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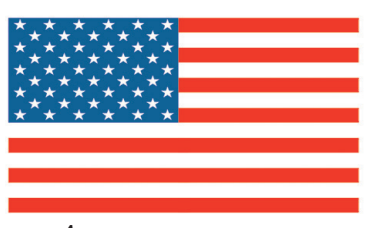
WEDNESDAY EDITION,
 AUGUST 25, 2021

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Council approves September 14 for budget, tax rate public hearings



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Big Spring Mayor Pro-Tempore and District 1 Councilman Nick Ornelas led Tuesday evening's City Council meeting due to Mayor Shannon Thomason's absence for work.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer

With Mayor Pro-Tempore Nick Ornelas acting as the meeting's chairperson in the absence of Mayor Shannon Thomason, the Big Spring City Council tackled several items of business Monday evening, including setting the date for upcoming public hearings on the 2021-22 city budget and tax rate.

The council unanimously approved Finance Director San-

dy Smith's suggestion to set the hearings for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14.

In addition, Assistant City Manager John Medina stated that the city's proposed property tax rate – which will be the “No New Revenue” rate – is 69.144 cents per \$100 valuation. No New Revenue rate means the city will not earn any more revenue than it did this year, and that any changes in tax paid by individuals or businesses will reflect changes in property values rather than the rate.

Following the meeting's invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the council held a public hearing regarding a proposed zoning change of 6.61 acres in Kentwood. The property is situated directly east of the current easternmost homes on Central Drive between McDonald and Merrily drives. According to the proposal from developer Silver Leaf Homes LLC, the land would be used to build single-family homes, but with three changes in the zoning requirements for homes in the “SF-2” Single Family zoning designation: The homes will be allowed to cover 50 percent of their lot rather than 35 percent; the minimum size for the lots will be 6,250 square feet rather than 7,000 square feet; and the lots will be 50 feet wide rather than 60 feet wide.

Cameron Walker, a contracted planner for the city, spoke during the hearing.

“The request is to take a little more than six and a half acres of currently vacant land and turn it into single-family housing,”

See **CITY**, Page 3

Public hearing regarding budget, tax rate called by Coahoma Trustees

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

A special meeting of the Coahoma Independent School District will be taking place Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Elementary Board Room located at 400 Ramsey in Coahoma.

Once the roll call has been taken and an establishment



of quorum has been determined, the meeting will be called to order and the opening ceremony will be conducted.

The special meeting will include a public hearing focused on the budget and tax rate.

The Trustees will consider and look to possibly approve a redemption order. The Trustees will look to con-

sider and possibly approve the budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

Discussion will also be held regarding an ordinance adopting tax rates for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, along with possible approval.

In addition the trustees will look at the cafeteria lunch price revisions and could possibly move to approve.

Before heading into Executive Session to discuss personnel, the Board will look at approving budget amendments.

SMMC offering Covid-19 vaccine clinic at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

First come, first serve basis in East Room

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has been hosting Covid vaccine clinics on Thursday afternoons and will continue this Thursday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, in the East Room at Howard College. The vaccine clinic will take place from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and will be first come first serve.

“It (the vaccine) is the most definitive way to eliminate this disease from our community,” Dr. Rohith Saravanan, SMMC Chief Operating Officer/Chief Medical Officer, said.

The City of Big Spring along with Emergency Management have started issuing updated numbers on a routine basis again, as cases in the community continue to rise. According to SMMC administration, the local hospital was sitting at 18 patients in house with four people in ICU on vents.

When it comes to slowing the spread of the Covid cases, the advice providers are continuing to encourage is stay home if you

are sick. For those who have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is recommended that you isolate. According to information provided by the CDC, an infected person can spread Covid-19 starting 48 hours before the person has any symptoms or tests positive. In addition to isolation, it is encouraged to inform those who may have been exposed.

“If you have to be out and about please mask and social distance. If you are unvaccinated, please get vaccinated,” Dr. Saravanan said. “Please only use ER for true emergencies, and call your primary care doctor for other needs.”

The symptoms remain the same, even with the emerging new Delta strain. Those who are experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea are encouraged to isolate and get tested.

See **VACCINE**, Page 3



According to the Texas Health Department. Covid case count as of Aug. 25 is as follows:
Confirmed: 3,132
Probable: 1,930
Fatalities: 106
Active: 214
Recovered: 4,742

Scenic Mountain Medical Center will be hosting vaccine clinics every Thursday from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the parking lot.

