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THE TEXAS SPUR

SINCE 1909 ★ NEWS FOR DICKENS AND KENT COUNTIES

Vol. 114 No. 48 | Thursday, September 5, 2024 | www.TheTexasSpur.com | ONE DOLLAR

PART 1: WHAT ARE THE FOUR JGISD PROPOSITIONS?

Jayton-Girard ISD sets discussions on 4 bond propositions

District says \$0 tax increase on current overall tax rate

The board of trustees of Jayton-Girard ISD has been setting a strategy to cover \$21 million in improvement projects for school facilities, if voters approve the four separate propositions set for this November's ballot.

The Texas Spur had the opportunity this week to talk with district superintendent Scott Bicknell about the four projects, and the anticipated funding for bond repayments via the Permanent School Fund. We'll have a full story in next week's issue, following the first planned

See JGISD, page 5

Proposition A

The issuance of \$10,000,000 in bonds for school facilities and the purchase of new school buses and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.



Proposition B

The issuance of \$9,000,000 in bonds for school teacher housing and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.



Proposition C

The issuance of \$1,000,000 in bonds for school technology improvements and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.



Proposition D

The issuance of \$1,000,000 in bonds for recreational facilities and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.



As part of House Bill 3 passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019, all ballot language for school bond elections must include the statement, "This is a property tax increase." The District does not anticipate any increase in the current overall tax rate.

FOUR PROPOSITIONS totaling \$21 million will be on the November ballot for Kent County voters in the Jayton-Girard ISD tax district. (A note on the district's informational flyer below these four propositions reads: As part of House Bill 3 passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019, all ballot language for school bond elections must include the statement, "This is a property tax increase." The District does not anticipate any increase in the current overall tax rate.) | COURTESY GRAPHIC

PROPOSITION A The issuance of \$10,000,000 in bonds for school facilities and the purchase of new school buses and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

PROPOSITION B The issuance of \$9,000,000 in bonds for school teacher housing and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

PROPOSITION C The issuance of \$1,000,000 in bonds for school technology improvements and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

PROPOSITION D The issuance of \$1,000,000 in bonds for recreational facilities and the levy of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.



OLD SETTLERS 2024 RODEO PARADE: SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 10

City of Spur hires Garza as new city secretary

During its city council session last Tuesday, the City of Spur welcomed Nora Garza as its new city secretary, succeeding Ashley Carothers.

Garza, a graduate of Lockney High School, said she has family members in Spur. Garza is on duty at



City Hall this week and can be reached at spur-citysec@gmail.com

JGISD BOND MEETING DATES

- PRESENTATION #1:** Sunday, September 8, 2024, 4 p.m. at the Community Center
- PRESENTATION #2:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 7 p.m. at the Community Center
- PRESENTATION #3:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 7 p.m. at the Community Center

Area teams claim opening-week wins



STORIES AND PHOTOS, PAGE 4, 5



BROTHERS STANALAND The Jaybirds' 2024 Gridiron Classic game marked the debut of the two Stanaland brothers, Josh (left) and John coaching together for Jayton. MORE GAME PHOTOS, PAGE 5 | COURTESY PHOTO

Singapore: A jam-packed city to end a jam-packed world tour

DAVID PAFFORD | SPECIAL TO THE TEXAS SPUR

David Pafford of Spur and his son Caleb completed their circuit of foreign lands last week in Singapore before flying home across the Pacific to the U.S. "If you would like to see more photos and hear the 'long version' of our story," wrote Pafford, "please visit the website www.farther-beyond.com/circumnavigation. I hope you will join us each week to hear the latest report."



GREEN SPACE In Singapore, visitors are overwhelmed by the diversity of plants and bright colors — even in indoor spaces. | DAVID PAFFORD PHOTO

Singapore has some crazy strict laws. It is illegal to spit on the sidewalk, chew gum, or fail to flush

the toilet. You can be fined for any of these crimes. An American kid who vandalized some cars and road

signs was arrested and sentenced to be caned back in

See PAFFORD, page 7



COMMUNITY | news@TheTexasSpur.com
What's happening

COMING UP IN TEXAS SPUR COUNTRY
Submit your community announcements (maximum 75 words) to news@thetexasspur.com for events within the coming month, to run up to 4 issues

Special Bond Presentations for Jayton-Girard ISD Community

Sunday, Sept. 8, 4 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton

Local Events

Please let us know of any corrections: News@thetexasspur.com

DICKENS COUNTY-SPUR LIBRARY story time, Thursdays, 10 a.m., for babies to preschool, 403 E. Hill St., Spur

SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Spur Mini-Cheer Camp, Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at the Dome, with hot dog lunch provided

CITY OF SPUR notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 5 p.m., Spur Community Center

SPUR AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will host National Night Out, Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Rickels Park. A hot dog dinner will be served.

SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Homecoming, Friday, Oct. 4

SAVE THE DATE for the 1st Annual Spur Chili Cookoff, Saturday, Oct. 12, noon, Spur Senior Center, 210 Burlington. Entry deadline is Friday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m. All entries and fees must be received by this date. Please contact the Spur Area Chamber of Commerce, 101 E. Hill St. or (806) 271-3097, for more information.

SAVE THE DATE for a History Ramble in Dickens County with former state historian Bill O'Neal, Saturday afternoon, Oct. 4, preceded by a midmorning presentation at the Palace Theater in Spur. Lunch at the Spur Chili Cookoff is included; tickets for the full day's activities are \$20. Email PalaceSpur1929@gmail.com to reserve a space.

SAVE THE DATE for the annual Halloween Trunk or Treat in downtown Spur, Thursday, Oct. 31, on 2nd St. between First Baptist Church and the Lawrence Brothers Grocery Store. Free for all to participate.

SAVE THE DATE for Late Night Shopping with Santa at The Palace Theater and a lighted Christmas parade, Thursday, Dec. 5, in Spur.

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

VOL. 114, NO. 48
(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

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Please send announcements, calendar events, and news items to news@thetexasspur.com

Display ads, classifieds, legal notices and obituaries should be submitted to spur@thetexasspur.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@thetexasspur.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.thetexasspur.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).

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WTA West Texas Press Association

EDITORIAL | spur@thetexasspur.com

Paragraphs & pixels

BARBARA BRANNON

ROUTE 66 RAMBLE, PART 8

Animals all across Arizona



RABBIT, RUN At Joseph City, Arizona, a town founded by 19th-century Mormon migrants, the “Here It Is” jackrabbit sign made famous all across Route 66 has its origins. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 9 | THE TEXAS SPUR

Arriving at the eastern edge of Arizona at dusk means two things: that the 149 miles between here and Flagstaff will zoom past in darkness; and that we’ll see precious little of Mother Road pavement on this stretch.

As the guidebooks tell us, “the old road is effectively submerged beneath the freeway” in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Our first pulloff, however, brings us to the unmistakable tourist draw of “Chief” Yellowhorse’s cave.

Here, twenty-one years ago, I saw my first live bison. The buffalo were penned in a large enclosure in the shadow of the enormous cave. I took a photo with my Kodak—an early digital—and sauntered off to the gift shop. Here, I’d also tried fry bread for the first time.

I was too late, in that year, to have met Juan “Chief” Yellow Horse, a Diné native of Arizona who had come back from service as a Navy aviator in Berlin to take over a tourist attraction that had long occupied this lucrative corner between the Navajo lands on the north and the Petrified Forest on the south. Juan Yellow Horse, the subject of many travelers’ snapshots in his eagle-feather headdress, died in 1999.

Today his son Scott Yellowhorse runs the shop. It’s closing time, and he takes a break from working underneath the hood of his truck to show us around. The trading post is filled with curiosities of all kinds; one can purchase the same array of refrigerator magnets and metal 66 shield cutouts as elsewhere, but there’s more to interest me: faded photographs of visitors past, a large assortment of second-hand books, bins of tumbled stones, well-made clothing and jewelry. A bit of cash changes hands. I ask Yellowhorse about the bison.

These days, he says, it’s the dinosaurs—brightly colored statues—that get the kids’ attention instead. We wave good-bye and move back out on the darkening lanes of concrete.

By Joseph City it’s good and dark. With the guidance of a nearly-full moon we find the exit for a famous stretch of original Route 66 that long hosted roadhouses and rest stops for thirsty tourists. Back in the day Jack Rittenhouse made his gift shop and desert museum unmissable for those driving west, with a giant jackrabbit statue—complete with saddle for a photo op—and yellow-and-black mileage signs bearing the rabbit’s silhouette and the slogan “HERE IT IS.”

