

Capitol Network News

Today's news from Oklahoma's best government information resource

Daily Edition, Tuesday, November 12, 1996

NEW PRIVATE PRISON NOT ENOUGH FOR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The opening of a new private prison in Sayre in 1998 likely won't be enough to offset the continued influx of inmates into the state prison system, according to a spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

Corrections Corporation of America, which is based in Nashville, announced last week that it has agreed to build a 960-bed, medium security prison in Sayre to house adult male inmates. The \$29 million facility, which is expected to be completed by February 1998, will be financed with tax-exempt bonds issued by the Sayre Industrial Authority, which has contracted with the company for the design, construction and operation of the facility.

"I think our needs will continue to outpace what is planned to be built in Oklahoma over the next year," said Jerry Massie, spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

The Board of Corrections gave its approval in September to the department's largest budget request ever — \$350.5 million for operations and \$326.9 million for capital outlay, including the construction of additional prison space — and last month approved a \$25.3 million supplemental appropriations request, some \$6 million more than corrections officials had first indicated they would seek in August.

The Corrections Corporation announcement comes on the heels of two announcements concerning the construction of private women's facilities in the state, one to be located near Atoka and the other to be located near El Reno.

The plans, Massie said, are consistent with the goals of public policy makers to keep state inmates in Oklahoma. Currently, more than 1,500 state inmates are held in private facilities in Texas. Additional inmates are held at two in-state facilities, both operated by Corrections Corporation of America.

Massie noted that simply because a company plans to build a private prison does not automatically guarantee that they will do business with the state.

"Obviously, we'll have to look at each one once it is completed and ready to become operational," he explained. "We have set standards with which they must comply before we can do business with them."

FEE HIKE APPROVED AT OSU

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) At a special meeting last Saturday, the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges approved a proposal for a \$2 per credit hour fee for the renovation of Oklahoma State University's Gallagher/Iba Arena, a sports facility on the university campus in Stillwater.

Total projected cost of the enlargement of the basketball arena is \$45 million, which will bring the seating from 8,000 to 12-14,000, Natalea Watkins, spokesperson for OSU President James Halligan's office, said Tuesday. The student fee will bring in \$15 million over the next 20 years Watkins said. The university hopes to tap the City of Stillwater for half of the remaining funds needed and private donors for the rest, she added.

The fee, which would charge students enrolled in six or more hours \$2 per credit hour, was supported by all members of the regents. The student government association also approved the measure Nov. 6 with a vote of 30-3 by student representatives. Promises were made to the students when they were notified of the pending proposal, Watkins

said. "If they pay one-third of the cost, they will have one-third of the seats surrounding the floor," she said.

University officials hope to have the enlarged facility ready for the 1999 basketball season, Watkins said, but for every semester students pay the \$2 fee before the facility is ready, they will receive vouchers to buy tickets to the basketball games at student rates for the same length of time, even after they graduate.

If approved by the State Regents for Higher Education, the fee will first appear on student charges in the fall semester 1997. Students enrolled in five or fewer credit hours will not pay the fee. Students taking more than 18 hours will only be charged up to 18 credit hours for the fee.

With the addition of the new fee, in 1997 freshman and sophomore students will begin paying a base of \$52 per credit hour in tuition, plus a student activity fee of \$5.11 per credit hour; plus a facility fee of \$4.30 per credit hour; plus a library fee of \$2.25 per credit hour; plus an association fee of 85 cents per credit hour; plus a technology fee of \$5.00 per credit hour, for a total of \$69.51 in tuition and fees per credit hour.

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BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MUST CONDUCT HEARINGS ON LAND

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Board of Agriculture must conduct hearings for protesting landowners who present factual allegations showing that proposed feed yard operations may be a direct impact on their property, according to an attorney general's opinion released Friday.

The opinion, requested by Sen. Ben. Brown, D-Oklahoma City, says, in part, "When written comments received by landowners within the vicinity of the proposed feed yard operation present specific factual allegations showing that the proposed feed yard operation may have a direct, substantial and immediate affect upon their property or legal interest, the Board of Agriculture must hold an individual proceeding for the protesting landowner."

The opinion also says that landowners living within one-half mile of a proposed feed lot operation must receive notice when an application for a feedlot permit is received. The landowner also has the right to supply written comments to the board, protesting the permitting of the operation.

"A number of Oklahomans have raised serious concerns about the impact of hog farms and feedlot operations on their property and water sources," said Attorney General Drew Edmondson. "The law clearly states that feed yards must meet specific requirements to avoid pollution of ground and surface water and other types of pollution. As these lots are permitted for operation, there must be a careful review by the Board

of Agriculture as to the impact on property owners and other residents in the vicinity."

Edmondson urged the board to conduct the mandated hearings whenever landowners followed the prescribed procedure: Responding to the notice in writing and supplying the board with a factual representation that the location of the feed yard will cause a direct harm to them and their property.