A vaccine clinic will also take place at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum East Room Aug. 26 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Outpatient COVID testing in Big Spring

West Texas Injury Prevention/Back in Motion
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Monday - Friday
 Flu shots also available
 No appointment needed
 432-264-1920

Gregg Street Clinic
 2301 South Gregg St
 Big Spring, Texas 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

910 S Main St
 Big Spring, TX 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m, Monday - Friday

West Texas Medical Plaza
 1501 W 11th Place
 Big Spring, Texas 79720
 Clinic Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Big Spring Urgent Care
 1700 W. FM 700
 Suite B

Affordacare
 710 S. Gregg Street

Announcements

Howard County Commissioners Meeting Monday at 3:30 Courthouse

SMMC will host a Drive-thru vaccine clinic Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Found object Art Show and Sale Heritage Museum Sept. 4 - Oct. 28 Entries being accepted now

City Council Meeting Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Council Chambers

Aug. 27 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. C. Larson Blood Drive

15th DAV 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony 4 p.m. Spring Creek Fellowship

Dove Hunt Sept. 17 Community invited to honor veterans

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 OR COME VISIT US AT OUR DOWNTOWN OFFICE AT 220 S MAIN

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **NANCY RENEE BAEZA**, 36, of 1003 S. Baird in Midland was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON**, 32, of 1218 E. 15th St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **JOHN CARROLL RUTHERFORD**, 35, of 802 E. 14th St. was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ROBERT JOHN RIOS**, 44, of 1000 E. 20th St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **TIMOTHY JOE FLORES**, 46, of 2903 Clanton St. was arrested on two outstanding warrants.
- **ELDA RAMIREZ**, 37, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 25 was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **JONATHAN MATTHEW MATA**, 36, of 2900 E. Interstate 20 Room 234 was arrested on charges of criminal mischief (less than \$100) and assault family violence (threat or offensive touch).
- **JUAN MIGUEL ORTIZ**, 32, of 5816 Dogwood Rd. in Laredo was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated (second offense).
- **OSCAR HERNANDEZ**, 24, of 1405 S. Benton St. was arrested on two outstanding warrants.
- **LORENA BRIANNE YANEZ**, 21, of 1600 State St. was arrested on a warrant for publishing or threatening to publish intimate visual material.
- **BILLY FRANKLIN MCINTOSH**, 23, of 1404 Lexington Ave was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct/displaying a firearm
- **VICTORIA ALEXANDRIA BAIRD**, 46, of 111 16th St. was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (penalty group 1, 4 to 200 grams); and on an outstanding warrant.

- **STEVEN ANDREW LOPEZ JR.**, 21, of 405 E. 11th Place was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle or watercraft.
- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 10000 block of S. Moss Lake Rd.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 5300 block of Wasson Rd.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of S. Scurry St.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 4900 block of Wasson Rd.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 900 block of E. FM 700.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2900 block of E. Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 3200 block of Duke Ave.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy. 80.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Ave. B in Forsan.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of FM 700 and Wasson Rd.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 100 block of Terry Rd.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 300 block of Price.
- **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** was reported in the 4100 block of Dixon St.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesboro Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of E. 16th Street. No transport was required.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of 3rd and Johnson. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Wood Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block

of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 2600 block of Ent. No transport was required.
- **PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. The fire was contained.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of E I-20 MM 195. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Canyon. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Dogwood. No transport was required.
- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 100 block of Canyon. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of S. Nolan. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2200 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 107 inmates at the time of this report.
- **DANNY DWAYNE ANDERSON**, 58, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of arson.
 - **DANTA MACKENZIE CHAVERA**, 23, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief between \$100 and \$750.
 - **JAMERE RAYSHAD COOPER**, 33, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia, driving while license invalid, unlawful carrying weapon.
 - **MOSES ELIJAH FLORES**, 23, was arrested by

BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **LAHOMA RENEE GOODBLANKET**, 43, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **KEVIN DWAYNE HEFNER**, 43, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of property between \$750 and \$2,500.
- **ROY ALTON MCGEE**, 49, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of public nuisance.
- **ALEX FRANKLIN MINTER**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of service between \$100 and \$750, operate unregistered motor vehicle and expired driver license.

Take Note

The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Their season will include: Sept. 25 'A Breath of Fresh Air' which will take place at the Big Spring High School Auditorium; Nov. 20 will feature 'The Music of Queen'; Dec. 8 "Holiday Spectacular"; Feb. 19 "Winter Wonderland"; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. The concerts will take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium except for the opening performance. Tickets can be purchased in season passes or per concert.

Howard County Fair is coming Sept. 17-19. Submissions for the Art and Photo contest will need to be submitted Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Special Subcategory this year is Cactus or Birds or combination of both. Submissions can be fine art or photography. For more information, call Sandra Lockhart at 432-263-4155.

Obituaries

Rojejello Ramirez Sr.

Rojejello Ramirez, Sr., 41, of Coahoma, passed away Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021. No services are planned at this time.



He was born Jan. 25, 1980, in Farmington, NM.

