

THE TEXAS RESOLUTION CONNECTION

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Texas Dispute Resolution System™	
Phone: (806) 775-1720	
or 1-866-329-3522	
E-mail: drc@co.lubbock.tx.us	
Web Site: www.co.lubbock.tx.us	

DISASTER...ARE YOU PREPARED???

On May 11, 1970, twenty-nine year old Lubbock Police Patrol Officer Floyd Price started his day as he would any other. It was a typical hot spring day, but what would transpire that night would take the city of Lubbock by surprise and forever change The Hub City.

“Around mid afternoon it started to get dark in the southwest part of the city,” recalls Price. “There was no wind blowing, it was real calm.”

As evening turned to night, Price and his partner went on weather watch. As they circled Loop 289, Price could sense that something was about to happen.

“When the lightning would flash, I could see what looked like several tornados spiraling around - coming down then going back up,” recalled Price.

As Price was making his way around East Loop 289 around 9:30pm with the rain now pouring, he looked west and saw that part of the city had gone completely dark. The tornado had hit downtown Lubbock.

“I remember the LPD dispatcher saying, ‘Lubbock to all units...PD has just been hit, parts of the building are flying everywhere, I’m getting out of here,’” remembered Price. “Then the radio went dead.”

The F-5 tornado, one of the worst tornadoes in Texas history, killed 26 people, injured more than 1,500, and left millions of dollars in damage.

“Tornadoes had always come through Lubbock, but they would never tear anything up,” said Price.

“The biggest issue that people have after a disaster is that they did not prepare because they thought that it would never happen to them,” said Lewis Treadwell, Lubbock’s Emergency Management Coordinator.

Treadwell says severe weather and wildfires are prevalent this time of year, so it is important to have a disaster plan, which includes a safe place to go when a disaster strikes,



Photo courtesy of NSSL

Story continued on page 3

STIMULUS BREAK DOWN FOR RURAL TEXAS

Recently, the Federal Government has approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which can provide money and resources to rural Texas. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts office has provided a list of all areas that will be receiving funds dealing with the Department of Agriculture. Below is a summary of five USDA programs and the funds that will be distributed to each based on information from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations will be allotted \$290 million for water protection; flood prevention; water quality improvements; soil erosion reduction; rural, municipal and industrial water supply; irrigation water management; sediment control; fish and wildlife enhancement; and wetlands and wetland function creation and restoration.

The Rural Community Facilities Program stimulus package includes \$130 million for grants and loans to rural areas for critical community facilities, including but not limited to, hospitals, medical clinics, elderly care facilities, police stations and vehicles, fire and rescue stations and vehicles, vocational and medical rehabilitation center, and educational facilities.

Also, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program will receive \$500 million to provide grants to States for supplemental food, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and children who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Rural Utilities Service provides the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Programs. The Broadband Program will acquire \$2.5 billion to fund the cost of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband services to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. The stimulus package also allows the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program \$1.38 billion in new budget authority for rural water and waste disposal direct loans and grants.

More information dealing with the stimulus can be obtained at www.window.state.tx.us

LUBBOCK COUNTY CONNECTION
COMMISSIONER MARK HEINRICH



Mark Heinrich

Born and reared in rural West Texas, Lubbock County Commissioner Mark Heinrich knows firsthand the life of a rural Texan.

"I grew up in a farming family; my parents farmed a 1,200 acre farm," said Heinrich. "One of my brothers still farms today."

Commissioner Heinrich believes we need a "big brother" like Lubbock, Dallas and Houston to

help the rural communities continue to thrive. The rural communities serve as the grassroots efforts to contribute to a "big brother."

"Everything must begin at the bottom and branch out from there, because it works and we all need each other to survive," said Heinrich.

However, Commissioner Heinrich feels the "big brothers" to rural areas are harmful in some ways.

"Rural areas are facing consolidation right now," said Heinrich. "The small guy is the one most affected, which can lead to a smaller tax base to work with inside rural communities."

