



Brownfield.....45
Denver City ...44



Meadow55
Harmony.....0



Wildcats60
Sands66

75¢

(USPS 067-880)

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

www.brownfieldonline.com

16 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS

VOLUME 108, NO 90

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012

© 2012 The Brownfield News. All rights reserved. All items contained in this newspaper are property of the Brownfield News.

Sears takes veteran honor flight



Odell Sears

Lifelong Brownfield resident and former businessman Odell Sears is like countless members of his generation, who were pulled from their everyday lives as young men almost 70 years ago, sent across the world to fight some of the most horrific battles in history, then-- the lucky ones -- came home to live a normal life.

Those men started families and businesses all over these United States and went on to be known as "The Greatest Generation," with few people, other than their fellow veterans, really knowing what they went through in the second World War.

As those hardened warriors are now entering, or already in, their 90s, many of their descendants are trying to pay tribute, as well as garner as much information about their experiences as possible.

Sears was one of dozens of area veterans selected for the South Plains Honor Flight that took them at no expense to the nation's capital last month to visit several memorials honoring veterans of numerous wars.

"It was a wonderful trip that I am grateful to have been a part of," he told the *Brownfield News* recently. "Walking through those memorials and visiting with other veterans brought back a lot of memories."



Odell Sears at the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

Sears said there were uniformed men from reserve units, law enforcement agencies and other public servants saluting the group of old veterans in airports and at assembly places as they traveled.

In Washington D.C. school kids touring the capital went out of their way to shake their hands many times.

"We visited memorials to all branches of military service, veteran memorials for World War II, Korea and Vietnam and the Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier," he said. "We presented wreaths at each stop. We met [U.S. Rep.] Randy Neugebauer at the Capitol."

Sons, daughters, wives and even grandchildren accompanied many of the veterans. About 20 were in wheelchairs. Volunteers kept the group together.

Sears said he was grateful his wife, Louise, was allowed to take the trip with him. He likely wouldn't have gone if she didn't.

The trip was planned, organized and paid for by America Supports You Texas. There was no cost to the selected veterans who participated.

Sears was on his family farm southwest of Brownfield on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, 1941 when his father returned from town and shared the news of the attack at Pearl Harbor.

The family owned a radio, but it hadn't been turned on yet that day.

In 1942, four of his uncles went into the military and in February, 1943, he was drafted as well, and eventually, so was his younger brother.

The Terry County boys who left on the bus for training with him included Harold Stice, Sam Garcia, Roy Ervin, Newell Reed, Nolan Little, Tooter Mason, Mont Hamm, Bennett Jordan, Olet Burnett and James Mullins.

The group went by bus to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, but Sears would eventually train in numerous locations before being deployed overseas.

It was at Fort Lewis, Washington, Sears was informed he was to be a part of the 739th Tank Battalion and would train with six other battalions making up the 10th Tank group.

The battalion eventually ended up in Fort Knox, Kentucky, where they were converted into a top-secret outfit, individually investigated by the FBI and sworn to secrecy, which would stay intact for the next 40 years.

In 1983, the battalion's activities were finally made public and the men were allowed to talk about what they did -- primarily, training with the second-most secretive weapon in WWII after the atom bomb.

"The British developed an incredibly bright spotlight that we attached to our canons that was supposed to blind and confuse the enemy across a battlefield," Sears said. "They were so bright that you could see a man half a mile away in the dead of night and it looked like he was standing in front of you."

The lights also were designed to pulse and flash and change colors to further disorient the enemy during battle.

However, because of the hedgerows on the German battlefields, the lights were not as effective as hoped.

"As far as I know, we only used the lights twice," Sears said. "Once to cross a river."

Odell was engaged to Louise before he deployed overseas and mailed her money for an engagement ring.

Like most American GIs, he made the trip across the Atlantic on a ship, as part of a convoy of 92 ships.

Sears saw battle and sustained heavy fire numerous times during his tour in Europe.



2012 Bale Count

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

2012 Bale Count

Lone Star	8,789
Meadow Co-op	9,728
Southwest	17,014
Terry County	11,600
West	2,700
Needmore	6,376
Total	56,207

County sales tax rebate up 8.2% from '11

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today that state sales tax revenue in October was \$2.03 billion, up 8.2 percent compared to October 2011.

"The state's growth in sales tax revenue continued to be led by collections from the oil and natural gas-related sectors," said Combs. "We also saw strong consumer spending drive gains in retail trade and the restaurant sector as well."

Combs will send November local sales tax allocations totaling \$611.5 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 5.4 percent compared to November 2011.

The city of Brownfield's November check is in the amount of \$127,352, a seven percent decrease

See SALES TAX...Page 4



City of Brownfield workers were busy Thursday installing a new sign that will adorn the entrance to the Brownfield Family Aquatic Center. The metal frame was set with concrete and a brick and mortar base will surround it. The sign is expected to be finished next week.

Reception to entertain wine fans

If you like good wine and good times, the Brownfield Chamber of Commerce has a night in store for you.

The third annual Terry County Grape Growers Reception is now set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church fellowship hall. Tickets are \$35 and available at the Chamber.

Guests will receive samples of a variety of different locally-produced wines, as well as a full meal this year. Organizers are still finalizing menu options, but will likely serve lasagne, salad and a chocolate dessert.

By featuring Terry County wines, chamber staff and volunteers hope the reception will help promote

one of the area's fastest-growing businesses, as well as give guests an unforgettable evening.

"It's going to be a fun event and a great success," said co-organizer Buzz Timmons. "It's going to spotlight a growing industry in Terry County."

They also anticipate a good crowd, and encourage the community to attend.

"It's a public event - we invite anyone who's interested to buy tickets," Timmons said.

The Lubbock restaurant D'Vine Wines will participate, and a silent auction with wine baskets and Christmas trees will be held through the event.

For more information, call 637-2564.

See VETERAN...Page 4

Sat 11/10	Sun 11/11	Mon 11/12	Tue 11/13	Wed 11/14



Scan the QR Code to the left and jump directly to "Your Home on the Web" www.brownfieldonline.com