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PROGRAM

"The Pocket Park would not create any jobs," Partlow said. "We wish we could have assisted, as the project is a worthy one that will greatly improve the appearance of that corner of the square. I am proud of our city leaders for deciding to pick up the Property Improvement Program and fund it."

City Manager Eldon Jobe said \$25,000 was tentatively reserved for the PIP from the next budget cycle of the city's general fund, but would first have to meet approval from City Council Oct. 4.

The program provides funding for existing businesses and organizations for clean-up, maintenance and renovations. Supporters hope that in addition to the aesthetic benefits, improving the appearance of properties will increase their market value, thereby potentially attracting new businesses.

"I think if people take advantage of it, it will be beneficial both toward the business or property owner - as well as the city - by helping to attract economic development," Jobe said.

Those types of projects did not qualify for BIDCorp. money, which comes from local sales tax revenue and is used for incentive payments for businesses that will create "primary jobs," or those related more toward industry. For example, Texas Custom Wine Works recently met the criteria for an incentive package, while a prospective new restaurant or clothing boutique might not.

"We were unable to find a way to use BIDCorp. funds for such a program under the guidelines set up by the State of Texas Comptroller's office for how 4A sales tax funds can be used," Partlow said. "The intent of the 4A funding program is for the funds to be used to create primary jobs and should not be used for retail or commercial jobs."

During the early planning stages of the PIP, Partlow suggested the Business Retention Committee

use it as a tool during their visits with local business leaders. For example, if a BRC member asks a representative how his company could improve and if he responds that the sidewalks need repair work, the BRC member could inform him about the Property Improvement Program and show him the next steps toward receiving funding.

BIDCorp. board chairman Jay Youngblood objected that approaching certain businesses rather than others and offering them money could raise concerns from the public about favoritism - particularly because the BRC

is appointed rather than elected - and instead suggested forming an application process.

Jobe said that applications for PIP will likely be granted based on whether they meet certain criteria rather than on the order in which they are submitted, but determining those specifics will ultimately be left to City Council.

Meanwhile, a group of local activists are continuing plans for the Memorial Park. The walls and small patches of land area in the park will contain shrines donated by local residents in honor of loved ones who are gone but not forgotten. Organizers plan to plant

grass and rework the concrete on the rest of the ground and paint the walls.

"This will turn the downtown Brownfield area around," Timmons said. "It's going to be a great place."

The idea was formed out of the Colton Burran Scholarship Committee, but Colton and his brother Casey, who tragically lost his own life just a few months later, will be only two of the lives honored there with memorials.

They will also accept donations for the park, whether or not they receive PIP funding, Timmons said.

Texas economy adds 38,000 seasonal jobs in August '12

The Texas economy added 38,000 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in August, for a total of 259,500 nonfarm jobs added since last year.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 7.1 percent in August.

The July rate was revised down from 7.2 to 7.1 percent.

The state's unemployment rate is down from 8.1 percent a year ago, and below the national unemployment rate in August of 8.1 percent.

"A major component to Texas' long-term economic development is consistent job growth, and that is exactly what we are seeing across a number of different industries," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "The private sector in Texas has grown by 279,800 jobs over the last year, a 3.2 percent increase, while national private sector annual growth has been just 1.8 percent."

Terry County continued to hold an unemployment rate lower than the state average with 6.8 percent, down from 7.4 percent a year ago.

The annual growth rate for Texas has been positive for 28 consecutive months, and has been at or above 2.0 percent since December 2011.

"Construction jobs grew by 13,600 in August, more than any other industry in Texas, with a total of nearly 38,000 jobs added in that industry in the past 12 months," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "WorkInTexas.com is a good way to connect to jobs here in Texas across

many industries, including Construction."

Employers in Professional and Business Services added 6,900 positions in August for its fourth straight month of gains.

This industry has expanded by 48,900 jobs since August 2011 for a 3.6 percent growth rate.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 13,100 jobs in August, marking the largest monthly gain since January.

Over the month, the Leisure and Hospitality industry expanded by an estimated 4,600 positions.

Annual growth in this industry climbed to 4.6 percent in August.

"Texas continues to be the state in which to do business, with seven of the 11 major industries in Texas adding jobs in August," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken. "And with the addition of 3,400 Mining and Logging jobs last month, that industry has grown by 9.0 percent in the last year."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest August unemployment rate in the state at 3.8 percent.