Survivors include his wife, Stefani Ramirez; his four children, Nathan Ramirez, Naughtia Rockwell, Aurora Ramirez and Rojejello Ramirez, Jr., two brothers, Francisco Ramirez and Lorenzo Ramirez and his father Alejandro Ramirez.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Mark Rocha



Mark Rocha, 45, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021. He was born Dec. 3, 1975.

Mark is survived by one son: Michael Anthony Rocha of Big Spring, his parents Ramona and Marcos Rocha of Big Spring; one sister: Lisa Janssen and of Big Spring; one niece; one nephew, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Ron Lucas

Ron Lucas, 64, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.



Family will receive friends from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Thursday. Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Ron was born Jan. 7, 1957, in Center, Texas.

Ron is survived by one sister, Donna Gent of Mabank, Texas; two nieces.

In addition to his parents, Ron is also preceded in death by his wife, Deanna Kay Garrett Lucas.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.
- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

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Shonda K Folsom

Founding Attorney

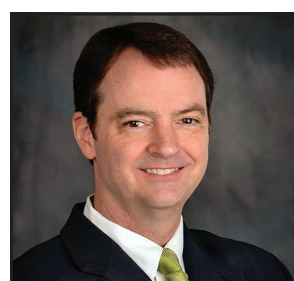
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Weather



Today: Sunny, with a high near 96. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight: Clear, with a low around 71. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 96. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the morning.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 71.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 93.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 92.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 92.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70.

Monday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91.

(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

Take Note (cont.)

• Trinity Baptist Church will host a 13-week Grief Share session, beginning Aug. 26.

• The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is gearing up for the annual kick off event and golf tournament. The golf tournament will be August 28 and 29 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course; the concert will take place at the amphitheater on Aug. 29 with Micky and the Motorcars and Spur 327.

• The Great Courses history video lecture series is taking place each Wednesday in the Theater Room in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Runnels Street. No charge for the lectures.

• Howard County Community Health Center is offering the Moderna – a two dose and Janseen – a single dose, Covid-19 vaccine to those over the age of 18. Businesses, churches, groups or organizations of 10 members or more who would like the vaccine can schedule a time to

have a mobile vaccine clinic. The staff will to the business, church, or organization to administer the vaccine. For ore information, call 806-894-7842 ext. 178 or 124 or e-mail Covid19@sprhs.org

• Maranatha Baptist Academy is now enrolling for 2021-2022 School year. We offer summer session of 4 weeks in the middle of summer. We begin August 2, 2021, and are a year round school.

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Please contact Dr. Lillian Bohanan at 432-213-1046 for further information about tuition, hours, and anything

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CITY

Continued from Page 1

Walker said. “There were three letters of opposition received from property owners within 200 feet of the boundary of the request. The land area involved...taken up by the owners of the three properties is slightly more than 4.4 percent, so the state law that would be invoked if they were 20 percent or more is not in play at this time.”

A vote on the zoning change did not occur until the end of the meeting, at which time the council voted unanimously to approve the zoning change.

Next, City Manager Todd Darden reported that the recent District 2 Large Item Pickup netted nine tons of garbage from residents of the district.

Darden also reported that the city's upcoming budget will include funding for roof repair needed since a 2016 storm, including at the fire station located at 18th and Main.

“I think the estimate was \$30,000 and we were given \$3,200 for the total claim on that roof, which didn't cover probably the felt,” Darden said. “So what we've done is put it on this year's maintenance budget to replace that roof.”

Darden said the replacement roof would be a metal roof. He also added that the majority of the damage from 2016 was located at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

Darden also reported that the city is conducting discussions with the city of Plainview to collaborate on aerial mosquito spraying, but that he doesn't know yet what the outcome of those discussions will be.

Darden also reported that the work on the ground cover at the Comanche Trail Park Kids' Zone is complete.

The council voted to approve the low bidder – C&B Excavation and Paving of Big Spring – for work on the new parking lot at the Municipal Auditorium. The bid came in at approximately \$450,000 - \$100,000 more than the \$350,000 budgeted for the work – but also included items that could be removed from the project to lower the cost.

The council voted to remove landscaping of the parking lot from the project, which lowered the cost to about \$400,000, and to accept the bid despite it being \$50,000 over budget. Assistant City Manager Medina said city crews could provide landscaping for the lot.

In new business, the council heard a presentation on the Colorado River Municipal Water District's increase in the rate it charges for providing raw water to the city. The increase was for 7 percent, but Darden noted that CRMWD lowered

the increase by one percentage point, making the increase 6 percent instead. Darden said that all cities served by the CRMWD received similar rate increases.

Following the budget and tax rate hearings, Trent Sims, a land team lead for Occidental Oil and Energy (Oxy), asked the city leaders to consent and ratify consolidation of the Robb Walter unit located southwest of Big Spring.

