

Local, Regional News Briefs

Xcel Energy Announces Fuel Surcharge

AMARILLO -- Xcel Energy residential and small commercial customers in Texas will see a small fuel cost surcharge on their year-end bills, pending regulatory approval, as the company balances its fuel accounts.

Other Texas customer classes—industrial and large commercial—will receive refunds.

Xcel Energy's Texas-based operating company, Southwestern Public Service Company, filed its plan for the fuel cost true-up today at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. If approved, Texas residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month pay a one-time surcharge of \$3.38, split between two billing cycles, beginning with December bills. The surcharge expires after this amount is collected.

Fuel charges, which make up about half the cost of a typical

month's bill, cover the costs for coal and natural gas used in area power plants, as well as the costs for purchased power. Xcel Energy does not earn profits from fuel charges, which are passed through dollar-for-dollar. As fuel costs are collected, they are deposited into accounts used for paying fuel bills. These accounts are tracked by customer class and reviewed periodically to ensure the accounts are balanced.

A true-up can lead to both surcharges and refunds because usage patterns differ among the customer classes. Residential and small commercial customers tend to use more power—and thus more fuel—during the summer months. Usage patterns among large commercial and industrial customers tend to stay roughly the same across a 12-month period.

In May, the early cancellation of a fuel cost surcharge, just as some classes began to use more power, led to a slight under collection of fuel costs for the residential and small commercial classes, creating the need for an additional fuel charge to balance fuel accounts.

The early expiration of that surcharge, combined with a lower fuel cost factor implemented in April, led to a \$10 savings on typical residential bills of 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

USW Unveils New MBA Program

HOBBS, N.M. -- University of the Southwest recently partnered with a Tennessee-based curriculum development and technology firm, Savant Learning Systems, to design and develop a revolutionary and innovative online MBA program designed with the career professional in mind.

The program combines cutting edge technology with a world-class curriculum to deliver a superior education to working professionals.

Some highlights of the program include course lectures delivered by

actual textbook authors and subject matter experts. Electronic textbooks and digital media are embedded into each course at no extra cost to the student.

Students will receive an iPad with content, media, and apps pre-loaded for convenient access to course material.

The new program, beginning in October, can be completed in as little as 12 months, with 8-week courses running consecutively throughout the year.

Students can customize their MBA to meet career needs, adding value and a sense of accomplishment to their existing career. Professional and military training as well as occupational experience may be considered for credit.

To review the online courses available, go to onlinemba.usw.edu, or contact USW's Dean of Enrollment Services, Jordan Bodine, at (575) 492-2143 or at jbodine@usw.edu.

Seminole's Alum Graduates from US Navy OCS

NEWPORT, R.I. -- Navy Ensign Kelby T. Aten, son of Robin B. and Johnny D. Aten of Seminole, has graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) and has received a commission as an Ensign

in the United States Navy while assigned at Officer Training Command, in Newport, R.I.

The mission of OCS is to develop civilians, enlisted, and newly commissioned personnel morally, mentally, and physically and imbue them with the highest ideals of honor, courage, and commitment in order to prepare graduates for service in the fleet as Naval Officers.

Aten is a 2008 graduate of Seminole High School and joined the Navy in March 2010. He is a 2012 graduate of University of Tulsa with a BAS degree.

4-H Celebrating 105 Years of Establishment

For more than 105 years, the 4-H Program of Texas has been engaging youth in activities that help develop skills for a lifetime. These skills range from communication to community service and from goal setting to leadership. Regardless of the skill learned, the benefits gathered from a young person participating in the 4-H Program is priceless.

The 4-H Program is nationwide youth development program that has more than 6.5 million youth involved in it annually. Administered in Texas by the A&M AgriLife Extension Service of the Texas A&M System, 4-H serves youth in all 254 counties in the state through a network of 250 County Extension Offices. 4-H is managed jointly by both a professional and volunteer staff. Texas 4-H, the largest 4-H program in the

country, has more than 660,000 youth participants and more than 32,800 volunteers working together to deliver the more than 95 projects, opportunities, and events offered annually through the program.

4-H is unique in that it offers experiences to the most urban young person and youth in rural areas by providing the opportunity to participate in community 4-H clubs, learning experiences in school classrooms, day and overnight camps, and other special interest opportunities. Texas 4-H also serves the sons and daughters of our military personnel through the 4-H Military Program located throughout the state, primarily on military bases.

Youth members can participate in a variety of projects in the areas of technology, human sciences, animals and household pets, science and engineering, natural resources, and wildlife. Beyond the excitement of learning something new through a project, youth have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences, travel the world, become involved in their community through service, and meet new friends in a safe and comfortable setting. A young person's experiences in 4-H makes a difference for a lifetime by allowing them to grow and appreciate the importance of being a good citizen, a strong leader, and a person of character.

If you would like to learn more about 4-H, or have a family member wanting to join 4-H, contact your local County Extension Office or visit the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>.

