Voters Set for November Election

7,600-plus Registered in Gaines County, 13.5 Million in Texas

By Dustin Wright
***Sentinel* Managing Editor**

Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrande, on Monday, announced the State of Texas reached a historic mark, 13.59 million registered voters who will be eligible to participate in the upcoming Nov. 6 general election process.

Of that total, 7,687 Gaines County residents had registered by last Tuesday's (Oct. 9) voter registration deadline to participate in the November general elections process, which will be highlighted nationally by the U.S. Presidential race between incumbent President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

This story was initially published Tuesday morning, at 6:00 a.m., at SeminoleSentinel.com

"I've worked in this office for over 20 years, and I can't think of a time where we have had this many registered voters since I've been here," said Susan Shaw, Gaines County Tax Assessor/Collector. "It could prove to show a huge turnout for November."

According to the Texas Secretary of State's office, 13,594,264 voters had registered to vote by last week's deadline, and numbers are expected to climb upward as many of the state's voter registration offices were still processing last week's registration requests.

Shaw stated there was a rush for last-minute voter registries and information requests with the Gaines County Tax Assessor/Collector's Office, which was a similar scene across the state.

What made the last minute, local rush a little different was last Tuesday morning's power outage which hampered most of Seminole's downtown business district, including the Gaines County Courthouse.

"It was a complete madhouse there for a while," said Shaw. "With the power outage and the voter registration deadline coming on a day following a holiday (Columbus Day), we stayed pretty busy."

How busy you may ask?

"If I had the capability, I could have used five extra employees on Tuesday and might have been able to keep up with the amount of traffic," said Shaw. "We were that busy, and mainly busy with voter registration and voter changes."

Shaw stated that at last count, the local office had seen a net increase of 244 local voters since May, but stated the office handled numerous information changes such as address and out-of-town voter transfers.

"We've been busy, to say the least," said Shaw.

A final number for registered voters will not be available until all applications are processed. Due to the high volume of voter registration applications submitted prior to the registration deadline, many local county election officials are still processing applications.

The previous record number of registered voters was 13,575,062 set for the November 2008 General Election.

"I want to thank all Texans who registered to vote this year and all Texans who are already registered voters. The next step is getting to the polls during Early Voting or on Election Day," said Andrade.

The final Official List of Registered Voters will be set prior to the start of Early Voting on October 22, 2012.

As a reminder, Early Voting begins Monday, October 22, 2012 and runs through November 2, 2012. Voters can find links to polling places and times at www.VoteTexas.gov. During Early Voting, voters may cast a ballot at any polling place in their county of residence.

Locally in Gaines County, voters can cast their ballots at one of two locations -- the Gaines County Clerk's Office, inside the Gaines County Courthouse, in Seminole, and the Seagraves Community Building in Seagraves.

"With just a week to go before Early Voting begins, now is a perfect time for Texans to begin preparing to cast their ballot," said Secretary Andrade. "Now's the time to verify your voter registration status, locate your registration certificate, make sure it's signed, verify where your county's polling places are, review what's on your ballot and make plans to go vote."

Photo identification as required in Senate Bill 14 will not be required when voting in person during Early Voting or on Election Day. To cast a ballot during Early Voting or on Election Day, voters should present their voter registration card or in lieu of a voter registration card, at least one of the following:

•A driver's license or personal identification card issued to you by the Texas Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to you by an agency of another state, even if the license or card has expired;

•A form of identification that contains your photograph and establishes your identity;

•A birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes your identity;

•Your United States citizenship papers;

•Your United States passport;

•Official mail addressed to you by a governmental entity; or

•A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

For more information on the elections process in Texas, please visit www.VoteTexas.gov.

Election coverage for the November 6 general election will be made available online at www.seminolesentinel.com and in the Wednesday, Nov. 7 edition of the *Sentinel*.

