



# Capitol Network News

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

Daily Edition, Monday, November 4, 1996

## ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES EDUCATION OPINION

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) State education officials won two and lost one on Monday when the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office issued its response to a request for a formal opinion concerning the expenditure of certain funds.

The opinion, prepared by Assistant Attorney General Neal Leader, follows a request from Superintendent of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett.

The state superintendent asked:

- Whether the State Board of Education could expend appropriated money for existing programs which were to have been amended by legislation that was vetoed;

- Whether the board could expend monies for programs which were named specifically in an approved piece of legislation but for which the legislation creating the program was vetoed; and

- Whether the board has the authority to extend the state's minimum salary schedule to include years of experience beyond those set out in law.

At the heart of the questions were SB800 and SB1100. SB800, which appropriated more than \$116.5 million to the State Board of Education was passed by the legislature

and signed by the governor. SB1100, however, was vetoed by Governor Frank Keating.

As a result of that action, funds appropriated in SB800 which would have gone to new programs created by SB1100 were withheld from the state board. Additionally, money allocated for career teachers' pay raises, the schedule of which was included in SB1100, was sent directly to districts for use as they saw fit, leaving career teachers without a guarantee of a pay increase.

Leader determined that the board could legally expend funds appropriated for a program which would have been amended by a separate piece of legislation which was vetoed, noting that despite the veto of a bill which would have altered the program, the program continues to exist.

On the issue of whether appropriated

funds could be spent on a program that was created by legislation that was vetoed, although the expenditure of the funds was approved, Leader determined that because the program does not exist — the governor's veto prevented that — the funds could not be expended.

"We thus conclude," Leader wrote in summarizing his answers to the two questions, "that where funds are appropriated for a program which exists under existing law, the funds appropriated may be spent on the program, even though anticipated amendments in the program failed because of the Governor's veto. On the other hand, where funds are appropriated for the implementation of a new program which never comes into existence, due to the Governor's veto,

*See Education Opinion, page 2*

## WILDLIFE COMMISSION DISCUSSES LITIGATION, PERSONNEL

By Gerry Cherry  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) At the regular monthly business meeting in Oklahoma City, Monday, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission honored longtime staffers, discussed legal issues, voted to provide a new home for the Durant Fish Hatchery manager and approved acquisition and exchange of real property in Deep Fork and Packsaddle Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

Eugene Wheeler, a fisheries technician with the Fisheries Division, received a 25-year pin from Director Greg Duffy. Wheeler works at the Medicine Fork Fishery.

Robert Fleenor, a warden with the law enforcement division in Creek County since 1982, was awarded a 20-year pin.

Pat Alt, of Shikar-Safari International, awarded the Officer of the Year Award to Harry Steele, Beckham County area game warden for 16 years. Steele, Alt said, averages 85 arrests per year, 30 special investigations, 7,500 certifications for hunter education students and 1,500 school programs. Steele received a silver dish, pin, plaque and a \$10,000 award to his family if he is killed

while executing his duties.

Shikar-Safari International is an organization limited to 200 members worldwide, devoted to conservation, hunting and education. Alt, a big game hunter, is one of the first two women elected to the Boone & Crockett Club and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association for 25 years. Shikar-Safari International funds conservation studies and provides anti-poaching equipment to conservation organizations all over the world.

The STEP (shotgun training education program) got a helping hand from the National Rifle Association Foundation of Oklahoma, with a \$1,983 donation to buy shotguns for youth in the program.

Director Duffy reported on a meeting in Texas last week between Texas and Oklahoma legislators. The Wildlife Conservation Department will ask Governor Keating's assistance in opposing the Red River Chloride Project. Currently, release of the draft supplement of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment on the project has been put on hold in Washington,

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Ross Adkins, public affairs spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said.

In 1957, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and authorized the U.S. Dept. of Health to find the source of chlorides running into the Red River. The Corps was authorized to find a solution to the pollution, after the source was determined to be an old inland sea Adkins said. Currently, a daily average of 3,600 tons of chloride goes into the Red River Adkins said. The Corps has already built a ring dike to contain the salt and let the water evaporate and a low-flow dam, used when the water level is low and the saltness increases proportionally. Other projects proposed are designed to remove 45 percent of the chlorides going into Lake Kemp and Lake Texhoma.

Lake Kemp is the major water source for Wichita Falls, Texas. Kemp does not meet EPA standards for municipal water use Adkins said, and Lake Texhoma meets municipal EPA standards only three percent of the time, a figure that would change to 94

percent acceptable if the project is completed.

