

the county is subject to the Arveschoug-Bird Amendment which limits revenue increases to about 6 percent per year. But because much of the increase in the county's assessed valuation is from new construction, Wyatt said the county may have the option of keeping most of the money.

What the Prowers County Commissioners will decide to do with the approximately three-quarter of a million dollar annual tax windfall is not certain, but Wyatt said he thinks some of it should go to property tax relief by reducing of the mill levy for all taxpayers. He says that would help out businesses like Neoplan, making them more competitive. Since the wind farm is not located within Lamar City limits, however, the city will see little, if any direct benefit from property tax revenues.

What Wyatt calls the "windfarm windfall" won't take effect for another year, the beginning of 2005, but over the long haul, the \$760,000 per year in property taxes paid to the county alone would inject some \$22.9 million into the local economy over a 30-year period if the commissioners chose to collect all the new money and not reduce the property tax levy. Wyatt said property like the wind farm is assessed at the state level, and uses a formula which assures that renewable energy projects are taxed at the same rate of investment that would be spent on conventional power plants. Thus even though the wind farm sold for over \$200 million, the state formula means it will be assessed at an approximately \$100 million in actual value.

But that isn't the end of it. Construction is now under way on another major electrical power-related project about ten miles northeast of Lamar. Xcel Energy is installing an AC-DC power converter that will link electrical grids—a project estimated to be worth at least \$25 million.

Wyatt estimates the county will net another \$189,000 from the substation, while Re-2 will see tax revenue increases of \$226,000 to its general fund and \$50,000 to its bond repayment fund. PMC would net about \$47,000. All those figures are, of course based on present mill levies, but could vary.

An engineer at the substation project north of Lamar said yesterday that the project is being built by a consortium of two companies, Beta Engineering of Pineville, Louisiana, and Siemens Transmission and Distribution of Raleigh, North Carolina. He said the project is expected to continue for about a year, and when complete, will link two of the nation's major power grids, converting electrical power from alternating to direct current, then back to alternating again. In the process, the station will also convert power from 230,000 volts to 345,000 volts so the power can be routed into long-distance transmission lines.

The project was mobilized about a week ago, and a subcontractor on the job, Cajun Construction of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is already on the job beginning preliminary concrete work.

In addition to local job opportunities and increased sales by local businesses the projects have created and will continue to create, the two projects combined will provide an estimated \$79 million in property tax receipts over a 30-year period, according to Wyatt's figures.

The project also paved the way for Lamar Light and Power and the Arkansas River Power Authority to own wind farms of its own. G.E. does not ordinarily sell only a handful of its 1.5 megawatt turbines—the largest in the wind power business—because of complications and expense with maintenance and warranties of the equipment. But since the wind farm was only a few miles down the road, ARPA and Lamar were able to capitalize on the event, along with 40-year

lows in bond market interest, to install windfarms in Lamar and Springfield.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 6, 2004, the House had a vote on H. Res. 402, a resolution urging the Lao People's Democratic Republic to provide unrestricted access to Laos for international election monitors and humanitarian aid workers. On House rollcall vote #149, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### HONORING ROSE LAMBERT, CHIEF AIDE TO SUPERVISOR HYLAND

##### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rose Lambert for over 16 years of dedicated service to the Mount Vernon community.

Ms. Lambert has been a pivotal member of the Mount Vernon community for many years, both as an employee of the Mount Vernon District Supervisor and as an active citizen in her neighborhood. Until recently, Rose lived in the Mount Zephyr community where she was active in the Citizens' Association, acting as president a number of times.

In the Mount Vernon District Supervisor's Office, Ms. Lambert has played an important role in a number of high-profile issues, including the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Study, Richmond Highway Revitalization efforts, and recently, the campaign to save Mount Vernon Hospital.

Ms. Lambert is most well-known in the northern areas of the Mount Vernon District where she has worked tirelessly on many significant projects. She has been instrumental in the successful completion of many community improvement projects, including the Huntington, Mount Zephyr, Fairhaven, and New Alexandria communities. Ms. Lambert continues to push for projects that will improve the quality of life for Mount Vernon citizens.

As Hyland's Chief Aide, Ms. Lambert has been the lead point of contact for county staff, and has had the responsibility of attending the Board of Supervisors meeting in Fairfax. Furthermore, she has represented Supervisor Hyland at countless meetings and has played an active role in the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Lambert for 16 years of service to Mount Vernon District. Her contributions and efforts are much appreciated and will be greatly missed. Her service is an exemplary example of an ideal citizen and model employee. I wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
BLAKE KLINSIEK ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

##### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Blake Klinksiek of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Blake's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2008. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Blake brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Perrysburg High School, Blake has attained a grade point average of 3.308, which ranks 121st out of the 334 students in his class. During his time at Perrysburg High School, Blake has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. During his first year, Blake was named to the Honor Roll and received High honors recognition due to his GPA of 3.9. His second year was again marked by his being named to the Honor Roll and receiving yet another Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Blake was named a "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and maintained a high level of achievement throughout his tenure at Perrysburg High School.

Outside the classroom, Blake has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Perrysburg, Ohio. On the fields of friendly strife, Blake has participated in Varsity Track and Football. He was Captain of the football team as a sophomore and has lettered multiple times in track. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Blake is an active member in his community by participating in Young Life, was a Youth Football Camp and YMCA Youth Camp counselor, and was an English interpreter for a visiting Spanish student.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Blake Klinksiek. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Blake will do very well during his career at Air Force and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

#### HONORING SHIRLEY COPELAND

##### HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a constituent of

mine who received the 2004 Safety Education Hero Award from the Home Safety Council. Shirley Copeland, a safety educator from Alachua County, Florida, is this year's hero. The Safety Education Hero Award recognizes excellence in home safety education each year, and is presented for fire safety education that saves a life or avoids a disaster. The Home Safety Council in partnership with the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsor this distinction. Copeland conducted a fire safety lesson with the children at Terwilliger Elementary School as part of the Alachua County Fire Department's 2003 Fire Prevention Month outreach program. She used NFPA's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign materials, "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" During her presentation, Copeland explained the importance creating and practicing a family home fire escape plan, with an emphasis on conducting nighttime fire drills. Students received fire escape worksheets, which they took home to complete with their families.

