

# Alcohol: Businesses Rumored as Potential Sellers

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City of Seagraves in a Thursday afternoon telephone interview with the *Sentinel*.

"We looked through a lot of historical records. We wanted to make sure everything was right before we moved forward with this, and I believe we have done that," he said.

In a general description of the boundaries, Huse said its eastern line was located along FM 1429 and Tinker Ave. The northern portion of the boundary, according to

would run along Godwin St./15th St. to Ave. M, which will serve as the western boundary of the alcohol sale zone, southward to 2nd St, the boundary's southern most line.

Back in mid-December, members of the Seagraves City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2012-12-17.000, which rescinded and replaced ordinances No. 29 (1939), No. 45 (1941) and No. 12-881-2 (1981), pertaining to alcohol related issues within the municipality.

In addition to providing for levy-

ing of license and permit fees, the ordinance continues to state the City of Seagraves can "prohibit the manufacturing or brewing or sale or distributing of beer and light wines up to fourteen percent (14%) within the corporate limits of the City of Seagraves without first obtaining a receipt showing payment of such license and permit fees; making it unlawful to possess alcoholic beverages except in the original unopened container in or upon the public highways, roads, streets, alleys, sidewalks

or parks of the City of Seagraves; making it unlawful to consume alcoholic beverages in such public places; declaring offenses; providing penalties; repealing all conflicting ordinances and declaring an emergency.

"The ordinance that the (Seagraves) City Council adopted repealed the 1939, 1941, and 1981 ordinances that both controlled the sale and public consumption of alcohol within the city," said Huse in a Dec. 23 story produced in the *Seminole Sentinel*. "All previous ordinance lacked necessary regulatory vocabulary and largely conflicted with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. With the adoption of Ordinance 2012-12-17, our City now has effective control over these activities should persons seek to sale alcohol within the City of Seagraves."

A legal notice of the newly passed ordinance by the Seagraves City Council was published -- verbatim -- in the Wednesday, Dec. 19 edition of the *Sentinel*.

"Our City Attorney as well as Texas Municipal League General Counsel and the TABC have all provided opinion and clarification on this issue," said Huse. "There is not one particular individual or individual driving force behind the clarification of this issue; rather it is an active city council working hard to fulfill their obligations to this community. I am proud of each of them and honored to have the opportunity to serve our

community with them."

**Businesses "Looking" into Alcohol Sales**  
Huse stated Thursday he had heard rumors three businesses in the community -- Lowe's Supermarket, Stripes Convenience store and Allsup's Convenience store -- were "possibly" looking into the sale of alcoholic beverages, per the city's guidelines, in the Seagraves community.

Lonnie Rogers with the marketing department of Lowe's Supermarkets corporate offices in Littlefield, stated in recent telephone conversation with the *Sentinel* the grocery chain was "exploring the option of sell-

ing alcoholic beverages" at their Seagraves location.

"It's something we are exploring," said Rogers. "We are awaiting the findings of the City (of Seagraves) and then will move forward from there with a decision," he said.

Telephone messages from Susser Holdings Corp., the parent company of Stripes Convenience stores, and Allsup's Convenience store's corporate offices went unreturned as of presstime.

Huse, on Thursday, said no formal requests from any business requesting permission from the Seagraves City Council for the sale of alcoholic beverages had been made.

## Local/Regional News Briefs

### Hobbs Inmate Found Hanging in Jail Cell

HOBBS, N.M. -- An inmate in a Hobbs jail was found hanging in his single-bed cell Tuesday, according to a press release issued earlier this week by law enforcement officials.

According to the release, Rene Van Der Pol, 48, was found shortly before 11 a.m. Tuesday by Hobbs (N.M.) Detention Center staff members.

He was found shortly after he was arraigned by a magistrate judge on charges of Distribution of Child Pornography and Possession of Child Pornography.

Van Der Pol was arrested on Jan. 18 on his charges, and was being held on a \$750,000 bond at the facility.

According to the press release, Van Der Pol's body was sent to the New Mexico Office of Medical Investigation in Albuquerque for an autopsy.

Hobbs law officials state all indications appear the incident is a suicide.

### Brownfield Wine Facility Breaks Ground

By Josie Musico

*Brownfield News*

BROWNFIELD -- The ground is nearly ready, and in a couple more months, so will the wine.

Texas Custom Wine Works broke ground this week, preparing dirt for their foundation. The next step will be to pour cement, then construct a 16,500 square-foot building that will be operational for wine production nearly immediately.

TCWW President Mike Sipowicz told the *Brownfield News* the company was just pre-approved for a loan they had been seeking and was more than ready to begin construction.

"We got all the paperwork and financing taken care of," he said.

