



## School Board Ups Proposed Tax Increase to 3¢/\$100; FUSD Budget is 15% Higher Than Last Year's

With 4 of 7 members present, the FUSD School Board voted in August 7 to increase their proposed tax rate another cent up from their initially proposed 2¢ increase, bringing the total proposed increase to 3¢, from about \$1.40806/\$100 to 1.43839/\$100. This is less than 1 cent below the Rollback Rate of \$1.448, which would require a public vote to approve the rate. Not present at the meeting were members James Hejl, Dave Campbell, and Tracy Laratta. (Please note that the figures in this article are based on the initial 2¢ increase, which were re-calculated, and are posted on page 4. You will also see small variations caused by rounding and perhaps other factors.)

During the discussion leading up to the vote, members Wayne Harrel and Mike Sagebiel suggested that they increase the proposed tax to 4¢ instead of 3¢, because they were not certain what would happen next year. There was a general discussion that in subsequent budget meetings the members could lower the rate, but they could not raise it after the rate is published without another hearing. But, concerns were raised that 3 board members were not present, and Dale Geistweidt said he would compromise and go up to 3¢, which the Board voted to accept.

According to the draft budget obtained after the meeting, the budget for the School District is up 15%, or \$3.8

million, which mirrors the 15% average increase in appraisals.

Other noteworthy budget items include a 92%, or \$101,034 increase in Network and Computer Repair Parts. In an earlier interview, Dr. Williamson explained that they were upgrading one-third of the computers every year.

Curriculum and Staff Development is up 79%, up to a projected \$242,700. The Draft budget attributes this increase to "a new math program at the elementary school and a new restructuring schools at the high school."

General Administration increased 19%, to a projected \$1,411,064.

Student transportation will increase

approximately 13%, to a projected \$1,257,535. In the earlier interview Dr. Williamson said transportation is not required, but is offered as a service.

Before the budget portion of the meeting, a parent with a son in football, according to one FUSD staff member, tried to persuade the Board to purchase accident insurance for students in sports. He said some people consider insurance the parents'

responsibility, but poor families cannot afford it, so the school should pay for it. The gentleman did not discuss how much the accident insurance would further raise taxes.

During the budget hearing, no one mentioned that appraisals have increased an average 15%. It seemed to be an unstated assumption that this appraisal increase would automatically

*continued on page 5 School Board*

## This Year's School Taxes

In an effort to provide property tax relief, Governor Perry and the Texas Legislature recently enacted a number of laws.

What actual benefits will be enjoyed by Gillespie County taxpayers?

From our attempts to analyze the rather complex issues involved, including communications with several FUSD officials, and the Chief Appraiser, it appears local residents will have no overall benefits from the governor's and the legislature's efforts.

One of the reforms was to "compress" the Maintenance and Operations, or M&O, portion of public school taxes by reducing it this year by 11.33%. (The Maintenance and Operations portion of the tax bill excludes the debt service, which is repayment of loans, bonds, etc.) This was supposed to decrease property taxes by reducing the amount of taxes collected by the public schools.

Next year there is supposed to be another "compression" of the public school M&O rate.

However, according to Deborah Ottmers, FUSD's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, "the expected tax cut that Governor Perry has advertised really will not happen at all--especially in localities of increasing values." She said that increasing appraisal values will offset any decreases in the school tax rate, in those areas where property values are increasing.

The calculations below demonstrate the effects of appraisal increase on tax payments. Please note that the numbers are only rough estimates, and probably will not hold true for any one tax payer in particular.

*Cont on page 5, Taxes*

### Events Calendar

(Thanks to Fbg Police Dept, Ralph Poth, and Fbg C of C. For details visit C of C website: [www.fredericksburg-texas.com](http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com))

#### August 2006

- 4-20 Shadowlands w/ J. Hierholzer, Fredericksburg Theatre Co.
- 10 Stagecoach Theater \$1 Gone w/ Wind
- 12 Cory Morrow Outdoor Show
- 18-20 Fredericksburg Trade Days
- 19 Billie Pride Blast Off
- 19 Roots Music Concert
- 19 Fall Creek Vineyards Grapestomp & Harvest Festival
- 19 Doss Community Fair
- 20 Perdenales Creative Arts Alliance Summer Concert
- 20 Opera dinner
- 24-27 118th Gillespie County Fair
- 24 Country Music Showdown
- 25 Gillespie County Fair Parade
- 25 August Harvest Trail
- 26 Becker Vineyards Grape Stomp
- 26 Fall Creek Vineyard Grape Stomp
- 26 Native American Artifacts Show
- 27 Knights of Col. Pancake Breakfast
- 27 LBJ Birthday Observance
- 27 Van Cliburn Finalist, Un. Meth. Ch.

#### September 2006

- 1-3 Hill Country Heroes Benefit
- 1-3 Hill Country Mini Cooper Rendezvous
- 1-3 Fritz Fest
- 1-3 'Quilts of Friendship' Quilt Show
- 1 Hill Country Rendezvous car show
- 2 Cotting Ginning at LBJ State Park
- 2 Doss VFD Fish Fry
- 2-3 Island Assault: 1944
- 2-3 Grape Stomp
- 2-3 Harper Frontier Days and Rodeo
- 2-4 Labor Day Weekend/Luckenbach
- 7 Habitat for Humanity Fall Fund Raiser Dinner
- 8-9 Mike Blakely's Tex-Americana Fandango at Luckenbach
- 9 New Horizons Benefit Concert and Radiothon
- 9-17 Fall Planting Days at Wildseed Farms
- 10 Bed and Breakfast and Cuisine Tour
- 15-17 Fredericksburg Trade Days
- 16 Classic Car Auction
- 16 Lutheran Fall Festival
- 16 Fall Creek Vineyards Cooking Demonstration
- 16-17 Presidents' Symposium
- 21 Hill Country Parade of Homes
- 23 Roots Music Concert
- 22-24 Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair
- 24 St. John Lutheran Annual Homecoming

## Car Swap in the Park



Mario Garza and Frank Felan from San Antonio at the car show. They were offering old school disc brake conversion kits, and other parts.

The 29th annual "Hill Country Swap Meet" was held July 28-30 at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. The car swap was sponsored by the Fredericksburg Vintage Car Club.