The opinion, No. 96-76, was prepared by senior assistant attorney general Neal Leader.

LAND COMMISSION HOLDS ROUTINE MEETING

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Commissioners of the Land held a routine meeting Tuesday, approving the appraisal of nine tracts of land for sale and authorizing the commission's general counsel to execute certificate's of purchase in the absence of its secretary.

Leasees on nine tracts of land totaling more than 600 acres had asked that their land be appraised for possible sale. Those appraisals were approved by the commission without discussion. Also approved was the appraisal for a separate tract of land which will now be subject to sale.

The commission also gave its approval to a request from the commission's secretary, Rob Johnson, to allow its general counsel to execute certificates of purchase in the absence of the secretary. The move, the commission was told, would assist its office in issuing such certificates when the secretary is not available. Certificates of purchase are similar to contracts for sale, and it is not until the purchase price of a piece of property is paid in full that a buyer receives a patent or deed to the land.

Following a brief executive session, the commission directed its staff to proceed with participation in a settle conference in the Commissioners of the Land Office v. Triton Oil Company lawsuit (CJ-95-170), currently pending in Beckham County. Specific information concerning the direction given the staff was not discussed under terms of the executive session provision of the Open Meeting Act.

"When the mind is thinking, it is talking to itself."

Plato

OKLAHOMA CONSIDERS OPEN STUDIO PROJECT

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma Arts Council representatives are working with the National Endowment for the Arts to put 10 local artists and local cultural organizations on the Internet through a project called Open Studio, said Nancy Huff, Arts Council public information director.

"We will know more when we return from the state arts conference in Memphis, Nov. 21-24," Huff said.

The representatives will discuss the state's eligibility to participate in the project at the conference in Memphis.

"Open Studio is a groundbreaking project that will increase cultural and arts resources on the information superhighway and make the Internet a reality for people everywhere," NEA Chairman Jane Alexander said.

The NEA is working with the Benton Foundation on the nation's first initiative to provide community access to the arts on the Internet at sites in all 50 states as well as propel the nonprofit arts online by helping them to become effective information providers on the World Wide Web.

This \$1 million initiative, called Open Studio — The Arts Online, is a collaboration between the NEA and the Benton Foundation to help nonprofit arts organizations and artists go online, increase the arts and cultural presence on the Internet, expand the online arts audience, and provide public Internet access at arts and community institutions. Open Studio is funded through an NEA Leadership Initiative award of \$500,000, which the Benton Foundation is committed to matching as part of a cooperative agreement.

"The National Endowment for the Arts was created to make the arts accessible to all people of all backgrounds in every district of the nation," Alexander said.

"This project is about ensuring a public culture," said Larry Kirkman, executive director of the Benton Foundation. "We must work to protect noncommercial public space in the digital age. Artists and arts institutions, schools, libraries, as well as other independent voices must be able to make their non-commercial imprint on American cultural life and values."

The two components of Open Studio include:

1) Free community access to the Internet.

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MILLENNIUM 2000 PROBLEM TO COST STATE MILLIONS

From House Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The cost to the State of Oklahoma to modify software and replace hardware in the state's computers in anticipation of the "Millennium 2000" phenomenon could reach \$75 million, Rep. Fred Perry, a 16-year veteran of the computer industry, said Friday.

"In the year 2000, date-dependent computer systems may cease operating correctly because those systems were not designed to consider the century change," the Tulsa Republican said.

"It is anticipated there will be disruptions and a slowdown of services after Dec. 31, 1999, if Oklahoma governmental agencies and computer information service personnel do not plan adequately and take action before the millennium."

The dilemma could affect pension benefits, bond and interest payments, security systems, defense systems and even elevators, Perry warned.

Initial estimates from most of 125 state government agencies are that it will cost \$41 million to upgrade equipment to accommo-

date the date change, Perry said after meeting with Bill Shafer, data processing manager for the Office of State Finance.

According to Perry, Shafer said the Department of Human Services had the highest computer conversion cost estimate at about \$20 million. "However, it is our hope that all of these figures come down as software companies develop new programs to automate the process," he said.

Preliminary cost estimates "don't include any of the educational institutions in the state, which have not yet compiled information to meet the requirements of House Concurrent Resolution 1108," Perry added.

In HCR 1108, the Legislature directed all state agencies and encouraged all schools, "to begin planning and budgeting for the conversion of legacy systems, programs, databases and security systems, and to begin the process of preparing all state computer systems for the millennium."

The resolution, authored by Perry, directed the Office of State Finance to summarize estimates and plans of the various agencies.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Mary Ann Maletz said the Regents' office distributed survey forms to state universities, colleges and other offices in order to complete estimates and plans for their institutions.

The initial cost projection for the State of Oklahoma "shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone, since Texas estimated the effort there will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and fortune 500 companies such as American Airlines and Federal Express have estimated \$400 to \$500 million," Perry said.

