

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 5.4.10

Total of 23 Placements

- Print: 4
- Blog/Online: 9
- Broadcast: 10

Coverage Summary:

Pickens appeared on *Imus in the Morning* on *Fox Business* this morning where he discussed the oil spill, the Pickens Plan and the need to get off OPEC oil.

The *Daily Caller* reported on the Pickens Plan, highlighting Pickens' meeting with Obama in August 2008 to discuss an energy plan. The piece discusses Pickens' reasoning behind pushing for America to get off of foreign oil.

Politico reported on the status of the energy bill, quoting Pickens saying he still believes it's going to get done. The piece also mentions his meeting with reporters yesterday.

Two pieces appeared on the *National Journal's Energy & Environment Blog*. The first discusses the energy bill and Reid's indication that the chamber is still pushing forward with a comprehensive package despite Graham's withdrawal from the negotiations. The second piece discusses the oil spill, with Pickens saying the Obama administration has been too harsh in blaming BP.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Obama Promised T. Boone Pickens That Government Cars Would Run On Natural Gas** – *The Daily Caller* – 5/4/10
- **Spill Leaves Energy Bill In Trouble** – *Politico* – 5/4/10
- **Pickens: Price On Carbon Not Essential** - *National Journal's Energy & Environment Blog* – 5/4/10
- **Pickens To Salazar: Back Off BP** – *National Journal's Energy & Environment Blog* – 5/3/10

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Perry Backs Offshore Drilling, Calls Spill 'Act Of God'** – *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – 5/3/10
- **Texas Governor Has 'Full Confidence' In BP** – *Sun Herald* – 5/3/10
- **Stop The Drilling** – *Huntsville Times* – 5/1/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **The Neverending Oil Spill** – *Forbes.com* – 5/3/10
- **Oil Spill Dooms Climate Bill** – *Newsr.com* – 5/4/10
- **Chesapeake (NYSE: CHK) Cash-Secured Put** – *ONN.tv* – 5/3/10
- **V-Vehicle: Local Governments Pledge \$15M, If Feds Fund Startup** – *Earth2Tech* – 5/4/10
- **Ning Planning to Remain Free for Teachers** – *NY Times Bits Blog* – 5/4/10

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Obama Promised T. Boone Pickens That Government Cars Would Run On Natural Gas – *The Daily Caller – 5/4/10*

By Aleksandra Kulczuga

Oil magnate T. Boone Pickens believes President Obama has a plan to keep his campaign promise to wean America off foreign oil within 10 years — and Pickens thinks, well, he is the plan.

“[Obama is] a smart guy and I don’t think he would have said what he said if he didn’t have a plan — because that’s a big damn statement,” Pickens said on Monday in D.C., where he was promoting his natural gas and renewable energy blueprint known as the Pickens Plan.

“What I’d like for him to say and, I thought this was going to be in the State of the Union, is that all federal vehicles will now be on ... domestic fuel,” Pickens said. In August 2008 the then-Illinois-senator requested a meeting with the 82-year-old tycoon, and Pickens told Obama that campaigning on a promise of getting 1 million electric hybrids on the road in 10 years was laughable. It was a drop in the bucket Pickens said, with more than 220 million cars on the road (though putting a few hundred thousand federal vehicles on domestic fuel would send a strong signal). Enter the Pickens Plan — a proposal to cut foreign oil imports in half by investing heavily in wind and natural gas-powered vehicles.

Pickens thought this year’s State of the Union was going to be his moment.

“A statement that was made to me was: ‘Don’t worry it’s going to be in there tonight’ — and then it wasn’t in there and the answer I got was: ‘The speech got too long and we had to cut it out,’” said a disappointed Pickens. He keeps hoping he will see the president leading America away from a dependence of foreign oil.

Pickens said he supports any kind of energy, “natural gas, electric, battery, I don’t care” — as long as it’s not “funding our enemies.”

“I’m a proponent of anything for America. Listen, 10 years ago if someone had said ethanol I might have thrown up — not anymore. Ethanol is ours and I’m for anything American.” Pickens is rich, old and sharp — he makes the rounds to the most influential lawmakers and opinion makers in the country, spreading his gospel. Last week Senators Kerry, Lieberman and Graham introduced an energy bill that included many of the natural gas provisions, such as tax credits for natural gas powered vehicles, Pickens has been calling for.

The Pickens Plan, introduced a year and half ago when a stop at the pump cost \$4.11 per gallon and oil was \$140 a barrel, surprised many people who were quickly suspicious of the oil man who suddenly changed his tune to green-speak and renewable energy. Pickens, a former wildcatter, made his billions in oil development in the 1980s.

Pickens waves off the criticism that he stands to profit handsomely from any government programs for natural gas vehicles. “Yes I have some holdings in hedge funds,” he said, but claimed he wouldn’t have spent \$62 million in advertising for his plan if he was in it for the money. Pickens owns a controlling stake in Clean Energy Fuels Corp., which owns natural gas production plants in Texas and California and operates a network of natural gas refueling stations. Pickens has also invested heavily in wind farms and water rights.

