time to time with local themes like school, churches, veterans, pioneers, etc. One museum has worked out this idea with six food tall dividers giving each community a distinct area. Ideas and thoughts on such a project are welcomed. Whatever comes, small exhibits to large, or themed exhibits, the Wichita Brazos Museum is gathering speed and moving into a new era!

So bring your unused (but still usable) masses of belongings out of your closets, attics, and garages in September and help provide a financial base for some exhibits that will "knock your eyes out".

Traffic Fatalities Down In Texas

AUSTIN - In 2007, 96 fewer lives were lost on Texas roadways, resulting in a 2.7 percent decrease in the total number of traffic fatalities suffered in the state.

In recent years, TxDOT has provided hundreds of millions of dollars specifically targeted for transportation safety.

The 2004 Safety Bond Program funded 644 projects to widen narrow two-lane highways, to install dedicated left-turn lanes, to install median barriers and other important highway safety improvements.

TxDOT's annual Highway Safety Improvement Program also funds hundreds of projects that improve highway safety for all public roads.

Improving safety is our most important goal, said Amadeo Saenz, TxDOT's executive director. This decrease in total traffic fatalities demonstrates that the major investments we have made in transportation safety are producing real and significant results for our citizens. Every life saved on our highways represents a real tragedy that Texas families have not had to endure. This is a major step forward.

TxDOT's Texas Traffic Safety Program also provides approximately \$50 million per year to improve driver behavior by decreasing dangerous actions such as driving while intoxicated, increasing safety belt compliance, and enforcing speed limits.

Making sure the public has the safest transportation system possible is at the center of everything we do, said Saenz. It is extremely gratifying to see these positive results in part from our implementation of the Safety Bond Program. The ability to issue these bonds has allowed us to target high-risk locations and get projects on the ground faster.

The Safety Bond Program allows TxDOT to issue general obligation bonds secured by the state highway fund to accelerate transportation projects, with twenty percent of the bonds earmarked for safety projects.

It is extremely encouraging to see the overall number of traffic fatalities decrease, especially considering how fast our state's population is increasing* Saenz

said. We have more drivers and vehicles than at any other time in our history.

In 2007, Texas had more than 20 million vehicles registered. The total number of motor vehicles registered in Texas during 2000 was 14.2 million.

As part of its efforts to make Texas highways as safe as possible, TxDOT has installed more than 400 miles of additional median cable barrier. These devices, designed to prevent head-on collisions when an errant vehicle crosses a median into oncoming traffic, prevented 18 fatalities and 26 serious injuries during the first year of their use in Texas.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials recently adopted a national goal to reduce the traffic fatalities by 1,000 per year. The Texas decrease in traffic fatalities for 2007 allows the state to contribute approximately 10 percent to this important national safety goal.

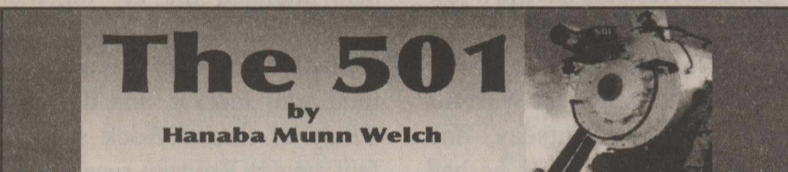
TxDOT also collects and analyzes crash data as part of its mission to improve transportation safety.

The 3,422 traffic fatalities suffered in Texas during 2007 means there is still work to do.

- How to Stay Safe
- * Buckle up.
 - * Obey speed limits.
 - * Don't drink and drive.
 - * Designate a driver.
 - * Call a cab.
 - * Spend the night where you are, if possible.

About the Texas Department of Transportation The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining nearly 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 15,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state's transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov

For more information call TxDOT's Government & Public Affairs Division at (512) 463-8588.



Four days on a musical dude ranch and what do I have to show for it?

