



# ROSWELL INVADERS

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## [Pro ball may be invading Roswell in 2011](#)

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The owner of a regional baseball league met with community leaders Friday to gather support for bringing an independent minor league team to Roswell. The team would be part of the Pecos League, an independent professional baseball league headquartered in Houston, and could arrive as early as 2011.

The Pecos League plays from May through August and consists of small cities throughout West Texas, New Mexico, eastern Arizona and southern Colorado. "Roswell is in the center of that and it's got a stadium, it's got people that want a team and it's 50,000 people," said Andrew Dunn, commissioner of the Pecos League. "It's the perfect city for what we're doing."

Dunn said the team would likely be called the Roswell Invaders, and has proposed black and lime-green uniforms for the players. He said 22 active players would be on the team, but there would be a 30-man protected roster. Tryouts, he said, would be held locally in December, January and February and would be open to local players.

National League rules would be utilized and there would be no designated hitter. Players would range in age from 21 to 27 and salaries would be a minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$30,000.

Games would likely be played at Joe Bauman Stadium at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Grounds. The stadium's seating capacity is currently 394 and would have to be increased, Dunn said.

Dunn said that a beer and wine license would be essential in order for the league to expand to Roswell. "With no beer license, we won't play here," he said. "The money we make is going to be concessions — everything else is break-even, if not at a loss."

Dunn said the Pecos League has no connection to previous leagues that have attempted to bring teams to Roswell. "The biggest problem here is that two groups have tried to bring teams here before, basically fundraised

and then ran and that's the negativity that we have.”

Cities who play in the Pecos League include Las Cruces, Del Rio, Texas, Abilene, Texas, and Alpine, Texas. Bisbee, Ariz., and Pueblo, Colo., have expressed interest in joining the league. A Website—[www.roswellinvaders.com](http://www.roswellinvaders.com)— has been set up to help promote bringing a team to Roswell.

Bob Donnell, executive director of the Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation, said he believes Roswell is ready for a baseball team. “Wouldn't it be fantastic to take the kids out to a baseball game — it doesn't cost that much to go, but also, there's that direct economic impact of people traveling to town and spending money on hotels and motels.”

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