But despite these obstacles that rural areas face, Heinrich trusts that they will be able to weather the storm, pull together and remain stable.

"I remember when I was eight years old I got on my bike with my dog and took off down the road in hopes of reaching the 'big city'," recalls Heinrich. "I wanted to go to town."

A few years later Heinrich made it to the "big city" where he currently serves as the Lubbock County Commissioner for Precinct 2. Even though he has made it into the city, he still

3rd Annual

Agricultural **LAW**
Course

May 14-15

Texas Tech School of Law
Lanier Professional Development Center
Lubbock, Texas

Speakers and Topics Include:

Pro Se Parties in an Arbitration

Rudy Apodaca, Cedar Park

Procedural Issues in Eminent Domain,

John P. Baker, Ft. Worth

New Developments in Food Law, and Legal Issues
Involving Organic Agriculture

Susan A. Schneider, Fayetteville, AR

Oil and Gas Case Law Update

A. Harper Estes, Midland

Register at TexasBarCLE.com
or call 1-800-204-2222 Ext. 1574

Don't Forget to register for the 3rd Annual Agricultural Law Course, May 14-15 in Lubbock, Texas. The course, co-sponsored by Texas Rural Mediation Services and the State Bar of Texas, will feature agriculture topics such as the USDA appeals process, tax developments, as well as procedural issues in eminent domain.

By registering two weeks before the course you can save \$50. This will ensure that there are sufficient course materials, seating, and refreshments.

You can earn 15.5 CLE hours (1.75 ethics) which applies to the College of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Farm and Ranch Real Estate Law.

In the last issue of the "Texas Resolution Connection," Judge Josephina Rendon was listed as representing the 110th District. Judge Rendon actually represents the 165th District of Texas. We apologize for any confusion.

MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF...



Sherry Phillips

Sherry Phillips is a member of the Dispute Resolution Advisory Board and serves on the Legal Representation Committee.

As Pro Se Staff Attorney for US District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Sherry spends a great deal of time working with different organizations. She also currently serves on the boards of the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center and Lubbock

Children's Health Clinic.

Sherry received her B.A. from Texas Woman's University and her law degree from the Texas Tech School of Law. She and her husband, a retired banker, have four children who are all graduates of Texas Tech University. In her spare time, Sherry enjoys reading, water skiing, snow skiing and spending time with her grandsons.

Mike Smith is the Outreach Manager for Dispute Resolution. Mike has been with Lubbock County since 1999 and Dispute Resolution since July of 2008.

Prior to July, Mike served as an Assistant Facility Administrator at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center.

Mike performs various duties as the Outreach Manager. His primary duty is to promote activities of the department.

Mike enjoys sports, music, reading and spending time with his family and dog "Bubba." Mike will marry his fiancé Shanna in early August.



Mike Smith

2009 JUVENILE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

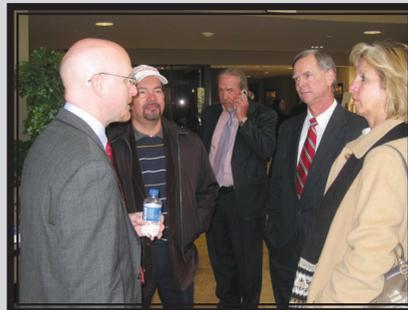
In late March, Texas Dispute Resolution System™ presented the Juvenile Justice Symposium, an annual event hosted by the Honorable Melissa McNamara. The event attracted speakers and participants from all over Texas interested in juvenile justice related issues.



**Judge
Melissa
McNamara**

The morning began with a welcome from the Honorable William Sowder, of the 99th District Court and Carolyn Moore President Elect of the Lubbock County Bar Association. Brian Fischer, an attorney from Houston, presented on ethics in juvenile courts. In addition, the Honorable Pat Garza, Associate Judge, 386th District, San Antonio gave a juvenile case law update.

