

THE TEXAS SPUR
SINCE 1989 • NEWS FOR DICKENS AND KENT COUNTIES

VOL. 114, NO. 42
(USPS 541-640)
Periodical-rate postage paid at Spur, Texas. The Texas Spur is published weekly.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to The Texas Spur, P.O. Box 430, Spur, TX 79370

PUBLISHER KAY ELLINGTON
kay.ellington@thetexaspur.com
EDITOR / ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
BARBARA BRANNON
spur@thetexaspur.com
BUSINESS business@wtvx.news
(806) 271-3381

Please send announcements, calendar events, and news items to news@thetexaspur.com
Display ads, classifieds, legal notices and obituaries should be submitted to spur@thetexaspur.com
Information may be dropped off locally at 424 N. Burlington Ave., Spur.

THE TEXAS SPUR is a weekly publication published 52 times per year, covering Dickens and Kent Counties, including Spur, Dickens, Afton, McAdoo, Clairemont, Jayton and Girard. All submissions are run at the discretion of the editor.

CONTENT SUBMISSIONS Deadline for ad submissions, announcements and news is Monday at noon.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTIONS Changes of addresses, renewals, temporary stops can be emailed to spur@thetexaspur.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$45/yr for mailing addresses within Dickens and Kent counties (\$39/yr for residents 65 and older); \$56/yr elsewhere in Texas and out-of-state; and \$39/yr or \$5/mo for online subscriptions.

Go to www.thetexaspur.com to subscribe using PayPal, or send payment to The Texas Spur, P.O. Box 430, Spur, TX 79370.

ADVERTISING display rates are \$5.70 per column inch local and \$8.00 per column inch national. Obituary notices, classified ads, and text-only legal notices are \$10 for the first 35 words plus 25¢ for each additional word; photos are \$5.00. In display format, such notices are \$5.27 per column inch. Engagement, wedding, anniversary, and birth announcements are free (500 word / 1 photo maximum).

Copyright © 2024 by The Texas Spur. The entire content of each issue of The Texas Spur is protected under the Federal Copyright Act. No reproduction of any portion of any issue will be permitted without the expressed consent of The Texas Spur.

WWW.THETEXASSPUR.COM

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION **West Texas Press Association**

EDITORIAL | spur@thetexaspur.com
Paragraphs & pixels
BARBARA BRANNON

ROUTE 66 RAMBLE, PART 2

Route 66 in the Land of Lincoln

“Route 66 has fueled America’s imagination, popular culture, and passion for the open road for nearly a century. It deserves a place not just in our rearview mirror, but on our roadmap of unique travel experiences for generations to come.” — Stephanie Meeks, former president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

“The Road Ahead” is the title of the preservation partnership that has worked since 2018 to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail, under the leadership of Bill Thomas in Atlanta, Illinois. We leave his town in a pouring rainstorm after a brief but enjoyable visit, continuing toward California in the only state where the westward-inclined Mother Road runs north-south.

“I’m confident Rt. 66 will become our country’s newest National Historic Trail soon, and look forward to continuing to work to achieve that goal,” Thomas wrote in the organization’s latest quarterly report, posted shortly before I’d met with him. Representatives in the eight Route 66 states signed onto a House bill to that effect, which was reintroduced in June 2023. But while Congress has taken important steps, legislation also remains to be passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by the president.

In 2022, U.S. senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and others introduced a companion Senate bill. It’s still sitting in committee, with the 2026 anniversary of The Mother Road fast approaching.

As we drive as much of the original road (“alignment,” in highway terms) as still exists, we can readily appreciate the enormous economic benefit that communities of all sizes realize from the throngs who drive some portion of it annually. Even a dozen years ago the pioneering Rutgers study conservatively estimated the total U.S. impact at \$38 million.

But divisiveness and stalemates are nothing new in our federal government, as current events show, and as we appreciated even more profoundly in our visit to one route 66 site: the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in Springfield, capital of Illinois.

The conundrums our 16th president faced over state’s rights versus federal authority during his first election campaign are clarified through documents (approximately 12 million of them, dating as far back as the 18th century, with a small selection of facsimiles on display in the library’s entry lobby) and interpretive exhibits (enough to easily fill half a day’s visit to the museum).