Real-life rabbits scurry from the beam of our headlights, which illuminate a closed-up shop, eerie in the shadows. We motor on the Winslow—where we compare the nightlife of the desert city to the daytime throngs accustomed to pulling over for another well-known photo op “Standin’ On the Corner.” Even after restaurant-closing time, late arrivers like us pull in, read a bit of history, snap a selfie, spend a few dollars at the convenience store to refill our sodas. Who knew such innocuous opening words could’ve inspired the revitalization of an entire town? The Eagles themselves

get a nod in the mural overlooking the permanently stationed flatbed Ford and the bronze guitarist statue. It’s worth the time to take it easy in Winslow, wander around and pick out all the cues from the song and the many, many public art installations that have followed from that first work.

After a layover in Flagstaff to write and publish the week’s newspaper issues, we’re refreshed and ready to take on one of the most challenging stretches of our journey.

I’d been reading blog posts for weeks to keep up with road conditions and weather at Sitgreaves Pass, the high-elevation gateway to the old mining town of Oatman. While some Route 66 travelers—especially inexperienced motorcyclists—skip this challenging, unguardrailed segment, on a sunny summer morning it seems all systems go for our reliable pickup.

A swim and a good night’s rest under neon lights in Kingman, an oil change, and a fortuitous tire check (removing three nails and screws from our treads) make for a promising start. It’s a good thing we headed out early, as temperatures on the downside of the slope would prove.

The climb up into the pass doesn’t seem that daunting, at first; the narrow pavement’s fine, the lane stripes brightly marked. The switchbacks become steeper, the curves blinder.

And then, the burros.

These are the primary hazard to bikers looking to keep up speed on the upslopes or harnessing it on the downside. The burros are the proliferant offspring of miners’ beasts of burden turned loose once the

minerals played out. Oatman became a ghost town, but the four-footed residents remained—and replicated. Today burros outnumber the human population five to one, except, of course, when tourists pour in, like today.

When a baby burro begs a bit of refreshment, or a herd ambles down the center line, vehicle traffic comes to a standstill. Oliver, the leader of the pack, takes his sweet time, and his four-footed family ambles along behind. The two-wheeled and four-wheeled denizens of the Mother Road just have to bide their time.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management conducts periodic roundups in the nearby desert by helicopter, relocating a few dozen burros at a time, according an AZCentral.com news piece earlier this year. “Burros have no natural predators, and I’ve watched them eat trees down to the ground,” said John Hall, who manages BLM’s wild horse and burro program in Arizona.

But the burros without doubt keep old Oatman alive with travelers, in an obviously symbiotic relationship. As temperatures approach their 116-degree high today, the human occupants of Oatman flock to the numerous watering holes, old-fashioned photo booths and T-shirt shops to leave a few bucks behind.

Would we have regretted missing this chapter in our westward travels?

You bet your sweet Sitgreaves Pass we would.

While some Route 66 travelers—especially inexperienced motorcyclists—skip this challenging, unguardrailed [Oatman] segment, on a sunny summer morning it seems all systems go for our reliable pickup.

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: Frayne 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@thetexasspur.com
- CITY OF SPUR CITY COUNCIL** special meeting, Thursday, Sept. 5, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 402 N. Burlington, Spur, (806) 271-3316
 - DICKENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 201-US 82, Dickens, (806) 623-5532
 - KENT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton, (806) 237-3373
 - KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB** Monday, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, noon, Community Center, 156 W. 4th, Jayton
 - PATTON SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Sept. 9, 1261 E. FM 193, Afton, (806) 689-2220
 - ANDREW KENT MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4:30 p.m., District office at Kent County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton
 - SPUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** Monday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m., Community Center, 101 E. Hill St., Spur, (806) 271-3097
 - WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m., District office at White River Lake
 - CITY OF SPUR CITY COUNCIL** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m., City Hall, 402 N. Burlington Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3316
 - JAYTON-GIRARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m., school board room, 700 Madison Ave., Jayton, (806) 237-2991
 - SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., school administration office, 800 Williams Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3272

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Power grid again reaches record demand

AUSTIN—The dog-day heat wave has sent power demands to new records, the Austin American-Statesman reported. With much of the state enduring an excessive heat warning, power demand peaked at 85,559 megawatts last week, breaking a record set last August.

