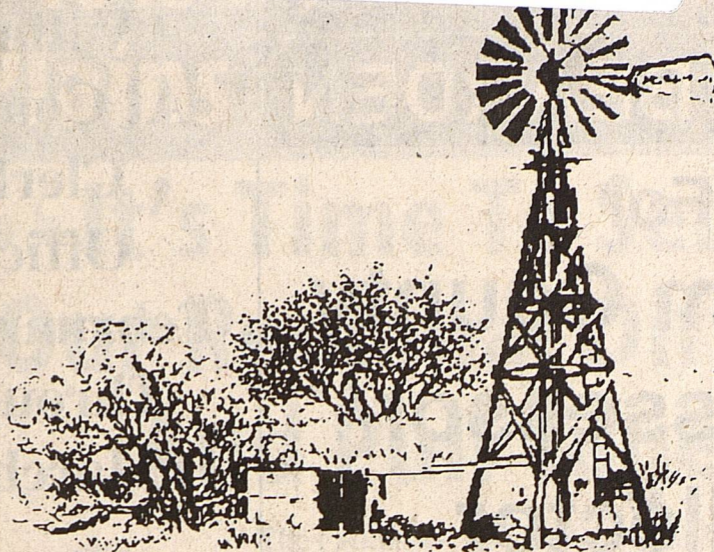


# Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume X, Issue 25, March 3, 2004



## 28 Band Students Advance To State



Competing in a recent UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in Lubbock, 28 Plains ISD Band students earned a total of 32 First Division medals, qualifying for the big State competition in Austin in May. Cowboy Marching Band Director Georgann Weisgerber said she was extremely proud of the students hard work preparing for the Lubbock event. Medal winners included;

Clarinet Trio; Allison Friesen, Adriana Ponce, Mari Ruiz. Clarinet Solo; Allison Friesen Brass Sextet; Nick Curtis, Meghan Garcia, Adam McCravey, Cody Mayes, Elias Carrillo, C.J. Tarango Piano Solo; B.J. Lester French Horn Solo; Adam McCravey Percussion Ensemble; Kurt Alldredge, Stacie Alldredge, Amber Friesen, Douglas Conway, LaShonda Diamond, Amber Friesen, Jose Luis Gallegos, Ashli Hunter, B.J. Lester, Jeannie Longoria, Bran-

don Loya, Sergio Olivas, Jacob Rivera, Colby Wilmeth, Clarissa Zorrilla Shown here, L-R Back; Stacie Alldredge, BJ Lester, Nick Curtis, Sergio Olivas, Elias Carrillo, Cody Mayes, Lauren Hise. 2nd Row; Amber Friesen, Clarissa Zorrilla, Angelica Mendoza, Kurt Alldredge, C.J. Tarango, Jacob Rivera, Colby Wilmeth, Jose Luis Gallegos. Front, L-R Mari Ruiz, Adriana Ponce, Lisa Neufeld, LaShonda Diamond, Ashli Hunter, Jeannie Longoria, Meghan Garcia.

## Neugebauer and Ag Committee members meet with WTO head

Washington, DC - 19th District Congressman Randy Neugebauer thinks West Texas producers deserve to be protected. He met with Director General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Supachai Panitchpak, last week to discuss ongoing negotiations in the Doah Development Round, last year's WTO Ministerial in Cancun, and the prospects for future WTO negotiations.

"You cannot deny the importance of U.S. agriculture in the world market. I will not allow West Texas farmers to be taken advantage of in the world-wide agriculture arena. I wanted to get this across to the Director General," said Neugebauer.

In speaking with Dr. Panitchpakdi, he emphasized the comments made by U.S. Trade Representative Zoellick in his recent visits with trade ministers of other countries. Zoellick has said changes in U.S. domestic support for agriculture needs to be considered with other nations opening their markets to American. Neugebauer has maintained contact with Zoellick and other administration trade officials regarding the treatments of cotton in current and future WTO negotiations, as well as current discussions regarding the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Neugebauer reasserted that changes in domestic support for cotton should not be singled out, but should be considered with all agriculture domestic supports. He said, "We have to address the way other nation's trade practices distort our cotton and textile markets. We're not going to put our domestic support on the table until these other countries agree to put theirs."

The Doha Development Round negotiations, which include talks on agriculture, are scheduled for completion next January. Neugebauer attended the WTO negotiations in Cancun last September to promote and defend the concerns of West Texas farmers who are increasingly victimized by unfair trading practices in other countries. He was encouraged when U.S. negotiators held their ground. He sits on the Ag Committee's Subcommittees on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs and Livestock and Horticulture.

## Eradication assessment rates, dates announced

Abilene - The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the 2004 assessment rate, due date and discount date for the Western High Plains Zone of the boll weevil eradication program.

The assessment for 2004 in the WHP is \$6 per dryland acre and \$12 per irrigated land acre, the rate established by growers and landowners in the original referendum.

Growers with failed acres are eligible to receive a credit on those acres destroyed before the final certification date. Qualifying failed acres must remain free of all hostable cotton until a killing freeze to receive the credit.

Assessment notices will be mailed by August 20, and payment is due by September 25. Growers who pay by September 10 are eligible to receive a two percent discount on their assessment.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a non-profit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the boll weevil from the state in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

## Democrat, Republican Primary Elections Next Tuesday

While most of the nation's focus is upon selecting a democrat candidate to run against President George W. Bush next November, there are a number of county, state and national races drawing intense interest here and in this general area of West Texas.

When Yoakum County voters go to the polls next Tuesday, they will send a democrat and republican County Sheriff candidate into the November General Election. Incumbent Don Corzine, R, is being challenged by Rick Dickson, former Commander of Llano Estacado Drug Task Force.

