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HERALD

BIG SPRING THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017



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Prosecution rests at end of day 2 of Rojo trial

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

The prosecution rested its case Wednesday afternoon against a former Big Spring Police detective who is on trial in the 118th District Court on charges of multiple sex crimes.

After a second long day of testimony, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson rested his case against Joel Rojo, a former Big Spring police officer who has been indicted on four charges – indecency with a child by sexual contact, sexual performance by a child, indecency with a child by exposure, and attempted indecency with a child by

exposure. “I do believe the strength of the case lies in the testimony of the three young women – girls really – who told their story over the last two days,” Wilkerson said after court broke for the day. “I think we got the evidence in we wanted to get in. I feel comfortable we got in the evidence and statements we wanted to get in. Obviously we have another day of testimony and the defense is going to present their case. There may be yet more evidence that comes in that is significant one way or another, but we feel



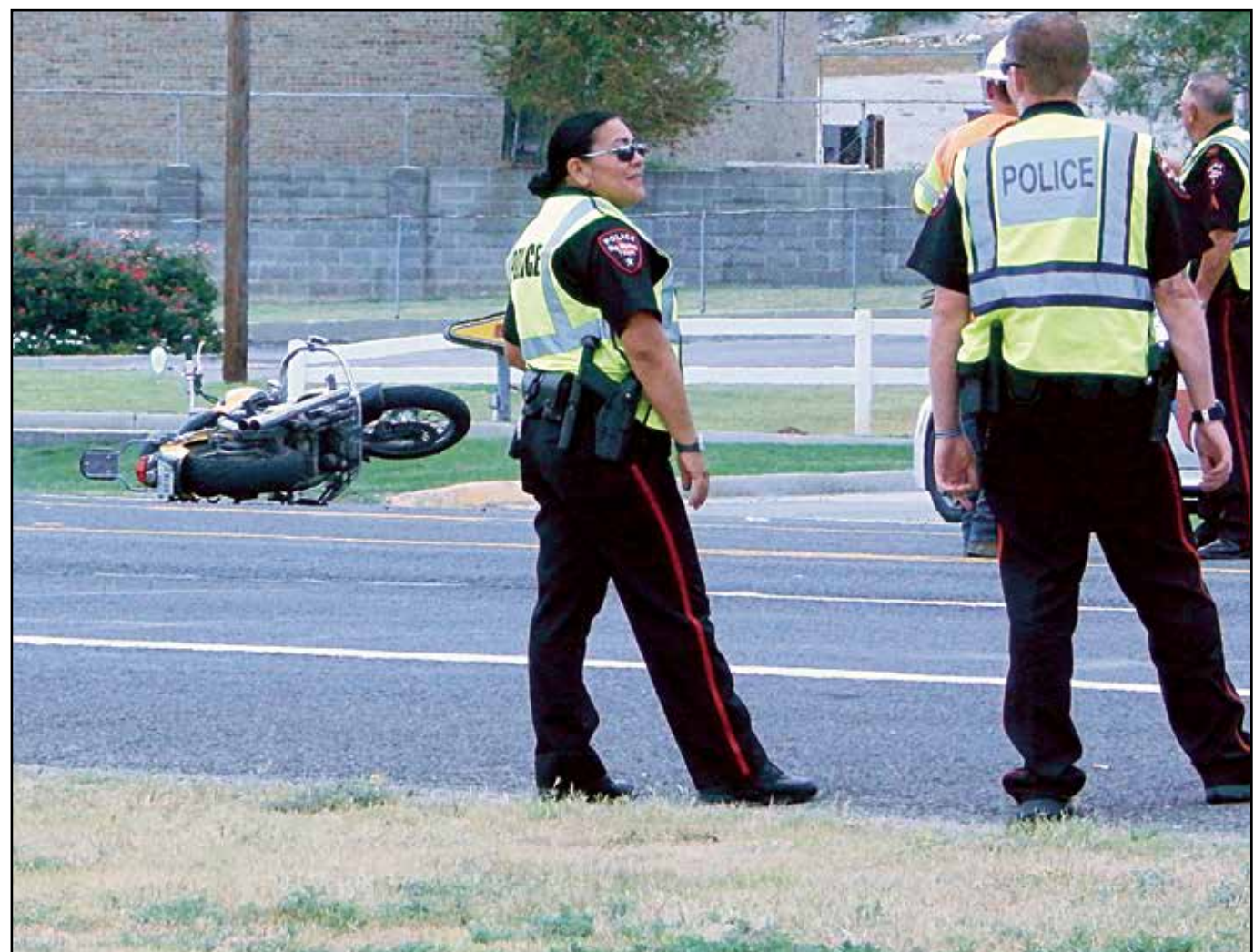
Rojo



Wilkerson

See **ROJO**, Page 3

Fatality on FM 700



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Big Spring Police, firefighters, and DPS troopers responded to a fatal accident involving a motorcycle, shown, and a tank tractor-trailer marked with the Alon USA logo, in the 700 block of East FM 700 around 1 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. The name of the deceased has not yet been released to the public. Emergency personnel directed traffic around the scene of the wreck for about three hours. Big Spring Fire Department Operations Manager Jay Holt said the accident did not cause a leak in the truck's tank: “No, there was not a leak. Most likely because of the tank heating up, there was a drip at the bottom that was shut off.” Holt said he did not know what the truck's tank contained.

Moonlight Run to light up Big Spring State Park Friday night

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Wolves howl at it and lovers kiss under it. According to song, it's blue, it's only paper, and Frank Sinatra wants you to fly him there. It's the moon, of course; and, one more item to add to the list: People come to Big Spring to run under it. The final “Moonlight Run,” of the 2017 season, organized by Permian Basin Events, will be Friday night.

“We do have people who do come in from out of town. We've had people from San Angelo, Abilene, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, because our venue is so unique,” said Permian Basin Events' Cherise Felty.

Of course, local residents participate as well, donning glow bracelets and necklaces and neon-hued clothing, and carrying flashlights to light their way in the dark. Of course, the dark isn't actually too dark: The runs are scheduled to coincide with the full moon.

“Whenever we do a Moonlight Run, it's because it's a full moon,” Felty said. “We have glow-in-the-dark shirts. The shirts all have a big light-up moon, the paint on the front of the shirt lights up in the moon

City council holds budget meeting

