

# DPS Set For July 4th Operation CARE

Make this Fourth of July holiday as safe as possible. Celebrating our nation's birthday is exciting, but motorists who choose to consume alcohol, speed and disregard traffic laws may find themselves talking to a state trooper.

Troopers of the Texas Department of Public Safety will be patrolling Texas roadways targeting speeders, drunk drivers and seat belt violators during the Fourth of July holiday period.

The DPS will be conducting two special emphasis programs to ensure public safety: Operation Holiday and Operation CARE.

Operation Holiday allows the assignment of other departmental uniformed personnel from the Driver License Division to supplement Highway Patrol traffic enforcement. Operation Holiday will start on Friday, July 3 and ends Sunday, July 5.

Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) is a nationwide campaign by state police agencies to reduce fatalities during holiday periods. Operation CARE will begin Friday, July 3 and conclude Sunday, July 5.

"The summer months are generally when we see the most alcohol-related fatalities in Texas," said Senior Highway Patrol Trooper Gary Pflughaupt. "A number of crashes can be avoided by using common sense and practicing safe driving."

Here are some driving tips

DPS recommends for travelers during the holiday weekend:

Do not drink and drive; rather, find a designated driver.

Have everyone in the vehicle properly secured, either with a safety belt or in an appropriate

car seat or booster. Remember, "Click It or Ticket."

For long trips, have the car checked to make sure it is road-worthy.

Slow down, especially if weather and road conditions do not

allow for the designated speed limit.

Save your phone calls for home or find a safe place to pull over to place or answer mobile calls.

Be polite and courteous while driving.



## Rice Pee Wee All-Stars

The 7 and 8 year old Pitching Machine Tournament was played in Schulenburg. The team had a 2-1 record during pool play with a loss to Twin Cities. They beat Grimes County (7-5) and La Grange (13-12) thus making it to the Final Four. Rice lost to Waller County 3-9 on June 25. Waller County took first place in the Tournament on June 26. The Rice Pee Wee All Stars had not made it to the Final Four since 2006. Coaches and manager wish to thank everyone that came out to support the team. Front row, Coach Stefanie Flores, Dylan Ramirez, BG Flores, Dagon Gonzales, Ju Ju Llanos and Joseph Castillo. Back row, Coach Robert Gonzales, Ethan Dulany, Larry Henderson, Darren Gentry, Jonathan Aguilar, Jr., Carson Mattoon, PJ Moreida, Joshua Grounds, Manager Omar Llanos.

# Prairie Restoration Symposium July 10

Over the past several years, there has been an increased interest in native grasses.

Natives have many benefits for both livestock and wildlife, but take a different style of management than most traditional livestock producers are used to. Input costs are low on such things as grazing natives, since most of the time they don't need to be fertilized.

However, the return on the investment can sometimes be very slow, as stocking rates have to be cut and native grasses can't be grazed like Bermuda or Bahia grass.

There are other considerations

when speaking of restoring native species, like what is a native plant? What do they look like?

What is the procedure for taking out what I have now and restoring native species in its place? How much does it cost? And, my favorite question is there a government program that will help me pay for it?

If you are interested in learning more about restoring native grasses and native prairies, then please mark Friday July 10, 2009 on your calendar.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices of Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington Counties will be sponsoring a Native Prairie

Restoration Symposium at the Cat Spring Ag Society Hall in Cat Spring.

Specialists with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Department of Agriculture and local landowners with experience in prairie restoration will be speaking on the history of our native prairie, prescribed grazing for native grasses, planting techniques, soil fertility requirements, success stories from local landowners about their restoration projects and a panel discussion from the presenters.

There will also be information

on USDA cost share programs to assist landowners in restoring native prairies and a discussion on the possibility of forming a native seed cooperative. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. with registration and the program will follow around 1:30 p.m. and last until 6:30 p.m.

Five CEU's will be given to pesticide applicators. A \$20 registration fee will be charged at the door, which will include your meal, refreshments and handout materials for the meeting. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Fayette County to let us know you're coming.

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