

THE BROWNFIELD NEWS

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In Today's News



On the look out for Kissing bugs

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Spring cleaning begins at pool

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News in Brief

Gas prices down

What do New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle and Miami gas price averages all have in common?

In each respective market today's average is lower than its price point from one year ago, with Chicago an impressive 29 cents lower than a year ago.

Overall, the national average had fallen for 12 straight days before rising on February 11. The national average now stands at \$3.67 per gallon, its lowest level since its peak, to date, at \$3.79 per gallon on February 27.

What's going on?

"Right now motorists may be pleasantly surprised with the direction gasoline prices are taking and it's due largely to timing; the more costly summer-blend gasoline is not yet available in most markets and there's also a bit of a 'fire sale' - consumers get some relief from refinery efforts to unload their remaining 'winter-blend' gasoline inventory," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst, GasBuddy. "But, these are not the days of wine and roses..."

"We still believe that another upward trend in retail gasoline prices is a strong possibility, coinciding with the full implementation of summer blend gasoline and it will arrive in April," he added.

Local Weather

Sun 3/17 75/47

Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

Mon 3/18 77/41

Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.

Tue 3/19 76/44

Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.

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Census: Oil spurs growth

Boom driving population in Great Plains

WASHINGTON -- Numerous metropolitan statistical areas, micropolitan statistical areas and counties that were among the fastest-growing last year were located in, or at least near, the Great Plains and West Texas, according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released today.

Midland was the fastest-growing metro area over the July

1, 2011, to July 1, 2012, period, with its population increasing 4.6 percent. Adjacent Odessa, Texas, ranked fifth overall, Austin-Round Rock, Texas, was seventh, while two areas in Wyoming (Casper and Cheyenne), along with Manhattan, Kan., and Bismarck, N.D., were also among the 20 fastest-growing metropolitan areas.

Brownfield saw its population inch up slightly from 9,657 to 9,675, but local officials expect that number to continue to climb as oil businesses scout the area to relocate here.

Two new oil-related businesses have started operations in Brownfield in 2013 and more are in negotiations with the Brownfield Industrial Development Corp. to move to the city.

Terry County's population, according

to the census report, is 12,651, divided amongst 4,828 households.

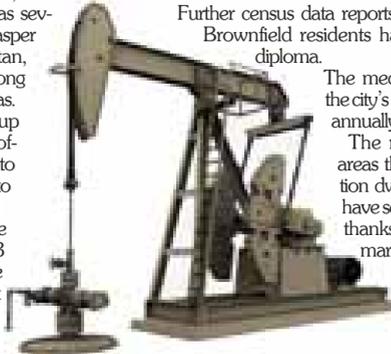
Further census data reports that almost 70 percent of Brownfield residents have at least a high school diploma.

The median household income for the city's residents is just over \$35,000 annually.

The report showed that many areas that have seen their population dwindling in the past decades have seen a resurgence in numbers thanks to a strong oil field labor market.

"After a long period of out-migration, some parts of the Great Plains -- from

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Tops at Houston!

Brownfield High School senior Reese Rowden showed the Champion Simmental Steer this week at the Houston Livestock Show.



BHS student earns trip to Austin

Texas is a big state with many regions, but one common resource we all require is water.

Water Conservation Day at the Capitol features each region's water conservation artwork in a day dedicated to educating state representatives about water issues.

High School juniors and seniors throughout Terry County competed in the South Plains Underground Water Conservation District's third annual Water Conservation Day at the Capitol artwork contest in late February.

Out of three school districts in the county Angela Sanchez, a Brownfield High School senior, was named the overall winner.

In celebration of Water Conservation Day at the Capitol and winning the contest, Sanchez will receive an all-expense paid trip to display her artwork at the Texas Capitol in March.

The water conservation artwork contest is a statewide event bringing high school artists across the state to Austin.

In addition to presenting her artwork to Capitol visitors throughout the morning, she will get the chance to be a page on the House and Senate floor.

Pages act as messengers for representatives as they are in session. Sanchez will also meet Senator Robert Duncan and Representative Charles Perry, the Terry County state representatives.

Sanchez will travel to Austin March 27-29 to celebrate Water Conservation Day at the Capitol.

She will be accompanied on the trip by students from Yoakum and Martin counties.

For more information regarding the contest, e-mail the water district at savegroundwater@gmail.com.

Ministry changing lives

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

God's love is everywhere - and yes, even behind the razor wire of some of the country's toughest prisons.

Former inmate Shane Vinson can testify to that. Like other volunteers with Kairos Prison Ministry, Vinson spent this weekend at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Rudd Unit praying with and providing spiritual counseling to some men behind bars. Vinson was first introduced to Kairos while serving his own 12-year sentence, and in turn wishes to turn others' lives around as the ministry did to his.

"These kind of people came and shared their love with me, a type of love that was unmerited," he told the *Brownfield News*. "I was dumbfounded. Kairos showed me how the Christian love worked. It was definitely a growing experience for my Christian walk."

Kairos is an international private organization established to help reform the lives of the incarcerated through spiritual conversion. The local Kairos chapter celebrated its fifth year with the Rudd Unit last July, and returned this weekend for their other semi-annual retreat.

Spiritual rehabilitation and forgiveness are major themes in their private counseling sessions with inmates, as well in the group speeches. Volunteers and inmates hold roundtable discussions that include prayers and reading of Bible passages.

"Kairos is a tool designed to help establish Christian com-



Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers form a prayer circle.

munities inside prisons," said local weekend leader Greg Holt, who is based with Brownfield Church of Christ.

Although only some Kairos volunteers actually go past the prison walls and speak directly with inmates, supporters known as Outside Angels participate in the program other ways. For example, speakers' wives might prepare meals for the inmates, and kids can join them. Volunteers from

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Enedelia Garcia

Suspect charged in robbery

A local woman was arrested Tuesday on suspicion that she robbed an elderly and disabled woman in the victim's home.

Enedelia Garcia, 39, is charged with aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony.

According to reports from the Brownfield Police Department, Garcia visited the woman's home during the early-morning hours without her permission,

then asked to borrow money. The victim declined, but the suspect continued aggravating her with the request and eventually simply took from her \$35 in cash and a medical-alert button and left.

Patrol officers arrived shortly afterward at the scene, where they discovered evidence that helped them identify the suspect and determine her whereabouts. They located her

at a residence on East Hill Street and returned her to the police station for questioning. She confessed and was arrested at 10:48 a.m.

Garcia was taken to the Terry County Jail for booking procedures. As of press time, she remains behind bars in lieu of a \$20,000 bond.

If convicted, she could face up to 99 years or life in prison.

brownfieldonline.com OPINION POLL RESULTS

Should Texas Lawmakers tap the Rainy Day Fund to help jump-start Texas water projects?

YES (59% / 10 votes)
NO (41% / 7 votes)

TOTAL VOTERS: 17

Survey 3-12-13 thru 3-15-13

