



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

**SPAG Receives Innovation Award From The National Association of Development Organizations**

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In response to the widespread destruction caused by the recent wildfires in Texas, the SPAG network and its supporters organized a relief effort known as “In the Line of Fire.” As part of the South Plains Disaster Recovery Fund, this initiative functioned as a mechanism for citizens in the region to donate to wildfire relief efforts.

Because Texas did not receive a Presidential Declaration of Disasters in the wake of the wildfires, — and the funding that comes with that designation— citizens of the South Plains joined forces to provide the financial resources to provide the financial resources to support area fire departments.

Area banks, businesses,



*Wildfire south of Iraan, Texas, burns on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. (AP Photo/Odessa American, Heather Leiphart)*

nonprofit organizations and individuals have contributed to the recovery fund, and donations were made online.

Once collected, funds were earmarked to replace damaged or destroyed equipment and to cover unexpected expenses related to fighting the wildfires, which will ensure that local fire departments are well prepared for future emergencies. Taking notice of the regional support network that made this

possible, the National Association of Development Organizations presented SPAG with the NADO Innovation Award in Disaster Mitigation. This honor is presented on a competitive, national basis, and shows the truly resilient and creative spirit of the South Plains Region.



*Elena Quintanilla, Director of Regional Services Accepts NADO Award on behalf of SPAG*





### SPAG Graduates 77th Peace Officer Academy

On October 27, 2011, the South Plains Association of Governments 77<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy conducted a graduation ceremony for 15 police cadets at the Koko Palace. The police cadets completed 618 hours of basic police training that included practical training, penal code, code of criminal procedures, and various academic studies. Practical training included firearms instruction, police driving, defensive tactics, and active shooter scenarios. The

Master of Ceremonies for graduation was Lubbock County Sheriff Captain Kevin Ryan, followed by guest speaker Ozzy Oswalt from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. After Mr. Oswalt gave a brief history of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards,

awards and diplomas were issued.

Valedictorian for the 77<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy was awarded to police Cadet Krystal Quintana, sponsored by the Lubbock County Sheriff Department. The Salutatorian award was presented to Alfredo Anzaldua, sponsored by the Bailey County Sheriff Department. The South Plains Association of Governments would like

to congratulate the 77<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy Cadets upon the occasion of their graduation!



**SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy is currently accepting applications for the 2012 Night Basic Police Officer Academy. This academy will run Monday – Friday 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Julie Ryan at (806) 762-8721.**



### Jan Pierce Retires From PSAP

After thirteen years of service, Jan Pierce retired from the Muleshoe Police Department.

The City of Muleshoe collaborated with the Police Department to recognize and celebrate her thirteen years of service on September 2, 2011. SPAG Regional 9-1-1 was pleased to be

there to recognize her service as a 9-1-1 Telecommunicator and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Supervisor. Her years of service provided for professional emergency response when it was most needed. **Good Luck** Jan, you will be missed!

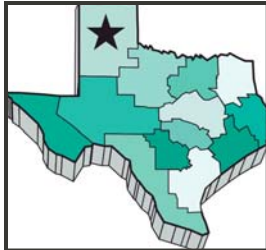


*Brian Frieda, Muleshoe Chief of Police presents Jan Pierce with certificate of appreciation*





**Perryman Report Anticipates Growth for High Plains Economy**



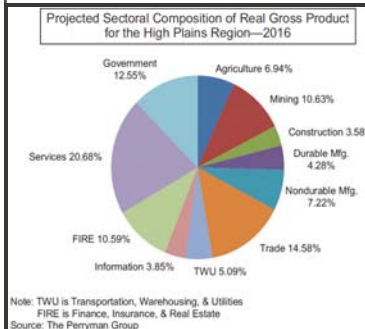
Source: www.perrymangroup.com

*The Perryman Group, an economic and financial analysis firm, recently released the Perryman Report as a public service. The following excerpt from the report highlights the High Plains Region:*

The High Plains Region covers a vast area and is comprised of 41 counties. Also included in the region are two major metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) —Amarillo and Lubbock.

The High Plains Region is home to approximately 824,440 residents and represents 3.21% of the state’s population. The region

also accounts for 3.38% of all wage and salary jobs in Texas and generates around 2.47% of the real gross product (RGP or output) in the state. Over the short term (2011-2016), the area is expected to see an increase in population of about 24,580 which represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 0.59%.



Source: www.perrymangroup.com

Job creation in the High Plains Region remains strong and is forecast to grow by 37,000 jobs at a 1.90% CAGR during the same period. Real retail sales is expected to increase by more than \$2.44 billion, a CAGR of

4.12%. The diverse business climate of the High Plains Region is attractive to many industries.

In Lubbock, the city’s economic development organization was recently recognized for its recruitment of silicon wafer manufacturer X-Fab. The project could create 150 jobs for the area over a five-year period.

Although drought conditions have been a drain on the region’s agriculture sector, the Panhandle stands strong in the dairy and beef industries. According to a US Department of Agriculture report, eight of the state’s top ten milk-producing counties are located in the region.

“The Perryman Group’s practice areas include economic modeling and forecasting, litigation and regulatory support, business valuation, economic development and strategic planning, and impact assessment.”

Source:

www.perrymangroup.com





### Census Data Book Available from Regional Services Department

The Regional Services Department is happy to announce the first Demographic Breakdown Book for the SPAG Region (all SPAG cities and counties). The book includes population comparisons (i.e. 2000 Census vs. 2010

Census), Race, Ethnicity, Crime Rates, Poverty Levels, Household Income, Unemployment, Occupations, and etc.