Republican incumbent Kelly G. Moore is unopposed in his bid to return as District Judge of the 121st Judicial District.

Following Tax Assessor/Collector Betty Rivas announcement of her pending retirement at the end of the year, three Republican candidates are working hard to win the office; Karen Bearden, a Plains resi-

dent and presently clerk in the County Clerk office; Jan Parrish, another long time resident and currently employed by Llano Estacado Drug Task Force; and Elfida Winkler, a former Plains resident now living in Denver City and employed at Yoakum County Abstract.

The field for Commissioner of Precinct 3 is even more crowded with candidates. Incumbent Ty Earl Powell, Democrat, completing his first four year term of office, is being contested by three hopefuls. Rex Swann, a local ag producer, who ran against Powell in the last election as a Republican, is challenging again, this time as a Democrat. Cody Flores, who also ran in the race four years ago, and is a former Precinct 3 employee, is again running for the position as a Democrat. To add to the melee, local business man Tim Willis has tossed his hat in the ring as a Republican candidate for the Pct. 3 job.

One of the most interesting spots on the ballots is for the District 19 U.S. Representative job. Because of the recent and confusing re-districting battle in the state legislature, veteran Congressman Charles Stenholm, D, must face off against only recently elected Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R. The race is drawing lots of attention in the area, as both men currently serve on the House Agriculture Committee, economy mainstay of the South Plains.

Local voters choosing a democrat primary ballot will have ten names to consider for their nominee for the office of the presidency; Wesley Clark, Howard Dean, Al Sharpton, Dick Gephardt, Joe Lieberman, John Edwards, Lyndon LaRouche, John Kerry, Randy Crow, and Dennis Kucinich. Republican primary voters have a much easier task - it's an X for George W Bush, or one for 'Unopposed'.

## Credit Union 55th Annual Meeting Held



204 members and guests registered for Yoakum County Credit Union's 55th annual meeting last Saturday. Following the Invocation by Evertt McAdams, a brisket and ham dinner was served. President Melvin Dearing presided at the business meeting, and reported the credit union is in excellent financial condition. Directors with expiring terms of office Tommie Brown, Lisa Switzer and Kenneth Engle were all re-elected for another two year term. Plains and Denver City merchants and individuals donated over 200 door prizes. The Benediction was given by Jose Rodriguez.

## School board election set for May 15

### Three Trustee positions to be determined

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees is calling a board election for Saturday, May 15, 2004 for three positions on the school board. The three positions up for election are District 1, (Anna Gonzalez for a two-year term completing the term of Ramon Diaz), District 2 (incumbent-Randy Tuggle), and At-Large 7 (incumbent-Dwayne

Canada).

Persons desiring to apply for a place on the ballot may do so at the school superintendent's office at 1000 Tenth Street, Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 4:30 PM. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is Monday, March 15. Personnel of Plains ISD will be on spring break March 15 through March 19. If an individual

wishes to apply for a place on the ballot on March 15 while the school offices are closed, he/she should call one of the following people to begin the application process: Jim Haynes, 456-6661, 456-7542 Sarah K. Burrus, 505-398-6137 Shari McCravey, 456-3333 Bill Butler, 456-2474, 456-9022

★ **ELECT** ★  
**KAREN BEARDEN**

For  
**Yoakum County  
 Tax Assessor/  
 Collector**



- ★ 7 years combined service in District Clerk & County Clerk offices
- ★ Bookkeeping & records management experience
- ★ Work closely with other county offices
- ★ Election & voter registration experience

**EARLY VOTING: February 23-March 5**  
 Plains-County Clerk's Office  
 Denver City-Tax Office  
**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: March 9**

PAID POLITICAL AD BY KAREN BEARDEN, P.O. BOX 935, PLAINS, TEXAS 79355

Early  
 Voting  
 At County  
 Clerk  
 Office  
**February 23  
 Through  
 March 5**  
 .....  
**Primaries  
 March 9**

☑ **Élfida Lazos Winkler** ★★



(Pol. adv. paid for by Elfida Lazos Winkler, 309 N. Washington, Denver City, Texas 79323)

**A Friendly Reminder:**

**Early Voting: February 23 - March 5**  
 At County Clerk Office, Courthouse, Plains;  
 At DC Branch-Tax Office, Denver City

**Primary Election March 9 - Republican  
 Polling Places:**

- Pct. 101 - West Texas National Bank, DC
- Pcts. 306, 406 - Firemens Hall, DC
- Pct. 202 - Community Bldg. (w. side) DC
- Pcts. 303, 404 - Community Bldg., Plains

