

# Patriotic runner pays Brownfield visit

By JOSIE MUSICO  
Staff Writer

Brendan O'Toole will be the first to admit his daily 15-mile runs are no fun, but hey, at least he has two legs to get him there.

The 24-year-old cross-country runner and retired Marine Corps. sergeant reminds himself with every step how many of his fellow veterans have sacrificed theirs, and others much worse.

"I try to put my shoes in the shoes of a brother or sister who's lost a leg in combat - it's kind of the only way I can connect and share and stay rooted to our vision," he told the *Brownfield News* Tuesday while stopping for a break in Coleman Park. "I've never liked running, but it's something that I have to do because of the overall mission."

The purpose of that mission, The Run for Veterans, is to raise support for former soldiers through a 3,600-mile journey from coast to coast. He left Oceanside, Calif., on Nov. 11 - Veterans Day - and hopes to reach Portland, Maine by late summer.

Brothers Timmy and Joey Dwyer, longtime friends from O'Toole's hometown of Alexandria, Va., stay a few miles away and provide support through a pickup truck and a 33-foot recreational vehicle adorned with their mission's logo and donated by sponsors.

O'Toole takes Wednesdays and Sundays off from running to take a closer look at whichever city or small town he happens to be passing through, getting to know its local residents and explaining how they can help. That might be by providing a \$1 donation to any of three veterans-support charities with whom he has partnered, or even by "liking" his Facebook page.

"I would hope from our small idea that continues to grow we can inspire, make people believe and raise awareness of the needs that aren't being addressed for our veterans," he said.

That idea came when O'Toole realized an unfortunate need for enhanced veterans' support programs, despite general feelings of gratitude he encountered from the public for those soldiers' services.

"I think they're receiving plenty of recognition," he said. "What everyone's concerned about is the (Veterans Affairs) system. Not all veterans who need help are able to receive it."

For instance, O'Toole returned from deployments in Afghanistan, Haiti and other war- and disaster-torn countries to notice many of his fellow veterans suffering not only from physical injuries, but often prone to suicide with severe post-traumatic stress disorder. Furthermore,



Retired U.S. Marines Corps. Sgt. turned distance runner Brendan O'Toole (right) takes a break from the road with traveling companions Timmy Dwyer and Lilly in Coleman

Park's RV park. O'Toole's mission, The Run for Veterans, is taking him 3,600 miles from coast to coast.

a reorganization of the VA program meant a backlog of cases and a lengthy waiting list for military personnel seeking treatment.

Various privately-managed nonprofit organizations have stepped in, however, and O'Toole feels that with his supporters, he can help them serve veterans the way those veterans have in turn served their country.

"I came up with this idea because I thought, 'We can

work on this national issue,'" he said. "I knew that we were too young and too small to provide immediate services to our veterans, but I knew with our energy, our youth and our charisma of our team, that we would hopefully be able to raise awareness of the non-profits we support and collect donations... We need to work on promoting positive mental, physical and social well-being for our veterans."

Not that every step has

exactly been as positive as the purpose of the trip. O'Toole has run through every catastrophe from freezing temperatures and thunderstorms to a mountain-blasting near Palm Springs, Calif., that forced a last-minute detour. When he neared the Texas state line in early February, he ran 42 miles in a single day in effort to meet his goal of entering the Lone Star State three months from the start of his journey.

And after having run

through an entire region of the country he fought for, O'Toole's "Semper Fi" ambitions will continue as he expands his patriotic mission to the South, Northeast and beyond.

"The first three months were like boot camp - you learn to build yourself up," he said.

For more information or to donate to The Run for Veterans, visit [www.TheRunForVeterans.org](http://www.TheRunForVeterans.org).

## Oil & Gas

### Drilling Permits

#### Terry County

12.2 miles N. of Tokio, Texas  
Covington Field Area

Fivestones Energy LLC has a new drill permit for its War Wagon Lease, Well No. 1H (API No. 42-445-32363), a horizontal well --- 660' FSL & 660' FEL of Section 4, Block D14, C&M RR Co Survey, Abstract 912, 6,000' total depth, 640 acre lease

### Oil snaps 2 days of steep losses, gains modest

The price of oil broke two days of steep losses Friday and scrambled back to above \$93 a barrel after official predictions that economic growth in Europe would pick up pace in the second half of the year. Ample supplies kept gains in check.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for April delivery was up 30 cents to \$93.14 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract fell \$2.38, or 2.5 percent, to finish at \$92.84 per barrel in New York on Thursday, the second drop of 2 percent or more in two days.

The European Union's executive arm, the Commission, said Friday that it expects the recession currently afflicting the economy of the 17 EU countries sharing the euro to bottom out during the first half of 2013, with growth seen reaching an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the last three months of the year.

In 2014, growth in the eurozone is forecast to accelerate to 1.4 percent.

Crude oil's recent slide is a result of ample supplies and recent

speculation that the Federal Reserve may soon allow interest rates to rise, which would reduce the supply of easy cash investors have been using to buy commodities such as oil.

Data from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration released Thursday showed U.S. stockpiles of crude oil rose by 4.1 million barrels last week, just over twice the increase expected by analysts.

"The recent sharp decline in the oil market was a combination of disappointing U.S. economic data, renewed concerns from Fed minutes and a large increase in the levels of the oil

inventories," said commentary from Sudden Financial Research in London.

Brent crude, which is used to price oil used to make gasoline in many U.S. refineries, was up 83 cents at \$114.36 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex:

- Natural gas was up 1.3 cents at \$3.259 per 1,000 cubic feet.
- Heating oil gained 1.24 cents to \$3.1073 per gallon.
- Wholesale gasoline added 2.45 cents to \$3.2585 per gallon.

## Local resident named to LCU Dean's list

Tabitha Juarez of Brownfield was named to the Dean's List at Lubbock Christian University for the fall 2012 semester.

The Dean's list requires a student to be taking a minimum of 12 hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better for the semester. Juarez is a senior Family Studies major at LCU.

1321A Tahoka Road (806) 637-0454

**Need Help Putting the Financial Puzzle together?**

Payday Loans  
Title Loans  
**\$100-\$2500**

**FAST. EASY. CONFIDENTIAL.**

NO Credit Checks. We can ease your financial burdens with a cash loan.

**Brownfield Advance**

1321A Tahoka Road (806) 637-0454

**Having a problem with Winter Weeds?**

It's time to spray for **PRE-EMERGENCE & post-emergence control!**

Multi-treatment program  
Weed control  
Trees & Shrubs  
Lawn Tick & Flea Control  
Ernest Smith 535-2023

Call us for a **FREE Estimate!**  
806.637.9334 or 535-2023

**West Texas Lawn & Pest SPRAYING SERVICE**  
806.637.9334

**F U M C Chili Supper**

Wed., Feb. 27th  
1004 E. Broadway  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Take-outs Available  
Tickets - \$7  
5 & Under FREE

**Remotely Monitor Pivots, Pumps, Flow Meters + More!**

With **netirrigate** Products:

**WIRE RAT.**

Safety Stop Alerts, Remote Shutdown, GPS, Span Cable Theft Detection

**PumpProXy™**

Receive Pump Start-up or Stop Alerts, Remotely Start & Stop Pumps, Power Failure & Thermal Overload Notifications

**CIRCLESOUT™**

Safety Stop Alerts, Remote Shutdown, GPS

**FloGenie™**

Check Applied Irrigation with the Click of a Mouse, Easily Export Data to Excel, Receive Alerts when Flow Starts or Stops

**Carter & Company Irrigation**  
611 Seagraves Road | Brownfield, TX  
(806) 637-2053