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Big Spring city council held a budget workshop meeting to discuss the current and upcoming years, as well as the financial status of the city of Big Spring.

“This year's budget is not as bad as last year's. It's a very difficult budget, with the economy moving as rapidly in any direction it wanted to, with the past two budgets,” City Manager Todd Darden said. “It's very hard when you have so many fixed costs associated with your

programs. There is a lot of time that is spent behind the scenes that the public doesn't see, with both the council and the staff members, in trying to get this budget to the council for presentation.”



Darden

Several items were discussed in the meeting, including a plan that would keep electricity rates locked in for the next eight years, starting in 2018.

“Another item that has huge cost savings to the citizens of Big Spring are the electric rates,” said Darden. “We were able to negotiate one of the lowest reduced rates that I've seen...I've done this several times now negotiating contracts, and we've gotten one of the best we could ever hope for with our future electric rates, and it's locked in at a pretty good term.”

Another group of items discussed at the meeting included a list of achievements the city has helped attain, or is in the process of attaining, during the current fiscal year.

One of those achievements was the spring project, which started construction at the beginning of 2017 and, according to Darden, is expected to finish before the end of the third quarter of this year.

“The spring project is a good example of a quality of life project,” said Darden. “We wanted a 'wow' factor. We wanted to take our name and put a big tag on it that says we're proud of it, and I think when that project is near completion, the citizens of Big Spring will be proud of it.”

One of the biggest hits

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

GOP plan to slash legal immigration wins Trump's support

By **KEN THOMAS and JILL COLVIN**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has embraced legislation that would dramatically reduce legal immi-

gration and shift the nation toward a system that prioritizes merit and skills over family ties.

Trump joined with Republican Sens. of Georgia and Tom Cotton of Arkansas to promote

the bill, which so far has gained little traction in the Senate.

“This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their

needs first and puts America first,” Trump said during an event Wednesday in the White House's Roosevelt Room.

It was the latest example of the president championing an issue that animated the

core voters of his 2016 campaign, following decisions to pull out of the Paris climate treaty and ban transgender people from the military. Perdue and Cotton's legislation

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0 54414 79720 9 See **RUN**, Page 3

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Police and Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **QUINCY LAMAR HENRY**, 28, of 1300 Harding Street, was arrested on a warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **GARY LEE CLAYTON**, 60, of Abilene, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1000 block of North Lamesa Highway, the 3600 block of West Highway 80, the 1000 block of Northwest 2nd Street, and near the intersection of Highway 87 and County Road 19.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh Drive.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1900 block of Austin and the 2900 block of East Interstate 20.

