

“It Is Time.”

Memories of Knopp & Metzger’s Supermarket and Department Stores

by David Treibs



Fritz (left) and Bob (right) Metzger hang a sign outside their Knopp & Metzger Department store

“It is time,” said Bobby Metzger, with a wistful look, to close the store. He and his brother were hanging a “going out of business” sign in front of Knopp and Metzger’s Department store, which has been a fixture in this town since long before I was around.

I have many memories connected with the Metzgers’ stores--both the department store, and the grocery store.

As I recall, I would spend the night at my oma and opa Treibs’ house on Friday.

Saturday morning we would wake up early and drive into town in opa’s green Chevrolet; the one that had the .22 semi-automatic and the .25-35 in gun bags in the back seat.

We took oma to the beauty parlor that was close to the side entrance of Knopp and Metzger’s, and then we would come in that side entrance and do the week’s shopping.

I don’t remember too much of what we bought, except I probably talked my opa into buying stuff I really didn’t need to eat.

Then we would head off to Reuben Koennecke’s or Clinton Stork’s for gas and a visit, or to Lochte’s or Woerner Warehouse or Farmer’s Grain for farm supplies.

At other times, if I needed shoes, or my mom wanted to buy some sewing material or thread, we would go to the department store.

When we went to buy shoes, it wasn’t like shoe stores today where you pick from rows and rows of shoes. At Knopp & Metzger department store, we would go into the store to the place where they sold the shoes. A sales person would come to help us, and quite often it was one of the Metzger boys. I would take off my old shoe and stand on a device that would measure the size of my foot. We would describe what type of shoe I wanted, and then the clerk would disappear behind the swinging shutter doors, coming back a few minutes later with a pair that was my size, and that matched the general

description of what I wanted.

The clerk would sit on those little padded seats that slid around, and I think some of them had a mirror on them. They would help me put on the shoes with a shoe horn (unless they were boots, which I don’t remember buying), and then tie it very tightly. Then they would mash high on the tongue of the shoe, and say, yep, he has a high instep. My opa would declare that they have a hard time fitting shoes on me because of it. Then I would wiggle my toes, and they would mash on my toes, and feel where my toes were, to make sure the shoes weren’t too tight. Then I would walk gingerly back and forth a little ways, trying not to mess up those brand new shoes, and trying to decide if they fit or not. If I didn’t like them, they would put the shoes back in the box, disappear behind those swinging doors, and come back a few minutes later with another pair, and go through the entire process again, until they brought me just the right pair.

Toward the back of the department store was the sewing cloth, which mom used to buy to make dresses. Mom looked at the patterns and cloth. There were lots of interesting buttons of every sort, and lots of colors of threads on bobbins, which I liked to look at. There was also a machine for measuring material length, I think, and it had a big silver button, which I pushed sometimes when no one was looking. It made a *choonk-a* sound.

We wish the Metzgers the best in their new endeavors. They will stay open until they are sold out.

NAIS: National Animal Identification System

If fully adopted and implemented, the likely outcome of NAIS is that animal ownership increasingly will be limited to large entities who can afford to comply and who are willing to accept the governmental intrusion. Yet this “feel good” program will do virtually nothing to safeguard animal health, its alleged purpose. Rather, NAIS will do all of the following:

- drive small producers and their supporting suppliers (feed stores, auction houses, etc) out of existence
- make people abandon raising animals for their own food and as pets

- invade Americans’ personal privacy to a degree never before tolerated
- deprive Americans of their property rights
- violate the religious freedom of Americans whose beliefs make it impossible for them to comply
- cost the American economy far more than it will deliver

Top 10 Myths About NAIS

By Judith McGeary, Esq.*

MYTH: NAIS is federal law.

FACT: No federal statute authorizes electronic tracking of individual animals, and bills that have been introduced to establish such a system have languished in committee.¹

MYTH: NAIS won’t apply to when you sell a chicken to your neighbor - when you take your horse on a trail ride or to a local show - whatever other exemption you have heard.

FACT: The USDA’s published documents make provisions for *no* Continued on page 3, NAIS

Water District Discusses Controls

by Amber Stivers

The Hill Country Underground Water District held a meeting on Wednesday, July 5th at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the possibility of designating two areas as High Historical Use Areas.