The club holds their monthly meetings in Fredericksburg at the Golden Hub Senior Center, 1009 N. Lincoln, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

To join, you must be a member of Veteran Motor Car Club of America, but you do not need to own a vintage car--generally 25 years or older. Dues are \$6 per year for a couple or individual. You can contact the club online at [www.fredericksburgcarclub.com](http://www.fredericksburgcarclub.com).

*More photos on page 6.*

### Judges 3:2

Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

## Schuetzenfest 2006

Schuetzenfest is a continuation of an old tradition brought over from Germany. According to Glen Treibs, who is highly knowledgeable in local German history and anecdotes, there were two things that the German menfolk really liked to do: sing and shoot. While the big singing festivals are all gone from here, in the old country there are still singing groups amongst the older folks.

Saturday and Sunday's Schuetzenfest showed no signs of dissolution.

While only one person earned the title Schuetzenkoenig, Daniel Sagebiel, everyone had fun.

Gary Frantzen spoke about his life and his role at Schuetzenfest. He said he had built or worked on half the guns present at the range, adding the barrels, sights, stocks, actions, etc..

His personal gun was a .22-.250 Remington Action, the sights were Redfield. He uses special sights that allow him to shoot right handed with his left eye, because his right eye is bad.

He has been shooting every year for the past forty-one years, since 1950, except one year, 1953, when

he was in the Navy. The first year of Schuetzenfest was 1950. In those years he has shot two perfect scores, which consists of ten bull's eyes fired at 200 yards from an open sight--no peep sights allowed, and a front post, not a ball.

Mr. Frantzen's role in the Navy was as an aircraft door keeper. He referred to himself as a "green striper." He was in the reserves for 4-5 years, and was called up during the Korean War.

He was involved with advanced pilot training. He handled supplies, and did maintenance on the aircraft, and was a machinist, and tool and die maker, where he learned the skills later employed in making rifles. He retired in 1986, and has been benefiting the people in this area with his machining abilities, rifle making, and shooting skills.

*Cont. on page 5, Schuetzenfest*



Atlee Lockte stands next to his, and dozens upon dozens of other mighty fine open-sight shooting irons. He had just fired a 9-9-10.



Foreground: Leo Butter (dad) spots the shots, while Alex Butter (son) shoots. In the background, Buddy Mills demonstrates safety, with his finger off the trigger, bolt open, and another round in his left hand. Schuetzenfest.

### Where To Find

#### Fredericksburg Conservative

Fredericksburg:

HEB, the west entrance in the red, free rack by the business office, bottom shelf;

Fritz Family Gas Station (Llano & Travis);

Biedermann's Ace Hardware Store 1102 E. Main Street

Super S Foods; 206 N. Milam

other places that are not mentioned;

Harper:

Longhorn Cafe

Daunas

Stonewall:

Chevron/One Stop and Diner

Contact us if you would like us to leave you some extra copies.

# Editorial Section

## Letters to the Editor

### Two complaints and a comment

I have two small complaints and a comment about the last two issues of the Fredericksburg Conservative.

1. In issue 2 you had to stories about the property appraisals on the front page. Both stories were interesting, but putting them both on the front page was an interesting editorial decision. The stories would have made better sense to me had they been combined, or had appraisal explanation on the back page.

2. In issue 3 you called the government's stated purposes for NAIS, and implied that the government lies to us.

Yet, in refuting one of the myths (preventing mad cow disease), you use government statistics to make your point. Is that the same government that is lying to us?

Finally, as someone who works in retail, I know why the post office requires a drivers license when writing a check: The county attorney won't prosecute hot check writers without the Drivers license handwritten on the check, along with a date of birth and the clerk's initials. Some one wrote the post office a hot check and now they can't collect on it. It's not the Feds that are doubting you identity--it's your neighbors in the County.

Jeff Holt

Editor's Reply:

Jeff,  
Thank you for sharing your comments.

First, I'll always consider helpful suggestions on layout or other matters related to the paper.

Regarding the two articles (the interview of the Appraiser, and the article on a possible 15% tax increase) while the articles were related, I wanted to separate the ideas to present the information in smaller pieces to make each one easier to digest by the reader. Writing two stories also made it easier to describe each with a simple, descriptive headline.

Most importantly, I wanted to emphasize the relationship between taxes and appraisals, and I

wanted a headline bringing attention to the non-inevitability of a 15% tax increase. My intention was to inform people ahead of time of the possibility that the taxing entities might try to give themselves an unnecessary 15% budget increase. A 15% tax increase is not inevitable unless people do and say nothing.

Regarding point number two, clearly, government is not a monolithic structure. Some people in it are good, some are bad. Some agencies are constitutional, some are not. The publications of agencies are also varying degrees of reliability depending on who is in charge, what the agency's function is, and what bias is held by those who work there. As the mad cow statistics offered by the government are open to indepen-

dent verification and no one is challenging their data, we can probably accept their statistics as fairly accurate. On the other hand, the justifications for NAIS are very likely generated by those who prefer government control and intrusion over Constitutional rights. The only independent verification of the pro-NAIS ideas is the intelligent reasoning of others; and may others, including myself, conclude that NAIS is unnecessary, unconstitutional, and severely intrusive.

While I did not write the letter on the check at the post office, I'll be happy to offer a few words in defense of the fellow who did. One of his main points was that the clerk did know him, and his identity was not an issue. It was a matter of being required to produce ID even

Letters to the Editor must be signed, and must have contact information so we can verify who wrote the letter.

Keep your letter under 500 words. Longer pieces may be considered, but space is limited at this time.

If at all possible, please type your letters to avoid any confusion.

Mail your letter to:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
1141 Metzger Road  
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

If you can, we prefer you send your letter by email to: sirdavid@kct.com with the subject line:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

though his identity was perfectly well known. The neighbor at the Post Office had no doubt of Mr. Lowe's identity--but he was not given the discretion to make a decision.

Otherwise, you make a good point on the county attorney.