Pickens said that his motives are simple and patriotic. “I was never in a war,” he said. “World War II, I was a little bit too young and I should have been in the Korean War but I was married and had a child and I was deferred. And then I was too old for Vietnam ... My dad was in World War I and it’s always bothered me that I ... damn it, that I should have gone to the Korean War.”

“As this unfolded I thought, you know what, maybe this is your mission in life — maybe this is the mission that you get to do for the country,” he said.

Pickens said he is warning lawmakers that China is a threat — it has a plan and is working to secure oil pipelines while the U.S. is being left behind.

“We missed an opportunity,” in Iraq he said. “Because of our losses in Iraq — it cost us \$1.5 trillion and we lost 5,000 and 31,000 injured — I really think we owed it to them,” he explained. “To get something for losing those people and spending so much money ... a call on the oil at market price, I would think the Iraqis would be happy to give us that ... and we didn’t even ask for it. We should have had the right of first refusal.”

“And now the biggest oil field there ... Ramallah, will be developed by the Chinese — 15 billion barrels.”

Pickens admitted that President Bush told him he couldn’t do that because it would look as though the war was fought for oil. “But that was before we spent \$1.5 trillion and lost 5,000 people,” says Pickens. “It’s eight years later and things change.”

Spill Leaves Energy Bill In Trouble – *Politico* – 5/4/10

By Jeanne Cummings & Manu Raju

Backers of an energy bill that had been carefully crafted to balance the interests of business and environmentalists tried to keep a semblance of momentum Monday despite indications that the Louisiana oil spill may have dealt the final blow to the bill’s chances this year.

Texas energy investor T. Boone Pickens was among those working Capitol Hill to try to keep energy reform legislation on track. “I have got to believe I’m going to get this done,” said Pickens, 82, who has invested \$62 million of his own money to run television ads promoting energy reform as a national security issue that would end U.S. dependence on OPEC oil.

But Pickens did not appear to come away reassured. In fact, in a conversation with senior aides to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Pickens inquired about carving out a section of

the reform package that would create incentives to boost the natural gas sector — in which he's heavily invested — and moving it separately.

That answer, too, was a disappointment. There is still only “one train,” the aides told him.

Frank O'Donnell, head of the environmental group Clean Air Watch, said some green groups feel “sick to their stomachs” that Congress probably won't be able to pass a climate change bill this session — given that Democrats are almost certainly set to hold a smaller majority after the November elections.

“I think the bill was dead before; I just think this adds a lot of oily dust on top of the corpse,” O'Donnell said.

The package, which is co-authored by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), was already in trouble after Graham threatened last month to pull his sponsorship to protest what appeared to be a decision by Reid to give priority to an immigration reform bill.

To draw support from industry, the legislation is expected to include an expansion of offshore drilling, billions of dollars for clean coal technology research and government-backed loans for the nuclear industry, along with a long-sought price on carbon emissions, which is vital to the alternative-energy sector and the environmental community.

Senate Republicans — including Graham — have said they would support only legislation that includes an expansion of drilling. But the Louisiana oil spill and its potentially disastrous economic and environmental consequences have deepened opposition to any expansion.

If Graham holds firm, and the drilling provision is removed, Reid and Kerry would not be able to get the 60 votes needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

Asked Monday whether expanded oil drilling was a nonstarter for him, Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois said, “It’s a hard case to make until you get down to the safety issues. The offshore drilling issue is being reconsidered by many at this point.”

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) said an offshore drilling expansion is “almost both unconscionable and impossible” in light of the disaster. “It’s something that I opposed before and something that I find even more radically wrong now. I don’t know how anyone makes the case that it should move forward.”

Whitney Smith, a spokeswoman for Kerry, said the senator “knows well the possible environmental consequences of this disaster” and has been communicating closely with the White House, the Environmental Protection Agency and his co-authors.

Kerry “supports full federal relief to the area to mitigate ecological damage,” Smith said. “He’s been working towards passing a bill that will lead us to a day when most of America’s energy is clean, and that will only happen if we put a price on carbon.”

In addition to his Capitol Hill meetings, Pickens, who says the oil spill should not blunt expanded offshore drilling, hosted a lunch with a small group of reporters to promote the legislation.

But his behind-the-scenes campaign in favor of the energy reform bill contrasted sharply with the vigorous attacks opponents launched against the expanded drilling provisions.

MoveOn.org released a new television ad — complete with images from prior oil spills — urging President Barack Obama to permanently reinstate a ban on offshore drilling. Obama has blocked any new offshore drilling leases until an investigation is completed into the cause of the BP-leased rig explosion.

“The only thing that benefits from offshore drilling are oil company profits, and today we’re urging President Obama to finally give Americans what we deserve: an energy policy that puts our safety above oil company interests,” said MoveOn Executive Director Justin Ruben.

Daniel J. Weiss, the director of climate strategy at the Center for American Progress, blasted an e-mail urging senators to strip the energy reform legislation of language that allows expanded offshore drilling.

“We need to learn from this tragedy. Offshore drilling is a risky way to meet our energy needs,” said Weiss, noting that there isn’t enough ocean oil to seriously reduce imports.