Copeland's lessons made quite an impression on Paul Jones (age 11) and Paige Jones (age 10) who immediately shared Copeland's information with their mother. The family discussed the steps of their fire escape plan, including quickly exiting the home, calling 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home and meeting at a designated area. Remembering Copeland's message about the importance of nighttime fire drills, the siblings asked their mother to awaken them in the middle of the night to put their home fire escape plan into action.

Less than a month later on December 6, 2003, the family's preparation was put to the test. In the middle of the night as the family slept, sparks from the fireplace ignited a piece of furniture. Following the family's rehearsed escape plan, they swiftly fled to a neighbor's home, met at their designated meeting spot and dialed 9-1-1.

Brenda Proctor now attributes her family's safe escape to Shirley Copeland's informative and memorable teachings. Learning of the incident, Copeland visited the family at their temporary home where she made sure they had working smoke alarms and a new fire escape plan. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Copeland received the 2004 Safety Education Hero Award on May 5, 2004 from the Home Safety Council during the annual CFSI National Fire and Emergency Services Banquet here in Washington, DC. I had the honor of meeting Ms. Copeland and am proud that this hero will continue to work and promote fire safety in the 6th District of Florida.

C. DAVID SMITH, 2004 FAMILY  
PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doctor C. David Smith for receiving the honor as Florida's 2004 Family Physician of the Year.

Dr. Smith has an extraordinary beginning to his career. He graduated second in his class from the University of Florida medical school in 1979. With a promising career in medicine,

he began his residency at the University of South Alabama. However, in 1980 with not even a year of residency under his belt, he received word that his hometown hospital in Jay, Florida would close due to the lack of physician manpower and financial resources. Dr. David Smith followed his love of medicine and people and relocated back to his hometown, insuring that the hospital would continue to serve his neighbors in the rural community of less than 600.

During his 23-year tenure, Dr. Smith serves patients from his community and the surrounding area in his private practice, the emergency room, acute care center, hospital and nursing home. He is also the team physician for the local high school football team and even has time to make house calls.

Among his supporters, his patients offer the most passionate tributes. A community citizen whose family was comforted by Dr. Smith noted, "The community is blessed to have this man among us. If we could have a statue in Jay of a hero, it would be Dr. David Smith, physician extraordinaire, humanitarian by gift of God, and our beloved rural doctor."

Thanks to his leadership, intellect, and altruistic character, he revived the medical community and put rural hospital care in the medical spotlight. Jay Hospital and Northwest Florida communities are very fortunate to have such a distinguished family physician who has a genuine concern for people.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate and offer my sincere appreciation to Dr. C. David Smith for his service in the communities of Northwest Florida.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
PARKS' "GOLD LINE"

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Garry L. Parks, the Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, soon to retire and return to private life after more than 35 years of proud service as a United States Marine. The departure of General Parks marks not merely the end of an illustrious career replete with many honors; it also marks the beginning of several initiatives that, by virtue of his strategic vision, will ensure the continued success of the Marine Corps into the 21st century.

A native of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, General Parks graduated from the Citadel with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969.

After completing The Basic School, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam, where he served with distinction in a variety of positions to include platoon commander and company executive officer with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. For his heroism under fire, General Parks was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V". Next, General Parks served as a company commander with 2d Battalion, 3d Marines. General Parks' later assignments include Company Commander, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina; the Infantry Officers Advanced Course, Fort

Benning, Georgia, where he graduated on the Commandant's List; and company commander, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, Okinawa, Japan.

General Parks was an honor graduate at Marine Corps Command and Staff College; Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station, Raleigh, North Carolina; and the Joint Program and Budget Coordination Officer in the Requirements and Programs Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

While assigned to the First Marine Division, General Parks served as Executive Officer, 5th Marines; Commanding officer, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines; and Commanding Officer, 9th Marines. While serving as Chief of Staff, Marine Forces Pacific, he was selected to Brigadier General. He next served as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region; Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs on the Joint Staff; and Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

General Parks will continue to serve as the Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs until his retirement in June 2004. While serving in this position he devoted his enormous personal energy into implementing manpower programs and policies to ensure the operating forces had the Marine Corps manpower required to succeed in Operation Enduring Freedom I and II, and Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II and to also ensure that Marine families had the support they required during these most challenging times.

Throughout his career as a United States Marine, General Parks demonstrated uncompromising character, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his beloved Marine Corps and to the Nation. His powerful leadership inspired Marines to tremendous success no matter the task, and achieved results that will guarantee the United States' security into the future.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize General Parks' extraordinary accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, his wife Earlene, son Garry, and daughter Tammy on the completion of a long and distinguished career.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR.  
ROBERT MARTIN AND HIS INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP LECTURE  
AT THE HAYES PRESIDENTIAL  
CENTER

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding man, Dr. Robert Martin. This Friday, May 14, Dr. Martin will offer the first lecture at the Hayes Presidential Center's first annual "Hayes Lecture on Leadership." This is a momentous occasion and an exciting time at the Hayes Presidential Center, which was the first Presidential library in the United States.

In June 2001, Dr. Robert Sidney Martin was nominated by the President of the United States to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); the U.S. Senate subsequently confirmed his nomination