**Vote** Elfida Lazos Winkler For Tax Assessor

★ ★ **Vote** ★ ★

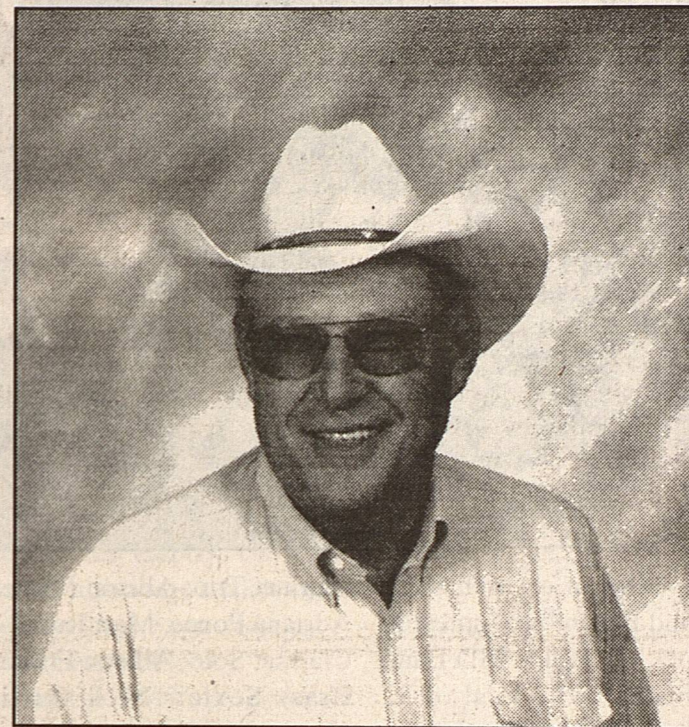
**Republican**

Tim  
**WILLIS**

**FOR COMMISSIONER-PCT.3**

Paid Political Ad by Tim Willis, Tim Willis Treasurer

Please Re - Elect  
**Ty Earl Powell**

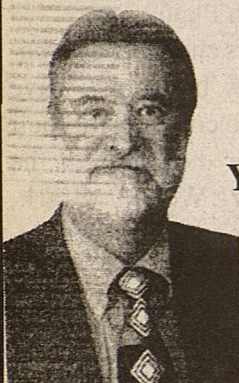


**Democratic Candidate  
 March 9, 2004**

**Commissioner Ptc. 3**

Subject to March Primary  
 Political Ad Paid By Ty Earl Powell, Box 605, Plains TX 79355

Help Elect  
**Rex Swann**  
 Candidate For  
 Yoakum County Commissioner  
 Precinct 3  
 "A Vote For Conservative  
 Common Sense"  
 Your Vote & Support Appreciated




Pd. Pol. Adv. by Rex Swann, Box 190, Plains TX 79355

The Plains Chamber Of Commerce wishes to thank the many individuals, business firms and organizations who so generously supported our recent 19th Annual Banquet with door prize gifts;

*Assembly of God Church \* Bayer Lumber \* Plains State Bank \* CCN \* Debbie Rushing \* Richardson Ins. \* Karen Bearden \* Jan Parrish \* Elfida Winkler \* Tim Willis \* Ty Earl Powell \* Congressman Randy Neugebauer \* State Rep. Delwin Jones \* Doug's Specialties \* Kountry Klipper \* I'mage 'n That \* Lea County Electric \* Yoakum County Federal Credit Union \**

*\* Gary and Frankie Walker \* Helwig Law Offices \* Johnnie's Restaurant \* City of Plains Employees \* Circle B Auto Parts \* Jim & Joann Barron \**

It's Time....  
 To Vote For  
**JAN**  
**PARRISH**



**Elect Jan For Tax Assessor!**  
 Early Voting Has Started  
 and will continue through March 5  
**Republican Primary March 9**

Pol. Adv. paid for by Jan Parrish

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 E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net  
 ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

Urgent news for people who have used  
**WELDING RODS**

Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinsonism (like Parkinson's disease) and manganism. Symptoms include shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. If you have experienced any of these problems, call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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**Laws regulate placement of political campaign signs**

March in Texas brings wind, wildflowers and, during primary years, an increase in the number of political campaign signs placed on state highway right of way.

State transportation officials want to remind Texans under Texas law, it is a class C misdemeanor to place any sign on state highway right of way. The penalty for violating this law is a fine up to \$500 per sign. It is legal, however, to place a campaign sign on private property adjacent to state highways with landowner's permission. Restrictions require signs to be constructed of lightweight material and up to 50 square feet in size. Signs may be placed as early as 90 days prior to an election and must be removed within ten days after an election.

TxDOT officials say the laws are intended to reduce clutter along highways so official traffic control signs and vehicles approaching intersections are clearly visible for the safety of all the traveling public.

"Safety along state roadways is a priority," said Randy Hopman, TxDOT Lubbock District Engineer. "It can be affected when objects are placed in the right of way and it is our job to make sure safety is not compromised during this time of year or at any other time."

TxDOT's regulatory authority allows the immediate removal of a sign placed on state highway right of way without prior notice, if the sign is not authorized by state law or approved by the department. Signs posing potential hazards will be removed as soon as possible.

Texas is subject to the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965. Under the federal law, if the state fails to control signage visible from interstate and other federally funded highways, Texas may be subject to sanctions up to 10 percent of its federal transportation construction funds.

**Railroad X-ing**

EXPERIENCE COUNTS  
 Lawyers with over 50 years combined expertise and staff with over 90.

Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D.  
 Doctor, Lawyer in Full-time Law Practice  
 Richard A. Dodd, L.C.  
 Craig W. Brown, P.L.L.C.  
 Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C.  
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## Sparks endorses Seliger

CCN received this press release statement from Don Sparks last Friday, whose name appears on the republican Primary ballot:

"Today I am announcing my endorsement of Kel Seliger in the March 9 Primary. While my name will appear on the primary ballot, I urge everyone to make their vote count by choosing Kel Seliger. I hope this will help unify the district, and I believe this to be in the best interest of our communities and businesses.

"When I entered the race for District 31 State Senate, one of my goals was to help unite the Panhandle and the Permian Basin in order that West Texas could properly meet the challenge of competing with the I-35 corridor. Throughout the race I tried to maintain my goal of a united district by encouraging both media and voters to look at the candidate's qualifications, not where he resided in the district.

"I now believe it is in the best interest of the communities in the south part of the district to reach out to our newly elected senator and begin to work with him concerning the issues which may be unique to the southern portion of the district, along with the issues which are important to the entire district. Input from the Permian Basin will be important to enable Kel to best represent the concerns of this area."

**May 15, 2004 General and Special Election Calendar**  
Listed below are the major dates concerning the upcoming City Council General and Special Election to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2004

### PURPOSE

**General Election - To elect one (1) Mayor and two (2) Councilmembers. Those with expiring terms are: Mayor Shane McKinzie and Councilmembers Bonnie Earnest and Pamela K. Redman.**

### Special Election

To vote for or against the adoption of sales and use tax within the city for promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises at the rate of 1/2 of one percent.