Three hundred eighty-four pictures, not counting culls already deleted.

If you've never heard of a musical dude ranch, that's understandable. I made up the term. It's where you go to mix with working musicians who sometimes wear boots and white cowboy hats and you can too if you want to. You learn to play an acoustic instrument of the Western variety, the standard choice being guitar or fiddle. You never set foot in a stirrup or get your hands on a rope, except maybe the one to the dinner bell. There are no tenderfoots - only tender fingers. You don't earn your spurs. You earn your calluses.

I didn't exactly go. My guitar-playing husband did. I was just there. That's how I ended up with all the pictures. I play the camera.

I play the guitar too, but only tuition-paying bad guitar players get to play all they want. I know my place.

So there I was, an interloper (almost sounds like a ranch term), surrounded by wonderful opportunities to shoot musicians - some young and photogenic and some old and photogenic. Click, click, click. I couldn't help myself.

Now that it's all over, the music campers have their new skills and their sore fingers and, in the case of the fiddlers, their sore necks to remind them what a wonderful time they had.

But they still want pictures. Remember the days of film? You took pictures until your film ran out. You didn't get any-

thing developed until you got home. Everybody exchanged addresses and promised to send pictures and didn't. It was all so easy.

Now everything is digital. If you've got a laptop computer in your saddlebag, the sky's the limit. Take pictures, download pictures, take more pictures, download more pictures. There's no end of the trail for the digital photographer. Whoa is me.

But that's all right. All I have to do now is sort through the images and prepare to respond to requests from 40-something music campers to provide them shots that show them at their musical and visual best - all with just a few strokes of the computer keys and moves of the electronic mouse.

To borrow an overused phrase, it sounds easy if you say it fast.

Meanwhile, since I took all those pictures to the sounds of Western Swing tunes, a new version of "Faded Love" seems appropriate -- dedicated to me, the ubiquitous photographer:

As I look at the pictures that you sent to me

It's you that I am thinking of
As I view the people that to me are so dear

I remember your blasted camera ...

and how you were everywhere, clicking away, often in our faces, an annoying presence and distraction.

What can I say? It's what I do best. It's where pictures come from.

But next year will be different. I'm not taking my camera. I'm taking a fiddle.

Remind me I said that.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
Knox City, Texas**

2008 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
07/08	69/93	.05
07/09	71/92	
07/10	72/94	
07/11	73/96	
07/12	76/101	.01
07/13	71/93	.03
07/14	68/92	.01
Total Rainfall		.10
2008 Rainfall (ytd)		9.48

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An estimated 1 in every 5 vehicles on our Texas roads has no automobile insurance, but that's about to change. TexasSure Vehicle Insurance Verification matches vehicle registration information to insurance policy data, which immediately tells law enforcement officers and tax assessor-collectors who's driving without insurance. * So, if you're not covered, better get insured! To learn more, visit: www.TexasSure.com

TexasSure catches drivers without insurance.

Deadline for news and advertising is Monday by 4:00 p.m.

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Increasing Motorcycle Sales Spur Safety Risks

AUSTIN - With gas prices topping \$4.00 per gallon, more and more Texans are trading their gas-guzzling SUV*s and pickup trucks for more fuel-efficient motorcycles to save at the pump. More motorcycles on the road means more motorcyclists may crash and ultimately die on Texas Roadways.

That's why the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching a motorcycle safety campaign encouraging drivers to take extra caution watching for motorcyclists on roadways.

Because they have less physical protection than passenger vehicle occupants, riders are particularly vulnerable in a crash. Federal officials report that per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are about 35 times for likely to die in a crash than passenger vehicle occupants.

Registered motorcycles are at an all-time high in Texas, said Carlos Lopez, TxDOT's traffic operations director. We're reminding drivers to be on the lookout for the nearly 400,000 motorcyclists on Texas roadways, especially at intersections where many crashes happen.

