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Meadow freshman Lexy Silva was named Newcomer of the Year for the District 5 All-District 1A Girls Basketball Team. Lexy, the daughter of Jimmy and Krissy Silva, routinely scored in the double-digits all season for the Lady Broncos.

Meadow junior Tamara Vela was recently named to the District 5 1A All-District Girls Basketball Team. Senior Bethany Flores and junior Carla Rodriguez, not pictured, were named Honorable Mention.

PRISON MURDER from One

personnel investigation to determine if any employees could have been able to prevent it. Inmate offenses as serious as this case are considered fairly rare at minimum-security, short-term holding units such as WTISF, she added.

"There are definitely some questions that need to be answered about how this happened, and that is part of the ongoing investigation," she said. "...It's definitely unusual for a crime of this magnitude to occur in this type of facility. The (inmates) are generally getting ready to be released back into society and on really good behavior."

Gregg said she had not yet determined whether to offer plea bargains or try the case.

Manslaughter is typically a second-degree felony, punishable by two to 20 years in prison. Because the defendants all have prior felony convictions, though, their charge could be enhanced to a first-degree felony and if convicted they could be sentenced between five and 99 years or life.

"We certainly will seek justice for the victim, either in the form of a plea bargain or a trial."

Jason Clark, a Huntsville-based TDCJ media spokesman, told the News that suspect Leal

was released Jan. 25 from his most-recent period of incarceration. At the time of his alleged offense, he was serving a two-year sentence for a Bexar County-based burglary of a building conviction.

Maldonado was being held for parole violation for an original conviction of three counts of possession of a controlled substance, also from Bexar County, and released Jan. 16. Valdez was released Jan. 24 from TDCJ, to which he had been sentenced for parole violation for original convictions from the same county of violation of the sex offender registry and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Whether those three defendants could have known each other in the outside world or were only coincidentally all from the San Antonio area is unknown, Clark said.

McDonough was serving a five-year sentence for burglary of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance out of Brown County. He was transferred to a series of other TDCJ locations, then released on parole from the South Texas ISF, near Houston, the same day he was indicted.

Note - This story was originally published Wednesday at www.brownfieldonline.com.

Cornyn requests Lesser Prairie Chicken extension decision

DALLAS – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and five Senators sent a letter to the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Daniel Ashe requesting a 60-day extension of the comment solicitation period and a six-month extension of any final decisions on the proposal by FWS to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species.

Sensors on the letter include Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Tom Coburn (R-OK), Pat Roberts (R-KS), and Jerry Moran (R-KS).

"The outcome of this listing proposal is vitally important to many sectors in the local economies of our states, including agriculture; oil and gas development; ranching; transportation; and wind energy," wrote Sen. Cornyn.

"Listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken under the Endangered Species Act would negatively impact these sectors for many years to come. With this in mind, and knowing that conservation efforts are ongoing and that the science evaluating the status of the species is still developing, it is imperative to provide sufficient time to evaluate the true health of the species rather than simply hold fast to arbitrary court-mandated deadlines that do not account for ongoing species recovery developments."

The letter acknowledges that the wild life agencies in five states home to the Lesser Prairie Chicken, including Texas, are working

hard to finalize and submit a conservation plan by mid-March, the same time as the comment period is scheduled to end.

The 60-day extension would allow state agencies time to incorporate comments to the Service's proposal as well as allow the states to complete this spring's aerial population survey, which is conducted in the month of April.

Brownfield ISD to get second school cop

Recent reports of school violence and subsequent proposed changes in legislature regarding campus security have inspired Brownfield ISD administrators to add an extra law-enforcement position.

At the recommendation of Superintendent Jerry Jones, the school board voted unanimously Thursday night to hire a second full-time school resource officer.

"The board wanted to be proactive and wants parents to know we're going to do everything we can to keep kids safe," Jones told the News. "This is a step in that direction."

Jones told the board he will present to them during their next meeting a \$61,000 budget amendment, which will fund the officer's weapon, ammunition training and vehicle. Salary will probably be about \$30-33,000, depending on his or her experience.

As with the arrangement regarding the other SRO position - currently held by Alan Nelson - the new officer will work under an interlocal agreement between the school district and Brownfield Police Department. As a licensed peace officer, he or she will be fully qualified for general law-enforcement duties both on and away from campus.

"The school resource officer helps the local police, and the police help us," Jones said. "It's very important to have a good working relationship between those two entities."

BISD will announce the SRO opening as they do other vacant positions, and begin collecting resumes through the personnel office. They will conduct inter-

views, then bring a recommendation to the school board for final approval.

Chief of Police Tony Serbantez will play a significant role in the hiring process, as a representative of the school board as well as BPD.

"The board has always taken safety and security seriously,"

Serbantez later told the News. "We are not any different than any other school district in which potential threats may occur. I know that the district will continue to take reasonable and practical approaches to our students' and staffs' safety and security."

Both SROs will have similar

job duties but operate from different locations, Jones said. For instance, one cop might work primarily from Middle School, Bright Beginnings Academic Center and Colonial Heights, while the other would be found more in the north-side-of-town campuses Oak Grove and High School

West Texas ISF to get upgrades

A new fire detection system is 90 percent complete at the city-owned Intermediate Sanction Facility, but will require a "fire watch" for a few days while during the transition from the old system to the new.

The city council was updated on the project Thursday morning by Parkhill Smith and Cooper engineer Isaac Aguellar.

"Most of the wiring is installed," he said. "We just lack a few detectors and they are set to start that now. Hopefully by this time next week, the new system will be up and running."

The project was added to this year's budget when the previous system was deemed to be inadequate and so old that replacement parts are unavailable.

Phase 2 of the project will be to update the facility's security camera system, which will revamp the current equipment and add cameras in several blind spots.

The ISF is a city-owned building that is leased to a private company for operations.

An agenda item for participation in a grant program was tabled for a future meeting.

City Hall staffers and the

Brownfield Fire Department were recognized at the brief meeting.

Council members present were: Cynthia Morin, Tom

Hesse, Roxanne Barr, Rod Bearden, Mayor Bob Simpson, Geronimo Gonzales and Jackie Pinson.

Absent was Brent Besler.

ALL-DISTRICT from Page One

defensive end and outside linebacker.

Cubs Head Coach Bryan Welps said Warren played a big part in the Cubs' success this year, both on the field and off.

"He is one of our seniors that were a huge part of our success this year and we owe him and that whole class a lot," he said. "Rodney was a leader on defense and he's one of those tacklers that can change a ball game. He always gave everything he had and the other players saw that and respect that."

On the hardwood, three sophomores are representing the Brownfield Lady Cubs on the 2013 All District Basketball Team for District 4-2A, Head Coach Derek Faught announced Thursday.

First Team All District honors

went to second-year varsity standouts Tessa Hope and Lexi Cruz.

Both girls routinely led the Lady Cubs in scoring during the season.

Hope average 13 points and four assists per game this year. Cruz averaged nine points and seven rebounds.

First-year varsity player Sloane Holt was named to Second Team.

She averaged seven points per game and six rebounds for the season.

Faught said all three were key to the Lady Cubs' improved record in 2013 and he looks forward to seeing them continue that tradition as they transition

The Lady Cubs just missed a playoff run this year, but already are eyeing the postseason in 2014.

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