“It was formed in 2015,” Sims said. “Three horizontal, two-mile oil wells have been drilled and have been producing for five or six years now. The city has about a 3 ½ percent royalty interest in those wells. Due to an oversight on our side, there were about 27 leases that were included in the original DPU (Declaration of Pooled Unit) that were included by mistake. So in 2021, we discovered that error, did a correction and amendment of the DPU to remove those leases, and I'm here today to request your approval of the consent and ratification of the Robb Walter Unit, which will effectively keep the City of Big Spring's royalty interest exactly the same as it has been.”

Andrew Hagen, Big Spring's city attorney, said Big Spring's Oil and Gas Consultant Gene Green reviewed the item and considered it to be “house-keeping.”

The council unanimously passed the item.

In other business, the council unanimously passed: A lease agreement with Prime Eco Group to place the lease in the name of a subsidiary of that company, Prime Eco PolyChem LLC; approval of a contract with Public Management Inc. for administrative services related to the American Rescue Plan – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding; and approval of a negotiated settlement between the Executive Committee of Cities Served by Atmos West Texas (of which Big Spring is a member) and natural gas provider Atmos Energy. The settlement will keep residential customers at a monthly charge of \$17.52 plus a 27.674-cent per 100 cubic feet of gas used; commercial customers at a rate of \$51.61 per month plus 16.312 cents per 100 cubic feet; and industrial or high-use commercial customers at a rate of \$530.85 monthly plus 10.081 cents per 100 cubic feet.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Mark Rocha, 45, died Sunday, Vigil Service will be at 7 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith. Funeral Mass will be at 10 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel

Ronald Lucas, 64, died Monday, Funeral service will be at 4 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel

Johnny Sherrod, 77, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1

The CDC also recommends washing your hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer is also recommended if soap and water are not available, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing or before eating or preparing food. If possible avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed

hands.

The community is encouraged to attend the vaccine clinic. For more information on vaccines, visit www.scenicmountainmedical.org/vaccine.

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

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Early returns: Rookie Smith-Marsette gives Vikings a spark

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Pro Football Writer

EAGAN, Minn. (AP) — Ihmir Smith-Marsette was feeling good enough about his return ability the other night — well, he seemingly always has — that he fielded a kickoff more than halfway into Minnesota's end zone and did not hesitate to run it out.

The rookie's rash decision contradicted what the Vikings have coached, reserving the automatic green light for certain situations or proven players such as Cordarrelle Patterson with his two All-Pro selections in four seasons with the team.

Given the way their special teams units have deteriorated in recent years, sinking to a new low in 2020, even coach Mike Zimmer had a hard time getting upset by the risk Smith-Marsette took on Saturday in the exhibition game against Indianapolis.

"He's got some courage, and he catches the ball well, and he hits the seams pretty good," said Zimmer, who has praised the fifth-round draft pick's skills as a wide receiver in training camp, but has been just as quick to emphasize to the Iowa product the importance of first establishing himself as a trusted member of the special teams.

Smith-Marsette won the Big Ten's Return Specialist of the Year award in 2018 and left the Hawkeyes with a career average of 28.7 yards per kickoff return, the second-best in conference history. The native of New Jersey offered the Vikings a tantalizing

amount of potential when they submitted his name to the NFL with the 157th overall selection this spring.

He was asked to answer a question from a reporter this week about the key to successful kick returning as he was to take the ball out of the end zone in the second half against the Colts.

"Got to be fearless. Got to be able to go out there and do it. Not think about it. Just be about it," Smith-Marsette said.

Since Patterson's 104-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in 2016, his final season with the team, the Vikings have not scored on either a punt or a kickoff return.

They still ranked in the top eight in the league in both categories in 2017 and 2018, but the past two years have been a pronounced decline. They were last in the NFL in 2020 with a paltry average of 4.3 yards per punt return and 17th in kickoff returns (21.9).

Smith-Marsette got an extended audition on Saturday on both fronts, contributing a 17-yard punt return and a 41-yard kickoff return. Wide receiver K.J. Osborn is another candidate for both jobs, as is running back Ameer Abdullah.

There's a lot more to special teams than the returners, of course, and just about every facet for the Vikings has been undergoing a renovation project this summer.

They've changed kickers again, giving the job for now to Greg Joseph, who has 16 games of league

experience on his resume. Long snapper Andrew DePaola is back after manning the role for seven games following a midseason switch in 2020.

Punter Britton Colquitt is the most proven member of the group, though even he kicked poorly enough in the first exhibition game that Zimmer criticized his performance.

Then there are the kick coverage units, under new direction with the promotion of Ryan Ficken to special teams coordinator after the firing of Marwan Maalouf. There's an emphasis on simplicity this year, after some complaints that the previous schemes were too complex.

"I've got to limit the thinking on them. We pretty much say we're not using the 'T' word: think," Ficken said, adding: "That's our job, just kind of trimming it down for them so they can go play fast."