"There are many lines of computer code to deal with, and some old hardware will need to be replaced. And, frankly, as long as they're at it, some state agencies will be better off to replace old hardware with client-server systems and new software," Perry added.

"This issue certainly is one that needs to be planned and budgeted for, to ensure state government functions properly in the future," said Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, vice chairman of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee.

The Office of State Finance is scheduled to deliver a formal report on the costs of Millennium 2000 on Nov. 19, to the House Science and Technology Committee, of which Perry is vice chairman.

"Our minds are lazier than our bodies."

La Rochefoucauld

Open Studio, continued from page 2

More than 100 public access points to the Internet will be set up in arts organizations and culturally-oriented community centers in every state. Through this initiative, members of the public who are interested in accessing the Internet can receive personal assistance helping them learn how to browse the Web and access its cultural resources. Access sites will receive a matching award of \$2,000 to \$4,000.

2) Helping artists & arts organizations become effective information providers on the Web. Ten institutions with existing telecommunications resources, such as libraries, universities, and community telecommunications centers, will each receive up to \$35,000 to serve as mentors to 10 local cultural organizations and 10 local artists, teaching them how to become effective information providers on the World Wide Web.

The trainees will then mentor another organization or artist within a year of completing their own training. By the autumn of 1997, this program will generate an Internet presence for 200 arts organizations and artists with 200 more in training.

Fourteen pilot sites were launched October 22. Kansas and Texas are participating as pilot sites, along with California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado and Illinois. Remaining sites will be selected through a competitive process, with awards announced in February 1997.

Information about applying for site awards may be obtained by sending email to mentorrfp@benton.org (for mentor awards) or accessrfp@benton.org (for access awards) or by visiting the Open Studio Web site. The Open Studio Web site also serves as a public clearinghouse for project infor-

mation, including a project description and status reports.

A national advisory group will guide Open Studio. The Benton Foundation has recently hired Anne Green as the project coordinator for Open Studio. Green, who has a law degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was most recently the coordinator of People For the American Way's Artsave Project, a nationwide research and public education project in the visual and performing arts.

Open Studio is an integral part of an overall effort by the NEA to extend its public outreach and serve the arts and the public more effectively through the Internet. In April, the Arts Endowment launched its own Web site. The site includes a monthly magazine, a guide to the Arts Endowment, and an art resource center.

The NEA, which has a \$99.5 million budget this year, is the federal grantmaking agency created by Congress in 1965 to foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States and to broaden public access to the arts. NEA Leadership Initiatives were created in fiscal year 1996 to sponsor specific initiatives for projects of national significance and impact, or those that serve as models in one field or discipline.

The Benton Foundation, dedicated to protecting the public interest in the digital age, has long been a proponent for providing noncommercial public space in the new communications environment. The foundation's work ranges from published work on connecting schools and public opinion research on libraries to national policy summits on communications policy and practices in the public interest and the creation of a communications hub to link children's advocates.

OKLAHOMA GENERAL REVENUES UP, AHEAD OF FORECAST

From Office of State Finance

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) General Revenue collections for Oklahoma, including the four major tax sources, topped last year's figures, and last year's projection, for the first one-third of this fiscal year, Director of State Finance Tom Daxon said Tuesday. One key indicator, the sales tax, lagged behind the monthly estimate for October.

Collections for general revenue totaled \$288.8 million for October and \$1.197 billion for the first four months of the fiscal year ending October 31.

The October figure was up \$14.4 million, or 5.2 percent above a year ago, and exceeded the estimate by \$13.8 million, or five percent. The year-to-date total was up \$82.2 million, or 7.4 percent from the prior year and was \$55.5 million, or 4.9 percent above the estimate.

Estimates are based on historical collection patterns for the month and year to date as applied to the State Board of Equalization's certified estimate for the 1997 fiscal year.

More than two-thirds of the revenue above the estimate was in income and gross production taxes. Income tax collections for the four-month period topped last year's by 6.9 percent, even topping the estimate by 4.1 percent. Gross production tax receipts, re-

flecting higher oil and gas prices, were up 30 percent from last year and 40.6 percent above the estimate.

Sales taxes, the second largest source of general revenue, were up 4.8 percent from a year ago and two percent above the estimate in the cumulative total for the first four months, even though they trailed the estimate by less than one percent in October. Motor vehicle tax receipts were up 8.5 percent for the four months and were 6.6 percent above the estimate.

The four major taxes combined produced \$239.2 million in October, 5.3 percent or \$11.9 million above the prior year, and \$8.9 million or 3.9 percent above the estimate. Year-to-date receipts from the four major taxes totaled \$1.009 billion, a whopping \$69.4 million (7.4 percent) above the prior year and \$49.6 million or 5.2 percent above the estimate.

The total October General Revenue receipts of \$288.8 million will be supplemented with half a million dollars from general revenue receipts from prior months to meet November allocations of \$289.3 million to state agencies. This will leave a cash-flow balance of \$202.4 million, including \$62.6 million from current year collections, plus \$139.8 million remaining in the general revenue cash flow reserve fund.