The facility, located southwest of town just off C.R. 460 between F.M. 403 and the Lamesa Highway, will provide services to the Texas wine industry such as grape crushing and wine processing, incubating and storage. They are in various stages of contract with a prospective client list of about eight-to-10 wine and juice companies.

"We'll try to fill whatever need that a winery or stores have," said co-manager Dusty Timmons.

Timmons added that after months of unfortunate delays anxiously awaiting loan-approval announcements and

business negotiations, he planned to waste no time on construction. The building should be complete and ready for wine production within the next two-and-a-half months, he said, unless any unexpected rain showers delay the groundwork.

"We're really excited about it," he said. "It's been a slow and frustrating process."

TCWW was recently formed, but Sipowicz, Timmons and Jet Wilmeth and Steve Talcott, Ph.D. - the rest of the management team - all have backgrounds in business, horticulture and wine and food processing.

As the *News* reported in August, the company chose to come to Brownfield after negotiating with Director of Economic Development David Partlow for more than six months.

In accordance with terms of an incentive package from the Brownfield Industrial Development Corporation, TCWW will purchase 10 acres of land in the Industrial Park for \$35,000, divided into \$7,000 annual payments for five years. TCWW will remain open five years and have 12 full-time employees to receive the offer. Sipowicz said those jobs will include vineyard management, wine and fruit processing and grape crushing, among others. Most will require training.

If the company meets those operational goals, BIDCorp. will pay \$1,000 per month toward the cost of the processing facility for five years, and reimburse them up to \$15,000 for the cost of their lateral line from city main line to their building. They will also reimburse 50 percent of their property tax each of the first five years they are in operation, to be capped at \$10,000 per year.

The total value of the five-year incentive package is \$160,000.

"The incentives are performance-based, meaning they must earn them before we pay out on them," Partlow said. "Each incentive, with the exception of the land, has restrictions on it to ensure that we use taxpayer's money wisely. We are obligated to use our citizens' tax dollars as efficiently as possible to bring good, honest businesses to our community to provide core jobs."

TWCC's founders selected Terry County mainly based on its prevalent grape industry. Because this year's anticipated grape harvest of more than 3,000 tons is the largest in the state, the company's founders were surprised about the lack of commercial wine-making in the area, and decided to take the initiative on what could easily become a booming market.

"The overall quality of the wine in Texas stands to improve through this facility," Sipowicz said.

Guided by research that indicates recently-harvested grapes make the highest-quality wines, they wanted to keep the processing facility as close as possible to the grape acreage. Just as France, California's Napa Valley and

many other top wine-producing regions are famous for their vineyards with nearby wineries, they felt the Lone Star State could similarly benefit from tighter collaboration between both aspects of the industry.

### Gaines 6th in Total No. of Petroleum Wells

Gaines County ranks sixth in the state for total wells per county, according to a September 2012 report from the Texas Railroad Commission.

According to TRC figures, produced twice annually, Gaines County possessed a total of 6,309 wells within its boundaries, which included 3,694 regular producing wells.

Gaines County's total also included 869 shut in wells, 257 shut in 14 (B) (2) wells, and 1,489 injection wells.

Neighboring Andrews County, according to September's report, possessed Texas' largest well count, with 14,077 total wells within its boundaries.

Andrews' total well count included 8,262 regular producing wells and 2,603 shut in wells and 2,366 injection wells.

Ector County ranked second in the report with 11,482 wells, which includes 6,385 regular producing wells and 1,927 injection wells. Wichita County followed in third with 9,818 total well sites, followed by Hockley County and Crane County in fourth and fifth respectively.

Following Gaines County was Midland County in seventh, as well as Howard, Pecos and Upton counties respectively.

In total, Texas possessed 263,952 total wells, of which 164,034 were active, according to TRC figures.

## Obituary

### Ratliff Funeral Homes

Denver City 806-592-2321      Seminole 432-758-2431      Seagraves 806-387-3838

### Jay Loyd Howard Brooks

SEMINOLE ... Funeral services for Jay Loyd Howard Brooks, 48, of Seminole were conducted on Saturday, January 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ned Nugent officiating. Services were under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Seminole. Jay passed away on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in Seminole.

Jay was born on March 20, 1964 in Seagraves. He worked as a respiratory therapist.

He is survived by a daughter, Lauren Brooks of Texarkana; his mother, Sue Elliott of Seminole; his father, Jerry Brooks of Dallas; one brother, Denis Brooks of Ruidoso, N.M.; one sister, Connie Wallace & husband Ronnie of Seminole; a niece, Angela Brooks; two nephews, Ryan & Kevin Wallace; numerous aunts, uncles & cousins.



## AUCTION



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