Former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) said the oil spill has such legs that it “basically pulls the sheets back and allows us to take a look at our deep dependence on Gulf oil” for 30 percent of the nation’s supply. That scenario could draw more attention to the need to diversify energy sources, he said, but it also makes it far more difficult to pursue additional drilling.

Pickens: Price On Carbon Not Essential - *National Journal's Energy & Environment Blog* – 5/4/10

By Amy Harder

Oilman T. Boone Pickens said Monday that a price on greenhouse gas emissions in climate legislation isn't essential in the battle for U.S. energy independence.

"I don't think the cost of carbon in the bill is going to do much for you on weaning yourself off foreign oil," Pickens said Monday after a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's staff. Shifting from oil to natural gas in the transportation sector is the best way to reduce U.S. dependency, Pickens said.

In an interview with The Huffington Post last week, Pickens signaled support for the comprehensive climate and energy package crafted by Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Joe Lieberman, I/D-Conn., because it would likely include a measure to incentivize natural gas in the transportation sector. This prompted an e-mail blast from Kerry's office touting the oilman's apparent endorsement.

Pickens explained today that he would also be open to supporting the energy-only bill the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved last year, which includes incentives for natural gas, but he said Reid's staff indicated that the chamber is still pushing forward with a comprehensive package, despite Graham's withdrawal from the negotiations.

"There's going to be one train," Pickens said. "And if you want on it, get on it because this is it. So I'll try everything."

Pickens suggested that Graham's involvement in the climate and energy debate isn't crucial for a bill to pass. "If that ship should sail, it'll sail with or without Lindsey Graham," Pickens said. He said that if Graham isn't going to come back into the negotiations, Kerry and Lieberman should find "someone to take his place." When asked what Republican would fit that bill, Pickens said, "I don't know. I've gotten out of politics."

Pickens To Salazar: Back Off BP – *National Journal's Energy & Environment Blog* – 5/3/10

By Amy Harder

Oilman T. Boone Pickens said today that the Obama administration has been too harsh in blaming BP for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that continues to spew from a sunken oil rig the company was leasing.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Sunday said that the administration would "keep the boot on the neck of British Petroleum" during the ongoing cleanup operation and investigation into the explosion's cause. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs reiterated Salazar's comment at a press briefing today.

"I don't like those kinds of statements," Pickens said. "I think they're uncalled for. BP is heartsick on what happened. That crew had been together since 2001; those guys were friends."

Pickens, who sat down for an interview with a handful of reporters in Washington today, also predicted that expanded offshore drilling measures would be taken out of the bill crafted by Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Joe Lieberman, I/D-Conn., in light of the gulf spill. "Is the bill then acceptable, I don't know," Pickens said.

Pickens continues to support opening up more offshore oil and gas development chiefly because of the security threats posed by the country's dependence on overseas oil. "The security risk is way beyond a BP blowout in the Gulf of Mexico," Pickens said.

And he downplayed the risk to coastal regions from such spills: "I think it's overstated how much damage you're going to do with the wetlands."

PRINT COVERAGE

Perry Backs Offshore Drilling, Calls Spill 'Act Of God' – Fort Worth Star-Telegram – 5/3/10

By Aman Batheja And Maria Recio

Bucking the wave of elected officials around the country, Gov. Rick Perry and Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson maintained Monday that offshore drilling is safe and should be expanded.

They also cautioned against laying blame for the explosion at BP's deepwater rig off the Louisiana coast.

Speaking at a jobs summit in Washington, D.C., Perry repeatedly suggested that the spill was "an act of God." He said he hopes that the huge spill would not lead to a "knee-jerk" reaction to stop new or existing offshore drilling.

"I have concerns about the public being misled," the governor said.

"I have full confidence that BP is doing everything they can," to get the well under control, he said.

Patterson, who like Perry has a long history of touting the safety of offshore drilling, said the accident was isolated and had not changed his views.

"Keep in mind that the last spill of this magnitude was in 1979, and that's 31 years ago," said Patterson, whose office is responsible for oil-spill cleanups in Texas. Patterson was referring to a

June 1979 oil platform blowout that spewed millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, causing extensive damage along the Texas coast.

Also Monday, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced the creation of the Gulf States Coalition, a coordinated response to the spill by the attorneys general of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida to ensure that BP is held financially accountable for any damage.

"The oil spill in the Gulf is expanding from a significant ecological and environmental disaster into a tremendous economic disaster," Abbott said at an Austin news conference.

"Our top focus is ensuring that BP makes good on its promise to fully compensate individuals, coastal businesses and taxpayers for any expenses incurred during the cleanup effort," he said.

But officials said the spill appears unlikely to affect the Texas coast.

Abbott's office said it is too early to say whether the state will take legal action over the spill.

Expanded drilling

For years, Perry and Patterson have pushed for expansion of domestic offshore drilling.

Patterson, head of the General Land Office, has derided those who worry about the environmental impact of offshore drilling. In 2008, he told the Star-Telegram, "I follow this debate, and I just shake my head. ... It's amazing how stupid some people can be. There were valid environmental objections to offshore drilling, but they were valid 30 years ago."

