

Alcohol:

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The ordinance cleans up language pertaining to the sale of "malt and vinous beverages that do not contain alcohol in excess of 14-percent by volume" within an over 800-acre portion of the Seagraves city limits, which was approved by voters in the Gaines Co. Pct. 8 voting box in a May 20, 1938 special election.

The *Sentinel*, on Thursday, attempted to make contact with officials with Allsup's corporate offices in Clovis, N.M. in reference to the alcohol application, but was unable to successfully make contact with representatives as of presstime, as return phone call requests were unfulfilled.

A source, who wished to not be identified by the *Sentinel*, but has ties to the Seagraves Allsup's store location, stated the store has began making room for additional coolers and floor display space for alcohol sales at the location.

Jackie Orum, City Secretary for the City of Seagraves, stated as of Thursday, no requests to sell alcoholic beverages had been brought to the municipality for City Council approval.

"We'd be the last stop (in the application process) before a business could sell (alcoholic beverages)," she said. "And, we don't have any requests for the Council at this time."

In addition to providing for levying of license and permit fees, the ordinance adopted by Seagraves City Council members in December continues to state the City of Seagraves can "prohibit the manufacturing or brewing or sale or distributing of beer and light wines up to fourteen percent (14%) within the corporate limits of the City of Seagraves without first obtaining a receipt showing payment of such license and permit fees; making it unlawful to possess alcoholic beverages except in the original unopened container in or upon the public highways, roads, streets, alleys, sidewalks or parks of the City of Seagraves; making it unlawful to consume alcoholic beverages in such public places; declaring offenses; providing penalties; repealing all conflicting ordinances and declaring an emergency."

The ordinance that the (Seagraves) City Council adopted repealed the 1939, 1941, and 1981 ordinances that both controlled the sale and public consumption of alcohol within the city," said Huse in a Dec. 23 story produced in the *Seminole Sentinel*. "All previous ordinance lacked necessary regulatory vocabulary and largely conflicted with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. With the adoption of Ordinance 2012-12-17, our City now has effective control over these activities should persons seek to sell alcohol within the City of Seagraves."

A legal notice of the newly passed ordinance by the Seagraves City Council was published -- verbatim -- in the Wednesday, Dec. 19 edition of the *Sentinel*.

Municipal:

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both filed their respective intentions to seek re-election to the board last week.

Filing for the board, along with the five other local municipalities who will host May 11 elections, runs through 5 p.m. March 1.

Officials with the Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District said Thursday three incumbent members of the board had filed their intentions to seek re-election to the entity's seven-member panel.

Those incumbents include Pct. 2 representative Charles Roland, Pct. 4 representative Robert Warren, and At-Large board member Weldon Shook.

Seminole ISD saw one candidate file for the district's Place 3 seat, as Seminole resident Rex Darby filed his intentions earlier this week.

The Place 3 seat on the board is currently held by Seminole ISD Board President Jerry Don Foote, who had not filed re-election intentions as of presstime, according to school administration officials.

The district's Place 4 seat race -- thus far -- will feature incumbent seat holder and SISD Board Secretary Jacob Loewen against challenger Kyle Freeman.

City of Seagraves officials, on Thursday, confirmed that Dist. 2 Councilman Charles Evans had filed re-election intentions for his seat, while the District 1 seat filing list remained blank. That seat is currently held Councilman Henry Winsor.

Seminole City Secretary Debbie Gressett confirmed on Friday morning Dist. 1, Place 1 seatholder -- and current Mayor Pro-Tem -- Rey Saldana had filed intentions to seek re-election to the Seminole City Council in May's election.

Hotel: Interior Work Continues

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"We are moving right along with it," said Lund. "We've had some minor set backs due to the delivery of some materials, but for the most part the exterior of the facility is completed and we're working on finishing up the interior."

Lund said interior work included the installation of drywall, painting and texturing of rooms within the \$2-to-\$3 million hotel project, which would be followed by the installation of fixtures, furniture and carpet for the 50-room facility.

"We are hoping to have everything finished by the first part of April, if things continue to run as they are," said Lund.

Project officials, in a 2012 story produced by the *Sentinel*, were targeting a "January or February 2013" completion of the development.

The Best Western Plus facility is being developed by Borger-based hotel developer Sabhir Patel and Uray, LLC.

"We like what is going on in the City of Seminole and feel the community is in need of more hotel rooms," said Patel in an April 2012 telephone interview with the *Sentinel*. "A lot of Seminole's potential hotel business is going over to Hobbs, N.M., and that Seminole has the capability of handling one or two flag hotel franchises."

The *Sentinel* attempted to make contact with Patel at a telephone number provided by the developer for his Borger-based office, but had not received a returned phone call as of presstime.

Patel, in his 2012 interview with the *Sentinel*, stated the group's interest in the Seminole community came through the past recruitment efforts of the Seminole Economic Development Corp., who in April 2009, entered into an agreement with the development group for a \$250,000 incentives package, which was retracted by the SEDC after Patel and Uray, LLC officials failed to meet a stipulation of the agreement due to "legal issues on a hotel construction project in the Oklahoma panhandle."