## President Bush, conspiracy, and freedom

"Americans angry about the loss of freedom in 5 years of Bush World may be shocked to find no outlet for their frustration but the meaningless vote, where they choose between candidates selected by the ruling elite. The problem of a controlled press that advances this elite's subversive ideology and excludes challenges to it goes way back. In the U.S. the press has favored war and Big Government since President McKinley in 1896. It is worse now. Reporters Without Borders says we number 13 among countries on Freedom of the Press, below Russia! We must support free speech newspapers like the Fredericksburg Conservative, where we can express diverse views, discover our common needs, and act to save our country and liberty.

How did we lose the First Amendment? A century ago a certain stateless group of wealthy messianic ideologues began to secretly buy up the popular and academic media to subvert the U.S. republic, destroy Western Culture, and serve their goal of a communist World Government. This group controls Bush World. They injected Americans with a media-borne virus that instructs them "to destroy their culture, religion, heritage, country, and freedom." We were outclassed by experts. The antidote is for people to read the few uncensored books and periodicals available that document the nature of this diabolical conspiracy. People are conditioned by the media to reject the idea of a conspiracy, but nothing makes sense without one. With an inquiring mind, they will be able to confirm that the Rothschild Illuminati control Bush World secretly behind-the-scenes.

Bush is not what he says he is. He, his father, John Kerry, Bill Clinton, and others fast-tracked into Federal leadership positions belong to secret societies, such as Yale Skull & Bones and Oxford-Rhodes, whose members serve as henchmen for the Rothschild Illuminati. Both condemn the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, which they see as a chimera. Bush swore to uphold the Constitution but recently

called it "nothing but a GD piece of paper." The Illuminati and these societies are responsible for the forceful imposition of communism in Russia, eastern Europe, China, and elsewhere. Contrary to media propaganda, communism is not dead. It is Stalin's nationalist, universalist, non-Zionist, formal Marxist variety that died in 1989. His successors lost the internal battle within communism. It is the Rothschilds' internationalist, racist, Zionist, informal Marxist variety that emerged unscathed, ironically, by using U.S. capitalism as its weapon. They are the original Illuminati communists of 1776, who gave the world the terrible 1789 French Revolution, 19th century revolutions, and 1917 Russian Revolution.

The Rothschild-kinned international bankers and financiers, all Zionist communists, are based in New York City, London, and Tel Aviv. With Bush in 2001, these Machiavellians began their

military conquest of the Middle East. They invade independent countries ostensibly "to fight terrorism and spread democracy and freedom," but in reality "to destroy them and convert them to plutocracies" in preparation for ruling the world. Elsewhere, they use the CIA, military, taxpayerbacked loans, drug pushing, and Marxist violence to destabilize countries, install puppet dictators, bankrupt them with instigated crises, and seize their labor, industry, and resources. All the while, they are slowly converting the U.S. and other Western countries to communism via media and university indoctrination, wars and taxation, financial strangulation, judicial sophistry, and demagogic laws that supposedly "protect the homeland from internal strife and foreign enemies.

The strangely alien Soviet style laws, regulations, and policies that continue to be enacted with only pro forma debate were already planned before the September 11, 2001 disaster, which bears the imprint of the Rothschild Illuminati. They include unconstitutional "imperial wars, toothless reporting, dead-end congressional and judicial investigations, trade agreements, WTO lawsuits, domestic spying

and tracking, identification overkill, hate crime laws, habeas corpus suspensions, prisoner torture, more gun laws, speech and assembly restrictions, seizure of property for private developers, corporate tyranny, forced medical and drug treatment, seizure of children, pets, and livestock, intrusive laws and ordinances, and oppressive income and property taxes." The latest, along with the tyrannical National Animal Identification System exposed by this newspaper, is the ominous "Signing Statements" attached to over 140 laws signed by Bush. Bypassing the Veto and Court tests, they state that the laws "do not have to be enforced if they restrict the President's Constitutional authority." This is a sign of the dictatorship planned for the "U.S. empire" or by an "all-powerful U.N.," both controlled by the Rothschild Illuminati. It awaits the imminent threat of WW III from still another crisis manufactured by the hijacked US. --no doubt nuclear this time. It will follow on the heels of our Middle East war of aggression and Israel's attack on Lebanon.

The amoral Illuminati believe that "evil means are justified by good ends." For 230 years, they have practiced war, theft, destruction, murder, terror, secrecy, treachery, revenge, and elitism to gain the power to erect a New World Order. Now that they have it, they tell us that these behaviors "will be eradicated" by the benevolent despotism of their messianic World Government. Among whom? How could Bush World be so deluded as to turn mankind over to the Rothschild Illuminati communists, given their history, and risk destroying civilization and returning to barbarism?

Americans are in the clutch of a communist tyranny. They must jump back; rediscover their republic; inform themselves; support free-speech media; discuss issues together; and question the enervating "political correctness" and "end-times" nonsense peddled by preachers and authors who serve the Rothschild Illuminati. If not, they will have every detail of their lives dictated by these paranoid "control freaks," as is done to the people of communist China--despite the capitalist veneer. The Illuminati, who elect Presidents,

may well give the honor of the "coup-de-grace" on the U.S. republic to Hillary Clinton and the role of "U.N. World Dictator" to Bill Clinton."

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Corbyn,  
Fredericksburg

Editor's Reply:

Ron, thanks for writing.

While I see many and grievous problems in our nation, I do not see a complex web of shadow governments and unseen controlling entities (except the devil). Instead, I see a bunch of ignorant and sometimes evil people who are either by accident or design rejecting the principles that made our nation great. They are leading our nation away from freedom and prosperity.

Perhaps there are organizations seeking to control everything, but I have no interest in them. In my view (I know you think otherwise, as we discussed on the phone), you cannot prove they exist, or that they wield the influence attributed to them, and even if they do, there's nothing you can do to fight against them. I don't even wish to discuss them in this paper, but I printed your letter to let you have your say, and it gives me the opportunity to have my say on the subject. If anyone else sends conspiracy information, it probably won't be printed.

My intention is to focus on the plainly evident problems that we can do something about--write a letter, protest, rally, build a wall, etc.--and that do not require a belief in conspiracies; problems such as the loss of constitutional rights, the loss of economic freedom, government monitoring and control of everything, etc. And, what may be the most important loss of all, the drift of the people of this nation away from God.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn summed it up in his 1983 Templeton Prize address, commenting: "Over half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: 'We have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.' Since then I have spent well nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read numbers of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by the upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.'" ([www.bible.org/page.asp?page\\_id=984#P23\\_4917](http://www.bible.org/page.asp?page_id=984#P23_4917)).