The Odessa MSA came in second at 4.5 percent, and the Amarillo MSA third at 5.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar on the latest labor market data are available at the following link: www.texasworkforce.org/news/press/2012/praudio12.html.

Local drug dealer sentenced to six months

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

A local man convicted on Tuesday of selling drugs in northwest Brownfield was sentenced later that afternoon to 180 days in a state jail facility and a \$10,000 fine.

Albert Young, 41, was found guilty of manufacture or delivery of less than one gram of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1, a state jail felony.

A Terry County jury of four men and eight women deliberated about an hour before they returned with the guilty verdict and another 30 minutes to determine his six-month sentence.

County Attorney Ramon Gallegos encouraged the jury to take a tough stand on the case and on drugs in general by returning a guilty verdict and lengthy sentence.

"It's time to say, 'Enough is enough, (and) at least in our community, if you sell drugs you're going to be found guilty and punished for it,'" he said.

Young was arrested Oct. 21, 2011 after Brownfield police raided his home in the 400 block of North 11th Street and found about a tenth of a gram of crack cocaine and evidence that they felt was consistent with the narcotics trade. Although not present when officers initially made entry, Young arrived a couple hours later while they were searching the property and was promptly detained.

Defense attorney Jo'Shae Ferguson-Worley suggested Young did not actually live at the residence at the time - noting utilities were disconnected and he was carrying a hotel key when he was arrested - and that the crack cocaine could have been discarded at the scene by any of a number of visitors.

"There is no evidence that he knew about it - he wasn't even at the property," she said. "He hadn't been there for weeks."

Ferguson-Worley also pointed out that the police search yielded no scales or large amounts of cash typically associated with drug sales, and claimed that the small-denomination bills, knives, plastic grocery bags and baking soda officers seized were not significant enough to send her client to prison.

"They want to accuse him of being a drug dealer because he has certain items that are probably present in nearly every home in Terry County," she said in her closing arguments in the guilty-or-innocence phase of the trial.

Gallegos argued that those paraphernalia items did indeed together point a bigger picture of the activities at the residence, along with the seized narcotics.

"All of us have those items in our house, but how many of us have crack cocaine laying on the table?" he said.

Brownfield police Lt. Tye Langehennig and Sgt. Michael Dorris told the jury about the paperwork they confiscated from Young's residence, to include a calendar and a list of acquaintances who owed him money. The pair of narcotics investigators testified that they recognized many of the names as known drug users from past cases they had worked.

Ferguson-Worley presented three character witnesses - Omani Montano, Ernesto Elizardo and Blas Gonzales - who testified that they had loaned and received loans to and from Young for various legitimate reasons such as property-tax collection and basic living expenses, and they did not associate with narcotics.

"Those calendars don't indicate drugs, just money going back and forth," Ferguson-Worley said. "These notes could prove a number of different things."



Albert Young

Gallegos argued that just because Young did have some legal loans did not mean they were the extent of his business operations.

"That's three people out of at least 15 or 20," he said. "A good portion of them are drug users."

The officers also testified about the large number of cell phones and other electronic equipment they found at the residence, which claimed had likely been stolen and then traded for drugs. They defense attorney and prosecutor debated whether someone could have a valid reason for possessing multiple cell phones.

District Judge Kelly Moore presided the case.

Young could have faced up to two years in a state jail.

Obituary



ALBERT J. PHILLIPS
June 21, 1937 - Sept 15, 2012

Graveside services for Albert J. Phillips, 75, of Brownfield were at 10:30am, Monday, September 17, 2012 in Springlake Cemetery with Chaplin Chris Downer officiating. Burial was under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

A.J. passed away Saturday, September 15, 2012 at his home in Brownfield. He was born June 21, 1937 to Orsborn Foster and Willie Lee (Bell) Phillips. He attended Springlake High School. He was in the U.S. National Guard for 6 years. A.J. married Janis Elizabeth Jones, his high school sweetheart, in Lubbock on August 15, 1958. He worked at Pioneer-Energas for 29 years. He then worked as a security guard at Ruidoso Downs Race Track over the past 20 summers. He enjoyed visiting with his coffee drinking buddies, friends on the deck, golfing, maintaining a pretty yard and especially his grandchildren. A.J. was a member of Brownfield First Baptist Church. He is preceded in death by his parents.

