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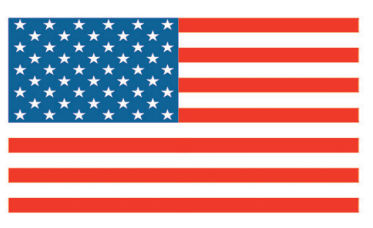
MONDAY EDITION,
 SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

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VOLUME 117, NUMBER 6

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City Council to consider Green, Hagen, Darden evaluations Tuesday

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Herald Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will consider the discuss the evaluations of Municipal Judge Timothy Green, City Attorney Andrew Hagen, and City Manager Todd Darden in executive session at the end of the City Council meeting Tuesday evening.

The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth Street. In addition to attending the meeting in person, those interested can view the proceedings on Lo-

cal Channel 17 through Suddenlink, or on the city website at mybigspring.com/224/Channel-17-Live.

The meeting will open with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by public comment.

City Manager Todd Darden will report on Sept. 15's Large Item Pickup in District 3, and Dr. Steve Ahmed will give a COVID-19 update.

On it's consent agenda, the council will consider approval of its minutes of meetings Sept. 13 and Sept. 14; hear final readings of ordinances adopting the annual budget

and ad valorem tax rate for the upcoming year, granting a partial homestead exemption for the upcoming year, increasing water rates in response to an increase from the Colorado River Municipal Water District, establishing the pay schedule for the city's police and fire departments, correcting and moving the section of city code governing the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning and Zoning Commission to Chapter 2 of the Big Spring City Code; and hear the final reading of resolutions amending the number

of directors and the manner of appointment of directors to the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, and joining with the state of Texas and other political subdivisions within the state as a party in the Texas Opioid Settlement Agreements secured by the Attorney General.

The council will consider approval of vouchers totaling \$327,060.58 for Sept. 16; and totaling \$981,910.97 for Sept. 23.

In new business, the See **CITY**, Page 3

Announcements

Howard College Board Meeting
 12:30 a.m. Monday
 Fireplace Room,
 Howard College SUB

COVID vaccines and Flu shots
 Drive-Thru Clinic
 Oct. 1, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
 2503 Gregg St.
 Hosted by
 Shannon Clinic

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale,
 Oct. 1 and 2
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sale to include Art Association art and dedication of Computer Lab at 10 a.m. Oct. 1

Don't Litter Pet Vaccine Clinic
 Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 600 E. Third St. Suite B.

District 4 Large Item Pickup Oct. 20.
mybigspring.com for information

Archrock donates \$3,000 scholarship to Young Marines

Special to the Herald

Archrock, the leading provider of midstream natural gas compression services in the Permian presented a \$3,000 scholarship donation to the Cross Roads Young Marines on Sept. 14, in a special ceremony at the Young Marines meeting house. The donation will give 10 new recruits the chance to join the Cross Roads Young Marines, and support current members with uniforms, boots, patches and ribbons, textbooks, and other necessities.

Brent Cochrane, Archrock Service Manager Permian, along with Jody Pavelock, Archrock Operations Manager Permian, presented the scholarship donation during the ceremony. Accepting the donation on behalf of the Cross Roads Young Marines was Brent's son, Ty Cochrane, a member of the organization, and Roger M. Rodman, Unit Commander.

See **DONATION**, Page 3



Archrock donates \$3,000 to Cross Roads Young Marines Scholarship in Big Spring.

A moment in history: Three's a Charm



Editor's Note: The Heritage Museum highlights a small piece of Howard County history each week. The stories include background on local families, historical buildings and more. To find out more about local history visit the Heritage Museum Tuesday through Saturday.

By **TAMMY SCHRECEGOST**
 Heritage Museum

On September 30, 1936, news quickly spread of the triplets born in Knott, TX. Dr. G.T. True, assisted by his nurse, delivered three healthy baby boys out on the family farm. The first baby was born at 9:30 p.m. and it be-

came apparent that there was going to be twins on the farm. However, to the surprise of everyone, a third little boy entered the world. Each baby weighed in a little over 5 pounds. Without adequate accommodations for the three babies, Dr. True placed them in the tray of an old trunk. This allowed the babies to stay close together as they were in the womb.

Willie Summerfield (Summers) and Angeline Shaw were married 14 years before having the triplets. The family lived in a weather-beaten three-room house in the middle of 160-acre cotton farm that Shaw farmed. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were not novices when it comes

to having children as they already had 8, ages 2-13. Mrs. Shaw said she had always been able to take care of babies. The first day after the birth, over 200 visitors paraded through the Shaw's living room. She was overwhelmed with three new (surprise) babies and the curiosity seekers. Two nurses, Mrs. P.K. Little and Busy, helped with the newborns but the couple were encouraged to allow the babies to be taken care of at a hospital in town "giving the babies a good start." The couple gave Dr. True the honor of naming the triplets. He

See **HISTORY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Ricki Carson

Ricki Carson, 33, of Big Spring died Sept. 22, 2021. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Family will be receiving friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Memorial service will be 4 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Ricki Carson was born March 24, 1988, in Big Spring to James Carson and Lisa Bruce.

Ricki was loved by everyone, and the community enjoyed him and everything about him. He was respected and was nice to everyone.



He never met a stranger. His soul was so sweet and was beautiful inside and out. He would light up the room right when he walked in. He loved his family and friends, and they will cherish all the memories they shared together.

Ricki is survived by his dad, James Carson (Vicki Williams); his mom, Lisa Bruce (Roger Peets); four sisters, Kimberly Carson, Kaci Carson, Kristina Williams-Wylie (Paul Wylie) and Melinda Williams; and several nieces and nephews.

Ricki is preceded in death by his maternal & paternal grandparents and Nana Tammy Silen.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid Obituary

Anita Rios Gonzalez

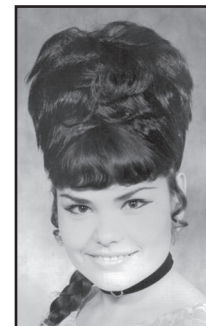
Anita Rios Gonzalez, 71, of Big Spring passed away Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021. She will lie in state from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. A Graveside Service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born in San Angelo, Texas, on Jan. 31, 1950, to parents Domingo Rios and Jessie (Polendo) Rios. Anita is survived by her husband, Wilfredo Gonzalez; sons

Ulysses Zybou Gonzalez, Zyon Gonzalez, Zynoe Gonzalez; brother, Domingo Rios Jr.; sister, Malena Flores; 13 grandkids; and two great-grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Adolph P. Rios, David P. Rios, Carlos P. Rios, Richard P. Rios; and sister, Rose Ponce.