105TH CONGRESS GREETSS NEW MEMBERS

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) When Congress convenes, the new House members — the oldest 65, the youngest 26 — will all scramble for seats on the prestigious committees — Ways and Means, Commerce or Appropriations.

Only freshman Rep.-elect Wes Watkins, R-Okla., a veteran of Congress who served 14 years in the House as a Democrat in the 1970s and 1980s, has an assurance from the GOP leadership that he will have a Ways and Means assignment.

Watkins is one of five old-new members. Another, Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., has been guaranteed the chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee — which lured him out of retirement.

Few freshmen will get a seat on the Commerce committee: there are eight openings, four Republican and four Democratic, and more senior members eager to fill them.

This freshman representative class is smaller and more balanced along party lines than the class of 1994, which was full of anti-politicians, including 35 men and women with no political background whatsoever. The ranks of their successors are filled with state and local public servants. Forty-four incoming House members have served in state or local positions, a few appointed, most elected.

There are seven ex-mayors, 25 practicing lawyers or at least graduates of law school, including the youngest, Rep. Harold Ford Jr., D-Tenn., son of retiring Rep. Harold Ford Sr., D-Tenn. The younger Ford is 26 and graduated from law school in May.

The next occupation mentioned most is businessperson, including both Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., who at 25 had a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and Mike Pappas, R-NJ, who left college to work in his family's insurance business.

Six freshmen representatives have been House or Senate aides and five worked in presidential administrations: one for President Bush, and two each for Presidents Reagan and Clinton.

Other professions are: nine academics, three physicians, a nurse, two psychologists, two farmers, a TV newscaster, a border patrol agent, a pilot, a social worker, a lobbyist, and a landscape architect.

The new class of representatives has nine women, a decline from 1994's freshmen

HUNTER, ANGLER NUMBERS UP IN OKLAHOMA, CONSTANT IN U.S.

From Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The number of hunters and anglers remained relatively constant during 1995 even as expenditures for licenses, tags, and other permits continued to rise, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week.

In Oklahoma, the price of a deer tag for fiscal 1996 went from \$14.75 to \$16.75, except for the new class of tag for youth under 18, who still pay the \$14.75 fee.

Oklahoma hunters bought 64,884 resident annual hunting licenses in fiscal 1996, up from 60,923 for fiscal 1995. Fishermen bought 303,904 fishing licenses last fiscal year, up from 257,593 the previous year. Waterfowl hunters bought 11,551 stamps in fiscal 1996, up from 10,814 in fiscal 1995. The sale of tags was down last year, however, from 128,926 in fiscal 1995 to 120,100 in fiscal 1996. Deer gun tags accounted for 64,581 sales, and the new youth deer tag option was purchased by 7,699 people.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-

ported 15.2 million hunters bought licenses last year, a slight decrease from 15.3 million in 1994. Hunters bought 32.1 million licenses, tags, permits, and stamps compared to 31.6 million in 1994 — spending \$532.6 million compared with \$525.8 million in 1994.

Meanwhile, the number of anglers rose slightly to 30.3 million last year from 30.2 million in 1994. Anglers bought 37.8 million licenses, tags, permits and stamps, about the same as in 1994, but spent considerably more to do so, \$448.6 million compared with \$424.7 million in 1994.

Revenues raised through license sales support state wildlife agencies, their conservation projects, and their hunting and fishing safety and education programs.

"Hunters and anglers continue to pour millions of dollars directly into wildlife conservation, benefiting all Americans," said John Rogers, the Service's acting director. "It is important for the future of conserva-

See *Hunter Numbers*, page 5

NATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

From U.S. Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) Tennessee became the 28th state to receive 3rd-year funding under Goals 2000. During the second year, 115 grants supporting professional development for teachers and local education reform went to schools working with community and parent organizations, other schools, colleges and universities, and business and industry.

For example, the Elizabethton City Schools is using 2nd-year funding to establish an on-line Writing Lab for the state. The lab will maintain an Internet homepage offering sample papers from the Tennessee Comprehensive Writing Assessment, information on instruction and assessment of writing, ideas for family writing activities, and community updates about writing assess-

ment. Another project, the Coalition for Hands-On Science Education, offers hands-on science using outdoor settings at Farrer School and Tim's Ford State Park.

School To Work

Last month, Labor Secretary Reich and Education Secretary Riley announced Mentor/Peer grants for five exemplary school-to-work (STW) partnerships, to share their successful methods with other STW partnerships around the country.

- Lane Community College (Eugene, OR) will help educators learn to use "best practices" through workshops, a "how to" manual, and technical assistance.

- The Napa County Office of Education (Napa, CA) will offer workshops in each of 15 states where community teams will develop plans for action.

- Rochester City School District (Rochester, NY) will provide teleconferences,

workshops and site visits.