A.J. is survived by his wife Jan of Brownfield; a daughter, Paige Townsley and husband Bill of Lubbock; a son, Preston Phillips of Brownfield; 2 grandchildren, Jenna and Blake Townsley of Lubbock; a sister, Wanda Pruitt and husband George of Picaune, MS; a brother, Weldon Phillips and wife Sue of Cartersville, GA.

USDA MILC Program Sign-up Ends Sept. 30

(Brownfield/TX), September 26, 2012 -Terry County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Josh Reames, reminds dairy producers that the deadline to sign-up for Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) benefits is September 30, 2012. Legislation has not been enacted to extend the MILC program past Sept. 30, 2012 through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

MILC compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

"It is important that dairy producers provide final production evidence and any supporting documentation for eligible months that MILC was in effect by November 1, 2012," said Reames.

Changes to the dairy operation start-month must be designated on FSA's form, "CCC-580M - Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Modification."

For more information about the MILC program, please contact the Terry County FSA office at 806 637 7666 or visit the web at: www.fsa.usda.gov/tx.

Capital Farm Credit Stockholders Receive \$55 Million in Cash

Levelland, Texas — Capital Farm Credit Board of Directors recently approved a \$55 million cash distribution by retiring a portion of previously-allocated equities.

Combined with cash patronage paid in the spring, Capital Farm Credit has returned record cash distributions totaling \$93.4 million, in 2012. Customers will receive their portion of the cash payment this fall. Capital Farm Credit has a long tradition of strong earnings and, in return, is able to share almost 100 percent of profits with its customers.

The ability to return patronage each year affirms Capital Farm Credit's mission to provide financing and related services to agriculture and rural America, and also affords its membership net borrowing costs lower than many competitors. "Capital Farm Credit values its customers and the more efficiently we operate, the more profits we can share," said Ben Novosad, chief executive officer.

"We believe this is a value-added service that sets us apart from other financial institutions."

Capital Farm Credit is the state's largest rural lender and has 95 years of experience providing financing to farmers, ranchers and other rural property owners.

For more information about Capital Farm Credit, its patronage program and its office locations, visit www.CapitalFarmCredit.com.



Terry County Youth Horse Club recently celebrated with a rodeo and awards. TCYHC members are Kurt Hogue, Allison Hogue, Landry Youngblood, Nick Youngblood, Tate McBee, Riley McBee, Ryder Day, Maggie Ridenour, Saer Senter, Sutton Senter, Seever Senter and Ava Grace Falls. Not pictured is sponsor Katie Day.



The Wellman-Union cheerleaders have been assisted this year by a handful of Mini Cheerleaders. The Varsity squad includes: Sierra Wheatley, Celeste Bailey, Lexi Olivias, Madison White, Maria Gonzales, Breck Faught, Jordan Conner, Risa McQueen and Grace Franke. They are pictured with: Megan Huff, Bailey Neil, Ashlynn Bennett, Jennifer de la Torre, Allison Hogue, Landry Youngblood, Valeria Rios, Sadie Crowley, Alyssa Inguez, Mary Lou Garcia, Swayzee Harlen, Ode Chavez, Kayley Cavazos, Keeli USSary, Alyssa Cavazos, Jerzee Harlen, Adison Burns, Sayge Wise, Anastazea Valdez and Zoye Wise.

Commissioners approve new truck purchase, audit

Terry County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to purchase a new dump truck for Precinct 1 and a truck and trailer for Road and Bridge.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Mike Swain said he knew of an available 1998 model with only 94,000 miles for \$21,250, and Precinct 2 Commissioner Kirby Keese said he was aware of a truck and water trailer in Meadow. They would be funded \$10,000 from the Road and Bridge fund and the rest through capital outlay.

The commissioners also approved travel expenses for jailer David Valentin to attend a conference, agreed to contract a 2011 independent financial audit and to keep sheriff's and constable fees at their current amounts.

"I think we're still in line with most of our surrounding counties," said Sheriff Larry Gil-

breath.

Terry County Clerk Kim Carter announced that a new position would allow for an administrator to oversee all elections from the dozen or so entities that have them, including Brownfield, Wellman and Meadow City Councils and school districts and the hospital and water district boards. A committee will discuss the criteria they are seeking from that employee, then appoint the position.

"We're trying to put all entities together for elections to be housed under one position," Carter said.

Carter said she will present more information about the joint election administration position during the next commissioners meeting, set for Tuesday, Oct. 9 because their regularly-scheduled Monday meeting time falls on Columbus Day.