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.
- **QUINCY LAMAR HENRY**,

28, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

- **GARY LEE CLAYTON**, 60, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for violation of bond or protective order.
- **BRANDON THOMAS POWELL**, 20, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for two counts of failure to maintain financial responsibility and two bailsmen off bond warrants for use of vision reducing matter on windshield/windows and violating promise to appear.

Take Note

• Schedule pick-up at Big Spring High School has been set for Wednesday, Aug. 16, and Thursday, Aug. 17. Seniors will pick up their schedules for the 2017-2018 school year on Aug. 16. Seniors will also have their senior pictures taken at this time. Pictures will be taken in the High School library from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and seniors must have their picture taken before the schedule will be released. Seniors must be in compliance with BSHS dress code to have their picture made. This includes no facial hair, no unnatural hair color, and no mohawks. Juniors and Sophomores will pick up schedules in the hallway by the attendance office; juniors on Aug. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m., and sophomores Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Freshman orientation will be Aug. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium, and schedules will be released to freshmen during orientation. For more information contact Big Spring High School at 432-264-3641.

• School at Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson St., began Aug. 1 for the fall term; however, open enrollment continues throughout the school year. Maranatha uses Accelerated Christian Education curriculum, an individualized curriculum used internationally (see www.aceministries.com for more information). School and office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. week days. Tuition is reasonable. For more information visit the office or contact Dr. Lillian Bohannon at 432-213-1046.

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

• The Big Spring Salvation Army is holding a fan drive to collect and distribute electric fans to those in Howard County who need one but can't afford it. Those wishing to donate can take new or gently used box or pedestal fans to the Salvation Army headquarters at 811 W. Fifth St. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. People who need a fan should call the Salvation Army at 432-267-8239 to register and receive the distribution date.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost has dropped to \$5 per person.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

• Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They

meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• 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 of 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.



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Big Spring gift items and information on local and state attractions.
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432-263-8235
www.visitbigspring.com

Obituaries

Leslie Ann Hughes



Services for Leslie Ann Hughes, 37, of Stephenville, Texas, will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at Lacy Funeral Home Chapel in Stephenville with Father Matthew Sanka officiating.

Leslie was born in Big Spring to Don Hughes and Lucy Holten Lee. She had resided in Stephenville since 2012, after moving there from Fort Stockton. She was a cook and Catholic by faith.

Survivors include her parents, Lucy and Steven Lee of Stephenville; children, Harmony Rose Pyle and Sebastian Hunter Pyle of Springfield, Mo.; aunts, uncles, and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, Don Hughes in 1999; and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thomas Holten.

Services are under the direction of Lacy Funeral Home in Stephenville, and online condolences can be made at www.lacyfuneral.com.

Benjamin B. Mendias

Benjamin B. Mendias, 83, of Big Spring, formerly of Van Horn, died Friday, July 28, 2017. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

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.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• 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 located in 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.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Howard County Mosquito Abatement District is competing in the 2017 Trash Rubble War in OHN on September 28th. Our team needs to raise funds and awareness for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

The United Way of Howard County serves 75 local agencies that provide health and human services to our local community.

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Check with our office for more information and to see what you can do to help us reach our goal.

For more information please call or contact the United Way of Big Spring Howard County, 802-0711.

United Way

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

would replace the current process for obtaining legal permanent residency, or green cards, creating a skills-based point system for employment visas.

The bill would also eliminate the preference for U.S. residents' extended and adult family members, while maintaining priority for their spouses and minor children.

Overall, immigration would be slashed 41 percent in the legislation's first year and 50 percent in its 10th, according to projection models cited by the bill's sponsors.

The bill would also aim to slash the number of refugees in half and eliminate a program that provides visas to people from countries with low rates of immigration.

The rollout included a combative press briefing led by Trump policy aide Stephen Miller, who clashed with the media over the plan and accused one reporter of being "cosmopolitan" when he suggested it would only bring

in English-speaking people from Britain and Australia.

The president has made cracking down on illegal immigration a hallmark of his administration and has tried to slash federal grants for cities that refuse to comply with federal efforts to detain and deport those living in the country illegally.

