# Unemployment: From Page 1A

while another goods-producing industry, Mining and Logging, expanded by 1,600 jobs during this time. Service-providing industries that also showed positive growth over the month included Education and Health Services, Other Services, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

"Private sector employers in Texas added 257,400 jobs since December 2011 for an annual growth rate of 2.9 percent," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken. "Texas is leading the way in helping to make the United States energy independent. Our robust energy sector not only is creating good paying jobs for many Texans in that industry but also is spurring job growth in many other industries."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest December unemployment rate in the state at 3.1 percent. The Odessa MSA came in second at 3.7 percent, and the Amarillo MSA third at 4.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Locally in Gaines County, the 4-percent December 2012 jobless rate was an improvement from the county's 4.8-percent jobless rate seen in December 2011.

**A Look Nationally**

According to the US Dept. of Labor Statistics, regional and state unemployment rates were generally little changed in December.

Twenty-two states recorded unemployment rate decreases, 16 states and the District of Columbia posted increases, and 12 states had no change, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported recently. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, six states experienced increases, and two states had no change. The national jobless rate, 7.8 percent, was unchanged from November and was 0.7 percentage point lower than in December 2011.

In December 2012, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 27 states and the District of Columbia and decreased in 23 states. The largest over-the-month increase in employment occurred in New York (+35,100), followed by New Jersey (+30,200), Georgia (+14,400), and Missouri (+10,200). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in California (-17,500), followed by Florida (-15,300), Louisiana (-11,400), and Michigan (-10,600).

New Jersey experienced the largest over-the-month percentage increase in employment (+0.8 percent),f ollowed by Kansas (+0.6 percent) and Alaska, Georgia, Missouri, and New York (+0.4 percent each).

Hawaii experienced the largest over-the-month percentage decline in employment (-0.7 percent), followed by Louisiana and Wyoming (-0.6 percent each).

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 44 states and decreased in six states and the District of Columbia.

The largest over-the-year percentage increases occurred in North Dakota (+3.6 percent) and Utah (+3.0 percent). The largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment occurred in West Virginia (-1.8 percent).

## On Stage!

Sentinel ISD Photos

**TWO FOR ONE PERFORMANCE**

Members of the Seminole High School's Theatre Dept. hosted two performances -- "Man of La Mancha" (above photo) and "Steel Magnolias" (below) -- for local residents this past Sunday afternoon and Monday evening at the old Seminole Junior High School Auditorium. The SHS Theatre Dept. will now begin work on their upcoming One-Act Play competition schedule, which will be held later this spring as part of the 2013 University Interscholastic League's Academic competition process.

## Seminole HS Honors

Photo Furnished/Seminole ISD

**GOLDEN ARROW AWARD**

Seminole High School seniors Dexter Longley (left) and Kenzie Perryman were recently named as recipients of Seminole High School's "Golden Arrow Award" for the 3rd six-week grading period of the 2012-2013 school year. The honor is bestowed every six-week grading period by members of the SHS faculty/staff based on student's classroom performance and involvement in extracurricular activities.

## Gaines County Sporting Events

**January 25**

Seminole Maiden Varsity Basketball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 6:00 p.m.

Seminole Indian Varsity Basket vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole

Seminole Maiden JV Basketball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 4:30 p.m.

Seminole Indian JV Basketball vs. Lubock Cooper @ Seminole, 4:30 p.m.

Seminole Maiden Freshmen Basketball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 7:30 p.m.

Seminole Indian Freshmen Basketball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 6:00 p.m.

Seminole Aqua Tribe @ District 3-4A Meet, Andrews

**January 26**

Seminole Aqua Tribe @ District 3-4A Meet, Andrews

**January 28**

Seminole High School Tennis vs. Pecos/GW/Mon. @ Seminole, 10:00 a.m.

**January 29**

Seminole Maiden Varsity Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock, 6:30 p.m.

Seminole Indian Varsity Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock

Seminole JV Maiden Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock, 5:00 p.m.

Seminole Indian JV Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock, 5:00 p.m.

Seminole Maiden Freshmen Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock, 8:00 p.m.

Seminole Indian Freshmen Basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Lubbock 6:30 p.m.

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CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS

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