

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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12 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS VOLUME 109, NO 6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013

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Local Weather

Sun 1/20	61/28	
Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.		
Mon 1/21	52/32	
Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.		
Tue 1/22	61/35	
Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.		

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Ready or Not: Road Construction

After more than a year of planning and gathering input from city officials and the public, TxDOT plans to revamp the main highway running through Brownfield, including a complete face-lift of the city's southernmost entrance, are a step closer to reality.

TxDOT officials announced in 2011 that a \$12 million, year-long project to update Hwy 62-82 through the city could include removal of the access roads along the Seagraves Highway.

The specs for the project were let for bids this month Area Engineer Jim Combes said the projected cost actually came in lower than expected.

"It came back below \$11 million," he told the *Brownfield News*. "The project will probably be approved by the end of the month

and I would expect them to probably want to go to work pretty soon after that."

Combes said the contractor, Allen Butler of Lubbock, will likely want to do as much as possible in the summer months and portions of the job will need to be done while school is out of session.

"So I figure they'll jump in and get it going pretty soon," he added.

The plans include scouring the existing roadway to its base, then resurfacing it beginning at the city's northern city limits and finishing at the southern border.

Some intersections along the route will be completely remade, using concrete instead of pavement materials.

The concrete holds up to the wear and tear of increased truck traffic better than pavement, the officials said.

New sidewalks and handicap ramps will be added the entire length of the project, as well as new lighting, according to the officials.

Changes also will be made to the intersection of the Lubbock and Levelland highways, where sweeping turning lanes are currently in place.

Those lanes will be removed and a 90-degree entrance to the highway will be constructed, possibly also of concrete.

"Those merging lanes are dangerous, because you have to look far over your shoulder to enter the highway going south," said Kylan Francis, transportation engineer, at a public forum last fall. "This will make it much easier to drive from [Hwy] 385 onto [Hwy] 62."

See CONSTRUCTION...Page 4



Dusty Timmons admires the groundwork for what will soon be the headquarters of a new wine- and juice-processing facility. Texas Custom Wine Works will be fully constructed and operational in less than three months, he anticipates.

Wine Company Breaks Ground

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

The ground is nearly ready, and in a couple more months so will the wine.

Texas Custom Wine Works broke ground this week, preparing dirt for their foundation. The next step will be to pour cement, then construct a 16,500 square-foot building that will be operational for wine production nearly immediately.

TCWW President Mike Sipowicz told the *Brownfield News* the company was just pre-approved for a loan they had been seeking and was more than ready to begin construction.

"We got all the paperwork and financing taken care of," he said.

The facility, located southwest of town just off C.R. 460 between F.M. 403 and the Lamesa Highway, will provide services to the Texas wine industry such as grape crushing and wine processing, incubating and storage. They are in various stages of contract with a prospective client list of about eight-to-10 wine and juice companies.

"We'll try to fill whatever need that a winery or stores have," said co-manager Dusty Timmons.

Timmons added that after months of unfortunate delays anxiously awaiting loan-approval announcements and business negotiations, he planned to waste no time on construction. The building should be complete and ready for wine production within the next two-and-a-half months, he said, unless any unexpected rain showers delay the groundwork.

"We're really excited about it," he said. "It's been a slow and frustrating process."

TCWW was recently formed, but Sipowicz, Timmons and Jet Wilmeth and Steve Talcott, Ph.D. - the rest of the management team - all have backgrounds in business, horticulture and wine and food processing.

As the *News* reported in August, the company chose to come to Brownfield after negotiating with Director of Economic Development David Partlow for more than six months.

In accordance with terms of an incentive package from the Brownfield Industrial Development Corporation, TCWW will purchase 10 acres of land in the Industrial Park for \$35,000, divided into \$7,000 annual payments for five years. TCWW must remain open five years and have 12 full-time employees to receive the offer. Sipowicz said those jobs will include vineyard management,

See WINE WORKS...Page 4

Drummer earns All-State

Eliazar Gonzalez has come a long way to San Antonio.

Eli, a senior at Brownfield High School and the son of Carlos and Rachel Gonzalez, placed first in percussion in last weekend's Area Band Try-Outs at Lubbock-Cooper. His next contest will be Feb. 13-16 at the All-State Band Competition in San Antonio.

Before he was named All-State, Eli qualified as All-Region from a contest Dec. 8, also at Cooper. It's a big part of his future too - the drummer plans to try out next month for Texas Tech's band, and attend the university beginning next year to major in music education.

"Music is one of my favorite things, and it's what I want to go to college for," he told the *Brownfield News*.

Eli can perform all genres from rock 'n' roll to concert band and symphonic music. He can trace his musical ability to the seventh grade, when he watched his older brother, Pole Gonzalez, play a variety of instruments and decided to give his drum set a try of his own.

"It was an inspiration to me to pick up music," he said.

The drums can be a particularly tricky instrument to master and require intense concentration and coordination. Eli, though, kept at it the next five years, and with dedication and family support never gave up working to advance to state-level competitions, college and beyond.

"I didn't learn it overnight," he said. "It's been a long journey to get to where I am."



Eliazar Gonzalez - All-State Drummer

Dec. State sales tax revenue up 9.4%

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combes said today that state sales tax revenue in December was \$2.17 billion, up 9.4 percent compared to December 2011.

"Strong sales tax collections continue in most major economic sectors in Texas," said Combes. "The strongest growth was from business spending-driven sectors including oil and natural gas, manufacturing and construction."

Combes will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose

taxing districts their January local sales tax allocations totaling \$530.8 million, up 7.3 percent compared to January 2012.

Brownfield's rebate for the month is \$109,634.05, a 6.12% increase over the \$103,302.16 received in 2012.

Terry County saw a 29.64% increase for the month, receiving \$49,645.88 this January and \$38,294.43 in 2012.

The sales tax figures represent November sales reported by monthly tax filers.

See chart on Page 4.



brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Should the US Chamber of Commerce make the illegal immigration issue it's top priority?

YES (46% / 17 votes)
NO (46% / 17 votes)
UNDECIDED (8% / 3 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 37

Survey 1-15-13 thru 1-18-13