Starting July 14, television and radio commercials and bill-

boards along interstate highways will urge drivers to look twice for motorcyclists.

The public education initiative will run for two weeks, coinciding with National Ride to Work Day on July 16.

Co-Sponsoring the effort is the Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association, which educates riders and promotes motorcycle safety in Texas.

TxDOT and the Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association have these safety tips for sharing the road with motorcyclists:

- * Look twice for motorcyclists * at intersections, entering highways and whenever turning or changing lanes. The small size of motorcycles often makes them hard to see, and motorcyclists can get lost in blind spots.

- * Always maintain a safe following distance. Motorcycles can stop more quickly than passenger vehicles.

- * When passing a motorcyclist, move to the other lane and allow a full lane for the motorcycle. After doing so, avoid re-entering the lane too quickly.

In 2006, 346 motorcyclists were killed on Texas roads, which is nearly ten percent of all fatalities.

TDSH Services Knox City Immunization Clinic

Vaccinations for children and adults will be available including Hepatitis A, pneumococcal conjugate, polio, MMR, HIB, Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis, Hepatitis B, HPV, meningitis and chickenpox vaccine.

A parent, adult family member or guardian must accompany minors under 18 years of age. A copy of the child's immunization record, social security card and Medicaid letter, if applicable, must be provided.

Services at the Department of the State Health Services are offered on a sliding fee scale but no one is denied services.

For information about immunizations, call the Texas Department of State Health office at 940-552-8770. Housing Authority Office, 203 SW 4th Street Thursday, August 7.10:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm - 3pm.

Public Notice

A sealed bid was received on the following property: In Knox County Trust located at Truscott, Texas Block 58, Lots 7,8 and 11 in the Elandel Addition, Parcel Number # 8538, Account #01100-00010-07013-00000 further described as being, in Volume 21, Page 250 and Volume 25, Page 165 of the Deed Records, Knox County, Texas. The Knox County Appraisal District, acting as trustee for the taxing units is offering this property for sealed bid to all interested parties. Sealed bids may be sent to Knox County Appraisal District, P.O. Box 47, Benjamin Texas 79505, along with a cashiers check or money order for the amount of the sealed bid. Please put the parcel number on the outside of the envelope of the sealed bid. The taxing units, owners of the property, reserve the to reject all bids. If your bid is rejected, your cashiers check or money order will be returned. Sealed bids will be opened and considered at least quarterly. For further information please contact the Knox County Appraisal District at the above address or phone: (940)459-3891.

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Galdene Green

It's been a little cooler Monday with a few showers and clouds in the area.

Certainly no rain of any significance but a little moisture and we will take all we can get. With the winds the usually follow, anything we get will likely dry out soon!

Sympathy to the family of Lamoyn Patterson today. Laymoyn passed away Saturday at UMC in Lubbock after being there two weeks.

He had undergone triple bypass surgery and just never did recover.

He will be missed by everyone. His funeral was today (Monday).

About our Ill

Loraine Powers returned home yesterday after a four week stay (and heart surgery) in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. She is still weak and has a god ways to go before complete recovery but her progress is encouraging.

We need to continue to remember her in prayer.

Donnie Hertel is having a few problems but told me Sunday he feels pretty well.

Has an appointment with his oncologist on Thursday and is anxious to hear what he had

to say. Donnie, also needs our prayers.

Lucille Moorhouse has been a patient in Knox County Hospital several days. Was better at last report and hoped to be released in a day or so.

Here 'N There

Betty Parker and Chelsea of Aspermont spent Sunday with her mom, Gloria West and visited her Aunt, Lorene Powers.

Sue and Dave Terry and children of Dallas were here for a weekend visit with her parents Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon and to help Weldon get a small trailer ready to move into.

It's about ready, Just needs a little more work on the plumbing and a few last minute details.

Jessica Moorhouse of Tarlton State was here for a visit with parents, Debbie and Mike during the weekend.

