

News Briefs

Live Nativity Scene to be Hosted by Presbyterians

The First Presbyterian Church of Seminole will host their annual live Nativity Scene for the public on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 16, according to church officials.

The event is slated to be held between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the southwestern grounds of the church, located at 301 S.W. 3rd St.

The public is invited to come and participate in the event, as well as enjoy refreshments and fellowship at the church's Fellowship Hall.

For more information about the live Nativity Scene or the church, contact the church office at (432) 758-3708.

Gaines Museum Open House Set for Monday P.M.

Friends of the Gaines County Museum announces sponsorship of the Fifth Annual December "Open House," which will pay tribute to art students in the Seminole Elementary School.

Ms. Lee Nell Mayes' 5th grade art students will be displayed throughout the museum, and the public is invited to the yearly event, scheduled to be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10.

Attendance is free of charge, and refreshments will be served.

The annual event is a "come and go" function giving the visitor time to view the children's art work.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to see new exhibits and historical items relating to the five cultures that help define our unique history.

Mark your calendars and meet us at the museum on Dec. 10 for an interesting evening at the museum with good food, fellowship, and a look at the art work of our young artists.

For those who missed the dedication of Seminole artist Jammy Huggins' sculpture "Wind Spirit," it is now located in the lobby entrance for easy viewing.

For more information call the Gaines County Museum at (432) 758 4016 or send your inquiry to: seminolemuseum@co.gaines.tx.us.

Have a news brief you need publicized or announced?

Let us help!!!

(432) 758-3667 ph
(432) 758-2136 fax

news@seminolesentinel.com

The Seminole Sentinel
Established 1907

Publication No. 498-400
Postmaster Form 3541

send to
Seminole Sentinel
P.O. Drawer 1200 • 406 South Main
Seminole, Texas 79360

Phone: (432) 758-3667
Fax: (432) 758-2136
www.seminolesentinel.com

Published Every Wednesday and Sunday at 406 South Main St. Seminole, Texas 79360

Lynn Brisendine.....Publisher
Dustin Wright.....Managing Editor
Christy Hawkins.....Office Manager
Misty Ramirez.....Advertising Manager
Leo Copeland.....Staff Reporter
Amanda Wiebe.....Office Supplies
Annie Neufeld.....Office Supplies/
Advertising Sales

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Seminole, Texas 79360

The *Seminole Sentinel* strives to bring you the best in local news, social, and sports coverage for, Seminole, Gaines County and the surrounding area, in a timely manner.

With that in mind, there will be certain times that there will be limitations to news stories, letters to the editor and briefs, and their appearance in our publication to you.

The *Sentinel* does reserve the right to edit and restrict pre-produced stories and information for space limitations, editorial purposes, and time restrictions.

For further information or any questions regarding this policy, contact Dustin Wright, Managing Editor, at (432) 758-3667 or by email at news@seminolesentinel.com.

Home Delivery Customers
Miss Your Paper?
Call (432) 758-3667 from
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-F

Flu Bug Makes Appearance

CDC Says Influenza Current Season Could be Stronger than Years Past

Flu season in the U.S. is off to its earliest start in nearly a decade — and it could be a bad one.

Health officials, earlier this week, said suspected flu cases have jumped in five Southern states — including Texas — and the primary strain circulating tends to make people sicker than other types. It is particularly hard on the elderly.

"It looks like it's shaping up to be a bad flu season, but only time will tell," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The good news is that the nation seems fairly well prepared, Frieden said. More than a third of Americans have been vaccinated, and the vaccine formulated for this year is well-matched to the strains of the virus seen so far, CDC officials said.

Higher-than-normal reports of flu have come in from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Ten-

nessee, along with the Lone Star State.

An uptick like this usually doesn't happen until after Christmas. Flu-related hospitalizations are also rising earlier than usual, and there have already been two deaths in children.

"We've seen our share of the flu already," said Joan Adams, Director of Nursing for Memorial Hospital, in a Thursday morning telephone interview with the *Seminole Sentinel*.

Adams was unsure of the exact number of influenza cases seen by the local hospital or by medical physicians associated with the Seminole Hospital District, but said the flu was in the area.

"I know the doctors' offices here have seen many patients with the flu, (Memorial Hospital) has seen patients with it, we've even had some of our employees who have come down with the flu," said Adams. "It's here."

Seminole's Gasoline Prices 35-Cents Above AAA Average

IRVING -- The statewide average price for a gallon of regular unleaded in Texas dropped two cents over the last week and now sits at \$3.14, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch.

Motorists in Amarillo are paying the most on average at \$3.20, and people in Fort Worth are paying the least at \$3.08.

Motorists in Seminole were paying 35-cents above the Texas average, as the average price for a gallon of gas in the community was \$3.49 as of presstime Friday.

The average price for fuel in Texas is 24 cents less than the national average which is now \$3.38. The national average dropped three cents from one week ago.

While national retail gas prices have declined each day during the past week, crude oil prices have increased slightly, as market attention has focused on the impact of the looming U.S. fiscal cliff and the broader health of the global economy.