But he has also vowed to make changes to the legal immigration system, arguing that immigrants compete with Americans for much-needed jobs and drive wages down.

Most economists dispute the president's argument, noting that immigration in recent decades doesn't appear to have meaningfully hurt wages in the long run.

Increased immigration is also associated with faster growth because the country is adding workers, so restricting the number of immigrants could slow the economy's potential to expand.

The bill's supporters, meanwhile, say it would make the U.S. more competitive, raise wages and create jobs.

Backers said the bill would sharply increase the proportion of green cards available to high-skilled workers and would not affect other high or low-skilled worker visa programs such as H1-B and H2-B visas. The Trump Organization has asked for dozens of H-2B visas for foreign workers at two of Trump's private clubs in Florida, including his Mar-a-Lago resort.

The White House said that only 1 in 15 immigrants comes to the U.S. because of their skills, and the current system fails to place a priority on highly skilled immigrants.

But the Senate has largely ignored a previous version of the measure, with no other lawmaker signing on as a co-sponsor.

GOP leaders have showed no inclination to vote on immigration this year, and Democrats quickly dismissed it.

"The bottom line is to cut immigration by half a million people, legal immigration, doesn't make much sense," said Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer

of New York, who called it a "nonstarter."

The bill would create a new points-based system for applicants seeking to become legal permanent residents, favoring those who can speak English, have high-paying job offers, can financially support themselves and offer skills that would contribute to the U.S. economy. A little more than 1 million green cards were issued in 2015.

In a nod to his outreach to blue-collar workers during the campaign, Trump said the measure would prevent new immigrants from collecting welfare for a period of time and help U.S. workers by reducing the number of unskilled laborers entering the U.S.

But the president is mischaracterizing many of the immigrants coming to the United States as low-skilled and dependent on government aid.

The Pew Research Center said in 2015 that 41 percent of immigrants who had arrived in the past five years held a college degree, much higher than the 30 percent of non-

immigrants in the United States. A stunning 18 percent held an advanced degree, also much higher than the U.S. average.

Trump has long advocated for the changes and vowed during an immigration speech in Phoenix last August to overhaul the legal immigration system "to serve the best interests of America and its workers." He voiced support for the Senate bill at a rally last week in Ohio, where his call for a "merit-based system" that "protects our workers" generated loud cheers.

Some immigrant advocates have criticized the proposal, saying that slashing legal immigration would hurt industries like agriculture and harm the economy.

"Our system is broken, but the response should be to modernize it, not take a sledgehammer to it," said Jeremy Robbins, executive director of New American Economy, a group backed by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

RUN

Continued from Page 1

light. And also we put out the lights, the glow-in-the-dark black lights. We set up black lights around the mountain so that people will see that their shirt glows as they go around a certain corner or whatever."

Some participants get creative with their lighting, Felty added.

"One family came and they had four children. The two older children were like, 6 and 8, and they had two babies. One was like, 2, and the other was just a few months old. And they had them in a double jogging stroller, and they had lights wrapped around the stroller," Felty said. "The dad ran with the two older kids, and the mom pushed that stroller all the way around."

The fun kicks off at 11:59 p.m. from the headquarters building at the top of Scenic Mountain inside Big Spring State Park.

"So they close the gate at 11:30, and the race starts at 11:59," Felty said. "We used to say 12 o'clock, but people would get so confused. So we just say 11:59 p.m., instead of 12 a.m."

Registering online is appreciated, she added.

"We ask everyone to register of course, online, if at all possible, because it helps us prepare," Felty said. "If they want to register on the night of the race, we ask that they come around 10 p.m. They lock the gate at 11:30 because we have to keep all the cars off the mountain."

There are multiple options for different preferences or abilities, and race volunteers will be on hand to guide runners in the right direction.

Like most Permian Basin Events runs, the Moonlight Runs benefit a good cause.

"The Moonlight Runs are basically raising money for the Big Spring State Park," Felty said. "So at the end of each season we write a check to (State Park Manager) Ron Alton for our Moonlight Runs."

For more information about Permian Basin Events, visit www.permianbasinevents.com. For more information about the Big Spring State Park, visit tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/big-spring.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at life@big-springherald.com.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

employees.