Adam Thielen, who cemented himself as a special teams ace earlier in his career in his rise from undrafted tryout player from an NCAA Division II program to Pro Bowl wide receiver, went so far as to address the special teams players recently to encourage them to continue to take that phase of the game seriously.

"A lot of them, honestly, before I talked to the group, didn't even really know that I played special teams," Thielen said, adding: "As a special teams player, you might only have 12 plays in a game. How important every single one of those plays is, just try to get them to understand that."

Seahawks bring back fan favorite Willson, acquire extra CB

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks brought back a familiar face on Tuesday and made a trade for a position in need of some depth.

The Seahawks signed veteran tight end Luke Willson and acquired cornerback John Reid from Houston for a conditional late-round draft pick. Willson's signing was official on Tuesday while Reid's trade is expected to be finalized on Wednesday.

Both moves are tied to depth concerns and injuries with expected contributors for Seattle. With Willson, his signing comes after Colby Parkinson went down with a small fracture in his foot earlier in training camp. The move for Reid came after rookie Tre Brown came out of last Saturday's preseason game against Denver with a sore knee and the Seahawks needing bodies at the position.

Willson is a fan favorite and been a part of the Seahawks in some facet for most of his NFL career. Willson was a fifth-round pick by Seattle in 2013 and has spent parts of seven seasons with the Seahawks. Willson appeared in eight games for Seattle in 2019 and last season played three games for Baltimore before joining the Seahawks and playing in five more games.

Aside from his on-field contribution, Seattle coach Pete Carroll said he values the attitude and energy Willson has brought over the years.

"We're trying to live on the high end of this thing, and keep the spirit up and keep the energy high. Expectations are really high to do that and it takes leadership and then participation," Carroll said. "Certain people just have more juice than others and Luke has always been great. He's been a great part of that for us."

Reid was a fourth-round pick of the Texans and appeared in 13 games with one start as a rookie. Seattle was intrigued with Reid's speed as a possible outside cornerback option and can provide depth depending on how long Brown

is sidelined.

Brown was one of three picks Seattle made in the 2021 draft and played 56% of the defensive snaps against the Broncos. Seattle is also uncertain how long safety Ryan Neal could be sidelined with an oblique strain, which also may lead to the shuffling of some cornerbacks with safety experience in the secondary.

"We want to make sure that we have depth and have the kind of competitive speed that we need out there," Carroll said of his cornerbacks. "We've been good all the way throughout. We've had numbers the whole time. We're right at the edge of that we got to make sure we can keep our guys together."

While Seattle made the two external moves, it also welcomed a significant number of players back to practice who had been out with small injuries, including cornerbacks D.J. Reed and Marquise Blair, offensive linemen Cedric Ogbuehi and Ethan Pocic and running back Travis Homer.

Giants catcher Posey pulled with right knee discomfort

NEW YORK (AP) — San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey was removed Tuesday night's game with right knee discomfort.

Posey was visited by manager Gabe Kapler and a trainer during the fourth inning against the New York Mets. Posey was replaced by backup Curt Casali an inning later with San Francisco ahead 7-0.

The 34-year-old Posey has had a resurgent season for the major league-leading Giants. The 2012 NL MVP singled and scored in the top of the fourth inning to raise his batting average to .314 with 39 RBIs and a .925 OPS.

Athletic Support: "Laundry stinks"

Dear Athletic Support: Back when I was a kid, I remember my football coaches always washing all of our gear. It's not like that anymore. My daughter is in junior high volleyball and we have to wash all of her stuff every night. It's such a hassle. We can't just not wash her stuff and have her stinking out there on the court, but it really is a pain.

Guess I just wanted to know why coaches stopped washing their players' stuff. Maybe volleyball coaches never did this in the first place? Maybe it was only for football? If so, that doesn't seem right to me.

— Washed Up

Dear Washed: Doing laundry during my existence during my coaching days. I'll never forget getting done with a game on Friday night, still juiced up from the adrenaline, and then having to sit in the field house for another three hours while we waited on the laundry to get done.

So, yeah. I feel your pain. Laundry stinks. And I'm not actually sure if volleyball ever did laundry. I'm sure some schools did, but I don't remember it happening at the schools where I coached.

In the end, this is a small hill, and definitely not one worth dying on. Complaining to the coach or trying to get it changed will not help. Just do your daughter's laundry and remember that one day her volleyball days will be over and she'll move out of your house. Who knows, you might even miss doing her laundry!

Dear Athletic Support: My kid's school just spent all this money on a new track. We've got a crumbling high school, but boy, do we ever have a fancy new track! The administrators sold us on this big idea that the school would make most of the money back from the purchase of the track by hosting meets. They said the money from the concession stands and tickets and all that would add up. The track would pay for itself. I don't have a clue how much a new track costs, but I know a Diet Coke costs a couple bucks at the concession stand. Popcorn's around a dollar, I think. How much candy are they going to have to sell to pay for this thing?

