

News Briefs

Ribeye Steak Cookoff Slated This Saturday

Think you grill the best ribeye steak in the area? Then test your luck at the 1st Annual Bull Butter Blowout Ribeye Steak Cookoff, scheduled to be held Oct. 13, southwest of Seminole. Team entry fee is \$180, and the steaks will be furnished, according to event organizers. Deadline to enter your team is Monday, Oct. 8. Cash prizes will be given to the top three judged participants, with the top finisher receiving a paid entry to the 2013 Texas Steak Cookoff in Hico.

In addition to the steak cookoff, participants will also have an opportunity to participate in a "Bean Shootout." Participants in the "Bean Shootout" must be registered as participants in the steak cookoff to be eligible for judging and prizes.

The cookoff event will be held at 471 FM 181 (the Charlie Dixon residence, landmarked with a white bull statue), and camping sites will be available for the event, at a cost of \$50. Camps can be set up on Friday, Oct. 12 and must be vacated on Sunday, Oct. 14.

Deadline to enter has been slated for Friday, Oct. 12. Corporate sponsorships are also being sold for \$100 for interested companies wishing to advertise at the event.

Partial proceeds from the cookoff will be given to the Seminole Volunteer Fire Dept.

For more information about the cookoff, or for more information, contact Ted Wadzeck (432) 209-0849; Todd Lee (432) 209-2230; or Charlie Dixon at (575) 441-4180.

'A Comanche Evening' Set for October 20th

The Gaines County Pioneer Re-Enactment Committee will host "A Comanche Evening" Saturday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Gaines County Museum, 702 Hobbs Highway.

The gathering will begin with dedication of the Quanah Parker Trail arrow and the Jammey Huggins sculpture, "Wind Spirit."

The arrow is in front of the museum, and the sculpture will be in the lobby of the museum.

Following the presentations, guests will enjoy authentic Comanche hors d'oeuvres prepared by Lois Wise, Gaines County Agent, and have the opportunity to tour the museum.

At dusk, local authors Chuck and Linda George will present a dramatic reading of "The Comanche," based on a 2003 book Chuck authored.

It will be illustrated with pictures taken by Terry Jeffries, both from the book and from his own collection.

The public is invited to the free event.

Taylor Medical Fund Raiser Set for Sunday

A medical fundraiser for Seminole resident Terri Doniece Taylor is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Southern Rose.

Proceeds from the fundraiser, a buffet meal at the restaurant, will see all proceeds devoted to Taylor's medical expense fund.

Taylor has been battling Stage 4 ovarian cancer since October 2011 and has worked for the Seminole EMS and Memorial Health Care Center for many years.

The fundraiser will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the restaurant, located in the 600 block of S. Main St.

For more information about the fundraiser, contact the Seminole EMS at (432) 758-8816.

Have a news brief you need publicized or announced?

Let us help!!!
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or come by 406 S. Main St.
between the hours of 8:30 a.m.

and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Deadlines: Tuesday, 12-noon for Wednesday paper; Friday, 12-noon for Sunday paper.
News Briefs are encouraged to be submitted two weeks prior to event.

Ceremonial Breaking

Wingate, City to Host Event Marking Hotel Development

Officials from two Seminole entities and representatives with a Midland-based hotel development company will officially celebrate the ground breaking of a new hotel facility in the Seminole community Tuesday morning.

At 11 a.m. Tuesday, ceremonial shovels will turn earth on the Wingate by Wyndham hotel development, which is seeing preliminary ground work being conducted at the proposed property site in the 1100 block of Hobbs Hwy.

Along with hotel representatives, representatives from the City of Seminole and Seminole Economic Development Corp. will be on hand for the ceremony. Hotel officials are also inviting those from the general public to come attend the event.

The estimated \$6 million hotel



development is anticipated to bring 65-to-80 additional rooms to the Seminole community.

The development is receiving

financial assistance from the Seminole Economic Development Corp., who in January of this year, agreed to the terms of a

\$750,000 incentives agreement, for a term not to exceed seven calendar years.

Hotel officials are hoping to

have construction completed and be operational by the summer of 2013.

Wingate by Wyndham hotels feature an all-inclusive pricing policy, which includes free wired and wireless high-speed Internet access in guest rooms and public spaces, free faxes and photocopies, free deluxe continental breakfast, free local calls and long-distance access and free use of its 24-hour, self-service business centers. Hotel facilities include meeting rooms and a fitness room. Many hotels also offer swimming pools.