In a phone interview Monday, Patterson said the Land Office has been working with officials in Louisiana to contain the spill, including providing equipment and sharing data on coastal currents.

Patterson said his office deals with hundreds of oil spills each year, nearly all of them small and occurring in the state's ship channels.

"Nonoffshore production states think they're safe, when in fact the vast majority of spills are associated with transportation, not production," Patterson said.

The BP spill should not tarnish the entire drilling industry, he said.

Perry said in 2008 that oil exploration off Texas serves as "a shining example of the safety, effectiveness and limited environmental impact of modern exploration technology."

Asked at an impromptu news conference Monday whether he has any reason to describe the spill as "an act of God," Perry said the spill has to be investigated because "we don't know."

"I suspect there was a mechanical failure somewhere," Perry said, adding that Texas oilman Boone Pickens gave him a lengthy explanation Sunday of what may have happened.

Perry also praised BP's record since the 2005 explosion at the company's Texas City refinery, which killed 15 workers and injured 170 others.

"They've got a bull's eye on their back," Perry said of the company.

Texas Governor Has 'Full Confidence' In BP – *Sun Herald* – 5/3/10

By Maria Recio

WASHINGTON -- Texas GOP Gov. Rick Perry weighed in on the Gulf oil spill today, telling reporters that he had “full confidence” in British Petroleum, the owner of the drill, which has come under scathing criticism from some Democratic lawmakers.

“I have full confidence that BP is doing everything they can,” to get the well under control, said Perry. A surprised reporter then asked Perry about BP’s handling of the 2005 explosion at its Texas City refinery which killed 15 people – and which is still the subject of litigation. The Texas governor praised BP’s record since that accident to the Gulf spill.

“They’ve got a bull’s eye on their back,” said Perry of BP. Perry said that the spill would not impact the Texas Coast.

During the jobs summit session, Perry repeatedly suggested that the spill was “an act of God” which he hoped would not lead to a “knee jerk” reaction against offshore drilling. “I have concerns about the public being misled,” he said, of calls to stop new or existing offshore drilling.

Asked if he had any reason to describe the spill as “an act of God,” Perry said at the impromptu press conference that the spill has to be investigated because “we don’t know.”

“I suspect there was a mechanical failure somewhere.” Perry said he had spoken yesterday with Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens who gave him a lengthy explanation of what may have happened related to a mechanical failure.

Perry, who as a Gulf Coast governor has been on conference calls with top Obama Administration officials, declined to give the administration a grade on its handling of the spill. "This is a long way from being over with," he said.

However, he added, "There has been a good flow of information."

Perry has most recently made his political reputation on his anti-Washington rhetoric but Monday he said, "I'm not an anti-government guy. I just want government to work."

Stop The Drilling – *Huntsville Times* – 5/1/10

It didn't take the government long to issue the "stop the off-shore oil drilling" order after the recent BP oil platform destruction in the Gulf of Mexico.

Is it time to consider the possibility that the oil platform was sabotaged by anti-oil interests? It has not been unheard of that environmental extremists take destructive action against those whom they think are destroying the planet. You know, say with setting big SUVs on fire in California a few years ago. Now Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano, says DHS must get to the bottom of this tragedy and take whatever action is necessary to prevent a reoccurrence.

That would be nice but maybe a little naive. As long as we have an energy industry we will have accidents. Energy producers should do all that is reasonably necessary to minimize the possibility of such disasters. As distasteful as it might be to many, oil and coal are the energy sources that cause our economy to prosper. Unless the country initiates a NASA type effort to create new energy sources and a distribution system for them, we'll be stuck with fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. I still believe T. Boone Pickens has the right solution but can't find enough support to make wind farms happen on a grand scale. What say you America?"

Jeffrey B. Potts

Harvest, 35749

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

The Neverending Oil Spill – *Forbes.com* – 5/3/10

Why nuclear is the only solution.

By Reihan Salam

The oil spill spreading across the Gulf of Mexico will prove a black eye for BP for many years to come. Given that BP has spent large sums cultivating an environmentally sensitive reputation, describing itself as a forward-looking energy giant moving "beyond petroleum" will prove particularly galling to shareholders. And that's not to mention the families of those who lost their lives in the explosion and subsequent fire that caused the spill. For now, we await the results of a wide-ranging investigation into the causes of the devastating spill. It could be that BP was guilty of gross negligence or incompetence, or something worse still.

But it could be that the truth is more prosaic, and that BP (BP - news - people) was simply unlucky. All offshore oil and gas extraction poses serious environmental dangers. To be sure, advances in extraction technology have reduced these dangers since 1969, when an offshore platform off the coast of Santa Barbara spilled 4.2 million barrels into the Pacific and caused a backlash against drilling that reverberates to this day. It's also true, however, that offshore drilling efforts have increased in scale over the last 40 years, and, with vast new discoveries off the coast of Brazil, that trend will most likely accelerate. As the BP spill demonstrates, cutting-edge technology isn't enough to prevent all spills. Even if the equipment works in 99.99% of the time, it will fail eventually, and the key thing is to create systems smart and resilient enough to fail without causing too much damage.

