Gaines Third in Oil Production Behind Karnes, Andrews

AUSTIN -- One month from falling to an unfamiliar fourth place ranking among Texas' top oil-producing counties, Gaines County saw itself climb back up one spot.

According to information from the Texas Railroad Commission on Monday afternoon, Gaines County ranked third in the state for August's preliminary production report.

According to the report, Gaines County oil wells produced 2.05 million barrels of crude oil in August, which was up from 1.94 million barrels produced in July.

Karnes County, located between San Antonio and Corpus Christi on the Eagle Ford Shale hotbed, again led the state's oil producing counties with 2.89 million barrels of oil for the month.

Andrews County, according to the report, ranked second in the report, with 2.51 million barrels of produced crude oil in the month of August.

Rounding out the state's top ten oil producing counties were: Ector, Yoakum, LaSalle, Midland, Gonzales, Upton and Martin counties.

Texas preliminary August 2012 crude oil production averaged 1,342,076 barrels daily, up from the 983,864 barrels daily average of August 2011.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for August 2012 is 41,604,353 barrels, up from 30,499,770 barrels reported during August 2011.

The Commission's estimated final production for August 2012 was quoted at being 50,378,711 barrels of crude oil and 537,924,295 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Texas average rig count as of October 2012, was 867, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States.

In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 486 million barrels of oil and 7.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary August 2012 production totals of 41,604,353 barrels of crude oil and 455,520,616 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.2109 for crude oil and 1.1809 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas oil and gas wells produced 549,882,336 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for August 2012 up from the August 2011 preliminary gas production total of 543,112,563 Mcf. Texas preliminary August total gas production averaged 17,738,140 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) a day.

Texas production in August 2012 came from 148,967 oil wells and 94,338 gas wells.

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for September 2012 was 424,283,340 Mcf compared to 385,102,434 Mcf in September 2011. The October 2012 gas storage estimate is 443,380,900 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial November 2012 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 10,297,001 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial November 2012 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for November 2012 is reported.

In September 2012, operators reported 657 oil, 178 gas, 34 injection and two other completions compared to 323 oil, 260 gas, 19 injection and one other completion in September 2011.

Total well completions for 2012 year to date are 10,836 up from 5,944 recorded during the same period in 2011.

Operators reported 687 holes plugged and zero dry holes in September 2012 compared to 668 holes plugged and zero dry holes in September 2011.

The Commission issued a total of 1,640 original drilling permits in September 2012 compared to 1,984 in September 2011. The September total included 1,441 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 44 to re-enter existing well bores, and 155 for re-completions. Permits issued in September 2012 included 507 oil, 120 gas, 953 oil and gas, 52 injection, two service and six other permits.

TRC's August Top 10 Oil Producing Counties

County	Crude Oil (BBLS)
1. Karnes	2,898,709
2. Andrews	2,515,111
3. Gaines	2,054,168
4. Ector	1,856,991
5. Yoakum	1,761,818
6. LaSalle	1,750,874
7. Midland	1,730,888
8. Gonzales	1,678,375
9. Upton	1,660,429
10. Martin	1,637,247

**Source -- Texas Railroad Commission

Annual Capital Case Agreement Approved by County Commissioners

By Dustin Wright
***Sentinel* Managing Editor**

With four pending capital punishment cases pending in the near future, the decision for Gaines County Commissioners to extend their annual agreement with the The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases office was an easy one.

In a unanimous 5-0 decision Monday morning, Gaines County Commissioners approved of the annual renewal, valued at a cost of $12,900 for the fiscal year.

"This year would be as important of a year for us to renew this agreement than any others in the past, I'd say," said Lance Celander, Gaines County Judge, "especially with the events that have taken place out near the state line."

Celander's reference is related to the May 10 double homicide case being investigated by the Gaines County Sheriff's Office, 106th District Attorney's Office, Texas Rangers and New Mexico law enforcement authorities in which four Hobbs, N.M. have been arrested and each charged with one count of capital murder and one count of murder in the deaths of 30-year-old John Allen and Jay Doyal, 29 on or about May 10.

The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases office is the largest collaborative effort between Counties and a state-funded program in the formative years in the United States.

The office represents only indigent defendants charged with a capital case where the death penalty is sought at the trial level.

With the Administrative office and a trial office in Lubbock, there are satellite offices in Amarillo, Angleton, Burnet, Kingsville, Midland and Uvalde. All offices are staffed with a combination of all positions, each of which is able to fulfill the constitutional requirements of a core team.

Collaborative efforts between counties and state ensures that competent and effective counsel are appointed to represent defendants while also providing counties with budget predictability and stability.

An Oversight Advisory Board comprised of stakeholders in different regions of the State was appointed by the Lubbock County Commissioners' Court to assist in the operations of the office .

Texas Senators Bob Duncan, R-Lubbock, and Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, helped secure the $2.7 million grant that enabled the office to be created, which was funded by the State of Texas last fiscal year, and is being funded this fiscal year by the 85-counties it represents.

