

SEDC Board Calls Special Meeting

Advertising Avenues, Discussion of Goals to be Visited Monday

By Dustin Wright
Sentinel Managing Editor
Members of the Seminole Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors will address two major issues pertaining

to the business recruitment entity in a special Monday meeting at Seminole City Hall. The first being in how the corporation would like to address advertising and marketing of the

corporation, and possibly more important, discuss and prioritize goals for the corporation for their recruitment process.

Monday's special session of the SEDC Directors meeting is slated for a 5 p.m. start at Seminole City Hall, located at 302 S. Main St. The meeting, open to the general public, is slated for a 5 p.m. start.

Last Monday, SEDC officials were audience to a presentation from Matt McWhorter with Journal

Communications.

In the meeting, McWhorter visited with members of the corporation for roughly 45 minutes, discussing the ins-and-outs of the company's various advertising avenues, which included an advertising avenue the SEDC participated in last calendar year -- a full-page advertisement in the "Texas Wide Open for Business" magazine, which is overseen by the Governor of Texas Office of Economic Development.

"It's all about exposure with economic development," said McWhorter. "Developers who are looking to relocate their businesses have to be able to view the information about your community, about your business climate and your quality of life."

McWhorter quoted a price of \$5,500 for the renewal of the full-page advertisement, which he said would be the focal ad of the publication's agriculture section -- an advertisement position held by the SEDC in the magazine's last publication -- published in September.

In addition to the renewal, McWhorter also spoke about the company's other, larger advertising ventures within the magazine, as well as website design packages, which prompted SEDC members to table a decision and re-address the issue in this Monday's meeting.

"Right now, I'm not sure we (the SEDC) know what we'd like to target with a marketing campaign," said Kevin Petty, SEDC Board member in the Jan. 28 discussion. "I personally feel like (the SEDC) is sitting here and waiting to catch whatever is coming our way, when we should be getting a plan together, deciding on the types of industries we'd like to target and go out to pitch those ideas and try to get those businesses to come here."

The EDC has been operating since May 2012 without a full-time executive director, following the resignation of former executive Donna Johnson.

Seminole City Administrator Tommy Phillips has been serving as the SEDC Executive Director on

an interim basis, as the corporation's board has searched to fill the vacancy.

The SEDC, which was founded in 2002, works under a 4B corporation status as defined by the Development Corporation Act of 1979.

Under the Act, cities across the state of Texas were allowed to establish a corporation to administer the sales and use tax funds, and city voters must approve this special, dedicated tax at an election held for that purpose.

The SEDC operates on funding provided by a 1/2 percent of all sales tax allocations received by the City of Seminole from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, 4B corporations may use funding for the recruitment and/or development of manufacturing and industrial facilities; research and development facilities; recycling facilities; distribution centers; small warehouse facilities and distribution centers; military facilities; primary job training facilities; corporate headquarter facilities; job training classes; career centers; telephone call centers; business infrastructure; airport facilities; and operation of commuter rail, light rail or commuter buses.

In addition, 4B corporations may also fund retail business incentives (if city population is less than 20,000); sports and athletic facilities; entertainment, tourist and convention facilities; public parks and related open space improvements; affordable housing; and water supply and conservation programs (with special voter approval).

14 Students Qualify for Regional Science Fair

Sixty-two scientific entries were judged in competition held earlier this week, as the Seminole Elementary School campus hosted the 2013 Seminole ISD Science Fair at the Seminole Elementary School campus' multi-purpose room.

Following this past week's judging, seven fourth grade and seven fifth grade student were selected to advance to the Regional Science Fair competition, which is scheduled to be held Feb. 15 at the United Spirit Arena, located on the campus of Texas Tech University, in Lubbock.

Fourth grade regional qualifiers include (listed in order of placing): Brody Crawford, Royal Carnes, Kimberlee Dueck, Riley Davidson, Lauren Elder, Cassidy Peters and Bryan Wiebe.

Fifth grade qualifiers include (listed in order of placing): Erin Lentz, Analyssa Betencourt, Hailey Blair, Cassey Thiessen, Ellie Swinnea, Miranda Sloan and Jaedyn Gates.

Judging of the local contest was conducted by the math and science departments Seminole Junior High School and Seminole Success Center campuses. Judges included: Matt Hawkins, Paula Minier, Abi Adam, Matt Strickland and Becky Peters. Interviews were conducted

by Minier, Strickland, Adam and Peters.

2013 Seminole ISD Science Fair

4th Grade Results

1. Brody Crawford, "Corrosion"; 2. Royal Carnes, "The Tooth Test"; 3. Kimberlee Dueck, "Growing Marshmallows"; 4. Riley Davidson, "Full of Hot Hair!"; 5. Lauren Elder, "Rotten Fruit!"; 6. Cassidy Peters, "What Not to Drink!"; 7. Bryan Wiebe, "The Big Bubble".

Other participants: Jessie Beaubien and Whittee Tate.

