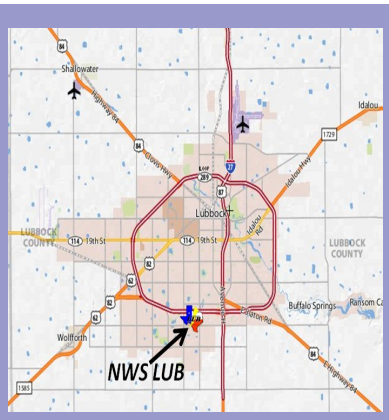
NWS Lubbock, Texas
2009 Station Digest

an introduction to service and life on the South Plains

Welcome...

...to the National Weather Service – Lubbock, Texas, Station Digest! This digest offers qualified and motivated prospective applicants for vacancies at our office a glimpse at life and work in Lubbock. If you are considering a bid on a National Weather Service - Lubbock job announcement as advertised on the USAJobs website, please enjoy the following pages and review the informative links enclosed. We thank you for your interest in joining our team!



NWS Lubbock is located at 2579 South Loop 289 in Lubbock, Texas.

NWS Lubbock conducts operations from the east wing of Lubbock's Science Spectrum & Omni Theater. Our staff received an NWS Regional Cline Award for maintaining one of the museum's 250 hands-on science displays.

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Unique Work Opportunities & Office Culture

The primary mission of NWS Lubbock is to provide weather forecasts and warnings for nearly 500,000 residents in the twenty-four counties of the west Texas South Plains. To accomplish this mission, NWS Lubbock issues watches, warnings, outlooks, and advisories for hazardous weather, and routinely issues public, aviation, and fire weather forecasts. NWS Lubbock staff members operate five NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio transmitters, provide two continuously updated Terminal Airport Forecasts, provide maintenance for two Automated Surface Observing Stations and one wind profiler, and work with more than sixty volunteer cooperative observers. NWS Lubbock has led many of our agency's movements toward utilizing innovative tools and techniques in weather operations, such as: graphicasts, instant messaging, informative web-based data outlets, and annually provides customers free calendars filled with local weather facts, trivia, and photography.

While off duty, some members of our staff join forces with the Texas Tech University Atmospheric Science Group to compete in Lubbock's city-wide softball league. The *"Blue Northers"* have captured 11 league championships since 1991, and their accolades are displayed proudly at NWS Lubbock. Also, a number of our employees donate their time to volunteer work at the United Way and Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Teamwork on the softball diamond is not the only means of cooperation between NWS Lubbock and its colleagues and partners. NWS Lubbock personnel have a strong history of professional collaboration with the academic community, and this allows staff members to occasionally participate in scientific field work and professional development. The office staff works closely with the Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet; a cooperation which was recognized by the National Weather Association's presentation of its 2008 Larry R. Johnson Special Award. In addition, a number of NWS Lubbock staffers work closely with the Texas Tech University Atmospheric Science Group, and frequently make presentations highlighting local studies and expertise to graduate level meteorology students. NWS Lubbock maintains a working relationship with the Texas Tech University Wind Science Engineering Group, developers of the Enhanced Fujita Scale, and has established internal Disaster Response Teams for damage assessment in the aftermath of destructive weather events. NWS Lubbock also enjoys an excellent relationship with its local media and emergency management community, and the office has been a leader in proving the utility of instant messaging within NWS operations and in all-hazards emergency support both locally on the South Plains and statewide in Texas.

Award Winning Public Service

NWS Lubbock meteorologists have presented nearly twenty meteorological studies at national and regional conferences, and have accounted for three peer-reviewed publications since 2005. The office has been honored with the following professional recognitions this decade:

- *2001, 2005, and 2007 U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medals*
- *2008 National Weather Association Larry R. Johnson Special Award*
- *6 NWS Regional Cline Awards*
- *10 NWS Southern Region Director's Awards Since 2006*

South Plains Weather & Climate

Of course, you are considering a job at NWS Lubbock because you desire to sharpen your professional skills while witnessing dramatic weather from the confines of a high-tech operational environment...*right?* The South Plains is known for its active spring severe weather season. Each year, portions of the NWS Lubbock forecast area receive damaging thunderstorm winds, large hail, incredible lightning displays, and an average of 18 tornadoes. However, forecasting in west Texas will provide you with a well-rounded experience. While the climate is typically fair and arid, the region is also prone to a variety of weather hazards that range from wind and dust storms, to occasional winter storms and wind-driven grass fires.