Mr. Solzhenitsyn didn't mention conspiratorial organizations, or even bad government--he mentioned the loss of the heart of a people.

Also, I do not understand the emphasis on Jewishness.

While a person's religion has a profound effect on his political views, I don't think Judaism tends toward global conspiracies and evil. After all, the 10 Commandments includes Thou shalt not kill; Thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor; and other commands that conspiratorial organizations would have to violate every day.

In conclusion, we agree on a number of conservative principles, and disagree on some other things. I hope that all of

us who agree on at least a few things can work together on those items, even if we butt heads on the rest. Then, we may achieve at least some of our goals.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

## Illegals preferred over citizens

4.5 million of our older Americans have not signed up yet for their Medicare, Part D, drug plan, they are old and confused. The government will not grant them an extension. However, 12 million illegal aliens are in our country and we are going to allow them to stay, protest, procreate, receive support monies, attend schools, avoid paying income taxes, have our teachers take 300 hours of ESOL (English as a second language) training at our expense, etc. We must really dislike our old people, or we must really love tacos.

Tommy Howard  
Fredericksburg

## The Fourth Amendment

Dear Editor:

Each of the ten amendments in the 1791 Bill of Rights is clear, concise, and only one sentence long. The 4th, per se, may be the greatest safeguard of human rights and freedom in world history. In Churchill type language, "never have so many Americans owed so much to so few words."

The 4th is the supreme law of our nation, and it reads or stipulates that, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches, and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

R. Corbyn  
Amarillo

## Israel and the left

The left wing extremists, the likes of such as Ted Kennedy and Harry Reid have been opposing Israel for years. With every attack from Hezbollah, these and others on the far left suggest that the Israelis should show restraint and not retaliate. They do not hold Hezbollah to the same standard. Why do these extremists feel that it is all right for a terrorist group to attack civilians and hide among children? Why do they believe that Israel should not be allowed to defend itself?

This same group has given the cold shoulder to Senator Joseph Lieberman. Is it because he is a moderate liberal with integrity and moral values? Or is it something more sinister. Among this group is the outspoken Cynthia McKinney, who after losing her congressional bid, blamed the "Zionists" for her loss and told a Jewish Fox producer to "put on your yarmulke and celebrate."

Are these leftist radicals just anti-Israel and anti-Lieberman or are they also anti-Semitic?

Amber Stivers

## Fredericksburg Conservative

Published every 2 weeks by David & Wendy Treibs  
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Circulation (this issue): thousands of copies in the Gillespie County area.

Cost: Free at this point.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. First Amendment, US Constitution.

## Advertising Rates

This paper will not succeed without advertisers, and we want to give advertisers incentive to advertise with us by offering great deals.

Given sufficient funds, we plan to print at least 8,000 copies of each edition, and distribute them throughout Gillespie County. With enough advertisers, we will print more.

We are offering the paper free to gain readers, but we are offering subscriptions to guarantee delivery, and to help us with distribution.

We are offering the following introductory rates:

Full page black and white \$580, full color is \$100 more (When you buy full page ads in 4 consecutive issues, full color is only \$50 more)

Half page black and white \$290, full color is \$75 more (When you buy half page ads in 4 consecutive issues, full color is only \$50 more)

Quarter page black and white \$150, full color is \$50 more

\$6.00 per column inch.

Classified ads, 10 cents per word!

Deadlines, tentatively will be Saturday, so we can print Monday, but the printing day might change.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Fredericksburg Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, August 28, 2006 in the FISD Central Administration Office at 234 Friendship Lane. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.3175	/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$ .1209	/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>		

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	14.83 % increase
Debt service	(.32) % decrease
Total expenditures	14.51 % increase

### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 1,752,924,841	\$ 1,970,237,808
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 66,338,068	\$ 67,331,557
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,331,589,198	\$ 1,503,975,603
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 63,581,928	\$ 66,519,767

\* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04 (8), Tax Code  
 \*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012 (17), Tax Code  
 \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04 (10), Tax Code

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$17,033,598.13  
 \* Outstanding Principal

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.4517	\$ .1383	\$ 1.590	\$ 6,834	\$ 355
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.2872	\$ .1378	\$ 1.4250	\$ 6,408	\$ 386
	\$ 1.3175	\$ .1209	\$ 1.4384	\$ 6,543	\$ 386

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 129,470	\$ 144,300
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 103,470	\$ 116,280
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.590	\$ 1.4384
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,661
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 15.64

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

**Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.4481. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.4481.**

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$7,253,608
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$1,202,092



You'd never know, that, out behind the Greater Grace Christian Coffee House at 311 E. San Antonio St, is a huge deck surrounded by green trees and plants, over looking the slope of the creek. Two cotton tails chase each other near the game feeder, squirrels play in the massive old oak trees, and birds flitter about and sing. Your editor and his wife came



here to enjoy a little secluded private time, savoring a custom smoothie and fine quality root beer in the shade and quiet. We are bringing you these pictures and announcement because a reader suggested we feature local businesses. If you would like your business featured, call, write, or email us.

### Unfunded Mandates

While taxes continue to climb and pay checks seem to remain pathetically low it might be easy to lash out against your local school district. It seems that our property taxes are ever increasing with no relief in sight. However, it might be interesting to some of you to know that we have our state and federal government to thank for this.

State and federal imposed mandates increase yearly and many, if not all, have little to do with improving the actual education process. Some of these mandates are as follows:

1. Paperwork Reduction Mandate (how ironic) School boards must annually review the number and length of written reports that employees of the district are required to prepare. The district must then request recommendations from each site-based decision making committee before making it

yearly review. TEC 11.164; SB 1221, 1997

2. Local School Health education advisory Council. The board of trustees of each district must establish a local school advisory council. This group's duties include recommending health education program to try and prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease and type II diabetes. It also determines the appropriate grade levels and methods of instruction for human sexuality instruction (sex ed) TEC 28.004: SB 1, 1995: SB 19,2001

3. Screening Records. Health safety code 95.004:HB 2989, 2001. School districts in certain regions (Bandera is in one, I know personally) are required to maintain Acanthosis Nigricans screening records for each student in attendance and to make these available for inspection by a state or local health dept. Each of these schools is also

submitive to the TEXAS-MEXICO Border Health Coordination Office and are forced to give an annual report of each student in attendance.