Reba and Charlie Morrill have been "running around" the past few weeks.

They spent a couple weeks in Oregon and this past week have been in Colorado for a family reunion. Her brother, Jim Cox also attended the get together with the rest of the family.

Jack and Mary young and their son, Jack Jr. and his wife Cindy of Round Rock spent a few days in Ruidoso recently.

Notice of Public Meeting

CHILDRESS - The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will host a public meeting, inviting interested parties to participate in the planning and development process for various Public Transportation Program Projects beginning at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at the TxDOT District Headquarters located at 7599 U.S. Highway 287, Bldg. C, Childress, Texas 79201-9705.

The public meeting will include discussion and prioritization of the following proposed FY 2009 Program Projects:

- Elderly & Persons with Disabilities (5310)
- JARC (5316)
- New Freedom (5317)

The meeting concerns proposed Public Transportation Projects that will provide and/or enhance public transportation services for Elderly and Disabled citizens as well other members of the public for the following thirteen counties: Wheeler, Donley, Collingsworth, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Hardeman, Cottle, Foard, Motley, Dickens, King and Knox.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aides or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille are requested to contact Carole Mayo at (940) 720-7727 one week prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND ADVERTISING IS MONDAY BY 4:00 P.M.
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FAX - 940-658-3228

The Knox City-O'Brien CISD is accepting proposals for the following:

Property and Casualty Insurance Motor Vehicle Fuel
These proposals should be addressed or delivered to Louis Baty, Superintendent at 606 East Main Street, Knox City, Texas 79529. Proposals are due by 12:00 noon on August 8, 2008. Proposals will be reviewed by the Superintendent and presented to the Board at the first board meeting after the deadline. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to the District and to waive any informality in the proposals. Specifications or additional information may be obtained by contacting the Administration office at (940) 657-3521

 **The Deadline For News And Advertising Is Monday by 5 p.m.**
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Fever Ticks Lay Claim to a Million Acres in Texas

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) marked an ominous anniversary July 3 by expanding the preventive cattle fever tick quarantine area in south Texas by 307,000 acres, after the dangerous livestock pests were detected on cattle outside quarantine areas in Starr and Zapata counties. Fever ticks, capable of carrying and transmitting deadly "tick fever" to cattle, have been detected on livestock or wildlife on 139 Texas pastures during the past 12 months.

"In July 2007, the first preventive quarantine was established -39,325 acres in Starr County -to enable the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tick Force and the TAHC to inspect and treat livestock moved from the area, get ahead of the fever tick and push it back across the quarantine line," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Now, a year later, we have more than a million acres under preventive quarantines in Starr, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Dimmit and Webb counties, in addition to the half-million acres in the permanent fever tick quarantine zone that runs alongside the Rio Grande, from Del Rio to Brownsville."

The enlarged preventive quarantine includes portions of Starr, Zapata counties and a small area in Jim Hogg County. It is bounded on the north by Texas Highway 16, from its intersection on the west with US Highway 83 to its eastern junction with Ranch Road 649. Ranch Road 649 is the eastern boundary to its southern intersection with US Highway 83, which is the western boundary stretching northward to the intersection with Texas Highway 16. Maps of this and all preventive fever tick quarantines are available on the TAHC website at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> or by calling the TAHC at 800-550-8242.

"This is no longer a 'border war' against the fever tick," said Dr. Hillman. "The fever tick has gained a substantial foothold on Texas soil, and without adequate resources to fight this

pest, it will spread." The fever tick, which can survive winters from coast to coast and as far north as Washington, D. C., was successfully pushed back into Mexico in 1943. Periodic tick incursions since then have occurred in Texas, but only one, in the 1970s, eclipsed the current outbreak for the number of premises infested and took six years to eradicate.

"In smaller states, a quarantine area the size of Delaware would raise red flags," said Dr. Hillman. "Texas' vastness and the previous success at keeping the fever tick controlled may be working against us. Now we need help, with a million more acres to cover and finding about a dozen infested premises a month."

