



**Brownfield.....35**  
**Kermitt.....18**



**Meadow .....55**  
**Whiteface .....24**



**Wildcats .....0**  
**Dawson .....50**

**75¢**

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# THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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16 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS

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## Nearly 20% of local voters cast ballots early

Almost 20 percent of registered voters made their way to the Terry County Clerk's office in the first week of early voting to cast their ballot in the Nov. 6 General Election, which includes several local races and is highlighted by the race for United States President.

Early voting kicked off at 8:30 a.m. Monday in the County Clerk's office, located temporarily in the American Legion building on Seagraves Hwy and at press time Friday 1400 people had voted.

Early voting will continue from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday until November 2.

Polls across the county will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 6.

State officials report that Texans turned out in high numbers across the state in the first week of early voting, setting records in some places.

The Texas secretary of state's office reported Tuesday that more than 378,000 people cast early ballots in the state's 15 most populous counties on Monday, either by mail or in person.

In Terry County, 302 citizens voted on Monday, 279 on Tuesday, 219 on Wednesday and another 219 on Thursday, with 246 casting a ballot Friday.

Officials expect more than half of Texans will cast their ballots before Election Day on Nov. 6.

Unlike on Election Day, voters may cast their ballots at any polling station within their home county.

Locally contested races highlight the ballot this year in Terry County for Sheriff, County Attorney and County Commissioner.

To help voters prepare, a sample ballot is included on Page 14 of this issue.

In the Sheriff's race, incumbent Republican Larry Gilbreath is being challenged by Democrat Albert Flores, a longtime

deputy in the department.

This is Gilbreath's first election cycle since he won the office as a challenger in 2008 when he defeated Jerry Johnson.

Incumbent Democrat Ramon Gallegos will try to maintain his post as County Attorney against political newcomer Jo'Shae Ferguson-Worley, a Republican.

Gallegos has been elected to the post twice before.

In the Commissioners' race in Precinct 3, former commissioner Don Robertson, a Republican, is vying for the position he held prior to his defeat in the 2008 race by current commissioner Shorty Martinez.

Cecil Castilleja, also a newcomer to the local political scene, is running for the Precinct 3 seat as a Democrat.

In the 19th Congressional District race, Lubbock Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer will face off with Libertarian challenger Richard (Chip) Peterson, also of Lubbock.

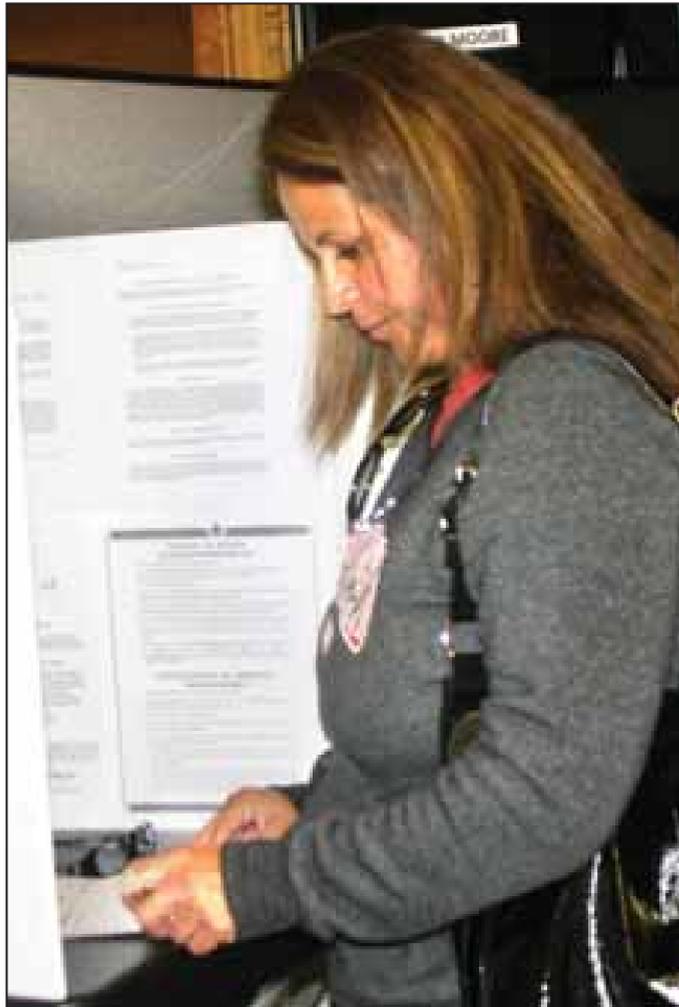
The 19th Congressional District of Texas, which includes Terry County, spans a 27 county area of West Texas, including the cities of Abilene, Big Spring, and Lubbock. Altogether, the district covers over 29,000 square miles from the New Mexico border through the South Plains and across West Texas and the Big Country.

