

RUMOR MILL WORKING OVERTIME ON MOUNTAIN LIONS

From Okla. Dept. of Wildlife

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Every year rumors that the Wildlife Department is stocking mountain lions circulate through coffee shops and cafes in rural Oklahoma. That is simply not true, according to Department officials.

"We have never stocked mountain lions anywhere in Oklahoma, not even a single cat," said Greg Duffy, director of the Department. "The latest rumors of mountain lion stocking have been coming from the west-central part of the state. State Senator Bruce Price from Hinton has received a number of calls on the subject and recently contacted us for more information. That tells me there probably are a lot of people talking about mountain lion stocking."

Duffy said that mountain lion sightings have been reported in many parts of the state, with most coming from far western Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma doesn't contain very much

suitable mountain lion habitat," he said. "Undoubtedly, a few wild cats travel into the state from neighboring Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. More often than not, however, people who see mountain lions are seeing animals which were once pets."

Private individuals can obtain permits to keep mountain lions as pets, a practice Wildlife Department personnel discourage.

Some of these cats end up in rural Oklahoma when their owners illegally release them in the country. Often the cats prove to be too expensive to care for, or are too dangerous to keep.

"There may be a few mountain lions out there, but they weren't put there by the Wildlife Department," Duffy said.

Mountain lions, which are protected by state law, may not be hunted or killed. Anyone with concerns about mountain lions should contact their county game warden or game biologist.

General Revenue, continued from page 4

with the first quarter a year ago.

• **Sales tax** — Sales taxes yielded \$89.8 million to General Revenue in September and \$271.4 million for the first three months. The September figure was up \$4.5 million or 5.3 percent from the prior year and exceeded the estimate by \$2.0 million or 2.3 percent. The year-to-date total was up \$14.9 million or 5.8 percent from a year ago and was \$7.4 million or 2.8 percent above the estimate. September sales tax receipts topped those of the same month a year ago for the 40th consecutive month.

• **Gross production tax** — This tax on oil and gas, reflecting higher prices, produced \$14.5 million for September and \$43.4 million for the first three months. The monthly total was up \$3.7 million or 34.2 percent from a year ago and was \$4.2 million or 40.5 percent above the estimate. The first quarter figure was up \$8.8 million or 25.5 percent from a year ago and was \$10.9 million or 33.7 percent above the estimate.

For the quarter, oil taxes yielded \$24.7 million and gas taxes \$18.8 million. The oil revenue was up \$3.5 million or 16.3 percent from a year ago and was \$6.1 million or 32.5 percent above the estimate. Gas revenue was up \$5.4 million or 40.2 percent from a year ago and was \$4.9 million or 35.3 percent above the estimate.

• **Motor Vehicle Tax** — This source, based on motor vehicle sales and licenses, produced \$19.8 million in September and

\$64.7 for the first three months. The September total was \$0.7 million or 3.4 percent above a year ago but was \$0.5 million or 2.4 percent below the estimate. For the quarter, motor vehicle revenue was \$4.5 million or 7.5 percent above a year ago and \$3.5 million or 5.8 percent above the estimate.

• **Other** — Other revenue, which includes a wide range of sources such as cigarettes, liquor, franchise, insurance and estate taxes, interest and investments, produced \$48.1 million in September and \$138.6 million for the three months. The September total was up \$5.9 million or 14.1 percent from the prior year but was \$0.7 million or 1.4 percent below the estimate. For the year to date, other revenue was up \$10.3 million or 8.0 percent and was \$1.1 million or 0.8 percent above the estimate.

Earnings by the State Treasury yielded \$8.4 million for the month and \$23.0 for the first quarter. September receipts exceeded those of a year ago by \$3.3 million or 63.6 percent and were \$1.2 million or 16.2 percent above the estimate. The first quarter total was \$5.6 million or 32.1 percent above the prior year and \$4.4 million or 23.4 percent above the estimate.

"There are no facts, only interpretations."

Friedrich Nietzsche

CRAY RESEARCH-SILICON GRAPHICS TO PROVIDE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTER

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) The Clinton Administration last week announced that Cray Research, the supercomputing subsidiary of Silicon Graphics, Inc., will provide the world's most powerful supercomputer to Los Alamos National Laboratory. The \$110.5 million Department of Energy (DOE) award is part of a program to develop a reliable substitute for underground nuclear testing.

The multi-year collaboration with Los Alamos, funded through DOE's Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI), requires that the final Cray Research-Silicon Graphics system provide an aggregate peak performance of more than three teraflops or three trillion calculations per second. A second system providing an additional teraflop of computing power will be added at the Los Alamos Advanced Computing Laboratory. When integrated, the combined peak performance of the two systems will be more than four teraflops—the fastest system in world.

"The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a giant step toward a safer, more peaceful world. We also need to ensure the safety and reliability of a reduced U.S. nuclear stockpile," said President Clinton. "This agreement will provide the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico with the world's most powerful super-computer—a computer that will provide a reliable substitute to the underground testing we have worked so hard to ban."

Robert H. Ewald, President of Cray Research and Senior Vice President of Silicon Graphics, said, "The Cray Research-Silicon Graphics team is proud to be selected for this important work, which is vital to America's national security interests and a milestone in high-performance computing. Without a doubt, this award propels our technology to the leading position in the supercomputing industry. We are confident that the synergies of the combined Cray Research and Silicon Graphics companies will set the tone for cultivation of all leading-edge supercomputing technologies of the future."

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