The story of Lincoln’s rise from an “undistinguished” family and humble roots to a skilled militiaman, self-educated lawyer, and devoted family man—and ultimately to the White House—is presented in a variety of clever exhibits. The interpretation of his political career, the U.S. amid civil war, and his assassination and aftermath, richly augmented our learning. From life-like dioramas to reproductions of images and letters, to a Holovision theater experience, to a walk-through reproduction of the White House of the 1860s, each aspect of Lincoln’s life and career are brought into context. Forensics students looking to understand the premise of a current-day Lincoln-Douglas Debate, researchers grappling to understand the evolving front—and rising casualties—of the War Between the States, or cultural historians interested in the fashions of the day might all find fresh insights.

But most telling, to me, were the reproductions of political screeds and cartoons of Lincoln’s time. Scores of these are



CAPITAL CITY Springfield, Illinois, is one of two Springfields along Route 66 (the other, in Missouri, is considered the Birthplace of Route 66). The state capitol building (above), the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, Lincoln’s tomb and Lincoln’s Springfield home are situated along the route in the capital city. | THE TEXAS SPUR



skewed in off-kilter frames, hung in exhibit spaces of wildly distorted walls and doors, to echo the cant of critics’ biting words and images.

By comparison, today’s news media come off as polite as greeting cards. More akin to the 19th-century voices depicted here is the 21st-century’s social media space, or its often obscene flags and bumper stickers. I mused on these matters as I wondered whether history is, as claimed, doomed to repeat itself.

But the Lincoln museum has a lot to teach with regard to hope for a strong American union. Once reunited during an arduous Reconstruction, as the exhibits also cover, the states proved resilient and, at intervals, forward-thinking. A temporary exhibit highlighted more recent struggles for civil rights—reminding us clearly that the work is far from over.

I composed last week’s essay in that powerfully evocative space, inspired by words and acts of greatness. As we hit the road again that afternoon, I was ready to appreciate, afresh, a pavement that once knit together a growing number of states, some acquired by arm-twisting deals, some as new as Oklahoma and Arizona (which didn’t become a part of the Union until 1907 and 1912 respectively), one (Texas) that had even been a sovereign nation.

Historic preservation, economic benefit, and open-road vacations are all great reasons to appreciate the treasure that is Route 66. But so are the lessons it can teach us about what it means to be American.

SPOTLIGHT PHOTOS, PAGE 8

TxDOT asks for feedback on 10-year plan

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking input on a proposed 10-year plan that proposes spending a record \$104.2 billion for transportation to improve safety, address congestion and improve roadways.

The plan also addresses public transportation,

maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, according to TxDOT.

The Unified Transportation Program is updated annually and serves as the agency’s 10-year blueprint for statewide projects.

“Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue con-

necting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship,” said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

The comment period is underway and ends on Aug. 5. To learn about different ways to comment, go to: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp/utp-public-involve.html>.

2024 Community Calendar

Community Services and Organizations

SPUR VISITOR CENTER, 101 Hill Street at Burlington Avenue, is operated by the Spur Area Chamber of Commerce and open during regular hours Tuesday–Saturday. Visitors seeking information on the area may email spurchamber@gmail.com or call (806) 271-3097.

THE SPUR AREA FOOD BANK serves families throughout Dickens County. The Food Bank is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating via private donations and welcomes donations to this community work. Donations are tax-deductible and are accepted directly into the Food Bank’s account at Spur Security Bank or at 612 Burlington Ave. The Spur Area Food Kitchen Inc. does not discriminate due to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

THE KENT COUNTY LIBRARY, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton, is open for patron services Monday–Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Library patrons may also check out e-books and audiobooks on the Libby app for free with their library card. For information call (806) 237-3287 or “like” Kent County Library on Facebook.

THE KENT COUNTY SENIOR NUTRITION CENTER, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton, is open Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A lunch meal is served at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a nominal cost, and is also available for carry-out. For information call (806) 237-3288.

THE SPUR-DICKENS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 403 E. Hill St., is open Monday–Thursday, noon–5 p.m., and extended hours on the first Monday of each month until 7 p.m. Call (806) 271-3714 for questions. Free WiFi (password spurlib2017) is available inside and from the parking lot. Also contact the library for inquiries regarding the Spur Photography Club.

