

# The Search Continues

## City Entities Maintain Quest to Fill Vacant EDC Post

**By Dustin Wright  
Sentinel Managing Editor**  
Just over six months has passed, and the search for an Executive Director for the Seminole Economic Development Corp. continues.

local and regional applications and conducting several interviews, the search slowly continues to find a replacement for former SEDC Executive Director Donna Johnson, who submitted her letter of resignation from the corporation in early May.

board has made it their intentions from the beginning, that we didn't want to rush in this search process," said Tommy Phillips, Seminole City Administrator in a Thursday morning interview with the *Sentinel*. "We have wanted to take our time and make sure we found the right candidate that would have a good fit with us and be a good fit with them."

the recent recruitment of a Wingate by Wyndham hotel franchise into the Seminole community. Johnson also assisted in bringing back Bealls Dept. Store into the Seminole community following the store facility's half-year hiatus after their downtown Seminole store was heavily damaged following a June 2007 storm.

state of Texas were allowed to establish a corporation to administer the sales and use tax funds, and city voters must approve this special, dedicated tax at an election held for that purpose.

ties and distribution centers; military facilities; primary job training facilities; corporate headquarter facilities; job training classes; career centers; telephone call centers; business infrastructure; airport facilities; and operation of commuter rail, light rail or commuter buses.

### Early Voting:

Phillips stated the Gaines County Clerk's Office -- one of two early voting sites within Gaines County -- had noted 30 first-time voters for the Nov. 6 general election cycle.

where people have had to wait to vote," said Phillips. "But, there have been some times where some folks may have had to wait just a few minutes for a machine to open up."

According to Phillips, the SEDC vacancy has drawn a total of six applicants, with just a few of those applicants having been contacted for interviews.

Other SEDC incentive/business ventures accomplished during Johnson's tenure include: TCT Construction, Tex-Star Windows, Gaines County Veterans Memorial project, and Dickie's Barbecue.

The SEDC operates on funding provided by a 1/2 percent of all sales tax allocations received by the City of Seminole from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

In addition, 4B corporations may also fund retail business incentives (if city population is less than 20,000); sports and athletic facilities; entertainment, tourist and convention facilities; public parks and related open space improvements; affordable housing; and water supply and conservation programs (with special voter approval).

Although there is no way of officially tracking the statistics, Phillips added the Nov. 6 election -- which features the key U.S. Presidential race between President Barack Obama (D) and Republican challenger Mitt Romney -- has attracted more of Gaines County's German population than in elections past.

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.

"Economic development is a tough field to be in," said Phillips. "And, over the years, there have been a number of communities who have lost (economic development directors) and have had a hard time finding replacements for them."

### Death Notice

**HERRERA**  
**Karen Joy Herrera, 31, of Hobbs, NM, passed away on October 25, 2012, outside of Hobbs.** She was born on January 1, 1981, in Sacramento, CA to Juan Herrera and Ilda Montes. Visitation for Herrera was held on October 26, 27, and 28, from 2 to 8 p.m., at Calvary Memorial Funeral Home with funeral services being held on October 29, 2012, at 10 a.m., in Calvary Memorial Chapel, with burial following at Prairie Haven Memorial Park. Services have been entrusted to Calvary Memorial Funeral Home.

### Obituaries

**Morris Burrell**  
Funeral services for Morris Burrell, age 84 of Lubbock, and formerly of Seminole were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 26, 2012 at Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor Terry White officiating and James Washburn assisting. Burial followed at Gaines County Cemetery. All services were under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home.

Mr. Burrell passed away Monday, October 22, 2012 in Lubbock at Lake Ridge Nursing Home. He was born March 24, 1928 in Sallis, Mississippi to Dolie May (Able) and Vardimann Burrell. He married Catherine (Burrell) June 8, 1946 in Durant, Mississippi. He was a Baptist.

Morris Burrell worked as an equipment operator in the oilfield. He was a free spirit, headstrong but very generous. He helped construct the football field in Andrews and the Twin Rivers Dam in Roswell, New Mexico.

Morris Burrell is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Catherine in 2003; one daughter, Marsha Blackmon in 2009; three brothers and one sister.

He is survived by three sons, Randy Burrell and wife Brenda of Midland, Dannie Burrell and wife Pam of Lubbock, Dusty Burrell of Seminole; one daughter, Ruby Bass and husband Paul of Seminole; one sister, Mary Davis of Odessa; 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

### Wreck:

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incident would be considered as one of the contributing factors.

Initial investigation indicates the 31-year-old female driving the pick-up (which will be identified as Unit 1 by the *Sentinel*) was traveling west bound on U.S. 62/180 and struck one of the truck-tractors (which will be identified as Unit 2 by the *Sentinel*).

Shortly following that incident, West indicated it appeared the passenger car (being identified as Unit 3 by the *Sentinel*), which was traveling eastbound on 62/180, had struck Unit 2 as it was stopped in the roadway, because of the initial accident. Unit 3, shortly after striking Unit 2, was struck by the second tractor-truck/trailer (Unit 4), which was also traveling eastbound on U.S. 62/180.

Troopers, as of presstime Friday, were continuing their investigation of the incident and stated they would release more information as they become available. Updates of the investigation process will be reported via the Seminole Sentinel's Facebook page and online at [www.seminolesentinel.com](http://www.seminolesentinel.com), as they become available.

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

Johnson had served as the SEDC's Executive Director since 2006, as she replaced former executive director Monty Montgomery, who served in the position from 2003 to 2005.

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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.

During Johnson's tenure with the corporation, the SEDC has seen the completion of several economic development projects, which included the conversion of Gaines County maintained Ranch Road 1788 -- also known by area residents as Telephone Rd. -- to Farm to Market Rd. 1788, which is now under the supervision and maintenance of the Texas Dept. of Transportation.

Other economic development projects overseen by Johnson during her tenure in Seminole included

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**508 SW 16th 1394 sq ft 3/2 updated throughout**  
**5313 Hunter's Circle Abilene TX 1566 sq ft 3/2/1 lots of updates**  
**3008 Stateline Road A 2124 sq ft 3/1 w/2.5 acres & horse stalls**  
**205 SW 17th 2301 sq ft 4/2**  
**404 SW 23rd 2064 sq ft 4/2/2 built in 2008 with many upgrades-under contract**  
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