



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

SPAG Area Agency on Aging Hosts Tai Chi

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The SPAG AAA began hosting Tai Chi classes in January of 2013 at the Lynn County Pioneers Center.

The classes have been held two-times a week for 8 weeks.

Bianca Baker, Director of the Center in Tahoka, has done an outstanding job getting the word out and recruiting seniors from the community to participate in this wellness program. Seniors from the communities of Tahoka, Wilson and New Home have received



Larry Sava conducts Tai Chi Class in Lynn County



the Tai Chi Program with open arms, and classes average around 15 people in attendance.

The Lynn County Pioneers Center has graduated the 1st Tai Chi Class on February 21, 2013. Twenty one (21) people received Certifications of Completion.

“I never graduated from High School, but I received a diploma from SPAG.” said one participant.

Larry Sava, a certified Tai Chi instructor with over 15 years of experience, has been collaborating with the AAA to teach the classes for seniors. Larry has started a second class at

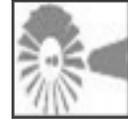
the Hockley County Senior Citizen Center. The classes meet on Mondays and Wednesdays and will go through the end of March.

Larry is also working with other Senior Center Directors to schedule the Tai Chi classes at their Centers.



Tai Chi program participants display certificates





March 2013

City of Slaton Wind Energy Grant Completes Construction

In February 2011, the City of Slaton was awarded a contract for a renewable energy project at its waste water treatment facilities. This contract provided for the city to install a 50Kw wind turbine at the facility that will offset, if not completely cover electrical costs.

Drawn from the original projected program budget, the grant amount was awarded at \$294,500, but was increased by \$165,000 to a total of \$460,000. This increase allowed the project to move forward in securing the proper wind turbine for the facility's power needs.



Hydrostar Energy, LLC, a wind energy company based in Amarillo, Texas, was awarded the contract to construct the wind turbine for the City of Slaton, and began construction in November of 2012.

After making minor adjustments to the project design to ensure that the wind turbine would have the necessary infrastructure to power the facility, the tower foundation was completed in December of 2012 and the wind turbine was scheduled for delivery in January of 2013.

Standing over 200 feet tall, the turbine was erected on January 15th, 2013. This improvement to the waste water treatment plant should save the City of Slaton an estimated \$10,000/year, as well as serve as a buffer against rising

electrical costs in the future.

For more information on this or other Community Development grants, please contact the Regional Services Department.



Regional Services Grants Team:

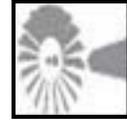
- Elena Quintanilla, Director
- Kelly Davila, Criminal Justice, Community Development
- Christian Shotts, Solid Waste, Community Development
- Reilly Webb, Community Development, HOME Program

806-762-8721
1323 58th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412



This project was funded by Community Development Block Grant funds through the Texas Department of Agriculture





March 2013

February 11th is "2-1-1 Day" in Texas



2-1-1 Texas

South Plains celebrated 2-1-1 Day on Monday, February 11, 2013. This year marked the 8th year anniversary of its inception on the South Plains.

Various 2-1-1 Day events were held across the State of Texas. However, the South Plains region held a presentation of resources available on the South Plains. This year's event was held at the South Plains Food Bank at 4612 Locust Ave, from 12:30pm -4:30pm. Twenty speak-

ers spoke about their respective agencies and programs. Speakers ranged from the SPAG Area Agency on Aging to Texas Military Forces. The purpose of the event was to recognize agencies that provided vital services to all populations, despite budget reductions. Approximately, 65-70 people attended the event. It also received a Proclamation from the

City of Lubbock.

Various agencies also sponsored portions of the event. Special thanks were provided to: Amerigroup Medicare Advantage Plan, Allegiance Behavioral Health-Plainview, Superior Health Plan, and the South Plains Food Bank.



2-1-1 Texas

2-1-1 is the abbreviated dialing code for free information and referrals about local community organizations and resources. It serves as the first number to call to link individuals and families to appropriate resources and information. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in multiple languages. If you experience problems dialing 2-1-1, please call 806-762-5043 or 877-541-7905.