SPUR-DICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM, 327 Burlington Ave., Spur, is open April through October. For a tour please call a board member: Froye Morris, (806) 271-3577; Linda Swenson, (806) 271-3238; Woodie McArthur, (806) 271-4415; or Don Wright, (806) 271-4520.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER/SOUTH DICKENS, 210 Burlington Ave., provides a dine-in meal at noon Monday–Friday. The salad bar is available on Wednesdays. A donation of \$4 is suggested for ages 60 and older, with an \$8 donation for those younger than 60. For more information call (806) 271-4472.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER/NORTH DICKENS, 511 Montgomery St., Dickens, provides a meal at noon Monday–Friday. A donation of \$5 is suggested. For more information call (806) 623-5520.

DICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM on Montgomery Avenue in Dickens is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the second and fourth Saturdays monthly. For a special viewing or other hours please call Ruby Combs at (806) 269-6215 or Bron Combs at (806) 294-5302.

KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at noon at the Kent County Community Center, 156 4th St., Jayton. Lunch is served at a cost of \$10 per person; please RSVP to Daryl Ham at (806) 269-1179.

SPUR ART GUILD Open painting day every third Monday at the Spur Senior Citizens Center, 201 Burlington Ave., Spur.

Public and Civic Meetings Coming Up

- Please let us know of any corrections: News@thetexaspur.com
- SPUR MASONIC LODGE** meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m., 309 Burlington, Spur
 - DICKENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 201-US 82, Dickens, (806) 623-5532
 - KENT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Aug. 12 and Monday, Aug. 26, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton, (806) 237-3373
 - KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB** Monday, Aug. 12 and Monday, Aug. 26, noon, Community Center, 156 W. 4th, Jayton
 - PATTON SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Aug. 12, 1261 E. FM 193, Afton, (806) 689-2220
 - ANDREW KENT MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT** Tuesday, Aug. 13, 4:30 p.m., District office at Kent County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton
 - SPUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** Monday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m., Community Center, 101 E. Hill St., Spur, (806) 271-3097
 - WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** Monday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m., District office at White River Lake
 - CITY OF SPUR CITY COUNCIL** Tuesday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m., City Hall, 402 N. Burlington Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3316
 - SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., school administration office, 800 Williams Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3272

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

PUC outlines consumer protection rules

AUSTIN— As the dog days of August approach and electric bills soar, the Public Utility Commission is reminding consumers of rules in place to protect them from having their power disconnected due to financial difficulties, especially during extreme heat.

“Ensuring the power stays on for all Texans, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for all of us at the PUCT,” Executive Director Connie Corona said.

Several utilities have suspended disconnections to allow customers to recover from Hurricane Beryl, which caused widespread outages, particularly in the Houston area.

Consumer protection rules require electric providers to offer bill payment assistance programs, though electric cooperatives and municipally owned utilities in Texas are not subject to this rule; however, most offer some form of bill assistance. Options include a payment arrangement or a deferred payment plan.

Customers seeking assistance should start by contacting their electric provider. They can also learn what assistance programs are available in their area by dialing 211.

MIGRANT APPREHENSIONS DROP TO 2021 LEVELS.

The number of migrants apprehended by federal officers in June was at its lowest level in more than three years, according to figures released by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and reported by The Texas Tribune. Border Patrol agents apprehended 83,356 migrants in June across the southern border, down from 117,901 in May and



the lowest since January 2021, the month President Joe Biden took office.

“Recent border security measures have made a meaningful impact on our ability to impose consequences for those crossing unlawfully,” acting CBP Commissioner Troy A. Miller said in a statement. “We are continuing to work with international partners to go after transnational criminal organizations that traffic in chaos and prioritize profit over human lives.”

Biden issued an executive order, effective June 5, that essentially ended granting asylum to migrants.

Gov. Greg Abbott in previous statements has credited the state’s multibillion-dollar mission, Operation Lone Star, for the decline in migrant apprehensions, The Tribune reported.

TEXAS SECOND-WORST STATE FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH OUTCOMES.