"Seminole has been on our radar for some time and now we are at the

point where we can pursue through with the project," said Patel.

No SEDC incentives money has been devoted toward the development of the Best Western Plus project, according to officials with the corporation.

"We're in desperate need of rooms here in the Seminole community and this development will certainly help address some of the need for additional hotel rooms locally," said Michel Powers, President of the Seminole Economic Development Corp. "Even though we weren't able to come to terms with (financial)

assistance, we're looking forward to having them in our community and assisting them in anyway we can."

The 50 room project is also expected to include a business center, indoor swimming pool and meeting room within the property and is being funded by Borger-based Borger InterBank, according to Patel in his April 2012 interview with the *Sentinel*.

According to the company's website, Best Western International Inc. offers over 4,000 independently owned and operated hotels. Based in Phoenix, Ariz., Best Western

employs 1,190 people and offers more than 313,450 guest rooms located in 100 countries and territories throughout the world.

Best Western Plus facilities, according to the company's website, features upgraded bath amenities, continental breakfast, in-room mini-fridges, on-site fitness facilities, on-site laundry and/or same-day dry cleaning services, high speed internet, free local calls, free long distance access, in-room coffee and tea maker, and updated business center.

Bond Project:

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past week.

In January, SISD Trustees unanimously approved of a \$9.6 million major overhaul of the F.J. Young Elementary School campus, which will see the addition of 14 new classrooms -- totaling over 15,000 sq ft in space -- the addition of an 11,000 sq ft gymnasium facility, infrastructure upgrades (plumbing, electrical, HVAC, technological), and interior renovations to the original portions of the school building.

In addition, the facility will also receive a new fire alarm/sprinkler system and added security features -- such as time locked doors -- throughout the campus.

Seminole ISD officials had originally set aside \$8.9 million in bond funds for the F.J. Young project -- which is associated with the school district's \$110 million bond project -- and approved of the transfer of \$2.5 million in additional bond money from the school district's old Junior High/Administration remodel project to cover contingency costs associated with the project.

M.W. Builders, a Temple-based construction firm, will serve as the Construction Manager At-Risk for the project, which was designed by Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc.

"We're getting things prepared for the project," said Sherie Warren, F.J. Young Elementary principal in Monday's discussion of the topic. "It's been a little chaotic and confusing with all the fencing for our parents dropping off and picking up their kids, but we're getting it worked out."

Initial plans are for construction crews to begin outside work at the campus, located in the 2100 block of S.W. Ave. B, while classes resume inside the facility.

Around the time of Seminole ISD's Spring Break Holiday -- scheduled for the week of March 11-15 -- it is anticipated that students from the F.J. Young campus will move to the old Seminole Junior High School campus for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year.

That move is hinged on the move of the Seminole

Primary school campus from the facility, located in the 600 block of S.W. Ave. B, into their newly constructed 91,000 sq ft campus building in the 400 block of S.W. Ave. D.

An 18-month construction window was loosely quoted as being the target time for completion, during initial planning of the project.

In June 2012, SISD Trustees unanimously voted in favor of transferring \$3.49 million in bond construction funds from a planned remodel project at the old Seminole Junior High School campus to a remodel/expansion project at F.J. Young Elementary School campus.

Originally, F.J. Young Elementary was devoted \$4.82 million in funds for a remodel project at the campus, according to bond committee requests made during the planning of the project prior to being passed by SISD taxpayers in May 2007.

"This (project) is going to address the current and future needs of that campus for many years to come, especially with the amount of growth we have seen at the campus over the past several years," said Doug Hamman, Superintendent of Schools for Seminole ISD in a January 16th story produced by the *Sentinel*.

Girls Fastpitch League

Registration for the 2013 Seminole Girls Fastpitch Softball league continues at two locations in Seminole, according to league organizers.

Forms can be picked up at Brown's Ace Hardware, 119 E. Ave. A, or Jenkins TV, 112 S.W. Ave. C.

Registration for the league will be conducted through Feb. 28th. A \$50 registration fee will be assessed (\$40 for each additional child) and a \$10 late fee will be required for all registration forms received after Feb. 28.

Forms may be returned to either of the two pick-up locations. League tryouts will be held on March 2, at the City of Seminole's Youth Sports Complex, located off of U.S. 62/385 (Seagraves Hwy), on CR 200-E.

Major league tryouts are slated for 9 a.m., minor league followed at 10 a.m., and 8-and-under tryouts at 11 a.m.

For more information about the league, call (432) 209-3745 or (806) 773-7041.

The Seminole Girls Fastpitch Softball league will be hosting a board meeting this Thursday, Feb. 21, at the City of Seminole's Ambassador Room, located at 101 E. Ave. A (former Seminole City Hall building).

Anyone interested in a board position, coaching and umpiring in the upcoming league is encouraged to attend.

For more information about the league, call (432) 209-3745 or (806) 773-7041.

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