Opponents to the project cite the EIS estimate of a nine percent average impact on the fish harvest at Texhoma, with a 14 percent impact in some areas of the lake. Cloudiness of the water will increase opponents say, if the chlorides are removed. Other concerns, Adkins said, are for the fish, wildlife and plants along the stretch of the Red River where chloride removal takes place.

"Of course," Adkins said, "the primary benefit right now is for Texas. By the year 2000, Texas is going to have a problem finding drinking water."

Directors received the financial statement for the first quarter of fiscal 1997, presented by Robert Taylor. Sales of fishing and hunting licenses totaled \$1,368,383 in the first quarter, compared to \$1,521,593 for the first fiscal quarter of 1995. Agricultural and oil lease income was almost double last years, from \$129,080 in Sept. 1995 to \$249,570 in Sept. 1996. Sales of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses were up \$100,000 over last

year, from \$137,800 to \$237,625, Taylor noted, in part due to seasonal buying.

Assistant Attorney General Jeanine Hale reported to directors on the status of Wildlife Department legal issues. There are approximately 85 items on the list, Hale said, but not all are active. Hale reminded directors that March 1997, is the last opportunity to adopt permanent rules, and rulemaking intent must be filed in the Oklahoma Register within the next few months.

When asked if any of the 85 cases posed any financial risk for the department, Hale mentioned the Offutt case in Sequoyah County. More than a year ago, Kelly Hunter of the Attorney General's office said, Billie Offutt filed a civil suit in district court in Sequoyah County against the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Offutt grows strawberries, boysenberries, peaches and apples. In her suit, Offutt alleges the Oklahoma hunting regulations prevent her from protecting her property from wildlife damage, and the effect of the hunting regulations is a "regulatory taking" of her property by the State of Oklahoma without compensation. She is requesting compensation for crop damage by wildlife. Hunter said there is no precedent in Oklahoma for a claim of this type. After several hearings, the case is still pending.

In other business, directors heard a report on the 35 houses owned by the Wildlife Conservation Department on wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries. Security of equipment on the WMAs and at fish hatcheries is an important reason to have someone living there directors agreed. "It makes a presence to constituents," John Groendyke, director, said, "and personnel are available to help when someone gets stuck or lost."

The houses, from 800 square feet to 2100 square feet, were built between the 1930s and the 1950s, and some need major repairs. The board voted to replace the 800 square foot house at the Durant State Fish Hatchery with budgeted funds for the job. The replacement house, 1,560 square feet, will be built by the Department of Corrections and sold to the Wildlife Department for \$30,000. For a total of \$45,000, Kim Erickson, department employee said, the house could be moved to its permanent site and hooked up with everything needed.

A request by Ken Ryel to solicit bids on a metal storage building to be erected southwest of the existing department facility at 1801 N. Lincoln was tabled for 30 days, so

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**Education Opinion, cont. from page 1**

the appropriated funds may not be spent on that proposed new program, which the Governor vetoed."

Keating's veto of SB1100 affected nearly \$6 million appropriated to the State Board of Education, including:

- \$4.3 million allocated to staff development;
- \$900,000 for teacher stipends;
- \$500,000 for arts and humanities institutions; and

- \$250,000 for Great Expectations grants.

On the issue of career teacher pay raises, the schedule for which was part of the vetoed SB1100, Leader determined that it is within the authority of the State Board of Education to "adopt a minimum salary schedule for teachers will 19 or more years of experience."

Specifically, Leader wrote, "As there is no legislation establishing a minimum salary schedule for teachers with 16 years or more experience, and as no law restricting the State Board of Education's power to adopt such a rule exists, we conclude that the Board possesses such power."

Some \$13 million was appropriated in SB800 for career teachers salary increases. Because that money has been distributed to school districts without the mandate of SB1100 that it be used for career teacher salary increases, some districts chose to use the funds in other ways.

When attending the annual meeting of the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators, some teachers informed Keating of that situation, asking the governor what they might do to rectify it. Keating urged the teachers to meet with their local superintendents and to inform them that it was the intent, although not the letter, of the law that the money be used for career teacher raises.

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A division of

GIT, Inc.

P.O. Box 61206

Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

Office (405) 528-2546

Fax (405) 521-9807

Net: gitinc@ionet.net

Web: <http://www.exoweb.com/git>

Darwin P. Maxey, Publisher

Mary Millen, Editor

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## QUESTIONS SURROUND IMPLEMENTATION OF COFFMAN REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) George Miller hardly hesitates when he's asked about the recommendations made by a special governor's task force appointed to look into the death of an eight-year-old Cleveland County boy.

"We would love to carry out each and every one," said Miller, executive director of the Department of Human Services.

Then, however, he pauses.

