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RECORDS from Page one

"This gives opportunity to view documents online and see if it's document they are seeking," Carter later told the *News*. "...This is one more step of using the technology we have to full capacity to better serve our customers."

Commissioners approved the EDOC contract in June 2011. Their services cost the county \$5,000 that first year, and \$3,000 each year after to manage the website. EDOC will collect the \$1-per-document fees, then return that money to Terry County.

Record-viewing stations will remain available in Carter's office during normal business hours.

Among other agenda items Monday, the commissioners signed a resolution against House Bill 958, which proposed to reduce the interest rate on all Texas County and District Retirement System funds from 7 to 5 percent.

While designed to reduce the fixed cost of the system so employers would have more flexibility in managing their retirement obligations, opponents feel it would offer no benefits to a retirement plan already considered fairly successful.

Lonnie Hunt, a media spokesman for the Texas Association of Counties, told the *News* that the proposed 2-percent cut in interest rate would eventually lead to a 17-percent decrease the dollar amount of retirement checks.

"This was going to penalize the retirees and really not grant any more flexibility to the counties," he said. "... The main thing I heard was, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' This is a very strong, sound retirement system that does not receive any funding from the state."

Many other Texas counties have adopted similar resolutions, Hunt said.

"There was really widespread opposition from county officials all over the state," he said.

The commissioners also approved travel expenses for County Court Coordinator Dolly Moya and Librarian Lupe Sema to attend conferences this spring.

County agent Mary Collier announced in her monthly report that the 4-H Food Challenge competition originally scheduled for that afternoon was postponed to a likely date of next Monday, and that the recent Varmint Hunt had raised about \$650 for the youth organization.

"We were very successful for it being our first hunt," she said. "Everybody followed the rules and behaved themselves."

County Judge Butch Wagner presided and all four commissioners were present, to include Mike Swain, Kirby Keese, Cecil Castilleja and John Franks.

DEADLINE from Page One

indicated whether they will run again or not.

City officials told the *Brownfield News* on Tuesday that if no one files for the open positions, the election will be canceled and individuals will be appointed by the council to fill the open seats.

On the Brownfield Independent School District board of trustees, Positions 1, 2 and 3 are up for full terms.

Those seats are currently held by Tony Serbantez, Yvonne Rocha and Randy Anthony, respectively.

At press time Tuesday, Rocha was the only incumbent to file. Eric Caswell had filed for the Position 3 seat.

At Brownfield Regional Medical Center, three board positions will be on the ballot.

The at-large seats are currently held by Jimmy Jones, Steve Mason and Justin Hesse. All three have filed for another term.

The board is set to appoint a community member to fill the vacancy left by chairman James Turner, who passed away in January.

In the Wellman-Union ISD, three positions will be on the May ballot. Current board members Michael Franke, Gordon Kelcy and Ed Rodriguez all are eligible to file again.

Franke and Rodriguez have done so, as well as former board member Eddie Garza.

In the Meadow ISD, incumbents Scott Caswell and Keith Harrison have filed for re-election to their seats.

The elections will be held May 11 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The open filing period continues through Friday.

Anyone interested in running for the open positions should pick up filing packets at each of the entities on the ballot.

CHAMBER

In the cockpit, O'Grady's instruments alerted him that a missile was coming but, because he was flying in clouds, he could not see it.

The first missile exploded between the two aircraft. The second struck the F-16 piloted by O'Grady.

The pilot of the other jet saw O'Grady's plane burst into flames, breaking it in two. He did not see a parachute, but O'Grady survived as he ejected from the aircraft.

O'Grady landed amidst a Bosnian-Serb population that was assumed to be unfriendly and, within a minute, he had secured a 29-pound survival bag under his seat, ran, and hid.

Rubbing dirt on his face, he hid face-down as Bosnian-Serb forces came upon his parachute and ejection seat, at one point hitting the ground with their rifles in an effort to flush him out only feet from where he was hidden.

During the next six days, he put to use the lessons learned during training he had undertaken near his hometown of Spokane, Washington. He ate leaves, grass, and

bugs, and stored the little rainwater he could collect with a sponge in plastic bags.

O'Grady waited to radio for help, as the US Air Force had taught him that downed pilots are often captured after calling for help too soon, giving away their position.

