

Public Records

Marriage Licenses

Christopher W. Johnson, 35, and Danyelle A. Archer Billington, 35, both of Seminole.
 Juan R. Morales, 26, and Jacqueline R. Thomas, 19, both of Seminole.
 Sergio S. DeLuna, 18, and Brittany B. Ramirez, 19, both of Seminole.

Gaines Co. Court Filings

State of Texas vs. Eric Anthony Rivera, traffic offense.
 State of Texas vs. Luis A. Rosales-DeSantiago, traffic offense.
 State of Texas vs. Laney Dewayne Ashworth, traffic offense.
 State of Texas vs. Michael Dawayne Soules, traffic offense.
 State of Texas vs. Calvin Chance Nichols, traffic offense.
 State of Texas vs. Brandon Rene Gaona, failure to identify as a fugitive.
 State of Texas vs. David Wesley Kelsey, traffic offense.

Gaines Co. Court Dispositions

No dispositions reported this week.

106th Dist. Court Filings

IMOMO: Jesse Owens Webb and Kathy Kennedy Webb, suit of divorce.
 IMOMO: Brenda Sue Conner and Jerry G. Conner, suit of divorce.
 IMOMO: Tobitha Lara and Jacob Lara, suit of divorce.
 IMOMO: Romeo Guerrero and Sarah N. Guerrero, suit of divorce.

106th Dist. Court Dispositions

State Auto Insurance Co. vs. Lucia Sanches a/k/a Lucia Arieta Sanches, damages, default judgement issued.
 State of Texas vs. Javier Alvertto Alvarez, possession of a controlled substance -- cocaine, order of dismissal.
 State of Texas vs. Carrie S. Collins, possession of a controlled substance -- methamphetamine, order of dismissal.
 State of Texas vs. Joshua Grano, evading arrest, order of dismissal.
 State of Texas vs. Nathaniel Oliver Bonner, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance -- methamphetamine; possession of a controlled substance -- methamphetamine, order of dismissal.
 State of Texas vs. Nathaniel Oliver Bonner, felon in possession of a firearm, order of dismissal.
 State of Texas vs. Nathaniel Oliver Bonner, evading arrest, order of dismissal.

State of Texas vs. Joshua Adam Vasquez, theft; engaging in organized criminal activity, order of dismissal.

State of Texas vs. Joshua Adam Vasquez, burglary of a building; engaging in organized criminal activity, order of dismissal.

State of Texas vs. Gerda M. Haley, possession of a controlled substance -- methamphetamine, order of dismissal.

State of Texas vs. Jose Luis Valencia, prohibited substance in correctional facility, order of dismissal.

Warranty Deeds

Ann Elizabeth Woolridge, Mack H. Woolridge, Dixie Woolridge Corthron to Cherokee Legacy Minerals, LTD and Kennebraw Minerals, LP, see exhibit A in Gaines Co. Clerk's Office records for tracts and sections.

Peter Neufeld and Katharina Neufeld to Jon Neufeld and Christina Neufeld, lot 5, Heides Fiels Sub. in N/ part of E/2 of section 254, block G, WTRR.

Homesales, Inc. to Jose V. Castro, lot 47, Southeast Seminole Sub.

Jacob W. Dyck to David Fehr and maria Fehr, lot 9, block 14, OT Seminole.

Clark Parrott Enterprises, Inc. to John B. Thiessen and Tina Thiessen, lot 20, Parrott Sub.

Dewey Bruner and Georgia Bruner to Elizabeth Acosta and Rodolfo Acosta, tract 1: lot 2, block 71, Sims Replat; tract 2: lot 10 and N/25-feet of lot 9, block 71, Russell Addition, Seminole.

Peter Klassen and Tina Klassen to Isaak Klassen, N/396.6 feet of a 28.50 acre tract out of E/2 of section 124, block G, WTRR.

Dean Boyer and Candace A. Boyer to Peter E. Dyck, David Klassen and Cornelius Fehr, lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Industry Plaza.

John Siemens and Tina Siemens to Brady W. Production, Inc., 3.77 acres out of S/70.25 acres of SE/4 of section 166, block G, WTRR; tract 2: right of way, 80 feet in width off N/side of S/70.25 acres of SE/4 of section 166, block G, WTRR.

Newco Partnership, Michael R. Carter and Scotty Johnson to Gerhard Elias and Maria Elias, lot 36, La Tierra Sub.

Philip Russell Stovall and Donna Stovall to Nancy Clark and Craig Clark, lot 1 and E/5 feet of lot 2, block 8, Medlock Addition.

JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA and Chase Home Finance LIC to Michele Singh, W/30 acres of S/4 of section 3, block A-23, PSL.

Henry D. Reimer and Katharina Reimer to Pete Reimer, N/2 of E/2 of tract No. 3, in E/part of section 194, block G, WTRR.

N&D Construction, LLC and C.D. Wickson to Johan Wieler and Yesenia Wieler, lot 12, Camp 7 Subdivision.

Drawn Lines

Texas Lawmakers to Battle Over Budget

AUSTIN (AP) — The comptroller has laid out the revenue numbers, Republican lawmakers have introduced budget proposals and Democrats and lobbyists have compiled lists of demands. Let the budget battle begin.

Every Texas lawmaker knows there is only one piece of legislation they must pass every two years — the general appropriations bill, also known as the budget. They have little say over how two-thirds of the state's money is spent because it comes with strings attached, but they do control a portion called general revenue, and this year that totals \$101.4 billion.

