

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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10 PAGES - PLUS SUPPLEMENTS

VOLUME 109, NO 21

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013

In Today's News



Assurances sought with potential \$2B water fund

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Girls Little Dribbler Awards

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Gas prices fall average 3.7¢ in Texas

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 3.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.53/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas. This compares with the national average that has fallen 3.2 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.66/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 11.6 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 13.5 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 10.2 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 8.8 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

Find up-to-date local gas prices at brownfieldonline.com under the Local tab.

Local Weather

Wed 3/13 70/39
Sunny skies. High around 70F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thu 3/14 78/42
Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.

Fri 3/15 82/48
Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.



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Oil business picks up

The revitalization of the area's oil fields has been a hot topic of conversation for more than two years, since land men started swarming local title records.

Land owners and mineral rights holders have felt the welcome windfall of the uptick in the oil field, while the excitement of what it could mean for the local economy has been tinged with impatience as locals anticipate the arrival of new businesses and the jobs that follow.

Two new companies have located in Terry County recently and more are expected to follow suit as drilling rigs move into the area.

The South Plains and Permian Basin, long the strongholds of the Texas oil industry, are gearing up for increased activity that has mostly shielded the area -- and the state as a whole -- from the economic recession most of the nation has struggled through for going on half a decade.

David Partlow, executive director of the Brownfield Industrial Development Corp. told the *News* that it is an exciting time for the area.

"We have definitely seen a pick up in interest in the oil and gas related economy," he said. "Just recently, we are working with three different oil-related companies who are looking to move into one of our industrial parks and call Brownfield home."

Partlow, who moved to Brownfield late in 2011 said he is glad to finally be seeing "the kind of activity we have been anticipating for a while."

"We're excited about the opportunities this could provide for Brownfield," he added. "We see a lot of good things happening for our community in the coming months."

The Texas oil industry for several decades seemed headed into territory best described by the old saying "all hat and no cattle."

But the state appears awash again in oil and gas, with drilling in fields across the state, including one West Texas shale formation that could dwarf both the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas and North Dakota's famous

Bakken Shale.

Texas recently had 839 drilling rigs operating -- nearly half of all rigs in the U.S. and 22.7 percent of rigs worldwide, according to the Feb. 15 Baker Hughes Rig Count.

And most of those rigs were working in five regions of the state: the Permian Basin in West Texas, the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas, the Granite Wash in the Panhandle, the Barnett Shale in North Texas and the Haynesville Shale in East Texas.

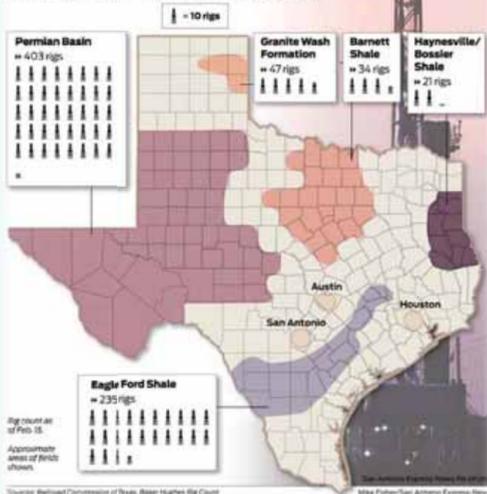
"You'd be hard pressed to find anybody who saw this coming," said economist Karr Ingham, noting that there are more drilling rigs in the Permian Basin than during the 1980s boom. "That's a stunning turn of events right there."

West Texas has a multitude of overlapping oil fields, but the Cline Shale has created a stir. The formation runs about 140 miles north to south and about 70 miles wide through Howard, Glasscock, Reagan and Sterling counties.

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Texas oil and gas fields

Texas has more than one-fifth of the world's drilling rigs operating and five major areas of oil and gas production. The Barnett Shale in North Texas was the first field where horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing were used to produce oil and gas from dense shale rock. Since then, drilling and production has ramped up in the Eagle Ford in South Texas, the Haynesville/Bossier Shale in East Texas and the Panhandle's Granite Wash, a light sandstone. The Permian Basin, a historically prolific area for oil and gas production, has re-emerged as a complex field with drilling in multiple geologic horizons.