The South Plains is known for its brief but intense bouts of active weather, but in reality, the west Texas climate is dominantly mild and pleasant.

Lubbock Climate Facts:

January Average Max/Min Temps
52˚ F/24˚ F

July Average Max/Min Temps
92˚ F/68˚ F

Annual Average Precipitation
18.69 inches

Annual Average Snowfall
10.4 inches

Annual Days of Sunshine
263

Annual Average Wind Speed
12.4 mph

Temperature Extremes
High 114 F ~ Low –17 F

Average Freeze Dates
First-October 31 ~ Last-April 9

Elevation
3,241 ft

Quality of Life in Lubbock

Lubbock is the economical, medical, and educational **"Hub City"** of west Texas! A city of *214,000* residents, Lubbock sits within the world's largest cotton growing region. Yet Lubbock is rich in culture and home to nine museums and a number of music legends and festivals. There are nine independent school districts and a number of private campuses in the county, and more than 70% of LISD grads pursue higher education. It is no surprise that 26% of Lubbockites hold a Bachelor's degree or higher education since 40,000 students study at four colleges and universities within an hour's drive! Lubbock sports fans also enjoy Big 12 and SAC athletics. Eight major healthcare facilities employ 900 doctors and 4,500 nurses. Texas Tech University's Health Sciences Center is one of the top 120 medical facilities in the country. *And*, Lubbock's International Airport offers service aboard four airlines!

"Lubbock ranked in the American Lung Association's top ten 2004 year-around particle -pollution free cities"

*"**Men's Health** magazine ranked Lubbock a top ten city for low stress, air quality, and roads"*

Distances From Lubbock

metros		*outdoor fun*	
Albuquerque	*321 miles*	*Big Bend NP*	*304 miles*
Dallas	*347 miles*	*Caprock Canyon SP*	*119 miles*
Denver	*544 miles*	*Carlsbad Caverns NP*	*179 miles*
Houston	*581 miles*	*Guadalupe Mtns NP*	*235 miles*
Kansas City	*726 miles*	*Lake Alan Henry*	*56 miles*
Oklahoma City	*383 miles*	*Palo Duro Canyon SP*	*113 miles*
Phoenix	*782 miles*	*Red River*	*405 miles*
San Antonio	*387 miles*		

Lubbock's Economy & Cost of Living

The numbers say it all! Out of 311 cities surveyed, the ACCRA found Lubbock to be the sixth least expensive. Housing options in Lubbock range from lakefront living in Ransom Canyon and Buffalo Springs to historic neighborhoods, downtown studios, and rural subdivisions. The Lubbock market provides a range of houses at less cost than home-buyers encounter in most metro areas due to the ample supply of land. Most of the city's apartments are located in the southwest and near Texas Tech. Rent for a one-bedroom unit averages $552, $711 for a two bedroom, and $966 for three bedrooms.

A $200,000 home in Lubbock would cost…

… $661,905 in Denver, CO

… $1,766,667 in Boston, MA

… $1,890,476 in Santa Barbara, CA

*"**Money** magazine called Lubbock the most affordable college town in which to retire"*

Lubbock's

Average Home Cost…

$129,950 *(July 2009)*

"Veros Real Estate Solutions forecast Lubbock to be the second strongest residential market in 2008/09"

ACCRA Cost of Living Index (national average value 100)

- All Items Index.....85.9 (lowest in Texas and 6th in nation)
- Utility Index.....75.4 (lowest in Texas and 5th in nation)
- Grocery Index.....86.2
- Housing Index.....72.3

*"**Money** magazine's Find Your Best Places ranked Lubbock third in housing, leisure, growth, healthcare, and climate"*

*"A **Business Week** article ranked Lubbock among the safest cities to live during a recession"*

*"**Forbes** magazine puts Lubbock in the top 25 business locations its size with emphasis on affordability and 51st for income growth in 2006"*

2008 Property Tax Rates ***(per $100 valuation)***

City of Lubbock	**$0.455**
Lubbock County	**$0.306**
Lubbock Independent School District	**$1.235**
Hospital District	**$0.116**
High Plains Water District	**$0.008**
Total	**$2.121**

No State Income Tax in Texas!

Check Out These Informative On-line Sources:

City of Lubbock

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce

Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau

Lubbock Economic Development Alliance

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

Texas Tech University

Lubbock Christian University

Wayland Baptist University

South Plains College

Lubbock Schools

The Science Spectrum

Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport

Visit Us Online At:

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