"I'm doubtful we'll get all these things," he said, adding that the political environment is such that many want to privatize services, keep government out of peoples' lives and cut taxes.

"There's not many of the task force's recommendations that you can implement without crossing some of those lines."

Governor Frank Keating appointed the special task force earlier this year to study the facts surrounding the death of eight-year-old Shane Coffman. The young boy's mother and her boyfriend face first-degree murder charges in the death. Keating's interest grew, in part, out of reports that the Department of Human Services had dealt with the family previously, going so far as to remove the boy from his mother's custody and then allow him to be returned to her.

"The task force started its work partly because of rumors of missing records, secret information and the idea that the case was mishandled," Miller said. "In my opinion, they found none of that, and for that reason, I feel it reflects well on the Department of Human Services."

One of the things the task force did find was what its members called "The Wall," a series of multiple reports to the department, law enforcement officers and others concerning the family and the well being of Shane and his siblings. That information, the task force concluded, was never completely researched by those investigating complaints involving the family, leaving each ensuing official to get only one part of the picture

and for the panel to call for improvements in the sharing of information.

Some of that, Miller notes, is already being done, because of a 1995 state mandate for the establishment and maintenance of a central registry of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect cases.

"We have the first certified system in the United States," Miller said, "that is being used as a model for other states across the country."

The system, Miller added, has only been on-line for a short time. "It's not totally perfect, and we're still making some enhancements to it," he said.

Asked whether the system might have helped Coffman by providing social workers, law enforcement officers and prosecutors access to his family's apparently long case history, Miller said, "Possibly, because it makes a lot of that kind of information available to prosecutors, the courts and social workers throughout the process."

There is little doubt, Miller said, that those responsible for investigating child abuse and neglect cases "need to know as much as possible about the family and any previous contact they have had with the department or law enforcement agencies."

Another key component of the task force's recommendations are the so-called multidisciplinary teams, a group of local professionals designed to coordinate child abuse investigations and to minimize the number of interviews necessary with a child victim.

The same 1995 bill that established the abuse registry system, HB1993, also requires that district attorneys, working in coordination with the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council, "in counties having 50 or more incidents of confirmed child sexual abuse or physical abuse" convene such teams by July 1, 1997.

Miller, whose child welfare workers would be a part of such teams, agrees the idea is great, but cautions it may not be too realistic.

"First of all," Miller explained, "you don't have all the mandated professions available in all the counties. That's going to be a problem. Secondly, this is a very time consuming process, and you're asking people who may already be overburdened to take on a rather large responsibility. That's going to discourage some people from actively participating."

Additionally, Miller said, there is the possibility of turf wars.

"Everyone is going to want to have their piece," said Miller, "and that can lead to disputes over who's in charge and who is supposed to do what."

That issue, too, was addressed in the task force's recommendations, albeit in an indirect manner, when the panel suggested that a case manager or lead investigator supervise child abuse investigations. It's a recommendation which Governor Keating particularly liked, comparing it to the workers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with which he previously worked, and saying he would be willing to back legislation to give local law enforcement officers that role.

Miller, too, said the Department of Human Services would see that any legislation needed to deal with the task force's recommendations would be introduced. Without that, he said, "All you'd have is a bunch of paper with a lot of ink on it. It wouldn't save any children."

## CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES SET TO END

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) It has all the makings of a classic political fight:

Oklahoma Republicans were one seat away from gaining complete control of the state's congressional delegation and state Democrats were vowing not to let that happen.

It didn't quite turn out that way.

Much like the presidential election failed to spark the interest some had hoped, Oklahoma's race for Congress has been less than spellbinding.

That, however, is not the case of Oklahoma Republican Party executive director Quineta Wylie and Oklahoma Democratic Party executive director Pat Hall. The pair disagrees significantly over the outcome of this year's congressional races in Oklahoma. Wylie is quick to say that she expects her party will win control of every seat allocated the state. Currently, Republicans hold all but one office, the Third District US House seat, and are heavily favored in almost all the races.

Hall, however, expects the Democrats will make a run for several of those seats, most notably in the second, third and fourth districts, as well as in the race for US Senate.

In the First District, incumbent Republi-

*See Congressional Battles, page 4*

**Wildlife Commission, cont. from page 2**  
directors can look at the proposed facility.

After executive session, directors voted to authorize an exchange of a 95 acre tract of land in the Deep Fork WMA with an adjacent landowner, on an acre-for-acre basis. The board also voted to try to purchase a 160 acre in-holding in the Packsaddle WMA at the school land auction.