No one seriously believes that the spill represents the end of offshore drilling, even as officials throughout the Gulf Coast scramble to contain the disaster. We might see renewed political pressure to restrict drilling, and we can certainly expect new regulations. But the sad truth is that we need every drop of oil we can get. T. Boone Pickens, the controversial oil and gas baron who has spent millions persuading the public to embrace wind power and natural gas, is convinced

that the price of oil will hit \$300 per barrel before the decade is out. While it's certainly possible that offshore supplies and the Alberta tar sands and other expensive, hard-to-reach supplies will fill the breach as the most attractive and accessible oil runs out, this "happy" scenario entails a dramatic increase in carbon emissions.

Of course, the realistic alternatives to our extreme dependence on oil aren't terribly attractive. Assume that we can electrify our transportation infrastructure, a crucial first step toward enhancing the energy efficiency of our economy. That electrical power has to come from somewhere, and if it doesn't come from oil it will most likely come from coal or natural gas. Coal is deservedly despised by all serious environmentalists, and natural gas is far from a panacea, particularly when we factor in the dangers involved in "hydraulic fracturing," the high-pressure drilling process used to release oil and gas from shale formations.

We only have one non-terrible option for reducing our reliance on oil, and that's sharply increasing our reliance on nuclear power. As Peter Huber observes in the latest issue of *City Journal*, the success of antinuclear activists in killing the 100 nuclear power plants that were in the pipeline as of 30 years ago has led to an increase in coal consumption in the neighborhood of 400 million tons a year.

Unfortunately, the nuclearization of the global economy is most likely out of reach. Global electricity demand is expected to increase by 50% over the next 25 years, and the Oxford Research Group has argued that we'd need 3,000 new reactors to meet that demand and make a serious dent in carbon emissions. The highest historic rate of new reaction construction is, alas, 3.4 a year. One can hope that a new generation of small and medium-sized reactors will come to the rescue. But it's hard to imagine cash-strapped governments, let alone risk-averse private firms, making the required investment. There are many votes in funding lavish public sector pensions and new health entitlements. There are very few in expanding the use of nuclear power.

So, like it or not, there will be more oil spills in our future and more noxious crude choking off delicate ecosystems. And we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Reihan Salam is a policy advisor at e21 and a fellow at the New America Foundation. The co-author of *Grand New Party: How Republicans Can Win the Working Class and Save the American Dream*, he writes a weekly column for *Forbes*.

Oil Spill Dooms Climate Bill – *News.com* – 5/4/10

By Kevin Spak

(News.com) – Energy reform advocates scrambled yesterday to rescue the bill that's been slogging its way through the Senate, but the Gulf oil spill appears to be the final, ironic nail in its coffin, Politico reports. Republicans will only vote for the bill if it includes an expansion of oil drilling, something that now looks, according to one Democrat, “almost both unconscionable and impossible.”

“I have got to believe I'm going to get this done,” said T. Boone Pickens, who was trying hard to push for the bill behind the scenes yesterday. But liberal groups were pushing hard on the offshore drilling issue—MoveOn.org even called for a full ban. “I think the bill was dead before,” said the head of Clean Air Watch. “I just think this adds a lot of oily dust on top of the corpse.”

Chesapeake (NYSE: CHK) Cash-Secured Put – *ONN.tv* – 5/3/10

If you believe that natural gas is the clean energy of the future, then investing in the companies with the most leverage to it is a good strategy. Famed energy investor T. Boone Pickens has said that we have a 200-year supply of natural gas and that the only thing standing in the way of replacing energy intensive and carbon-spewing coal-fired power plants is the right legislation from Congress favoring natural gas. When that happens, his top picks like Devon Energy Corp. (NYSE: DVN) and Chesapeake (NYSE: CHK) could benefit greatly.

Selling this front-month May 23 put in CHK allows option investors to collect premium on a name they would be comfortable owning if the stock should drop sufficiently and they were assigned on the short put, thus allowing them to purchase the shares at a discount. With only 18 days left until May options expiration, this trade with two positive outcomes may offer CHK investors just what they were looking for—either option income, or a chance to buy the stock at an effective cost of \$22.54, about 6% below current levels.

CHK Cash-Secured Put Trade Details:

CHK shares are trading at \$23.98, up 18 cents on the day so far.

Cash-Secured Put –

- Sell the May 23 put (near-the-money) for \$0.46 per contract (or better)
- Net credit of \$0.46 (\$46 per lot)
- For every contract, set aside \$2,254 in cash: $[(23 - 0.46) * 100]$

Securing the sold put with cash means the capital is available to buy the shares if assigned. At this point, you'll have purchased CHK shares at an effective price of \$22.54, or roughly 6% less than they are currently priced.

Open a free virtual trading account to build a visual of the risk/reward dynamics of this cash-secured put.

Profit/Loss Details:

Maximum potential profit: \$0.46 per contract (the premium collected) minus commissions. (This profit is for the short put option only and may change if the investor opts to buy the stock at \$22.54).