— Who You Kidding?

Dear Kidding: If my calculations are correct, your school would have to sell somewhere around fifty-thousand Snickers bars to cover the cost of that new track. Which, in turn, means they'd have to host a whole bunch of meets over the course of a minimum of two decades.

The bad news? After twenty years, it's going to be time for another new track.

But listen. Don't worry about the budget. That's the school's job.

Any and all new facilities at your school are going to improve the kids' experience. Period. All

things work together. Even if your kid isn't on the track team, some of his/her friends might be. Just be thankful your administrators are doing what they can to improve the campus.

Eli Cranor is a former professional quarterback and coach turned award-winning author. Send questions for "Athletic Support" to eli.cranor@gmail.com



Eli Cranor

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08/25/2021 Daily Pg 7.pdf
By Steve Becker

A crucial defensive play

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ♠ Q J 10 5 4 ♥ 9 8 ♦ A K J 7 ♣ A J WEST ♠ K 7 6 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 7 6 EAST ♠ — ♥ J 6 5 ♦ 8 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8 5 3 2 SOUTH ♠ A 9 8 3 2 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 10 9 4

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ 3♣ Pass 1♠
2♥ 3♦ Pass 4♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.
Let's say you hold the West hand and are defending against four spades. You begin by leading the K-Q of hearts, on which East contributes the 5-6 and declarer the 3-4, in that order. What would you play next?

It may not look like much of a problem, but what you play next is crucial. Let's assume you shift to the ten of diamonds at trick three, which many players would do. This might

seem like a harmless play, but you'd soon learn that you had handed declarer the contract.

South wins the diamond with the queen and plays the ace and another trump. You score your king of trump, but that's your last trick. Declarer finishes with 10 tricks consisting of four trumps, four diamonds, a club and a heart ruff in dummy.

Now let's go back to trick three and lead a low club instead of the ten of diamonds. This is a much more sensible approach, and in the actual case it sinks the contract. Regardless of what declarer does next, he has to lose a club trick and so go down one.

The club shift at trick three is not dangerous at all. If South has the queen, you are no worse off, but if your partner has the queen, it is vital to attack clubs while you still have the trump king.

Players who would not lead a club at trick three might be overly influenced by the general rule that it's risky to lead away from the king. However, that rule is not relevant here, since the king is as dead as a doornail if declarer has the queen.

Your best chance to defeat the contract is to find East with the queen of clubs, and that's all the reason you need for shifting to a club at trick three.

Tomorrow: A double-edged sword.

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Annie's Mailbox

Two Isn't Always Better Than One

Dear Annie: I am a 70-year-old retired man with no children. My wife died in 2016, and we had a very happy relationship together for more than 28 years.

About three months after she died, I met a wonderful lady, "Sarah," who took my heart away. However, she had very strong religious convictions that I simply did not share. For a long time, she said that all we could be was friends because of our differences. However, I was still madly in love with her, despite her insisting that we could only be friends.

In the meantime, I was introduced to another lady, "Jill," and we also initially agreed to be friends only. So for several months, I would go out to movies, sporting events and concerts with Sarah two or three times a week and with Jill on different days, also two or three times

a week.

I did not tell Sarah or Jill about the friendly relationship I had with the other. In my mind, I told myself that because we were only friends, I did not need to tell Sarah and Jill that I was seeing both of them. I knew this would be a recipe for disaster, but I continued to see both of them regularly. I am very embarrassed to say that I was not honest with either one of them. (OK, I will admit it: I told numerous lies.)

As you may guess, Jill and Sarah eventually found out about each other. Sarah said we could no longer be just friends, and that I had to choose. Jill basically said the same thing. The one I truly loved was Sarah, although I cared for Jill. However, to not hurt either one's feelings, I did not commit to either one.

Sarah has blocked my emails, texts and cellphone calls. I did

call her once on her landline, but she hung up on me immediately. Jill still tolerates me, but she expects so much more from me than I can give. She expects marriage, total commitment and no talking to any other single women my age.

I hate myself for all the mistakes I made, and I simply cannot quit thinking about Sarah. She broke up with me over a year ago, and the pain still hurts badly. I currently have low self-esteem, stay depressed and find myself wondering how to grasp for a reason to continue living. I have been seeing a therapist and discussing my feelings. This does help some, but I am still in pain.

I know that I cannot change the past, and I need to move forward. I made many mistakes, but that was in the past and there is nothing I can do about them at this point. My question is: Can you recommend

a book that will help me to become a better person and recover from a broken heart? -- Heartbroken Old Man

Dear Heartbroken:

Please try and let yourself off the hook. Sarah was clear with you that she could only be friends. It's not fair of her to then torture you the way she is. You deserve to be happy. The real question is, have you properly grieved for your wife? While a good book is always helpful, finding a grief support group for widows could help you. Also, find time to meet with your therapist more than once a week while you are healing. If it brings you comfort, I would do that.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to deannnie@creators.com.