Neugebauer, who was first elected to office through a special election in 2003, is seeking his fifth term of office.

Peterson is a Professor Emeritus at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and previously was a professor of finance and holder of the I. Wylie and Elizabeth Briscoe Chair of Bank Management for TTU and former CEO of Lubbock Asset Management Co.

Aside from the 2012 Presidential race between President Barack Obama and

See VOTING...Page 16



Voter Angie Garcia carefully reviews her ballot. Early voting will continue through Friday.

As per tradition, the *Brownfield News* will monitor the harvest with weekly bale counts from the county's gins.

### 2012 Bale Count

Lone Star.....	2,556
Meadow Co-op.....	3,900
Southwest.....	8,021
Terry County.....	3,961
West.....	957
Needmore.....	1,854
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,249</b>

## Adopt-A-Teacher program draws 120 volunteers

More than 120 Brownfield residents volunteered for a new Adopt-A-Teacher program designed to show community support for more than 200 faculty and staff members that keep Brownfield's schools running.

Organizers have paired each volunteer with Bisd employees and are ready for the program to kick off.

"The information forms filled out by the school employees have been attached to the forms provided by each volunteer and are ready to be picked up," said Brian Brisendine, co-founder of the new program. "We have a file folder stuffed with forms and we're asking everyone who volunteered to come by the Brownfield News and find their form."

The forms are organized alphabetically in the folder and contain personal information that will allow the volunteers to get to know their adopted school employees.

All the organizers ask of the volunteers is their support for the teacher or staff member they adopt for the duration of the school year.

There is no monetary involvement and no time commitment.

The Adopt-A-Teacher program will pair a volunteer from the community with each Bisd employee who signed up, including teachers, aides, administrators and staff.

The majority of volunteers asked to be paired with more than one school employee.

Every employee who opted to join the program was paired with a community member.

Program co-founder Kathy Henson said volunteers will get a group-wide e-mail occasionally reminding them to wish their adopted employee well.

"They are all a part of taking care of our kids," she said. "So they all deserve to know that the community appreciates them for what they do every day. It took a little time to organize everyone, but we've got it done and we're excited to see where this goes and we're confident it will help our teachers and administrators and everyone involved with our schools to know that they have the support of our community behind them."

Volunteers can pick up their Adopt-A-Teacher information between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the *Brownfield News*, 409 W. Hill.

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## Senior Center plans change again

Plans for a new home for the Brownfield Senior Citizens have changed once again after county commissioners were shocked by steep bids received for construction of a new building.

County Judge Butch Wagner confirmed Thursday that an informal offer is on the table to purchase the Tahoka Road Church of Christ, which has sat empty for several years at the corner of Cub Drive and Tahoka Rd.

The Senior Citizens have been pinning for a new home for several years and the county undertook the project last year after fund raising efforts came up short.

Plans had been announced to build a new facility at 411 W. Hill where the Gibsons Building stood for decades.

That building was even demolished to make room for a new senior center, but Wagner said the county simply can't afford to build it.

"We started out talking around \$500,000 for this project," he said. "When we asked for bids and got all the numbers back, we were looking at a minimum of \$1.2 million and we just don't have that."

The current budget includes \$157,000 for a senior center and about \$200,000 remains from last year's county budget.

The judge said the former church building was revisited as a possible site for a senior center and he believes it is a good fit for what they need.

"It's a great location and it has good parking and several entrances and exits," he said. "It's in good shape and it will be a nice place with only a few modifications."

If the county is successful in purchasing the church, remodeling will include enlarging the kitchen and expanding the dining area.

Classrooms within the church will suffice for activity rooms requested in the new facility, such as places for the seniors to quilt, play games or work on computers.

The existing sanctuary could be

left as is, or remodeled as a meeting room for community events.

"There are a lot of possibilities, but nothing has been decided yet because we don't own the building yet," Wagner said. "Our attorneys

are still working out who all is involved so that we can get a clear title and deed for the building."

The seniors currently are housed in the former Wheatley School house across the railroad tracks on the city's northwest side.