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



Take Note

• Shannon Clinic of Big Spring will be hosting a drive-thru clinic for flu shots and Covid vaccines, on Oct. 1 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic will be in the parking at 2503 Gregg Street.

• Don't Litter Vaccine Clinic will take place Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., at 600 E. Third Street, Suite B, next to Boyd's Auto Glass. The clinic will be cash only and will include rabies, rabies/DAPP, Rabies/DAPP/Bord for dogs and rabies and rabies/FVRCP/FELV for cats. The Home Again microchip will also be offered and spay/neuter appointments can be made with a cash deposit.

• The Friends of the Library will be holding the annual book sale on Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. There will be a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. Oct. 1 for the Computer Lab. The computer lab is one of the areas that Friends of the Library book sale funds has supported in the past couple of years. In addition to the book sale, the Art Association will have pieces on display and for sale.

• September 30, Burke's Outlet will be holding a job fair at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building, located at 215 W. Third. The job fair will take place from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Masks will be required. For more information, call Rayo Rodriguez at 432-634-9269.

• District 4 Large/Bulk Item pickup will take place Oct. 20. Those residents in District 4 wishing to have items picked up will need to schedule a pick up by Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. More information can be found by visiting mybigspring.com. To schedule a pick up call 432-264-2501.

• City of Big Spring offices remain open by appointment and electronic means only. These offices include: City Hall (432-264-2401); Finance Department (432-264-2513); Public Works Department (432-264-2501); Human Resources Department (432-264-2346); Code Enforcement/Permits (432-264-2504); Water Utilities (432-264-2392); Community Services Office; Convention and Visitors Bureau (432-263-8235); facilities (432-264-2322); Cemetery (432-264-2323); Police Department (432-264-2550); Fire Department (432-264-2304); Municipal Court (432-264-2530)

Citizens who have an appointment in a City office will be asked to wear a face covering and present valid identification upon arrival. The identification can be as simple as a utility bill. The City of Big Spring Water Office is open to the public; no appointment is necessary. The Big Spring Senior Center remains closed to congregate meals, but those who wish to pick up a to go order can call 432-267-1628, for more information. Rentable facilities including the Dora Roberts Community Center will remain open, however, users are requested to maintain social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions. For any questions or concerns please contact the City Manager's Office at 432-264-2401.

• The Cotton Boll Scramble will take place on Sept. 30 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Registration will be at 8 a.m. at G.C. Broughton Junior Ag Complex followed by Howard County Crop Tour. Lunch will be served at Noon and the Golf Scramble will begin at 1 p.m. Area cotton producers who attend the crop tour will receive free lunch and free golf. The Golf Scramble is sponsored by Expedition Royalty.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you. For more information, call 432-263-4155; Michelle Worthan at 325-227-3911; Kay Smith at 432-213-1153; or Ruby Bruns at 432-664-1943.

• The Big Spring Symphony is celebrating 40 years. Following a successful season opener Sept. 25 'A Breath of Fresh Air' at the Big Spring High School Auditorium; Nov. 20's performance of 'The Music of Queen' has been postponed until January. Other performances will include: Dec. 8 "Holiday Spectacular"; Feb. 19 "Winter Wonderland"; and Spring Pops Concert on April 23. The remaining concerts will take place at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased in season passes or per concert.

• Trinity Baptist Church is hosting a 13-week Grief Share session, which began Aug. 26.

• 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 be 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

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more. To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

• St. Vincent de Paul food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn

at SVDP Building.

• Interim HealthCare is looking for volunteers. Those who would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer can call 432-263-5999.

• VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought.

The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

• O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Mike Tarpley at 432-556-2227.

• Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies, as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• The Howard County Democrats meet every Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Cactus Room at Howard College in the Student Union Building. For more information, e-mail howardcountytxdems@gmail.com.

• The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

• Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m., with Dutch treat lunch and meeting at noon.

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Support Groups

- MONDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees It, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- TUESDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.
 - Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.
 - Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Settles.

- DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.
- WEDNESDAY**
- Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for

- Joyce Webb at 325-212-860
- 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.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

council will acknowledge receipt of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation minutes for its regular Board of Directors meeting of Aug. 17; and of the BSEDC's Annual Report for 2021.

The council will consider a resolution designating nominees for the position of director on the Howard County Joint Tax Appraisal District's board of directors for 2022 and 2023.

The council will continue its campaign of amending and consolidating rules governing city boards and commissions in Chapter 2 ("Administration"), Article VII ("Boards and Commissions"). This meeting, the council will consider amending and moving the rules governing the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board in a new Division 10 and a new Section 2-315, both entitled "Convention and

Visitors Bureau Board."

The council will also consider amending and moving rules governing the Citizen's Advisory Board to Chapter 2.

In other business, the council will consider amending Chapter 50 of the Big Spring City Code to direct the Utility Billing Supervisor to file liens against properties for delinquent water, garbage and wastewater services accounts totaling at least \$50 and setting an annual interest rate of 10 percent on those delinquent accounts.

The council will consider an ordinance adopting the 2021 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code setting rules governing the condition and maintenance of property, buildings and structures within city limits and within the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the city of Big Spring.

The council will consider an interlocal agreement with the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) regarding the Parks Master Plan,

and with the City of Plainview for mosquito control services.

The city council will also consider authorizing Mayor Shannon Thomason to sign a memorandum of understanding with Howard County regarding the use of land behind the old police station at 405 and 411 Nolan St. related to the planned joint city/country radio system.

The council will also consider appointments to city boards and commissions.

City Council members will have the opportunity to offer input before the council adjourns into closed session to discuss the personnel matters regarding Green, Hagen and Darden.

No action will be taken during the closed session. If the council deems action to be appropriate, they will emerge into open session before voting on the items.

Following such action — if any — the meeting will adjourn.

