

# THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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10 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS

VOLUME 108, NO 87

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2012

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## City sees continued construction

Two local construction sites are at opposite ends of the building spectrum -- one ramping up and the other winding down.

Foundation work has begun at the site of the future Brownfield Public Safety Building which will house the police department and eventually the fire department.

The building will house the city's police force in a 7,200 square foot state-of-the-art facility, as well as a 2,500 square foot lecture hall. Planning for the building has been underway for months and construction will last more than a year.

Contracts for the \$2.3 million project were executed in September and city officials celebrated with a gold-shovel ground breaking earlier this month.

Pharr & Company, already busy in Brownfield with the school district's bond projects, submitted the best of three sealed bids, later approved by the city council at \$2,330,000.

The entire project, including plans to add a new fire station on the building's west side, will be paid for using the city's reserves.

No new taxes or bonds will be passed to fund the venture.

This year's budget included \$750,000 for the planning and engineering phase.

Next year's budget, approved by the council last week, includes \$900,000 for construction.

The remaining portion of construction costs will be included in the next budget, thereby spreading the amount over three consecutive budget cycles.

Construction is underway and the location has been secured west of the Alamo between Main and Broadway streets on the former location of Brownfield Intermediate School.

The police headquarters will face south with frontage on Broadway, with ample parking for visitors included in the plans.

More parking, yard equipment storage and an emergency backup generator will be on the north side of the building.

Currently, the police station is located in the former post office at the corner of Hill and 5th streets.

That building -- an historical landmark -- has been renovated several times, but the department has outgrown it.

Also included in the new facility is a lecture hall, which eventually will be

sandwiched between the police and fire departments.

The lecture hall will incorporate tiered seating and is designed to accommodate 60 people.

The layout calls for five rows of chairs each row stair stepped down to where a lecturer can stand in view of everyone. The room will be fitted with audio-visual equipment for presentations.

The hall will be fully handicapped accessible and will have its own entrance on the north side of the building.

City administrators plan to allow the public to use the training facility for meetings and lectures for a fee.

City Manager Eldon Jobe said at the ground breaking the new facilities have been talked about at City Hall for several years and he is glad to finally move forward with the project.

"I'm especially glad the council has opted not to seek bonds to pay for it, but will instead just pay as we go using reserves," he said early in the planning stage. "I think in this economy, that's the best way to go."

Jobe said he suspects that the council will opt to let reserves replenish for a few years before undertaking the addition of the fire department.

The fire department plans are just beginning, but the preliminary design is for a drive-thru facility negating the need to back the trucks into a parking garage.

The trucks would exit the building north onto Main street, giving them access to the traffic light at the intersection with Lubbock Hwy.

Total cost of the project in its entirety, including the police and fire departments, training hall, furnishings and landscaping is roughly \$4.5 million.

The project currently in its final stages already has proved to be a popular addition to the city.

The Field House at Cub Stadium is being readied this week for installation of artificial turf inside the indoor training facility.

The Cub athletes have been utilizing the field house locker rooms for several weeks, but have not yet gained access to the adjoining training facility.

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Sergio Zubia, left, and Javier Ontiveros worked Tuesday afternoon on the outline of the foundation for the new Public Safety Building under construction at the former site of Intermediate School. The building is one of several large construction projects currently underway in the city.

## Pair charged with organized crime, burglary



Stephen Mendoza



Julian Martinez

Two local teens were arrested this week on suspicion that they broke into multiple vehicles in southeast Brownfield.

Stephen Mendoza, 18, and Julian Martinez, 17, are charged with theft of a firearm, debit or credit card abuse and engaging in organized criminal activity, all state jail felonies; and with three counts of burglary of a vehicle, a class A misdemeanor.

They were eventually charged after Brownfield police received a series of vehicle-burglary reports Oct. 3 in East Reppito and surrounding streets. Investigation led them toward Mendoza, Martinez and a third suspect who has not yet been arrested.

The suspects were questioned and confessed. Meanwhile, detectives from the Brownfield Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division recovered most of the property stolen from the vehicles - including a gun and credit cards, the theft of which are felony offenses - and formed warrants for their arrest.