To reach the Gaines County 4-H Office, call (432) 758-4006, ext. 140 or stop by Room 108 inside the Gaines County Courthouse in Seminole.

Cookoff:

From Page 1

live musical entertainment from the Hometown Boys later Saturday evening will be charged a \$10 cover fee, with proceeds from the fee being devoted to the Seminole Volunteer Fire Dept.

"This is something we feel will be a good time for everyone, from the cooks to those who just want to come out and watch these teams cook," said Wadzeck. "And, some of the teams may also cook some extras and provide samples."

Cash prizes will be given to the top three judged participants, with the top finisher receiving a paid entry to the 2013 Texas Steak Cookoff in Hico, which will be held in May.

"Having been to several cookoffs over the year, I have seen how something like this can help a community and give a community something to do, and that's something I feel we needed here in Seminole," said Wadzeck. "We hope to make this an annual event, and we hope to see this thing grow year after year."

Saturday's competition will begin with a 9 a.m. "Cooks Meeting," where participating teams will receive two ribeye steaks from contest officials for cooking -- one a practice steak and the second being the contest entry.

The first scheduled turn in, according to organizers, is slated for 11 a.m. with the announcement of the contest's top five qualifying teams coming at 12-noon.

The final go-round turn in is scheduled for 4 p.m., with the cookoff winners slated to be announced between 5 and 6 p.m.

A "Bean Shootout" will also be judged during Saturday's cookoff competition, with prizes being awarded to the top winners.

Those interested in making a weekend of the event, may rent recreational vehicle (RV) spots for \$50, with move-in slated for Friday and move-out on Sunday.

Corporate sponsorships are also being sold for \$100 for interested companies wishing to advertise at the event.

For more information about the cookoff, or for more information, contact Wadzeck (432) 209-0849; Todd Lee (432) 209-2230; or Charlie Dixon at (575) 441-4180.

Election: From Page 1

Romney, Gaines County residents will also have a say in who will become Texas' newest United States Senator.

In the race, Republican Tea Party activist Ted Cruz and Democrat Paul Sadler lead a field of four candidates who include Libertarian Party candidate John Jay Myers and Green Party candidate David B. Collins.

The remainder of Gaines County's locally contested races were determined during this past spring and summer's party primary elections process.

Those local candidates who will be unopposed in the November general elections process and will assume office on Jan. 1, 2013 include Gaines County Sheriff-elect Ronny Pipkin; Gaines County Tax Assessor-Collector Susan Shaw; Pct. 1 Commissioner Danny Yocom; Pct. 3 Commissioner Blair Tharp; Pct. 4 Commissioner Biz Houston (unexpired term); Mike Munk, 106th District Attorney-elect; Joe Nagy, Gaines County Attorney, and; Gaines Co. Constable, Pct. 1-elect Neal Shaw.

Early voting for the Nov. 6 General Election process will be held from Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at two Gaines County Locations. Those locations include the Gaines County Clerk's Office, inside the Gaines County Courthouse, in Seminole, and the Seagraves Community Building in Seagraves.

Election day polling on Nov. 6 will be conducted at four county-wide polling centers within Gaines County, located in Seminole, Seagraves, Loop and Higginbotham.



"TRUNKS-2-TREAT"

Join Us Halloween Evening

October 31

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

For

Treats from our Car Trunks

&

Free BBQ Sandwich, Chips, & Lemonade

Where?

First United Methodist Church

Parking Lot

304 SW Avenue B
Seminole, Texas

Public is Invited!



RED RAIDER FOOTBALL

TEXAS TECH VS. WEST VIRGINIA

SATURDAY, OCT. 13TH @ 2:30PM (HOMECOMING)

RED RAIDER FANS. SEASONED. LOYAL. FIERCE. UNITED. RIDING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THIS HOUSE.

@techathletics • #reckemtech

FOR TICKETS: (806)742-4412

TEXASTECH.COM/TICKETS

Gaines County Sporting Events

October 11
JV Varsity Football vs. Shallowater @ Shallowater
6:30 p.m.
Freshman Indian Football vs. Shallowater @ Shallowater
5:00 p.m.

October 12
Varsity Indian Football vs. Shallowater @ Seminole
6:30 p.m.
Western Peanut Growers Golf Tournament, Gaines County Golf Course 1:00 Shotgun Course Closed 12:30-6:00

October 13
Junior High and High School Cross Country @ Odonnell Meet
Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 12:30 p.m.
JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 11:00 a.m.
Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Cooper @ Seminole, 11:00 a.m.

October 15
B-Line Filter Golf Tournament, Gaines County Golf Course, 8:30 Shotgun Course Closed 8:00-1:30

October 16
Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Estacado, 7:00 p.m.
JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Estacado 5:30 p.m.
Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Lubbock Estacado @ Estacado 5:30 p.m.

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Denver City, Tx. Seminole, Tx.
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CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS

<http://championshipphotos.dotphoto.com>