The information was gathered from the 2010 Census, 2009 American Community Survey, Federal Bureau of Inves-

tigation, and Texas Labor Market. if you would like to purchase a book, please email or call Tandi Townsend at [ttownsend@spag.org](mailto:ttownsend@spag.org), 806-762-8721. The cost for each book is \$20.00.

#### Regional Services Contacts:

- Elena Quintanilla, Director
- Kelly Davila, Criminal Justice, Community Development
- Tandi Townsend, Census, Community Development
- Christian Shotts, Solid Waste, Community Development
- David Corder, Rosalyn Martinez, & Tommy Murillo, Homeland Security
- Belinda Solis, Administrative Assistant, TML Coordinator

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### Brownfield, Idalou & Plainview Receive 2011 CDBG Awards

The cities of Brownfield, Idalou and Plainview were all notified that they have received 2011 CDBG funding to make water, sewer and street improvements. These awards began October 1st, 2011 and are the first awards out of the new Office of Rural Affairs (formerly the Texas Department of Rural Affairs) within the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Each TxCDBG award is \$275,000. The City of Brownfield will use

the funds to make street improvements within the community. The City of Plainview received the award to make improvements to the water system. The City of Idalou will make improvements to the streets and the water system.

Each of these projects were submitted for prioritization in September



2010 for the 2011/2012 CDBG cycle by the Regional Services Department at SPAG. Projects are regionally based on multiple factors including community need, poverty rate and leverage.

The South Plains Association of Governments Regional Services Department wrote each of these applications and will administer them as well. For more information on the TxCDBG program, please contact the Regional Services Department.





### Idalou Receives 2011 Downtown Revitalization Grant from TDA

The City of Idalou has been awarded a 2011 Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP) grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The City will receive \$103,120 from TDA to make improvements to

their downtown including sidewalk, curb and gutter, ADA and lighting updates.

This grant was submitted by the SPAG Regional Services



Department in July 2011 and began in October. The City will have 2 years to complete the project.

DRP grants are awarded annually by the Texas Department of Agriculture. For more information, please contact the Regional Services Department.

**“The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program** is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1209 general units of local government and States.”

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

### Tahoka Awarded Grant for Water System Improvements

In addition to the other regional CDBG awards, the City of Tahoka was notified late in the grant application review cycle that they will also be receiving an award for water system improvements. This award, totaling \$275,000, was written and will be administered by the Regional Services Department. As a community development grant, this project will benefit the citizens of Tahoka by funding improvements to the local water system infrastructure.

### Caregiver Support Coordination @ SPAG

Caregiver Support Coordination is an ongoing process in SPAG’s Area Agency on Aging (AAA.) Program activities include the assessment of both caregiver and care-recipient needs, coordination and follow-up of services, and identification of mutual needs as identified by the caregiver, care recipient and Caregiver Coordinator of SPAG/AAA.



This service is provided through cooperative

efforts between the Texas Department on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging. SPAG, the designated Area Agency on Aging, serves senior citizens living in the fifteen-county region of the South Plains. These services are provided free of charge, and include: respite vouchers, emergency response system, residential repair, and health maintenance. For additional information or to apply for services, please contact Linda at (806)687-0940 or 1 (888)418-6564.





## New Employees @ SPAG



**Lucinda Martinez** is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University, and comes to SPAG from Plainview, Texas.

She brings with her 5 years of experience in state Child Protective Service investigations, and has been married for 10 years. Her two children, age 12 and 7, attend school at Frenship ISD. While her past experience primarily served children, she is excited to transition into a Ombudsman position to serve the elderly.

**Kelly Jasper** joined SPAG in August as the Caregiver Coordinator in the Area Aging Agency of SPAG. She comes to SPAG/AAA from the home health care industry. As part of her duties, she will be assisting caregivers and care receivers with their medical needs to ensure independent living in their home. Kelly is married to Ronnie Jasper. Together they have four children and six grandchild-



dren. In her free time, Kelly is active in the motorcycle community with awareness campaigns and fundraisers.



**Kevin J. Ryan** comes to SPAG as a Law Enforcement Program Specialist. His career started at the Texas Tech Police Department in 1977. He worked in patrol, communications and ad-

ministration. After retiring in 2000 as the lieutenant over the Patrol Division, he went to work for the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office in 2001. He was selected as a Hostage Negotiator in 2002 and became the Team Leader in 2003. He is a licensed firearms instructor and educator on various topics including leadership, communications, legal issues and firearms with the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Academy.

**Aaron Alanis** joined SPAG in October as a Community Outreach Specialist for 2-1-1. Aaron has always had an interest in community happenings and has a genuine love for helping people. He is a Texas Tech graduate, with a degree in Exercise Sports Sciences/Fitness and Wellness. For the last fifteen years he has been in the fitness and wellness industry, which has helped create a foundation of skill in helping



others to find and organize a plan of action to address their needs. Aaron enjoys working with the knowledgeable 2-1-1 staff that has a great ability to relay information about what the community has to offer.



# South Plains Association of Governments



## Quarterly Calendar

IN THE DEPTH OF WINTER I FINALLY  
LEARNED THAT THERE WAS IN ME AN  
INVINCIBLE SUMMER.  
— ALBERT CAMUS

What	December	Where
Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting	<b>12/7/11</b> 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Public Safety Software Demonstration	<b>12/15/11</b> 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
	January	
Resources United Meeting	<b>1/12/12</b> 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Advisory Council on Aging meeting	<b>1/17/12</b> 2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Caregiver Respite Seminar	<b>1/18/12</b> 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Directors and Bookkeepers meeting	<b>1/19/12</b> 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
	February	
9-1-1 Advisory Board meeting	<b>2/15/12</b> 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>

*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.*