An HHUA is “an area where existing or historic permitted pump-age is at such a level and concentration, that any new additional pumpage from new permitted wells could result in an aquifer mining situation (more water being pumped than is being recharged), and cause the aquifer to become unsustainable. (Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code)

According to Paul Tybor, manager of H.C.U.W.C.D., once these areas are designated as such, more stringent production limits and spacing require-

ments will be placed on new permitted wells in that area. The new restrictions would only affect new permitted commercial wells.

During the meeting on July 5th, presentations were made, then questions from the audience were received. Formal written comments were also received by the board for review.

The first area being considered for HHUA designation is located over the Ellenburger aquifer Southeast of Fredericksburg. The HHUA II is North of Fredericksburg and covers part of the new Boot Ranch Development. The H.C.U.W.C.D. web site states that the HHUA I “under current demand is in good shape and not under threat of mining.”

While it is good to be concerned about our future resources, it is also paramount to retain what dwindling property rights we have left. As citizens, we must all become more aware of restrictions that are constantly being placed upon us and become active in pursuing the rights we still maintain.

The current proposals seem innocuous enough. However, once you allow restrictions in one area, the door is open to continue and impose these restrictions in others.

It may be too late to

affect the outcome in this situation but we can all become more involved in future proceedings and ask the board to consider holding forthcoming meetings at more convenient times for those of us who work.

Amber Stivers
www.sosoilservice.com



Bob Metzger pulls on the string that holds the “going out of business” sign.

Night In Old Fredericksburg



Still daylight at Marketplatz, Fredericksburg Police Officers and security guards man the entrance to Night In Old Fredericksburg. Bike Officers Wyman and Castillo chat.

Events Calendar

(partly from Fbg Police Dept. and Ralph Poth)

July 2006

- 14 7pm Cactus Pear Music Festival, United Methodist Church, Kerrville
- 28-30 Auto Swap Meet
- 28-30 Dr Pepper Junior Tennis Tournament
- 29 Blacksmithing at the Sauer-Beckmann Farm
- 29-30 Bundes Schuetzenfest
- 30 S. Clapp (violin), C. Webb (piano) Cailloux Theatre, Kerrville

August 2006

- 4-20 Shadownlands w/ J. Hierholzer, Fredericksburg Theatre Co.
- 6 Harper Library Benefit
- 12 Cory Morrow Outdoor Show
- 18-20 Fredericksburg Trade Days
- 18-20 Harvest Wine Trail
- 19 Billie Pride Blast Off
- 19 Roots Music Concert
- 19 Doss Community Fair
- 24-27 118th Gillespie County Fair
- 24 Country Music Showdown
- 25 Gillespie County Fair Parade
- 26-27 Grape Stomp
- 27 Knights of Col. Pancake Breakfast
- 27 LBJ Birthday Observance
- 27 Van Cliburn Finalist, Un. Meth. Ch.

Editorial Section

Grandma is an outlaw (NAIS)

By Henry Lamb

She didn't kill anyone. She didn't rob a bank. In fact, she didn't commit any illegal act. It's what she didn't do that made her an outlaw. We'll call her "Sally" – so the jackboots can't track her down.

Sally got up on the morning of Jan. 2 and went about her daily chores – fixing breakfast, feeding the animals and cleaning the house. Aside from

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

by Wendy Treibs

As ocean waves were rolling up the deck and the threat of imminent sinking and most likely death was upon them, various British soldiers and their officers on board the ill fated HMS Birkenhead stood courageously at attention under the command of Lieutenant Girardot. The ship had hit an unseen and unmapped rock off the coast of Africa and ripped a massive hole along the forepeak to the engine room--a fatal blow. Many of the life boats were inoperable due to poor maintenance, but three could be used. This was certainly not enough for the 643 persons on board the

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@ktc.com with the subject line:
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lt Gov. Dewhurst Errs on Illegal Immigration

by Joe Solis/South Texas Republicans

On July 18, 2006, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst met with Hispanic business leaders in San Antonio. A source in the room informs us that Mr. Dewhurst told the group something along the following lines: 'I don't see why we don't give all 12,000,000 immigrants worker permits after they step forward. Of course, they have to get registered so we can know who they are.'