DONATION

Continued from Page 1

The Young Marines provide quality youth development programs for boys and girls. The organization's programs stress the values of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The group is open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the young person must be in good standing at school.

"Archrock is proud to be part of the Permian and supporting the Cross Roads Young Marines with this \$3,000 scholarship donation is an honor for all of our Archrock employees who live and work here," said Archrock's Cochrane.

"We are truly honored to receive this scholarship donation from Archrock," added the Young Marine's younger Cochrane. "It's nice to see Archrock and its employees being involved in the community and willing to invest in local efforts and organizations."

For additional information about the Young Marines, visit <https://youngmarines.com/unit/crossroads/page>.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

wanted to name them after the president at the time, Franklin, Delano, and Roosevelt.

Baby gifts and money were donated as the news traveled throughout Texas. Several hospitals sent offers of help to the Shaw's. A Dallas hospital, asked to keep the babies for several weeks so they could be examined daily by one of the hospitals pediatricians at no cost to the family. Angeline Shaw, age 32, would not agree. She said her babies belonged home with their mother and the family. The first set of triplets to live in Howard County were born in Waco, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. G.D. Griffice moved their daughters, named Garnett, Ruby and Coral Griffice, to Big Spring in the 1920s.

The babies continued to flourish. On the first week after delivery, Delano shocked the family by cutting a tooth. Nurse Busy said "the little tooth just fell out after a few days." As the triplets grew, they became active in lots of activities. They played football for the "Knott Hill Billie's", and they showed animals in 4-H. The Shaw name is recognized throughout the county; however, the Shaw triplets will remain a Big Spring and Knott marvel.

In 1951, the Rodriguez trio were the second set of triplets to be born in Howard County. Pedro was born at 11:45 p.m. on January 30, 1951. The second boy, Juan, arrived on the following day at 12:01 am on January 31st. Finally, Jose arrived eight minutes later at 12:09. The three boys were born at Big Spring/ Hall & Ben-

nett Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Rodriguez of Coahoma. All three babies weighed a little over 3 pounds. The Rodriguez' had their hands full with triplets and a 10-month-old daughter at home.

Exactly 18 years after the Rodriguez triplets were born, a new set of triplets were born at Webb Air Force Base Hospital on January 31, 1969. Sgt. David Headen and his wife, originally from Portland, Oregon, had been recently stationed at Webb. The three girls weighed 4.8 oz, 4.7 and 3.11 pounds, and were named Theresa, Stacey, and Tina.

May 2, 1978, the Best triplets arrived. The tiny trio of boys were born in a Lubbock hospital on April 4, 1978. Their parents, John and Holly, were not even considering the idea of twins, much less triplets. Two months before the babies were born, Holly's doctor ordered an X-ray and discovered 6 arms and 6 legs. The doctor recommended that Holly be sent to Lubbock, where she gave birth six weeks prematurely. Jeremiah weighed five pounds and 14 ounces. Jonathan weighed five pounds and six ounces, and James Michael weighed an even five pounds. The couple were thankful to their close family members and the community for all of their help.

Dr. Erich Byerly, a real estate agent, and his wife Angie, had been trying to get pregnant for several years. Angie was unable to produce healthy eggs, so they chose *in vitro* fertilization using her lifelong best friend's eggs and Erich's sperm. The implantation was a success, and three little babies were beginning to develop and grow inside their mother's uterus.

Angie was ordered bed rest during

the last two months of her pregnancy. so everyone could celebrate.

On March 2, 2006, baby Erich was ready to make his arrival at 30 weeks. He weighed in at 3 pounds even, then Kaitlyn arrived weighing 2 pounds 10 ounces and last was Conner at 2 pounds and 14 ounces.

After several weeks in the NICU at Odessa Regional, the triplets were finally cleared to go home. This is when family and friends all pitched in to help the new parents.

During the first year of their lives, the babies required around-the-clock attention.

The Byerly's knew how important their neighbors, friends, and family were.

On the triplets' first birthday, they had a large formal dinner catered for everyone that helped them through the first year. Erich even splurged for an open bar

**MYERS & SMITH
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Edward "Eddy" Yanez III, 45, died Wednesday. Funeral Service will be at 10 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jimmie McCain, 63, died Wednesday. (MASK REQUIRED) Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity (Family Only)

Rosa M. Flores, 76, died Wednesday. Visitation 9 AM until 9 PM Monday with vigil service at 7 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 AM Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive.

Ricki Carson, 33, died Wednesday. Visitation will be 9 AM until 9 Pm Monday with family receiving friends at 5 PM until 7 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Funeral Service will be at 4 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Kevini Maumau, 54, died Thursday. Visitation will be 10 AM until 11 AM Friday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with the Funeral Service at 11 AM with burial at Trinity Memorial Park

Viola Lopez, 70, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Loretta Murphy (Pike), 46, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

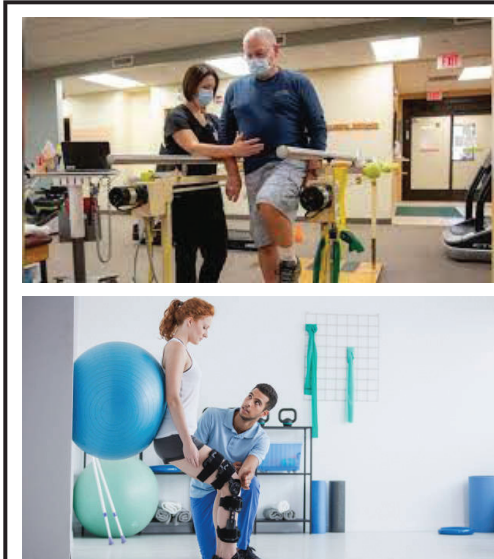
Diane Szabo, 69, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Wayne Larson, 74, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat

Vendors lined the ballroom and mezzanine at Hotel Settles on Sunday afternoon, for the first bridal and quinceneara show. Those who are in the process of planning a birthday celebration, wedding or other big event were able to visit with several local vendors to find out about services offered in the community.

Pelosi vows to pass \$1T bill, move ahead on larger measure

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With President Joe Biden's broad domestic agenda at risk of collapse, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday vowed that Democrats will pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill this week and push ahead on the bigger \$3.5 trillion social safety net and climate change bill while acknowledging the total amount will drop.