Maximum risk: \$22.54 (the strike price minus the premium collected). Return on risk for this trade is roughly 2%.

Breakeven: \$22.54 (the strike price minus the premium collected).

V-Vehicle: Local Governments Pledge \$15M, If Feds Fund Startup – *Earth2Tech* – 5/4/10

By Josie Garthwaite

V-Vehicle, the San Diego, Calif.-based auto startup that counts Google Ventures, T. Boone Pickens and venture capitalists at Kleiner Perkins among its backers, won a \$15 million victory this week in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. Local officials in the region (where V-Vehicle aims to build low-cost gas cars with higher-than-average efficiency and a plastic shell) voted on Monday to renew support for V-Vehicle and provide \$15 million for the startup's project — if federal loans come through.

This comes about two months after the secretive company missed a major fund raising deadline that would have triggered the bulk of an incentive package put together by state and local authorities, and nearly six weeks after the startup saw its request for federal funds denied. Since its founding in 2006, V-Vehicle has reportedly raised between \$90 million and \$100 million from private investors, and it's now looking to add \$100 million in private capital and credit.

As the Monroe News Star and Lincoln Parish News Online report, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury voted 5-0 last night to draft a letter to the Department of Energy showing support for V-Vehicle's bid for \$321.1 million in direct loans under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program. V-Vehicle has been working to address DOE concerns that led to rejection of its initial application under the low-interest loan program (e.g. the startup's lack of distribution infrastructure and limited funds), and to complete a revised application.

Because the DOE loan office will be looking for local support when it reviews V-Vehicle's application, the renewed pledge from Ouachita Parish could be worth much more than the \$15 million — helping to grease the wheels for funding under the ATVM program (the local funding would come from a property tax approved by voters to help finance the project if Energy Department loans get the green light).

According to the News Star, V-Vehicle asked the Ouachita council, as well as the state economic development department, to send letters of support. And according to a draft of the letter posted on Lincoln Parish News Online, there's a simple reason to back the project: jobs. Firing up an auto manufacturing plant at a shuttered factory once used to build headlamps for General Motors could have an impact, the letter reads, on "the economic future of Northeast Louisiana and surrounding regions," that "simply cannot be overstated."

Ning Planning to Remain Free for Teachers – *NY Times Bits Blog* – 5/4/10

By Joshua Brustein

Ning, a company that allows users to build their own social networks, says it has signed a letter of intent with a major educational publisher to keep its service free for educators, several weeks after causing an outcry among nonprofit groups by announcing that it would end its popular free service. Ning did not give any more information about the deal, which it disclosed as it outlined its plans to begin charging subscription fees to all of its users.

Ning claims over 46 million users, spread over 300,000 social networks focused on topics from music to politics to religion. It has become popular among nonprofit groups, and tens of thousands of organizations established networks ranging in scale from teachers who set up networks for their students to sprawling efforts like T-Boone Pickens' PickensPlan, for people interested in alternative energy that claims over 200,000 users. Setting up the network is free, but extra features are available for a subscription fee.

While the vast majority of Ning's users relied on the free service, the company says 75 percent of its traffic and 80 percent of its revenue come from paying customers. The company announced on April 15 that it would shift to an exclusively subscription-based model, saying the needs of its free and paid clients were so different that it had to choose one of the groups to be its focus.

The company's initial announcement sparked a round of spirited discussion among nonprofit groups about the perils of relying on free Web-based services. While these services can be invaluable to groups on shoestring budgets, they can also disappear with little warning when companies change business strategies or fall onto difficult financial times.

This is not the first time that nonprofits feel they have been burned. Last November, Causes, a fundraising application, stopped working with MySpace, deleting users' content and communications. Ideablob, a service that created a platform for people to discuss business ideas and awarded cash prizes to the most popular ones, shut down later in the month when its parent company filed for bankruptcy. In both cases, the changes were abrupt, and non-profit groups felt blindsided. This seemed to be happening again last month, when Ning's decision was made public before the company told its clients.

"We have to ask, 'what is the cost of free?' " wrote Beth Kanter, the author of a blog about how nonprofits can use social media, in an e-mail message.

In the hours and days after Ning's announcement, the company's message boards were filled, and it was deluged with hundreds of e-mail messages from teachers and nonprofit groups. It was also presented with an online petition signed by over 1,100 people asking it to waive its fees for educational and nonprofit groups.

Ning says it is taking a step in that direction with its effort to provide free service for teachers and their students. The company also says its premium subscriptions will cost less than they do now. It will offer three tiers of service, ranging in price from \$2.95 a month (or \$20 a year) to \$49.95 a month. Ning will no longer look to gain revenue by placing advertisements on its networks. Jason Rosenthal, the company's C.E.O., said he expected the increased income from subscription fees to offset the loss in advertising revenue.

The company is announcing its changes on its blog on Tuesday.

The decision to exempt teachers from subscription fees was made after discussions with teachers about the barriers to getting even small amounts of money approved by school systems.

“For public educators, the process for buying anything tends to be so arduous, and we’re going to make it easier to use Ning,” Mr. Rosenthal said.

