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# Regional Forum

Newsletter Of The South Plains Association Of Governments

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# Ethically Speaking

## Public Service Center hosts first Ethics Symposium

The Texas Tech University's Center for Public Service hosted their First Ethics Symposium on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. A record crowd of approximately 150 elected officials, public sector professionals, faculty, and students of the MPA program gathered together to discuss a topic that is one of Texas Governor Greg Abbot's top five agenda items for this legislative session: Ethics. The Symposium begins with a luncheon sponsored by the Master of Public Administration Program at Texas Tech University.

The keynote speaker, Alan Bojorquez, Attorney at Law of Bojorquez Law Firm, PC. of Austin, Texas intrigued his audience with scenarios of the intricacies of Ethics and which code is most relevant to our daily jobs in the public sector. Do we follow the Texas State Code of Ethics? Does it mirror the City Management Code of Ethics? Is this in line with the Code of specific disciplines that apply to lawyers, code enforcement officers, elected officials? What should

that code look like? Bottom line, it should also appear much like our own personal religious values such as "Do not steal, cheat, and act with integrity." At this luncheon, Allen unveiled the launch of a new website <http://texasethics.com>, which is live and available at no cost to elected officials and public servants who have questions regarding ethics or who may experience an ethical dilemma and need some guidance. The website's introductory statement sums it up well: "TexasEthics.com promotes integrity at the

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From left to right: Courtney Sharp, Midland City Manager; Sheryl Cates, Lubbock Area Foundation Executive Director; James Loomis, Lubbock City Manager; Greg Ingham, Former Plainview City Manager; Clarke Cochran, Former VP of Mission Integration, Covenant Hospital



Alan Bojorquez, Attorney at Law, Former MPA Alum



Alan Bojorquez and Dr. David Hamilton, Director of MPA Program at Texas Tech University



# Emergency Education

SPAG 9-1-1 offers educational materials for school children

**W**hen most people think of 9-1-1, images of police, firemen and ambulances come to mind. Most everyone knows that when trouble arises you pick up the phone, dial 9-1-1 and help is on the way. Easy enough, but what if you didn't know about 9-1-1? You might be surprised to learn how many young people are unaware of what to do in an emergency situation. Educating these young people is a priority set by SPAG. It is our goal to assure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emer-

gency. To assist in educating the public, SPAG has made available various educational materials to assist in teaching, when and how



to use 9-1-1. These materials are especially useful when conducting Public Safety Awareness and other events targeted towards elementa-

ry school aged children. You never know when one of these children will be making the call that might save your life.

These items are available from SPAG through our Public Education division at no cost. SPAG will also come to your location and distribute items at community events.

To order these items, please contact Kellie Moats and she will be happy to assist you. 806-672-8721

## Expanding Services

Aging and Disability Resource Center to provide new services at SPAG

**T**he Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), is now a service of SPAG and has been brought to you by the Area Agency on Aging. Texas ADRC's are an initiative from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), to simplify access to long-term care by providing one point of contact for people with disabilities and seniors, age sixty and over. The ADRC brings a highly visible and trusted place where people who need help can go to get information about area services in the South Plains as well as the full range of long-term services and supports available in Texas.

ADRC provides:

- Easy access to information. By telephone, or one-on-one guidance assisting consumers explore a full range of long-term services and supports;
- Caring for an aging loved one can be hard. The ADRC will help find resources and services that support the needs of individuals and their family;
- Help cutting through the confusing maze of services, procedures, multiple intakes and eligibility processes;
- Assistance to anyone, age 60 and over. Access to programs like benefits counseling, personal care, respite for caregivers, and care coordination.
- A community-based environment that promotes independence for individuals age 60 and over.

The South Plains ADRC will soon be a full service Community Partner, that will provide consumers with one-on-one application assistance to Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), and other state programs. You can learn more about ADRCs by visiting the DADS website at [www.dads.state.tx.us/care](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/care) or by calling the new ADRC toll-free phone number for seniors and people with disabilities at 1-855-937-2372 and speak to Aaron Alanis, Program Coordinator.