2012 General Election Ballot Candidates

U.S. President/Vice President
Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan (R)
Barack Obama/Joe Biden (D)
Gary Johnson/Jim Gray (L)
Jill Stein/Cheri Honkala (G)

U.S. Senator
Ted Cruz (R)
Paul Sadler (D)
John Jay Myers (L)
David B. Collins (G)

U.S. Representative, Dist. 19
Randy Neugebauer (R)
Richard (Chip) Peterson (L)

Railroad Commissioner
Christi Craddick (R)
Dale Henry (D)
Vivekananda (Vik) Wall (L)
Chris Kennedy (G)

Railroad Commissioner (Unexpired Term)
Berry Smitherman (R)
Jamie O. Perez (L)
Josh Wendel (G)

Justice, Supreme Court, Pl. 2
Don Willett (R)
RS Roberto Koelsch (L)

Justice, Supreme Court, Pl. 4
John Devine (R)
Tom Oxford (L)
Charles E. Waterbury (G)

Justice, Supreme Court, Pl. 8
Nathan Hecht (R)
Michele Petty (D)
Mark Ash (L)
Jim Chisholm (G)

Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Sharon Keller (R)
Keith Hampton (D)
Lance Stott (L)

Judge, Court of Appeals, Pl. 7
Barbara Parker Hervey (R)
Mark W. Bennett (L)

Judge, Court of Appeals, Pl. 8
Elsa Alcala, (R)
William Brian Strange, III (L)

Member, State Board of Ed., District 15
Marty Rowley (R)
Steven D. Schafersman (D)

State Senator, Dist. 31
Kel Seliger (R)

State Rep., Dist. 83
Charles Perry (R)

Chief Justice, 11th Court of Appeals
Jim R. Wright (R)

Justice, 11th Court of Appeals (Unexpired Term)
Mike Wilson (R)

District Attorney, 106th Judicial District
Mike Munk (R)

Gaines County Attorney
Joe Nagy (R)

Gaines County Sheriff
Ronny Pipkin (R)

Gaines Co. Tax Assessor/Collector
Susan Shaw (R)

County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Danny Yocom (R)

County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Blair Tharp (R)

County Commissioner, Pct. 4 (Unexpired Term)
Biz Houston (R)

Gaines County Constable, Pct. 1
Neal Shaw (R)

Nov. 6 General Election Voting Locations

(Ranked by Preliminary Production)

Early Voting (Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.)
Gaines Co. Clerk's Office, Gaines Co. Courthouse, Seminole

Seagraves Community Building, 512 12th St., Seagraves

Election Day Voting (Nov. 6, 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.)
Gaines Co. Civic Building, 500 N.W. 5th St., Seminole

Seagraves Community Building, 512 12th St., Seagraves

Loop Community Building, 1462 FM 303, Loop

Higginbotham Community Center, 2140 FM 1757, Seminole

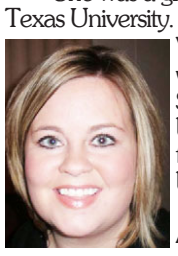
**Source -- Gaines County Clerk's Office

Obituaries

Kaci Leann Fairchild

HARWOOD--Kaci Leann Fairchild, 29, of Harwood, passed away Thursday, October 11, 2012. She was born December 31, 1982 in Andrews the daughter of Larry Owen Loffler and Audrey D'Ann Smith.

She was a graduate of Seminole High School and attended Western Texas University. Kaci was the safety and human resources manager with Venture Energy Services. She had previously worked with the Texas Oncology Center in both Midland and San Marcos for several years. She will always be remembered as a compassionate and caring employee and was the favorite wherever she worked. Kaci's smile could brighten up everyone's day.



Kaci and Travis Fairchild both enjoyed the music of Aaron Watson and a concert of his composed their first date. Whether is was during Aaron's rendition of "Leather and Lace" or "Summertime Girl," somewhere in that concert Travis knew that Kaci's sparkling eyes, infectious smile and lust for life were the qualities he was searching for in a partner for life. Kaci and Travis married August 30, 2008 in Seminole. They enjoyed travel, recently returning from an Alaskan trip, and were looking forward to a trip to Hawaii.

Kaci was an avid photographer; she loved craft work and spending time with her dogs, Charlie, Herbie and Molly. Kaci became a deer hunter last year and was eager to go with Travis again this season. Because of a gentle manner and fun-loving heart she was a favorite aunt to her nieces and nephews Jayden Contreras, Braylee and Rostyn Moorefield and Jewel and Faith Short. She loved to visit with friends and will be remembered as a spirited individual with a wonderful smile and personality.

She is survived by her loving husband Travis Fairchild of Harwood; parents, Audrey D'Ann Blackmon and husband Dusty of Seminole, Larry Owen Loffler and his wife Tanya of Driftwood; sisters Madison Loffler of Austin, Katlin Moorefield and husband Gaidge of Seminole and Dallas Blackmon of Seminole; and one brother Kolt Blackmon of Seminole; grandparents Bob and Shirley Loffler of Seminole, Lenda and Eugene Blackmon of Seminole and Jim and Sandra Morgan of Denver City.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Perlena and Dean Smith.