Manny Fernandez, the author of the book *Ning for Dummies* who also runs a nonprofit focused on diabetes that maintains two social networks on Ning, was involved in discussions between nonprofit groups and the company as it worked out its new pricing structure. He said he was happy with the outcome, saying that even the paid subscriptions were modest enough to be affordable for small groups.

But he also saw a cautionary tale.

“The big lesson for nonprofits and education technologists alike would be to keep in mind that if you want absolute control over the way a certain platform or solution works, the only way that can be accomplished is by housing it yourself,” he said. “Unfortunately that comes at an additional cost, and that cost has to be taken by someone.”

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. Young Turks

America Left (XM RADIO) Freq. 167, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 08:00 PM - 09:00 PM

00:34:00 .. we go to clip number seven . **BoonePickens**.He was asked on MSNBC about the **oil** spill ... this is also a doozy ... (clip plays) Boone Pickens , famed Texas **oilman** and now a clean **energy** advocate ...he is also the chair of the hedge fund BP Capital Management. Good to have you sir ... I know you have spent billions pushing for wind power and now **naturalgas** ... in an unfortunate way, is this still great news for you? ...no this is sad for the industry and for evryone involved. I would like the president to clairfy.. ...you cna't shut down offshore drilling..this is a sad accident... ... the oil will get cleaned up, the world has not changed".... **BoonePickens** , he is always going to derfend oil and off shore drilling... 00:37:59

Audience: N/A Spot Cost: N/A

2. Mad Money (Rebroadcast)

CNBC, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

[CC] 00:50:12 From Randy in Oregon, boo-ya, jim. Boo-yah, Randy. President Obama has barely been able to pronounce the words natural gas. Could the growing tragedy in the gulf coast finally inspire him to get on board bridgefuel with the rest of us? Love your show. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge with us. Randy, no. I don't think he will. I happened to have the good pleasure of sitting next to my friend **BoonePickens** on Saturday. We marvelled that despite the tragedy in the gulf, in the coal mine, we have yet to hear anything about natural gas. We are both severely disappointed and kind of amazed, frankly.00:52:42

Audience: 70,368 Spot Cost: \$791

3. Mad Money

CNBC, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

[EC] 00:49:48 . I had the good pleasure of sitting next to my friend **BoonePickens** on Saturday. We marvelled that despite the tragedy in the Gulf, in the coal mine, we have yet to hear anything about natural gas. We are both severely disappointed and amazed, frankly. 00:54:02

Keywords:TZ; Mad Mail: BGF; BGS; **BoonePickens**; White House Press Correspondent Dinner; Jim Hackett - Anadarko Petroleum; Apple; TJ Rogers; CUY;

Visuals:B&G Foods; Emails from Viewers including: President Obama, Power One, Anadarko Petroleum, Mobile Internet Tsunami, Cypress Semi, Skyworks Solutions, ARM Holdings;

Audience: 204,330 **Spot Cost:** \$1,991

4. Power Lunch

CNBC, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

[EC] 00:02:14 ...Talk a little bit this weekend at the shareholders meeting about that. He's a long-term investor in these things. He is not looking to take profits on any of them. He reiterated his support for how he thinks Wells Fargo is a fantastic bank. I believe he thinks it's the best bank out there. He also talked out Coca-cola And how he's going to be holding these shares for a long, long time to come. He looks at this again on the long term. Long term he's not planning on backing away or locking any of those profits just yet. Greg, I'm looking at your Omaha ETF portfolio here. And you just like buffett don't like tech at all. 30% In consumer, 30% in financials. 20% In transports. Aren't both of you guys missing out on a great tech runup here? Well, Dennis, we do more than just the Buffett model. So we do a lot of things. What we do is we have several leaders we follow including **T. BoonePickens** and Bill Gates and some others. But if you look at him, this portfolio, you're right. There's not a lot of tech in there. You know, his top holdings in this, if you were to buy all five of these etfs, top holdings would be Proctor Gamble, Bank of America, Jp Morgan, Walmart and Wells Fargo. Very similar holdings. 00:10:16

Keywords:Warren Buffett; Gulf Coast; Warren Buffett; Berkshire Hathaway; Goldman Sachs; CEO Lloyd Blankfein; Gus Leavy; Wall Street; Unemployment; Residential Housing; Kraft Foods; S and P 500; Shareholder's Meeting; Wells Fargo; Coca-Cola; **T. BoonePickens**; Bill Gates; Securities and Exchange Commission; Charlie Munger;

Visuals:Berkshire Hathaway, Top Holdings, Coca-Cola, Wells Fargo, American Express and Proctor and Gamble; Berkshire: Top Stocks; Berkshire; Oracle of Omaha ETF; Top Portfolio

Holdings, Procter and Gamble, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Wal-Mart and Wells Fargo; Oracle of Omaha ETF; Goldman Sachs;

Speakers: Warren Buffett, Berkshire Hathaway; Greg Womack, Womack Investment Advisors Chairman, Wisdom and Wealth Author;

Audience: 346,874 **Spot Cost:** \$2,904

5. Imus In The Morning

Fox Business Network, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 08:00 AM - 09:00 AM

