

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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VOLUME 108, NO 2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013

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Local Weather

Sun 1/6 50/25
Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.

Mon 1/7 52/32
Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.

Tue 1/8 47/34
Occasional showers possible. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Gentle snow blankets area

Terry County residents were on the far northern boundary of a winter storm which brought between one and two inches of snowfall to the area Thursday night and Friday morning.

A passing storm disturbance from northern Mexico made its way into the Permian Basin region in waves Thursday, bringing up to 8-to-10 inches of snow fall in the West Texas mountain region.

The snows, which were heaviest along the I-10 and I-20 corridors, forced the closure of the two interstate roadways west of Fort Stockton and west of Monahans, respectively.

The Texas Department of Transportation says I-10 in the Anthony and El Paso area reopened early Friday.

Sections of I-10 in the Van Horn area, about 110 miles southeast of El Paso, remained closed due to ice and blowing snow that affected visibility.

The El Paso regional office of the National

Weather Service, which had reported up to 3 inches of snow by nightfall Thursday, also stated U.S. 62/180 from El Paso's eastern outskirts to the New Mexico border -- which included Guadalupe Pass -- was closed through Friday morning due to weather conditions.

No roadway closures were experienced within the Terry County region, as traffic continued at a normal pace Friday morning.

West Texas west of San Angelo and south of the Midland-Odessa area was under a winter storm warning throughout Thursday.

Up to eight inches of snow, with isolated amounts approaching 10 inches, was reported in an area which included Marfa, Alpine and Fort Davis as the storm moved across the region.

About 4 to 6 inches was reported between El Paso and the Pecos River, as well as portions of the southern Permian Basin.

The National Weather Service's Midland re-

gional office estimated snowfall totals from 2 to 4 inches of in the Midland/Odessa, Andrews, Big Spring and Crane areas, as 1 to 3 inches was reported in the Edward's Plateau to the rolling plains region.

As of early Friday morning, no roadway accidents or weather-related incidents had been reported by officials with the Terry County Sheriff's Dept. or Brownfield Police Dept. during the snow event.

No local governmental entity closures or delays were reported from Friday's snow fall within Terry County, as the late night/early morning snowfall accumulations slowly melted away into the weekend, where high temperatures were anticipated to be in the mid-50s.

Early weather forecast models on Friday indicated the region had a slight chance for rainfall precipitation on Monday, but didn't offer any precipitation percentages as of press time.

Frosty Play on a Snowy Day

Five-year-old Haden Paris braved the cold temperatures Friday morning to play in the snow in his yard. A winter storm brought a fresh blanket of powdery snow to Terry County, while higher totals were reported further south.



Phone scams target local families

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

Hearing that a family member is in trouble can cause anyone to panic.

But unfortunately, some poorly-motivated non-family members are all too aware of that common reaction.

A few victims just learned the hard way that callers might not always be who they claim, and local law enforcement wish to remind residents to be aware of these dangerous phone-based scams.

One local family, for instance, recently lost a significant amount of money after they received a call from someone claiming to represent a Mexican jail in which a relative was incarcerated. The prisoner could be released and sent home only if his relatives immediately wired bail money, the caller said. Concerned for his well-being, the desperate family pooled their savings together and sent about \$12,000 to Mexico, only to learn later that they were victims in a cold-blooded scam.

The Brownfield Police Department wishes to warn other potential victims, and recommends recipients of similar calls control their emotions and learn more about the situation before they rush to the bank.

"Notify us, and don't send any money," said Chief of Police Tony Serbantez. "Verify who it is. Let law enforcement assist in verifying the legitimacy of the call."

Call BPD immediately at 637-2511, and make a few other calls to determine the correct whereabouts of the allegedly-incarcerated relative. You might also call back the agency from which the caller was claiming to represent, and having been instructed not to do so should raise red flags.

Retail workers who oversee money-wiring transactions should not be afraid to ask questions to customers about suspicious payments, the chief added.

"I would like to see merchants who have Western Union, if possible, to alert people about these scams when they wire large amounts of money," he said.

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"Fiscal Cliff" bill vote

Past its own New Year's deadline, a weary Congress sent President Barack Obama legislation to avoid a national "fiscal cliff" of middle class tax increases and spending cuts late Tuesday night in the culmination of a struggle that strained America's divided government to the limit.

The bill's passage on a bipartisan 257-167 vote in the House sealed a hard-won political triumph for the president less than two months after he secured re-election while calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

Moments later, Obama strode into the White House briefing room and declared, "Thanks to the votes of Republicans and Democrats in Congress I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans while preventing tax hikes that could have sent the economy back into recession."

One Republican that did not vote for the bill's passage was Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, who represents Terry County and the South Plains in House District 19.

Rep. Neugebauer said in an e-mail to constituents that he was not satisfied with the bill that passed.

"The last few days have been extremely disappointing," he said. "I promised my constituents to always vote for what I believe is in the best interest of West Texas and our country,

and after carefully reviewing H.R. 8, the fiscal cliff deal negotiated by the Senate, I decided this legislation did not meet that standard."

Neugebauer, who was re-elected in November, said he feels the American people work hard for their money and deserve to keep as much of it as possible.

"They already pay a substantial amount in taxes," he said. "I think it's irresponsible that our government isn't addressing its spending problem, but simply asking Americans for more money."

"What's worse, this plan increases our \$16.4 trillion national debt by nearly \$4 trillion. The President campaigned on the fact we need to address the nation's exploding debt. He called on Congress to increase revenues and implement spending cuts. But in the end, the President and the Senate put together a bill that will push America further down the path to bankruptcy."

In addition to neutralizing middle class tax increases and spending cuts taking effect with the new year, the legislation will raise tax rates on incomes over \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for couples.

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County attorney takes office, names staff

Newly sworn in as Terry County Attorney, Jo'Shae Ferguson-Worley is enthusiastic about the challenges ahead and the staff who will help her meet them.

The prosecutor's office will now contain a mixture of new and familiar faces when it reopens Wednesday morning.

Returning from the previous ad-

ministration are Assistant County Attorney Elias Garcia and misdemeanor clerk Gerry Gonzales. Ferguson-Worley also hired Michael Hobson as her investigator, Teresa Barraza as crime victims coordinator, Ashley Haynes as felony secretary and Blair Thompson as the hot check secretary.

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brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Should lawmakers raise the Medicare eligibility age as part of any deal to reduce the government's huge deficits?

YES (28% / 24 votes)

NO (72% / 63 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 87

Published 12-14-12 thru 1-3-13

Brownfield Crime line

The Brownfield Police Department is seeking information about the following burglaries:

- Unknown suspects broke into a business located in the 400 block of North Sixth Street sometime between Dec. 7 and 10 and stole a television.

- Unknown suspects broke into a business in the 300 block of West Main Street sometime between Dec. 14 and 15 and stole a television and an undetermined amount of cash.

The Brownfield Crime Line will pay a cash reward for information that leads to an arrest and indictment of suspects in either case. To report your knowledge of those offenses, please call 637-2511.