***Congressional Battles, continued from page 3***

can Steve Largent faces two challengers, Democrat Randolph John Amen and independent Karla Condray. Largent has done little in terms of campaigning, spending some of his time outside the state in an effort to support other Republican lawmakers. He also lent his support to a Washington state initiative.

The best comment on Largent's race may come from Amen, who said in a published report that his opponent seemed to be a good guy. "I might even vote for him," Amen added.

Largent's other opponent, Condray, is running as an independent, but represents the Natural Law Party, whose presidential candidate will be featured on 47 ballots across the country. The party is not recognized in Oklahoma, despite its efforts to win a place on the ballot with an unsuccessful lawsuit.

In District Two, outgoing Democratic state House Speaker Glen Johnson is challenging Republican incumbent Tom Coburn. Early predictions indicated that this would be a race to watch, and at times, it has been. In recent weeks, nonpartisan polls have indicated that Coburn, who at one time held what seemed like an insurmountable advantage, has lost some of his support, but not yet enough to ensure a Johnson victory.

Coburn has an advantage financially, but unlike some other congressional challengers, Johnson is not hurting for campaign funds, leveling the television and radio ad playing field between the two men, particularly in the latter days of the campaign.

Johnson has spent much of his time focusing on what Hall called Coburn's resemblance to "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," saying one thing at home, but doing something else while in Washington. Like many Republican campaigns, Coburn has attempted to brand Johnson a liberal, out of touch with Oklahoma.

It is in the Third District, perhaps the most watched race in the state, that Oklahomans have seen the most heated race of the election cycle. Wes Watkins, who previously held the seat as a Democrat, is vying for the seat, this time as a Republican, against Democrat state Sen. Darryl Roberts. Rep. Bill Brewster, who has held the seat since Watkins left the House, announced last year that he would not seek reelection.

Watkins holds the financial advantage in the race, but faces a big disadvantage — Running as a Republican in the heart of Little Dixie, the bastion of Yellow Dog Democrats.

That factor is aggravated further by the fact that Watkins once held the seat as a

Democrat, became an independent and won the endorsement of Ross Perot in his unsuccessful 1994 bid for governor and says that he made the switch to the GOP not only because he feels the party better represents Oklahoma but because he made a deal with the House Republican leadership that assures him a spot on the powerful Ways and Means Committee and a reinstatement of his seniority if he wins.

Roberts has attempted to use that fact to his advantage, accusing Watkins of "making a deal with the devil," specifically House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Like Coburn, Watkins has attempted to portray his opponent as a liberal. Additionally, he was stressed his record in Congress in an effort to show his understanding of Oklahoma values.

Also thrown into the mix is Scott Demaree, a little known independent and also a representative of the Natural Law Party, who is seeking the seat.

Like any election, the key to this race is the voters, specifically how many Democrats decide to cross party lines and cast their ballot for Watkins rather than Roberts. Under normal circumstances, such action would seem unthinkable, but Watkins appears to have retained much of his popularity in the district, increasing that likelihood.

The battle for Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District may be remembered as the battle that never was. Incumbent Republican freshman J.C. Watts appears to have maintained a commanding lead over his opponent, Democratic state Representative Ed Crocker.

Crocker launched his campaign early, but was unable to overcome Watts extreme popularity, particularly from within the Republican Party ranks. In addition to the embrace he received from the party in Washington, Watts has taken on an important role outside the Beltway, appearing as a spokesman on behalf of the party at a number of important functions, including this year's Republican National Convention.

Crocker tried to diffuse some of that popularity by focusing attention on Watts' business and tax dealings. While the effort may have struck a nerve with Democrats in the district, it fell short of swaying those within Watts' party. Additionally, Crocker faces a unique challenge in the fact that one of the district's most populous areas — Cleveland County — is now dominated by Republicans on the voter rolls.

In joint appearances, voting records are the primary topics of discussion, with Crocker doing his best to put Watts on the defensive. Watts has been able to reverse that trend from time-to-time, focusing some attention on Crocker's record in the state House.

Libertarian candidate Robert T. Murphy has livened up this race, appearing at virtually every forum involving the candidates. A vehement spokesman for one of the country's most recognized third parties, Murphy has made a point of noting the partisan differences between Crocker and Watts, asking audience members how they expect their government to accomplish anything under such circumstances.

The Fifth District seems a lock for Republican incumbent Ernest Istook, who is being challenged by Democrat James Forsythe and independent (Natural Law Party) candidate Ava Kennedy.

Forsythe, Hall notes, has put 12,000 miles on his car after getting a late start in one of the state's most heavily Republican districts.

Battling an incumbent under such conditions lessens the likelihood of a Democratic victory in the district.