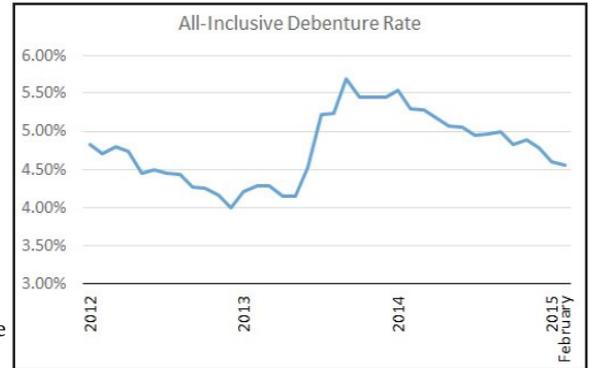


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 Lubbock, TX 79412  
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 cmiller@spag.org

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FISCAL AGENT

20 Year All Inclusive  
 Debenture Rate for  
 February  
 4.54%

From December 2013, when ten-year Treasury yields were 3.0%, to their 1/30/15 close at 1.6%, market analysts have expected rates to move higher due to the end of the Fed's bond buying program at the end of last year's third quarter, strengthening domestic GDP (driven by increased consumer spending), and the global economy following along. Federal Reserve rate hikes have been forecast to begin this June, but that is starting to look a bit shaky. So, while capital markets interest rates have changed, the benchmarks that determine most adjustable rate loan levels remain unchanged at this time. Federal Funds remain near 0.125%, and-month Labor is 0.25%, and the Prime Rate is still 3.25%, the same as it has been since December 2008.



With rates approaching the historic lows that were set in the fourth quarter of 2012, market conditions strongly support the 504 program's ability to provide fixed-rate, term funds to small business borrowers. A major challenge, though, is the extremely low cost of funds for banks now providing fixed-rate term loans as they view commercial real estate to be a superior asset class than low-yielding bonds or stocks that have shown increasing volatility. So what does that mean for the industry? Unfortunately, it most likely means more competition from banks who traditionally do not like to lend at fixed rates. Even with January's slightly disappointing GDP rate of 2.6% for the fourth quarter of 2014, the U.S. economy grew at 2.5% pace for the year, but stubbornly low inflation, weak deflationary euro zone growth, and turmoil in Russia and Greece compel the Federal Reserve to be cautious about raising rates, so this trend can continue until there is a broader based global recovery with increased inflation.

The sharp drop in energy prices has produced a consumer friendly price <\$2.00 a gallon for gas, but may have more than a temporary effect on inflation, ushing it further down from the Fed's target of 2%. A resulting effect could be an economic slowdown and layoffs in energy dependent states, further dampening the economic recovery, thereby increasing the Fed's dilemma about a rate change.

If you have any questions regarding this commentary from DFC LLC Fiscal Agent, Frank Keane, you may contact him by email at frank.keane@dcflc.com or visit <http://nadco.org/page/DCFLLC>.



On January 6, 2015 Caprock closed the SBA 504 loan from Physical Therapy Associates, L.P. Physical Therapy Associates, L.P. is owned and operated by Liesl Olson. Ms. Olsen attended Texas Tech University before finishing her Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy at The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center in 1990. After working in the orthopedic setting for two years, Liesl returned to the University of Oklahoma to pursue an Advanced Master of Science in Sports and Orthopedic Physical Therapy. Shortly after graduating, Ms. Olson moved back to Lubbock and founded Physical Therapy Associates which specializes in orthopedic and manual physical therapy with a focus on sports rehabilitation and movement.

The mission of Physical Therapy Associates is to provide exemplary and personalized orthopedic physical and manual therapy care to patients by prevention, diagnosis, treatment of movement dysfunctions, and the optimization of the physical health and functional abilities of their patients. The practice employs fellowship trained and post-professional manual and orthopedic physical therapists that have completed extensive post-graduate training. The practice's core values revolve around hands-on treatment program, cost-effective efficient physical therapy care, evidence-based practice, and outstanding customer service in order to be the choice provider for patients desiring optimal function. Their goal is to achieve optimal outcome through restoration of normal movement patterns using rapid recovery treatments through specialized manual therapy and elimination of movement impairment syndromes. The methods used by Physical Therapy Associates expedites the patient's recovery time and eliminates excessive Physical Therapy treatments.

Ms. Olson used the SBA 504 program to purchase and make renovations of the office space located at 3838 50th Street.