4. Minimum Number of days of Instruction and Service. In 1991 the number of days of instruction was extended from 175 to 180 costing approximately \$60 million per day at that time, state wide, according to the TASB website. TEC 25.081; SB 351, 1991

In 1995 SBI increased the minimum service requirement incrementally, starting at 183 days in 1995, 185 in 1997 and would have been determined by formula in 1999 until SB 4 in 1999 set the minimum requirement at 187 (who knows how much this is costing)

In 1996 the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act was passed to prohibit the federal government from passing and enforcing laws that would force states

to spend money. The government managed to circumvent the law by claiming certain mandates did not meet the definition of unfunded. This was possible because the government only enforces mandates if a state wishes to receive federal funding. Currently all states receive federal funding.

The current system also encourages districts to increase taxes because it assigns state funding according to local tax rates. The bigger the increase in tax rates, the more state dollars a district receives.

It appears to me that our legislators should be held accountable. They are responsible for creating frivolous and nonsensical spending. These are just a very few of the mandates imposed on schools every year. If you don't want your money being misused in this way then I encourage you to write to your Representatives and Senators. Be vigilant, don't give up! They work for us.

The following are some e-mail addresses to contact today:

hutchison.senate.gov/e-mail.htm Kay Bailey Hutchison(Senator)

cornyn.senate.gov/contact/index.html John Cornyn (Senator)

Representative Mike Conaway toll free # 866-882-3811 www.house.gov

Amber Stivers

## Classifieds

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# Dramatic Expansion Of Assault Weapon Ban In California

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer's New  
Proposed Assault Weapon Regulations

by NRA Members' Councils of California

The California Department of Justice has published proposed administrative regulations that could turn thousands of semi-automatic rifles with fixed magazines, previously thought to be legal, into illegal "assault weapons."

The regulation would appear to deem any fixed magazine rifle with one feature prohibited by Penal Code section 12276.1 that could be retrofitted with a detachable magazine an "assault weapon." The most obvious examples would be SKS type rifles, DSArms FN-FAL series rifles, and any rifle for which an after market detachable magazine retrofit kit is available.

A bulletin published by DOJ on May 9th explains what DOJ is trying to do. The bulletin says:

"Semiautomatic centerfire rifles that are modified to be temporarily incapable of accepting detachable magazines, but can be restored to accommodate detachable magazines, are assault weapons if they have any of the features listed in section 12276.1(a)(1). The Department intends to exercise its power pursuant to Penal Code section 12276.5(I) to adopt regulations as "necessary and proper to carry out the purpose and intent" of California law to ban assault weapons in the state."

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution plainly states "shall not be infringed" in reference to gun ownership. Too bad the Attorney General doesn't follow the Constitution.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to Keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

# Senate Votes To Fund The Fence

According to the *Washington Times*, August 3, 2006, the US Senate reversed their earlier vote to not fund the 370 mile fence along the USA/Mexico border.

Previously the Senate had voted to build the fence, but then voted against any funding. The *Times* suggested that pressure from constituents played a role in the reversal of the 66 votes, which demonstrates that Congress will listen if enough people pressure them sufficiently.

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# Youth in Action

The bug handlers in these photographs, and the big finders of all but the first cicada, are Hannah and Josiah Treibs, ages 14 and 13, respectively.



We found a cicada that had just emerged from the ground, but before it had crawled out of its shell. We hoped to watch it emerge.



The little guy didn't want to stay where we put him. He crawled up the stick and out of the jar, then fell off the table, then



The split is quite pronounced. Any minute we expected him to emerge. Notice that his back is light, and compare it to the next picture, where he has black triangles that in this photo are light.



This was as far as our little guy made it. He died. We left him on his little stick for a week, but he dried out.



We did manage to find one that had recently exited the shell, but this one was green. Below is another one that had just emerged, and he was brown like our little guy on the stick. Unfortunately, we were not able to watch either one of these two emerge from their shells.



Having just been disappointed by the death of the cicada, Josiah was especially pleased when he found this dragonfly with its larval shell (if that terminology is correct) at the water trough when he went to check the water level. It keeps trying to walk away. Maybe it wants a place to dry out that is more secluded and vertical. Josiah took the dragonfly back to the water trough.



## German Exchange Student Needs Home

introductory training, three days and then to a host family in the city he will attend high school.

If anyone has a question just email us, his parents: Christian@kurzer-kirsch.de, or send me your phone number and we will call you at our expense. Our Phone 011+49-307456238. We here in Berlin truly hope someone in Friedrichsburg, Texas will want to let him live with them while he attends school. He will have his own spending money. We thank for very much for your consideration. Yours sincerely the father, Christian Kurzer

## NAIS National Animal Identification System

Texas Update on NAIS, courtesy of Judith McGeary of FARFA (information at the end of this article):

The Texas Animal Health Commission held its quarterly meeting on August 1.

The staff reported that they have had approximately 18,000 premises registered in Texas. They are over a month behind in entering the data. The agency has hired additional employees and bought new equipment to try to keep up just with the voluntary premises registration. One staff person stated that they had received a large number of registrations during the last week of June, presumably because many people thought that there was a July 1 deadline. Yet neither Dr. Hillman nor the Commissioners expressed any concern that many people have signed up "voluntarily" for premises registration based on false information!