Biden spoke with lawmakers over the weekend on the path forward, according to a White House official who requested anonymity to discuss the private conversations. Extensive work was being done behind the scenes to shore up support.

When asked Sunday if Pelosi had the votes to pass the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, Biden told reporters at the White House, "It's going to take the better part of this week."

Pelosi had originally pledged to House moderates a vote on the infrastructure legislation by Monday, but she said Sunday in a letter to colleagues that vote will now be Thursday. With Democratic divisions, the extra time allowed space for negotiations on the broader bill, so both bills could advance. The \$1 trillion infrastructure plan passed the Senate last month.

"Let me just say that we're going to pass the bill this week," Pelosi, D-Calif., said earlier Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

She added: "I'm never bringing a bill to the floor that doesn't have the votes. You cannot choose the date. You have to go when you have the votes in a reasonable time, and we will."

Still, in a delicate balancing act aimed at achieving the near Democratic unanimity needed to push the sprawling package through, Pelosi made clear that Biden's proposed \$3.5 trillion for social spending and climate initiatives will need to be trimmed.

Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona have said they won't support a bill of that size. Manchin has previously proposed spending of \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, an amount that progressives have called unacceptable for a bill they originally envisioned at \$6 trillion.

Asked on ABC if she agrees the final number on the so-called reconciliation bill will be "somewhat

smaller" than \$3.5 trillion, Pelosi responded: "That seems self-evident."

"We'll see how the number comes down and what we need," she added. "Again, the Senate and the House, those who are not in full agreement with the president, right, let's see what our values — let's not talk about numbers and dollars. Let's talk about values."

"I think even those who want a smaller number, support the vision of the president, and this is really transformative."

Her comments reflected the enormous stakes for the coming week, one that could define the Biden presidency and shape the political contours of next year's midterm elections.

Along with personal phone calls from the president, several Cabinet officials, senior staff and others were reaching out to lawmakers over the weekend, the White House official said.

Democrats have few votes to spare in the House and no votes to spare in the 50-50 Senate if there is no Republican support to enact Biden's massive "Build Back Better" agenda. Republicans are lock-step against the larger measure.

Biden, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., have led a behind-the-scenes hunt for compromises to resolve internal divisions and, they hope, allow approval of the mammoth bill soon.

The House Budget Committee on Saturday advanced a \$3.5 trillion, 10-year bill strengthening social safety net and climate programs, though one Democrat voted "no," illustrating the challenges party leaders face. The bill, which is certain to be revised before House voting, would be paid for with taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., who led a group of House moderates in pushing a quick vote by Monday on the infrastructure bill, said Sunday he wouldn't be bothered by a slight delay.

He was optimistic both pieces of legislation could be resolved this week.

"If the vote — the way these things work, if you start debating it and it rolls over to Tuesday, ... I think we're all reasonable people," Gottheimer said. "There's too much on the line here for our country."

In setting Thursday's vote, Pelosi noted it's also

the deadline for related transportation programs, many of which are in the infrastructure bill.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., who heads the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said members of her group won't be willing to support the infrastructure plan until there is "ironclad" agreement in the House and Senate on the reconciliation bill. She didn't rule out additional cuts to the \$3.5 trillion proposal to reach agreement.

"If somebody wants to take something out, we need to hear what that is," she said.

Pelosi didn't commit when asked on ABC about a vote this week on the social spending and climate bill, which Democrats intend to pass with a simple majority without GOP support.

She suggested that House-Senate agreement could be reached this week, depending on rulings from the Senate parliamentarian on what provisions could be included.

"We are ready on our side," Pelosi said. "We just have to see how quickly the parliamentarian can operate."

The overall bill embodies the crux of Biden's top domestic goals, with billions for rebuilding infrastructure, tackling climate change and expanding or introducing a range of services, from free prekindergarten to dental, vision and hearing aid care for seniors.

But there are broad disputes on paying for the legislation as well as over which initiatives should be reshaped, among them expanded Medicare, tax breaks for children and health care, a push toward cleaner energy and higher levies on the rich and corporations.

Republicans say the proposal is unneeded, unaffordable amid accumulated federal debt exceeding \$28 trillion and reflects Democrats' drive to insert government into people's lives. Its tax boosts will cost jobs and include credits for buying electric vehicles, purchases often made by people with comfortable incomes, they said.

Gottheimer spoke to CNN's "State of the Union," and Jayapal appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Friends, family flock to Long Island to mourn Gabby Petito

By ARIJETA LAJKA

Associated Press

HOLBROOK, N.Y. (AP) — Lines of mourners paid their respects Sunday for Gabby Petito, the 22-year-old whose death on a cross-country trip has sparked a manhunt for her boyfriend.

Among those who congregated in Holbrook, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of New York City, were family members, friends, co-workers and people who were touched by Petito's story even though they didn't know her.

"She was a beautiful soul; she was full of life, always smiling," said Desiree Keeffe, a friend of Petito's mother, Nicole. "She gave you love. She was just a beautiful soul. She touched everybody like she did now."

Two fire trucks were positioned on one either side of the funeral home, each with its ladder extended, and a line of firefighters was seen filing into the building. Across the street, a chain link fence was adorned with posters featuring Petito's image and messages such as, "She touched the world."

Petito was reported missing Sept. 11 by her parents after she didn't respond to calls and texts for several days while she and Brian Laundrie visited parks in the West.

Her body was discovered last Sunday in a remote area in northwestern Wyoming. Laundrie and Petito grew up on Long Island but in recent years moved to Florida.

Lexi Ruiz recalled working with Petito at a cafe in nearby Patchogue that Ruiz managed.

"She was always willing to help someone else," Ruiz said. "She was just such a light. Anywhere she went the room lit up. It's nice to see so many people come together and support her family."

Inside the funeral home, dozens of floral arrangements and childhood photos of Petito lined the walls, some capturing her travels. One floral arrangement sent from Norwalk, Connecticut, read, "I don't know you but your story broke me."

Mourners were greeted with a placard bearing a poem titled "Let it Be" that began with the line, "Do not grieve for me for I am free."

Petito's death has been classified as homicide, meaning she was killed by another person, but medical examiners in Wyoming haven't disclosed how she died pending further autopsy results.

