

# THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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12 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS

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## In Today's News



**Patriotic Runner Makes Brownfield Stop**

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**Meadow Girls Take All-District Honors**

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## Cubs in Brief

For the second time this year, the Brownfield Cubs' playoff hopes were dashed in the first round by the Bushland Falcons.

The first time was on the football field at Lubbock Cooper in November.

This time it was on the basketball court at Dimmitt High School on Friday night.

The Cubs headed north for the playoff game and filled the home stands with hundreds of faithful fans, who saw their squad hold a small lead at the end of the first, second and third quarters, but watched the game slip away in the final frame as the Falcons were on top 52-39, at the final buzzer.

Full Story on Page 9

## Basketball Scores

Cubs .....39  
Falcons .....52

## Local Weather

**Sun 2/24 60/28**  
Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.

**Mon 2/25 56/29**  
Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

**Tue 2/26 62/34**  
Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

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# BISD Selects Finalists



**Brownfield ISD Assistant Superintendent Steve Osborn describes the district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report.**

Brownfield's school board now has a half-dozen candidates for their soon-to-open superintendent's position, following a closed-session discussion Thursday evening.

The board of trustees selected six resumes that they felt stood out from a pool of 45. Their next step will be to contact those applicants to arrange interviews for next week.

During another specially-called meeting March 4, they will further discuss those interviews and select two or three candidates to whom they will give more-detailed follow-up interviews March 5-7.

The board will select their lone finalist March 21, then after a 21-day waiting period vote during their April 16 meeting to formally hire him or her.

The new superintendent will replace longtime BISD administrator Jerry Jones, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Among other agenda items Thursday, Assistant Superintendent Steve Osborn presented the district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report, a compilation of test scores, demographics, dropout rates and other data. AEIS showed Brownfield's standardized test results as slightly below the regional and state averages throughout the past 10 years.

As the *Brownfield News* reported in December when the Texas Education Agency originally released AEIS, Brownfield - like other Texas school districts - is struggling to meet rising federal standards for Adequate

Yearly Progress. For instance, 87 percent of students in a given school district must have passed their 2012 state-standardized Reading/English Language Arts exam for that district to meet AYP, and by 2014 100 percent must pass.

"In two years there's not going to be many schools that meet AYP," Osborn said. "We know we've got work to do."

To view Brownfield data from AEIS, see Dec. 23's edition of the *News*. For the entire report, visit [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

The school board also granted facility-use requests to Brownfield Federal Credit Union and Terry County Co-op Gin for locations for upcoming meetings.

## Stand up and Hollar!!

*Cubs cheerleader Alesha Zamora readied a T-shirt to throw into the excited Brownfield crowd during a time out Friday night at the playoff game against Bushland in Dimmitt.*



## WTISF Inmates charged with manslaughter

A quartet of former inmates at the West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility southwest of Brownfield were indicted last week in connection with a Sept. 21 assault that resulted in the death of a fellow prisoner.

Christopher McDonough, 24, Manuel Leal, 30, Arthur Maldonado, 28, and Jose Valdez, 23, are each charged with second-degree manslaughter following a verdict by a Terry County Grand Jury.

Specially-assigned prosecutor Alice Gregg declined to disclose the name of the victim because some of his family had not yet been notified, but did tell the *Brownfield News* he was a 56-year-old man serving time at WTISF for parole violation.

McDonough, Leal, Maldonado and Valdez allegedly beat and kicked him multiple times, but no weapon was believed to have been involved. The victim later succumbed to his injuries, with the official cause of death described as "blunt force trauma to the head."

The motive in the case remains under investigation. Gregg said reports were "suspected but not confirmed" that the four defendants were involved with either the Tango Blast or Mexican Mafia prison gang, but the offense did not appear to be gang-related.

"We don't feel the victim was targeted as a result of gang violence," she said.

Gregg continued that no staff at the facility have so far been terminated or suspended in connection with the assault, but the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is conducting a separate **SEE PRISON MURDER...Page 4**



Maldonado



McDonough



Valdez



Leal

# Farm Subsidies Threatened

Terry County is widely known as one of West Texas' top producers of cotton and peanuts in the agriculture industry.

However, a proposal by some federal lawmakers in the form of capped commodity subsidies could threaten the local agriculture economy.

Farm subsidies have contributed more than half a billion dollars to the Terry County economy since 1995.

Only six counties in the state have received more federal subsidies than Terry County in that time frame. Texas leads the nation with almost \$26 billion over the same period.

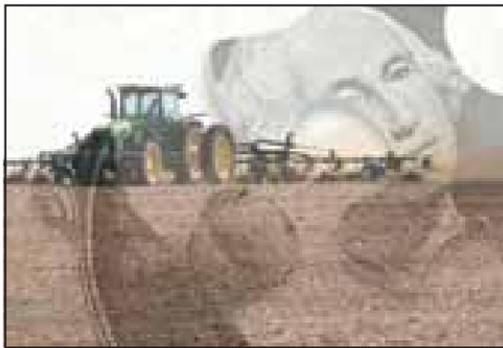
Between the 1995-2011 time-frame, EWG database figures showed Terry County farmers had received \$318.9 million in cotton subsidies, while peanut farmers received just over \$60 million.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) landowners received \$71.5 million in subsidies during that time frame, while \$65.3 million was paid out to Terry County farmers for disaster claims.

Wheat subsidies claims within Terry County totaled \$9.5 million.

Earlier this week, some federal lawmakers threatened U.S. farmers by limiting them to \$125,000 a year cap in crop subsidies, in a significant tightening of farm support rules proposed by four senators from farm and ranch states.

There is no effective limit on payments now, and lawmakers say a large operators collect the lion's share of subsidies because they are based on each bushel of grain or pound of cotton grown on a farm.



"It's time to get the program back to its original intent," said Senator Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican and a sponsor of the bill who is a long-time proponent of strict limits. He said the farm program, dating from the 1930s, was aimed at protecting small and medium-size family farms.

Besides putting a "hard" cap on payments per farmer, the bill would crack down on payments to investors and absentee landlords. Under it, only one person living in town could collect subsidies for providing management on a given farm.

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# Athletes earn post-season honors



Rodney Warren



Sloane Holt

A quartet of Brownfield athletes earned post-season recognition this week -- one for his efforts on the gridiron and three for their hard work on the hardwood.

Senior lineman Rodney Warren kept the Cubs on the right track this week with his Honorable Mention nod to the 62nd Annual Texas Sports Writers Association's 2012 Class 2A All-State Football Team.

Warren racked up 73 tackles for the Cubs this year, with seven for a loss.

He caused two fumbles and recovered four, in addition to five sacks and an interception.

Warren also made the First Team All District squad as

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Tessa Hope



Lexi Cruz