[CC] 00:27:42 Let's talk about BP, British petroleum, and the oil spill. BP coming out again today reiterating that it is absolutely responsible for the cleanup costs, but nobody knows what they will be, but they're already estimates of 7 billion in cleanup costs and additional five and a half billion dollars in damage just to the fishing and shrimping industry. Imus: a friend of mine who remains nameless says to me, another one of your rich friends screwing up the planet. I said what? BP, **BoonePickens**. [Laughter] when in doubt blame the rich. Imus: **Boone** will be on dudes. Tomorrow and it's not his fault00:29:20

[CC] 00:34:18 On the radio all over the country and the fox business network, **TBoonePickens** and John McCain tomorrow.00:35:23

Audience: N/A **Spot Cost:** N/A

6. The Ed Show

MSNBC, National | DMA: 0

05/03/2010, 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

[CC] 00:08:35The idea with the dome is it's a band-aid. It's trying to manage the oil that is coming out of the well at this point. It's the easiest thing that they be do to control it. I think it's very good idea on their end. You need to be reminded that we're dealing with 3,000 pounds of water pressure. So they've got quite a chore on their hands just to build this box in an attempt to make it work and I'm very confident that they will have a lot of success with this box. So this was an exploratory rig and was not prepared to handle any kind of a leak or mishap at that depth. Fair enough? Well, we don't expect to have leaks. Everything's supposed to work. Everything's

supposed to work. All right. Mr Aaker, Give us your professional opinion. 30Days, 60 days, 90 days, how long will this leak go on? He will work the difficult thing is getting the rig on site and drilling relief wells over there might be the final and best choice. But it's going to take three months at the best and probably might go longer than that if they have a lot of trouble doing it. I was told by **T. BoonePickens** that they've already started that but it's going to take 90 days. 90 days is probably the best of what it could be. Thank you for being here. Thank you.00:10:11

Audience: 795,930 **Spot Cost:** \$8,942

7. Ankarlo Mornings

KTAR-FM (ABC) Freq. 92.3, Phoenix | DMA: 12

05/03/2010, 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

00:38:00 I think of the Exxon Valdez ... this could be 10 to 20 Exxon Valdezes... they are saying 5,000 barrels a day .. I saw **TBoonePickens** ,oil man, wildcatter... Mesa Petroleum ... they say, BP is saying we are going to drill another well to relieve the pressure. it could take 2 months ..I saw **T Boone Pickenson** one of the talk shows, he said if they can drill it in two months that would be the world record of drilling 00:39:59

Audience: 24,667 **Spot Cost:** \$165

8. News 10 Good Morning

KXTV-TV (ABC) CH 10, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto | DMA: 20

05/03/2010, 05:00 AM - 06:00 AM

[EC] 00:41:31 Damage teams are reworking their plans for that **oil spill in the**Gulf of Mexico. Damage there could be catastrophic..This weekend the president went o the scene..."BP will be paying the bill". BP is drilling a relief valve but that could take 3 months to complete.. Oilman **TBoonePickens**, he says **3 months would be fast** 00:43:32

Keywords:TZ; Oil Spill: Gulf of Mexico; AL; BP; **TBoonePickens**;

Visuals:Google Earth map showing location of **Transocean Deepwater Horizon oil** rig; ABC News Virtual View;

Speakers:President Obama;

Audience: 16,009 **Spot Cost:** \$67

9. News 9 At 10 PM

KWTV-TV (CBS) CH 9, Oklahoma City | DMA: 45

05/03/2010, 10:00 PM - 10:35 PM

[CC] 00:16:41 ...That was four times as much **oil**, heavy crude black and sticky pouring from a tanker shipun aground near shore. Another spill in the Bay of Campeche Mexico 31 years ago pumped 140 million gallons into gulf of mexico, three years later there was barely a trace of it to be seen. ---My point is this: let's figure out how to contain this thing, learn how to keep it from happening again, and move forward with offshore drilling. ---President Obama was right to allow more offshore drilling, while California Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzeneger wins the knee-jerk reaction award for shutng down drilling off the coast of California today. --As **BoonePickens** pointed out today, less off-shore drilling more dependence on foreign **oil**, and that endangers our entire country. ---I'm Kelly Ogle and that's my 2 cents.00:18:26

Audience: 123,181 **Spot Cost:** \$739

10. Terry Meiners And Company

WHAS-AM (ABC) Freq. 840, Louisville | DMA: 49

05/03/2010, 04:00 PM - 05:00 PM

00:20:00 ... Southern California Edison doing that ... they are contracting the rooftops of warehouses in Fontana which is in Los Angeles County ... it's right near San Bernardino county...putting solar panels on all those rooftops ... and now you don't have to build transmission lines because they are right on the grid already...win win situation ... and it creates cheaper power over the long run . Solar is expensive right now what happened to **TBoonePickens** pursuit? I thought he was going to be the wind king ..he bumped up against those transmission line problems so now he is pushing natural gas ... 00:21:59

Audience: 12,767 **Spot Cost:** \$92