### Candidate Filing Dates

Tuesday, February 17, 2004 through Monday, March 15, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

### Last Day To Register To Vote

Thursday, April 15, 2004 is the last day to register to vote in the May 15, 2004 City Council General and Special Election. Voter Registration is at the Yoakum County Courthouse Tax Office.

### Early Voting

By Personal Appearance - Wednesday, April 28, 2004 through Tuesday, May 11, 2004. At Plains City Hall located at 1015 Ave. F from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### Election Day

Saturday, May 15, 2004  
At Plains City Hall, 1015 Ave. F  
Polls open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

## Cowboys rout Tahoka in double header

The Cowboys traveled to Tahoka February 27 for two 5 inning games. In game one, Tahoka got off to a fast start and 4-0 lead after two innings. The Cowboys came alive, but were still down 6-5 in the bottom of the 4th. When they came to bat the final time, they exploded, pounding out 3 singles, 4 doubles and 13 big runs and final 18-6 win.

TJ Cordova was winning pitcher, allowing only 4 hits and striking out 12 batters. He also had 3 hits including two doubles. Ryan Martinez was 4 for 4 and 2 doubles, Peter Neufeld added a double, and Blake Parrish was 3 for 3 at the plate.

The Cowboys didn't cool off in game 2, and their bats were red hot;

In 5 innings, they scored 22 runs and shut the Bulldogs down for the 22-0 win. Armando Ramirez was strong on the mound, throwing 54 pitches and struck out 4. He was also busy with his bat, for 2 triples and 3 rbi's. Other Cowboys hot with bats were Evan Cain and Blake O'Quinn 2-4, TJ Cordova 2-3, Richard Diaz 1-2, Martinez 2-2 and a triple, Adam McCravey 2-2 and double. Coach Bartley said Landon Craft caught a great game, with 2 pop-ups for outs, and throwing out two runners trying to steal at 2nd and 3rd.

Seliger wins State Senate special election with 56% of vote and wins 18 of 26 counties.

# It is an honor to serve Plains & Yoakum County.

## "It's Time To Set Aside Our Regional Differences And Pull Together."



The Panhandle and the Permian Basin have a common bond. It's time to redirect the "United We Stand and Divided We Fall" message used against me in the special election runoff to now bring all 26 counties of our State Senate district together.

As your newly elected State Senator, I want to encourage your support in helping me best represent all of our district in the Texas State Senate... after all, we have a lot in common.

We need to work together to defend and restore conservative values, to protect our local water, to bring in new jobs, and we must get some real school funding reforms which replace Robin Hood taxation with a fairer system and more complete system of funding our schools and paying our teachers.

This is the third time in the past three months I've asked to earn your vote. As our new State Senator-Elect, I am honored to ask BOTH those who have supported me in the past to support me again, and to ask those who would consider supporting me for the first time to let me earn your vote in this year's Republican Primary.

Together, we'll get it done.

*Kel Seliger*

## Former Midland Candidate Don Sparks Endorses Kel

"Today I am announcing my endorsement of Kel Seliger in the March 9<sup>th</sup> Primary. While my name will appear on the primary ballot. I urge everyone to make their vote count by choosing Kel Seliger. I hope this will help unify the district and I believe this to be in the best interest of our communities and businesses.

When I entered the race for District 31 State Senate, one of my goals was to help unite the Panhandle and the Permian Basin... Throughout the race I tried to maintain my goal of a united district by encouraging... voters to look at the candidate's qualifications, not where he resided in the district.

I now believe it is in the best interest of the communities in the south part of the district to reach out to our newly elected senator and begin to work with him concerning the issues which may be unique to the southern portion of the district, along with the issues which are important to the entire district..." 2.26.04

## Texas GOP Party Chair Tina Benkiser Congratulates Kel

"Texans have continued to place their trust in the proven, conservative leadership that the Republican Party offers... Kel Seliger (is an) exceptional leader and... will no doubt do a tremendous job representing (his district) and... the conservative values that a majority of Texans hold dear." 2.18.04

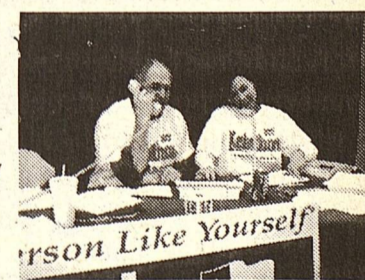
## Young Conservatives of Texas Endorse Kel

"We are pleased to endorse former Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger for State Senate in District 31. A longtime leader in civic and charitable causes, Seliger supports reducing taxes, imposing the death penalty on violent criminals, & keeping the concealed handgun law. He opposes a state income tax and homosexual marriage. YCT has been a pro-life organization for over two decades and we are confident that Kel Seliger will fight to protect unborn children."

2004 Special Election & GOP Primary Endorsement

## Kel Wins State Senate Runoff The Old Fashioned Way

Despite being outspent by a 3:1 margin in the recent special election and runoff, Kel, Nancy and the volunteers personally knocked on doors and made over 50,000 calls to voters.



Re-elect **GOP PRIMARY: TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH**

# Kel Seliger

STATE SENATOR



Republican

Campaign Hotline: (806) 373-5500

email: kel4senate@seliger4senate.com • www.seliger4senate.com

Political ad paid for by State Senator Kel Seliger Campaign; Ken Kelley, Treasurer.

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the

REPUBLICAN & DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY Election held on MARCH 9, 2004  
will be tested on MARCH 5, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
(date) (time) (location)

to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for

all offices and on all measures.

### AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la

Elección REPUBLICAN & DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY que se llevará a cabo el MARCH 9, 2004 se probará el MARCH 5, 2004  
(fecha)

a las 10:00 A.M. en COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
(hora) (sitio)

para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD  
and  
Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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## CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR  
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



### A Trail Through History

From the battle of San Jacinto to the storied Chisholm Trail, Texas is steeped in a rich history. As a fifth-generation Texan, I've always told the tales of my family's heritage, being among the early settlers and the first pioneers of our great state. What many Texans may not know is that many stories and tales of our past lay as hidden treasure on a historic trail known as 'El Camino Real de Los Tejas.'

Winding some 2,580 miles from the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass through San Antonio, Bastrop, and Nacogdoches to Natchitoches, Louisiana, El Camino Real opened America to Texas and Texas to the world.

Used early on exploration, missionary work and colonization, the trail's history reaches back nearly 300 years to the adventures of Spanish explorers Alonso de Leon in 1689 and Teran de los Rios in 1691. For 150 years El Camino Real served as a path for missionaries, explorers, traders, ranchers and armies. During this period, more than 30,000 Anglo-Americans immigrated along the corridor into the Texas region.

Over time, the trail assumed various names and expanded its reach. In South Texas, the Lower Presidio Road, the Camino Pita and the Upper Presidio Road eventually became a part of the trail. A separate path linked Laredo to San Antonio and the Camino de los Tejas along the Belcones Esparment; and the Camino Arriba through the Post Oak Savannah, both of which converged again in Nacogdoches. The different trails of El Camino Real served as a strategic corridor during America's War of Independence and the Texas Revolution, particularly during the battle of the Alamo.

Davy Crockett used a section of the trail to reach the Alamo while General Santa Anna sought a quick surprise assault on the Texans in San Antonio utilizing a linking trail, the Upper Presidio Road. The El Camino Real de los Tejas road system was the main transportation route during the Texas Revolution for Mexican and Texian armies and continued to play a major role in subsequent military actions.

As the first major highway into Texas and Louisiana, El Camino Real opened the pathways to trade and cultural exchange. To continue to foster this endeavor, I have introduced legislation to direct the National Park Service to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail. This legislation will recognize the significance of the trail and preserve its historic importance. While protecting the private property of landowners along its route, the bill will also allow our state agencies such as the Texas Historical Commission, to participate in the establishment and designation of the trail to enhance tourism and economic development. This bill will help preserve our history, heritage and culture while educating Texans and the millions of tourists who visit each year.

El Camino Real de los Tejas forged the way for the early development of Texas into a Spanish colony, an independent Republic, and finally our nation's 28th state. This corridor is not just a highway with a historical foundation, it is a road that has been the foundation of an inspirational past and will continue to pave the way for Texas academically, economically and historically for years to come.

### TSA MO GA Meeting

GFWC TSA MO GA met February 23, 2004 in the Library. Debbie Spears presented the program entitled "Legislation-Public Policy and Advocacy". She said it was an honor and privilege to have a job that one absolutely loves. Debbie has been County Clerk since 1996 and says she enjoys her job more than anything she has ever done. Every day is a learning experience and a challenge since the workload of County Clerk is "sensitive to every hiccup and burp of lawmakers who want to work out a problem in the court system, land ownership or election operations."

In the regular session of the 78th Legislature over 40 bills were passed making hundreds of changes to the Texas Election Code. Subjects addressed were the elimination of punch cards and mechanical voting systems; the dates for holding primary elections; the implementation of a statewide computerized voter registration list maintained by the Secretary of State; and, the creation of multiple election related offenses to curb election fraud.



What about? Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors is at it again. Another special recognition and/or honor.

We have been honored to be written about in the "Texas Funeral Director" (from the Texas Funeral Directors Association), "American Funeral Director" and "The Director" (the National Funeral Directors Association) magazines for our standard of service to our families and community involvement. In March, the American Funeral Director magazine will quote several times from our web site on personalization of funeral services and from interviews with our staff.

This past week, we have been notified that we have been accepted as members of the International Order of the Golden Rule. This organization is by invitation only by another member knowing your standard and quality of service.

It to be accepted, we had to provide a listing of families we have served. A survey was sent out that questioned our methods and quality of service, personalization as well as the public's viewpoint of us.

The general public was separately surveyed to ascertain their overall view of our firm.

We provided a financial report and background information on Beth and I to insure we were financially stable and have paid our bills on time.

A member of the Golden Rule came

to personally inspect our facilities. So Tommy Welch of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Homes and Crematory in Big Spring came to inspection.

So, after passing those areas of operations, we were honored with a very nice invitation to join their organization. You can see a copy of the invitation on our web site at [www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com). Of course, there is additional information on the site as well as my articles.

What does this tell the public about Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors? It lets you know you will be treated with dignity regardless of how much money you spend on your funeral. It also assures you that your loved one will be treated with the respect and dignity you expect both in front of you and behind closed doors.

It also assures we will uphold a high standard of service to our families and provide you with a peace of mind that 'someone' is looking over our shoulders to keep us 'in line' with what the public has come to expect, want and need from their local funeral home.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the questionnaire that was sent by OGR and your comments. Until Next Time!  
Mark A. Jones  
[www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com)  
email comments to: [markajones@door.net](mailto:markajones@door.net).

### Senior Citizens Corner

International Thinking at its best: Question: What is the truest definition of Globalization? Answer: Princess Diana's Death. Question: How come? Answer: An English princess with an Egyptian boyfriend crashes in a French tunnel, driving a German car with a Dutch engine, driven by a Belgian who was drunk on Scottish whiskey, followed closely by Italian paparazzi on Japanese motorcycles, treated by an American doctor, using Brazilian medicines.

Winners in the Tuesday '42' tournament were Faye Black and Billie O'Neal. There were three tables of players. What a nice way to spend a couple of hours on a dark, wintry day while outside some much needed moisture was falling.