While searing outside temperatures certainly boost demand, other factors are in play as well — the state’s growing population and increased expansion by large-scale industrial users such as data centers and cryptocurrency miners.

Texas is the only state that operates its own power grid. In June, the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas predicted the grid would face challenges this month and increased likelihood for emergency alerts during peak times of the day.

“Reserve shortage risks are the highest during the evening hours... when daily loads are typically near their highest levels and solar production is ramping down,” the report from June says. While power throughout the state remained largely untouched, around 8,500 customers in Harris County last week experienced outages believed to be related to demand.

CENTERPOINT TO PUSH BERYL DAMAGE COSTS TO RATEPAYERS. CenterPoint plans to pass costs for electricity infrastructure damages caused by Hurricane Beryl on to its customers. It plans to pass bonds that will ultimately be paid through rate increases, the Texas Standard reported. The company testified last week before the Public Utility Commission.



In its latest quarterly report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the company estimated recovery costs related to Beryl and an earlier May windstorm — a derecho — will approach \$2 billion for both events. As is customary, ratepayers will be on the hook.

“In my almost 35 years of experience in this utility business, the customers end up paying. They always end up paying,” said energy consultant Karl Rábago, who served on the PUC under Governors Ann Richards and George W. Bush.

“That’s because electricity is essential for modern life, and you can’t just go around bankrupting or allowing utilities to go bankrupt by forcing shareholders to bear what some people might say is the fair consequences of mismanagement.”

TRANSGENDER TEXANS CAN’T CHANGE SEX ON DL. Texans will no longer be allowed to change the gender on their driver’s license even if they have obtained a court order, the Houston Chronicle reported. In a statement, the Texas Department of Public Safety said that as of Aug. 20, **See CAPITAL, page 8**

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.

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 - 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: DAY 8, ARIZONA, PAGE 9

SPOTLIGHT ON ROUTE 66 RAMBLE: DAY 8, ARIZONA

TEXAS SPUR PHOTOS

SCOTT YELLOWHORSE continues his family tradition of welcoming tourists along Route 66/I-40 at the New Mexico-Arizona state line.



SUCH A FINE SIGHT TO SEE in Winslow, Arizona, where nods to the Eagles tune "Take it Easy"—which mention the town—have been a boon to tourism.



RABBITS OF DIFFERENT SORTS have multiplied at the Jackrabbit Route 66 gift shop in Sot. Joseph, Arizona. A scary-looking giant rabbit—saddled up for photo ops—was replaced some years ago with a happier one, and was joined by a VW Rabbit on the site.



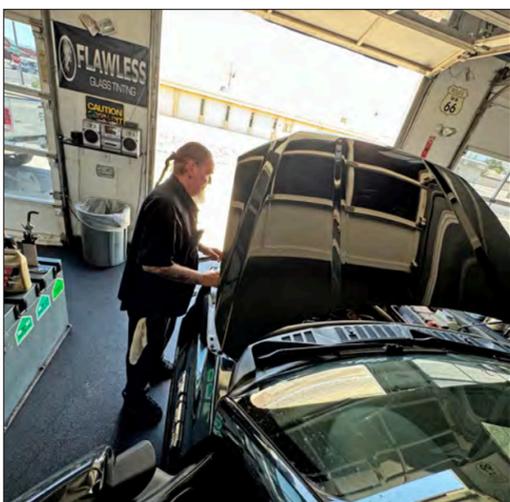
DON'T FORGET WINONA At the small Route 66 town east of Flagstaff, Arizona, this pooch looks ready to motor west.



ABANDONED BRIDGES and old pavement from the heyday of Route 66 await the driver who keeps a careful eye out, and keeps a good map handy.



COWS GRAZE in the shoulder between Old 66 (on the right) and Interstate 40 to the left on the way to the Grand Canyon gateway of Flagstaff.



BLACK BEAUTY, our F-150, gets a much-needed wash, oil change, and tire service at a friendly shop in Kingman, Arizona.



ROAD TO OATMAN The hamlet of Oatman, Arizona, lies over the winding two-lane of Route 66 between Kingman, Arizona, and Needles, California.

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BURROS RULE THE ROAD in this high-elevation stretch of the Mother Road—and drivers must exercise caution!

