

News Briefs

# Railway: From Page 1A

## Ribeye Cookoff Slated to be Held Oct. 13

Think you grill the best ribeye steak in the area? Then test your luck at the 1st Annual Bull Butter Blowout Ribeye Steak Cookoff, scheduled to be held Oct. 13, southwest of Seminole. Team entry fee is \$180, and the steaks will be furnished, according to event organizers. Deadline to enter your team is Monday, Oct. 8. 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.

In addition to the steak cookoff, participants will also have an opportunity to participate in a "Bean Shootout." Participants in the "Bean Shootout" must be registered as participants in the steak cookoff to be eligible for judging and prizes.

The cookoff event will be held at 471 FM 181 (the Charlie Dixon residence, landmarked with a white bull statue), and camping sites will be available for the event, at a cost of \$50. Camps can be set up on Friday, Oct. 12 and must be vacated on Sunday, Oct. 14. Deadline to enter has been slated for Friday, Oct. 12.

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

Partial proceeds from the cookoff will be given to the Seminole Volunteer Fire Dept.

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

## Medical Fund Raiser Slated for October 14

A medical fundraiser for Seminole resident Terri Doniece Taylor is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Southern Rose.

Proceeds from the fundraiser, a buffet meal at the restaurant, will see all proceeds devoted to Taylor's medical expense fund.

Taylor has been battling Stage 4 ovarian cancer since October 2011 and has worked for the Seminole EMS and Memorial Health Care Center for many years.

The fundraiser will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the restaurant, located in the 600 block of S. Main St.

For more information about the fundraiser, contact the Seminole EMS at (432) 758-8816.

## GED Test Set for October 6th

Officials with the Seminole Independent School District have announced their 2012 General Educational Development (GED) testing schedule for the upcoming calendar year.

The next available testing date is slated for this coming Saturday, October 6th.

If you would like to register, please call Becky Ottaberry, Chief Examiner, at (432) 201-0408.

More information can be found at [www.seminoleisd.net](http://www.seminoleisd.net) by clicking Seminole GED Testing Center under quick links.

Mexico Railroad line at a location south of Hobbs, N.M., Lea County, N.M. most populous community.

"We feel, from our standpoint, this would be the best scenario," said Sam Cobb, Mayor of the City of Hobbs in discussing the plans of expanding the rail line from Seagraves to Hobbs, via Seminole.

"Expanding the line south to Seminole, then over to Hobbs would do nothing but benefit not only our communities, but all those along the rail lines from Hobbs to Lubbock."

Bruce Carswell, Vice President of Permian Basin Railways, which owns both the West Texas and Lubbock and Texas-New Mexico Railroad shortlines, said in a Sept. 22 story produced by the *Hobbs News-Sun* "railroad officials are interested in being a part of the line, but that the company was small and couldn't do (rail expansion) on its own."

"I think we have been fairly consistent in saying it is a big project, but we are a small organization," said Carswell. "If there is enough support for it, we will support the effort. The opportunity to increase rail volume for both railroads is pretty well in hand."

Officials from Permian Basin Railways were not in attendance of Thursday's meeting.

Estimated costs of railway expansion, according to sources in Thursday's meeting and Carswell in the Sept. 22 article, range from \$1 million to \$2 million per mile of track installed.

Carswell said: "the best approach right now would be to have a preliminary engineering study conducted to answer many questions about cost, location and viability of putting a track from Seagraves to Hobbs."

Estimated costs for the engineering study was quoted at being \$100,000.

A 2008 study Cambridge Systematics, Inc. for the Texas Dept. of Transportation's Government and Public Affairs Division, showed it was financially and environmentally

feasible to expand the West Texas and Lubbock Railway line from its Seagraves stopping point 16 miles southward to Seminole.

The feasibility study, entitled "Permian Basin Rail Connection" looked at the various financial and environmental impacts associated with the possible expansion of rail service from Seagraves to Mc-Camey, located 80 miles south of Odessa.