On his fourth full day on the ground, he signaled his location using the small reserve of his radio's battery power each time he went on the air.

NATO military planes conducting sorties in the Balkans had been picking up beeper snippets that they thought could be coming from O'Grady.

Just after midnight on June 8, he spoke into the radio. An F-16 pilot from the 555th responded, and after confirming his identity, the rescue was set in motion.

Two CH-53 Sea Stallions with 51 Marines lifted off the USS Kearsarge to rescue the pilot. The two helicopters were accompanied by two Marine AH-1W SuperCobra helicopter gunships and a pair of Marine AV-8B Harrier jump jets.

At 6:35 a.m., the helicopters approached the area where O'Grady's signal beacon

had been traced. The pilots saw bright yellow smoke coming from trees near a rocky pasture where O'Grady had set off a flare.

The first Stallion, commanded by Major William Tarbutton, touched down and 20 Marines jumped off the aircraft and set up a defensive perimeter.

As the second Sea Stallion landed, a figure with a pistol who turned out to be the missing pilot appeared running towards the Marines and immediately went to the Sea Stallion.

As the side door opened, he was pulled in before the second 20 Marines poised to leave by the rear ramp could even move.

They were called back to their seats, and those who had formed the defensive perimeter re-boarded the other helicopter.

After a quick head count, the Stallions took off. They had been on the ground no more than seven minutes.

"It's going to be a wonderful evening," Valencia said. "I get more excited every day."

WEATHER

from Page one

State troopers, area sheriff's offices and National Guard members rescued 32 stranded motorists from their vehicles Monday around the Panhandle.

Some workers have been stuck at the National Weather Service office in Amarillo since Sunday night after snow drifts up to 6 feet high covered their cars in the parking lot, said meteorologist Krissy Scotten.

Crews were working to clear snow from still-closed roadways although they need sunshine to activate the de-icing agent, Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Paul Braun said.

Flights at Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport resumed late Monday.

Because this was the second storm in as many weeks, weary locals were annoyed that a huge blizzard could so closely follow another major storm.

Climate scientists can't say that man-made global warming is the cause of individual extreme weather events, but they say climate change in general makes such storms more likely because of what it does to the thermodynamics of the air and water.

Warmer air in general holds more moisture, and when temperatures dance around the freezing mark — cold enough to fall as snow, but warm enough to hold lots of moisture — the storms dump more snow, especially if part of the system has been over unusually warm ocean water.

Since 1960, much of the United States has had twice as many extreme snowstorms as it had in the 60 years before, according to a new study by top scientists that will soon appear in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. But global warming is also shortening the snow season, dramatically reducing spring snow in the Northern Hemisphere, the Global Snow Lab at Rutgers University found.

"These storms didn't just occur in a vacuum. They are fueled by record amounts of moisture in the atmosphere," Pennsylvania State University

climate scientist Michael Mann said Tuesday in an email.

Mann said the unusual warmth and moisture combine with cold air dipping down from the Arctic to produce heavy snow. He said some computer weather models predict the Midwestern storm may break a record for low-pressure, which

is how meteorologists measure the strength of a storm.

The back-to-back storms have raised hopes that the moisture might ease the drought conditions that have gripped the Midwest for more than a year. The snowpack now resting on the plains will help, but it's no drought-buster, experts say.

"If we get one more storm like this, with widespread 2 inches of moisture, we will continue to chip away at the drought," said meteorologist Mike Umscheid of the National Weather Service office in Dodge City, Kan. "But to claim the drought is over or ending is way too premature."

Chinese hackers seen as professional, not rogues

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing hotly denies accusations of official involvement in massive cyberattacks against foreign targets, insinuating such activity is the work of rogues. But at least one piece of evidence cited by experts points to professional cyberespies: China's hackers don't work weekends.

Accusations of state-sanctioned hacking took center stage this past week following a detailed report by a U.S.-based Internet security firm Mandiant. It added to growing suspicions that the Chinese military is not only stealing national defense secrets and harassing dissidents but also pilfering information from foreign companies that could be worth millions or even billions of dollars.

Experts say Chinese hacking attacks are characterized not only by their brazenness, but by their persistence.

"China conducts at least an order of magnitude more than the next country," said Martin Libicki, a specialist on cyber warfare at the Rand Corporation, based in Santa Monica, California. The fact that hackers take weekends off suggests they are paid, and that would belie "the notion that the hackers are private," he said.

