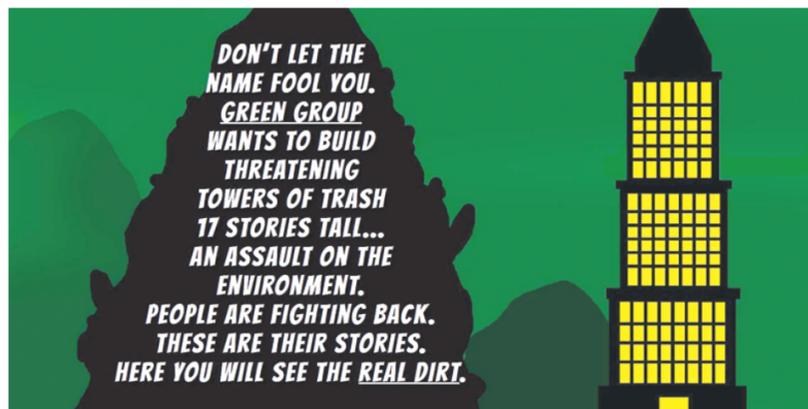


New website tracks invasion of trash into Texas



Dolcefino Consulting

A new website will keep tracks on the growing battles across Texas to stop the invasion of towers of trash, courtesy of Green Group.

Exposegreengroup.com will detail the community battles against the Georgia Garbage company and their highly-connected lobbyists, and the growing backlash against

Green Group nationwide.

The battles already rage in two Texas counties.

Citizens Against the Landfill in Hempstead have spent nearly \$1 million dollars fighting plans for a Green Group garbage dump on Highway 6. The TCEQ has rejected one permit application, but Green Group simply won't quit.

In Caldwell County, residents are battling a

planned Green Group dump along Highway 130 near Lockhart. So far politicians there have opposed the landfill, and exposegreengroup.com will remind them of the political consequences of selling out.

The site will also detail, for the first time, audio recordings of Waller County Officials, interviewed during an investigation by the Texas Rang-

ers. The local District Attorney has broken his public promises to continue the investigation, even though a jury slapped former public officials for violations of Texas transparency laws.

Exposegreengroup.com will also detail the history of the fight underway in Alabama against a coal cash facility run by Green Group. Residents there have paid the price for trying to stand up to the assault on their environment.

The site will detail the lobbyists being used by the company to influence Texas Public Officials and will update the fights through the TCEQ and State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Visit Exposegreengroup.com - because the public has a right to know!

VA brings mental health support closer to home for rural Veterans

(NAPSI)—To serve the growing need, VA is expanding access to mental health services, especially in rural areas where fewer clinicians practice. VA increased resources and staffing, allocating more than \$24 million from VA's Office of Rural Health toward innovative mental health programs for rural areas this year. VA leaders say these programs will provide increased access for veterans like Jesse.

The targeted funding will grow telehealth programs that bring mental health care closer to home for rural veterans. Telehealth uses secure phone and video technology to link a provider with a veteran, who might be hundreds of miles away at a

small local clinic or even in his or her own home. It allows for the same quality of care, without the burden sometimes associated with travel.

The National Telemental Health Center and VA's Telemental Health Hubs make therapy more accessible using telehealth to connect with medical specialists who are trained and experienced in supporting veterans with their unique mental health needs.

In addition to telehealth, VA also supports rural community programs that raise awareness of veterans' mental health needs and how to refer veterans and their families to the VA for services and support.

Veterans can also engage directly with resources online. VetsPrevail.org combines social media and expert mental health support for veterans.

For the latest news on VA rural programs, visit www.ruralhealth.va.gov.

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Assoc.

AUSTIN — Three University of Texas professors are seeking a temporary injunction “to at least retain the option of maintaining their academic classrooms as gun-free zones when classes start again.”

In a motion filed in connection with a federal lawsuit filed July 6, the professors are asking the court to bar enforcement of the law when the UT fall semester begins Aug. 24. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a brief in opposition.

In an Aug. 4 hearing, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel ordered the university to clarify its campus-carry policy on Aug. 8 and for parties present their arguments again on Aug. 10.

“In a cruel irony,” the professors’ petition begins, “the Texas Legislature has mandated that 50 years to the day after

Parties to campus-carry lawsuit to return to court

one of the worst gun-related massacres ever on a college campus — when Charles Whitman gunned down 43 people on or about the campus of the University of Texas in Austin — UT-Austin must begin allowing the concealed carrying of handguns on campus and in class rooms.”

Paxton, on Aug. 1, called the professors’ lawsuit — filed in the Austin Division of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas frivolous and said, “I’m confident it will be dismissed because the Legislature passed a constitutionally sound law. There is no legal justification to deny licensed, law-abiding citizens on campus the same measure of personal protection they are entitled to elsewhere in Texas.”

Voter ID rolled back

Texans voting in the November 8 general election might not be required to present a state-approved form of photo identification in addition to their voter registration card.

