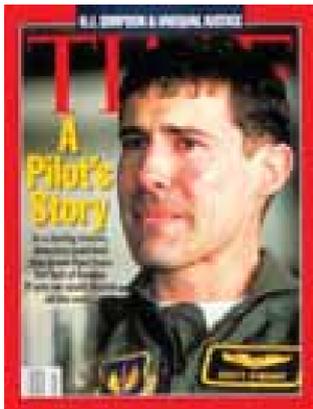


# THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

www.brownfieldonline.com 14 PAGES - 2 SECTIONS - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS VOLUME 109, NO 12 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

## News in Brief



The Brownfield Chamber of Commerce has announced the featured speaker for this month's annual Chamber Banquet will be Scott O'Grady, a former United States Air Force fighter pilot who ejected over Bosnia when his F-16C was shot down by Serbian forces. The banquet date has been set for Thursday, Feb. 28 in the Brownfield High School Commons.

## In Today's News



Pennies & Nickels Add up

See Page 3



USDA Revamps Plant Hardiness Zones

See Page 12

## Basketball Scores

Cubs .....80  
Denver City .....45

Broncos .....90  
Southland .....26

Wildcats .....22  
Borden County ..65

## Local Weather

Sun 2/10	60/30	
Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.		
Mon 2/11	60/34	
Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.		
Tue 2/12	52/26	
Few showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.		

©2009 American Profile Hometown Content Service



# Commodities Trader

## to call Brownfield Home

Mercuria Energy Trading, Inc., the world's fourth largest commodities trader, will call Brownfield home in a matter of weeks, company officials announced Friday.

The privately-owned company, based in Geneva, Switzerland, has purchased acreage adjacent to the

railroad tracks north of the Main Street crossing.

Lance Inwood, Manager of Crude Oil Supply for Mercuria, told the *Brownfield News* construction at the local site would begin February 18.

The company will erect about a dozen large storage tanks on the site, which will be serviced by between 40 and 50 trucks per day, seven days a week, according to Inwood.

"We'll be buying crude directly from the leases and trucking it back to our location in Brownfield," he said. "Once it's there, it won't stay in our tanks for long. It will then be transloaded onto railcars and shipped out to varying destinations."

About a dozen rail cars per day will move the oil out of the facility, Inwood said.

The company, which has a presence in more than 30 countries on five continents, plans significant improvements to the Brownfield site.



"We're going to clean it up and make it something we all can be proud of," Inwood said. "Permian Basin (Railway) is very receptive to helping us rehab the track. Our facility will be compliant with all regulations and we pride ourselves that they be aesthetically pleasing as well. We're a good community partner. We take an active role in every community we're in."

See BUSINESS...Page 4

# 9-0

## Coach Talk

*Brownfield Runnin' Cubs Head Coach Dustin Faught talked to his team during a time out in the fourth quarter of Friday night's rout of the Coahoma Bulldogs. The Cubs are 9-0 in District 4-2A with only one game remaining before they start their playoff run.*



## New hotel coming to Brownfield

A California developer has purchased land on the Lubbock Highway with plans for an "upscale" hotel at the location.

Brownfield realtor Pat Brashears confirmed to the *News* that the long-vacant lot at 1000 Lubbock Rd has been sold to Dinker Shah, the developer.

The lot has stood empty since a labor camp once located there was demolished decades ago.

In a Friday morning telephone interview, Mr. Shah told the *News* he is excited to build in the city.

"I think Brownfield is going to be a great market for us," he said. "All indications are that it is a growing community and we want to be a part of it."

He declined to give a name for the hotel, but indicated he was considering a variety of franchise options, such as the Hampton or Marriott lines.

He repeated that it would be an "upscale" chain and would include conference rooms and reception facilities large enough for weddings and parties.

"We want to give the people of Brownfield the option to rent a space there instead of going to Lubbock to do it," he said. "Our first goal is to get to know the community and find out what the needs of the people there are."

That will be the purpose of a visit to the city in coming weeks with his architect, he said, adding that the hotel business is primarily a service industry and the way to be successful is to satisfy the community.

"Our intention is to build a good quality property that will meet the needs of the corporate world and of

See HOTEL...Page 4

## P.D. cost rises... again

The city's new Public Safety Building got more expensive this week with a vote of the city council to approve an enlargement to the garage bays as framing work begins on the structure on the former school site.

Holly Holder, a Parkhill, Smith and Cooper representative, told the council that the current plans lacked sufficient room for vehicle maintenance in the 3-car garage to be constructed on the rear of the new police station.

The changes to the plans almost

doubled the size of the parking bays, as well as increased the size of the employee break room and a tool storage closet.

"Things start looking a little different as it starts coming up out of the ground and modifications have to be made," Holder told the council. "That's what's happening here."

Tony Serbantez expressed concern after seeing the foundation take shape that the garage area wasn't big enough to move around the vehicles and work on them with the garage

doors open.

The cost of adding the square footage, approved unanimously by the council, is \$151,000.

That brings the total cost of the building, with change orders, to date to \$2,539,331.

The council approved the initial cost of \$2,330,000 last year.

The increase also includes a substantial excavation of the site, which overlapped the basement of the former West Ward Elementary School.

See COUNCIL...Page 4

## Water continues decline



South Plains Underground Water Conservation District Director Jason Coleman updates his audience about groundwater levels. SPUWCD's Water Issues Workshop was held Thursday morning in the Brownfield ISD administration building board room.

Less-than-adequate rainfall increases the need for more conservative water management, according to the South Plains Underground Water Conservation District.

"We're in a drought and don't know when it will end," said SPUWCD Director Jason Coleman Thursday morning during his agency's annual Water Issues Workshop.

Coleman presented data indicating that water yields from area wells had significantly declined in recent years. Although specific amounts tended to vary depending on the type of land in which the wells were located, they were almost all lower in 2012 compared to a few years earlier, and were not predicted to rise anytime soon.

"The trend for 2013 is going to be pretty similar to 2012," he told about a dozen people in Brownfield Independent School District's administration building board room.

Groundwater volume did not appear promising either, he said. Volume in storage was estimated at 4.4 million feet per acre for 2010 and was predicted to decline to about 550,000 by 2050.

Other speakers included SPUWCD board member Matt Hogue and representative Adeline Fox and Sarah Clifton, office assistant to Senator Robert Duncan.

## brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

How should Texas schools primarily be funded?

Property Taxes ..... (28% / 8 votes)  
Shared Property Tax..... (24% / 7 votes)  
State Income Tax ..... (24% / 7 votes)  
Unsure ..... (24% / 7 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 29  
Survey 2-5-13 thru 2-8-13