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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bargain hunting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = E)

- A. 15 11 12 26 10 1 24 23 Clue: Money off
- B. 12 14 20 4 Clue: Reduced price
- C. 6 18 11 26 4 Clue: Cost of something
- D. 6 1 18 26 9 14 12 4 Clue: Buy

Answers: A. discount B. sale C. price D. purchase

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PIGSKIN PICKS

Football Contest

Brought to you by
Big Spring Herald

Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants!



Franklin & Son

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sterling City
4. Sands
5. Westbrook
6. Stanton
7. May
8. Grady
9. Pittsburgh Steelers
10. Buffalo Bills



Hull's Meat Co.

1. Vernon
2. Coahoma
3. Sterling City
4. Roby
5. Westbrook
6. Grape Creek
7. Borden County
8. Highland
9. Carolina Panthers
10. Greenbay Packers



Porter's

1. Big Spring
2. Forsan
3. Garden City
4. Sands
5. Westbrook
6. Grape Creek
7. Borden County
8. Grady
9. Pittsburgh Steelers
10. Buffalo Bills



Sonic

1. Big Spring
2. Forsan
3. Sterling City
4. Sands
5. Westbrook
6. Stanton
7. Borden County
8. Grady
9. Pittsburgh Steelers
10. Greenbay Packers



Wild West Wingz

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sterling City
4. Sands
5. Westbrook
6. Stanton
7. Borden County
8. Grady
9. Pittsburgh Steelers
10. Greenbay Packers

Official Game Rules:

Find this week's games between the merchant's ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win, and fill in the official entry form on this page with your team choices. Clip the entry form out of the page and drop it in the Pigskin box at one of the listed merchants.

Do not drop your entry form at the Big Spring Herald office.

*The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50!

You must be 18 to enter. *No photo copies accepted.*

*In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner.

For the tie breaker, the entry with the correct team will win.

If both entries have guessed the same team, the second tie breaker will be the one closest to the total points.

*Decisions of the judges are final.

*Employees and family of the Big Spring Herald are ineligible.

*All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1pm Friday of the week played.

*Winners will be announced on the next week's Pigskin Contest Page.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

TIE BREAKER-
Circle the winner and note total points scored

CHICAGO BEARS vs TENNESSEE TITANS

Total Score: _____ + _____ = **50**

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____



Increase Your Chances To Win!!

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Drop Your Picks Here!**

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MEAT PROCESSING AND MARKET
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1. BIG SPRING VS VERNON

Drop Your Entries At These Locations!

2. COAHOMA VS FORSAN

1408 Rannels (432) 267-6337

Drop your entries Here!!
Voted Best Tire Dealers 2018 & 2019

3. GARDEN CITY VS STERLING CITY

Drop Your Picks Here!

506 E. 4th St.
(432) 517-4368

4. SANDS VS ROBY

HAPPY HOUR
Half Priced Soft Drinks
Monday-Friday 2:00-4:00 PM
1200 Gregg • 263-6790 601 E. FM 700 • 263-2700
1218 Lamesa Hwy-Stanton 306968

5. WESTBROOK VS MOTLEY COUNTY

For All Your Grocery Needs
Drop Your Pigskin Entries Here
For A Chance To Win A \$100 Gift Card At The End Of The Season!
501 Birdwell Lane We Accept VISA MCDONALD'S Love2Shop WIC (432) 296-4540

6. STANTON VS GRAPE CREEK

7. BORDEN COUNTY VS MAY

WE ♥ OUR TEAMS!

8. GRADY VS HIGHLAND

9. PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS CAROLINA PANTHERS

10. GREENBAY PACKERS VS BUFFALO BILLS

\$50 ★ Winner announced here! ★ \$50

PRIZE MAY BE PICKED UP FRIDAY AFTER 12 PM

Ella Bruning turns into a big name for Little League

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Ella Bruning has become the person everyone wants to talk to in South Williamsport this week.

The starting catcher for the Wylie Little League team from Abilene, Texas, is the 20th female to play in the Little League World Series and the only girl to compete in this year's tournament. She can hit, pitch, steal bases and take a foul ball off the knee.

In Texas's 6-0 win over Washington on Friday, she stole second, scored the first run and led the team with two hits and an RBI, becoming just the third girl to have a multi-hit game in the Little League World Series.

"She's a role model for my daughter and a bunch of the younger sisters on this team," Texas manager Reggie Regala said. "She's always been that way, and now that she's on this big stage, she's a huge role model for girls everywhere."

Baseball is a family affair in the Bruning household. Ella's father, Bryan, has coached his children for over 10 years and is an assistant on the Abilene squad. Her younger brother, Dillon, is an outfielder and second baseman for the team. Their older brother, Collin, sits in the stands and cheers, admittedly jealous that his teams missed out on this opportunity a few years ago.