The Lt. Governor of Texas is entitled to his own opinions on illegal immigration.

This is what really bothers me: Can you imagine Lt. Governor Dewhurst giving that same point of view to delegates of the Republican Party of Texas at the recent convention in San Antonio? That would NEVER happen in a 1,000 years. That would be the end

the cold, and the new year, everything was pretty much as it had been everyday for many years. But today, Sally became an outlaw without even knowing it.

Way back in 2003, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted the Wisconsin Premises Registration Act, which became effective in November 2005. Sally, and everyone else in Wisconsin who owned even one chicken, horse, cow or any other livestock animal, was required to register her premises with the state by Jan. 1, 2006.

Sally didn't register her premises – and became an outlaw by doing nothing.

Last week, Sally had some visitors. She knew she needed help and wrote this letter to the Liberty Ark Coalition:

I am in need of help! I live in Wisconsin, and yesterday the USDA sent two inspectors out to try and get me to sign Premise Registration forms. I told them no and to leave. They said it is mandatory, and I told them I didn't care; I was not signing! I need to know

struggling ship. Minutes previously, seven women and thirteen children had been safely loaded into one of the 8 foot cutters. Now amid the rushing of the ocean waters, the cry from the captain, Captain Salmond was to "save yourselves" and "make for the boats." However, Lt. Girardot, seeing that such a command would doom the small boat that carried the women and children, calmly and resolutely ordered his men to remember the "women and children first" and to "stand fast." So, even as the broken ship was plunging beneath the waters, these courageous young soldiers stood silently at attention, as best they could, doing their duty and guaranteeing the lives of these few women and children.

That was 1852. Now fast forward to today. No ship is literally sinking, but we as a nation are continuing down a slippery slope regarding human life. Consider a 2005 Associated Press interview with Senator Arlen Specter, R-PA, regarding his adamant support for human embryonic stem cell research. Overturning an hourglass, watching the sand slowly slip down the narrow tube filling the bottom, Senator Specter made the analogy of

of his political career in Texas politics. He would never achieve his dream of becoming Governor of Texas.

What is my point?

Mr. Dewhurst: Why are you PANDERING to Latinos and Hispanics over the immigration issue in private? Why is it necessary to treat us in such a demeaning manner? Why do you believe that all of us are for OPEN BORDERS? I do not think we should give every illegal alien a free pass just because they successfully broke our national laws.

Why do you think we are not also concerned about the avalanche of illegal immigration that is overburdening our hospitals and school systems in South Texas? Why don't you issue a press release to all newspapers in Texas with this liberal point of view on the immigration issue if you really think this way about illegal aliens?

Message to the world: Enter our country illegally, break our employment regulations and bypass our system of laws. Don't worry. The Lt. Governor of Texas thinks we should

what my rights are, how to fight them and what to do if they come back! Please help me!

First, hooray for Sally. This country needs more people with her backbone. But Sally's in trouble. According to the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, penalties for her crime could range from \$200 to \$5,000.

Liberty Ark's reply included this advice:

You essentially have three options: 1) *sign up for premises registration;* 2) *refuse to sign up and wait for the state to bring an enforcement action against you;* or 3) *bring a lawsuit of your own challenging the legality of the regulations. If you choose to sign up for premises registration, that does NOT mean that you have to give up the fight!*

The reply went on to explain that opposition to this National Animal Identification System is growing across the country, and that even though the Liberty Ark Coalition is only a couple of months old, nearly a thousand indi-

his own life slipping away because of his recently diagnosed disorder, Hodgkin's Disease. He stressed the immediate need for human embryonic stem cell research, making the case that this research could possibly save his own life and many others who have debilitating diseases. This month, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, one of our very own Texas senators reportedly decided to vote for H.R. 810, a taxpayer funded embryonic stem cell research bill, because these "embryos would otherwise be thrown away" (Zuckman, Chicago Tribune, 7/16). Also, one online newspaper stated about this recent funding bill, that the embryonic stem cell research would "advance prospects for cures and treatments" for a host of health woes for millions of Americans. Save yourselves. Make for the boats.