On February 11, 2015, 348 twenty-year debentures totaling \$238,962,000 were funded through the settlement of certificates guaranteed by SBA. <https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/nadco.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/FiscalAgentComment/0215ltr.pdf>

local level of government. The site is a resource that provides educational material to inform local leaders of the rules and guidelines that affect conduct, decision-making, implementation and adjudication. This website is a terrific resource for individuals to utilize for information regarding any questions that arise regarding ethical standards. The nonprofit organization that governs this website is known as the Texas Center for Municipal Ethics.

The Ethics Symposium also highlighted a group of experts in the public sector arena from local government to healthcare. Additionally, a panelist represented the nonprofit sector which also holds a high standard for a code of ethics. The panelists included Sheryl Cates, Executive Director of Lubbock Area Foundation, Clarke Cochran, Vice President of Mission Integration, Greg Ingham, Former City Manager of the City of Plainview, James Loomis, City Manager of the City of Lubbock, and Courtney Sharp, City Manager of the City of Midland. The panel provided the audience with information about some of the ethical dilemmas they faced during their careers in public service. The event ended with a social networking opportunity for the attendees to join with former alumni or visit with students who will be pursuing a career in public service. The Center for Public Service looks forward to hosting a future symposium.

# *Texas Municipal League*

## TML REGION 3

### UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2015

LOCATION: The Legacy Event Center, Lubbock

HOST CITY: City of Lubbock

WORKSHOP TOPIC: "How to be Heard at Capitol Hill"

WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Monty Winn, TML Assistant  
Director of Legislative Services

CATERER: Honeychild Catering Solutions

DATE: Thursday, June 25, 2015

LOCATION: Lubbock Scottish Rite, Lubbock

HOST CITY: City of Abernathy

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Code Enforcement

WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Texas Communities Group,  
LLC

CATERER: Jeana's Feedbag

DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2015

LOCATION: Lubbock Scottish Rite, Lubbock

HOST CITY: City of Idalou

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Panel Discussion on Hotel/Motel  
Tax and Economic Development ("How to Bounce  
Back from an Economic Hardship")

WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Rick Osburn (City Manager,  
City of Levelland), Jeffrey Snyder (City Manager,  
City of Plainview), and Mike Arismendez (City Man-  
ager, City of Levelland)

CATERER: Cast Iron Grill Catering

For meeting information, please contact

Belinda Solis, TML Coordinator

Email: [bsolis@spag.org](mailto:bsolis@spag.org)



# SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy

## QUARTERLY TRAINING CALENDAR



### INTERMEDIATE CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

DATE: March 24 - 27, 2015  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: SPAG Law Enforcement Academy,  
1321 58th Street, Lubbock, TX 79412  
COST: \$75.00

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: March 31, 2015  
TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: SPAG Law Enforcement Academy,  
1321 58th St., Lubbock, TX 79412  
COST: \$20.00

To register for any of the classes, contact Julie Ryan or any of the academy staff at SPAG by calling (806) 762-8721. Please pre-register for classes. Failure to register may result in class being canceled due to lack of attendance. If unable to attend a class please contact the academy to cancel your spot. Any person needing special assistance to attend training should notify Academy staff prior to class.

## SPAG LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Members of the South Plains Legislative Delegation joined the South Plains Association of Governments for a Legislative Forum on February 20 to provide updates on the 84th Legislative Session. Pictured below: Senator Charles Perry, SPAG Board President Lubbock County Judge Tom Head, State Rep. John Frullo and State Rep. Dustin Burrows. The members were introduced by SPAG Executive Director Tim Pierce.





