

Obama issues executive orders

CALVIN WOODWARD, AP
RICHARD LARDNER, AP

Among recent actions:
—Obama issued presidential memoranda on guns in tandem with his legislative effort to expand background checks and ban assault-type weapons and large capacity magazines. The steps include renewing federal gun research despite a law that has been interpreted as barring such research since 1996. Gun control was off the table in the campaign, as it had been for a decade, but the shooting at a Connecticut elementary school in December changed that overnight.

—The Labor Department approved new rules in January that could help save lives at dangerous mines with a pattern of safety violations. The rules were proposed shortly after an explosion killed 29 men at West Virginia's Upper Big Branch mine in 2010, deadliest mining accident in 40 years. The rules had been in limbo ever since because of objections from mine operators.

—The government proposed fat, calorie, sugar and sodium limits in almost all food sold in schools, extending federal nutritional controls beyond subsidized lunches to include food sold in school vending machines and a la carte cafeteria lines. The new proposals flow from a 2010 law and are among several sidelined during the campaign.

The law provoked an outcry from conservatives who said the government was empowering itself to squash school bake sales and should not be telling kids what to eat. Updated regulations last year on subsidized school lunches produced a backlash, too, altogether making the government shy of further food regulation until the election passed. The new rules leave school fundraisers clear of federal regulation, alleviating fears of cupcake-crushing edicts at bake sales and the like.

—The Justice Department released an opinion that people with food allergies can be considered to have the rights of disabled people. The finding exposes schools, restaurants and other food-service places to more legal risk if they don't accommodate patrons with food allergies.

—The White House said Obama intends to move forward on rules controlling carbon emissions from power plants as a central part of the effort to restrain climate change, which the president rarely talked about after global-warming legislation failed in his first term. With a major climate bill unlikely to get through a divided Congress, Obama is expected to rely

on his executive authority to achieve whatever progress he makes on climate change.

The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to complete the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from new coal-fired power plants. The agency also probably will press ahead on rules for existing power plants, despite protests from industry and Republicans that such rules would raise electricity prices and kill off coal, the dominant U.S. energy source. Older coal-fired power plants have been shutting across the country because of low natural gas prices and weaker demand for electricity.

—In December, the government proposed long-delayed rules requiring automakers to install event data recorders, or "black boxes," in all new cars and light trucks beginning Sept. 1, 2014. Most new cars are already getting them.

—The EPA proposed rules to update water quality guidelines for beaches and control runoff from logging roads.

As well, a new ozone rule probably will be completed this year, which would mean finally moving forward on a smog-control standard sidelined in 2011.

A regulation directing federal contractors to hire more disabled workers is somewhere in the offing at the Labor Department, as are ones to protect workers from lung-damaging silica and reduce the risk of deadly factory explosions from dust produced in the making of chemicals, plastics and metals.

Rules also are overdue on genetically modified salmon, catfish inspection, the definition of gluten-free in labeling and food import inspection. In one of the most closely watched cases, Obama could decide early this year whether to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to Texas.

Obituaries



WAYNE COATS
1922-2013
U.S. Veteran services for Wayne Coats, 91, of Brownfield were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at the West Tate Church of Christ with Ernest Smith officiating. Burial was in Terry County Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. Monday at Brownfield Funeral Home.

Wayne passed away on February 9, 2013 in Lubbock. He was born on February 1, 1922 to Harold and Gay (Ketchersid) Coats in Medicine Mound, Texas. He graduated from Seagraves High School. He was a WWII US Air Force Veteran.

Wayne married Emma Jo Smith on October 7, 1947 in Seagraves. She preceded him in death on July 28, 2000. They lived in the Ashmore area until moving to Brownfield in 1982. He was a farmer and a member of the West Tate Church of Christ.

He is also preceded in death by his parents; a son, Kenneth Coats in 1995; his second wife, Myra; and three brothers.

Wayne is survived by his daughter, Denise Hickman and her husband Ed of Euleus; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; three sisters and two brothers.



GLENDA RUTH CARDEN
1925-2013
Glenda Ruth Carden passed away in Cedar Park, TX on February 6, 2013, at the age of 87. She was born in Algerita, Texas on July 25, 1925 to Ruth and Henry Brown.

Glenda graduated from WH Gibbons High School, in Richland Springs, Texas. She then furthered her education with a Bachelors of Music Education from Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She taught public school music for thirty years in Beaumont, Midland, Brownfield, and Odessa.

Glenda was an active member in her church, and served as the choir director at First Christian Church in Brownfield, and Bethany Christian Church in Odessa. She was also a life member of TSTA (Texas State Teachers Association) and TRTA (Texas Retired Teachers Association), and a member of the KKI sorority.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Thomas Quimby Brown of Marble Falls, and her husband Weldon Carden.

Glenda is survived by her loving sons, Rick Carden and his wife Cindy of Spring, Texas, Bill Carden and his wife Sue of Cedar Park, Texas, Larry Carden of Georgetown, TX, and four grandsons, Brian, Jason, Cody and Casey.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 11:00 am at the Richland Springs Cemetery, Richland Springs, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to charity of choice.

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