Other Texas representatives took a different course. U.S. Congressman Mike Conaway, representing our district 11, wrote in a recent E-mail to a local constituent that "stem cells can be obtained without killing human embryos, and taxpayers should not be forced to pay for research that sacrifices life for science." This is commendable. He along with Texas

give you worker passes since you are such a successful lawbreaker.

Hispanics in South TEXAS love this state and their country. Most of us were not in the streets waving Mexican flags and demanding open borders recently. We are PROUD Americans who believe in the Sovereignty of this nation.

Latinos in uniform are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and South Korea because they believe in the ideals of this amazing country. We also believe in the sanctity of the law. Do NOT treat us like we privately want to open our borders so we can enjoy the lawlessness and chaos of Nuevo Laredo and Tijuana.

Mr. Dewhurst, DO NOT PANDER TO US LATINOS.

TREAT US LIKE THE PROUD AMERICANS THAT WE ARE. We deserve better than that from a conservative who believes in law and order.

viduals and more than 60 organizations have signed a pledge in support of the Coalition's effort to stop this program.

Wisconsin was the first, and so far, the only state to make registration mandatory. The USDA originally announced that the program would be voluntary for a time, but would become mandatory in phases. Recently, in the face of rising opposition, the USDA has attempted to quiet the opposition by emphasizing the "voluntary" portion of the program, but without abandoning the authority to make it mandatory if voluntary participation fails to reach 100 percent.

Premises registration is only the first phase of the three-phase program. By 2007, not only are all premises to be registered, but every animal that is housed at every premises is to be tagged with a 15-digit identification number that can be read electronically. By 2009, the movement of any animal off a registered premises, for any reason, would have to be reported to a central database.

This program has been developed

Senator John Cornyn voted no to the aforementioned legislation, H.R. 810. In spite of the passage by the U.S. House and the Senate of this bill, President Bush announced his veto in a letter to the House writing, "If this bill were to become law, American taxpayers for the first time in our history would be compelled to fund the deliberate destruction of human embryos. Crossing this line would be a grave mistake and would needlessly encourage a conflict between science and ethics that can only do damage to both and harm our nation as a whole" Women and children first.

One can only imagine what was going through the minds of each of the hundreds of young soldiers and their officers on the fast sinking HMS Birkenhead that calm clear night in February 1852. Reportedly, it sank in 25 minutes. The waters were shark infested; some men could not swim, and land was miles away. No one wanted to perish. Later, from some of the survivors, it can be noted that they

with very little public awareness by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture and the USDA, behind the excuse that such a system is needed to prevent or control the spread of animal disease and to protect the food supply chain. It doesn't take much critical thinking to realize that there is already a great system to control the spread of animal disease. There has not been a case of foot-and-mouth disease in the U.S. since 1929, and the five cases of BSE that have been discovered were tracked almost immediately. Food safety measures occur in the processing operation.

What sense does it make to subject millions of animal growers and hundreds of millions of animals to this massive, expensive, governmental bureaucracy – to achieve what is already being done? A better understanding of this program, and why it is being pushed, is available at <http://libertyark.net>

It will take an army of people like Sally to stop this program, and that army is growing daily.

Henry Lamb is the executive vice president of the Environmental Conservation Organization and chairman of Sovereignty International.

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followed their stand fast orders not because of any hope to save themselves, but out of a sense of duty and honor and hope for the lives of the few women and children. 436 men perished in that tragedy, but due to the heroics of these honorable men, not any of the women and children died. So now, how can we as a nation do any differently when faced with decisions regarding human embryos. Sure, we can't see them, and they aren't growing in your womb or mine. But they are alive, and they are unable to defend themselves. No calls to save ourselves at the expense of the weakest among us should ever be made. The purposeful destruction of these human embryos for whatever scientific reason is morally incomprehensible. Honor, duty, hope-- not an ill gained hope by the destruction of these tiny human beings to cure anything- should be our striving. America, quit yourselves like men and women-- and like the men of the Birkenhead--stand fast.

