

News Briefs

Sem. Hospital Board to Meet Monday P.M.

After failing to have a quorum of board members present this past Monday, members of the Seminole Hospital District's Board of Directors have called to host their semi-monthly meeting this coming Monday evening.

The meeting, which is open to the general public, is slated for a 6:30 p.m. start from the SHD Board Room, located on the Memorial Hospital campus.

In Monday's meeting, SHD officials will consider the following agenda items:

- consider capital purchase -- surgical equipment;
- consider parking lot resurfacing;
- consider an exterior renovation of 1004 Hobbs Hwy building;
- consider the 2012-2013 tax roll;
- consider medical staff reports/credentials; and
- routine agenda items which include minutes from the Board's previous meeting, financial/statistical report, medical and health records and personnel issues.

Local Sorority to Hold Annual Potato Bake

Members of the Xi Alpha Beta Eta sorority will be hosting their annual Potato Bake on Friday, Nov. 9, at the Gaines County Civic Building.

The fund raising event, which will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., will cost \$8 per person.

Patrons will be able to enjoy a baked potato meal with their choice of toppings (chili, cheese, broccoli, etc.) salad, dessert and a drink.

G/T Applications Being Taken by Seminole ISD

Seminole Independent School District Gifted and Talented services will accept nominations of kindergartners through 11th grade students for the Gifted/Talented program during October.

Professional nomination forms and parent nomination forms are available in a folder at the office of each campus. The parent nomination forms are also available in Spanish or German translations.

It is extremely important that all forms be turned in by 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 1.

Following nomination, the students will enter a testing process prior to acceptance into the G/T program.

Please remember that all nominations are confidential.

For more information, contact Fay Terry, SISD's G/T Coordinator at (432) 758-9431.

Local Groups to Host 'Trunk or Treat' Events

The First United Methodist Church will be hosting their annual "Trunks-2-Treat" event on the evening of Oct. 31, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the parking lot of the church in the 300 block of S.W. Ave. B.

The public is invited to this free event.

Children will be able to receive treats from church member car trunks, and free barbecue sandwiches, chips and lemonade will be available.

For more information about the event, contact the FUMC church office at (432) 758-3241.

The Seminole EMS and Seminole EMS Volunteers will be hosting their annual "Trunk or Treat" event from 6-to-8 p.m. in the parking lot east of the Seminole EMS Station, located in the 200 block of N.W. 8th St.

The event is open to the general public.

Trunk or Treaters and their parents/guardians are being asked to park in the parking lot of the Gaines County Library grounds for safety precautions due to high traffic near the hospital area.

(Editor's Note: If your church/civic organization is hosting a similar event, contact the Seminole Sentinel at (432) 758-3667 to let us know about it.)

Early Voting: From Page 1A

"We are hoping to see a big crowd for this election and have made the preparations with our machines and election workers for those crowds," said Phillips.

According to Susan Shaw, Gaines County's Tax Assessor/Collector in a story produced this

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 Craddock (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 Alcalá, (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)

past Wednesday by the *Sentinel*, 7,687 Gaines County residents are registered to take part in the Nov. 6 general election, which is highlighted by the U.S. Presidential race between incumbent President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

According to Phillips, for the early voting process, four voting machines will be made available at the early voting location in Seminole, while three machines will be made available in Seagraves.

Phillips, in speaking of the early voting process, urged local residents to cast their ballots early if they were ready to do so, instead of waiting until the last minute.

"Typically, we see our heaviest traffic toward the end of the early voting process, and of course, on election day," said Phillips. "So, if local voters want to avoid the crowds and are ready to cast their ballots, we are encouraging them to come out early during the early voting process to get their voting done and out of the way."

Local voters are being reminded to bring either their voter registration card or a valid form of identification -- such as a Texas driver's license -- with them to the polling site.

Also on the Ballot

Aside from the U.S. Presidential election, just one local race of interest -- the race for the 19th Congressional District of Texas -- will be featured on the upcoming Nov. 6 general election ballot, according to a sample ballot obtained by the *Seminole Sentinel* through the Gaines County Clerk's Office.

In the 19th Congressional District race, Lubbock Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer will face off with Libertarian challenger Richard (Chip) Peterson, also of Lubbock.

The 19th Congressional District of Texas, which includes Gaines County, spans a 27 county area of West Texas, including the cities of Abilene, Big Spring, and Lubbock. Altogether, the district covers over 29,000 square miles from the New Mexico border through the South Plains and across West Texas and the Big Country.

Neugebauer, who was first elected to office through a special election in 2003, is seeking his fifth term of office.