Kennedy, for her part, has done her best to draw attention to her campaign, but being grossly underfunded in comparison to Forsythe and particularly Istook, it seems unlikely the outspoken Natural Law Party candidate will win many votes.

Hall said many eyes in Washington are on Oklahoma's Sixth District, where Democrat Paul Barby is challenging incumbent Republican Frank Lucas.

"Despite what some others are saying," said Hall, "I genuinely think this one is too close to call."

To his credit, Barby didn't run a campaign, but, "He had an organization," said Hall. "He tackled this at the grassroots level and won a lot of support from that. I think that really works in his favor."

Hall discredits polls that give Lucas the lead, saying non-political factors, such as Barby's sexual orientation, may make people less likely to express their support when polled, although they are likely to vote in his favor on Nov. 5.

By far the most interesting congressional race has been that for US Senate, pitting Jim Boren against Republican incumbent Jim Inhofe.

Boren surprised some political observers. See *Congressional Battles*, page 5



## NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES ACT COULD HELP OKLAHOMA

By Gerry Cherry  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) When President Clinton signed HR4283, last week, he signed into law the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, aimed at "controlling the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species, such as the zebra mussel, throughout the waters of our nation." Clinton added, "HR4283 will establish a national voluntary ballast water management program to reduce the threat of additional pest species entering our waters." The bill includes provisions to support research and demonstrate new technologies for combating aquatic nuisance species.

The zebra mussel has made its way into Oklahoma from its introduction into the Great Lakes. Ballast water dumped from freighters introduced the tiny mussel into an alien environment with no natural predators.

Zebra mussels have been found inside the locks at both Robert S. Kerr and Webbers Falls along the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System, and may already occur in other Oklahoma waters.

The mussel is thumbnail-size, with elon-

gated, D-shaped, thin shells striped in a zebra-like pattern. They live up to five years. Thread-like filaments attach the mussel to boat hulls, reefs, navigational buoys and other submerged objects. Females produce from 30,000 to 100,000 eggs per season. Due to their high reproductive rate and the limited number of natural predators, zebra mussels can populate a body of water in two or three years, clustering together with hundreds of thousands per square meter.

More than 70 percent of U.S. power plants are expected to be affected by the year 2000. High water flow rates inside pipes provide a constant source of food for the mussels, which cluster in mats on top of each other, lining the inside of intake structures and clogging pipes. Larger facilities in the Great Lakes spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to eradicate the Zebra mussel.

Boaters beware. The mussels attach themselves to, and grow within, water intakes of both inboard and outboard motors, and attach themselves to boat hulls. If a boat hull feels grainy or gritty, it might be covered with young zebra mussels, which are about .02 millimeters long.

As prevention, boats should not be left in the water for extended periods of time. Mussels can be transported inside bilges, engine cooling systems, minnow buckets, live wells and anywhere water is trapped.

Wash the boat with hot water (at least 140 degrees F.) and a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach and water to prevent the spread of mussels. Keep live wells drained and let the boat dry for at least a week, if possible, before putting it into another waterway.

A task force has been formed in Oklahoma to address the problem. The task force includes representatives from the Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Biological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Oklahoma waterways were monitored throughout the summer by task force agencies to find out how far the zebra mussel has spread.

*"In the field of observation, chance favours the prepared mind."*

*Louis Pasteur*

## STATE BACKS NEW VENTURE FUND

From Okla. Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Michael A. Tharp, president, Oklahoma Capital Investment Board, on Monday announced that the Oklahoma Capital Formation Corporation has made an investment in Chisholm Private Capital Partners, L.P., an Oklahoma based venture capital fund with offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Chisholm invests in both new and existing firms with strong management teams who can use additional capital to create significant increases in value. Chisholm works closely with management and co-investors to help companies finance transitions from one stage of development to another. Chisholm invests in a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, software, telecommunications services and health care. The primary focus is Oklahoma and the contiguous states.

The fund recently held its first closing at \$12.5 million of total committed capital. The Oklahoma Capital Formation Corporation committed to \$3.15 million at the first close. C. James Bode, John B. Frick and Joe D. Tippens are the general partners of the fund and have committed \$1 million of their personal capital to the fund.

Bode stated that the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board has made it possible for Chisholm Private Capital Partners, L.P. to actively address the equity capital needs of small, high growth Oklahoma companies.

Bode, Tippens and Frick also have a contract to manage ML Oklahoma Venture Partners, L.P., formed in 1989 with capital of \$10.3 million. "This fund will build upon the prior investment success of each of the general partners by utilizing their respective unique networks of deal sources. We are particularly proud of our successful efforts to help transfer technology from Oklahoma universities and research organizations to local companies," said Tippens, who serves on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals and the Oklahoma Private Enterprise Forum.