Pep Turner is recovering in an Amarillo hospital after a fall which resulted in a broken pelvic bone. You may send cards to him at 5601 Plum Creek Drive, Room 322B, Amarillo, Texas 79106. Inez reports he is not suffering any pain but is confined in a prone position.

Eileen Fillipp is ill at home this week. Reports are that her doctor diagnosed pneumonia as the culprit. We wish her well. We miss her especially as part of our weekly pool & game night. Gail Ballou was unable to be with us last week because of the illness of his wife. If you would like to send them a card, the address is Box 3256 Lubbock, Texas, 79452.

Melba Gayle reported the addition of three new ladies to her Site Council roster who are Elsie White, Jewell Hemmeline, and Rita Jackson. We welcome and appreciate these ladies for being willing to participate in the many responsibilities of the Site Council as they endeavor to reach new seniors of our county and to help in fund raising events for the Center.

All of the volunteer help that has been a part of the daily schedule since Gloria has been gone is truly appreciated. It is difficult to keep up with all of the things that appear to be done by magic, and the efforts of many who are wearing different and additional hats in this emergency. Each person and each effort is appreciated. That is what 'family' is all about. We will try to make public a list at the Center at the end of next month. In the meantime, everything you do is truly appreciated. God bless you.

In lieu of news items this week, which appear to be in short supply, let me share with you this article brought to me last week by none other than my son. It is entitled 'A Retired Person's Work Day'. It goes like this: "Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. I thought you'd like to see what happened to me last week. I went to the store. I was in there for only five minutes. When I came out there was a city cop writing out a parking ticket. I walked up to him and said, 'Come on, Buddy, how about giving a senior a break? He ignored me and continued writing a ticket. I called him a Nazi. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires. So I called him another name that really shouldn't be printed here. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first, then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about twenty minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote...I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner...I try to have a little fun each day. It's important at my age."

Thought for today "There will always be death and taxes, however, death doesn't get worse every year."

Time-our youth- it never really goes, does it? It is all held in our minds. Time is a valuable asset. Each passing year provides us with the memories and experiences we need to improve the future and deepen the meaning of our lives

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**Morning Worship**

**10:45 A.M.**

**Evening Program**

**6:00 P.M.**

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### LAP QUILT RAFFLE

Sponsored by Life Skills Class of  
PISD, Mrs. Burgess' class.  
Drawing on March 10 during  
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Steve McGinty Medical Fund,  
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Steve has acute myelitis leukemia and is  
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Blood Drive at later date.

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### Services Held For Thelma Jones



Thelma Jones, 85, died Thursday, January 29, 2004. Services were held at 2 p.m., January 31, 2004 in Central Church of Christ in Hereford with Johnny Eastep officiating. Burial was held in West Park Cemetery by Parkside Chapel Funeral Home. Mrs. Jones was born May 21, 1918, in Wolfe City the daughter of Ivan and

Bertha Barnett. She married Nolan Jones on April 14, 1937, in Greenville. Mrs. Jones was a homemaker and a member of the Central Church of Christ in Hereford.

She was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters. Survivors include her husband; three sons, Elwood Jones of Greenville, Paul Jones of Wharton and James Jones of Celeste; two daughters, Linda Wall of Plains and Judy Sessums of Midland; two brothers, William Barnett and Ray Barnett, both of Calero, Okla.; a sister, Myrtle Watson of Garland; 19 grandchildren; and 32 great grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be to Hereford Central Church of Christ, 148 Sunset St., Hereford TX 79045.

### Services Held For Dick Carothers

Memorial services for Richard 'Dick' Carothers were held at 10 AM Tuesday at the Denver City Church of Christ, Skip Rodgers officiating. Services were under direction of Ratliff Funeral Home in Denver City. He was born on July 3, 1921 at Rule, Texas to Richard Olin and Florence Penick Carothers. He attended school in Rule. He married Pearlita Ivy on July 18, 1948, in Haskell, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force from Nov. 1942 to April 1946. Serving in England, France, & Germany. He served one year 1950 to 1951 during the Korean Conflict. He worked in the Farmers National Bank in Rule, was Vice President at the First National Bank in Levelland, President of Plains State Bank in Plains, and Vice President of the Yoakum County State Bank in Denver City and was President of the First National Bank in Denver City. He was a prior resident of Levelland

for 18 years and of Plains for 3 years. He was a director of the Levelland Chamber of Commerce and served as President of the Levelland Rotary Club. He was a member of the Lions Club in Plains and Denver City. Dick was a member of the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock and had served as a deacon for the Denver City Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Leslie Brooke Gray, and a brother, Robert Vaden Carothers. Survivors include his wife, Pearlita, three daughters: Gail Holland and husband, John, of Texline; Cynthia Gray and husband, Jim, of Plains; and Carol Brown and husband, Rickey, of Lampasas, and five grandchildren, Ben Holland, Taylor & Jill Gray, and Paul and Stephanie Ritter. Pallbearers were: Rickey Brown, Jim Gray, Taylor Gray, John Holland, Ben Holland and Paul Ritter.

### JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set in Precinct One Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

- Cases Filed:  
60 Traffic  
1 open container alcohol in vehicle  
1 minor in possession alcohol  
1 minor in consumption alcohol  
1 public intoxication  
2 issuance of bad check  
Bonds set:  
Motion to revoke probation - no bond  
Failure to identify fugitive - \$1500  
Failure to appear, driving while license suspended- \$800  
Violate promise to appear- \$400  
2 failure to appear- \$400  
Motion to revoke probation/ DWI- \$1000  
Burglary of vehicle- \$2500  
Issuance of bad check- \$450

### Cell Phone, Road Rage Wrecks Increase

The number of cell phone related and road rage related collisions both increased in the latest statistical data compiled by DPS.