Whether that number is big or small, or represents a surplus or a shortfall, depends on the beholder's politics. Gov. Rick Perry sees a budget surplus and, therefore, an opportunity to

cut taxes. He argues that by keeping government spending low, people have more money to spend and improve the economy.

Democrats such as Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, see a chance to restore billions of dollars in government services that lawmakers have cut since 2007, including \$5.4 billion in funds for public schools. They say the most vulnerable Texans are suffering and the state needs better schools and roads to remain economically competitive.

And in the middle, there are those who simply ask, "What surplus?" Pragmatists such as Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, and Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, look at the last few budgets and see an accountant's nightmare of deferred spending, budget gimmicks and a misrepresentation of the state's true financial health. They want a more transparent budget to fully understand what's going on.

The budgeting process begins with two bills in the Texas Senate and House, named SB 1 and HB 1, respectively. Senate Finance Committee Chair Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, introduced SB 1 with \$88.9 billion in spending, and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, introduced HB 1 with \$89.1 billion.

For the next 128 days lobbyists, advocacy groups and everyday citizens will try to convince lawmakers to change these 959-page bills to better suit them. The draft bills will change dramatically as they move through subcommittees to full committees to floor debate and into conference committees before a final vote, usually in the last hours of the session.

In the Senate, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has promised a very conservative budget, which no doubt is intended to improve his standing after Ted Cruz defeated him for the U.S. Senate by labeling him a moderate.

"This session, we will again balance our budget without raising taxes on Texas families and businesses, while keeping spending as low as possible," Dewhurst pledged.

In the House, Speaker Joe Straus takes a slightly more hands-off approach, promising to allow the Republican majority to come up with the bill lawmakers want. But since a budget is ruled by math as much as politics, there are a few simple truths.

State Comptroller Susan Combs certified that the Legislature has \$101.4 billion to spend this session, which include \$8.8 billion in unexpected revenue in this budget cycle and \$96.2 billion in revenue forecast for the 2014-2015 fiscal years. About \$3.6 billion of the next biennium's revenue will automatically go into the Rainy Day Fund, so that's hands off without a four-fifths majority vote.

The first problem lawmakers face is that they did not appropriate enough money in 2011. Therefore they need to spend \$5.2 billion to settle a budget deficit by March or the state can't pay its bills. That leaves \$96 billion to spend.

If the Center for Public Policy Priorities is correct in its estimates, that number is exactly what Texas needs to spend just to maintain the current level of government services after inflation and population growth. To spend any less, advocates for the poor say, would be cutting funds for the poor, young and disabled.

There is little chance, though, that Republican leaders would ever increase spending that much. Perry and Dewhurst have promised to limit government spending increases to population growth plus inflation, a rate estimated at 9.85 percent. Based on spending during this budget cycle, that puts the limit for the next budget at \$94.8 billion.

Theoretically then, lawmakers can add another \$5 billion to the current draft budget bills. The fight is on to see how that money might be spent.

Abortion Back on Texas' Legislative Drawing Board

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Legislature is back, and so are more proposals to restrict abortions.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry has told lawmakers that he expects more anti-abortion laws during the 2013 session to work toward his goal "to make abortion at any stage a thing of the past." Anti-abortion activists have pledged to use every legal means possible to make obtaining abortions difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

Last session Perry signed into law two measures, one requiring doctors to conduct trans-vaginal sonograms before performing an abortion, and another banning groups that support abortion rights from participating in state-funded health programs. This year he wants to further curtail when a woman can have an abortion, a law that courts have blocked in Georgia, Oklahoma and Arizona.

"We ... need to better protect our most vulnerable citizens, the unborn, by expanding the ban on abortion to any baby that can feel the pain of the procedure, and putting in place common-sense oversights on clinics and physicians involved," Perry told lawmakers on the opening day of the 2013 legislative session. The so-called fetal pain bill relies on controversial claims that a fetus can feel pain after 20 weeks of gestation. Under current law, states can only ban abortions after 24 weeks.

Women's rights activists point to scientific studies that find no evidence to support the claim. Tarrant County Sen. Wendy Davis opposes the effort to "chip away" at a woman's right to choose.

"This bill, which is not grounded in sound science, represents just one more effort to intercede in decisions best made by a woman and her doctor," Davis said. "Because these so-called small government advocates won't acknowledge that a woman's right to choose is the law of the land, they're reduced to expanding government into women's health care decisions."

Lawmakers have passed similar bills in Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Idaho, Alabama and Nebraska. But the Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned the law and federal judges in

Georgia and Arizona have blocked enforcement of the measure there. The courts determined the laws infringe on a woman's civil rights.

Janet Crepps, an attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights, said the laws are part of a national anti-abortion strategy.

"We really disagree with the science and we feel this is nothing more than a sensational attempt to limit access to abortion based on bad science," Crepps said, citing recent research at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. "This is clearly part of an agenda to stop women from accessing abortion, and in Texas in particular, I think you've seen a very hostile Legislature against reproductive rights."

The measure is just one of Texas Right to Life's priorities for the 83rd Legislature. They also want to take away a judge's authority to allow teenage girls, under certain circumstances, to have an abortion without their parent's permission. They also want a ban on abortion coverage in insurance plans offered under the Affordable Care Act.

"Until our elected servants recognize that their first duty is to protect the life of each conceived human being, Texas Right to Life will not stop pushing for new Pro-Life laws," the group said.

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
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Periodicals Postage Paid at
 Seminole, Texas 79360

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