Peterson is a Professor Emeritus at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and previously was a professor of finance and holder of the I. Wylie and Elizabeth Briscoe

Chair of Bank Management for TTU and former CEO of Lubbock Asset Management Co.

Gaines County residents will also have a say in who will become Texas' newest United States Senator.

In the race, Republican Tea Party activist Ted Cruz and Democrat Paul Sadler lead a field of four candidates who include Libertarian Party candidate John Jay Myers and Green Party candidate David B. Collins.

The remainder of Gaines County's locally contested races were determined during this past

spring and summer's party primary elections process.

Those local candidates who will be unopposed in the November general elections process and will assume office on Jan. 1, 2013 include Gaines County Sheriff-elect Ronny Pipkin; Gaines County Tax Assessor-Collector Susan Shaw; Pct. 1 Commissioner Danny Yocom; Pct. 3 Commissioner Blair Tharp; Pct. 4 Commissioner Biz Houston (unexpired term); Mike Munk, 106th District Attorney-elect; Joe Nagy, Gaines County Attorney, and; Gaines Co. Constable, Pct. 1-elect Neal Shaw.



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USPS Announces Stamp Increase for Jan. 2013

WASHINGTON (AP) — It'll cost another penny to mail a letter next year.

The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service said Thursday that it will raise postage rates on Jan. 27, including a 1-cent increase in the cost of first-class mail to 46 cents.

It also will introduce a new global "forever" stamp, allowing customers to mail first-class letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. Currently, the prices vary depending on the international destination, with letters to Canada and Mexico costing 85 cents.

Under the law, the post office cannot raise stamp prices more than the rate of inflation, or 2.6 percent, unless it gets special permission. The post office, which expects to lose a record \$15 billion this year, has asked Congress to give it new authority to raise prices by 5 cents, but lawmakers have failed to act.

The mail agency also will increase rates on its shipping services, such as priority mail, by an average of 4 percent.

The post office, which is struggling with debt and low cash flow, said the rate hikes were partly aimed at bringing in new revenue while maintaining its pricing advantage in the shipping business. Private companies such as UPS and FedEx, which offer similar shipping services, regularly adjust their prices.

The post office lost \$5.1 billion in fiscal 2011, mostly due to a 5.8 percent decline in revenue for first-class mail. Financial results are expected to be even worse when final figures for fiscal 2012 are released next month. Earlier this year, it was forced to default on two payments due to the Treasury totaling \$11.1 billion for future retiree health benefits because it lacked sufficient cash reserves.

While the Postal Service has said it will continue seeking ways to cut costs, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has made clear that the agency has little left it can do to bring in significant new revenue. After months of congressional

delay, he said it's now up to lawmakers to pass a postal fix when they return to Washington after the November elections.

The latest rate increase, for instance, will make only a small dent in the Postal Service's losses, caused by the economic downturn, movement of mail to the Internet and a congressional requirement that the mail agency fund future retiree medical benefits years in advance. Earlier this year, the mail agency floated a proposal to Congress aimed at increasing stamp prices to 50 cents as a way to generate \$1 billion in new revenue.

The Postal Service has also asked Congress to allow it reduce mail delivery from six to five days a week and reduce its annual \$5 billion payment for the future retiree health benefits.

The current 45-cent rate for first-class mail in the U.S. has been in effect since January. Since 2006, the Postal Service has now increased the price of the stamp five times, from 39 cents to 46 cents.

Because stamps are now being issued as forever stamps, they will remain good for first-class postage. But buying new forever stamps will cost more when the prices go up.

While the price for the first ounce of a first-class letter will rise to 46 cents, the cost for each additional ounce will remain at the current 20 cents.

South Seminole Baptist Church Playground Fundraiser

August 2012 Gaines County Golf Course Tournament
Winners: \$300.00 Prize: Ariel Luna, Sr., Ariel Luna, Jr., and Aaron Flores

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- Oasis Gin, Inc.
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- L&N Farms
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- Seminole Hot Oil Service
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- Thriftyway
- Baker/Hughes
- Commercial State Bank
- Water Stoppe
- West Gaines Seed, Inc.



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Thank You
Seminole EMS and EMT Volunteer Association would like to thank each and every person who donated, worked, and supported or thought of and prayed for Terri Doniece Taylor making our EMS for the Cure a success. We exceeded our fundraising goals and we are truly touched by the communities efforts. Although we are unable to directly thank each and every person who was instrumental in this benefit we do want to give special thanks to Southern Rose for allowing the hospitality in utilizing their facility. The citizens in the community of Seminole nurtures, sustain, and create a sense of joy and belonging. What a great day we had as we enjoyed the company of friends, family and neighbors coming together to help our TERRI DONIECE TAYLOR.