

Phillips offers relocation

Homeowners balk at plan

Associated Press

PHILLIPS — Homeowners in this Panhandle company town had mixed reactions to an offer by Phillips Petroleum to help relocate 400 of them who are being evicted because of environmental concerns. In addition, the Phillips Homeowners Association voted late Monday 106-61 to send a five-person committee to Houston to meet with attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes about options the homeowners have to preserve their town. Talk of meeting with Haynes late last month split the town, with one group wanting to fight to stay and another group willing to move, believing the Oklahoma-based company will treat them fairly. According to a statement issued from Phillips' corporate headquarters in Bartlesville, Okla., details of the land development and moving assistance plan will be completed by Feb. 1.

The company said the plan will cost approximately \$3 million, the company said.

The company wants to move the homeowners from their land, located near Phillips Petroleum's refinery and chemical operations.

"I don't like it," said longtime resident Sam Jackson, referring to Phillips' plan. "I don't think it's going to be nearly enough."

But homeowner Kenneth Benton, who wants to meet with the company, said he thinks the relocation plan sounds good.

"I think (Phillips) will be fair," said Benton, who opposes legal action to preserve the town. "They're going to help."

Phillips said it will develop land where the houses can be moved. The company also said it has purchased MM Cattle Co., which owns the land where the homes are located.

In the statement, Phillips said the relocation was necessary for two reasons — "so that the land will be readily available when needed, and because of environmental concerns."

"The most immediate environmental problem has to do with local sanitation," the statement said. "The expense of replacing the sewage system cannot be justified, considering that the land will eventually have to be cleared."

Phillips said the other environmental concern is the nearness of the houses to the company's plants.

"Prudence dictates that we take all reasonable steps to minimize the potential for damage near our facilities," Phillips said.

The company said a formula is being developed to determine the monetary allocation to individual homeowners.

"Phillips will donate the land and will pay a major part of the development cost" of the new lots, the statement said. "Homeowners will own their lots and receive titles."

Health boom changes tastes for fast food

DUBLIN, Ohio — A recent survey indicates the health and fitness boom has changed consumer tastes at fast food restaurants.

The study for Wendy's International Inc. shows people in almost half of all U.S. households can be considered "nutrition conscious," and are either restrictive dieters or involved in fitness regimens. The study indicates this is a growing market segment.

"People who fit the description of this nutrition ethic have three concerns in common," according to William Welter of Wendy's. "They are careful to eat a balanced diet, and they count calories, eliminating foods that aren't considered healthy. Finally, they want assurances their food is prepared fresh from fresh ingredients."

Mexico-Guatemala relations may improve

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The inauguration Tuesday of Vinicio Cerezo as Guatemala's first civilian president in 16 years should signal improved relations between Mexico and its southern neighbor, editorialists here say.

"Mexico will have, finally, a neighbor on its south governed by norms of law and not by force of arms or by foreign imposition," the newspaper Excelsior said. "It is in Mexico's interests that Guatemala raise its institutions."

The newspaper added that "the purposes of the new president of Guatemala are in agreement with the needs for progress and civilization in Central America."

A commentary in the leftist newspaper La Jornada said, "Whatever might happen, there is no doubt that Mexican interests are at stake in Guatemala. It can be argued for many reasons that the best card for Mexico is in a Guatemala that is egalitarian, independent and respectful of human rights."

Relations between Mexico and Guatemala, whose border is about 360 miles in mostly jungle terrain,

have been cool in recent years. About 46,000 Guatemalans, mostly Indian peasants from their country's northwestern highlands, are living in refugee camps in southern Mexico.

"This phenomenon concerns us because of the precarious material situation of the refugees, for the risks to their own security and because of the possibility of friction between Mexico and Guatemala," President Miguel de la Madrid said last year.

Guatemalan officials, in turn, have charged that the refugee camps offer safe harbors and recruitment centers for leftist guerrillas operating in their country.

An estimated 60,000 Guatemalans cross the border each year to harvest coffee crops in southern Mexico. There have been charges that their employers violate human and labor rights.

A series of military or military-dominated governments have held power in Guatemala since a 1954 coup supported by the CIA. Mexico's relations with military governments in other Latin American nations traditionally have been reserved.

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