

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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12 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS VOLUME 109, NO 14 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2013

In Today's News



2013 Cotton Outlook

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Wildcats end season with close game

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News in Brief

Texas Sales Tax Revenue Up

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today that state sales tax revenue in January was \$2.12 billion, up 6.1 percent compared to January 2012.

"Growth in sales tax receipts was led by the construction, retail trade and restaurant sectors," said Combs. "Receipts from oil and natural gas-related activity also continue to be strong. State sales tax revenue has now increased for 34 consecutive months."

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their February local sales tax allocations totaling \$741 million, up 4.6 percent compared to February 2012.

Brownfield's check for the month was in the amount of \$147,338, a slight decrease from the same period last year, when the city received \$152,031.

Just two months into the year, the \$256,972 received is less than a one percent increase over the \$255,333 during the same period last year.

Terry County saw a larger increase over last year. The county got \$70,111 this month, a 14 percent jump from the \$61,640 received last February.

For the year, the county's rebate is up almost 20 percent, to \$119,757.

The sales tax figures represent December sales reported by monthly tax filers as well as sales by businesses that report tax on a quarterly or annual basis.

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Local Weather

Sun 2/17 68/39



Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.

Mon 2/18 60/30



Windy with sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.

Tue 2/19 60/35



Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Threatened Chicken?

Sides debate Prairie Chicken proposal

(AP) -- Hundreds of West Texans flocked to the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Monday evening to put in their two cents about federal government plans for a native prairie grouse.

Farmers, ranchers and a host of advocates from across the Panhandle and South Plains packed a US Fish and Wildlife Service public hearing aimed to gather public comment on a proposal to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species.

And they came prepared, with dozens describing the impacts they fear such a move would have on their livelihoods and the area economy.

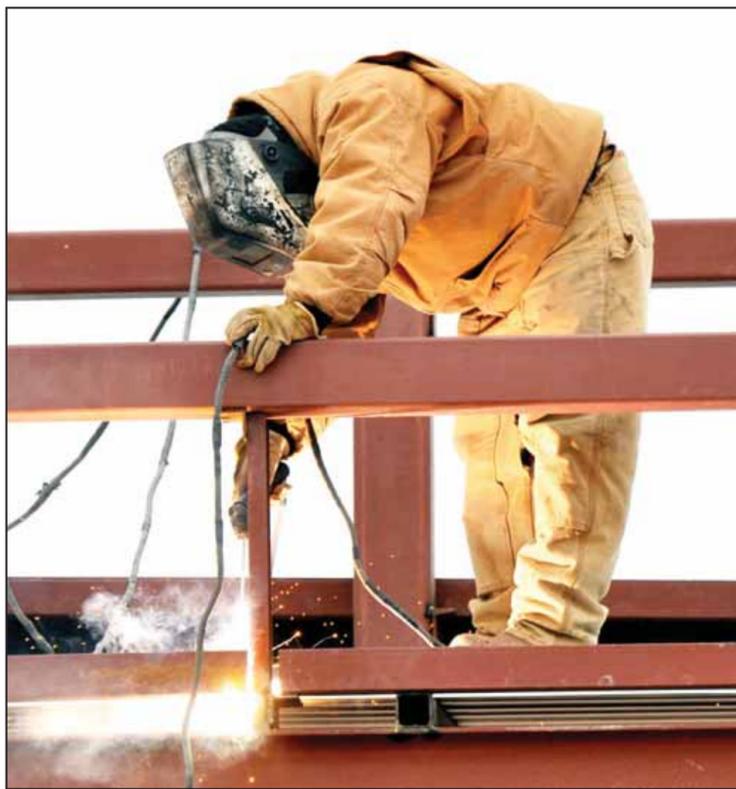
Deaf Smith County Rancher Monroe Timberlake was among a delegation of more than a dozen leaders, farmers, ranchers and business people from the panhandle county urging the agency not to make a decision during a time of drought.

"The bird has come through drought before and has recovered without any intervention from any state or government agency," Timberlake said.

Nearly all spoke against giving the lesser prairie chicken to Endangered Species Act protection, calling instead for either a delay on the decision or for the federal agency to allow local and state authorities to continue conservation efforts.

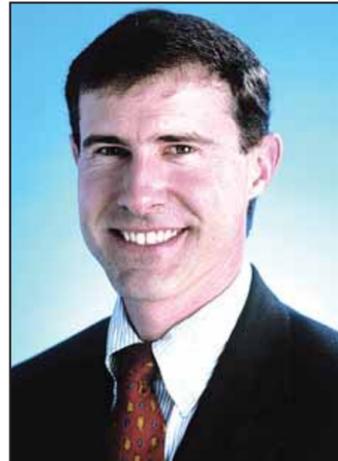
The 90-day public comment period ends March 11 and the deadline for federal agency's ruling is in September.

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Sparks Fly

A welder was working on joining sections of the frame Friday at the City of Brownfield's new Public Safety Building, currently in the early stages of construction just off the Lubbock Hwy. between Main and Broadway streets at the former site of the Intermediate and West Ward school houses.



Scott O'Grady

O'Grady to speak at banquet

Brownfield Chamber of Commerce officials are hard at work organizing the annual banquet and are confident the featured speaker will make this year's banquet one of the most well attended in history.

The chamber board last week announced the featured speaker for the annual banquet will be Scott O'Grady, a former United States Air Force fighter pilot who gained prominence after he ejected over Bosnia when his F-16C was shot down by a Bosnian Serb SA-6 on June 2, 1995, while he was patrolling the no-fly zone.

"We are so excited about this year's banquet and bringing Scott to Brownfield," said Lorena Valencia, Chamber Director. "He is a true American hero and he's looking forward to sharing his story with our guests."

Only 300 tickets will be sold for the annual banquet, to be held Feb. 28 in the Brownfield High School commons.

Additional tables will be put out to accommodate the larger crowd.

"Tickets are going fast and people are really excited about getting to meet Scott," Valencia said. "Last year was our best banquet ever and I think this year, we're going to outdo it."

While flying his F-16 patrolling the no-fly zone, a Bosnian Serb Army surface-to-air missile near was readying its missiles for NATO aircraft, according to Wikipedia.

The Serbs had moved the mobile tracked missile battery and laid a trap. They switched on their missile radars

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BHS Choir State Bound



Brownfield High School choir students placed at the regional competition Feb. 2 at Frenship High School and advanced to the state contest this May in Pflugerville. The vocalists included (from left) Carmen Nunez,

Caley Rodriguez, Samantha Posey, Gabby Rodriguez, Rick Luera, Chelsie Vasquez, Andrea Espinoza, Paul Hernandez, Melissa Davis, Valerie Molina, Lexi Willis, Gaby Aviles and Danielle Ramirez.



Dwayne Chenault

WUISD seeks \$19 million

Wellman-Union Consolidated Independent School District could see some major facility updates, pending the outcome of the May election.

This year's ballots will contain an option to approve \$19 million for construction and renovation of facilities at the home of the Wildcats.

Superintendent

Dwayne Chenault told

the *News* he and the district's board of trustees are working with the Lubbock-based architectural firm Parkhill, Smith & Cooper and are still in the planning stages of which specific facility improvements to make if the bond election passes.

"We've had several meetings, but they're still working on what they

want exactly," he said.

The board officially called for the bond election during their monthly meeting Monday night. They agreed the school needed structural improvements following reports from a Texas Association of School Boards facilities audit and a committee of community representatives.

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brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Will all the President's Executive orders help or hurt the U.S. economy?

HELP (15% / 6 votes)
HURT (85% / 35 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 41

Survey 2-12-13 thru 2-15-13