The couple posted online about their trip in a white Ford Transit van converted into a camper. They got into a physical altercation Aug. 12 in Moab, Utah, that led to a police stop for a possible domestic violence case. Ultimately, police there decided to separate the quarreling couple for the night. But no charges were filed, and no serious injuries were reported.

Investigators have been search-

ing for Laundrie in Florida, and searched his parents' home in North Port, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Sarasota.

On Thursday, federal officials in Wyoming charged Laundrie with unauthorized use of a debit card, alleging he used

a Capital One Bank card and someone's personal identification number to make unauthorized withdrawals or charges worth more than \$1,000 during the period in which Petito went missing. They did not say who the card belonged to.

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Coahoma Bulldogs play hard, but fall to Merkel



Courtesy Photo

Isaiah Eleda, No 5, takes the ball down the field for the Coahoma

By STEVE BELVIN

Special to the Herald

MERKEL - The name of the game was field position and the Merkel Badgers played it well. The net result was a 37-20 win for the Badgers over the Coahoma Bulldogs. The win pushes Merkel to a 3-2 record while Coahoma falls to 2-3.

The Badgers prevailed by taking advantage of short scoring drives. Meanwhile the Bulldogs had to score from 75, 80 and 89 yards. On the other hand Merkel only had to drive 44 and 38 yards for its first two touchdowns of the game. The third Merkel touchdown drive of the first half went 56 yards as Merkel led 21-14 at the half.

In a sense the Bulldogs controlled everything in the first half but the score. Coahoma ran 39 plays to 23 for Merkel. The two Coahoma scoring drives ate up the clock with a two-headed monster of a running game paced by Brysen Kerby and Isaiah Eleda. Coahoma gobbled up 10 minutes of clock on its two scoring drives.

Coahoma's first scoring drive ended up with a 30 yards scoring pass from Billy Bailey to Austin Perkins, who had gotten behind the Merkel cornerback. It was Perkins' third touchdown catch of the season. Perkins also had an interception in the contest.

Coahoma took a 14-7 lead in the second quar-

ter following a Merkel turnover. Freshman linebacker Jaidyn Vineyard laid a hard hit on a Merkel receiver and defensive back Billy Star recovered at the Coahoma 20.

Coahoma marched for the go ahead touchdown, mainly behind the legs of Kerby and Eleda. Bailey's 28-yards pass to Arian Emerson was the big play in the drive, which resulted in a one-yard Eleda scoring run.

Two of Merkel's short scoring drives came thanks to good kickoff returns On the opening kickoff Ryan Link returned the ball to the Coahoma 44 yard

line. The next Merkel kickoff return was taken to the Coahoma 38 by Dayton Huggins.

Merkel's third score of the first half came when the Bulldogs faced a fourth and four from their own 44-yard line. Ky Kemper was stopped a yard short and Merkel went on to score the go ahead touchdown on a one-yard run by quarterback Joey Zink.

Zink was instrumental in the Badgers win, hooking up with his 6-foot-5 receiver Maddox O' Malley for some big plays. A couple of time the smaller Coahoma defenders could not jump with the tall wide out.

In the second half Zink, who led all rushers with 98 yards on 16 carries and he also passed for 143 yards, took over along with a Merkel defense which put the reins on the Coahoma offense, limiting the Bulldogs to 117 yards offense in the second half.

Merkel played ball control and used the legs of punter Chris Delgado who averaged over 40 yards per punt. In the third quarter he unloaded a beautiful 49-yard punt that Merkel downed at the Coahoma one.

The next play Kerby was tackled in the end zone for a safety. Merkel got the ball right back and drove 50 yards in six plays to ice the game at 30-14.

Coahoma got a mop up touchdown when Bai-

ley threw a 23-yard scoring pass to Kemper with 1:16 left in the contest.

Coahoma coach Chris Joslin said there is work to be done by his team and still remains optimistic. "We've done by his team and still remains optimistic. Joslin said. "We've got to keep our edge. We've got to get some stuff fixed. We've got to do a better job of coaching and a better job of playing. The good things is we're 0-0 going into district. We've got a week off and we're going to work."

Coahoma starts district play Oct. 8 in Coahoma when it hosts highly regarded Idalou at 7:30 p.m.

	Coahoma	Merkel
First downs	18	16
Rushing	46-209	16-226
Passing	125	143
C-A-I	9-18-2	9-14-1
Fum/lost	3-2	3-2
Pen/yds	3-12	7-58
Punt/ave	0-0	3-41

Score by quarters

Coahoma - 07-07-00-06 - 20

Merkel - 07-14-16-0 - 37

Scoring Summary

1st

M - Joey Zink, 8 -yd run, Elijah Salas kick, 9:46.

C - Bailey Bailey, 30 yd pass to Austin Perkins, Reagan Chapman kick, 3:59.

2nd

C - Isaiah Eleda, 1-yd run, Chapman kick 10:00.

M - Salas 17-yd run, two good, pass Zink to Isiah Burns, 8:18.

M - Zink 1-yd. run, kick fail, :40.

3rd

M- Zink 28-yd. run, Salas kick, 10:09.

M- Safety , team tackle Brysen Kerby in end zone, 5:26.

M- Zink 1 yd run, Salas kick, 1:51.

4th

C- Bailey 23-yd pass to Ky Kemper, try for two fail, 1:16.

Individual

Coahoma - Rushing Kerby 24-93, Kemper 4-57; Eleda 13-82; Redden 1-0, Bailey 4-minus 9; Passing - Bailey 9-16-2 int, 2 TD; Kemper 0-2-0; Receiving - Kemper 4-41, Perkins 2-37, Arian Emerson 2-40, Billy Starr 1-3.

Merkel - Rushing - Zink 16-98. Burns 5-21, Dayton Huggins 2-33, Salas 2-74; Passing - Zink 9-14-1 int., Receiving - Maddox O' Malley 3-84. Aiden Jackson 2-28, Elijah Olivarez 1-5, Burns 1-2, Huggins 1-3.

Volkanovski, Shevchenko defend at UFC 266; Lawler stops Diaz

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — Alexander Volkanovski defended his featherweight title with a bloody, tumultuous unanimous decision over Brian Ortega, and Valentina Shevchenko defended her flyweight belt with a fourth-round stoppage of Lauren Murphy at UFC 266 on Saturday night.