Visitation was held 6 to 8 Monday, October 15 at the First United Methodist Church in Gonzales with Reverend Andy Smith officiating. A memorial service will be held at South Seminole Baptist Church in Seminole on Friday, October 19 at 10 a.m.

Pallbearers will include Cody Fleming, Shad Fleming, Jeff Loffler, Brent McKinley, Gaidge Moorefield and Gere Pallis. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, 906 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX.

Lillie Lee Price

Lillie Lee Price departed this world to go to her maker on October 13, 2012, just one week shy of her 95th birthday.

She was preceded in death by her husband Harold Price; two sons Gerald Bankhead and Wendell Sims; one daughter Shirley Clarkston and two grandchildren Michael Sims and Darlene Bankhead.

She is survived by six children, Willie and Maxine Sims of Seminole; Wesley and Pat Sims of Fort Worth, Mary Jo Elliott of Farmerville, La., Carolyn Nichols and Sharon Keel both of Breckenridge, Tony and Patricia Robertson of Seminole. She had numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was loved by all and will be missed greatly.

Services are pending with Farrahs Funeral Home in Farmerville, La.

Ratliff Funeral Homes
Denver City 806-592-2321 | Seminole 432-758-2431 | Seagraves 806-387-3838

Anna Neufeld

Funeral services for Anna Neufeld, 53, of Seminole will be conducted Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 2 p.m. in the Mennonite Evangelical Church. Interment will follow in the Gaines County Cemetery with services under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Seminole. She passed away Sunday, October 14 in Seminole.

Anna was born December 15, 1958 in Mexico to Jacob and Helena Unger. Anna and Goertzen Neufeld were married July 18, 1976 in Mexico. She was a homemaker and a member of the Mennonite Evangelical Church. She was preceded in death by her mother and a son Peter Neufeld.

Anna is survived by her husband Goertzen Neufeld of Seminole; four sons, Jacobs Neufeld, John Neufeld, Henry Neufeld, Abe Neufeld all of Seminole; five daughters, Mary Thiessen of Oasis, Mexico, Susie Peters, Annie Neufeld, Tina Neufeld, Lena Neufeld all of Seminole. She is also survived by nine brothers, Jacob Unger, Pete Unger, John Unger, George Unger, William Unger, Isaac Unger, Henry Unger, David Unger and Abe Unger; six sisters, Lisa Klassen, Sara Krahn, Helen Wolf, Agenetha Wiebe, Susan Peters and Tina Peters.

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William van Zielst

Funeral services for William van Zielst, 25, of Seminole will be conducted on Friday, October 19, 2012 at 2 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Derrel Evans and Rev. Marvin Gregory officiating. Interment will follow in the Gaines County Cemetery with services under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home. William passed away on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

William was born on June 21, 1987 in Amherst to Maarten and Katy van Zielst. While he was in high school he loved being in the 4-H Shooting Sports and showing steers and lambs in FFA. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and was very active in the youth group and was a graduate of the Seminole High School Class of 2006.

Survivors include his parents, Maarten and Katy van Zielst of Seminole; one brother, Andrew van Zielst of Seminole; grandparents, Wayne and Jean Crittenden of Lubbock; grandmother, Wilhelmina Huizer of Nieuwe Tonge, Holland; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Justin Long, Jeffery Long, Chantz Pack, Haden Tharp, Carbie McClearen and Dakota Hughes. Honorary Pallbearers will be Jared Shipp, Jonathon Upton, Kendall Long, Karter Long and Brandon Rodriguez.

A visitation for family and friends will be Thursday, October 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Ratliff Funeral Home.

The William van Zielst Memorial Fund has been established at the West Texas National Bank.

Gaines County Sporting Events

October 18
JV Indian Football vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Lubbock 7:30 p.m.
Freshmen Indian Football vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Lubbock, 5:30 p.m.

October 19
Varsity Indian Football vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Lubbock 7:30 p.m.

October 20
Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Levelland @ Seminole 12:30 p.m.
JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Levelland @ Seminole, 11 a.m.
Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Levelland @ Seminole 11 a.m.
Over-80 2 Man Scramble, Gaines County Golf Course Course Closed

October 21
Over-80 2 Man Scramble, Gaines County Golf Course Course Closed

October 23
Junior High and High School Cross Country at District Meet in Lubbock
Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews 7:00 p.m.
JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews 5:30 p.m.
Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews, 5:30 p.m.

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