"The Seminole area, just 16

miles south of the current (West Texas and Lubbock Railway) terminus at Seagraves, provides the greatest concentration of rail amenable shippers without local rail service," said the report. "The most likely rail shippers from the Seminole area include peanut processors, cotton gins and chemical/fertilizer producers. Each of these industries ship commodities that are rail amenable and rail would offer some savings versus current trucking rates."

The 2008 feasibility stated the expansion of rail service from Seagraves to Odessa had the potential to divert some 34,000 truckloads off us U.S. 385 annually, which represented some 6,600 annual rail carloads. The study also anticipated the cost of expanding the line -- in 2008 -- from Seagraves to Seminole would cost roughly \$44.4 million, or an average of \$2.7 million per mile for a single track, 286,000 lb. capacity line.

Recently, the West Texas and Lubbock Railway underwent a roughly \$12 million improvement project, while the Texas-New Mexico Railroad shortline saw \$18 million in line improvements. Both lines are considered to be Class III railway lines, as defined by the Surface Transportation Board, and feature an annual operating revenue of less than \$20 million (1991 dollars).

# Oil and Gas: From Page 1A

(thousand cubic feet) a day. Texas production in July 2012 came from 143,666 oil wells and 89,578 gas wells.

The Texas average rig count as of Sept. 21, was 877, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 474 million barrels of oil and 7.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The Commission's estimated final production for July 2012 is 49,002,732 barrels of crude oil and 524,613,151 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary July 2012 production totals of 40,321,511 barrels of crude oil and 441,853,913 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.2153 for crude oil and 1.1873 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for August 2012 was 391,994,296 Mcf compared to 353,961,061 Mcf in August 2011. The September 2012 gas storage estimate is 404,036,307 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial October 2012 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in

the state to meet market demand of 9,784,268 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial October 2012 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for October 2012 is reported.

The Commission issued a total

of 2,048 original drilling permits in August 2012 compared to 2,051 in August 2011. The August total included 1,808 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 58 to re-enter existing well bores, and 182 for re-completions. Permits issued in August 2012 included 634 oil, 163 gas, 1,169 oil and gas, 63 injection, one service and 18 other permits.

In August 2012, operators reported 967 oil, 230 gas, 34 injection and one other completion

compared to 365 oil, 240 gas, 46 injection and zero other completions in August 2011.

Total well completions for 2012 year to date are 9,965 up from 5,341 recorded during the same period in 2011.

Operators reported 828 holes plugged and five dry holes in August 2012 compared to 175 holes plugged and zero dry holes in August 2011.

## 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](http://onlinemba.usw.edu), or contact USW's Dean of Enrollment Services, Jordan Bodine, at (575) 492-2143 or at [jbodine@usw.edu](mailto:jbodine@usw.edu).

For late-breaking news concerning Gaines County interests, log on with us! [www.seminolesentinel.com](http://www.seminolesentinel.com)

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- 293.2 acres 140 acres crp 120 irr acres western Gaines county close to town**
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- 1.5 acres 2/3 zoned commercial 800 blk North Main**
- Western hill subd. 17 residential lots. Build your dream home!**
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- 461 CR 304J 1216 sq ft 3/2/2 2.06 acres- Under Contract**
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- 709 NW Ave I 1044 sq ft 3/1 great starter home, new laminate flooring**
- 2149 CR 355 Brownfield 1952 sq ft 3/2/1 2.5 acres roomy country home**
- 508 SW 16th 1394 sq ft 3/2 updated throughout**
- 5313 Hunter's Circle Abilene TX 1566 sq ft 3/2/1 lots of updates**
- 3008 Stateline Road A 2124 sq ft 3/1 w/2.5 acres & horse stalls**
- 205 SW 17th 2301 sq ft 4/2**
- 404 SW 23rd 2064 sq ft 4/2/2 built in 2008 with many upgrades-under contract**
- 115 CR 401-K 2877 sq ft 5/2.5/2 w/ 3 acres, basement, & 40X80 shop**
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Includes Side & Drink	
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