Nick Diaz also lost his first mixed martial arts fight in nearly seven years, declining to go on after Robbie Lawler knocked him down with punches early in the third round on an entertaining show at T-Mobile Arena.

Volkanovski (23-1) dominated the scorecards — 49-46, 50-45 and 50-44 — in his 20th consecutive victory, but the Australian still had to survive an extraordinary challenge from Ortega (15-2), who was relentless despite a bloodied face and a clearly damaged nose. Volkanovski survived a spectacular third round in which both fighters appeared to be moments from finishing the other.

"I thought I was in his head, and then he came back even stronger," Volkanovski said. "Credit to him. ... It's just preparation. I'm a normal human being. Hard work got me to where I am. Everyone can do what I've done."

Volkanovski largely controlled the first two rounds with his usual impressive work rate and striking, but a bloodied Ortega knocked him down dramatically with a left hand in the third round.

Ortega pounced and nearly finished the champ with a guillotine choke, but Volkanovski willed his way out of it and got back on top — only for Ortega to escape and to trap Volkanovski in a triangle choke that the champ also barely escaped.

"It was, 'I'm about to lose this ... belt' deep," Volkanovski said of the guillotine. "That was as deep as it can get. I remember I was making weird noises. Just opened a little bit of space."

Ortega was allowed to continue after a visit from the ringside doctor despite his apparently broken nose. In the fourth, Ortega got another takedown and nearly landed another choke, but Volkanovski gave a thumbs-up to the referee before escaping and finishing the round raining blows down on a prone Ortega, whose face was bloodied again.

"That absolutely was the best (featherweight) fight I've ever seen," UFC President Dana White said. "I thought (Ortega's) corner should have stopped the fight after the fourth round, and then he came out and won the fifth round. Incredible. Unbelievable."

Both fighters received multiple standing ovations after the final bell. Ortega was taken to a hospital after the fight.

"I thought he was done," Ortega said. "I was trying to go for his head, but he's tough as hell. I tried to finish him. I heard him gargling, but he slipped out. He's the champ for a reason."

Shevchenko (22-3) cemented her status as one of MMA's most domi-

nant champions with her eighth consecutive victory over the last four years, including six stoppages.

The champion from Kyrgyzstan steadily wore down Murphy (15-5) over the first three rounds before stunning Murphy with a right hook and then battering her across the cage and onto the canvas, where she finished with punches and elbows on the ground.

Shevchenko said she won't set goals for consecutive victories or title defenses, instead only seeking to learn "how far I can go. To discover what is my limit as a human. What is my limit as a martial artist."

The 38-year-old Murphy had won five straight bouts since July 2018 to earn the first UFC title shot of her late-blooming MMA career. Yet she was little more than a tough sparring match for Shevchenko, who hasn't lost to anyone in the past 11 years except two-belt champion Amanda Nunes.

Despite her divisional dominance, Shevchenko said she probably won't try to move up or down.

"I'm ready to fight anyone, and the flyweight division has so many strong fighters," she said.

The raucous Vegas crowd cheered the loudest for Diaz (26-10), a wildly popular 38-year-old fighter who walked away from the sport in early 2015.

In his return, Diaz traded a high volume of strikes with Lawler (29-15) for two exciting rounds during his return at T-Mobile Arena. But Diaz then crumpled awkwardly to his knees after Lawler caught him with a check right hook early in the third.

Diaz rolled onto his back when Lawler hit him again with a left hand, but Lawler declined to go to the ground with Diaz, instead gesturing at him to get up. The referee then spoke to Diaz, who indicated he wouldn't or couldn't go on 44 seconds into the third round.

Diaz still impressed White.

"For a guy who hasn't fought in that long and hasn't really been training, he looked way better than I expected," White said. "He's tough, durable and just a natural fighter."

Afterward, Diaz disclosed he might have injured his knee, but made no excuses or apologies for his performance in his return.

"I'm glad at least I put on a show," Diaz said. "I knew I had it coming. There was a lot of stress coming into this one. ... I don't have any excuses. It was a long time off."

The 39-year-old Lawler ended his own four-fight losing streak by winning the rematch of these MMA pioneers' famed 2004 meeting at UFC 47. Diaz stopped Lawler in that bout for one of his most memorable victories.

Lawler appeared to be much sharper in the rematch than Diaz, who finally found a striking rhythm late in the first round before tiring in the second.

"It was a fun fight, and that's the stuff I like to do," Lawler said.



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Lease Lines : 1166.0 F NORTH L, 781.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines : 112.0 F NORTH L, 781.0 F EAST

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 1166.0 F NORTH L
781.0 F EAST L

Terminus Location
BH County: HOWARD
Section: 10 Block: 33 T1S
Abstract: 697
Survey: T&P RR CO/WALTHALL, G W
Lease Lines: 5314.0 F SOUTH L
330.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines: 10.0 F SOUTH L
330.0 F EAST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9300 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, DeLoren Escobedo, at (713)3665919.

#11068

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37
Case No. 0330686
DATE OF ISSUANCE:
Sep 10, 2021
Status/Permit No. 870942
NOTICE OF PROTEST
DEADLINE: 5:00 PM,
Oct 1, 2021
Address: Railroad
Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email:
SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the OXY USA INC., [RRC Operator No. 630591] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 30, Bk. 33 T1N, T&P RR CO/PHILLIPS, J J JR Survey, A-1080, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 2.8 miles W direction from BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If you

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AUCTIONS

Wichita Falls Housing Authority – Oct. 2, 2021 at 10 a.m., 503 N. Rosewood W.F., TX. Buildings to be moved, vehicles, playground equipment. Complete listing and photos at ChoateAuction.com. Bryan Choate TX License 12976.

Estate/Guns/Ammo – Oct. 9, 2021 at 10 a.m., Pioneer Hall @ Rodeo Grounds, Henrietta, Texas. Complete listing and photos at ChoateAuction.com. Bryan Choate TX License 12976.

Guns of Estate – Oct. 2, 2021 at 10 a.m., Wheeler Co. Agrilife Center, North Edge of Wheeler, Tx. 150+ guns – rifles, shotguns, handguns, ammo, knives, safes and marbles. Winchester, Colt, Savage, Browning, Remington, Fox, Drilling & more. Full listing, pictures and directions at www.loydsauction.com. See Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers on Facebook. Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers 806-334-0407 (Lic. 7119), Cole Wilson 806-662-5796 (Lic. 17319).