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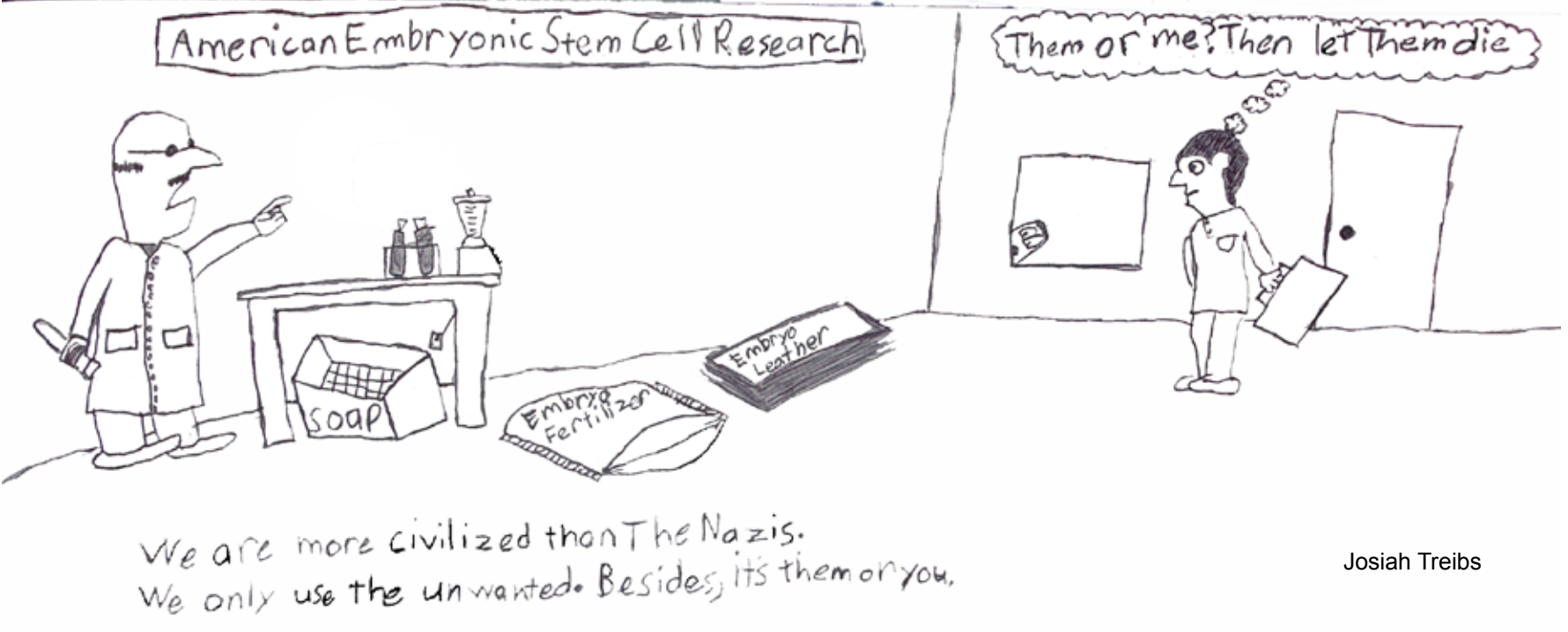
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Youth Speak



Fredericksburg Conservative

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Continued from page 1: **NAIS**

exceptions. The USDA lists codes for the following “events” to be reported: animal id tag distributed, tag applied, animal moved into a premises, animal moved out of a premises, tag lost and new tag applied, replaced tag or re-tagged, animal slaughtered at slaughterhouse, animal died on the farm, animal missing. There’s even a code for “sighting,” defined as “animal has a confirmed sighting at a location, no movement has occurred (ex: veterinarian sighting).”²

Looking at horses in particular, the equine working group submitted recommendations in 2004 which recommended that the owners file reports whenever horses are transported interstate, intrastate when commingled with other horses or livestock, or to premises or events where a health certificate or Coggins is required.³ So you *will* have to report when you take your horse to a local show or trail ride.

MYTH: NAIS will protect us against Mad Cow disease.