"Here in the Lone Star State, drivers are now paying about \$44 to fill up a typical 14-gallon fuel tank," said AAA Texas/New Mexico Representative Doug Shupe. "We encourage motorists to continue every effort to maximize fuel efficiency including keeping their cars and trucks maintained according to vehicle manufacturer recommendations."

To help consumers identify quality auto repair shops that can assist in the maintenance and repair of their vehicles, AAA offers the Approved Auto Repair program as a free public service. AAA-approved repair facilities meet and maintain high professional standards for training, equipment, cleanliness and customer service. Motorists can look for the Approved Auto Repair sign at local auto repair facilities, or search for a nearby AAA-approved shop online at AAA.com/Repair.

Gas Pipe Explodes in Ector Co. Wednesday

ODESSA (AP) -- A pipe explosion near a natural gas plant in Goldsmith created an approximately 250-foot fireball and burned about 4 miles of natural gas Wednesday evening.

The explosion happened at about 6 p.m. at a pipe about 30 yards from Highway 158 near the main entranceway to DCP Goldsmith Plant, according to fire department officials on the scene.

No injuries were reported and a cause of the explosion remained unclear as of presstime.

The pipe was 16 inches in diameter and funneled gas at 500 psi belonging to the company West Texas Gas, Jackson said. The company is headquartered in Midland.

Responding firefighters found and contacted the gas company, which shut off supply to the pipe, Jackson said. The fire, which destroyed a nearby welding shed, burned out by about 7:30 p.m.

The blast and fire destroyed 12 to 15 utility poles and trashed the road.



**Elsa
Cortez
758-3234**

Freedom Bail Bonds

109 NE 3rd (432) 758-2017

NEED CASH?
FAST. EASY. CONFIDENTIAL.



We Can Help!
\$100-\$2500

**Payday
Loans**

**Title
Loans**

NO Credit Checks. We can erase your financial burdens with a cash loan.

Seminole Advance, Inc.

Tips to Help Beat the Flu

This holiday season, remember it's not too late to protect yourself and your loved ones from flu.

Don't fall for the myth that it's too late to vaccinate against the flu once the Thanksgiving holidays are over. As long as flu viruses are spreading and causing illness, vaccination can provide protection against the flu. According to the latest CDC Flu activity report, influenza levels are currently increasing across the country. And since flu activity doesn't usually peak until February in the United States and can last as late as May, it's important to vaccinate now if you haven't already.

An Annual Flu Vaccine for Everyone 6 Months of Age and Older

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. A flu vaccine offers the best protection we have against this serious disease. Once vaccinated, it takes about 2 weeks for the body's immune response to fully kick in.

High-Risk Groups

There are certain people who are at high-risk of developing serious flu-related complications:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People 65 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease)

Learn more about who is at high risk of serious complications from flu because of age or other medical conditions.

In addition, there are other people for whom vaccination is especially important:

- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including: Health care workers; Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu, and; Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated).

Some Children May Need 2 Doses of Flu Vaccine

CDC wants to remind parents, guardians and caregivers of children not only about the importance of flu vaccination in general, but also of the fact that some children 6 months through 8 years of age require two doses of influenza vaccine to be fully protected. Children in this age group who are getting vaccinated for the first time will need two doses of vaccine, spaced at least 28 days apart. Some children who have received influenza vaccine previously will also need two doses. Your child's health care provider can tell you if your child needs two doses.

Flu Vaccine: You've Got Choices

This year, there's no excuse not to get a flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is still available and there are more choices than ever, both in terms of where to get vaccinated and what type of vaccine to get. Flu vaccines are safe, and cannot give you the flu.

There are two types of flu vaccines:

The "flu shot"—an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. The flu shot is approved for use in people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions. There are three different flu shots available:

- A regular flu shot approved for people ages 6 months and older
- A high-dose flu shot approved for people 65 and older, and
- An intradermal flu shot approved for people 18 to 64 years of age. (An intradermal shot is injected into the skin instead of the muscle, and uses a much smaller needle than the regular flu shot.)

The nasal-spray flu vaccine—a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that is given as a nasal spray (sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine"). LAIV is approved for use in healthy people ages 2 through 49 years who are not pregnant.



Chuck Senter
Senior Vice President,
Agricultural Lending

FirstBank & Trust is proud to announce the addition of Chuck Senter, Senior Vice President of Agricultural Lending.

Chuck was born and raised in Lamesa where he is still involved with his family farm and ranching business. A Texas Tech graduate, he has more than 12 years' experience in agricultural lending. He has spent more than 23 years helping mentor children at the Hockley County Team Roping School and currently serves on the Texas Tech Rodeo Advisory Committee.

He and his wife Toyia reside in Ropesville with their children. When he's not banking, farming or ranching, Chuck enjoys spending family time hunting and participating in stock shows and rodeos.

"FirstBank & Trust is the right place for me. Their commitment to God, family and the agricultural community are second to none. I'm blessed to join this exceptional team."

-Chuck Senter

Chuck Senter
392-3487
csenter@firstbankclubbock.com

We Believe in Good People