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Legals

have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463-6751. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Oct 1, 2021

Legals

at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below: FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : LONG SPRING 3046DP Lease/Unit Well No. : 8H Lease/Unit Acres : 1972.15 Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 255.0

Lease Lines : 1163.0 F NORTH L, 861.0 F EAST L Survey Lines : 112.0 F NORTH L, 861.0 F EAST L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location Lease Lines: 1163.0 F

Legals

NORTH L 861.0 F EAST L Terminus Location BH County: HOWARD Section: 10 Block: 33 T1S Abstract: 697 Survey: T&P RR CO/WALTHALL, G W Lease Lines: 5314.0 F SOUTH L 1120.0 F EAST L Survey Lines: 10.0 F SOUTH L 1120.0 F EAST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9300 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, DeLoren Escobedo, at (713)3665919.

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Contract Bridge Famous Hand By Steve Becker

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A K J, Q 10, A Q 8 7 6, J 9 8. WEST: 8 4, A K J 9 4, J 9, A 6 4 2. EAST: Q 9, 2, K 10 5 3 2, K Q 10 7 5. SOUTH: 10 7 6 5 3 2, 8 7 6 5 3, 4, 3.

The bidding: West 2♥ North Dble East 4♣ South 4♠ Pass Pass Dble Opening lead — ace of hearts. There are times when a partnership's bidding methods are ideally suited to a particular deal, enabling them to get a far better result than might otherwise be expected. A case in point is this deal from the semifinals of the 1990 world team championship. West was Ron Sukoneck, and East Russ Ekeblad. Sukoneck's opening two-heart bid showed five or more hearts and four clubs with 11 to 15 high-card points. After North's takeout double, Ekeblad jumped to four clubs, a "limit raise" in clubs

Annie's Mailbox

Too Many Tips?

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Let the Truth Out." I was the woman on the hurt partner end of an affair, and I disagree with your advice not to tell the wife about her husband's cheating. The cheater informing their spouse is something that rarely happens, which perpetuates the lie.

In the end, someone outside the marriage should inform the hurt partner. Hurt partners not knowing about infidelity stifles opportunities for the couple to seek support and does not afford opportunity for partners to move forward.

My husband cheated on me 20 years ago. The affair came to light recently, after 41 years of marriage. Only now, with the help of a counselor, are we dealing with the hurt, pain and destruction that this long-kept deception caused, and we are finally repairing issues in our marriage.

My husband's affair was with a person with whom he worked. Knowing that the

school staff knew and gossiped about the two of them, and it was public knowledge within our community, is extraordinarily hurtful. The fact that no one told me allowed the affair to continue for 14 months. If I had known about the affair when it was going on, it might have ended earlier, and we could have dealt with issues in our marriage 20 years sooner.

Yes, it could have ended in divorce, but at least I wouldn't have been living in a marriage that was a sham for 20 years and could have been with someone deserving of my love. I contend that telling the hurt partner is hurtful but not cruel. In the end, someone informing the hurt partner allows opportunity for healing or for the marriage to be terminated. The real cruelty to the hurt partner is living a lie.

Finding out about an affair is devastating, but when the hurt partner is made aware of the deception, the couple has an opportunity to deal with issues in their marriage. No matter what choices are made regarding the marriage,

the hurt partner is not living in an unfulfilling marriage fraught with deception. Knowing is a gift. -- Wishing I Would Have Known

Dear Wishing I Would Have Known:

Thank you for your letter, and I hope you and your husband find healing through the truth. If you love him, work on forgiving him, for your sake. Remember the old saying that acid can do more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

Dear Annie: I was brought up to tip 18% to 20% at restaurants and bars. Exemplary service deserves a little more. We were told waiters and bartenders only earned a few dollars an hour and tips were their livelihood.

Now it seems tip jars are everywhere, from bakeries to movie theaters to retail shops to cafes.

I don't understand why people who are doing their job and being paid \$10 to \$16 an hour expect tips.

Ironically, it seems that when I add a tip on

a card (especially on takeout), the product is worse, not better. I regret tipping and know if a tip is deemed as insufficient, items will turn up missing or be small or burnt.

Besides cooking every meal, what is the solution here? Do you agree there are tip jars at far too many businesses? -- Frustrated in Friendswood, Texas

Dear Frustrated in Texas: Tipping for good service is a polite and kind gesture. I don't think there are too many tip jars everywhere, unless, of course, the jar says you must tip. It is simply your choice. Ask yourself why you have such a hard time being generous to people who are serving you a meal or making you a cup of coffee. It feels better to give than receive. Try to keep the smile you get from the person you tipped in your mind next time you are upset by a tip jar. Look at it as a smile jar instead.

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

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Tomorrow: The arithmetical approach. ©2021 King Features Syndicate Inc.

AP Top 25 Reality Check: Preseason perception v small sample

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

A month into the season, 12 teams that were ranked in the preseason are unranked, including two preseason top 10s, and a total of 38 teams have spent at least one week in The Associated Press Top 25.

The number of ranked teams to lose through four weeks increased to 25 when six more went down this past weekend.

The most surprising development? Clemson barely holding on in the Top 25.

A day after losing for the second time this season, the Tigers checked in at No. 25 in the AP Top 25 presented by Regions Bank, ending a streak of top-10 appearances at 97 weeks.

"We're not entitled to win the league, we're not entitled to be in the playoffs," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney told reporters Sunday. "We have a talented team, and we're not where we expected to be."

The voters cut Clemson some slack and maybe that's fair. The Tigers did stay within a score of No. 2 Georgia, which has otherwise stamped its competition.

Reputation and preseason expectations help a lot, too.

The remnants of the preseason rankings can still be spotted. Oklahoma started at No. 2 and has slipped to No. 6 after beating three unranked FBS teams by a combined total of 15 points.

Of course, throwing out all preconceived notions after most teams have played three or four games — some of which were glorified scrimmages — doesn't make sound logic, either.

There's still not enough information available to make definitive judgments based solely on results. Iowa, for example, has gone from No. 18 in the preseason to No. 5 based on beating two ranked teams (Indiana and Iowa State) that are no longer ranked and have combined for four losses and no Power Five victories in September.

