

e-Books to Make Debut at GCL

Library Patrons May Begin Checking Out Electronic Readings Nov. 30

The Gaines County Library System is expanding its services with audiobooks and eBooks, available to download from the library's Web site beginning Nov. 30.

Library cardholders will be able to check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere, by visiting <http://westtexas.lib.overdrive.com>

Gaines County Librarian Jane Bering said over the past few years, more and more patrons have asked if the library could offer eBooks and electronic audiobooks, and that's now a reality, as the library is a

participant in the West Texas Digital Library Consortium.

"We are excited to announce our participation in the Consortium," Bering said. "As it continues to grow, all patrons can benefit from the more than 2,900 eBooks and 90 audiobooks already in the catalog, with more selections regularly being added."

Patrons may browse the library's Web site, check out with a valid library card, and download to PC, Mac, and many mobile devices.

Users will need to install free

software, which is available on the library Web site. Audiobooks will require OverDrive Media Console, and eBooks will need Adobe Digital Editions. Titles can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including iPod, Kindle products, Sony Reader, and many others.

Some audio titles can also be burned to CD for on-the-go listening.

Fiction and non-fiction titles are available for adults, young adults and youth alike, Bering said. "Everyone is invited to explore the world of

electronic books through the link on the library's Web site or bring your mobile device into the library where staff can help download the free apps needed to check out books through cyberspace."

The West Texas Digital Library is open 24 hours year-round, and it's all free with a valid Gaines County Library card. "And there are no late fees or fines!" Bering said. "With a 21-day checkout, books will simply expire and disappear off mobile readers at the end of the lending period. As a result, there are no fines because the books are automatically turned in on time."

Mobile reading devices offer a range of benefits, Bering said. "One avid reader reported that her mobile reader came in handy when, while waiting in line for a really long time, she finished reading her printed paper book and was able to pull out her Kindle, download an eBook and keep on reading. Another patron said her mobile reading device allowed her to keep reading over the weekend when she finished all of her library books and had nothing else to read."

Bering said in the past the library has lost more than a few

patrons to their Kindles and other eReaders, and noted, "We hope to regain those library patrons who have moved to the electronic word with the library's addition of eBooks and digital audiobooks in this fast-growing, popular form of reading."

But fear not, traditional book lovers—books with words printed on paper will be around for generations to come. "Folks of all ages have told me they will always want to be able to hold a real book in their hands when they read," Bering said.

Bering recalled that in the mid-1990s, a Texas State Librarian said that in the near future, "We would be able to check out an audiobook into a car's sound system using a library card. This sounded slightly unbelievable at the time to the majority of us, but that time is now. Many new cars now have options, connections and features that allow people to plug in and use the very mobile devices that will download and play these audiobooks while you're driving anywhere."

This new service, powered by OverDrive, is free for patrons with their library card. To get started downloading audiobooks and eBooks, visit <http://westtexas.lib>

overdrive.com or find the link on the Gaines County Library's Web site, <http://wrls.tsl.state.tx.us/seminole>

For assistance in downloading audiobooks and eBooks, staff at both branches in the Gaines County Library System can help. For more information call the Main Branch in Seminole at (432) 758-4007, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m., and Tuesday from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m., or call the Seagraves Branch at (806) 546-2480, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. till 5:30 p.m.

About OverDrive

OverDrive is a leading full-service digital distributor of eBooks, audiobooks, music, and video. It delivers secure management, DRM protection, and download fulfillment services for hundreds of publishers and thousands of libraries, schools, and retailers serving millions of end users. OverDrive has been named to the EContent 100 as a company that matters most in the digital content industry. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information, check out www.overdrive.com

NMJC Partners with UNM for 4-Year Degrees

HOBBS, N.M. -- Dr. Steve McCleery, President, New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) and Dr. Jeronimo Dominguez, Vice Provost, University of New Mexico (UNM) Statewide Programs, signed a memorandum of agreement on an early October.

An agreement which allows both institutions to work cooperatively in order to create access and support for students enrolling in upper-division and graduate-level courses at NMJC.

"It's a vision that I have shared with President McCleery to bring UNM upper division programs to Hobbs," Dr. Dominguez said.

"UNM has made a commitment to create access to degree completion programs and build partnerships with area community colleges. This agreement will fulfill that commitment."

NMJC will work together with UNM to offer bachelor's degree completion programs in Business Administration, Education, University Studies, and select Health Sciences programs.

UNM programs will be delivered via online format. In addition, over 400 hundred online courses are offered each semester in most academic subject areas.

"We chose these degree com-

pletion programs because of the number of NMJC students that graduate with associate's degrees in these areas. These degrees will be designed for students to smoothly transfer to the bachelor's program," said Dr. Dominguez.

UNM has an Advisor/Recruiter, Lukas Cash, who is available twice a week on the NMJC campus to assist students in the admissions and transfer process.

"UNM has really made a commitment to partner with our college, allowing us to better serve our students," Dr. McCleery said. "New Mexico Junior College applauds Dr. Dominguez for bringing UNM to Hobbs."

NMJC is a public junior college based in Hobbs.

New Mexico Junior College first opened its doors to students in the fall of 1966, and currently boasts an enrollment of over 3,000 students from the southeastern New Mexico and West Texas region.

NMJC offers associate degrees in science, applied science, and arts; in addition, several certificate programs in vocational trade areas. There are over 640 courses of study offered annually through NMJC's two instructional sectors: Arts and Sciences and Business and Technology.

