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— BRIDGET GRUMET,
AMERICAN-STATESMAN

AUSTIN

State promotes Drive Clean Across Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are launching the "Drive Clean Across Texas" summer campaign to help promote clean air and gas saving tips for motorists.

The campaign offers several tips to reduce harmful emissions and put more money in motorist's pockets, such as avoiding driving a vehicle in need of maintenance and always keeping the correct pressure in tires.

"Harmful, ground-level ozone is formed when chemicals found in vehicle exhaust and other sources combine with sunlight and heat," said Margo Richards, director of the travel information division of the Texas Department of Transportation, in a statement.

For more gas saving tips, or to register to win a low-emission Ford Fusion Hybrid car, visit www.drivecleanacrosstexas.org.

— WES GARDNER, AMERICAN-STATESMAN

PFLUGERVILLE SCHOOLS

District welcomes new athletic director

The Pflugerville school district welcomed Johanna Denson this month as the new district athletic director, filling a position that had

Commissioners extend burn ban

Citing the drought, Bastrop County commissioners on Monday extended a burn ban for 52 days in the unincorporated areas of the county. The ban prohibits any outdoor fires, especially burning of yard debris or any combustible materials unless they are in an enclosure with all the sparks and flames contained, said Mike Fisher, the county's emergency management coordinator.

"The 52-day extension relates to our August meeting of the commission when we will revisit the issue," said Fisher. "It's just another very hot and dry summer, and we want people to be careful."

He said the ban exempts the use of cutting and welding torches typically used in building fences and gates. "The ban also exempts publicly owned land such as a park owned by the Lower Colorado River Authority. And, we're exempting approved prescribed burns," he said.

Violators face a Class C misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$500.

Latently, brush fires have kept fire departments busy. On Saturday, firefighters extinguished a 32-acre blaze near Rockne. Fisher said that according to the Keetch-Byram Drought index, an indicator that monitors the potential of forest fires, Bastrop is the third driest county in Texas.

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

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PHILANTHROPY

Austin artists leading the pack in 'Artistic Innovations' grants

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin
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Fans of the local arts scene have five more reasons to kick up their heels: Austin arts organizations garnered five out of seven Texas grants recently awarded by Mid-America Arts Alliance.

The alliance granted a total of \$83,400 to Texas organizations under its Artistic Innovations program, which is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Grants were awarded to the following Austin artists and arts organizations:

- Forklift Danceworks, for "PowerUp," a grand dance spectacle featuring 50 Austin Energy linemen as the performers, with an original score by Graham Reynolds performed by a live orchestra.

- Jason Neulander, for "The Intergalactic Nemesis – Book Three: Twin Infinity," the final installment of "The Intergalactic Nemesis" trilogy.

- Olivia Chacon for "Busquedas: The Search," a new work of original flamenco music and dance by A'lante Flamenco Dance Ensemble,

based on the work of Kahlil Gibran.

- Ana Maria Maynard for "When Nature Sings," a workshop and presentation as part of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center's Taino Project at Pedernales Falls State Park.

- VSA Texas for "Body Shift," a mixed-ability dance

community of people with and without disabilities.

Houston's DiverseWorks and Huntsville's Bridge Club Collective also netted Mid-America Arts Alliance grants.

Contact Jeanne Claire van Ryzin at 512-445-3699.

Jason Neulander won a grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance for his final installment of "The Intergalactic Nemesis" trilogy. Austin organizations garnered five grants. RODOLFO GONZALEZ / AMERICAN-STATESMAN 2010