- Southern Alleghenies Tech Prep Consortium and Great Johnstown Career and Technology Center STW Partnership will share its manual for training school-based mentors, work-based mentors and students involved in job shadowing or other workplace experiences.

- Green River Community College (Auburn, WA) will organize teams of teachers to interview employers about future skills needed, sponsoring work-based learning, re-training needs and employee job assignments.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Last month, Secretary Riley announced grants to 28 two-year projects to: research efforts to prevent youth from using drugs; remove firearms from schools; prevent truancy and address the needs of youth out of the education mainstream; and prevent vio-

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Hunter Numbers, cont. from page 4

tion that we continue to provide opportunities for these time-honored sports."

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. The figures are part of a formula to determine the amount of funding each state receives through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service. Under these programs, sportsmen and women pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment such as firearms, ammunition, and tackle. The money is, in turn, distributed to the states in the form of grants to conserve wildlife; teach hunter safety; and provide fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities.

The number of hunting license holders has declined in the past 13 years from a record high of 16.7 million in 1982. Meanwhile, the number of fishing license holders has been about the same for the past decade.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats. The Service manages 511 national wildlife refuges encompassing 92 million acres, as well as 72 national fish hatcheries.

The agency also enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

105th Congress, continued from page 4

class, which had 12 women. The number of African-American freshmen increased from three to four, all Democrats, and there are two new Hispanic Members.

Talk about diversity. In age groups alone they are fairly representative of the population. Twenty-eight of the freshmen are in their 50s; Ford Jr. is the only new member in his twenties; 18 are in their 30s; 22 in their 40s, and, four freshmen are in their 60s, making the average age 46.

Senate freshmen average 48 years old, and the class is 13 percent (or two) female, similar to the House.

What did they do before they were elected? Most new Senators are currently House members — eight Senators came from the lower chamber, making that the most popular profession of the group.

Next most common profession is lawyer (seven). Then comes businessman (four), executive branch official (four), state official (four), academic (two), and veterinarian (one).

Finally, a statistical anomaly sets off the freshmen of the 105th Congress. Six new members are parents of twins. That means 6.8 percent of freshman representatives and senators are parents of twins. In the population at large, only about 2.6 percent of births are multiple births.

CLASS OF 1996 AT A GLANCE

Number of House freshmen: 73
 Number of Senate freshmen: 15
 Age of youngest new member: 26, Harold Ford Jr. (D-Tenn.)
 Age of oldest new member: 65, Bob Smith (R-Ore)
 Average age, House freshmen: 46
 Average age, Senate freshmen: 48
 Number of new House members who are women: 9
 Number of new Senate members who are women: 2
 Number of new members who've held previous political office: 44
 Number of ex-members returning to the House: 5
 Number of new members who are lawyers: 25
 Number of new members who are former Congressional staffers: 6
 Most popular profession of incoming Senate class: House member
 Most popular committee preference of incoming House freshmen: Commerce
 Number of new members who are parents of twins: 6

INPUT RECEIVED ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

From U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

■(WASHINGTON) Working with landowners to improve fisheries habitat and access, compiling comprehensive data on the economic benefits of fishing, and increasing public awareness were major topics of discussion when more than 75 representatives of state natural resource agencies, conservation groups, Native American Tribes, and the fishing and boating industries met in Phoenix, Arizona, October 22, 1996.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies are working to better define their role in enhancing recreational fishery resources, partly in response to key policies such as a Presidential Executive Order on Recreational Fisheries issued in 1995. The Phoenix meeting focused on other stakeholders' roles and how to better coordinate recreational fisheries management.

"The group generated a lot of food for thought by identifying key fisheries issues around which America's angling interests can join hands and work together," said Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Rogers. "I am encouraged by the strong consensus on conserving fish habitats that emerged during the meeting and look for-

ward to great progress in rebuilding fisheries across America."

The National Fisheries Stakeholders Meeting was sponsored by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the American Sportfishing Association. The Council serves as a Federal advisory panel on fishing and boating issues to the Secretary of the Interior through the Service director. The American Sportfishing Association is a non-profit trade association representing the sportfishing industry.

The meeting in Phoenix focused on four areas of fisheries management: habitat conservation, development and maintenance of access facilities, public education, and partnerships.

The categories correspond with those outlined in the Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan developed earlier this year by Federal agencies. The plan outlines Federal agencies' role in improving recreational fishery resources and fishing opportunities.

For habitat conservation, the group's top recommendations were to develop partnerships with private landowners to protect aquatic habitats, expand matching fund pro-

grams for habitat projects, and develop major watershed plans.

Other topics were creating a systematic monitoring system for habitat health, increasing public awareness of fisheries habitat issues, ensuring Federal and state management goals are complementary, and creating financial incentives and technical assistance for watershed councils.

For fishing access, the group's top recommendations were to develop incentives for private landowners to provide access to fishing, dedicate a state marine fuel tax to finance access, and provide adequate access to urban fisheries.

