

STRENGTH IN COMPETITION
Fairfield high school hosted 197 powerlifters in the first meet held here in more than 20 years.
--- See "Fairfield," p10-a

DISTRICT ACADEMIC MEET
Fairfield junior high school students placed second in the district academic meet held in Crockett.
--- See "FJHS," p1-b

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Location near Richland-Chambers . . .

New gas power plant planned

Freestone county is in line as the site for a new natural gas-fired electric generating plant to be owned and operated by MyPower Corporation of Houston.

The power plant, named Lakeside Energy Center, will generate 640 megawatts of electricity. In comparison, Calpine

Freestone Energy Center, also a natural gas-fired facility, generates 1,000 megawatts.

Location of the proposed MyPower plant is at FM 416 and CR 196 near Richland-Chambers Reservoir.

MyPower has filed an air quality permit with Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality and ran a public notice last week in The Fairfield Recorder seeking public comments.

The company is a subsidiary of Mitsui and Company (USA), Inc., headquartered in New York, NY.

Construction is scheduled to start in June 2010 and the plant is expected to start operations in March 2013.

Electricity is to be generated through a pair of combined cycle combustion turbine generators and two heat recovery steam generators.

The site for the plant consists of about 35 acres south of FM 416.

Cost to construct Lakeside Energy Center is not available, listed on the TCEQ permit application only as in excess of \$7.5 million.

The Calpine plant cost about \$200 million to build and employed 600 construction workers. Freestone Energy Center now employs 30 people for operations.

The TCEQ permit is required because the proposed plant produce air borne emissions.

Annual emissions as shown in the permit application are 167.72 pounds of nitrogen oxide, 626.09 pounds of carbon dioxide, 83.78 pounds of volatile organic compounds and 28.51 pounds of sulfur dioxide.

Lakeside Energy Center will provide power during peak use in the area, supplementing electricity provided by other generating plants such as the coal-fired Luminant Big Brown

Steam Electric Station near Lake Fairfield in Freestone county.

MyPower predicts the

plant is to be started 820 times in a year to supplement peak electricity use times.

Announcement of the proposed natural gas-fired

See NEW, p6-a

County first in SO2 emissions

Freestone county ranks number one in sulfur dioxide emissions for the state of Texas according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which reported the findings to county commissioners Monday afternoon.

The news should come as no surprise considering that Luminant's Big Brown Steam Electric Station and Mine located in Freestone County also ranks number one in sulfur dioxide emissions among Texas power plants and 23rd in sulfur dioxide emissions among power plants nationwide.

In 2006, the most recent year available for point source emission data, Big Brown reported emission of 96,221.11 tons of sulfur dioxide to TCEQ.

Currently there are no air monitors located in Freestone county despite the location of two power plants within its boundaries.

The nearest TCEQ monitors are located in Italy, Kaufman, Midlothian, Tyler and Waco with the only data for Freestone county provided by TCEQ's point source emission inventory.

The inventory includes emissions reported to the state agency by companies located within Freestone

county such as Luminant, XTO Energy and Anadarko Gathering.

"I can't understand why there isn't a monitor in this county when we have two of the nastiest power plants in the United States," said

See COUNTY, p5-a

Reception to welcome FISD superintendent

Fairfield Independent School District has made a change to its February meeting that is different from what was announced last week.

Trustees are meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, for their regular monthly meeting.

On Thursday, Feb. 12, starting at 6:30 p.m. the board will complete hiring of Katie Ryan as new superintendent of schools and host a reception.

The reception, to which the public is invited, is at the Johnson Activity Center north lecture room. Cookies and punch will be served.

Ms. Ryan was named last month as the lone finalist for the job and a 21-day wait is required by state law to complete the hiring process.

FHS grad assists at inauguration

Fairfield high school graduate and Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Tayna Jeitz Schneider served last month as a member of the 2009 Armed Forces Inaugural Committee which supported the 56th presidential inauguration on Jan. 20.

The joint-service committee was charged with coordinating all military ceremonial support for the inauguration. As a joint committee, it included members from all branches of the U.S. armed forces, including reserve and national guard components.