Local boxer hits it big

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

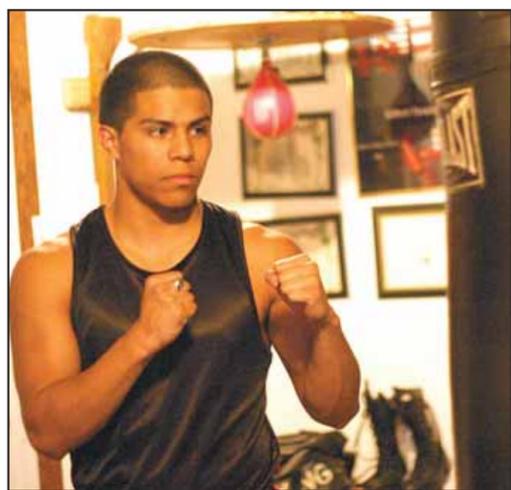
Gibby Vasquez' youth boxing career is all over.

But not to worry - Brownfield's own champion fighter plans to still see the inside of plenty more rings for years to come.

Gibby, who began boxing at age 6 and is coached by his father, Gilbert Vasquez Sr., competed in his first of many adult matches Feb. 26-28 in Ft. Worth at the Texas State Golden Gloves Tournament. And after defeating 24- and 25-year-old men in the first round and semi-finals, Gibby left the competition with a silver ring and runner-up title following a close split decision from the championship round against professional fighter Steven Cardenas, 25.

When questioned if he was nervous going into the ring against adult boxers, Gibby simply shrugs his shoulders and responds that he handled the pressure "like any other fight." Although still only 16, his upcoming birthday placed him in the 17-to-34-year-old age division. He wasn't worried, though, particularly after years spent earning a display wall full of other

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Local fighter Gibby Vasquez throws a punch in his family's home gym. Gibby, a longtime champion in youth boxing, just joined the men's ranks.

Texas sales tax revenue grows

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today that state sales tax revenue in February was \$2.08 billion, up 3.7 percent compared to February 2012.

"Sales tax revenues continue to grow, but at a more moderate pace compared to recent months," Combs said. "The latest increase was led by receipts from the construction and restaurant sectors. Collections from other major sectors such as oil and natural gas-related businesses and manufacturing remain at high levels."

Brownfield's check for the month was in the amount of \$94,440.23, a 12 percent increase over the \$84,131.19

received in the same month last year. So far in 2013, the city has received \$351,412.09, as compared to \$339,464.24, year-to-date in 2012.

The \$39,402.85 Terry County received this month was a 16 percent decrease from the \$47,082.53 received in the same month last year.

The county's rebates remain in the black for the year though, thus far receiving \$159,160, compared to \$147,016.61, an increase of more than eight percent.

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their March local sales

tax allocations totaling \$531.3 million, up 12.2 percent compared to March 2012.

The sales tax figures represent January sales reported by monthly tax filers as well as sales by businesses that report tax on a quarterly or annual basis.

For details of March sales tax allocations to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

Chart on Page 4

Local police continue homicide investigation

Brownfield Police released further details from last week's double homicide in the 600 block of Main Street.

The noon-hour murders were followed by a two-vehicle crash that claimed the life of the perpetrator in what officials have deemed a vehicular suicide, according to investigators.

The incident began shortly before noon, the report says, when Jose Roel DeLuna, 42, of Brownfield entered the home of Jesus Antonio Contreras, 70, and Rosa Mermella Contreras, 63, looking for their daughter, his estranged wife.

DeLuna left his job at the TDCJ Montford Unit in Lubbock that morning, telling supervisors he had a meeting with an attorney.

Instead, he made his way to Brownfield and to his in-laws' residence at 619 E. Main.

Another woman, whom the *Brownfield News* has chosen not to identify, also was in the home and fled the residence when the shooting started.

"Witnesses tell us that Mr. DeLuna was in the home for about thirty minutes when the argument escalated and he started shooting," said Tye Langehennig, lead investigator on the case. "After he was there for a while, Mr. Contreras had enough and told him to get out. At that time, he was pushed to the ground and shot in the chest with a 9 mm Baretta."

Contreras was shot a second time as well, this bullet to the face.

The investigator said at that moment, the third woman in the house fled through a kitchen door and was fired on, but not hit by the bullet, which went through the outer wall of the home.

She then ran around the house and knocked on a neighbor's window, but got no answer so she hid in a storage building behind the residence.

Another bullet went through the back of the house, leading police to believe that DeLuna fired in her direction a second time.

According to the report, he then went to a bedroom where Mrs. Contreras had locked herself in and picked up a telephone to call for help.

She was shot there once in the head before dialing out on the phone, Langehennig said.

Neighbors who heard the argument and then the shots fired report that DeLuna walked calmly out of the residence

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brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Should the U.S. Government nullify Washington and Colorado's State Pot Laws?

YES (53% / 37 votes)
NO (47% / 33 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 70

Survey 3-5-13 thru 3-12-13



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