The group also discussed ranking regional access needs, increased cooperation between public agencies and the private sector to provide more access, enhancing access to major river fisheries, increasing partnerships with local agencies to offset costs of new access, and requiring Federal projects to provide access.

For public education, the group's top recommendations were to establish more urban fishery enhancement programs; develop ways to measure the success of education and outreach programs; and increase partnerships among conservation organizations, sportfishing groups, and outdoor clubs.

The group also supported mentor programs for young anglers, increasing angler ethics education, creating more user-friendly programs for schools and civic organizations, establishing fisheries education centers in urban areas, and establishing fishing tackle loaner programs.

For partnerships, the group's top recommendations included more industry promotion of the economic importance of fishing and continuing fisheries stakeholder meetings on a regular basis.

The group also recommended increased promotion of fishing benefits, adopting an "ecosystem approach" to fisheries management wherever possible, making common resources available through the Internet, and more cooperative work to control non-native species and fish diseases.

Education, continued from page 5

lent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior. Baltimore Public Schools, in collaboration with Cornell University Medical Center, will use its grant to implement a drug abuse prevention program for two inner-city middle schools.

Roanoke City, VA schools will develop and implement a truancy prevention program to provide a comprehensive range of educational and support services to reduce violence, drug use and juvenile crime in 11 elementary schools and five middle schools.

Field-Initiated Research Grants

Grants to 47 research projects were announced recently under the 1996 program. Grant recipients will generate topics and methods. National Institute Grantees and projects include:

- Student Achievement, Curriculum and Assessment awarded 13 grants for projects on school violence prevention, educational technology, school organization and instruction in core content areas.

- Education of At-Risk Students awarded 15 grants in the areas of improved learning for Native American Students, for children with limited English proficiency and in schools where most students live in poverty.

- Early Childhood Development and Education awarded seven grants for studies of young children with disabilities, young children growing up in violent neighborhoods, and parenting and readiness of preschool children, among others.

- Educational Governance, Finance, Policymaking and Management awarded six grants for studies of professional development in low-achieving schools, charter schools and professional development schools, school choice policies and using math specialists in elementary schools.

- Post-secondary Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning awarded six grants for studies that include: public libraries in low income areas, effective adult learning in museums, basic skill instruction through community networks and Internet to adults.

Adult Learning

Recently, grants were announced to continue support for 45 workplace literacy projects in 27 states, designed to help workers retool skills and keep pace with changes in the workplace. The grants support education and training in literacy, computation, problem solving, English as a second language and other skills.

"Discipline does not mean suppression and control, nor is it adjustment to a pattern or ideology. It means a mind that sees 'what is' and learns from 'what was.'"

Jiddu Krishnamurti

FAA TESTING NEW INFRARED SENSOR FOR AIRPORT USE

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is testing a new infrared sensor that will enhance safety and security at our nation's airports by helping airport personnel see better in darkness, smoke and bad weather.

The prototype sensors, which the FAA is evaluating at Washington Dulles International Airport and Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, will let airport security teams detect human or animal intruders in total darkness and in light to medium fog. Firefighters can use them to see through smoke to produce the fastest, safest response in airport fire situations. Infrared sensors also enhance the overall situation awareness of airport personnel in degraded weather conditions.

Texas Instruments, headquartered in Dallas, markets the low-cost infrared cameras under the NightSight name and is providing the units for the tests.

"Development of this sensor is an example of government-industry cooperation at its best," said George Donohue, FAA associate administrator for research and acquisitions. "For a minimal investment in this project, the FAA will reap great rewards. As part of the development team, the FAA provided exper-

tise, advice and test facilities, and in return gains a product with immediate application."

Until now, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been the primary user of infrared sensors. While the technology let the U.S. military "own the night" and contributed to the country's victory in Operation Desert Storm, a high cost-per-unit previously prohibited widespread commercial use.

But a new program, supported by the FAA, has developed low-cost, easily manufactured infrared sensors that use an innovative combination of barium, strontium and titanate.

All objects emit energy at levels determined by their temperature. The new device focuses infrared energy — invisible to the human eye — on an electronic sensor with thousands of microscopic detectors. The device measures temperature differences between objects in the scene and electronically creates a thermal image for display using shades of gray. This permits users to separate people and other warm objects from a background in daylight or the darkest night.

This new technology is the result of a cooperative Technology Reinvestment Project created by the Night Vision Consortium. The group's industry members are Texas Instruments; Marlow Industries, Dal-

las; and Delco Electronics, Kokomo, Ind. It also includes a government technical advisory board composed of representatives from the FAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, the Secret Service, the U.S. Army's Night Vision Electronic Sensors Directorate and the Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration.

ENHANCED GROUND PROXIMITY WARNING SYSTEM USE BY AMERICAN AIRLINES APPROVED

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved use of AlliedSignal's enhanced ground proximity warning system (EGPWS) on all American Airlines Boeing 757 aircraft. The FAA Supplemental Type Certificate, issued to AlliedSignal, follows 24 months of engineering analyses, simulator evaluations and actual flight tests.