The military members have participated in the inauguration of the American president since April 30, 1789, when members of the army, militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his first inaugural ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City.

Almost 225 years later, the military continues to honor the commander-in-chief.

Participation by the armed forces included musical units, marching bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cor-



LT. CMDR. TANYA JEITZ SCHNEIDER

dons. Soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, and coast guard members assigned to the committee also provided assistance to the Presidential Inaugural Committee, a not-for-profit, partisan organization representing the president-elect, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inauguration Ceremonies.

The Secretary of Defense authorized more

See FHS, p3-a

Health and safety concerns . . .

Council opposes gas wells

Fairfield city officials continued to voice opposition to XTO Energy's request to drill natural gas wells within city limits.

Mayor Roy Hill and city council members joined the chorus of concern along with residents who filled the Fairfield Conference Center during a public hearing held last Tuesday.

Many of those concerns centered around the health and safety of the city's residents.

Hospital administrator Raz Cook was troubled by the planned locations for two wells situated to the

north and west of the hospital.

With 48 beds, Mrs. Cook's primary concern was for the health of the hospital's patients.

"It doesn't look right to have them that close," Mrs. Cook said as she asked XTO to respect the healthful environment that the hospital provides to patients during recovery.

Fairfield schools superintendent Tony Price also expressed his concern for the proposed well near Lovers Lane and its proximity not only to the hospital and elementary school but the future site of the

school district's new intermediate school.

"I cannot understand why we would want a well that close to 1,000 of our kids," stated Price.

Fairfield resident Nancy Grizzle echoed the sentiment as she told council members and XTO representatives that, "We as citizens shouldn't have to put up with the noise or the risk."

Noise level was also an issue of content among those present. Many were concerned about the temporary disturbance that production noise would cause to surrounding

homes and businesses.

Several residents also feared the installation of compressor stations which compresses the natural gas with a turbine, motor, or engine and is not temporary.

The city of Fairfield's existing ordinance allows for environmental noise emission of no more than 78 decibels, comparable to a vacuum cleaner or city traffic which measures at 80 decibels.

There were also those who had resigned themselves to the energy company's imminent presence in the community.

"Ya'll have got the money and you are going to force us," says resident James Bonner. "But we ask that you exercise safety precautions."

Bonner also questioned representatives about the damage heavy trucks used during production could cause on city streets and how the company intended on compensating taxpayers.

And there were those who could not look a gift horse in the mouth. "We enjoy our mailbox money and we are not opposed to prosperity," says housing developer Donna Tyus.

But some felt that the gas wells themselves would delay prosperity. With an average life span of 30 years, architect Lane

See COUNCIL, p2-a

Veteran state trooper . . . FPD assistant signs on

A veteran of almost 35 years in law enforcement, Department of Public Safety Sr. Cpl. Bill Rogillio moves to Fairfield city hall next week as assistant police chief.

Rogillio fills a position made vacant last month with the retirement of Asst. Chief Houston Flowers who served Fairfield Police Department for 33 years.

"There is a certain amount of apprehension leaving a job you have done so long, but I am looking forward to it," Rogillio says of the change.

"Kenny (Bulger) and I will be partners again," the new assistant chief points out.

Rogillio and Bulger worked together many years as highway patrolmen in Freestone county, both obtaining the rank of corporal. Bulger was hired last year as Fairfield chief of police.

"We are very fortunate to get him in here with us," the FPD Chief Bulger says. "He could write his own ticket with any trucking company as a safety coordinator."

Born in Huntsville, Rogillio 52, says he lived in several towns as his



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY Cpl. Bill Rogillio hangs up his Highway Patrol uniform to assume duties next week as Fairfield Police Department assistant chief of police.

father was transferred in his work for Exxon/Mobile. He graduated Spring Woods high school in Houston in 1974 and went to work for Texas Department of Criminal Justice while a student at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

After three and one-



FAIRFIELD POSTMASTER Paul Johnson and longtime postal clerk Rene Cruz were honored on their recent retirements at a reception attended by friends and former postmasters. Pictured are: l-r, former Fairfield Postmaster Tony Matteo, Johnson, Cruz and former Fairfield Postmaster Wayne Donaldson.