Martinez turned himself in to police Saturday afternoon when he learned of the outstanding warrant. Mendoza turned himself in Monday morning, while the third suspect awaits arrest.

Both Martinez and Mendoza remain in the Terry County Jail as of press time. Martinez' total bond has been set at \$11,500 and Mendoza's at \$27,000.



Lt. Tye Langehennig and K-9 officer Custo demonstrate a drug search. Narcotics officers with the Brownfield Police Department presented an anti-drug assembly at Brownfield Middle School Tuesday morning.

## BMS kids say no to drugs

By JOSIE MUSICO  
Staff Writer

Brownfield Middle School kids plan to stay drug-free, thanks to lessons from some four-legged crime-fighters.

Brownfield Police Department K-9 officers Custo and Cliff hosted a campus-wide anti-drug assembly Tuesday morning with help from their human companions, Lt. Tye Langehennig and Sgt. Joshua Coronado.

The sixth-through-eighth-graders learned that Custo and Cliff had been through rigorous special training to seek illegal drugs, and played a major role in BPD and other law enforcement agencies' drug-searches of vehicles and residences.

They also found out some of the things that could happen to them if they tried those substances themselves. A run-in with the K-9s and accompanying jail time could be just one of several unfortunate consequences.

"I learned that people that take their first hit get addicted to it and become bad people," said Ruben Cabrera, 13.

The guest speakers also told the group the story behind Red Ribbon Week, observed each October in honor of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. After successfully investigating multiple cases that led to arrests of high-ranking drug cartel leaders and confiscating thousands of pounds of drugs, Kiki was captured while working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico, then tortured for days and killed.

Residents of Kiki's hometown of Calexico, Calif., began wearing red ribbons in his honor and as a symbol for drug-abuse prevention. The tradition was soon adopted throughout the country.

"They wanted everyone to know they supported Kiki and everything he was doing to keep drugs off the streets," Langehennig said. "We take a week to wear our ribbons and show where we stand on drugs. When you wear the ribbon you're backing Kiki - it has more to do than just saying no to drugs."

Langehennig said his own narcotics investigations had introduced him to drug dealers and users who now faced a bleak future in an 8x10 prison cell, thanks to a bad decision to try drugs once that had them instantly hooked. Avoiding a similar lifestyle was up to them and as simple as the word "no," he said.

"They didn't choose that life - they fell into it," he said. "Say no to that first hit. Make your good decisions now."

The middle schoolers told the *Brownfield News* they now know exactly which two-letter word to say if someone offers them drugs, and why they should say it.

"I learned that there's many dope dealers, and you can get sentenced to one to five years," said Analyssa Gonzales, 14. "I learned not to be on drugs," added Audrie Brock, 12.

Fidencio Sifuentes, 12, said he learned, "Not to be on drugs and never run from a K-9."

Marcos Alaniz, 12, agreed, "Never take drugs and don't be a drug dealer."

## Harvest underway in county

Peanuts are almost all harvested locally and cotton is about halfway there in Terry County, according to agents with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

And in an unexpected twist, the crops are yielding opposite of predictions.

Peanuts are faring better than expected. Cotton, not so much.

"The peanuts that got some timely rains and decent water from irrigation have yielded much better than we thought they would," said agent

Scott Russell. "We had many growers focused their water on smaller pieces of land, instead of trying to spread it out so much. So they're harvesting fewer acres, but they're getting better results."

Peanuts are more than 85 percent harvested locally, according to crop reports filed last week by agent Chris Bishop.

"We've just about got these peanuts knocked out around here," he said. "I expect we'll be completely done (harvesting peanuts) by the end of the week."

The area's King crop -- cotton -- is not living up to expectations, the agents said, blaming the disappointing yields on continued drought.

"Last year was the driest we've ever been and this year we're still only about half way to normal," Bishop said.

To date, Brownfield has received 9.84 inches of rain in 2012, according to the Texas Tech Mesonet.

The city averages more than twice that amount in a normal year.

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Numbers  
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