

# Longview News-Journal

LONGVIEW, TEXAS  
A Cox Newspaper

TUESDAY  
July 22, 2008

news-journal.com

## Big Oil profits go back into companies

BY JOHN PORRETTO  
AP Business Writer

HOUSTON — As giant oil companies like Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips get set to report what will probably be another round of eye-popping

quarterly profits, just where is all that money going?

The companies insist they're trying to find new oil that might help bring down gas prices, but the money they spend on exploration is nothing compared with what they

spend on stock buybacks and dividends.

It's good news for shareholders, including mutual funds and retirement plans for millions of Americans, but no help to drivers already making drastic cutbacks to offset

the high cost of fuel.

The five biggest international oil companies plowed about 55 percent of the cash they made from their businesses into stock buybacks and dividends last year, up from 30 percent in 2000 and just 1 per-

cent in 1993, according to Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

The percentage they spend to find new deposits of fossil fuels has remained flat for years, in the mid-single digits. The issue has become more

sensitive as lawmakers and Americans frustrated by high gas prices have balked

at gaudy reports of oil industry profits. ConocoPhillips is scheduled to kick off the latest round of Big Oil earnings. See *OIL MONEY*, Page 4A

## Preservationists long to restore Campbell home to glory days



Kevin Green/News-Journal Photo

The Judge J.N. Campbell house at 433 South Center St. needs renovations.

BY CHRISTINA LANE  
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Victoria Wilson says she can imagine the day when joyful brides will stand atop the balcony of a restored Queen Anne-style home and toss their bridal bouquets into the air where they will fall to ladies in waiting on the grassy yard below.

Wilson and members of Preservation Longview are working to restore the Judge J.N. Campbell home on Center Street in Longview to its Victorian style. They plan to open the house for tours and community events, including receptions, parties, meetings and weddings.

"This is the last significant piece of architecture in this area of South Longview. There's not another house like this in this part of town that has not been torn down," said Wayne Porter, also a member of Preservation Longview.

Plans call for the home, which once served as a frequent visiting place for dignitaries, to be remodeled to its original 1920s appearance with stained glass windows, Victorian furniture and chandeliers.

The first step is foundation work, which will cost \$40,000 to \$50,000, Porter said. Preservation Longview is requesting donations, having fund-raisers and applying for grants, Wilson said.

The group filed for a \$30,000 matching grant. See *CAMPBELL HOUSE*, Page 5A

### If you go

- **What:** Yard sale benefiting Preservation Longview
- **When:** 8 a.m., July 24 to 26; live music July 25
- **Where:** Judge Campbell House, 433 S. Center St. in Longview
- **Donate:** Volunteers are seeking donations for the yard sale. Items can be brought to the Judge Campbell House by appointment or volunteers will pick them up. To donate, call Wayne Porter at (903) 985-2110.

### Archaeological dig

An archaeological dig at the Campbell House uncovered artifacts in their original place, said Bryan Boyd, an archaeological steward from the Texas Historical Commission who helped with the dig.

"The dig suggested where everything was; the earth has not moved," Boyd said. "It tells you that the artifacts are exactly where they were dropped

and where they appeared around the house."

The results of the March dig will be used for mapping purposes, he said. Items found included window pane, stained and bottle glass; 1-inch tiles; a small bottle; wire and square nails; ceramics; canvas material; bottle caps; ironstone and red ware; and the neck of a corked bottle.

Boyd and three participants tested an area around the home's water well because areas near water produce better test results.

"Water has a huge connection with a person's lifestyle. The first place you go is to the water, and you generate a lifestyle around the water itself," Boyd said. "The well also is a place that hasn't moved in quite some time. It has been stable for many years and is a good place to start from."

A sidewalk foundation was discovered around the perimeter of the house. It also was discovered that an asphalt driveway took up a portion of the lot, and some garden landscaping was found.

### The Benefield House Bed and Breakfast

Donna Lang of Jefferson said she dreamed of owning a Victorian Queen Anne-style home. When she and her husband, Frank, moved from New Jersey in September 2006, they began renovating what would become Donna's dream home to be shared with Jefferson visitors.

The Benefield House Bed and Breakfast opened for business on May 23, 2007, Donna Lang said. It is at 1009 S. Line St. in Jefferson.

The couple bought the former residence in August 2006 and began researching historical records.

"It was really important to us that the renovation be as authentic as we could find out. We wanted to bring back the time of what was called the 'gay 90s,'" she said referring to decade of the 1890s. "We did a lot of research on what was happening in that time and restored each room to the best of our research as to what it would have been like in the 1890s and early 1900s."

Wallpaper, paint, fixtures, a fireplace and windows, including stained glass, were among the additions the couple made to the Benefield home. Bathrooms were updated, and floors leveled.

"Parts of the floor were sagging down, so all of the support was compromised," Lang said.