The new EGPWS provides a detailed map of the terrain in the vicinity of the aircraft. Using an existing navigation system, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), the aircraft's position is correlated with a database-driven terrain map which provides the pilot with real time awareness of the aircraft's position. The moving map, which is displayed on a cockpit screen, will aid the pilot in maintaining proper altitude and terrain clearance.

"The enhanced ground proximity warning system is the latest tool for avoiding controlled flight into terrain, typically mountains," said FAA Administrator David R. Hinson. "The approval granted to American Airlines demonstrates this agency's commitment to use new technology to enhance aviation safety."

A four day demonstration flight to South America, crossing over Costa Rica, Peru and other Latin American countries tested the system. The purpose of the test flight was to validate the accuracy of the new system in a real-time environment. Following satisfactory performance during the test flight, American Airlines plans to install the system in its entire Boeing 757 fleet. FAA approval for EGPWS technical evaluation was granted to United Airlines in October.

NEW AIRPORT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is deploying new technology that helps airport rescue and firefighting crews safely, quickly and effectively respond to emergency situations at night and in adverse weather conditions. The Driver's Enhanced Vision System (DEVS), developed by the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center, Atlantic City, NJ, combines satellite navigation, digital data link and infrared technologies with easy-to-use software and onboard displays. The system lets emergency crews see through fog, rain, sleet and snow, as well as through smoke and flames.

Using DEVS, rescue teams immediately get critical information such as the condition of the aircraft, location of passengers and crew, presence and location of spilled or burning fuel and the position of other emergency personnel at the scene.

Boston Logan International Airport is the pilot site for a full DEVS installation. Logan's system, operational since September, includes five mobile rescue vehicles, two in-water res-

cue boats, two airport management vehicles and one airport security vehicle. A command center contains vehicle tracking and communications installations in the airport tower emergency management center.

"Post-crash rescue and fire fighting response during periods of adverse weather is difficult at best. DEVS gives airport emergency teams a vastly improved rescue response capability in darkness, fog and precipitation," said George Donohue, FAA associate administrator of research and acquisitions.

The new system uses computer displays driven by a differential Global Positioning System (GPS), a Geographic Information System and a forward-looking infrared sensor mounted in the vehicle for locating and navigating to emergency sites. A central data and command radio link lets vehicles receive and transmit vital messages.

The FAA can provide up to 90 percent of the purchase cost of new rescue vehicles equipped with DEVS through Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants.

"Every time history repeats itself, the price goes up."

Old saying

REPORT ON OPERATING RESULTS OF TEN LARGEST BUS COMPANIES ISSUED

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■ (WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) recently issued a report comparing the revenues, earnings, and ridership of ten of the nation's largest intercity and charter bus companies for the quarter ending March 31, 1996, with the same period for 1995.

The report is based primarily upon quarterly reports submitted by the carriers to the Bureau. These ten companies account for between 80 and 90 percent of the total intercity and charter revenues generated by Class I bus companies.

Congress recently transferred to DOT responsibility for collecting financial and operational data from motor carriers of passengers and motor carriers of property, a function previously performed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Because of the transition, the reports for the last three quarters were delayed.

Greyhound — the only transcontinental bus company — showed a substantial loss in earnings for the quarter ending March 31, 1996, accompanied by a rise in revenues and ridership. While the regional carriers had slight increases in revenues, net operating income, and ridership for the quarter, they experienced a decline in ordinary income compared with the same period in 1995.

The nine regional carriers, on a composite basis, experienced a very slight decline in their operating ratio between the three months ending March 31, 1996, and the same period for 1995, as revenues increased at a fractionally higher rate than expenses. For the same period, Greyhound reported a greater increase in its operating ratio. Because of Greyhound's size, compared with the nine regional carriers, its operating ratio increase resulted in a slight unfavorable increase for the ten carriers as a group.

To order a copy of any of the reports, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics by telephone on (202) 366-4383, Fax (202) 366-3383, or by writing to the Bureau at BTS/DOT, K-27, Room 4125, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

"The nail that sticks out is hammered down."