Michael Mitchelson, chairperson of the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board, stated that this group of general partners with two offices in the state should provide Oklahoma entrepreneurs with access to growth capital.

Frick said, "We are looking for those firms with high growth potential where we, as investors, can add value as well as supply capital so that the firms and our investors achieve strong long term capital gains."

**Congressional Battles, cont. from page 4**  
ers when he won his party's nomination in the race by defeating state Rep. Don McCorkell. Inhofe, on the other hand, easily defeated a challenge to the Republican nomination by Dan Lowe.

Inhofe severely outpaced Boren, who vowed not to accept any political action committee money, in the fund-raising arena, but that has not prevented the Tahlequah professor from launching a series of last minute television and radio ads aimed at discrediting his opponent, particularly over comments made during the Oklahoma City bombing recovery effort. Inhofe has been quick to label Boren a liberal and to attack him for some of his humorous writings.

Like in the Third District, the voters hold the key to the race and the number of voters who cross party lines — and it's almost certain voters from both parties will do so — will ultimately determine the outcome.

Also notably is the fact that there are three other candidates in the race — independents Bill Maguire and Chris Nelbacek, of the Natural Law Party, and Libertarian Agnes Marie Regier. While none is considered a real contender in the race, all of the candidates will likely draw votes from those disenchanted with the race in general.



## MORE THAN \$9 MILLION AWARDED FOR DRUG AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

From U.S. Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) More than \$9 million in grants for drug and violence prevention programs has been awarded to schools and communities across the nation, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley announced last week.

The awards support two year projects that tackle youth drug use and violence by:

- infusing research based knowledge about "what works" into the design, development and implementation of school based efforts to prevent drug use among youth;
- preventing students from bringing firearms and other weapons into schools;
- preventing truancy and addressing the needs of youth who are out of the education mainstream (dropouts, truants); and,
- preventing violent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior arising from bullying, sexual harassment or other causes.

## SPECIAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

From Okla. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is urging all women from throughout Oklahoma to participate in a unique Veterans Day Program.

On Nov. 11, 1996, the women veterans of Oklahoma will be honored for the first time statewide. All men and women veterans across the state, whether serving now or many years ago, are invited to attend.

Ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. just south of the State Capitol at the Historical Building. The guest speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel Denise O'Hora-Webb of Tinker Air Force Base. The presiding Chaplain, from Altus Air Force Base, will be Captain Gerri Birnbaum.

Also, Joel McClung of the Bagpipe group "Highlanders," will be present. The Master of Ceremonies will be Lynda Waldroop, State Women Veterans Coordinator and Veteran Service Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Performing the national anthem will be Jody Miller and religious music will be sung by Ora Nixon. A laying of a special wreath to honor past and present veterans will conclude the program.

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is committed and proud to assist in this patriotic endeavor.

Three quarters of the 28 grantees are located in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities. Such economically depressed communities develop strategic plans that link economic development with education and training, and use public safety, human services, and environmental initiatives together to strengthen and revitalize communities.

Each application was evaluated and scored by three non-federal reviewers drawn from drug and violence prevention experts from around the country. Grants were awarded on the basis of highest average score. Funding for the grants was provided under the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act appropriations.

The Safe and Drug Free Schools Federal Activities Grants Program supports development of innovative programs that help ensure safe and drug free schools and communities and makes available models of proven effective practices that can help schools and communities improve their programs.

## CCC LENDING RATES FOR NOVEMBER 1996

From U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) The interest rate for 1995 and prior crop year commodity loans disbursed by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation during Nov. 1996, is 5.625 percent, down from the Oct. 1996 rate of 5.875 percent. For 1996 crop year commodity loans, the interest rate is 6.625 percent for loans disbursed during Nov. 1996, down from 6.875 for Oct. 1996.

Past monthly releases announcing interest rates charged by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on commodity loans disbursed for that particular month reflected the interest rate charged the CCC by the U.S. Treasury for that month. This was the interest rate specified by the CCC since Jan. 1, 1982, but the process of establishing the interest rate was changed by a provision of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, enacted on April 4, 1996.

Section 163 of the Act requires that monthly interest rates applicable to commodity loans are to be 100 basis points — or, one percent — greater than the rate determined under the applicable interest rate formula in effect on Oct. 1, 1995. This formula resulted in a rate equivalent to the amount the U.S. Treasury charged the CCC for borrowing for the month.

## REFERENCE GUIDE FOR INTERCITY RAIL PROJECTS PUBLISHED

From Federal Railroad Administration

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) last week announced the publication of a reference guide to assist states and localities considering investment in public-benefit intercity rail and rail-related projects.