A new report from a national women’s health nonprofit concludes Texas is among the lowest performing states for women’s health outcomes, Texas Public Radio reported.

Only Mississippi ranked worse in the study by the Commonwealth Fund, which analyzed data on maternal mortality, insurance access and other fac-

See **CAPITAL**, page 7

WWW.THETEXASSPUR.COM
- READ THIS WEEK’S NEWS ONLINE - ACCESS DIGITAL ARCHIVES - RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

We welcome letters to the editor via mail or email—to thank a group or organization, suggest an idea, or state an opinion, for instance. Be sure to provide your name and address to verify your identity.

Contact your elected officials

President
Joseph R. Biden
www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Governor of Texas
Greg Abbott
www.gov.texas.gov/contact

United States Senate
Sen. John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2934
www.cornyn.senate.gov
Lubbock Office
Wells Fargo Center
1500 Broadway, Suite 1230
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 472-7533

Sen. Ted Cruz
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Ste. SDB-40B
Washington, DC 20510
west_texas@cruz.senate.gov
www.cruz.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Congressional District 13 (including Dickens County)
Rep. Ronny Jackson
Amarillo Office
620 South Taylor St., Suite 200
Amarillo, TX 79101-3541
District office (806) 641-5600
D.C. office (202) 225-3706
www.jackson.house.gov

Congressional District 19 (including Kent County)
Rep. Jodey Arrington
Lubbock Office
1312 Texas Ave., Ste. 219
P.O. Box 6687
Lubbock, TX 79493
(806) 763-1611
www.arrington.house.gov

Abilene Office
500 Chestnut St., #819
Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 675-9779

Texas State Senate
District 28 (including Dickens & Kent Counties)
Sen. Charles Perry
11003 Quaker Ave., Ste. 101
Lubbock, TX 79424
(806) 783-9934
charles.perry@senate.state.tx.us
www.perry.senate.state.tx.us

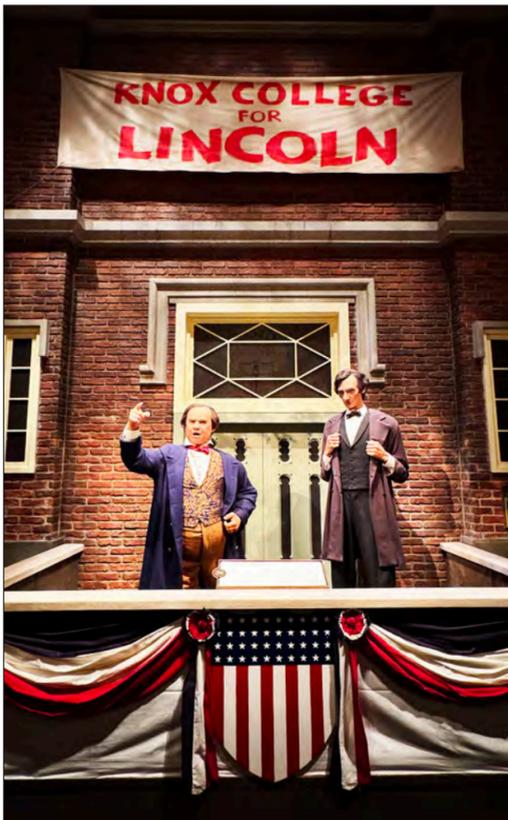
Texas House of Representatives
District 83 (including Dickens & Kent Counties)
Rep. Dustin Burrows
Room E2.610, State Capitol
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0542
District Office, Lubbock
(806)795-0635
dustin.burrows@house.texas.gov
<https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=83>

The Texas Spur encourages citizens to consult www.ballotpedia.org/Who_represents_me for their elected officials at every level of government.

SPOTLIGHT ON ROUTE 66 RAMBLE: PART 2, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS



IN ILLINOIS most Route 66 signs point north and south. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library — also a great place for writing while enjoying a bite of lunch in the cafe — are located in downtown Springfield, the state's capital. | THE TEXAS SPUR



Farm & Ranch land loans

Compare our rates today on farm and ranch real estate loans. Stop by, or call us at (806) 271-3301.

(806) 271-3301 120 W. Harris, Spur

*subject to credit approval



Member FDIC