

OVER THE PASS



"I bought my 2008 Infiniti FX35 so my husband's legs could stretch out in it. We must have tried 30 cars. The one that had enough legroom was our choice. We were planning some long road trips and we wanted to be comfortable."

— Deborah Bernhardt, collections chairperson, A.R. Mitchell Museum (Trinidad)



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

"Why did you choose the car that you drive now?"

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

"I chose a Mustang convertible because at 50 I had already worn out my minivan and my Suburban. I didn't want a grandma car; I wanted a car that I could drive to the lake with the top down and the wind blowing through my hair."

— Kathy Vertovec, retired art teacher (Raton)



"I've got a '97 Ford F250 pickup because I used to pull a horse trailer. Now I use it mainly for trips to the hardware store. I drive my '98 Lincoln Navigator but my nephew's car broke down so I loaned him the Lincoln and I've got the truck for now."

— Bobby Coombs, Southwestern Hollow Metal (Raton)



"I have a 2004 Mazda 3 that I chose because it gets good gas mileage. It still gets 30 mpg and I'm happy with it, but it's 11 years old so it's lost its value. It's time to trade it in."

— Joe Pacheco, retired probation/parole officer (Raton)



"I bought an Acura RDX for the reputation of the brand. It's a small SUV, big enough to do almost everything but it's good on gas mileage. It's a good car but not too pretentious."

— Damon Hostin, biomedical researcher, Denver (Trinidad)



"For me it was the turning radius. I bought a new 2004 Chevy Trailblazer in 2003. It has 162,000 miles and it's never had the brakes replaced. Yes I'm happy with it!"

— Sharon Oldfield, retired nurse, Colorado Springs (Trinidad)

ANTI-TERRORISM

Surveillance powers lapse as Congress debates renewal

By KEN DILANIAN
AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Security Agency suspended its controversial collection of Americans' phone records as Congress grappled Monday with how to restore expired surveillance laws the government has used to track terrorists and spies.

No solution was likely before Tuesday at the earliest, and the Republican lawmaker who helped trigger the gridlock took credit in a message to supporters that also sought donations to his presidential campaign.

"Yesterday, I forced the expiration of the NSA's illegal spying program. Contribute \$5 now to show your support," tweeted Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

While Paul sought to capitalize on his position, House-passed legislation was stalled in the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other leading Republicans sought changes. In a rare Sunday session, they abandoned their opposition to the House bill in the face of exhortations by the president and senior intelligence officials to pass it quickly. Paul undercut their leverage by blocking their attempt to extend current law.

At the Senate opened business Monday, McConnell announced that he would seek three amendments to the House bill, which would end NSA's collection phone records after a six month transition while allowing the agency to search the records held by the phone companies.

"We'll have a vote on that legislation as soon as we can," he said, without specifying a timeline.

McConnell characterized the proposed changes as modest, but a proposal to extend the transition to 12 months is bound to draw opposition.

A senior member of the House GOP leadership, Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California, said the best course would be for the Senate to approve the measure as written. But he

pointedly did not rule out revisions. "I don't know what the Senate could do. They said a lot of things," he told reporters.

The legal lapse affected not only the NSA's ability to collect domestic phone records in bulk. It also meant at least a temporary end to the FBI's authority to gather business records in terrorism and espionage investigations, and to more easily eavesdrop on a suspect who is discarding cellphones to avoid surveillance.

"We call on the Senate to ensure this irresponsible lapse in authorities is as short-lived as possible," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in a statement issued Sunday night.

McConnell's attempts to pass a short term renewal of existing law failed late Sunday, thwarted by Paul.

"This is what we fought the Revolution over, are we going to so blithely give up our freedom? ... I'm not going to take it anymore," he said. Supporters wearing red "Stand With Rand" T-shirts packed the spectator gallery.

Paul's actions angered fellow Republicans, who watched helplessly as anti-terrorism authority lapsed only four months after they took control of the Senate.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. complained to reporters that Paul places "a higher priority on his fundraising and his ambitions than on the security of the nation."

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House intelligence committee, issued a statement that said: "Having gone past the brink, the Senate must now embrace the necessity of acting responsibly."

The high-stakes drama played out as Congress debated significant changes prompted by the disclosures of Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor who revealed the phone records collection and other main surveillance programs.

While intelligence officials publicly warned of danger, they said they were not deeply concerned with a lapse of a few days or weeks, given that the authorities remain available in pending investigations. What they most fear is a legislative impasse that could doom the programs permanently.

Senate Republicans blocked that legislation on May 23, arguing that it undercut the NSA's ability to quickly search the records. It fell three votes short of the 60 needed to advance.

But with no other options, McConnell, in an about-face, reluctantly embraced the House-passed bill Sunday night.

ENERGY RESOURCES

Springer Electric Cooperative dedicates large solar power station

Funding for the Seven Acre Generation Station provided by USDA Rural Development

Special to The Chronicle-News

USDA Rural Development State Director Terry Brunner was joined by 3rd District Congressman Ben Ray Lujan to help Springer Electric Cooperative in Springer, New Mexico celebrate the completion of construction of a new solar power generation facility.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony Brunner said, "Today's dedication of this project shows USDA Rural Development's commitment to modernize America's infrastructure."

Brunner added, "We are proud to help Springer Electric lead the way in diversifying energy sources among rural electric coops by investing in their solar project."

The \$14.1 million loan provided by USDA Rural Development's Rural Utility Service (RUS) will also pay for improvements to 74 miles of electric line operated by the Springer Electric Cooperative. \$3.4 million dollars of the loan was used to construct the seven acre photovoltaic facility. Another \$518,000 is being used to upgrade the electric sys-

tem with smart grid technology. A smart grid system makes the transmission of electricity more efficient with the installation of an automated meter reading system which will allow for more efficient control over the use of power to better meet customers' needs.

Springer Electric Cooperative serves the New Mexico counties of Colfax, Harding, Mora, San Miguel and Union, including the communities of Cimarron, Maxwell, Roy, Wagon Mound, Mosquero and Folsom. The Cooperative also provides wholesale power to the Town of Springer municipal electric system.

USDA has a long history, dating back to 1935, of working with rural utilities to

deliver infrastructure and service improvements. Through the years, these investments have brought new economic and social opportunities and have enhanced the quality of life in the nation's rural communities.



Ribbon Cutting Photo courtesy of Springer Electric Cooperative

JM Tire at 709 N. Commercial St. has 4 tickets to give away for the Cuchara Country Music Festival.
All JM customers can enter the drawing at JM Tire from May 1st to June 3rd. On June 5th we will announce the winners.
We are also having the same drawing at our Walsenburg location.

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TRINIDAD FOOT CLINIC
Dr. James C. Dill
will hold a clinic on
Thursday, June 4
H.R. Sayre Senior Center 1222 San Pedro
For an appointment call 846-3336
We treat corns, calluses, nail problems, hammertoes, bunions and sports injuries.