FACT: Mad Cow is not contagious, takes years to develop, and is completely preventable. NAIS is designed to do only one thing: provide 48-hour traceback of animal movements. This is simply not relevant to protecting our food supply from Mad Cow disease.⁴ Moreover, the USDA has stated that it estimates that there are only four to seven (4-7) cows in the entire U.S. who have BSE or Mad Cow Disease,⁵ and that it’s not even necessary to conduct testing to protect our food supply. Indeed, the USDA refuses to allow a U.S. company, Creekstone Farms & Premium Beef, to voluntarily test all of its cattle for BSE, in order to satisfy its customers’ wishes. If BSE is not enough of a threat to justify (or even allow) testing, then certainly it cannot be the basis for requiring millions of animals to be electronically tagged and every move tracked.

MYTH: NAIS will protect us against the H5N1 avian flu.

FACT: Only 103 people have died from the H5N1 virus worldwide since 2003, mostly in third-world countries where people live in unsanitary conditions with their animals.⁶ The concern about H5N1 is *if* it becomes human-human transmissible. At this time, as the CDC states, “it is important to remember that H5N1 avian influenza is almost exclusively a disease of birds.”⁷ In the unlikely event that H5N1 were to become human-human transmissible, tracking poultry would be entirely irrelevant! If we are concerned about the spread of infection in poultry, we should focus on the commercial confinement operations, where thousands of birds are kept at high density in unsanitary conditions, the prime breeding grounds for disease. A recent report indicates that the spread of the H5N1 virus is due to the conditions in confinement poultry operations.⁸

MYTH: NAIS will protect against bioterorism.

FACT: The ISO technology that is the stated preference for both Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags for cattle, and microchips in horses, can be easily reprogrammed. A terrorist could reprogram hundreds of the tags to read the exact same number, making tracking impossible. RFID technology is also susceptible to computer viruses, being cloned, and outright destruction.⁹

Further, no database is truly secure, and NAIS will provide a list of the locations of every single person who raises animals, vulnerable to every hacker.

MYTH: NAIS will increase food safety.

FACT: Most food-borne illnesses are from bacteria such as salmonella, e. coli, and campylobacter, or a specific group of viruses called the Norwalk viruses.¹⁰ These organisms contaminate food due to poor practices at

slaughterhouses or in food handling.¹¹ NAIS will do nothing to protect against these problems. Moreover, the tracking ends at the time of slaughter, so it will not add to the government’s ability to trace contaminated meats once they are in the food chain.

MYTH: NAIS is a market-driven program - cattle producers will obtain premiums for doing the tracking - we need NAIS to protect our export market.

FACT: NAIS is being funded by our tax dollars, as USDA gives millions of dollars of grants to states, and to private companies, to develop the systems to implement it. In other words, companies are being paid, by the government, to develop a system under which they will later profit, when animal owners are required by the government to tag and track their animals, and paying fees for the upkeep of these databases. This is not the free market at work!

Premiums are only available for things that some people do and, some people don’t do. If NAIS is made mandatory, so that everyone has to tag and track their animals, there will be no premiums. Only a handful of large companies will profit from the export market. Meanwhile, the costs of the program will drive small producers out of business, enabling large companies to increase their control of agriculture, and contributing to higher prices for consumers as competition is eliminated.¹²

MYTH: NAIS will not be expensive.

FACT: The cost of microchips and radio tags varies depending on the quantity used, and can be very expensive for small lots. And that is just the beginning of the cost. The farmer and rancher will have to pay for the injectors to implant the tags (or pay a veterinarian to do it), for scanners to read the tags, for computers (many do not have computers), and for frequent updates so that they can file their reports. They will also have to install the equipment necessary to handle each animal individually for the tagging process.

There is also the cost in time. Animals will not neatly line up and walk through to be tagged and chipped; they will have to be caught and handled, a time-consuming process. And then there’s the time involved in filing reports every time an animal leaves or enters the property. And there will be fees associated with the reporting; after all, *someone* has to pay for the upkeep of the database.

The government has not tried to quantify any of these costs before trying to force this program on millions of animal owners.

