

Seminole ISD's \$110 Million Bond Project

# Primary Target: March

## District's 2nd, 3rd Grade Campus Mid-Semester Opening

By Dustin Wright  
Sentinel Managing Editor

Construction work on Seminole ISD's newest education campus remains on schedule and is targeting a "late February or early March" opening, according to local school district officials.

The campus in discussion,

SISD's \$17.3 million Primary School facility, the future home of the school district's second and third grade students.

"Work at the school is on, and in some portions ahead of schedule," said Doug Hamman, Superintendent of Schools for Seminole ISD, in a Thursday afternoon interview

with the Seminole Sentinel.

Billed as the fourth phase of SISD's \$110 million campus improvement bond project, the new 90,000-plus square foot facility will feature 12 third grade and 12 second grade classrooms, ranging in size from 881 to 892 sq ft in size, two full size gymnasiums (6,089 sq

ft and 7,434 sq ft in size), a 2,538 sq ft library, a 3,185 sq ft dining room, as well as various administrative office suites, technology and reading education labs, as well as an 1,188 sq foot music room and 1,194 sq foot art room which would be shared along with fourth and fifth grade students from the Seminole Elementary school campus.

The campus replaces one of SISD's older school facilities, which measured in the neighborhood of 60,000 sq ft at the time of its demolition in early summer 2011.

Hamman, in discussing the new facility, praised the compact, yet spacious design of the new school campus and its ability to address the district's potential need for additional classroom space in the future.

"The old campus was just difficult to navigate through," said Hamman. "It was just hard to go from one side of the building to the other. With this new design, the flow of traffic throughout the campus is much simpler. And the larger space

addresses one of the major needs we expressed during the bond process, added room for educating our children."

Hamman added the new campus' location on the former Primary school site -- located in the 400 block of S.W. Ave. D -- and, directly adjacent to the existing Seminole Elementary school campus, will serve as an added feature to both facilities.

Both campuses will continue to share the same, recently renovated and expanded cafeteria service area, as well as educational classrooms.

"The buildings will be connect-

ed together, and will seem like one continuous facility, but will function as two separate school campuses," said Hamman. "With this (concept), we will be sharing some different classroom settings, such as music and technology rooms, which will free up additional classroom space in the Elementary school campus for future growth, if we need it."

Currently, Seminole Primary School students are occupying the former Seminole Junior High School campus in the 600 block of S.W. Ave. B.

# Seminole ISD:

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few eyebrows but can be quickly contributed to the increased activity seen within the West Texas region's oil fields.

SISD's largest campus, population wise, is the Seminole High School campus, which had 630 total students between the ninth and 12th grade levels, while the F.J. Young campus -- home to SISD's pre-kindergarten through first grade students -- reported 582 students in the November board report.

"(The F.J. Young) campus is where we are seeing a majority of our growth, and have seen it over the past several years," said Hamman.

It's also a campus where SISD administrators and board officials are focusing upon for immediate future growth, with a planned addition of 12 new classrooms and an 11,000 sq ft gymnasium at the school campus as part of the district's \$110 million school bond project passed by SISD taxpayers in May 2007.

"We anticipated growth over the years at the (F.J. Young) campus, but not like we have seen recently."

According to SISD's November enrollment numbers, the F.J. Young Elementary campus had 225 first grade students, which was up from 207 students in November 2011.

Currently, according to November figures, the campus' first grade class serves as the largest single class within the school district.

The campus' kindergarten class -- the second largest class within the district -- possessed 220 students as of Nov. 2, which was down from 223 students one year ago, but the campus' pre-kindergarten/head start classes

had 132 students, which was considerably up from 87 students one year ago.

"(The F. J. Young campus) is basically out of room and is in desperate need of more space," said Hamman.

In June of this year, SISD Trustees unanimously voted in favor of transferring \$3.49 million in bond construction funds from a planned remodel project at the old Seminole Junior High School campus into new offices for the school district's administration, to the F.J. Young campus' addition/renovation project, to address the need for added classroom/gymnasium space.

Originally, F.J. Young Elementary was devoted \$4.82 million in funds for a remodel project at the campus as part of SISD's bond project.

**Class Sizes on the Rise**

According to November's enrollment figures, five of SISD's six educational campuses reported enrollment increases from one year ago, ranging from 59 students at the F.J. Young to a loss of just two students at the Seminole Primary campus, home to the district's second and third grade classes.

Individual class sizes ranged from 225 first grade students as of Nov. 2, to 134 students in SHS' 12th grade class. Compared to November 2011 figures, this current year's fourth grade and eighth grade classes showed the largest student increases in the Nov. 2 figures, with a 21-student increase from one year ago.

The district's lowest class decline, in the November report, was in the district's second grade level, where there was a ten student difference from one year ago.

## Obituary

### Johnnie Morris

Johnnie Morris, 68, of Odessa, died Tuesday, November 27, 2012, at the Hospice House. Memorial services were held at 10:30 am, Friday, November 30, 2012 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Johnnie was born on May 4, 1944, in Vernon, to Albert and Georgia Annette (Kaatz) Morris. He married Patricia Ann Stepp on June 12, 1998 in Odessa. He worked in the oil fields all his life, where he dedicated his life. Johnnie loved playing poker, dancing, and Barney, his cat. He was a faithful father and companion.