The exterior of the home required mostly cosmetic work, Lang said. The house is in the "painted lady style," which means it is painted in at least five colors.

While budgets and timelines were issues for the Langs, they did not try to raise any money. Instead, they did all the work themselves.

"The finished product is amazing," Lang said. "When you look back and think about everything you did to the house and what it was, it's rewarding every day."



Kevin Green/News-Journal Photo

The Cowboy's Quick Stop No. 4 store on the corner of Mobberty Avenue and Birdsong Street was the scene of a shooting Sunday night.

## 1 dies in shooting; LPD has suspect

BY RANDY ROSS  
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Authorities have a suspect in the Sunday night shooting that left one Longview man dead and another man hospitalized, a Longview Police Department spokesman said Monday.

However, Officer Kevin Brownlee said he could not release any information about the suspect. He said investigators thought releasing the suspect's identity could harm the investigation.

The shooting happened just before 11 p.m. Sunday in the parking lot of Cowboy's Quick Stop No. 4 at Mobberty Avenue and Birdsong Street.

Jimmy Fitts and Arnaldo Scott, both 29, were taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, Brownlee reported Monday. Fitts was pronounced dead at the hospital, and his body was taken to the Southeast Texas Forensics Center in Tyler for an autopsy.

Funeral arrangements for Fitts are pending with Citizens

See *SHOOTING*, Page 5A

### 2008 homicides

■ **Jan. 9:** Archie Lee Moore Jr., 40, of Longview was shot at his Davis Street home.

■ **Jan. 26:** Bronson Jamar Sanders, 36, of Longview was shot at the American Dream Inn.

■ **March 30:** Jose Angel Martinez Tovar, 26, of Longview was stabbed in his parked car near Clover Lane and Level Street.

■ **May 15:** Jimmy Johnson, 37, of Longview was shot at a mobile home park in the Spring Hill area. Johnson died May 16 at a local hospital.

■ **June 2:** Monicue Stoker Jr., 65, of Longview was found lying face down in his home at the intersection of White City Road and Common Street, off Green Street.

■ **June 27:** Eduardo Quezada, 25, of Longview was found dead from multiple gunshot wounds in the 700 block of Travis Avenue.

■ **Sunday:** Jimmy Fitts, 29, of Longview was shot in the parking lot of Cowboy's Quick Stop No. 4. Fitts died Monday after midnight at a local hospital.

## Military forced to address increase in sex assaults

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING  
Associated Press Writer

YORK, Pa. — It took Diane Pickel Plappert six months to tell a counselor that she had been raped while on duty in Iraq. While time passed, the former Navy nurse disconnected from her children and her life slowly unraveled.

Carolyn Schapper says she was harassed in Iraq by a fellow Army National Guard soldier to the extent that she began changing clothes in the shower for fear he'd barge into her room unannounced — as

he already had on several occasions.

Even as women distinguish themselves in battle alongside men, they're fighting off sexual assault and harassment. It's not a new consequence of war. But the sheer number of women serving today — more than 190,000 so far in Iraq and Afghanistan — is forcing the military and Department of Veterans Affairs to more aggressively address it.

Of the women veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who have walked into a VA facility, 15 per- her room unannounced — as See *ASSAULTS*, Page 4A

## THE MORNING RUSH

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy, chance of rain.  
SEVEN-DAY FORECAST, PAGE 5B

### NATION

#### Iraq troop cuts

President Bush is likely to order a few thousand more troops home since gains have been made in Iraq security. On Monday, the chief spokesman for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the government hopes the U.S. withdraws its combat troops by 2010. **Page 3A**

### PERSONAL TECH

#### A digital divide

The number of Americans with high-speed Internet access at home continues to grow, except among black and low-income households. **Page 10A**



### SPORTS

#### Rangers beat W'Sox

Texas' Josh Hamilton hits a three-run homer off Chicago pitcher Javier Vazquez to give the Rangers a 6-1 win. **Page 1C**

### EAST TEXAS

#### 29-year-old drowns

Dustin Scott Hendrickson of Rockwall died when a boat he and others were in capsized on Lake O' the Pines, according to Marion County officials. **Page 1B**

### STATE

#### Preparing for a storm

South Texas and Mexico prepare for Tropical Storm Dolly, stocking up on plywood and generators as forecasters predict a hurricane for later in the week. **Page 5B**



### FIND IT ONLINE

#### On the Sabine River

Reporter Wes Ferguson and photographer Jacob Croft Botter took a four-day trip down the Sabine River. Find the stories, photos and videos, **only at news-journal.com.**

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### Monday's lottery

Pick Three A.M. Cash Five  
.....6-7-9 .....14-17-22-29-35  
Pick Three P.M. Texas Two Step  
.....4-3-5 .....7-12-14-32  
Bonus: 26