Japanese proverb

A PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL FARM CITY WEEK 1996

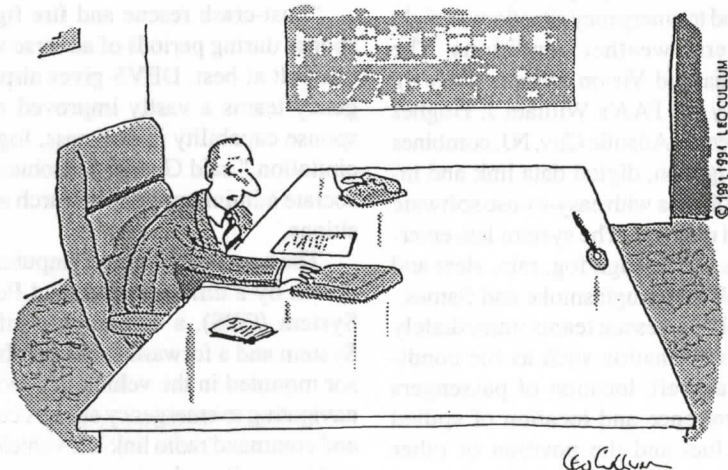
In 1840 Daniel Webster said, "when tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization." We pause each year at this time to express our gratitude to American farmers and the millions of Americans working in agriculture-related jobs, and we recognize the importance of agriculture and the essential role that farmers play in our national life. Intertwined with our national history, culture, and economy, American farms continuously sustain us and people around the world with rich produce and crops. Thanks to the professionalism and care of American farmers, we enjoy an abundance of quality and affordable food.

American agriculture is among our Nation's most vital industries, alone generating more than 15 percent of our gross domestic product. Bolstering our economy with a bounty of healthful foods, American agriculture supports more than 21 million jobs, and agriculture-related industries continue to expand, producing good, high-paying jobs and creating \$1 trillion for the American economy each year.

The success of American agriculture is a testament to the benefits of farm-city partnerships that stretch all the way from the farmer to the consumer, with thousands of participants in between — researchers, extension agents, scientists, agribusiness companies, shippers, inspectors, processors, manufacturers, marketers, and retailers, all helping to guarantee Americans a safe, abundant food supply. For more than 40 years, Americans have observed National Farm City Week in celebration of these partnerships.

During National Farm City Week, we celebrate Thanksgiving when Americans will gather around the dinner table to count our Nation's many blessings. Among them is America's agricultural richness and the collaboration between rural and urban communities that helps guarantee our rich quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 22 through November 28, 1996, as National Farm City Week. I call upon all Americans in rural and urban communities alike to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farmers and all the hardworking individuals who cooperate to produce an abundance of affordable, quality agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich our country.



"Andrea, would you please come in and hand me my pen?"

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Wednesday, November 13, 1996

- 9:15** **Joint Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**
123 Animal Science Building, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK
-
- 11:00** **Jail Task Force, Interim Study: SJR 34**
Wagoner County Jail, Courthouse Building, 307 E. Cherokee, 3rd Floor, Wagoner
-
- 1:00** **Oklahoma Advisory Task Force on Children's Issues**
State Capitol, Room 419-C
-
- 1:30** **Senate Committee on Small Business**
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns
OSU Extension Center, Conference Room, 316 E. Oxford, Enid, OK

Thursday, November 14, 1996

- 10:00** **Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Board of Directors**
Edmond, Activity Center, 28 East Main, Edmond, OK
-
- 10:00** **Interim Study 96H-3, Manufactured Homes**
Members of the House County & Municipal Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 412-B
-
- 1:30** **Oklahoma Tax Commission**
Room 501B, State Office Building, 440 S. Houston, Tulsa

Friday, November 15, 1996

- 10:00** **Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission**
Lincoln Plaza Office Center, Suite 270, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City
-
- 1:00** **Managed Care Task Force**
Conference Center, Conference Room C & D, Integris Baptist Medical Center,
3366 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City
-
- 2:30** **Dispute Resolution Advisory Board**
Denver Davison Building, 1915 N. Stiles, Suite 305 Conference Room, Oklahoma City

Monday, November 18, 1996

- 1:30** **Energy Administration Reform Task Force**
Created by SB 911
Auditorium, University Center at Tulsa/Rogers State College, Tulsa

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

9:00 **Police Pension & Retirement Board**
1001 NW 63rd Street, Suite 305, Oklahoma City

10:00 **Adult Day Care Task Force — DHS**
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City

Thursday, November 21, 1996

9:00 **Horse Racing Commission**
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City

Commission on Children & Youth
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City

9:30 **Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utility Task Force**
Created by SJR 37
State Capitol, Senate Chamber

Monday, November 25, 1996

10:00 **Rehabilitation Services Commission**
3535 NW 58th Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City

Tuesday, November 26, 1996

10:00 **Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City

Monday, December 2, 1996

10:00 **State Board of Equalization**
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room

11:00 **Oklahoma Transportation Commission**
200 NE 21 St., Commission Room, 1st Floor, Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

9:30 **Oklahoma Commission for Human Services**
Room 214, Sequoyah Office Bldg., Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

9:00 **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Thursday, December 12, 1996**1:00****Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Prep**

Dyer Room, Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City

Friday, December 13, 1996**1:00****Board of Corrections**

Lexington Correctional Center, Lexington, OK

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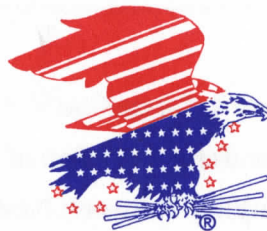
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*"Prosperity? According to Governor Keating turn right at the corner
and go down about fifteen blocks."*

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