"Early this year, the fever tick program received \$5.2 million of the \$13 million of federal funds requested to fight the tick, and while appreciated and used, it is not enough to win this battle," said Dr. Hillman. "Furthermore, there has been no funding for the National Fever Tick Eradication Strategic Plan, developed and approved by USDA in 2006. It called for preventing entry of cattle fever ticks into the U.S., enhancing surveillance, and eradicating infestations resulting from fever tick incursions. The plan also was to identify and procure the tools necessary to keep the U.S. free of fever ticks, and to work with Mexico, where cattle fever ticks are not controlled. The strategic plan has not been implemented."

"It's really a 'pay now or pay later' scenario, because this tick won't be stopped with less than an all-out assault that requires adequate personnel, sufficient treatment products, and enough equipment, such as portable dipping vats or portable spray boxes for cattle, and treatment equipment for deer and other wildlife hosts," said Dr. Hillman. "Texas has a ticking time bomb in south Texas. So far, we have had only two of the three elements for a 'tick fever' outbreak -fever ticks and fever tick hosts -including cattle, horses and several species of wildlife."

If, however, some of these fever ticks carry babesia, a blood parasite deadly to cattle, the

equation would be complete and we could see livestock death losses."

On the front lines are the ranchers in the preventive quarantine areas who must gather their cattle for inspection which in the south Texas brush country usually requires helicopters and cowboys on horseback. The TAHC and USDA work cooperatively to provide the inspections to determine the scope of infestation in the area. Cattle, horses and ruminants, including llamas and camels, also must be inspected, treated and permitted prior to leaving the area.

Dr. Hillman encouraged ranchers to comply with the preventive quarantines and asked producers in adjacent counties to have their livestock checked prior to movement out of the area. "In discussions with ranchers, it has been suggested that cattle moving through south Texas livestock markets be inspected and dipped prior to sale," said Dr. Hillman. "This is being considered, but it, too, requires additional personnel, chemicals and the construction of dipping vats, resources we do not have at this time."

"We have traced more than 1,000 cattle moved from ranches later found to be tick-infested," said Dr. Hillman. "Requesting an inspection prior to movement costs nothing for the rancher, but it could save us countless hours of tracking cattle, time that could be better used in the field to fight the ticks. I also encourage ranchers anywhere in Texas to call us if they see tick infestations on their cattle."

We can check the animals, and collect and send tick samples to the state-federal laboratory for identification. We do not want to take any chances with these ticks and spread them further." Ranchers can call their area TAHC office, or the agency headquarters at 800-550-8242.

Ranches where ticks have been detected are quarantined, and cattle are rounded up, inspected and treated as often as every two weeks, or as seldom as every 28 days, depending on the treatment method dipping, spraying or injection with Dectomax, an injectable treatment. The cattle are repeat-

edly treated and returned to the pasture to 'pick up' ticks on the vegetation, until the animals are tick-free, indicating that the premises is free of the pests.

Another method of clearing a pasture of ticks involves removing clean, treated cattle and 'vacating' the pasture for as long as nine months to starve out the ticks. Recently, this method has met with less than positive results, as ticks have demonstrated their adaptability to live on wildlife when cattle hosts are not available.

"Historically, fever ticks preferred cattle, and sometimes, hitched a ride on horses. Now fever ticks are being detected not only on white-tailed deer and nilgai, but also on aoudad sheep, fallow, axis and red deer, and elk. Fighting fever ticks on a variety of species -especially free-ranging animals that don't respect fences -makes this battle much more difficult," said Dr. Hillman.

Currently, treatment of wildlife or exotic livestock is limited to providing corn treated with an insecticide, or setting up feeding stations equipped with treated posts that transfer pyrethrin, an insecticide, to the animal's head and neck.