Libicki and other cyber warfare experts have long noted a Monday-through-Friday pattern in the intensity of attacks believed to come from Chinese sources, though there has been

little evidence released publicly directly linking the Chinese military to the attacks.

Mandiant went a step further in its report Tuesday saying that it had traced hacking activities against 141 foreign entities in the U.S., Canada, Britain and elsewhere to a group of operators known as the "Comment Crew" or "APT1," for "Advanced Persistent Threat 1," which it traced back to the People's Liberation Army Unit 61398. The unit is headquartered in a nondescript 12-story building inside a military compound in a crowded suburb of China's financial hub of Shanghai.

Attackers stole information about pricing, contract negotiations, manufacturing, product testing and corporate acquisitions, the company said.

Hacker teams regularly began work, for the most part, at 8 a.m. Beijing time. Usually they continued for a standard work day, but sometimes the hacking persisted until midnight. Occasionally, the attacks stopped for two-week periods, Mandiant said, though the reason was not clear.

China denies any official involvement, calling such accusations "groundless" and insisting that Beijing is itself a major victim of hacking attacks, the largest number of which originate in the U.S. While not denying hacking attacks originated in China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Thursday that it was flat out wrong to accuse the Chinese government or military of being behind them.

Mandiant and other experts believe Unit 61398 to be a branch of the PLA General Staff's Third Department responsible for collection and analysis of electronic signals such as e-mails and phone calls. It and the Fourth Department, responsible for electronic warfare, are believed to be the PLA units mainly responsible for infiltrating and manipulating computer networks.

China acknowledges pursuing these strategies as a key to delivering an initial blow to an opponent's communications and other infrastructure during wartime — but the techniques are often the same as those used to steal information for commercial use.

China has consistently denied state-sponsored hacking, but experts say the office hours that the cyberespies keep point to a professional army rather than mere hobbyists or so-called "hacktivists" inspired by patriotic passions.

China's government isn't alone in being accused of cyber espionage, but observers say it has outpaced its rivals in using military assets to steal commercial secrets.

"Stealing secrets is stealing secrets regardless of the medium," Forno said. "The key difference is that you can't easily arrest such electronic thieves since they're most likely not even in the country, which differs from how the game was played during the Cold War."

For complete story, log on to brownfieldonline.com

Letters from Home

NOTE: Each of the soldiers listed below has a connection to Brownfield or Terry County. Readers are encouraged to correspond with any or all of Terry County's finest to show their continued support for those who are serving their country faithfully.

Consider sending a card or letter to a soldier, or a complete care package with products such as: Batteries; hardback and paperback books; magazines; puzzle books; CDs; DVDs; non-perishable food items such as beef jerky, dried fruit, canned chicken and tuna, ramen noodles, popcorn, cookies, chips and other snacks; socks; undershirts; personal hygiene items such as deodorant, disposable razors, soap, shampoo and toothpaste; pens and paper; phone cards and hand-held electronic games or travel-size board games.

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Roseboro, NC 28382

RCT Brandon Bergara
2nd RT BN Hotel Co. PLT 2166

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Garcia, Jason Anthony
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FPO AP 96310-0075

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Son of Maria Ramirez and Pedro
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PFC Joseph Mitcham
75th Fires Brigade
COB Speicher
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Son of Scott and Brenda Minyard and
Marlon Mulkey

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Son of Christie Cottrell

Sgt. Marvin D. Powell
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Son of Lanna and Kenny Powell

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Jackson

PFC Seaton, Justin
B Btry TF 2/82 FA

FOB Diamondback
APOAE 09334
Son of Nolan and Lisa Seaton

Snyder, Timothy, SrA
332 ELRS/LGRA
APO, AE 09315-9997
Son of Larry and Brenda Snyder

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Son of Bill and Beverly Titus

TSST Jerry L. Torrez
PSC 3 Box 8015
APO AP 96266
Son of Elia and Nicanor Torrez, Jr.

Valentin Mata, Leonardo
BI Battery 4319 AFAR CTF
FOB Naray APO AE 09354

Readers who have family members in the military are encouraged to include their relative's name and address in this listing. To add a soldier, please call 637-4535 or email josie@brownfieldonline.com.