### NAIS and Elk:

In December 2005, the TAHC adopted regulations implementing NAIS for elk owners. All three stages

were required: premises registration, individual electronic identification, and 24-hour reporting anytime an elk was moved onto or off of the premises. The Executive Director of the Exotic Wildlife Association spoke about the terrible impact these regulations have had on elk owners. He stated that the "bottom has fallen out of the market." Cows that would have sold for \$500 in December are now selling for \$100. Trophy bulls that would have sold for \$2,500 are now selling for \$1,000. The volume at both public sales and private treaty sales has dropped anywhere from 10%-50%, in some cases closing down completely. The TAHC has proposed to repeal the NAIS rule for elk. Written public comment on the rule repeal will be accepted by the TAHC until 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6. Comments may be emailed to comments@tahc.state.tx.us {mailto:comments@tahc.state.tx.us}, mailed to Delores Holubec, TAHC, Box 12966, Austin, TX 78711-2966, or faxed to 512-719-0721. We must all stand together against NAIS. Even if you are not an

elk owner, you can send in comments telling TAHC that you don't think NAIS should apply to any animal owner.

### Equine Rules:

Under the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, an agency must review each of its rules every four years. The agency may re-adopt the rules as they stand, amend or change the rules, or even repeal the whole chapter. The TAHC is currently reviewing the rules relating to equines in Chapter 49 of the Texas Administrative Code. This includes the rules governing Coggins testing and Equine Infectious Anemia. The deadline for comments will be 30 days from the publication of notice in the Texas Register. We will send out more information when it has been published.

### New Commissioners:

Governor Perry has re-appointed Reta Dyess as the Commissioner for Dairy. He has also appointed Thomas Kezar for the General Public, Ernie Morales for the feed lot industry, and Mike Vickers for veterinarians. These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation. Write your state senator and tell him or her that you want the appointees questioned about their views on NAIS, including their affiliations with entities receiving grants to promote NAIS. They should also be questioned about their views on regulation of small farmers, homesteaders, and hobby animal owners. If you do not know who your state senator is, you can find out at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm>

### Support Farfa's Work

If you are not yet a member of FARFA, please consider joining us. Memberships start at \$35/year. Membership fees and donations support our efforts to educate the public through articles, advertisements, conference tables, and town hall meetings, as well as lobbying at both the state and national level. Whether you are a farmer or a rancher, a consumer of local foods, or someone who cares about protecting our rights and traditional freedoms, FARFA is working for you! If you would like to join FARFA, please visit our membership page at <http://www.farmandranchfreedom.org/signup.html>

Thank you for everything you are doing to help in the fight against the National Animal Identification System! Working together, we can make our voices heard.

Judith McGeary, Executive Director  
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance  
8308 Sassman Rd Austin, Texas 78747  
(512) 243-9404 (866) 687-6452 Toll Free [www.farmandranchfreedom.org](http://www.farmandranchfreedom.org)

From Kenn Knopp

Dear Citizens of Friedrichsburg:

Our son Christoph, age 17, is scheduled to come to the USA through the AYUSA Educational Organization. He already has a visum and clearance with American Embassy officials. But, he has not found a family where he can live while attending his senior year in high school. He enjoys sports especially football. His name is Christoph Kurzer.

The Educational Organisation has planed that he go to their head office in the next 14 days in New York for

## Wanted

rounding up A Posse of Citizens

to attend the meetings where our taxes for the

Fredericksburg Independent School District will be discussed and/or decided.

the meetings will be held

at the FISD Central Office, AKA the Administration Building at 234 Friendship Lane

Monday, August 28 6 pm, Public Hearing

August 30, High Noon, Hearing to adopt the new budget.

y'all come.

Many thanks to those of you who have subscribed. Others still need to. If you have not yet done so, to guarantee your delivery, please subscribe. Thanks again!

If you enjoy this fourth edition of *Fredericksburg Conservative*, and if you would like to continue receiving it, please subscribe with us. The cost of a 1 year subscription is \$20.00, a 6 month subscription is \$12.00.

While we mailed several thousand copies of both the first and second issues, we will not do so any more except for special occasions. We will continue to put them out at various stores, and we will publish their locations. We will also continue to throw them in yards in Fredericksburg as often as possible, but that method of delivery is not guaranteed.

To ensure that you receive a copy of the paper, please subscribe today. Send a check or money order to: David Treibs; 1141 Metzger Road; Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

In the next few weeks we will produce an online version of the paper, at [www.fredericksburgconservative.com](http://www.fredericksburgconservative.com)

At the very least, the website will list some of the places where you can pick up a copy of the paper.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Columns



OUR MORAL FOUNDATION  
JUDGE ROY MOORE

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Will America choose to acknowledge God?

July 26, 2006  
1:00 a.m. Eastern

*The American Union will last as long as God pleases. It is the duty of every American Citizen to exert his utmost abilities and endeavors to preserve it as long as possible and to pray with submission to Providence "esto perpetua" [may it last forever].*

—John Adams, Aug. 2, 1820

Our forefathers recognized that the strength and sustainability of this country depended on one thing: the continued presence of the providential hand of God. Over the past 50 years, however, that recognition has been steadily eroded by courts gone out of control, by left-wing interest groups bent on sandblasting all references to God from the public square, and by the indifference of ordinary citizens who do not understand why God matters to the nation.

As the former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama, I lost my position because I chose to follow God and the United States Constitution, our rule of law, instead of a federal judge's unlawful order commanding me to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama state judicial building. But my case was not about a monument and it was not about the Ten Commandments: It was about the acknowledgment of the Judeo-Christian God as the sovereign source of our law, liberty and government. The federal judge in my case, Myron Thompson, said as much in his decision, stating: "[T]he state may not acknowledge the sovereignty of the Judeo-Christian God and attribute to that God our religious freedom."

Judge Thompson's self-assuredness notwithstanding, the state, i.e., government, not only can, but in this country must acknowledge God if we are to sustain our system of governance and preserve our way of life. The whole history of our country is based on acknowledging God. Before they disembarked the Mayflower, the Pilgrims signed a compact in which they stated that they had undertaken the voyage to America "for the Glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith." The Declaration of Independence acknowledged that we are "created" by God and "endowed" by Him with "certain

unalienable rights" that no person or government can take away. As President George Washington observed in his First Inaugural Address on April 30, 1789:

*No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.*

Our forefathers knew what they were talking about, and I believe that the most important issue facing our country is whether we will choose to acknowledge God and His sovereignty or continue down the path of destruction paved by secular humanism. Nearly every issue and every problem we face in this country can be traced back to what kind of role we believe God plays in our society.