Survivors include wife Patty Morris; son Chris Morris; and daughter Paula Toliver; five sisters, Mary Pace of Garland, Carolyn Sue Herbert of Odessa, Helen Beck and husband James of Andrews, June Mankin of Frisco, and Barbara Hoffman and husband Bob of Waco; two brothers, Alton Morris of Midland and Alvin Morris of Happy; and five grandchildren.

Johnnie was preceded in death by his parents, and three sisters.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)



## Death Notice

### MARTIN

Memorial services for Donald J. Martin, 70, of Odessa, formerly of Seminole, will be held December 6, 2012 at 6 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Seminole. He was born in Seminole on May 1, 1942 and died Monday, November 19, 2012 at Hospice House in Odessa. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa.

## News Briefs

### SHS Cheer Group Hosting Movie Event

Need to do a little shopping without the kids?

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 7, members of the Seminole High School's "Cheer Hawaii" group will be hosting a movie night fundraiser for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students at the First United Methodist Church.

The fund raiser, which will cost \$15 for one child, and \$10 for each additional sibling afterwards, will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the church, located in the 300 block of S.W. Ave. B.

For more information about the fundraiser, or to reserve a spot, contact Lizzie Stence at (432) 788-8585. Space is limited for the fundraiser, according to event organizers.

### GCL's 'Operation Read' Underway

Gaines County Library System will be hosting the third annual "Operation Read" book drive for the Christmas holidays, which is currently underway and will run through Friday, Dec. 14.

The goal is to collect a total of 225 new books to be distributed to local children in need throughout Gaines County.

"Operation Read" is asking all

residents of the community to please get involved in spreading some Christmas joy by helping foster the love of reading to children.

Folks are urged to bring unwrapped, new books to either Library Branch, for boys and girls ages birth through 12-13 years, no later than Dec. 14.

The Seminole Library Branch in Seminole will be working in partnership with the Seminole Optimist Club's annual Christmas Project, while the Gaines County Library-Seagraves Branch is working in partnership with the Seagraves Volunteer Fire Department and Toys for Tots for children in the Seagraves area.

"Operation Read" enables Gaines County youth to enjoy a gift that will last a lifetime and helps to foster the love of reading and offers everyone a way to join in the Christmas spirit.

For more information, please contact either location of the Gaines County Library at (432) 758-4007 in Seminole or the Seagraves Branch Library at (806) 546-2480.

### Rabbit Validation Slated for this Monday P.M.

Exhibitors wishing to show rabbits in the upcoming 2013 Gaines County Junior Livestock Show will need to have their animal exhibits validated at 6 p.m. Monday evening, according to local livestock officials.

The rabbit validation will be held at the Gaines County Park's Party

House, located between the Seminole and Seagraves communities, off of U.S. Hwy 62/385.

According to show officials, "all rabbits that exhibitors intend to show or have the possibility of being shown must be brought at that time to be validated."

If rabbits had not been validated at Monday's event, it can not be shown at the 2013 Gaines County Junior Livestock Show.

According to rules, an exhibitor may show up to ten (10) rabbits at the annual county show, which is slated to be held Jan. 16-18, at the Gaines County Civic Building, in Seminole.

For more information about the rabbit validation, contact the Gaines County AgriLife Extension Service at (432) 758-4006, ext. 140.

### Christmas Parade Set for Dec. 13

Float entries are currently being sought for the 22nd Annual Lighted Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Gaines County 4H Club.

The parade will be held on the evening of Dec. 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This year's theme, according to event organizers, is entitled "A Rock 'n Roll Christmas."

Cash awards and prizes will be determined on the number of float entries and the deadline to register an entry is Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Float entries may be made by contacting the Gaines County AgriLife Extension Office at (432) 758-4006, extension 140.

# AUCTION

Saturday, December 8, 2012 — Sale Time: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATED: From Maple, Texas (Bailey County) Go 1/2 Mile South on Hwy. 596, Then 1 Mile East on Hwy. 1326, Then 1/2 Mile South on CR 95.

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Due to the death of Murray Davis, the following will be sold at public auction

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## 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

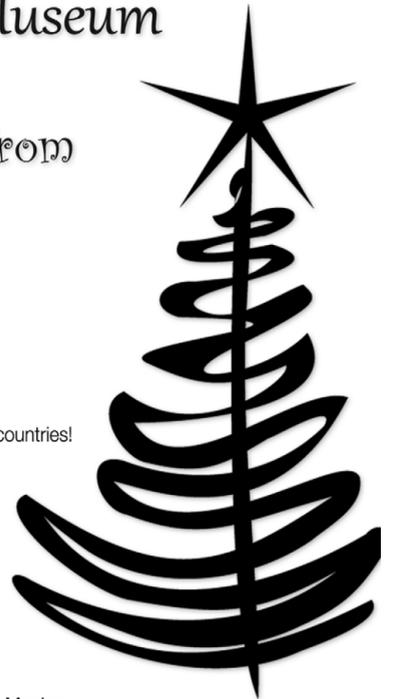
Sample holiday food and drinks from many different countries!

**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  
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