

VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL BILL FILED WITH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The Texas Arabian Breeders Association and Texas Thoroughbred Association are pleased to report a video lottery terminal (VLT) bill has been filed in the Texas Legislature. The bill number is HB 3326.

Representative Kino Flores (D-Palmview) also filed two other bills closely related to the VLT issue. HB 3335 contains much of the same language and some other provisions that Representative

Flores, chairman of the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee, considered important to the issue. HB 3351 is similar to HB 3335 but it contains casino provisions.

He believes it was important to file all of these bills as options for the members of the legislature to consider as this process moves forward.

The casino group

had their day in the sun recently. Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) and Senator John Carona (R-Dallas) held a press conference on casino gambling last Thursday. The senators told

the media that they were behind an effort to bring gambling to a vote of the people but that it could not be limited to racetracks only! Texans for Eco-
(Continued on Page 8.)



TEXAS HORSE INDUSTRY'S INFORMATIONAL SOURCE SINCE 1996



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PROTESTORS RALLY OVER THREATS TO TEXAS LIVESTOCK/LAND OWNERSHIP



On Friday, March 2nd, the 171st anniversary of Texas Independence - Texans from across the state made their way up Congress Avenue to the Texas Capitol to protest against the Trans Texas Corridor (TTC) and the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Both NAIS and TTC place undue burden on small farmers and livestock owners in Texas.

In 2005, the Texas Legislature gave the Texas Animal Health Commission the authority to require livestock

owners to register their land, identify each animal, and report their movements. Premises registration would have been made compulsory in 2006, but was put on hold until this year because of the public outcry against NAIS. But the Texas Animal Health Commission can make the program mandatory at any time.

Voluntary now, registering under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NAIS would allow officials to trace the movement of diseased

livestock or poultry within 48 hours. Many Texas livestock owners believe USDA is using scare tactics regarding disease and bio-terrorism.

The city dwellers in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio don't believe NAIS affects them. They are wrong. With the increased cost registering premises and tagging animals - everyone who purchases products such as eggs, milk, meat and poultry will see a

price increase at the grocery store check out line.

"We want to send a message to our state government that the people of the State of Texas don't want the Trans-Texas Corridor or the National Animal Identification System," said Hank Gilbert, the 2006 Democratic Party candidate for Texas Agriculture Commissioner.

Many protesting TTC are in fear that our state leaders

(Continued on Page 9.)

GREATER BOERNE BECOMING HUB FOR HORSE ENTHUSIASTS BARKLEY'S HOME & RANCH SPRING FLING TO FEATURE REINING TRAINER TODD MARTIN

Barkley's Home & Ranch in Boerne will host its twelfth annual Spring Fling customer day Saturday, April 7 and will feature a free reining clinic by international trainer, Todd Martin at 10:00 a.m.

After the clinic, Barkley's will serve a chuck wagon style, bar-b-q lunch with proceeds supporting the ROAD Mission Trip for the needy in Roswell, New Mexico, sponsored by St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Boerne.

Barkley's sees the education of their equine clients as important and annually offers several clinics and seminars ranging from animal nutrition and health care to bits and biting. Barkley's is pleased to feature Martin at the upcoming Spring Fling.

A clinic at Barkley's is likely to be the first of many cooperative efforts between Martin and folks from Boerne because Todd Martin Performance Horses is relocating to the Hill Country town of nearly 10,000 persons located 15 miles northwest of San Antonio.

One of the key reasons for the move has to do with Martin being able to properly entertain his clients who travel from across the United States and abroad to look at reiners. "Clients come and they stay anywhere from a few days to week. Boerne offers my national and international clientele a great choice of bed & breakfasts and other lodging. And they can enjoy the area, as well as go into town and eat and shop," said Martin.

At the top of their shopping list may be Barkley's, a favorite of horsemen in the Hill Country for the past 13 years. The Barkley family opened the store in downtown Boerne in 1994 after relocating the business from Marble Falls. With a vision toward Boerne's growth, the store moved in

(Continued on Page 8.)