All Wingate by Wyndham hotels are independently owned and operated under franchise agreements with Wingate Inns International, a subsidiary of Wyndham Worldwide Corporation

Local, State and Regional News

Seliger Named Head of Higher Ed. Committee

AUSTIN — State Dist. 31 Republican Sen. Kel Seliger, a central player in last year's redistricting battle in the Texas Legislature, will play another key role in next year's session — in higher education.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the presiding officer of the Texas Senate, has appointed Seliger chairman of the Higher Education Committee, a panel that controls the flow of legislation impacting public colleges and universities, like tuition costs and the designation of national research institutions, better known as tier one.

Seliger's appointment is one of 10 Dewhurst made today, amounting to a shake-up of the 31-member Senate. This included naming Houston's GOP Sen. Dan Patrick chair of the chamber's Education Committee, a post Seliger was a leading contender for.

Xcel Customers to See 'Small' Fuel Surcharge

AMARILLO — Xcel Energy residential and small commercial customers in Texas will see a small

fuel cost surcharge on their year-end bills, pending regulatory approval, as the company balances its fuel accounts.

Other Texas customer classes — industrial and large commercial — will receive refunds.

Xcel Energy's Texas-based operating company, Southwestern Public Service Company, filed its plan for the fuel cost true-up today at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. If approved, Texas residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month pay a one-time surcharge of \$3.38, split between two billing cycles, beginning with December bills. The surcharge expires after this amount is collected.

Fuel charges, which make up about half the cost of a typical month's bill, cover the costs for coal and natural gas used in area power plants, as well as the costs for purchased power. Xcel Energy does not earn profits from fuel charges, which are passed through dollar-for-dollar. As fuel costs are collected, they are deposited into accounts used for paying fuel bills. These accounts are tracked by customer class and reviewed periodically to ensure the accounts are balanced.

A true-up can lead to both surcharges and refunds because usage patterns differ among the customer classes. Residential and small commercial customers tend to use more power — and thus more fuel — during the summer months.

Usage patterns among large commercial and industrial customers tend to stay roughly the same across a 12-month period.

In May, the early cancellation of a fuel cost surcharge, just as some classes began to use more power, led to a slight under collection of fuel costs for the residential and small commercial classes, creating the need for an additional fuel charge to balance fuel accounts.

The early expiration of that surcharge, combined with a lower fuel cost factor implemented in April, led to a \$10 savings on typical residential bills of 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

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.

NM Court Rules Against Family Oil Suit

SANTA FE, N.M. — New Mexico's Court of Appeals has ruled against a group of current and former Hobbs residents who sued an oil company because of illnesses and other damages.

The court on Tuesday upheld a Lea County District Court decision not to grant a new trial in the case against Shell Oil Co. and Shell Western Exploration and Production Inc.

The Hobbs residents alleged there was environmental contamination from oil and natural gas production in an area that became a housing subdivision in the community.

A jury in 2007 ruled in favor of Shell, which had oil storage tanks in the area from 1946 until 1993. There also was an unlined storage pit for oilfield wastes that was buried in the 1960s. Housing development in the area started in the 1970s.

A lawyer for the residents, Michael Newell, said Wednesday that no decision has been made on whether to appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court.

Agreement Ends Dead Voter Purge

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas attorney general and secretary of state agreed Wednesday to lift a deadline for purging as many as 68,000 people from the voting rolls because a federal database shows they are possibly deceased, said attorneys for four living voters who made the list.

Voting registrars will continue to purge the names of approximately

13,000 voters who are confirmed dead, but not those whom the state only suspects might be deceased and cannot reach by mail, said a statement released by civil rights attorneys Buck Wood and Dave Richards.

Texas has done similar purges in the past, relying on the state's Vital Statistics Unit. The new wrinkle was using the federal data, which is known to have errors. That change was approved by state lawmakers in 2011.

Some counties and Democrats worried the process would disenfranchise voters. The Texas secretary of state's office argued that the Legislature passed the new law overwhelmingly and that voters won't be turned away on Election Day if they don't respond to the letter.

The secretary of state threatened to cut off election funding to counties that did not comply with the requirement.

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Registration: From Page 1A

may have voter information changes that are required for voters to participate in the elections process," said Shaw.

"We want everyone who can to come and register so they will have an opportunity to come out and have a say (in the next elections process)."

Local residents who are not registered and wish to take part in the November elections, or may have voter information changes — such as a change of address — may register/make those changes at the Gaines County Tax Assessor/Collector's office, located in Room 205 inside the Gaines County Courthouse.

The county courthouse is located at the intersection of U.S. 180 and U.S. 385, in the 100 block of S. Main St. in Seminole. The facility, including the Tax Assessor/Collector's office, is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As of Thursday, 7,622 Gaines County residents had officially been registered to participate in the November 6 election process.

According to the Texas Secretary of State's website, Texas residents are eligible to vote if they meet the following requirements:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of the county where you submit the application;
- You are at least 18 years old on Election Day;
- You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole); and
- You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

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