

# Hobbs Daily News

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Serving Southeast New Mexico and West Texas

MONDAY

## Russian delegation tours county

By RICHARD METCALF  
Of The News-Sun Staff

The visitors could've passed for workers from the oilfields of western Pennsylvania, equipped with video recorders and curiosity, except for the fact everything had to be said twice.

Bouncing back and forth were Russian, sounding almost like poetry, and English, spoken as often as not with the native West Texas twang of the Permian Basin.

The sun burned off the morning mist Sunday as the group of 21 Russians from West Siberia headed north on N.M. 18 from Hobbs to Lovington. Their questions ran the gamut from history of the oil industry in Hobbs, through the distance between rigs, to the popularity of soccer.

"Where are the cowboys?" Someone asked when they glimpsed through the fog at cattle grazing. The owner of Ziadril Inc. of Hobbs, Kenneth McPeters, replied, "In church."

First stop on the tour of Lea County's oil patch was a drilling rig just outside Lovington in an oilfield known as "Bad Dog." The Russians were representatives from the production side of a 10-year-old oil and natural gas company called Satorinskneft.

The itinerary took them through the Buckeye area of the county, where virtually the only signs of activity are cattle and pump jacks. There, the visitors took a look at flood projects operated by Phillips Petroleum Co. and Texaco Inc.

The Russians are from a city of

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Russians express keen interest in one of the tank batteries at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s East Vacuum Unit at Buckeye.


Richard Metcalf/News-Sun Photo

How sweet it is

Pentagon acting  
initially to and

## Russian delegation tours Lea County's oil patch

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"It was a gamble, but we printed them in advance," he said.

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THE VANISHING  
GROUNDHOG DAY**