## Happy Anniversary

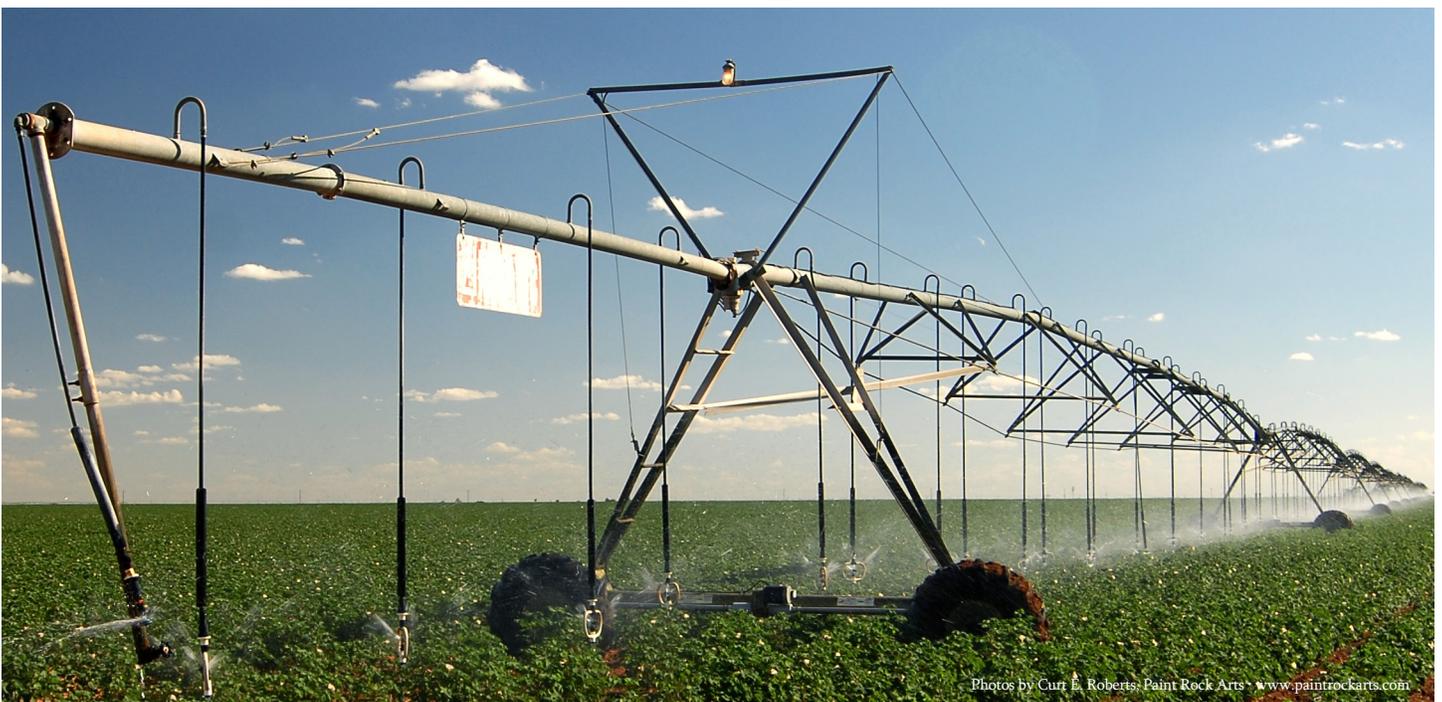
2-1-1 Texas South Plains celebrates 10 years in the region



**2**-1-1 Texas South Plains celebrated 2-1-1 Day on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. This year marked the 10th year anniversary of its inception on the South Plains.

Various 2-1-1 Day events were held across the State of Texas and United States. However, the South Plains region held a resource fair at Trinity Church located at 7002 Canton from 1:30pm-4:00pm. Groups represented ranged from Vetstar to the Human Rescue Co-

alition. The purpose of the event was to recognize agencies and volunteer groups that provide vital services to all populations. Over 35 groups were present to distribute their information to the other vendors and the general public. Special thanks were provided to: Amerigroup, First Care Medicare Advantage Plan, First Care Medicaid, Superior Health Plan, and Trinity Church for graciously hosting the event.



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SOUTH PLAINS ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
 QUARTERLY CALENDAR



| <i>APRIL</i>                    |                      |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| SPAG Board of Directors Meeting | 4/14/15<br>9:30 a.m. | SPAG Boardroom |
| <i>MAY</i>                      |                      |                |
| SPAG Board of Directors Meeting | 5/12/15<br>9:30 a.m. | SPAG Boardroom |
| <i>JUNE</i>                     |                      |                |
| SPAG Board of Directors Meeting | 6/9/15<br>9:30 a.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

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THE HONORABLE  
 TOM HEAD  
 PRESIDENT

TIM PIERCE  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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