SPAG Legislative Forum

The South Plains Association of Governments held a Legislative Forum on February 15, 2013. Legislators in attendance were Texas State Representatives Charles Perry and John Frullo. Executive Director, Tim Pierce, presented priority issues and concerns that the state and rural communities are faced with such

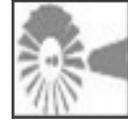


as water availability, transportation, and criminal justice funding. Both representatives addressed these issues and described the challenges rural representatives have in fighting for resources and maintaining local control. With a majority of the county populations declining in the South Plains, Frullo emphasized the importance of working together in all areas of government. He is en-



couraged by the collaborative efforts he has seen between Republicans and Democrats during the legislative session that began on January 8th. The forum was fully attended with several local elected officials and leaders in the audience.





March 2013

Caprock Closes SBA 504 Loan for Premier Sportsplex



Caprock Business Finance at SPAG would like to showcase the most recent SBA 504 loans that will impact our South Plains region.

On January 23, 2013, Caprock closed the SBA 504 loan for Premier Lubbock Sportsplex, Ltd.

The Premier Sportsplex facility is an outdoor/indoor, multilevel, workout facility with a variety of activities and fitness programs available for every level of fitness from beginners to seasoned pros. The facility has over 75,000 square feet loaded with over 100 cardio machines, a 33 foot climbing wall, a 12 foot bouldering wall and cave, 4 basketball courts, batting cages, driving



range, 4 racquetball courts, and an outdoor pool to name a few.

Scheduled classes such as Zumba, Spinning, and Yoga are also offered as well as Child Care Services. The facility is owned by Curry and Billy Blackwell and Sherry and Steven Cate. Premier used the SBA 504 program to fund improvements to their facility which aided in the creation of 6 new jobs to the Lubbock area.

The SBA Loan Program

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan program is a perfect financing tool for small businesses to use to invest in their local economy. When a small business in the South Plains makes the decision to buy, build or improve commercial real estate they are directly impacting our community by expanding the local tax base and creat-

ing/retaining jobs. The SBA's 504 loan program offers small businesses affordable long term fixed rate financing for real estate, machinery and equipment purchases. The 504 program also has a refinance component for businesses who need to refinance existing real estate debt when accompanied by expansion to their facilities. Please contact our office for more information on meeting the SBA 504 program criteria.



Caprock Business Finance Contact

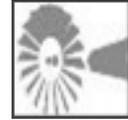
Cecily Miller -
Director
cmiller@spag.org

Cristina Ash -
Lending Assistant
cash@spag.org

Robert Blackwell -
Program Specialist
rblackwell@spag.org

Kristina Corella -
Program Specialist
kcorella@spag.org





March 2013

Congressman Randy Neugebauer Visits SPAG

Congressman Randy Neugebauer attended the monthly SPAG Board Meeting on January 8, 2013. This is the second time that the Congressman has been able to attend a SPAG Board Meeting. Before providing an update on the news and events in Washington D.C., he described his background and ties to Lubbock, Texas.

Mr. Neugebauer graduated from Coronado High School and attended Texas Tech University where he received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Prior to becoming the U.S. Representative for the 19th District of Texas, Mr. Neugebauer was a small business owner and city councilman. During his time on the city council, he served as mayor pro tem from 1990 to 1994.

Mr. Neugebauer then proceeded to the topic of the national debt and gave an update of news and events in Washington, DC.

Mr. Neugebauer is pushing for Congress to adopt a balanced-budget amendment and halt an increase to the debt ceiling. He then spoke about the Farm Bill which he stated would only cover the 2013 crop if the bill is not extended.

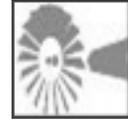
Following Mr. Neugebauer's policy updates, the SPAG board, along with pri-

vate citizens in the audience, were able to ask questions. Some of the questions included means testing for Social Security benefits, health care reforms, the national debt, and the tax bill. The Congressman wrapped up the presentation letting us know that Congress will be meeting to discuss upcoming hot topics including gun laws and immigration. For more information on the details of his speech, please give us a call at 806-762-8721 and/or contact the local 19th District office at 806-763-1611.



*Left: Tim Pierce, SPAG Executive Director;
Middle: Congressman Randy Neugebauer;
Right: SPAG President Clinton Sawyer*





Updates From SPAG Regional 9-1-1



Several important changes and events have taken place in the Regional 9-1-1 Department in the last quarter.