MYTH: NAIS will protect us against foot and mouth disease/brucellosis/ whatever other disease is popular.

FACT: At best, all NAIS will do is provide 48-hour traceback of animal movements. It will not address the causes of disease. It will not stop the spread of disease across our borders. It will not address the spread of disease by wild animals.

NAIS proponents also ignore that we already have well-established means of tracking animals: brands, tattoos, sales records, the scrapie program (for sheep). While it may take a bit longer than 48 hours, there is no epidemiological basis that makes 48 hours a magic number. Our existing tracking and quarantine methods have served us well.

Disease is a fact of life. Are you willing to trade your freedom in return for a government bureaucracy that can’t even deliver any real protection?

MYTH: Small farms and ranches pose the same, or even greater, threat of disease as large, commercial operations.

FACT: Scientific evidence establishes that animal management is critical in whether animals are susceptible to disease, and how

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likely disease is to spread.¹³ Independent farms and ranches raise their animals on pasture, which is a more natural and healthier environment. Sunlight kills bacteria and viruses, and the low density of animals means that there is less chance that an illness would mutate to a highly pathogenic form and spread.¹⁴

In contrast, confinement facilities and feedlots raise animals in entirely unnatural and unhealthy conditions. The damp, manure-infested environment is the perfect breeding ground for mutating diseases, while the high density of animals means that illness can spread like wildfire.¹⁵

If we want to address disease, we need to address the causes of disease in the large

commercial facilities, not unnecessarily burden our small and medium-size farmers and ranchers.

Notes and Citations

* Judith McGeary is an attorney in Austin, Texas, and the Executive Director of the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance. She has a B.S. in Biology from Stanford University and a J.D. with high honors from The University of Texas at Austin. She began her legal career by clerking for the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Since then, her practice has focused on environmental law, commercial litigation, and appeals. She and her husband run a small farm with horses, cattle, sheep, and poultry.

Help Fight NAIS !!

Read the detailed analysis at:
<http://libertyark.net> (leave off the www)

Read the Texas update at
<http://libertyark.net/articles/mcgeary-041006.html>
also see <http://www.tofga.org/?page=25>

Sign their petition (follow the links on the site)

Contact your elected officials: you can do so at: <http://libertyark.net/tools.shtml>

Contact Gov. Perry and tell him you don’t want the program implemented even on a voluntary basis. (HB 1361), and you want HB 1361 repealed.

Watch out for local or state groups and industries promoting NAIS;

Watch the state government and bureaucracies!

Attend meetings on the subject. If enough people are interested, we can have one in this county. Contact the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance at 866-687-6452 or info@farmandranchfreedom.org FARFA will conduct town hall meetings during the week of August 7-11 in Hempstead, Lockhart, Brady, Paris. Ask FARFA to add Gillespie County to the list.

According to TOFGA, Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association, Premises Registration Regulations in Texas are “on hold” until 2007, and voluntary registration continues.

TOFGA’s web site states that Rep Ron Paul introduced an amendment to block funding for NAIS, but it was defeated, and our own Rep. Mike Conaway voted against Ron Paul’s amendment (Roll Call 184) Ask him why.

Local Events

German Heritage Meeting July 30

A “Fredericksburg Forum” will begin a 3 p.m. Sunday, July 30, in the new Austin & Crockett Cafe. Sponsored by the German Heritage Foundation, the forum will “exchange ideas about the community’s German customs and traditions,” according to a press release.

A sing-along, polka party, Kaffee-

klatsch and discussion on the history of the Heritage Foundation are scheduled for 3 o’clock, with a “typical German” meal at 4.

Reservations are required. A check for \$15 per attendee should be made out to the German Heritage Foundation and mailed to 407 Cora in town.

German Classes

Thursdays, Noon-1 p.m. At the

Golden Hub 1009 N. Lincoln in Fredericksburg, Texas ALL WEL-COME Information: Elsie Burrer, 997-2009

Vacation Bible School: Faith Baptist Church

July 31-August 4, Faith Baptist Church, located at 3022 N State Hwy 16, will be holding their Vacation Bible School for ages K-6th grade from 9:00

a.m. to noon. You may call 997-9836 for more information or to register your child.

