

Seminole, Seagraves Allocations Up

AUSTIN -- Sales transactions in the Seminole community for the month of December 2012 were slightly above those in December 2011, according to figures recently released by the Texas Comptroller's Office.

The City of Seminole, according to the Comptroller's office report, showed the municipality receiving an allocation payment of \$161,925.19 from Austin for the last month of the 2012 calendar year, which is up 8.78-percent from December 2011's

allocation payment of \$148,850.91.

The sales tax figures represent December sales reported by monthly tax filers as well as sales by businesses that report tax on a quarterly or annual basis.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said Wednesday that state sales tax revenue in January was \$2.12 billion, up 6.1 percent compared to January 2012.

"Growth in sales tax receipts was led by the construction, retail trade and restaurant sectors," said Combs. "Receipts from oil and

natural gas-related activity also continue to be strong. State sales tax revenue has now increased for 34 consecutive months."

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their February local sales tax allocations totaling \$741 million, up 4.6 percent compared to February 2012.

Year-to-date, the City of Seminole has received \$297,434.87 in allocation payments from the Comptroller's Office, which is up from \$263,983.58 in payments

from one year ago -- totaling a 12.67-percent change.

The City of Seagraves saw a slight increase in their allocation payments for December sales transactions, according to state figures.

The northeastern Gaines County municipality received a payment of \$25,831.25 from the state, which is up 1.90-percent from December 2011's payment of \$25,347.55.

Year-to-date, the City of Seagraves

has received \$42,588.83 in allocation payments for the 2013 calendar year, which is down 7.25-percent from last year's total of \$45,919.60.

For details of February sales tax allocations to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.



Local Xcel Employee Among 5 Honored by Texas House for Sandy Assistance

AUSTIN -- Xcel Energy employees from Texas and New Mexico were honored on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives today in Austin for their work in restoring power in New York after Hurricane Sandy

Photo Furnished/Xcel Energy

XCEL EMPLOYEES HONORED

Adolfo Lopez (second from left), a lineman journeyman serviceman from Seminole, was among five Xcel Energy employees who were recently honored for their Hurricane Sandy service by the Texas House of Representatives.

in early November.

Representing the company were Adolfo Lopez, a lineman journeyman serviceman from Seminole, along with Dustin Taylor, field operations supervisor from Carlsbad, N.M., Richard Millier, a lineman journeyman serviceman from Amarillo; Delwin Britton, line working foreman from Lubbock, and Jime Oles, lineman journeyman serviceman from Claude.

Rep. Walter T. "Four" Price, R-Amarillo, honored the representatives on the Texas House Floor Tuesday with House Resolution 301 for their service.

Xcel Energy officials, in November, sent more than 30 Texas-New Mexico employees to the northeast, to assist Appalachian Power Company, a unit of American Electric Power, in restoring electricity service after post-tropical cyclone Sandy spawned heavy snowstorms and caused tens of thousands of customers to lose electricity in the area.

The area employees assisting in the effort included personnel based in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Clovis, Tucumcari and Roswell in New Mexico; and Levelland, Seminole, Plainview, Canyon, Hereford, Amarillo, Borger, Perryton and Lubbock in Texas.

AEP made the request through a national mutual-aid network, and specifically asked for Xcel Energy's assistance.

Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company, said area line and service personnel have a long history of helping restore power in other parts of the country.

"We feel for the thousands who suffered the impacts of this storm, and we know if we were affected by a natural disaster, other companies would help us. We have some of the best linemen in the nation, and we were honored to play a role in helping our neighbors, even if they live more than 2,000 miles away."

Xcel Energy is made up of four operating companies serving eight western and Midwest

states. Each operating company is sending groups of line and service personnel to assist in storm-affected areas in the eastern United States, which has proven in the past to be the most efficient way of offering assistance.

The restoration teams from Xcel Energy included representatives from management, field operations, fleet mechanics, and safety consultants.

Escrow: From Page 1A

Series A portion of the bond, valued near \$90 million.

"Since (SISD) can not officially pay off any of the 2007 Series A bonds until 2017, we will be placing the \$10 million in escrow, and these funds will no longer be available to the district," wrote SISD officials in the agenda packet.

"These funds will remain in escrow, earning interest until 2017, at which time these funds will be used to pay off principal."

Monday's escrow proposal is being figured by First Southwest -- who assisted the local school district in the 2007 bond process -- and SISD's bond counsel.

SISD officials, in the background information, said the district would incur a \$2,000 fee for a verification report for the process, as well as fees associated with the purchase of securities for the escrow account.

"Although there are fees involved in escrowing funds versus leaving these funds in our bank account, we feel it is necessary to move these funds off our balance sheet and protect the district from scrutiny for maintaining a 26-cent I&S tax rate.

In February 2011, Seminole ISD officials made their final payment on the district's \$20 million Series 2007B bond service, which was held by Banc of America Public Capital Corp -- through First Southwest. That bond held a fixed 4.45-percent interest rate and a 15-year repayment structure, which was repayable by the district at anytime without penalties.

Not due until the 2017 calendar year, the payoff of the Series B portion of the bond by SISD cut off 11 years of the school district's bond repayment schedule, and saved local taxpayers roughly \$5.43 million in interest savings.

During the bond planning process, SISD officials and members associated with the district's bond committee based their bond repayment process at an I&S rate of 26.5-cent per \$100 valuation over a 25-year period, with SISD's mineral and property valuations based at \$3 billion annually, which would be among the lowest valuation rates seen by the school district in recent years.

In other action on Monday evening, SISD Trustees would also consider the following business item requests:

- consider approval of the 2011-12 Academic Excellence Indicator

System (AEIS) following a public hearing on the subject matter:

- consider allowing the district to sell two school buses;
- a proposal of the addition of architectural design, advanced architectural design, concepts of engineering and technology, robotics and automation, and advanced engineering design and presentation to the Seminole High School curriculum;
- call for a Trustee election on May 11, 2013, and
- routine items pertaining to regular SISD business.

Monday's meeting, which is open to the general public, is slated for a 7 p.m. start at the SISD Administration Building, located in the 200 block of S.W. 6th St.

Death Notice

REMPEL

Funeral services for Susana Rempel, age 55 of Tarzan will be held Sunday, February 10, 2013 at 3 p.m. at Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with Pastor Henry Martens officiating. Burial will follow at Gaines County Cemetery. All services under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home. Mrs. Rempel was born February 7, 1958 in Mexico and passed away Thursday, February 7, 2013 in Midland.

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