The state attorney gen-

eral’s office indicated last week that the State of Texas would not stand in the way of the federal judiciary in relaxing the photo identification requirement that became law in 2011.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled the Texas law, while not discriminatory in intent, is discriminatory in effect, and instructed Corpus Christi U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos to approve any changes relaxing the law before the November general election.

Late toll fees to hit

Toll road customers with overdue toll charges should pay their balances by Aug. 31 to avoid possible late fees and additional penalties, the Texas Department of Transportation announced on Aug. 2.

TxDOT said late fees on unpaid tolls were suspended in 2015 as the agency migrated to a new billing system, but in September 2016, the agency said, it plans to resume late fees for unpaid tolls.

Threat of Zika is high

Texas remains on high alert for the transmission of Zika virus disease by mosquito bites.

The State Department of Health Services on Aug. 3 urged Texans to take the following precautions against the disease:

- Apply Environmental Protection Agency-approved insect repellent;
- Wear pants and long-sleeve shirts that cover exposed skin;
- Use screens or close windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out; and
- Remove standing water in and around the home in any container that can hold water.

Texas has reported 93 cases of Zika, all related to travel abroad to areas with active Zika transmission but no local transmission through mosquito bite has been detected yet in Texas, according to Dr. John Hellerstedt, Texas Department of State Health Services commissioner.

“If Texas has local transmission, we’ll quickly announce it and describe the area of potential risk for Texans,” Heller-

stedt said. “We’re working in lockstep with our local and federal partners to ensure a strong Texas response,” he added.

Meanwhile, Texas Medicaid announced Aug. 3 that the cost of mosquito repellent for eligible women who are between the ages of 10 and 45 or pregnant would be covered. More information is available at TexasZika.org.

Revenue report is in

State sales tax revenue totaled \$2.37 billion in July, 1.5 percent lower than in July 2015, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced on Aug. 2.

Furthermore, Hegar added, “State sales tax collections continue to be down, largely due to depressed spending in the oil and natural gas-related sectors. By contrast, collections from the construction and retail trade sectors rose compared to the previous year.”

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in July 2016 is down 3.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

The View From Here®

By J.T. Murphy

Bias

The national press, like all news media, is supposed to be free of political bias. Its job is to provide news to the public. Bias in the national media has gotten so strong in the past dozen years that it is not even hidden.

I believe this started about thirty years ago when journalism students were told by their college professors that they had the power to change the world. For generations we were told that the pen is mightier than the sword. There is great power in the national media. Unfortunately, it seems to have been forgotten that John Dalberg-Acton informed us, “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.”

Just before his retirement from ABC News, Charlie Gibson said, “It is not my job to just tell you the news; it is also my job to tell you why it is important to you.” I always thought it was up to me to decide what was important to me. Charlie Gibson insisted on making that decision for me.

It is possible to reply to local news media. It is possible to correct errors in local news media. That is not true for national media.

Recently I received a report that 1,500 newspapers, 1,100 magazines, 9,000 radio stations, 1,500 television stations and 2,400 publishers are owned by only six corporations. The report went on to show the political connections of the various entities.

For an example of its appearance to attempt to persuade voters, the internet version of USA Today published the headline and story stating that Donald Trump had been in 4,000 lawsuits in the past ten years. Repeating the story at least five times was clearly an attempt to demean Donald Trump. The headline only conveyed misleading information. There was not a showing whether or not Donald Trump had been sued, or if the defendants were corporations and other business entities in which Donald Trump had, at one time, a financial interest. The story did not indicate whether Donald Trump had been a plaintiff or a defendant. The story did not indicate how many of those lawsuits resulted in a judgment against Donald Trump and how many resulted in a judgment in favor of Donald Trump.

Having been general counsel of a group that had as many as 1,200 employees, utilized more than sixty separate business entities, and was located only in one city, I

experienced my employer being named a defendant by more than 1,300 plaintiffs in just one year. No judgment was granted in favor of those defendants. My employer had done nothing wrong. Nonetheless, the negative headlines made a lot of readers believe my employer was an ogre.

Many people do not read past the headlines. Many of those that get past the headlines only read the first paragraph, and sometimes, also, the last paragraph.

Because I deal with words (as an attorney, writer and ghost writer), I typically see the headlines differently than the general population.

The national media seems to act as though it believes that the public is too dumb to know better. Saul Alinsky, in his “Rules for Radicals”, a handbook utilized by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, noted that the young and inexperienced are easily persuaded. So are those who do not take the time to find the truth.

The bias exhibited by

national media is why there is such a high level of distrust in the media. People use national media to support what they want to be the truth more than use national media to find the truth.

There are some publications that strongly exhibit bias against Republican politics and some publications that strongly exhibit bias against Democratic politics. The same is true for some websites. Our most difficult task is to find the truth in a fair manner.

The biggest problem with today’s politics is an earned lack of trust in the political establishment. If we cannot trust, we cannot make informed decisions. The best liars always include a little bit of truth, so they will be more believable.

Unfortunately, in the past few years, distrust has been increasing throughout America. We must return to truth, told in a fair manner. ©

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