

# THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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12 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS VOLUME 109, NO 6 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2013

## In Today's News



Local curriculum under fire by some Texas Legislators

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Oliver earns third honor as Top Brownfield Speller

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## Basketball Scores

Cubs .....67  
Stanton .....40

Lady Cubs .....67  
Stanton .....48

Broncos .....49  
Southland .....54

Lady Broncos ....30  
Southland .....31

Wildcats .....39  
Borden County ..75

Lady 'Cats .....29  
Borden County ..38

## Local Weather

Sat 2/2 62/33

Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.

Sun 2/3 64/42

Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.

Mon 2/4 69/37

Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.

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# New oil biz sees promising future

**By Brian Brisendine**  
The revitalization of the area's oil fields has been a hot topic of conversation for more than two years, since land men started swarming local title records. But the excitement of what it could mean for the local economy has been tinged with impatience as locals anticipate the arrival of new businesses and the jobs that follow.

Brownfield's proximity to the oil play, as well as the existence of an already-established and growing local business, attracted the attention of an

Arkansas-based company to locate in this community.

Spenko Solutions currently is renovating a building more than 70 years old adjacent to the railroad tracks near Powell and Seventh streets.

The company, which produces fracking fluid used by oil companies to drill new wells, could employ as many as 40 people when fully operational, according to Roy Spencer, company president.

"We produce a guar-based slurry that is completely environmentally

friendly," he said. "You could drink it. It won't taste good, but it won't hurt you. It's a non-hazmat product with no environmental concerns."

The presence of West Texas Guar in Brownfield lured Spenko to the city.

That facility, operated by Klint Forbes and Wade Cowan, processes the beans into powder known as guar

gum.

Spenko mixes that product with numerous others, including mineral oil into a green-colored liquid slightly thicker than chocolate milk.

"When we're up and running, this facility will produce one million gallons of this fluid per month," Spencer said. "That's enough to frack about 50 wells. If business calls for it, we'll expand further here to increase our production so we can meet the needs of the oil companies in the area. We predict that in 24 months, there will be some major oil play within a 100 mile radius and Brownfield is right in the middle of that."

The new company is committing to Brownfield in a big way. Purchasing and upgrading the building and land amounts to a \$700,000 capital investment to get up and running, he said, but their commitment doesn't end there.

"We are thrilled to be in Brownfield and we are going to be a part of this town," he said. "We're not going to live in Lubbock, we're going to live in Brownfield."

The company president added that if adequate housing can't be found for his employees, they will build it.

"We're already looking into building an apartment complex that could serve our employees and others who come here following the oil business," he said. "We've done that in other places and I'm more than comfortable doing that in Brownfield. We're in for the long haul. West Texas Guar has a fantastic product and there will be other companies that move this way to be close to them, so investing in real estate makes sense."

Managing the local property will be Caleb Spencer and Robert Linck, both of whom have moved to Brownfield and are currently renting homes in the city.

Hiring will begin soon and up to 15 positions will be filled in the first year of operations, with base pay of \$16 per hour, Spencer said.

The company purchased siding space on the rail line and will bring in raw materials by train car, process them at the local facility, then ship the final product out by truck.

Local truckers also will be hired.

Spencer also said his company would contract with others for use of the rail space, allowing them use of the lines to transport materials in and providing off-load services to their local facilities that don't have direct access to the tracks.

"That's another avenue of business that helps us and also helps recruit other companies here," he said. "If they need access to rail, but can't get it, we can provide that access through our operation."

Spenko currently operates in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Canada and South America.

The Brownfield facility will be its most state of the art yet.

"We see great things happening here and a lot more to come," Spencer said. "We're glad to be here. Everyone is so nice."



**Spenko Solutions,** an Arkansas-based oil and gas related business is renovating a decades-old building to facilitate its move to Brownfield. Spenko will employ 15 people initially with plans to expand to as many as 40 on its payroll, with big plans for state-of-the-art facilities and new housing locally.

## BIDCorp meeting goals

The Brownfield Industrial Development Corporation has been meeting most of its goals and working toward the rest, Director David Partlow announced Monday afternoon.

Partlow told BIDCorp's board of directors that he was pleased with some of what he had been able to accomplish during his first year as the city's economic-development director, but still had plenty of further plans regarding the city's business interests.

He reviewed the organization's 2012-13 Program of Work, which focuses on three main Areas of Development - Business Recruitment, Business Retention and Expansion and Marketing and Development. The plan describes each of the three areas and lists specific Goals and Action Steps to implement them.

For example, goals of expanding the Industrial Park and recruiting oilfield services and agricultural industries are all listed under the area of Business Recruitment, while "Develop incentive programs for existing businesses" is an Action Step under Business Retention and Expansion.

Partlow said recruiting oilfield services was a frustrating process but he had not given up, and he was worried he had not attracted enough agricultural businesses. BIDCorp board chairman Jay Youngblood responded that



Texas Custom Wine Works, one of their major projects, actually fell into that category.

Partlow continued that his newly-forming Business Retention Committee was working to meet goals in the second area, in which he also planned to develop an Individual Recognition Program.

BIDCorp's sales tax collected in January was \$36,545, about \$4,000 higher than December's but lower than that collected last fall.

## Swoopes featured in documentary

An ESPN documentary featuring Brownfield's most famous daughter, Sheryl Swoopes, is currently in the editing room stage of production, according to the film's director.

Johnson Mckelvy told the *Brownfield News* that his film crew will be back in the area this month for another round of shooting to complete the one-hour special, set to air on the network sometime this summer.

The crew spent an afternoon in Brownfield last October filming locations important to the basketball star's upbringing.

The documentary will be one of nine one-hour specials currently being produced by ESPN in a series titled "Nine On Nine" marking the 40th anniversary



of Title IX, evening the playing field for women's sports.

Swoopes led the Lady Cubs to a state championship in 1988 under the tutelage of head coach Dickie Faught, now in Seminole.

She went on to win two national championships at the junior college level as a star for the South Plains College Lady Texans.

She also led the Texas Tech Lady Raiders to that program's only national title in 1993.

Swoopes is a two-time Olympic gold medalist and a four time league MVP for the WNBA.

The documentary, according to its producers, will also focus on her life off the court, which has generated headlines for almost two decades.

The producers also shot video in Houston and Lubbock for the documentary and talked to several famous figures in Swoopes' life, including her college coach Marsha Sharp and NBA legend Michael Jordan.

The documentary series will start being teased and promoted by the network with a series of commercials set to air soon on ESPN, Mckelvy said.

Further details will be provided closer to the air date.

## brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Should the County Commissioners fund part of the Fire departments budget?

YES (88% / 42 votes)  
NO (13% / 6 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 48  
Survey 1-29-13 thru 2-1-13