For more information about upper-division or graduate-level courses through UNM's Statewide Programs, please contact the UNM office located in University Center, Room 232 on the NMJC campus. Phone (575) 492-4866 or email hobbs@unm.edu.

Xcel Seeks Rate Increase

AMARILLO — Xcel Energy is seeking a base rate increase for Texas retail customers to support the cost of generating and delivering energy critical to the growth of area communities and the economies that sustain them.

A proposal presented last Thursday (Nov. 15) to the 79 Texas towns and cities served by the company, and to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), seeks to boost revenue by \$90.2 million per year. Impacts on each customer class vary, but for residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month, the increase would average \$6.61 per month, or 7.3 percent, with fuel costs factored in.

For all customer classes combined, the total increase is 12 percent accounting for base rates and fuel costs.

"The economy of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains continues to outpace national economic growth," said Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company. "Our customers expect us to invest wisely to modernize and upgrade our system to meet this growing demand and provide the reliable service necessary to sustain economic growth. This case is largely driven by these investments, which provide great value to our customers over the long term."

"In addition to the value our customers will see, the investments also provide value to the communities we serve in the form of job growth and increased property and sales tax revenues paid by the company," Hill added.

Current rates are based on what it cost to run the system in 2009, Hill said. Since that time, the company has invested \$702 million to build new sources of power generation, new substations and new transmission and distribution lines. Between the summer of 2010 and the summer of 2012, peak electricity demand increased by almost 10 percent.

Even with higher base rates, overall bills should remain below 2008 levels, and Xcel Energy continues to rank as one of the lowest-cost electricity providers in the state, Hill said.

Natural gas is used to generate more than half the power consumed across the region, and prices for this commodity have fallen sharply over the past four years, leading to significant savings on monthly bills. So far this year, Xcel Energy has lowered fuel costs twice, saving typical residential customers close to \$10 a month, Hill said.

"Nonetheless, we understand the impact of this proposed increase on our customers, and we offer an extensive suite of programs to help manage and decrease energy needs," Hill said. "While all customers contribute to the costs of keeping our system safe and reliable, customers can reduce their individual costs by participating in these energy efficiency programs. Combined, these

efforts help us strike a reasonable balance between the need to invest in our system and the need to ensure competitive rates and bills."

Customers may find more information on these money-saving programs at www.xcelenergy.com on the "save energy and money" tab, or by calling a customer representative at 1-800-895-4999.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

Christmas at the Museum

5th Annual Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Thursday, December 6, 2012
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Santa & Mrs. Claus • Designer Christmas Trees
Live Performances • Music • Story Tellers
Victorian Carolers • Door Prizes

Sample holiday food and drinks from many different countries!

Adults \$6 • Children \$3
For ticket(s) or more information, please call 575-492-2678.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit PHI Theta Kappa's Lea County Children's Holiday Party.



Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
5317 Lovington Highway • Hobbs, New Mexico
on the campus of New Mexico Junior College



funded in part by Hobbs Lodger's Tax

SEMINOLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE TEN MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	00 Capital Projects Fund	Other Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 47,113,606	\$ 13,620,505	\$ 424,090	\$ 582,744
5800 State Program Revenues	7,083,020	--	--	95,266
5900 Federal Program Revenues	11,278	--	--	3,200,463
5020 Total Revenues	54,207,904	13,620,505	424,090	3,878,473
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	15,150,224	--	320,896	1,800,589
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	895,101	--	34,520	--
0013 Curriculum and Staff Development	53,009	--	--	78,605
0021 Instructional Leadership	457,644	--	--	199,905
0023 School Leadership	1,589,853	--	--	6,490
0031 Guidance, Counseling, & Evaluation Services	985,517	--	--	--
0032 Social Work Services	35,107	--	--	--
0033 Health Services	216,875	--	228,707	--
0034 Student Transportation	956,408	--	--	1,992,129
0035 Food Service	--	--	--	--
0036 Co-curricular/Extracurricular Activities	1,238,231	--	26,239	--
0041 General Administration	845,745	--	--	4,288
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	4,292,588	--	--	6,036
0053 Data Processing Services	708,851	--	--	82,842
0061 Community Services	5,303	--	--	--
0071 Principal on Long-Term Debt	--	1,850,000	--	--
0072 Interest on Long-Term Debt	--	4,064,500	--	--
0073 Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	--	4,400	--	--
0081 Capital Outlay	1,095,190	--	10,805,334	278,491
0091 Contracted Instructional Services	--	--	--	--
0091 Between Public Schools	24,279,057	--	--	--
0092 Incremental Costs Related to MWDA	310,000	--	--	--
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	100,000	--	--	--
6030 Total Expenditures	53,913,468	5,719,300	11,415,695	4,541,353
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,194,436	7,901,205	(10,991,605)	(662,880)
Other Financing Sources and (Uses):				
7915 Transfers In	--	--	--	700,000
8011 Transfers Out	(700,000)	--	--	--
7080 Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	(700,000)	--	--	700,000
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	494,436	7,901,205	(10,991,605)	37,120
0100 Fund Balances - Beginning	30,753,633	1,528,975	66,707,779	896,901
1300 Prior Period Adjustment	(384,663)	1,524,330	--	35,178
Fund Balances - Beginning, as Restated	30,368,970	3,053,311	66,707,779	702,079
3000 Fund Balances - Ending	\$ 30,863,406	\$ 10,954,516	\$ 55,716,174	\$ 739,199