Later, as the animal grooms itself, the pyrethrin is distributed across its body, killing the fever ticks. The problem: some products require a 60-day withdrawal period, so they can't be used just prior to or during the hunting season. In the quarantined areas, the hides of harvested animals are either left behind, or inspected and treated prior to being removed from the premises.

"Concerns about fever ticks run deep in Texas, where the TAHC was established in 1893 to fight this pest. A Fever Tick Working Group, with industry and related agency membership, is working on recommendations for getting ahead of the fever tick, so it can be pushed back to the border. Likewise, a Wildlife Subcommittee also is working on suggestions for addressing fever ticks on free-ranging and exotic livestock," said Dr. Hillman. "Fighting fever ticks may seem simple, but it's not easy...and it's never cheap."

Credit Card Continued From Page 1

having huge sums of cash on hand.

Credit cards also reduce labor costs. Clerks don't have to waste time counting change or tabulating receipts. Transaction records are automatically stored on a computer system, making accounting a breeze.

And credit cards are popular with consumers. About 40 percent of all transactions are conducted using plastic.

Despite all the advantages of credit cards, storeowners would obviously prefer to avoid that 2 percent fee. So they've decided to put pressure on Congress to lower their costs. Specifically, they've lobbied the government to give them a special anti-trust exemption. If such a law were passed, all the retailers could form a massive cartel. Payment systems and retailers would be forced to negotiate for 90 days over interchange fees. If they did not come to an agreement, retailers could then collectively boycott an entire credit card network.

In other words, consumers would be denied the ability to pay with their preferred method.

Retailers claim such "negotiation" is necessary to lower prices for shoppers, who supposedly pay higher prices at the check-out counter to offset interchange fees.

But that's a misleading argument. In truth, if retailers collude to negotiate lower interchange fees, consumers won't see any savings.

Instead, retailers will simply pocket the difference. Just look at what's happened in other countries. Australia recently capped interchange fees, just as the current congressional proposal would effectively do.

The cap had no discernible impact on prices paid by consumers.

Not only would shoppers miss any savings, they could also be saddled with higher fees and lose some great perks.

With retailers getting a free ride courtesy of Uncle Sam, card-issuing banks would need to recoup their losses elsewhere -- by either raising fees on credit-card owners or ditching carrots like frequent-flyer rewards.

Shoppers could say goodbye to no-annual-fee cards.

That's exactly what happened in Australia. Consumers there now pay extra fees at the register when they use a card.

Ordinary banking customers would also suffer. Do you have a free checking account? If so, there's a good chance that it's partly subsidized by interchange fees on debit cards.

Banks make money on free checking accounts by pairing them with debit cards. If politicians render that arrangement unprofitable, banks will simply stop offering free checking. And you'd have to pay the bank to maintain an account.

Seniors and others who receive state benefits would suffer at the hands of this proposal too.

More than a million people nationwide receive their Social Security and other benefits on prepaid cards. If retailers decide to boycott plastic, these vulnerable consumers would be unable to purchase necessary items like groceries or medication.

This measure would also hurt those without bank accounts.

At low-wage jobs, it's increasingly popular for employers to issue paychecks on pre-paid debit cards.

These "payroll" provide enormous benefits. They eliminate hefty check-cashing fees, reduce the need to carry cash, and offer employees the ability to make purchases just about anywhere. It's understandable that Congress wants to help Americans in debt.

But our politicians have completely misdiagnosed the problem -- which isn't credit card companies, but people living beyond their means. Giving retailers more money through regulation of interchange fees won't solve this.

Allowing retailers to form a cartel is special-interest politics at its worst.

And shifting fees from merchants to consumers will do nothing but drive shoppers further into debt. Simply put, there's nothing fair about the CreditCard Fair Fee Act.

James Terry is the Chief Public Advocate of the Consumers Rights League, a non-profit, non-partisan, educational organization dedicated to preserving consumer choice in the marketplace.



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WEDNESDAY JULY 23RD
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