The aging building is no longer adequate to meet the seniors' needs, according to spokespersons for their organization.

See CHASE...Page 4

## Pair charged in chase through county



Dimber Garcia

Two motorcyclists were eventually apprehended Thursday afternoon after they led multiple law-enforcement agencies on a chase through eastern Terry and western Lynn Counties.

Dimber Garcia, 23, and Josue Orozco, 20, both of Odessa, are each charged with evading arrest in a vehicle, a state jail felony.

According to reports, Garcia and



Josue Orozco

Orozco were riding through Tahoka on motorcycles known as crotch rockets when police in that town attempted to stop them for speeding. But rather than pull over, they continued north onto

Hwy. 87 and into Lubbock County.

As Terry County sheriff's deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers joined the pursuit, their speed only increased, at times approaching

150 miles per hour. They turned back south and then around F.M. 168 before Orozco landed uninjured in a plowed field. Troopers quickly apprehended him at the scene as the other motorcyclist fled.

The other rider - later identified as Garcia - raced south on F.M. 168 toward U.S. Hwy. 380, east toward Tahoka. Officers lost sight of him, but then spotted him hiding near a vehicle off the highway about 12 miles west of Tahoka, five miles east of the Terry County line.

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## State agency OKs doubling electric prices

From AP, Staff reports

AUSTIN — The Texas Public Utility Commission voted Thursday to double the cap on wholesale electricity prices over the next three years.

The commission said raising prices is necessary to encourage more plant construction and prevent power outages in areas served by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The maximum wholesale rate will rise from \$4,500 a megawatt hour now to \$5,000 in June 2013, \$7,000 in June 2014 and \$9,000 in June 2015.

The commission has oversight only over ERCOT, which covers most of Texas, except for the El Paso region, far southeast Texas, and the Panhandle region -- including Brownfield and Terry County.

Brownfield is a member of the West Texas Municipal Power Agency, along with Lubbock, Floydada and Tulia.

The four cities band together to purchase wholesale power from Xcel Energy.

City Manager Eldon Jobe said Brownfield traditionally enjoys some of the lowest municipal electricity rates of any city in the state.

"Our wholesale price has averaged between 4.5- to 5-cents per kilowatt hour," he said. "That's been a very good rate for us."

WTMPA currently is exploring generation and/or purchasing options for when its current wholesale agree-

ment with Xcel expires in 2019.

The electric provider has notified WTMPA and its four member cities that it will not renew the contract at that time, instead selling the power at a premium in larger, energy hungry population centers of the state.

"The issue does not pertain to electricity customers in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains regions because we are served from a different power grid where wholesale power is regulated by the federal government, not by the state of Texas," said Wes Reeves, Media Relations for Xcel Energy in Texas and New Mexico, via an e-mail obtained by the *Brownfield News* on Thursday.

Xcel Energy supplies the many other communities on the South Plains, Texas Panhandle and southeastern New Mexico region with primary power resources.

Xcel Energy's operating company Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) is one of the traditionally regulated companies operating outside the ERCOT region.

The Xcel Energy system in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains is in the Southwest Power Pool on the eastern electricity grid.

The Xcel Energy system has no direct connections to ERCOT or its power market, and therefore is not affected by reliability or pricing issues in ERCOT.

In Texas's minute-by-minute market, the cap was reached only once this year and prices are normally much lower. Yet consumer groups complain that wholesale

price increases can trickle down to monthly household electric bills for most Texans.

PUC Chairwoman Donna Nelson said the market needs higher prices to guarantee there is enough electricity during peak periods.

She said she would also like to see the commission to establish a required minimum reserve of electricity to prevent outages, but that she did not have the support of the full three-member board.

State officials have warned that higher prices are needed to encourage companies to build more power plants as the Texas population grows.

Industry experts say companies that operate the state's power plants are losing money because prices are too low for most of the year and they only make money during the hottest summer and coldest winter months.

Texas customers only pay for electricity that reaches the grid, not for companies to keep spare capacity available in case of an emergency.

ERCOT tries to maintain a 13.75 percent reserve, but with more demand and less generation, that will become increasingly difficult in the future.

Nelson said Thursday's vote was only an interim step and that Texas may eventually have to adopt a system that pays power plants to maintain excess capacity, even if it's not immediately needed.

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Sat 10/27	Sun 10/28	Mon 10/29	Tue 10/30	Wed 10/31



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