If we understand that He is the sovereign source of our law, then we will recognize that there are fixed standards of right and wrong for which people must be held to account. If we understand that He is the sovereign source of our liberty, then we will hold tightly to that gift and fight for it regardless of who tries to take it away — whether it be a foreign enemy or our own government. If we understand that He is the sovereign source of our government, then we will demand that our government perform only its constitutionally sanctioned responsibilities; anything less is dereliction of duty and anything more is tyranny.

We are losing this understanding in our country and with it we are losing our moral foundation. Our prisons are growing ever more crowded with criminals who do not distinguish between right and wrong; political corruption at the state and federal level has never been more rampant; and our children are taught in our public schools that they are descended from monkeys, that marriage does not matter and that convenience is more important than the life of a child in the womb. Before we are defeated by an enemy outside our borders it is likely that we will rot through moral decay from within — unless we recognize God.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1776 proclaims that "no free government or the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by ... frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." My hope is that this weekly column will serve as a clarion call bringing readers back to first principles — God's moral principles — in discussing the current issues of the day. For it is only through recurrence to our

moral foundation that this nation will stand firm in the tumultuous times ahead.

Judge Roy Moore is the chairman of the Foundation for Moral Law in Montgomery, Ala., and the author of "So Help Me God." He is the former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court who was removed from office in 2003 for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument he had placed in the Alabama Judicial Building to acknowledge God.

Ken Mercer

Educators, Don't send your dues to the NEA

Ken Mercer to Educators: Please reconsider paying your annual dues to the NEA

(Bexar County) Former State Representative, Ken Mercer, the Republican Nominee for District 5 of the State Board of Education, today asked educators: "Please reconsider paying your annual dues to the National Education Association (NEA)."

The NEA held their annual convention in Orlando this summer. Educators and Texas parents need to ask why the union passed numerous resolutions that attack traditional American family values, deny parental rights and authority, and reject the sovereignty of the United States of America.

My friends, I believe the NEA has abandoned the honored mission of "education" in favor of a liberal charge of "indoctrination".

The Educators I know believe in family values and respect the rights of moms and dads. They want more parents involved in the education of their children, not less.

Does the NEA represent the values of the majority of Texas' Educators? No. So why financially support an agenda that spits in the face of parents?

Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum, a conservative watchdog group, reported in the Texas Insider ("NEA Agenda is Frightening to Parents"):

"The anti-parent animus of the NEA is apparent in its insistence that the public schools be in the driver's seat about the teaching of sex. Claiming that every child has the right to 'freely available information and knowledge about sexuality,' the NEA demands the right to teach children about diversity of sexual orientation and gender identification, incest, and homophobia."

This is outrageous. Call your NEA representative. Ask them why the union adopted so many anti-parent and anti-American policies. Why resolve to endorse "one nation earth" doctrines of global education, International courts to overrule American courts, and every version of multiculturalism? Why oppose English as our official language, and strongly object to schools having a moment of silence?

Finally, ask why the NEA's financial contributions usually support only one political party. It is true that the average NEA employee earns double the salary of the average Texas educator?

Sometimes economic retaliation is the best the only way to foster true change. If you want to change the NEA, please reconsider paying your annual dues. Tell the NEA you want to educate our children, not indoctrinate.

Ken Mercer, Republican Nominee for State Board of Education.

Friends of Ken Mercer P.O. Box 781301 San Antonio, Texas 78278-1301: 210.355.2884

www.VoteMercer.com

Possible Alternatives to the NEA

While we are not endorsing any of these groups, we found several possible alternatives to the NEA, just in case anyone in the Gillespie County area is a member. (We'd like to hear your comments if you are.)

Possible alternatives include Christian Educators Association International www.ceai.org; and Association of American Educators.

Phyllis Schlafly



Teddy and Savannah Taylor are proud to announce the birth of their first child Trinten James Taylor. A beautiful baby boy who weighed in at 6 pounds and 10 ounces. He is 20 1/2 inches long, born on August 12, 2006 at Methodist hospital in San Antonio. His equally proud grandparents are Todd and Amber Stivers of Harper and Douglas and Stephanie Northern of D' Hanis. The beaming great-grandparents are Jim and Shirley Hays of Kerrville, Loren and Carol Stivers of Rocksprings and Paul and Gladys Franchett of Bandera. Trintens adoring uncles are James Taylor, Vaun, Caleb and Sammy Stivers, and Daryn Ballantine.

The hottest issue at the grassroots is illegal immigration and what our government is not doing to stop it. The question most frequently heard is, Why doesn't the Bush Administration get it?

Maybe the Bush Administration doesn't want to stop the invasion of illegal foreigners and plans to solve the problem by just declaring them all legal through amnesty lite and guest-worker proposals. Maybe the Bush Administration is pursuing a globalist agenda. Consider this chronology.

On March 23, 2005, President Bush met at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, with Vicente Fox of Mexico and Paul Martin of Canada in what they called a Summit. The three heads of state then drove to Baylor University in Waco, where they issued a press release announcing their signing of an agreement to form the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP).

On May 17, 2005, the Council on Foreign Relations issued a 59-page document outlining a five-year plan for the "establishment by 2010 of a North American economic and security community" with a common "outer security perimeter" to achieve "the freer flow of people within North America."

This document is full of language spelling out an "integrated" strategy to achieve an "open border for the movement of goods and people" within which "trade, capital, and people flow freely." The document calls for "a seamless North American market," allowing Mexican trucks "unlimited access," "totalization" (the code word

Cont. from page 1 School Board

become part of the school budget. No one discussed how they could cut the budget to save taxpayers the burden of paying an average of 15% more in taxes from the increase in appraisal values.

The audience of fewer than a dozen people offered no comments on the budget.

Cont. from page 1, Taxes

2005

Average Home value was.....	\$122,187
Mandatory Homestead Exemption	\$15,000
Average Assessed Value.....	\$107,187
2005 Tax Rate	\$1.5900
Taxes on Average Home.....	\$1,704.27
2006	
Average Home Value.....	\$134,854
Mandatory Homestead Exemption	\$15,000
Average Assessed Value.....	\$119,854
Proposed 2006 Tax Rate	\$1.4384
Taxes on Average Home.....	\$1,723.98

\$1,723.98 - \$1,704.27 = \$19.71 or 1.15% increase in taxes

Also note that the categories used to calculate the average home value may not be what the state requires for the taxing entities to compute the average home value for tax rate publications:

The second factor negating any benefit to taxpayers is the FISD's 15% increase in their budget, which closely reflects the 15% increase in appraisal values. (FISD completes their budget after knowing how much money they can spend, instead of budgeting on the lowest figure that will allow them to continue operating.)