The afternoon began with a legislative update by Riley Shaw of the Tarrant County District Attorney's



**Riley Shaw,
Judge Pat
Garza, David
Hazlewood,
Brian Fischer
and Anne
Hazlewood
visit during a
break.**

Office. A panel with Denette Vaughn and Colleen Wisdom of Advocacy Inc. and Frank Chappa of Managed Care provided listeners with information concerning special populations of juveniles. The afternoon ended with an informative panel including Judge McNamara, Lubbock County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Les Brown and Cheryl Pitre of the Lubbock County Office of Dispute Resolution.

DISASTER (CONT)

at least three days of emergency supplies and a designated meeting spot for you and your family. In addition, Texas agriculture producers are feeling the effects of the state's current drought, which according to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is costing Texas agriculture nearly \$1 billion.

"Texas producers have been hit hard with a triple threat starting with Hurricane Ike last fall, then with our nation's current economic calamity, and now, with one of the worst droughts our state has seen in years," Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said in a recent TDA press release.

A disaster resource information packet is available for producers seeking disaster assistance. Included in this packet are emergency contact numbers, as well as financial, employment, crop insurance and health assistance information.

"The one thing I cannot stress enough is preparedness," said Treadwell. "Emergency services will help during a disaster, but they will be overwhelmed, so be prepared to take care of yourself until help arrives."

Also included in your emergency supplies should be important numbers such as Texas 2-1-1 and emergency services, as well as flashlights and a battery-operated radio.

"2-1-1 is used a lot on the Gulf Coast because you can preregister to have someone come get you if there is an evacuation; 2-1-1 is a direct product of Hurricane Katrina because people in New Orleans did not have the capability to leave town," said Treadwell.

As with Hurricane Katrina, the tornado of 1970 left the city of Lubbock with a lot of lessons learned. The city now has an emergency management operation in place so that the city is not caught off guard again.

"Are we perfect? No," said Floyd Price. "But are we prepared? Yes!"

For more information about disaster preparedness contact your local emergency management coordinator. You can also visit: www.redcross.org, www.nws.noaa.gov, www.texas homelandsecurity.com, www.fema.gov, www.TexasAgriculture.gov or <http://drought.unl.edu/>.

TRAINING IN 2009

Basic Mediation Training

August 10-14, Lubbock
September 14-18, Ruidoso, NM

Family Mediation Training

October 19-21, Kerrville

ADR Professional Continuing Education

Case Law and Legislative Update, September 5, Lubbock
Guardianship, November 14, Lubbock

Health Care

3rd Annual Health Care Symposium, October 16, Lubbock

Rural/Agriculture Continuing Education

2009 Agriculture Law Course*
May 14-15, Lubbock



2009 South Padre Island BMT

To register for any of the trainings, please visit our website at <http://www.co.lubbock.tx.us/drc/training.htm>.

*Co-sponsored by the State Bar of Texas
NOTE: Reciprocal Continuing Education Credit available for many other professions

VOAD

In March, The Office of Dispute Resolution and The Salvation Army-Lubbock helped organize the first regional VOAD meeting to be held on the South Plains. Thirteen volunteer organizations and other agencies with a disaster plan were in attendance. VOAD, which stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, is a multi-tier organization, consisting of a national VOAD, state VOADs, regional and local VOADs. The purpose of the organization is to provide a forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle to help disaster survivors and their families. This is done through the four C's - cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration.



**South Plains
Regional VOAD
Meeting**

TRAVELS AROUND TEXAS...

In the coming months, staff will be visiting and participating in many different activities around the state of Texas. Booths will be on display throughout different farm and ranch shows and many other conventions and conferences. Below is a list of different places you can find us:

April 26-30: Juvenile Justice Association of Texas Spring Conference...Austin

April 28: TAMU Commerce Presentation....Commerce

April 27-May 1: Texas Training Initiative for Emergency Response...College Station

May 14-15: Ag Law Seminar...Lubbock



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*“Dispute
Resolution
strives to provide
a competent,
effective
alternative
resource for the
resolution of
disputes.”*

Dispute Resolution
916 Main - Suite 702
P.O. Box 10536
Lubbock, TX 79408-3536