In the May 10 double homicide case, the four individuals -- identified as Nicomedes Daniel Sosa, II, 34; Bobby Ruiz, 25; Juan "Smokey" Castillo, 32, and; Desirae Mata, 25 -- were all indicted earlier this calender year by a Gaines County Grand Jury for their alleged involvement. All four individuals are in the custody of Gaines County Law Enforcement Officials, and are awaiting the legal process of the case.

In the May 10 incident, Gaines County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call in western Gaines County, about 1/2 mile east of the New Mexico state line, on an unrelated call at around 3:30 p.m.

While on the scene of the call, GCSO Deputies were approached by an individual from Hobbs, N.M., who was not identified by the press release, who informed officers she had gone to a friend's residence and found the door of the residence open.

She stated she saw a male subject lying inside, who was deceased. The identity of the first subject found inside the house was not released by Gaines County Law Enforcement officials during their initial release of the murder investigation.

A subsequent search of the residence found the second shooting victim deceased in another portion of the residence.

Doyal and Allen were both pronounced dead at the scene on the morning of May 11, at 9:25 a.m., by Gaines County Justice of the Peace Tammy Clark, according to the GCSO report.

Preliminary autopsy results, according to Gaines County Law Enforcement officials, indicated both Allen and Doyal had suffered suffered "several gun shot wounds," and died due to those wounds.

In other action on Monday morning, Gaines County Commissioners approved of the following agenda items:

- year-end financial activities for the FY 2012 calender year; and
- changes to the upcoming Commissioner Court dates, which include new meeting dates on Nov. 14 and Dec. 21 due to upcoming holidays.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO DISCUSS SEMINOLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
State Financial Accountability Rating

Seminole ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, November 12, 2012, in the Board Room of the School Administration Building at 207 SW 6th St., Seminole, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Seminole ISD's rating on the State's financial accountability system.

Obituaries

Bill Jordan Dixon

Services for Bill Jordan Dixon will be 2 p.m. Wednesday (today), October 31, 2012 in the Milam County Cowboy Church in Rockdale. Burial will follow in the Liberty Cemetery near Milano. Pastor's Lance Lombard and Greg Spears will officiate. Visitation was held Tuesday 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Bradley, Ryan Wise, Daniel Shaw, Steven Wise, Rick Doelitch and Bill Graham. Honorary Pallbearers; Ruel Martin, Stanley Fisher, Harold Lankford and James Anderle.

Bill Dixon was born November 23, 1930 in Albany and was the son of Joe & Gladys V. (Mitchell) Dixon. He was a graduate of Albany High School and attended TCU. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army serving during the Korean War and received an honorable discharge as a Corporal. He was a salesman and manager at Hughes Tool Co. and Drilco. He later owned Quality Drilling Tools located in Singapore. He sold his business and retired in 1991. After his retirement a lot of time was spent in his motor home traveling America.

On October 10, 1972 he and Vivian Mayo were married in Lovington, New Mexico. They lived in a number of places including Beirut, Lebannon, London, England, Singapore and Houston. He has lived in Gause for the past two years.

Bill passed away Friday evening at his home and he reached the age of 81 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe & Gladys Dixon. His stepfather, Morris Tidmore. A brother, Richard Hughes Dixon.

Surviving him; his wife, Vivian Dixon of Gause; sons, Randy Clay Dixon & Joni of Plano, Richard Kyle Dixon & Janet of Houston, Tracy Guy Dixon & Lisa of Spring; five Grandchildren, Lindsey Bradley & husband Ryan, Lacey Wostal & husband Lance, Lisa Dixon, Becky Dixon, and Jordan Dixon and sister, Ann Keefer of Albany.

Memorial contributions to Liberty Community Church c/o Frances Gilliland, 4856 FM 3242, Cameron, Texas 76520.

Ratliff Funeral Homes

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John Wall Schmitt

Funeral services for John Wall Schmitt, 64, of Seminole, were conducted Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 2 p.m. in the Old Colony Mennonite Church. Interment followed in the Gaines County Cemetery with services under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Seminole. He passed away Friday, October 26 in Seminole.

John was born April 29, 1948 in Mexico to Frank and Justina Schmitt. He and Tina Klassen were married August 11, 1968 in Mexico. He moved to Seminole in March of 1977. He worked for Elco Gin for 26 years, before working at Hicks Farm Supply for several years. John was preceded in death by one sister, Maria Peters.

John is survived by his wife Tina Schmitt of Seminole; four sons Abe Schmitt, David Schmitt, John Schmitt all of Seminole and Frank Schmitt of Lamesa; three daughters Annie Hiebert, Nancy Loepky and Sara Wiebe all of Seminole. He is survived by four brothers Frank Schmitt, Jacob Schmitt, Bernhardt Schmitt and Cornelius Schmitt; four sisters Katharina Wolf, Anna Wiebe, Helen Penner and Sara Martens and 25 grandchildren.

Business Guide

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