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SBOE's Authority Attacked Again

[Editor's Note: This week we are running a column by Gail Lowe, Next issue we will have Ken Mercer, the newly elected State Board Of Education person who represents Gillespie County.]

by Gail Lowe, State Board of Educa-

tion member for District 14

Many joke that they breathe a sigh of relief when the Texas Legislature adjourns and state lawmakers head back home to their constituents. State Board of Education members didn't consider it a joking matter

this spring, however, at the close of the legislature's third special session on school finance. Regardless of one's impressions of the resulting bills to provide property tax relief, extra funding for teachers and classrooms, and a reworking of the business franchise tax, one thing seems clear as pertains to the role of the SBOE: The attack on its authority continues.

The State Board of Education is the 15-member elected body that oversees the development of K-12 curriculum standards for Texas public schools. It also authorizes the adoption of

textbooks for use in local classrooms and provides the funding to pay for those instructional materials through its careful investment of the Permanent School Fund.

The SBOE often serves as the last line of defense against what seems an ever-strengthening education bureaucracy. Its members answer directly to the parents of schoolchildren and other interested voters who placed them in office to represent mainstream values and excellence in education. Yet the Texas Legislature seems bent

on transferring more and more of the elected board's authority to the Texas Education Agency and its appointed bureaucrats who operate independently of the elected SBOE and whose agenda often conflicts with what is best for children's educational interests.

Let's continue working together to ensure that the authority for such decisions rests with the State Board of Education, not with an appointed educator or administrative bureaucracy.

A Soldier's View



And what a spectacular view he has!
SSG. Gordon Gibson in Kosovo, as a member of the LMT Section (Liaison Monitoring Team).



US Army Spc. Aucutt and SSG. Gordon Gibson pose with locals of Kosovo. Gordon informs us that the locals are very poor but also very hard working.

Wanted

rounding up A Possee of Citizens

to attend the meetings
where our taxes for the

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

All meetings will be held

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

August 7, 6 pm, Budget meeting

Tentatively August 21, Budget meeting;

August 28 6 pm, Public Hearing;

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

y'all come.

Remember, they need to lower their tax rate from last year
to keep you from

paying 15% more taxes due to appraisal increases.

Property Taxes: Divide and Conquer?

by Wendy Treibs

Recently shopping with some of my young children in Kerrville, I came across a couple of older people behind a table with a sign asking for signatures for a petition to grant senior citizens a property tax freeze.

Being from Fredericksburg, I could not sign, but it started me thinking. So I stopped to chat. "How about a tax freeze for all of us?" I asked. They politely listened as I thought out loud. "If we were all in the same terrible property tax boat with these outrageous taxes, maybe, just maybe we all would rise up and put an end to the injustice of it all." Nice thought. They smiled.

I continued, "As it is now, there are exemptions for the over 65, exemptions for agriculture (BTW, we have that one) and a few others. That kinda leaves the in between hard working families trying to raise children to foot most of the taxes. Maybe divide and conquer is the strategy. No one complains or dares to if they are exempted. Who wants to pay more? Now, I'm very sympathetic with the cause of freezing taxes.

My husband's aunt who lives alone on a modest income inherited her family's older Fredericksburg home and has to pay over \$4000 a year for her property tax. Her home is in the historic district and, well, is appraised very high. So she struggles.

I have a friend who along with her husband are raising their 4 children. They just shake their heads at the ridiculous amount they have to pay each year, especially this last year. They are planning to move out of this immediate area for other reasons, but have expressed that the rising taxes have been a burden.

Everyone has similar stories or knows of someone who struggles just to make it with their ever rising tax bills."

Well, like I said, the Kerrville people listened politely and then continued to ask others for signatures. But I still think it would be neat if the over 65, under 65, around 65, ag exempted, disabled vets, etc., stood together and demanded a property tax freeze for us all--or how about no property tax. It is becoming too easy for good hard-working people to lose their homes and property because others can't seem to cut their spending. Just a thought.

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In the next few weeks we will produce an online version of the paper, at 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.

Leviticus 5:17, 19 And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.

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