LADY "C" CENTER STAGE

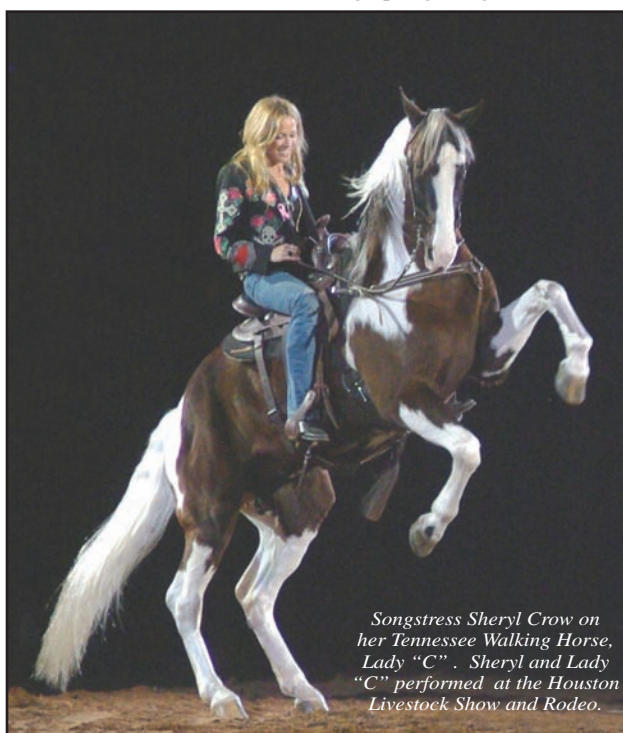
By Suzanne De Laurentis, Imagine A Horse © 2007

As the horses started to descend into the tunnel, into the darkened Reliant Stadium, their eyes were wide. The circle of light from the spotlight was just ahead of them on the dark floor. Entering on cue is one reason Monet, or MISTER Monet as we often call him was right next to Lady but out of the spotlight as she made her concert debut. Monet stepped out into the dark carrying Allen, and Lady "C" mustered her nerve and went with him. Lady "C" carried her human mom, rock star, Sheryl Crow and this was their initial appearance in public. Lady is a black and white Tennessee Walking Horse mare who has been Sheryl's companion for several years. The mare was trained here at Red Horse Ranch in Dripping Springs, Texas as an exhibition horse, almost by accident. She was here for a tune up under saddle and demonstrated a very high curiosity factor along with a great desire to please. As a fun way to engage her, we began teaching her tricks. Soon Lady "C" was on her way to being

an accomplished exhibition horse.

The addition of the mare to Sheryl's appearance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo seemed a natural fit and the work began. It is a lot to

(Continued on Page 18)



Songstress Sheryl Crow on her Tennessee Walking Horse, Lady "C". Sheryl and Lady "C" performed at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

PROGRESS AGAINST MANDATORY NAIS

On Monday, March 12, the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock approved HB 461 by a unanimous vote, 7-0. HB 461 would remove the Texas Animal Health Commission's authority to make the National Animal Identification System mandatory in Texas and remove the civil and criminal penalties that exist now.

A committee substitute version of HB 461 had been proposed to provide additional protections. It was withdrawn due to concerns over the phrase "to the extent required by federal law" in the first paragraph. It has been stated that one of the Committee members will offer a floor amendment.

(Continued on Page 8.)

DOUBLE SPEAR STABLES TO HOST WORLD-CLASS HORSEMAN JD YATES

Double Spear Stables opens their arena gates to one of the most recognized trainers in the performance horse industry, JD Yates. Yates will conduct a 2-day Roping Clinic May 12 & 13 at Double Spear Stables in New Braunfels, Texas.

Yates has numerous titles including Twenty One time qualifier for National Finals Rodeo in Team Roping, Eight time qualifier for National Finals in Steer Roping, Thirty-fifth member of the PRCA Million Dollar Cowboy Club, Five time Mountain States Circuit All Around Champion, Eight time Mountain States Circuit Champion Team Roper, 2002 Winter Tour Finals Qualifier, Youngest Cowboy to ever qualify for the NFR in 1975, PRCA Gold card member since 1974 - 30 years, 2002 Wrangler National Finals Team Roping Average Winner, Shown twenty-seven AQHA World Champions, Has shown Seven All Around Champion Horses, Owned and shown First AQHA/PRCA Horse of the Year, Won Two AQHA SuperHorse Awards, AHQA Judge for special roping events, Member of the AQHA Professional Horseman Council, 2003 Team Wrangler Exhibitor of the Year with 1,333 AQHA Points.

For more information about the upcoming clinic, call 830-708-3482 or visit www.doublespearstables.com or look on Page 17A for more information where you'll also find a clinic registration form to participate or audit the clinic.



JD YATES

Advertising Deadline

May Issue - Reservation Deadline April 10th - Materials in by April 12th

Cover Ad Space!

See Page 4

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