

Presidential Historian to Speak at Lecture Series

HOBBS, N.M. -- Presidential historian, Michael Beschloss, will visit Hobbs as the Fall 2012 Jack Maddox Distinguished Lecture speaker on November 12, 2012. The lecture will take place at Tydings Auditorium on the Hobbs High School campus at 7 p.m.



Michael Beschloss is an award-winning historian and the best-selling author of nine books. He also co-authored, with Caroline Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy (2011).

Newsweek has called Beschloss "the nation's leading presidential historian." He serves as NBC News Presidential Historian—the first time any major network has created such a position—and appears regularly on Meet the Press, Today, and all NBC network programs, and is a regular commentator on PBS NewsHour.

In 2005, he won an Emmy for his role in creating the Discovery Channel series Decisions that

Shook the World, of which he was the host.

Beschloss was born in Chicago in 1955. An alumnus of Williams College, he also has an advanced degree from the Harvard Business School. He has been an historian on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution (1982-1986), a senior associate member at Oxford University in England (1986-1987) and a senior fellow of the Annenberg Foundation in Washington, D.C. (1988-1996).

Beschloss holds honorary doctorates from Williams College, St. Mary's College (Maryland) and Lafayette College. He has also received the State of Illinois's Order of Lincoln and the Harry S. Truman Public Service Award from Independence, Missouri.

He is a trustee of the White House Historical Association, the National Archives Foundation and the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs.

The Jack Maddox Distinguished Lecture Series is sponsored by the J. F. Maddox Foundation in honor of its founder, Jack Maddox. The purpose of the Series, which has been hosted by University of the Southwest since its inception, is to contribute to the quality of life in Lea County and the surrounding area by providing nationally recognized speakers for intellectual stimulation and

entertainment.

Past speakers include Peyton Manning, Laura Bush, Dr. Robert Ballard and Ben Stein.

Tickets for this event are FREE, but required to enter. Contact Laurie Dean at 575-492-2108 or at tickets@usw.edu to reserve

your tickets via regular US mail. You may also pick up tickets from an area ticket location beginning September 10, 2012.

Ticket distribution locations are: Chambers of Commerce in Artesia, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Lovington, Denver City (Texas) and Seminole (Texas); Western Commerce Bank in Carlsbad and Hobbs; Woolworth Library in Jal; Tatum Schools Administration Office; and University of the Southwest Administration Office, in Hobbs.

Enforcing Texting While Driving Laws Proving Difficult for Law Enforcement Departments

WASHINGTON -- As more states ban texting behind the wheel in a fight against deadly driver distractions, police departments around the country have found enforcing those laws difficult, if not impossible. Now a new federal grant will pay for experimenting with the only technique shown to work so far -- spying on motorists while they drive.

The \$550,000 grant announced this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will let police departments in Connecticut and Massachusetts test a variety of anti-texting moves over the next two years, from ad campaigns to roving patrols.

The aim: To find "real-world protocols and practices to better detect if a person is texting while driving," said NHTSA chief David Strickland.

While 38 states ban texting behind the wheel, proving that someone is using their phone to type text rather than look at a map

or some other permitted use has become a roadblock for law enforcement agencies.

Only 10 states ban all handheld cellphone use behind the wheel, so in most states with a texting ban, simply holding a phone in your hand isn't enough for a ticket; officers have to see a driver thumb type before they can pull them over. In Minnesota, police wrote 1,200 tickets for texting in 2011, compared to 200,000 for speeding, according to the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*.

Texas is one of five states in the Union that has partial regulations regarding texting behind the wheel of a vehicle. Those regulations include the enforcement of no texting while driving regulations for drivers in school crossing zones, drivers younger than 18 years old, and for bus drivers who have child passengers 17-years of age or younger present/on-board their respective vehicles.

In Scranton, Penn., police is-

sued 10 tickets in six months after that state's ban went into effect -- and one of those was to a driver who admitted texting after a crash.

That's why the NHTSA grant will pay for "spotters on overpasses" and other roadways who could identify drivers while they type, and there's already evidence for how such a program can work.

In Bismarck, N.D., police wrote 31 distracted driving tickets in two days during a crackdown earlier this month where they used unmarked, high-riding trucks or SUVs to peer down into cars and catch texters in the act.

Since North Dakota bars not just texting but Internet browsing behind the wheel, officers had to see what specific apps drivers were using, with one officer telling *The Bismarck Tribune* that they could have written twice as many tickets, but couldn't get enough evidence.

While some safety groups

have called for an outright ban of cellphone use behind the wheel, such proposals haven't gained much support in Congress or legislatures around the nation.

No federal agency has the power to control what people do with smartphones while driving, and there's still an open debate about how serious a risk texting or other electronic distractions pose compared with better-known dangers such as drunk driving.

Thousands of Americans have already been the victim of a motorist who should have been steering instead of typing, and the U.S. Supreme Court has said there's no expectation of privacy when driving on public roads.

But if the only way to enforce texting bans involves undercover police reading cellphone screens over driver's shoulders, the debate over how to make roads safer will take a different route.

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The screenshot shows the website interface for SeminoleSentinel.com. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, News, Classifieds, Calendar, Subscribe, Advertise, Local, and Contact. A search bar and user login option are also present. The main content area features a 'Latest News' section with headlines like 'Space Jump Proves Successful' and 'Cowboys Dominate Stats, But Fail to Ravens 31-29'. A weather widget from AccuWeather.com shows a sunny day with a high of 78°F. An opinion poll asks 'Who do you think won Thursday's Vice Presidential Debate?' with options for Joe Biden, Paul Ryan, or Undecided/Neither. A 'Trunk Treat' event is advertised for October 28th. The footer includes social media icons and the website URL.