Reality Check leans more toward rewarding accomplishments and making the struggling teams, even ones with a recent history of success as good as Clemson's, win their way back in.

No. 1 Alabama (4-0)
Next: vs. No. 12 Mississippi, Saturday.

Reality check: Ohio State transfer Jameson Williams has given the Tide the deep threat it needed, averaging 25 yards per catch.

Ranked: Just right.
No. 2 Georgia (4-0)
Next: vs. No. 8 Arkansas, Saturday.

Reality check: Bulldogs defense by national rankings: First in scoring; first in passer efficiency; first in yards per play; fifth in yards per rush; sixth in interceptions; 11th in sacks.

Ranked: Just right.
No. 3 Oregon (4-0)
Next: at Stanford, Saturday.

Reality check: Ducks offense: 423 yards per game and 6.27 per play. Ducks defense: 423 yards allowed per game and 5.50 per play. Ducks turnover margin: plus-12.

Ranked: Too high but somebody needs to be No. 3.

No. 4 Penn State (4-0)
Next: vs. Indiana, Saturday.

Reality check: Sean Clifford, 72% passer. If he can keep up anything close to this, Penn State can keep this lofty ranking.

Ranked: About right.
No. 5 Iowa (4-0)
Next: at Maryland, Friday.

Reality check: Hawkeyes had plodded their way to perfection, but are about to face two straight opponents with firepower in Maryland and Penn State.

Ranked: A little too high.
No. 6 Oklahoma (4-0)
Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

Reality check: Who are you and what have you done with Oklahoma's

offense? The Sooners have been held under 24 points in consecutive home games for the first time since 1998.

Ranked: Too high.
No. 7 Cincinnati (3-0)
Next: at No. 9 Notre Dame, Saturday.

Reality check: With a couple of NFL prospects at cornerback in Sauce Gardner and Coby Bryant, the Bearcats are allowing opposing quarterbacks to complete just 44.3%, lowest in the nation.

Ranked: About right.
No. 8 Arkansas (4-0)
Next: at No. 2 Georgia, Saturday.

Reality check: WR Treyton Burks has 19 catches for 373 yards. That's 39% of the Razorbacks' receptions and 43% of their yards receiving. Go-to guy.

Ranked: Too low.
No. 9 Notre Dame (4-0)
Next: vs. No. 7 Cincinnati, Saturday.

Reality check: Teams with a worse yards per carry than Notre Dame's 2.29: Louisiana Monroe (1.92) and Bowling Green (1.65). That's the list.

Ranked: Credit the Irish for coming up with ways to win, but too high.

No. 10 Florida (4-0)
Next: at Kentucky, Saturday.

Reality check: Gators will get a lot of mileage out of playing Alabama close.

Ranked: Little low.
No. 11 Ohio State (3-1)
Next: at Rutgers, Saturday.

Reality check: Drama tends to follow the Buckeyes, even when things are going well. It also tends to cloud perceptions. This is still the favorite to win the Big Ten — just not as big a favorite as they have been in recent seasons.

Ranked: About right.
No. 12 Mississippi (3-0)
Next: at No. 1 Alabama, Saturday.

Reality check: Rebels defense has shaved almost 2 yards off its yards per play allowed from last year. Let's see how improved it is against 'Bama.

Ranked: About right.
No. 13 BYU (4-0)
Next: at Utah State, Friday.

Reality check: Cougars stayed unbeaten without injured QB Jaren Hall (ribs). Baylor Romney was fine

at home against USF, but a trip to Logan could be tougher.

Ranked: About right.
The back half of the rankings are pretty tightly packed.
No. 14 Michigan (4-0)
Next: at Wisconsin, Saturday.

Reality check: What happens when the Wolverines can't just run all over an opponent? Michigan managed two first downs in the second half against Rutgers.

Ranked: About right.
No. 15 Texas A&M (3-1)
Next: vs.

Mississippi State, Saturday.

Reality check: Aggies seemingly have enough talent around their backup quarterback to piece together a functional offense. It hasn't happened yet.

Ranked: About right.
No. 16 Coastal Carolina (4-0)
Next: vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Saturday.

Reality check: Chanticleers averaging 51 points in three home games.

Ranked: A touch high.
No. 17 Michigan State (4-0)
Next: vs. Western Kentucky, Saturday.

Reality check: RB Kenneth Walker III was bottled up by Nebraska and the Spartans' offense dried up. Interesting to see how they adjust going forward.

Ranked: A touch low.
No. 18 Fresno State (4-1)
Next: at Hawaii, Saturday.

Reality check: Not surprising the Bulldogs would be less-than-sharp on a short week after a big upset of UCLA. QB Jake Haener and Co. avoided the upset to UNLV.

Ranked: About right.
No. 19 Oklahoma State (4-0)
Next: vs. No. 21 Baylor, Saturday.

Reality check: Cowboys are last in the Big 12 in yards per play at 5.21. College football in the Sooner state hasn't been this defensive in years.

Ranked: Too high.
No. 20 UCLA (3-1)
Next: vs. Arizona State, Saturday.

Reality check: QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson is not very accurate (57.3%), but he hits big plays and has thrown only one interception.

Ranked: Too low.
No. 21 Baylor (4-0)
Next: at No. 19 Oklahoma State, Saturday.

Reality check: Pop quiz: What team leads the country in runs of 10 yards or more? That's right, it is the Bears with

43. Last season in nine games, they had 32.

Ranked: Little high.
No. 22 Auburn (4-0)
Next: at LSU, Saturday.

Reality check: Is the Bo Nix era over at Auburn? LSU transfer T.J. Finley is going to get his shot. Some better play from the receivers would help whichever quarterback is out there.

Ranked: About right.
No. 23 North Carolina State (3-1)
Next: vs. Louisiana Tech, Saturday.

Reality check: Wolfpack's defense has remained stingy without star linebacker Payton Wilson (left arm), who was lost for the season after Game 2.

Ranked: Too high.
No. 24 Wake Forest (4-0)
Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.

Reality check: The Deacs formula for success: minimize penalties (4.8 per game) and turnovers (1.0 per game), run a lot of plays (79 per game). Dave Clawson is an undervalued coach.



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