The guide is designed to assist local and state planning agencies in their transportation decision-making and to encourage them to consider rail projects in transportation plans and programs in their determination of cost-effective allocation of transportation resources.

The guide provides information about federal and state transportation planning processes; rail project evaluation and priority setting; existing rail projects funded under the various categories of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA); assessment of societal/environmental benefits of intercity rail; and innovative financing methods.

Also included in the guide is information on a new computer model designed to assist states and localities in analyzing the economic and financial benefits of public sector investment in rail and rail-related projects.

The reference guide was developed and published on the initiative of FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris as a response to Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena's innovative financing initiative, the Partnership for Transportation Investment (PTI) program and an executive order on federal infrastructure investment.

"We wanted to pursue the financing options and partnerships available for rail projects under ISTEA. A dozen rail projects have been approved under ISTEA and the PTI, and all are public-private partnerships that stretch limited public dollars," Molitoris said.

To receive a copy of the reference guide, contact the FRA's Office of Policy at (202) 632-3131, fax (202) 632-3705.

*"The first time you meet Winston [Churchill] you see all his faults and the rest of your life you spend in discovering his virtues."*

Lady Constance Lytton



## EPA EXPECTS TO FUND 25 NEW BROWNFIELDS PILOTS IN 1997

### From Environmental Protection Agency

■ (WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for the 1997 National Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Pilots. The brownfields assessment pilots, which are each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, are designed to empower states, communities and other parties interested in economic redevelopment to work together to prevent, safely clean up and reuse brownfields.

A brownfield is a site or a portion of a site that has actual or perceived contamination, as well as an active potential for redevelopment or reuse.

Chosen pilots test redevelopment models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental assessments and cleanup efforts

at the federal, state and local levels. These funds are used to generate interest by pulling together community groups, investors, lenders, developers and other affected parties to address the issues of clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances and returning them to appropriate productive use.

EPA expects to select 25 additional national brownfields assessment pilots by March 1997. All applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 13, 1997. Previously unsuccessful applicants must revise and resubmit their applications. Applications submitted before Nov. 1, will not be considered.

The national brownfields assessment pi-

lots are administered on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives will assess how well the proposals meet the selection criteria outlined in the newly revised application booklet "The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Application Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots (October 1996)."

Copies of the application package and the solicitation notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810.

## AGENDA ANNOUNCED FOR THIRD MEETING OF FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### From Environmental Protection Agency

■ (WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency announced the agenda for the third meeting of the Food Safety Advisory Committee which will be held on Nov. 14-15, in Fairfax, VA. The meeting is open to the public.

Recently formed as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, the new advisory committee was established to assist the Agency with the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), signed into law on Aug. 3. The new law amends both the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide a protective regulatory scheme for pesticides.

The agenda for the two-day meeting includes the following: presentation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding USDA programs; EPA's decision logic for

risk assessment and risk management decisions; discussion of an additional "10-fold" safety factor when assessing pre- and post-natal development and reproductive effects in infants and children exposed to pesticides through the diet; discussion of in-utero exposure for carcinogenicity studies; reassessment of all food and feed tolerances; and, worker risk issues (how EPA assesses worker risk; efforts by the Worker Protection Program to protect and train farmworkers; how reregistration decisions reduce risk of pesticides to farmworkers, etc.).

The Food Safety Committee is made up of approximately 45 representatives from the general public, environmental and public interest groups, the public health community, the chemical industry, agriculture and other pesticide user groups, food processors, federal and state governments, academia and others. Margie Fehrenbach of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs is the Committee's designated federal officer (703-305-7090).

## WASTEWI\$E PARTNERS ACHIEVE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

### From Environmental Protection Agency

■ (WASHINGTON) Under the Environmental Protection Agency's voluntary waste reduction program, "WasteWi\$e," 208 reporting companies quadrupled reported waste reduction over 1994 amounts, eliminating 344,000 tons of material through waste prevention, and recycling an additional 4.2 million tons of material. This represents a substantial conservation of natural resources and a significant diversion of materials from landfills.

In 1995 WasteWi\$e partners saved about \$59 million in purchasing costs through efforts to reduce transport packaging. Reduction in transport packaging is a key cost-cutting opportunity for many companies.

EPA's "Second-Year Progress Report" highlights the 1995 achievements of WasteWi\$e partners and contains sections devoted to waste prevention, collection of recyclables and buying or manufacturing recycled products. The report includes examples to illustrate the wide range of strategies available to reduce waste and cut costs.

WasteWi\$e partners are located nationwide and span 35 industrial sectors, a third of these partners are Fortune 500 manufacturing and service companies.