- The answering point for Lamb County has been moved from the Littlefield Police Department to the Lamb County Sheriff's office. This center underwent construction in the dispatch area to accommodate two 9-1-1 call positions, with improvements to the equipment and infrastructure that works behind the scenes to make 9-1-1 happen. The center is now fully functional and will soon enjoy new console furniture, contributing to the improvement of the dispatch environment.

-On December 6, 2012, Regional 9-1-1 held its

Quarterly Advisory Meeting with 7 of the 14 counties in our jurisdiction represented. Members and guests were able to view the established closed network access used to make updates and resolving equipment issues remotely.

-Training held for our region last quarter include: two week long 9-1-1 Telecommunicator courses in December, one held at the Lamb Co SO and the other at the SPAG LE Academy; equipment and map training at Lamb Co SO in January; and ADA TTY training here at SPAG in February.

-The Lubbock Emergency Communication District hosted an 8-

hour "Active Shooter for Dispatchers" class on the 27th and 28th of February. We would like to thank them for the extra seating they made available to our region, free of charge.

-While Regional 9-1-1 continues to move forward, we must take time to lament the passing of our colleague, Jeanette Brosch. She passed away December 13, 2012 after working at SPAG in Regional 9-1-1 for 17 years. Her contribution to 9-1-1 mapping and selfless dedication to our region was a tribute to the true meaning of public service. She will be missed.





2013 Texas Municipal League Meeting Quarterly Meeting Scheduled For March 28th

All TML Region 3 Members are cordially invited to the next Texas Municipal League Region 3 Quarterly Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 28, 2013 in Lubbock, Texas.

The meeting and dinner will be held at the Legacy Event Center located at 1400 15th Street, Lubbock, Texas. The *City of Littlefield and Mayor Shirley Mann* are proud to be the host at this meeting. Make plans to join us as we learn more about our host city.

Come early for a workshop on "Synthetic Marijuana", beginning at 4:30 and lasting until 5:30. The workshop will include a presentation by Gina Johnson, who brought the issue to the Lubbock City Council. Ms. Johnson will also be the keynote speaker for the dinner and business meeting, and will share her personal story of how synthetic marijuana has impacted her family



and personal life.

Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. The social hour is proudly sponsored by Underwood Law Firm and will begin at 5:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be a catered meal by Honeychild Catering Solutions serving Carved Roast Beef and Chicken Jerusalem with all the trimmings!

The registration fee for this event will be **\$30.00 per attendee if registered by Friday, March 22nd, \$35.00 per attendee if registered after Friday, March 22nd.** Payment is due at time of registration. Please direct your reservations to Belinda Solis via fax, e-mail or by telephone.

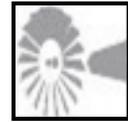
We look forward to seeing you on March 28th!

Texas Municipal League

Membership in the League is voluntary and is open to any city in Texas. From the original 14 members, TML's membership has grown to 1,121 cities.

Over 16,000 mayors, council members, city managers, city attorneys, and city department heads are member officials of the League by virtue of their cities participation.





South Plains Association of Governments

Quarterly Calendar

What	March	Where
South Plains Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting	3/8/13, 11:30 a.m.	SPAG Boardroom
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	3/12/13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
TML Quarterly Meeting	3/28/13, 4:30 p.m.	Legacy Event Center
April		
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	4/9/13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Resources United Meeting	4/11/13, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Advisory Council on Aging	4/16/13, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Directors and Bookkeepers meeting	4/18/13, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
May		
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	5/14/13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom

SPAG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 2. It is an independent political subdivision of the state and is one of 24 such organizations in Texas. All local governments in the region are eligible and invited to become a member. Regional Forum is published quarterly by SPAG and is available without cost. Please direct any correspondence or inquiries to SPAG, P.O. Box 3730 Freedom Station, Lubbock, Texas 79452, (806) 762-8721 or toll free 1-800-858-1809 or fax (806) 765-9544 or visit our website at www.spag.org.

Christian Shotts, Editor

Tim Pierce, Executive Director

Clinton Sawyer, President

