

LOCAL

**BULLARD  
BANNER  
NEWS**

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Normal business hours are  
Monday through Friday,  
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**Deadlines**

**Advertising:**  
Normal deadline: noon  
Friday for publication that  
week. When a major  
holiday occurs on  
Monday or Tues-  
day, the advertising  
deadline is noon on  
Friday.

**News and Sports:**  
Community news deadline is  
noon Monday.  
Sports deadline is noon  
Monday.  
Letters deadline is noon  
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Chater Members \$10

**BULLARD BANNER NEWS (USPS  
015622)** is published every  
Wednesday by Bluebonnet Pub-  
lishing LLC at 114 N. Houston,  
Bullard, TX 75757. Periodical post-  
age paid at Bullard, Texas. Copy-  
right 2008 Bullard Banner News.

**POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to Bullard  
Banner News 114 N. Houston,  
Bullard, Texas 75757.

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News**

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**Saving gas at the bank**



Yes, a customer, Mason King, rode up on his horse, Ringo, to conduct business in the bank. A cute story may be that due to high gasoline prices, some Bullard residents have reverted to traveling via horseback.

Fortunately Mason had hobbles to tie the horse's front legs to keep him from running away since Austin Bank has no hitching rails to tie horses. "As a result of this picture, we're considering revising our budget to install hitching rails at the bank to

accommodate all our customers," said Terry Boyd, Location President.

Austin Bank is a locally owned community bank serving East Texans for over 100 years with 28 locations throughout the East Texas area.

**East Texas Food Bank responds to Hurricane Dolly Relief**

The East Texas Food Bank assists in relief efforts from Hurricane Dolly. Staff will be loading up the two truck loads of food and water today. The trucks will deliver over 20,000 Ready-To-Eat meals and over 34,000 bottles of water to South Texas.

"We are always on stand by and ready to respond in times of disaster," says Robert L. Bush, Executive Director of the East Texas Food Bank. "This comes at a time when family budgets are being impacted by food and fuel prices and we are working with our sister food banks to assist these

families during this time."

"Together our network is able to respond quickly to provide food assistance to families who are affected by Hurricane Dolly," says Vicki Escarra, President and CEO of the America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network. "We are thankful for the East Texas Food Bank and their quick response to disasters when called upon."

The East Texas Food Bank is one of four food banks that serve the Gulf Coast Region who are pre-staged with food products from America's Second

Harvest to respond to disasters. The East Texas Food Bank is a member of America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network.

The East Texas Food Bank has been "Serving East Texans for 20 years!" The East Texas Food Bank distributes over 13 million pounds of food each year to our 200+ partner agencies in 26 East Texas counties. Our goal is to provide nutritious food and nutrition education through our 200 member agencies and hunger initiatives programs. Our purpose is to ensure that no one in East Texas is forced to go without food.

**NewsBriefs**

**Women of Prayer Conference**

The Oak Grove Bible Church, at 1824 CR 3802 in Bullard will be holding a Women of Prayer Conference. The conference will be from 1-6 with registration starting at 12 p.m. Keynote Speakers include: Patti Foster and Kathy Herman

There will be book signings, refreshments and door prizes.

**Texas**

**Comptroller's Office to Offer Local Tax Help**

Comptroller Susan Combs' office will offer a free seminar to assist local taxpayers with their state taxes on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.

"Operating a business has many challenges, but figuring out your taxes shouldn't be one of them," Combs said. "Whether you are a new taxpayer, or one who has been in business for many years, this seminar will help you understand the laws that apply to you and your business."

At the seminar, taxpayers can learn about sales tax forms,

taxability issues, taxpayer responsibilities, and the array of services and information available from the Comptroller's office to assist taxpayers. Comptroller representatives will answer questions and provide assistance to attendees.

The seminar will be held at the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 315 N. Broadway Ave.

For more information about the seminar, call the Comptroller's Tyler field office at (903) 534-0333.

Those who are unable to attend the seminar can call the Comptroller's toll-free tax assistance line at (800) 252-5555. Tax forms and tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's Web site, www.window.state.tx.us.

**Cherokee Democrats to meet**

Cherokee County Democrats will meet this com-

ing Thursday, July 24th, at 7:00 PM at The King's Wok on Hwy. 69 S. in Jacksonville. The Texas Democratic Women will meet at the same location at 6:30 PM. For further information, contact Joanna Reagan 903-825-6611.

**TMB to host town hall**

The Texas Medical Board is inviting all medical professionals and the public to a Town Hall meeting in Tyler next week to provide input and feedback about regulation of the medical profession.

In conjunction with the Town Hall meeting, TMB also will offer an in-depth seminar for entities that recruit or credential physicians to assist those entities in streamlining the process for their applicants and to minimize application errors.

August 5 and 6 - Both sessions will be in the Biomedical Research Auditorium at The University of Texas Health Science Center, 11937 U.S. Highway 271. The Town Hall meeting will be at 7 p.m. on August 5 and the licensing seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on August 6.

"Our purpose for these meetings is twofold," said Dr. Roberta Kalafut, TMB's board president. "First, we want to encourage a more active dialogue with doctors and with the public. The impressions we have as regulators may not mirror the impressions of the licensees. We want to know if there are instances in which our regulations can be modified to make compliance easier for the regulated community.

"And as we work to improve our licensing processes, we want those people who work with applicants every day to have a more thorough understanding of what we need to see on those applications and what the most common errors are," Kalafut continued. "We want to make licensing of physicians as seamless as possible."

TMB already has instituted two changes this spring that benefit licensees. The first, a "fast-track" enforcement system, allows physicians who face relatively minor administrative violations to dispose of those changes without needing to attend a hearing. The second, the License Inquiry System of Texas, is an online communication system that allows applicants to check the status of their applications 24 hours a day and also provides detailed explanations of any items required to process an individual's physician licensure application. LIST also provides a message center where applicants and TMB staff can exchange messages.

**Bullard Banner News**

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