EPA's "Second-Year Progress Report," (Document Number: EPA530-R-96-016) is available through the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810.



"Last minute campaigning, huh."



# Calendar of Meetings & Events

## Tuesday, November 5, 1996

**7 am - 7 pm**

### General Election

See results in Nov. 5 edition of Capitol Network News

**9:00**

### Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science and Technology Applied Research Committee

Special Meeting

301 N.W. 63rd, Suite 225B, Oklahoma City

**1:30**

### Oklahoma Tax Commission

2501 Lincoln Blvd., Fifth Floor, Oklahoma City

## Wednesday, November 6, 1996

**2:00**

### Interim Study 96H-8, Rural Water Programs — Training Assistance

House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources

State Capitol, Room 412-C

## Thursday, November 7, 1996

**8:00**

### Asset Forfeiture Seminar for CLEET Certified Local, State & Federal Law Enforcement

Oklahoma City Police Training Center, 800 N. Portland, Oklahoma City

**10:00**

### Senate Committee on Small Business

Public hearing on small business issues and concerns

High Plains Institute of Technology, Seminar A Room, 3921 34th St., Woodward

### Interim Study 96H-50, Motor Vehicles and Insurance

House Public Safety Committee

State Capitol, House Lounge

### House Revenue & Taxation Committee

THIS MEETING OPEN TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY.

State Capitol, Room 512-A

**1:30**

### Task Force to Study Fees for Indigent Legal Services

State Capitol, Room 419-C

**4:00**

### Commission for Teacher Preparation

Reading Room of Oklahoma School of Science & Math, 1141 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City



# Calendar of Meetings & Events

**Friday, November 8, 1996**

**10:00**                    **War Veterans Commission**  
Conference Room, Oklahoma Veterans Center, Sulphur, OK

**2:00**                    **Law Enforcement Policy Study (Senate Proposal 96S-103)**  
Third Meeting, Room 419-C, State Capitol

**Tuesday, November 12, 1996**

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

**Wednesday, November 13, 1996**

**9:15**                    **Joint Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**  
123 Animal Science Building, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK

**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**

**1:30**                    **Oklahoma Tax Commission**  
Room 501B, State Office Building, 440 S. Houston, Tulsa

**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**

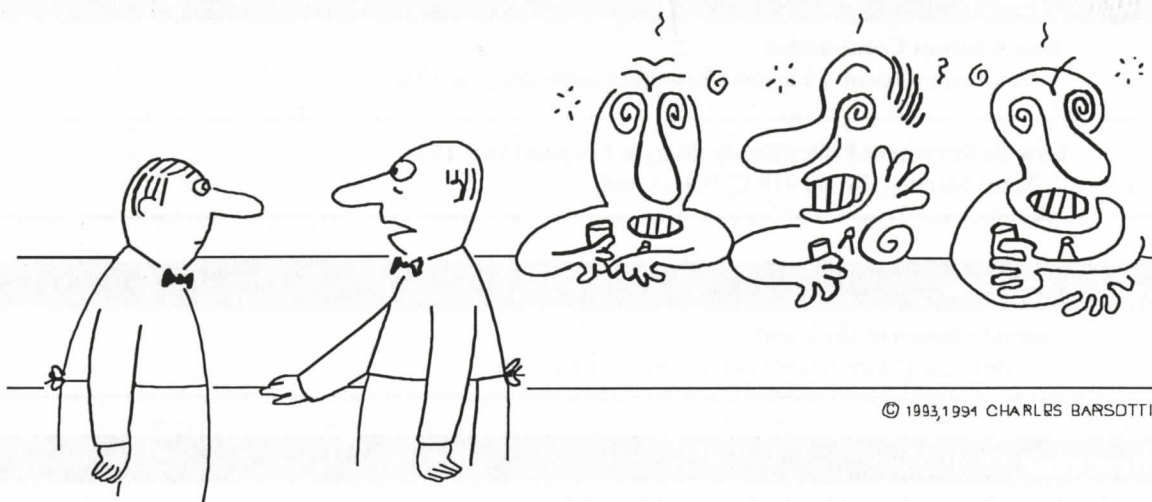
**9:00**                    **Horse Racing Commission**  
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City

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

**Monday, November 25, 1996**

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





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*CBarsotti*

"Them? Oh, they're the reporters that were covering Dole's 96-hour campaign marathon."

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A Division of GIT Inc.

P.O. Box 61206 • Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

Office: 405-528-2546 • Fax: 405-521-9807

Net: [gitinc@ionet.net](mailto:gitinc@ionet.net) • Web: <http://www.exoweb.com/git>