

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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In Today's News



Chamber Program looks at 2012 accomplishments

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Littlefield track meet moved to Brownfield

The track and field meet scheduled Thursday and Friday in Littlefield has been moved to Cub Stadium following the winter storm that hit the area earlier this week. Volunteers are needed to assist with the meet. Anyone interested can contact coach Amy Villasenor at 469-387-6201 or Cliffla Heron in the BHS Athletics office at 637-4523.

The Brownfield track meet already on the calendar will also be held in March and volunteers are needed for that meet as well.

Filing deadline Friday for municipal seats

The end of business Friday is the deadline to file for a slew of municipal election spots on the city council, three school districts and the hospital board, all on the May 11 ballot and so far there has been little interest.

As of press time Tuesday, no one had filed for any of the four spots on the Brownfield City Council, including seats for Districts 4 and 5 and two at-large, will be on the ballot.

Only one incumbent, Roxanne Barr in District 4, is unable to file for re-election because of term limits.

The District 5 seat held by Jack Pinson will be on the ballot, as will the at-large seats held by Tom Hesse and Mayor Pro-tem Rod Bearden.

None of the incumbents have yet

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Local Weather

Wed 2/27 50/25
A mainly sunny sky. High around 50F. Winds N at 15 to 25 mph.

Thu 2/28 51/25
Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.

Fri 3/1 54/28
Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

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Winter storm wreaks havoc



(ABOVE) The usually-busy Lubbock Hwy was barren north of Brownfield Monday afternoon after officials closed the stretch of road to traffic because of low-to-zero visibility in areas as a blizzard blew across the area. The Terry County thoroughfare was reopened later in the day after the sun came out and cleared all local roads.

Winter's fury blew headfirst into Terry County and the region Monday, mere hours after residents here enjoyed 70-degree temperatures on Sunday afternoon, then exited the area before dinner time Monday with the sun shining and snow melted into memory.

"It blew out as fast as it blew in," said DPS Sgt. Bill Robles, who said the local troopers worked mostly in Hockley County during the storm. "It was a wild day, but everything's back to normal now."

An upper-level low pressure system rapidly developed over eastern New Mexico and West Texas late Sunday and pushed into the area with strong winds straight out of the north.

Heavy snow and severe winds produced blizzard conditions from the Lubbock/Plainview area north and east to Amarillo and northwest Oklahoma.

Sustained winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts to the mid-60's were recorded locally by the West Texas Mesonet operated by Texas Tech University.

Gusts up to 75 mph were recorded in the Amarillo area, along with a record-breaking 19 inches of snow in that panhandle city.

Just over an inch was officially recorded in Brownfield, on the extreme southern tip of the storm.

Meadow students got the day off as the Terry County school district cancelled classes early Monday morn-

ing. Brownfield students were released at 2 p.m. Monday and started classes late Tuesday morning, as did Meadow and Wellman-Union schools.

Terry County offices and the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension office closed early Tuesday.

Traffic was temporarily closed on US Hwy 62 between Brownfield and Lubbock because of blowing snow and reduced visibility, but the highway was reopened by late afternoon.

DPS reports showed only three accidents related to the storm in Terry County.

Brownfield Chief of Police Tony Serbantez told the *News* that his officers assisted DPS troopers with one accident north of Brownfield on David Bailey Rd. Monday afternoon, while they attended to other portions of the region.

The other wrecks, according to Sgt. Robles were a one-car rollover on Lubbock Hwy. and a tractor accident on Seagraves Hwy.

Terry County Sheriff Larry Gilbreath said his deputies were on high alert during the storm, but added "we fared well considering how bad the

visibility was for a while -- it could have been a lot worse than it was."

Snow totals ranged from flurries in the Midland area to over 19 inches in the Amarillo region of the Texas Panhandle.

Severe wind gusts were also reported in the Permian Basin and Concho Valley with gusts to 60 mph making it all the way down to the Del Rio area.

Some roadways in the Texas Panhandle reopened Tuesday as sunny conditions began to thaw ice and snow-packed surfaces slickened by a massive blizzard that blanketed the region.

Interstate 27 reopened between snow-hammered Amarillo and Lubbock, but units with the Texas National Guard were still working to clear Interstate 40 from the Oklahoma border to the New Mexico state line. The interstate is open within Amarillo's city limits.

U.S. 287 reopened in both directions, as did U.S. 385, U.S. 60 and U.S. 54. But stretches of Highway 87 in the Dalhart and Dumas areas remained closed.

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Chamber Banquet Thursday

Brownfield Chamber of Commerce officials report strong ticket sales for Thursday night's annual banquet, with high interest in the featured speaker, but some seats remain available.

"There is a lot of excitement out there for this year's banquet," said chamber director Lorena Valencia. "Our phones have been ringing off the hook with people buying tickets from as far away as San Antonio."

The anticipation is for the opportunity to hear a bonified American hero, 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.

Only 300 tickets will be sold for the annual banquet in the Brownfield High School commons and less than 100 were still available at press time Tuesday.

Valencia said a small number of tickets will be available at the door, unless they sell out prior to the event.

"If you want to attend, I strongly suggest you buy your tickets as early as possible so you don't miss the chance," she said.

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

"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."

The chamber office will close at 3 p.m. Thursday so staff can begin preparations for the commons.

Guests will dine on first-class cuisine catered by the BHS Silver Spoons.

The menu includes roast beef, green beans, potatoes, salad, rolls and cake.

The Silver Spoons catered last year's banquet as well, with rave reviews from guests.

Cost is \$30 per plate.

Corporate sponsors of this year's banquet include United, Sonic, Lone Star State Bank, Paul's Water Well Service, B.E. Implement, Stanley Ford Lincoln and Atmos Energy.

Decorations for the evening will consist of patriotic fare with plenty of red, white and blue.

Following tradition, the Citizen of the Year and Business Leader of the Year also will be announced.

O'Grady will share this story and others with the chamber banquet audience.

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 sparingly, giving the F-16 pilots little warning.

Waiting until it was directly overhead, where the aircraft's warning and countermeasures would be at its weakest, they fired two missiles skyward.

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State Bound Band



Brownfield High School's Spirit of the Plains band returned from Saturday's solo and ensemble contest with 36 medals. All medalists now have qualified for the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest this May. Band members include (not in order): Cole Garcia, Robert Bruns, Isaiah Valdonado, Ishmael Galindo, Aungelique Martinez, Kaley Kevil, Asia Gonzales, John Molina, Jeremy Duran, Antonio

Pauda, Sallie Dill, Alissa Arguellez, Thalia Lopez, Valerie Molina, Emily Longoria, Savannah Rodriguez, Eli Gonzalez, Zeke Morin, Justin Pena, Stephanie Andazola, Jose Chacon, Symphony Munoz, Theresa Mendoza, Caley Rodriguez, Aaron Aguirre, Danielle Ramirez, Gilbert Garcia, Emelia Carmack and Josh Duran.



County records to hit the web

Terry County's publicly-accessible records are expected to be available online in less than two months, County Clerk Kim Carter announced Monday morning.

Carter told commissioners that the contracted software company EDOC Technologies was in its final stages of digitalizing the county's property transfers, tax liens and

other records available through the Public Information Act.

"Hopefully within the next six weeks we'll be able to go live," she said during the semi-monthly commissioners meeting.

Record-seekers will be able to browse online through the available documents and purchase the ones they wish for \$1 each, the same cost as for traditional hard copies purchased in the county clerk's office.

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