5th Grade Results

1. Erin Lentz, "Magnet Power"; 2. Analyssa Betencourt, "Fluorescent Frenzy"; 3. Hailey Blair, "Which beanstock will reach the clouds?"; 4. Cassey Thiessen, "Lemon, Water, Vinegar: Which is the fastest of them?"; 5. Lauren Elder, "Balloon Blowup"; 6. Miranda Sloan, "Mentos Explosion"; 7. Jaedyn Gates, "M&M Meltdown".

Other participants: Katy Beth Lashaway, Zabian Martinez, Richardo Zapata Loya, Alex Froese, Eleny Macias, Rylan Peters, Liam Nugent, Meadow Vigil, Abram Janzen, Taylor Carlisle, Mirandah Plemple, Martha Neufeld, Tabitha Armendariz, Jerry Knelsen, Tina Neufeld, Alysia Espinoza, William Marten, Randy Goertzen, Karah Lambert, Kade Spradlin, Julia Becker, Kathryn Brightbill, Jennifer Dyck, Ariel Wiebe, Margaretha Harder, Evalin Friesen, Annie Wieler, Eva Plemple, Isaac Amaraz, Angela Duran, Kaleb Stevenson, Jamie Teichroeb, Kallie Harris, Jaydee Reimer, Jonathan Fuentes, Kaedyn Wade, Gabriel Alvidrez, Julian Beltran, John Barnes, Easton Pios, Diego Fierro Lara, Dustie Beaubien, Cutter Cornett, Anthony Goree, Derek Hiebert, and Anik Herrera.

Job Fair: From Page 1

drilling rigs.

On Monday, at least 18 local businesses from the Seminole community are anticipated to be represented in a job fair, where willing businesses are seeking a few good women and men to join their ranks and fill vacancy voids.

Monday's job fair, which will be held at the First Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall (301 S.W. 3rd St., Seminole), will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. and is free of charge for those interested job seekers and local businesses who wish to attend.

Linda George, an elder with the First Presbyterian Church of Seminole and lead organizer of the event, estimated there are "75 to 100" available jobs open in the Seminole community, through her research in organizing the job fair.

"From what I have gathered, there is a large range of jobs available locally, especially on the entry level end," said George.

"There is definitely some work available here in Seminole for those who are looking for it."

Monday's job fair is the brain-child of months of preparation and an "impromptu" October 2012 event hosted by the FPC, which George said came about following several discussions from fellow elders of the church who were seeking a way to assist those who were seeking jobs in the Seminole community.

"Through (FPC's) Bob Lewis Mission, I have visited with numerous people over the past several months who were just seeking a job," said George. "(The job fair) is a great opportunity for local businesses who are looking for employees, and those who are seeking jobs, to come together and see if they can fill the voids."

Becky Rickman, manager with McDonald's of Seminole, said management representatives from the local business hopes to fill 20 positions with their establishment.

"We're looking to increase our sales within the store, and more importantly, provide faster service to our customers," said Rickman. "So we will be (at the job fair) and see if we can fill those positions."

Gaines County, for a majority of the 2012 calendar year, was classified as being a "fully-employed" county, per figures from the Texas Workforce Commission.

The TWC considers counties with jobless rates of 4-percent or lower under the designation.

In the December 2012 TWC report, Gaines County was reported to have a 4-percent jobless rate, which was up slightly from the 3.9-percent rate seen in November 2012, but down from the 4.8-percent rate reported in December 2011.

Gaines County is just one of a host of counties within the West Texas region with similar unemployment figures, spearheaded by the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which reported 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.



Photo Furnished/Seminole ISD

5TH GRADE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Pictured above are the seven, Seminole Elementary School's fifth grade science fair regional qualifying individuals. They include, in no particular order, Erin Lentz, Analyssa Betencourt, Hailey Blair, Cassey Thiessen, Lauren Elder, Miranda Sloan and Jaedyn Gates.



Photo Furnished/Seminole ISD

4TH GRADE PARTICIPANTS

Pictured above are the nine, Seminole Elementary School's fourth grade science fair participants. They include, in no particular order, Brody Crawford, Royal Carnes, Kimberlee Dueck, Riley Davidson, Lauren Elder, Cassidy Peters, Bryan Wiebe, Jessie Beaubien and Whittee Tate.

Obituary

Tina Raye Adam

A funeral service for Tina Raye Adam, 48, of Lamesa were held on Friday February 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at Bronan Funeral Home Chapel with Brother Clifton Igo officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Bronan Funeral Home. Tina passed away on Monday January 28, 2013 in Lubbock.



She was born on April 9, 1964 in Lamesa to Leonard and Linda (Lester) Goolsby. She married Randy Adam on June 26, 1986 in Seminole. They were married for 26 years. Tina loved gardening and working in her yard to keep it nice. She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed feeding people.

She is survived by her husband, Randy Adam of Lamesa; children, Joshua Adam of Lubbock, and Jacob Adam of Lubbock; sister, Alisha Barber and

husband, Lamy of Arkansas City, Kansas; and brother, Leonard Goolsby of Hobbs.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Linda Goolsby.

To send condolences online please visit www.bronanfuneralhome.com



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