Cell phone related traffic crashes increased from 716 to 1,032 from 2000 to 2001 a 44 percent increase. In cases where cell phone use was listed as a contributing factor, there were 7 fatalities in 2000 compared to 8 in 2001.

Road rage related accidents jumped from 90 to 219 a 143 percent increase. There was one fatality in both 2000 and 2001 that was attributed to road rage.

It is important to note that new accident reporting forms listing cell phones and road rage as contributing factors were not available until April 2000, so comparing the two years may not present an accurate picture. "It is difficult to draw conclusions at this point, but the data probably understates the problem," said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. "There is no doubt that cell phone misuse and road rage create major problems on Texas roadways." The DPS urges drivers to minimize cell phone usage in their vehicle and refuse to be drawn into the road rage cycle.

Seliger wins State Senate special election with 56% of vote and wins 18 of 26 counties.

## It is an honor to serve Plains & Yoakum County.

### "It's Time To Set Aside Our Regional Differences And Pull Together."



The Panhandle and the Permian Basin have a common bond. It's time to redirect the "United We Stand and Divided We Fall" message used against me in the special election runoff to now bring all 26 counties of our State Senate district together.

As your newly elected State Senator, I want to encourage your support in helping me best represent all of our district in the Texas State Senate... after all, we have a lot in common.

We need to work together to defend and restore conservative values, to protect our local water, to bring in new jobs, and we must get some real school funding reforms which replace Robin Hood taxation with a fairer system and more complete system of funding our schools and paying our teachers.

This is the third time in the past three months I've asked to earn your vote. As our new State Senator-Elect, I am honored to ask BOTH those who have supported me in the past to support me again, and to ask those who would consider supporting me for the first time to let me earn your vote in this year's Republican Primary.

Together, we'll get it done.

*Kel Seliger*

### Former Midland Candidate Don Sparks Endorses Kel

"Today I am announcing my endorsement of Kel Seliger in the March 9<sup>th</sup> Primary. While my name will appear on the primary ballot, I urge everyone to make their vote count by choosing Kel Seliger. I hope this will help unify the district and I believe this to be in the best interest of our communities and businesses.

When I entered the race for District 31 State Senate, one of my goals was to help unite the Panhandle and the Permian Basin... Throughout the race I tried to maintain my goal of a united district by encouraging... voters to look at the candidate's qualifications, not where he resided in the district.

I now believe it is in the best interest of the communities in the south part of the district to reach out to our newly elected senator and begin to work with him concerning the issues which may be unique to the southern portion of the district, along with the issues which are important to the entire district..." 2/26/04

### Texas GOP Party Chair Tina Benkiser Congratulates Kel

"Texans have continued to place their trust in the proven, conservative leadership that the Republican Party offers... Kel Seliger (is an) exceptional leader and ... will no doubt do a tremendous job representing (his district) and... the conservative values that a majority of Texans hold dear." 2/18/04

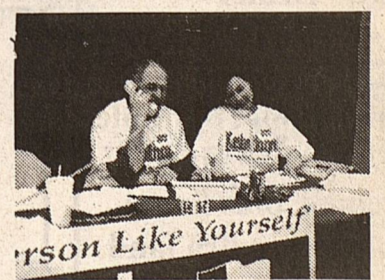
### Young Conservatives of Texas Endorse Kel

"We are pleased to endorse former Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger for State Senate in District 31. A longtime leader in civic and charitable causes, Seliger supports reducing taxes, imposing the death penalty on violent criminals, & keeping the concealed handgun law. He opposes a state income tax and homosexual marriage. YCT has been a pro-life organization for over two decades and we are confident that Kel Seliger will fight to protect unborn children."

2004 Special Election & GOP Primary Endorsement

### Kel Wins State Senate Runoff The Old Fashioned Way

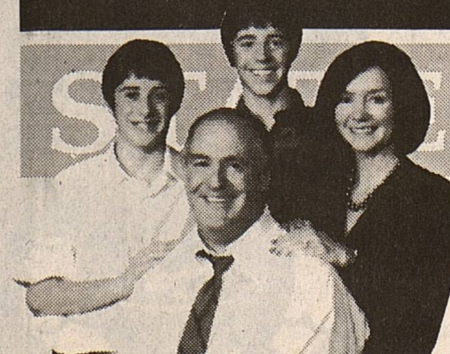
Despite being outspent by a 3:1 margin in the recent special election and runoff, Kel, Nancy and the volunteers personally knocked on doors and made over 50,000 calls to voters.



## Re-elect

**GOP PRIMARY: TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH**

# Kel Seliger



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# From The Hack

There is a certain Plains male who thrives on gleaning odd data from the internet, copying and making it available to his buddies. One buddy recently gave me a copy of a recent missive from whom we shall refer to as B.A. His reports will be followed by mine, in italics.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes. *How? Biting? Kicking? Overwhelming flatulence?*

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 (one) olive from each salad served to their first class passengers.

*Think of how they'd prospered more if they'd served a dried pruner instead of salad.*

Marilyn Monroe had six toes. *SO WHAT?? She also had some fabulous other stuff.*

Walt Disney was afraid of MICE.

*Until MICKEY came along! Women blink nearly twice as much as men.*

*You DOOFUS! It's not called blinking, it's "fluttering one's eyelashes in an alluring manner!"*

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

*No big surprise at all!*

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

*A no-brainer. Two local ostrich entrepreneurs several years ago had an ostrich which consumed ( half-way ) a railroad spike, the removal of which cost them \$1,824 and the dumb birds death.*

Richard Millhouse Nixon was the 1st US President whose name contains all the letters from the word CRIMINAL, the second was William Jefferson Clinton.

*Absolutely no further comment needed.*

Turtles can breathe through their butts.