The net effect of property tax reform via school tax "compression," plus the average 15% increase in appraisal values, plus FISD's 15% increase in their budget, is, for the average tax payer, a tax *increase* of about 1%.

How's that for tax reform?

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for putting illegal aliens into the U.S. Social Security system), massive U.S. foreign aid, and even "a permanent tribunal for North American dispute resolution."

Tying this document into the Bush-Fox-Martin March 23 Summit, the CFR stated that the three men on that day "committed their governments" to the North American community goal, and assigned "working groups" to fill in the details.

On June 9, 2005, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar held a friendly committee hearing that featured Task Force member Robert Pastor, a professor at American University and author of the 2001 book "Toward a North American Community." He revealed further details of the plan for a "continental perimeter," including "an integrated continental plan for transportation and infrastructure that includes new North American highways and high-speed rail corridors."

Pastor asserted that President Bush endorsed North American integration in the Guanajuato Proposal of February 16, 2001, in which Bush and Vicente Fox promised that "we will strive to consolidate a North American economic community." Bush followed up on April 22, 2001 by signing the Declaration of Quebec City in which he made a "commitment to hemispheric integration."

On June 27, 2005, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff attended a SPP meeting in Ottawa, Canada, at which he said "we want to facilitate the flow of traffic across our borders." The White House issued a press release endorsing the Ottawa report and calling the meeting the "an important first step in achieving the goals of the Security and Prosperity Partnership."

In July 2005, the White House let it be known that it is backing a coalition called Americans for Border and Economic Security organized by former Republican National Committee Chair Ed Gillespie. Its purpose is to conduct a political-style campaign to sell the American people on a guest-worker program.... www.eagleforum.org

Cont. from p. 1 Schuetzenfest

Schuetzenfest is much more than a shooting festival. It is a multigenerational family affair where the fine art and fun of marksmanship is preserved and passed on to future generations.

Nathan Macias

Liberty and Community

During the past five weeks, we have celebrated our nation's 230th birthday on July 4th and also came together on August 1st as citizens and neighbors in a growing movement called "National Night Out". I actually see a great connection between the two events.

On July 4th I had the opportunity to address a church gathering and speak about the freedom and liberty we enjoy as a nation with a Godly Heritage.

My hope was to en-

courage us all to not take our freedom and liberty as Americans lightly, and to remember that we are free to do what we ought and not just free to do what we want.

I also want us to remember that freedom isn't free. I salute the members of our armed forces past and present that have fought and died for our freedom.

I was specifically challenged by Noah Webster's words about government officials when he said "... if citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled people in office, laws will be made, not for the public good as much as for selfish or local purposes;... the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy items; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded."

I encourage all elected

officials to remember our responsibility to the citizens and to respect the perspectives of the people.

As for my thoughts on the August 1st "National Night Out", this citizen based event is designed to bring neighbors together to help build what I like to call "common-unity" or community.

The over arching objective is to help deter crime by building strong neighborhood bonds that would naturally have neighbors watching out for one another. I was encouraged as I visited a local gathering that included young and old alike, families, widows, law enforcement officers, and yes even a political candidate.

When I was growing up in San Antonio, we used to have at least 4 block parties/gatherings per year. Now,

I understand the fact that we are all much busier now than we were then, but let's also not dismiss the fact that neighborhoods were more closely knit back then.

So, I'd like to encourage each of us to take the time to get to know our neighbors. Even host a neighborhood gathering and make it an old fashioned pot luck to help keep the cost down. Regardless of the venue, I trust it will be well worth the investment.

Let me close with a belated Happy 4th of July, Hurray for "National Night Out" and let's get ready for the Gillespie County Fair... what a great way to round out the Summer.

At Your Service,  
Nathan Macias  
Republican Candidate  
State Representative

# Schuetzenfest



Alex Butter at Schuetzenfest proudly displaying his .22-.250 rifle. It is a "long barreled rifle," as he called it, with a Mauser action. The barrel that is about 1 1/4" in diameter. He acquired it in February of this year from Gary Frantzen. Notice that the bolt of his gun is open. Schuetzenfest has stringent safety rules, and in their 111 years, they have never had an accident.



Row upon Row of the some of the most accurate rifles in the area. The guns must meet various requirements to be entered in the contest. The rear sight must have a slit that is not too narrow, or not closed, which would make it a peep sight; the front sight must be a post, not a ball. The front post is blackened with a sooty flame.



Walton Heiman, Les Feller, and Dalton Herbolt man the computers, keeping track of everyone's scores.



Spectators, friends, family members, and shooters took it easy in the shade.



Mark and Maureen Tatsch at Schuetzenfest. Maureen explained many of the details of the contest, and the personalities involved.



An unidentified shooter demonstrates the proper stance: legs spread, knees locked, leaning into the rifle, to make the steadiest position possible, driving a bullet 200 yards using open sights to hit a bulls-eye about 3" in diameter.



Some shot targets, some sat under the shade and shot the bull. Alton Moellering (with the red cup) is probably thinking, "shoot, I wish I could win that rifle in the raffle." His son, Dale, stands behind him in the red shirt. Many generations participated at Schuetzenfest.

# Car Show



Larry Cooksey of Temple offered model cars. He said in this area, down south, Model A cars are popular, as are '50 and '57 Fords. In the city, muscle cars are the big thing. He said '55 to '57 Chevys are popular everywhere. The previous day the wind blew off his canopy and knocked down several tables, damaging some of his merchandise, but he was OK.



David Sharp of Magnolia offered manuals, parts, bottles, and what not, even a porcelain sink. He had a nice spot in the shade by the river.



This is a 1929 Model A. The seller was asking \$3500. He said he was keeping the body, having already put \$7000 into it.