Ella's baseball story began with shagging batting practice balls in the outfield for Collin's team when she was 7 years old.

"I think she caught a line drive one day and some of the boys teased her about being on the team," Ella's mom, Lindi, recalled. "From that point, it was always a joke that she would play and, eventually, she did."

Her toughness behind the plate has been documented over the course of the week. After taking a foul ball to

the knee on Monday afternoon, in a 6-5 loss to Michigan, she stayed in the game and blocked the next three pitches off her chest in the dirt with perfect form.

"She has always been pretty natural and likes the competition that the league provides," Lindi said.

Ella's success is not limited to the baseball field — she's a softball star, too.

But she dropped softball for the summer to join the Abilene team in its pursuit of the LLWS. The adjustment from underhand to overhand pitching was a challenge for her, but she knew how high the stakes were. And she struck out a pair of batters on the mound in a regional matchup against Louisiana.

"We knew this (year) was our biggest shot to go this far," Ella said. "This is once in a lifetime. I have softball for the rest of my life, so I can do

this for one year and go right back."

Former Williamsport star Mo'ne Davis, now in college, continues to return to the Little League World Series as a broadcast analyst. Both she and Ella have inspired the next generation of girls in the process.

"I gave a pass to a little girl outside who just wanted to see Ella play," Lindi said. "I saw her back today in an Abilene shirt. I don't think Ella realizes how far her impact is felt through different states all across the place."

Ella started at catcher again on Tuesday, playing her third error-free game in a row at the tournament as Texas beat New Jersey 2-1 to stave off elimination and set up a game against Nebraska on Wednesday. But even if her team's moment comes to an end before the championship on Sunday, Regala said his new star "handles the attention well."

The Postscript by Carrie Classon

"Plumbing Guru"

"I'm tired of living in exile!" my husband, Peter, exclaimed as, for the second day in a row, we packed up everything we would need to be out of our home long enough for the floor to dry.

Michael, the floor sander, is in our apartment now, buffing the penultimate coat of polyurethane while Peter is moaning about his exile status.

We have evacuated to the party room in the condominium while we wait to have a floor we can walk on again. There is internet and a refrigerator in the party room, so we are rather pampered evacuees.

"The floors are almost finished," I reassured him. "But the remodeling isn't!" he complained. "The rest won't be so disruptive." Peter is not convinced.

The most urgent remaining issue is the bathroom, as the shower stall is warped and spills water onto the floor. Peter has fashioned a complicated solution involving a plastic shower curtain, a squeegee, and Gorilla Tape. It is not elegant.

But contractors are insanely busy these days, and no one is in more demand than plumbers. If you know a plumber, I suggest you cement your relationship with them immediately, as plumbers are the hottest new celebrities.

After a considerable hunt, we finally found a plumber named Matt. Like Cher or Adele, Matt uses only his first name, but on his business cards he adds a single initial for his last name—like Kenny G.

When Matt arrived to survey our bathroom, he did not remind me of either Cher or Kenny G, but had a similar charisma. He was very tall and bald and fit and had the calming presence of someone

who might start a New-Age movement. I think he easily could garner followers, although I suspect plumbing is more lucrative.

Matt arrived at our home and listened as we explained our mundane problem of having a 40-plus-year-old bathroom made of aging acrylic. He nodded compassionately as we told him more than he really needed to know about our hopes and dreams in the bathroom department.

"I have a philosophy," Matt finally said, after we had told him all there was to tell. Right away, I knew we'd be paying a lot if we were getting both a plumber and a philosophy.

"I believe in keeping things simple," Matt said, simply.

"Well, we understand you may run into problems you can't anticipate..." Peter began.

"No," Matt said, holding up a hand and looking like the spiritual teacher I was beginning to suspect he was. "I will give you a price, and it will be the price. There will be no changes. There will be nothing added. I will do what needs to be done."

If Peter had been wearing a blood pressure monitor, I know I would have seen the needle drop.

"He's going to be expensive," I warned Peter, after our plumbing guru left. Peter seemed unconcerned. When Matt's bid came in, it was even higher than I had feared.

"I just don't see that

we have a choice," Peter told me. "I believe Matt is the man for the job. We got a good price for our old house. I think it's karma that we spend a little more with Matt now."

My husband is not typically a person who is price insensitive, and he is certainly not someone who talks about karma, so now I don't know what to think.

Matt will start work next week. I am expecting all sorts of changes to ensue. Some of them might even have to do with the plumbing.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



Carrie Classon

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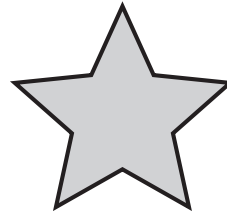


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