*Humans can do exactly the opposite.*

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens each year.

*99% of them were figuring their income tax return. Another 32,796 people doing their taxes simply shoot themselves, while only .086 percent surveyed shot their tax preparer.*

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

*Of course not. Only alligators, snakes, cows, horses, rare Chinese Pandas, Easter bunnies and young, little girls are endowed with this art. Alan Greenspan did once but only fleetingly, after he had a successful BM.*

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

*Even a Mongolian washout knows this is true! The cream always rises to the top.*

A duck's quack does not echo with one exception.

*The ' AFLACK ' duck.*

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

*You'd better wager your sweet bippy it is. I tried, and my head remained stretched to the left 9 days. To further affirm this, I bet a fellow golfer he could not perform the elbow licking. I have his ten bucks, and he has a standing appointment with physical therapy at YCH.*

**Because we are laying new carpet the County Clerk's office will be closed for all business starting Wednesday, March 17th thru Friday, March 19th. We will re-open for business on Monday, March 22, 2004. We are sorry about any inconvenience this may cause.**  
Deborah L. Rushing  
Yoakum County Clerk

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**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
The State Of Texas County of Yoakum The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Friday, March 12th, 2004, for the purchase of new Ultrasound Machine for the West Texas Medical Center.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, March 15, 2004. Bid Price will be paid from 2004 budgeted funds.

For more information contact Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Ave., Denver City, Tx./ phone no. 806-456-2121.

For bid forms please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, PO Box 515, Avenue G and Cowboy Way, Plains, TX 79355, 806-456-2422.

Sealed bids should be marked 'ULTRASOUND MACHINE' on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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# Up In Smoke

## How much is too much?

In May 2003, air quality ratings in South Texas fell in the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" category for a week, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In 1998, air quality reached the "very unhealthy" range, causing the Texas Department of Health to issue several statewide public health alerts.

## Air Quality Index ratings

Category	Particulate matter levels*
Hazardous	301+
Very Unhealthy	201-300
Unhealthy	151-200
Unhealthy (for sensitive groups)	101-105
Moderate	51-100
Good	0-50

\* Particle monitors usually measure particulate matter with a medium diameter of 10 micrometers or less, while the smaller and more dangerous particles, so called fine particles, are measured at 2.5 micrometers or less.

SOURCE: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

of chemical compounds. The smallest particulates are called fine particles, which tend to be the most damaging because they are tiny enough to be inhaled deep into one's lungs where they either remain lodged or are absorbed into the blood stream.

"The particles themselves are irritants," said Dr. John Villanacci, director for the Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology Division of the Texas Department of Health. (TDH).

Villanacci said exposure to particulate matter can aggravate asthma, allergies and emphysema and is worse for children and the elderly. He said there are also some studies that report the smoke can cause cardiovascular problems.

During the 1998 fire season, particulate levels in Guatemala City averaged 600 milligrams per cubic meter, three times the World Health Organization's maximum level, according to an office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance report.

A study by Harvard University researchers estimated that 60,000 people die each year in the U.S. from the effects of fine particles.

The EPA sets standard levels for particulate matter, including fine particles.

"Standards are levels we have established to protect public health," said John Bachmann, associate director for science/policy for the EPA.

Although the particles did not exceed these standards in Texas, a survey by TDH reported small to moderate increases in hospital visits, mostly from patients with chronic respiratory conditions.

TDH has not conducted any studies on the health effects stemming from the smoke, but the agency warned people who live close to the Mexico border to remain indoors and avoid inhaling the smoke, ashes and particulate matter from the agricultural burning.

TCEQ studies found that smoke pollution directly contributes to ozone pollution. In some cases, the 1998 smoky season caused cities to exceed the federal standard for ozone. Such was the case in Brownsville, which exceeded the ozone standard for the first time during the 1998 haze episode.

TCEQ said the South Texas border region bore the brunt of the smoke.

Because the EPA and TCEQ worked closely to monitor the situation, it was clear the pollution in cities such as Brownsville was out of the cit-

ies' control, and the EPA did not count the elevated ozone readings against the affected cities.

Though economists have not estimated the cost of the damage from fires in Mexico and South America, damage from Indonesia's 1997-98 fires and smoke cost \$4.5 billion, according to the Southeast Asian Science Policy Advisory Network. Less cautions estimates attached to the loss of biodiversity and wildlife and to the increase in carbon emissions and global warming would raise this price tag considerably, according to the ASB.

Countries affected by the smoke from these fires also face economic losses. The ASB said the heavy smoke causes a loss of tourism, as tourists avoid areas they perceive as unhealthy, and a loss of productivity from sick workers.

After Mexico declared an emergency on May 14, 1998, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided high quality fire suppression tools, such as a specialized firefighting, heavy lift helicopter, radio equipment and firefighting and safety equipment for up to 3,000 firefighters. The U.S. also sent 41 fire suppression experts to evaluate the situation and to help coordinate the provision of equipment, personnel and supplies. These experts also helped train local firefighters and volunteers, according to USAID officials.

Since 1998, USAID has provided about \$12.75 million to address fire issues in Mexico and Central America, of which \$7 million went to disaster relief and \$5.75 million was used to create the Wildfire Prevention. The challenge for policymakers is to minimize the adverse effects of fire and smoke, not to stamp out the use of fire completely, said the ASB. Officials at USAID agree.

"To best manage fire in Mexico or anywhere, we need to recognize fire as a constant and continuing factor in forest management," said Portia Palmer of USAID.

"As in the U.S., fire is a natural part of much of Mexico's landscape," said Palmer. "Better understanding of the role of fire and forest management planning to reduce risk as well as ensure continued strengthening of the response capacity of volunteer and professional firefighters are all needed to continue to reduce the damage caused by fire."

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