"Again our medical claims are on a rise in the health care cost, primarily in the prescription area," said Darden. "There was several things we looked at to minimize costs without penalizing the end user, which is our employees. Remind you that we fund 100 percent of our employees' health care premiums, as a city. We've subsidized their independent coverage over the years, but costs continue to rise."

That continued rising cost has caused the city to begin looking at ways to reduce the cost of healthcare services, while at the same time preserving the benefits of the city employees.

Darden went on to discuss another of the major achievements for the city this year: the replacement of faulty and worn-out water lines.

"The water loss is a huge factor in how much we can cash flow for projects," said Darden. "We talk about the landfill paying back. This is what a premium water line in the ground can do. The dollar amount with that is huge. Just looking how much pipe we had to put in the ground, and what we're losing through those leaks, the amount was huge. We want to be even more proactive and do things on a wider level."

The new lines cut down substantially on the amount of water that is lost due to leaks and water line breaks, and the city plans to upgrade more lines in the future to help increase the efficiency of the city's water usage even more.

Darden also presented some of the future goals for the upcoming fiscal year, describing some of the things the city hopes to accomplish in the near future.

"We're going to have to be more thinking outside the box as far as what we offer in the way of technology," Darden said. "We're running on analog still on a lot of a systems, and this budget has new radio communications with certain agencies, new technology is just becoming more of one of those necessary items."

During the budget presentation, there was also some financial information presented regarding a potential recycling program for the city of Big Spring.

"These are just some numbers

for what it would look like for recycling," said Darden. "That's above and beyond what our current rates are for sanitation. You would add around seven to ten dollars on top of what your current sanitation rate is at."

The starting costs for this particular recycling program would potentially cost around \$430,000, and was just mentioned as a possibility for the city to look into in the future.

Other topics covered at the budget workshop included:

- Darden also mentioned the proposed budget would include a pay increase of 2.5 percent for city employees. The city discussed a problem they deal with frequently is vacancies in departments, leaving some entities understaffed.
- The city helped establish the rescue adoption committee at the animal shelter. The number of pets that get euthanized has decreased, and the city is aiming to continue to decrease those numbers.
- The city is also seeking to utilize more technology to help make the city's entities more transparent and available to the community, and to help bring the departments into the digital age.
- The 2017/18 fiscal year budget proposed a \$4.5 million investment in infrastructure and capital building replacement.
- The budget proposed that the utility rates for water and waste disposal would remain the same.
- So far the city has spent \$461,154 on street construction, \$29,000 on seal coat striping, and \$104,973 for crack sealing.
- Darden stated the city is still on track with the construction of the new landfill, and expects to finish on target.

Contact Staff Writer Robert Barlow at (432) 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

ROJO

Continued from Page 1

like we have presented the case that we had."

On Wednesday morning, the prosecution finished with the testimony of Texas Ranger Jeffery Strain, who conducted the investigation into the allegations of Rojo's misconduct with three female minors. The prosecution called three more witnesses during the day; including a parent of the third victim, the victim herself, and Big Spring evidence technician Marcus Fernandez.

The third victim first came into contact with Rojo after she filed a complaint of a serious nature against her former boyfriend. She testified Wednesday that Rojo was the detective assigned to the case. The minor was 15 years old at the time. The third victim's testimony was similar to the account given by the two minors who testified Tuesday. She told the jury Rojo transported her to an isolated area in Big Spring and requested she expose her private parts so he could take pictures of them as part of the investigation. She also alleged that Rojo touched her inappropriately.

The defense was expected to present its case when the trial resumed this morning.

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Benjamin B. Mendias, 83, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

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Qatar Airways dropping plan to invest in American Airlines

DALLAS (AP) — Qatar Airways says it is dropping an attempt to buy a big stake in American Airlines, an audacious bid that had received a chilly reception from American.

Qatar Airways said Wednesday that the investment no longer meets its objectives. American Airlines Group Inc. did not comment immediately.

Qatar said in June that it planned to buy an initial stake of up to 4.75 percent of American's stock, but Fort Worth, Texas-based American said Qatar's goal was to get a 10 percent stake.

It was an odd move.

The two airlines are on opposite sides of a nasty fight that has big U.S. carriers complaining that they are unfairly undercut on fares because Qatar and two other fast-growing Middle East airlines get illegal subsidies from their governments.

Qatar Airways had said it wanted to be a passive investor and not take an active role in setting strategy at American, the world's biggest airline. But on Wednesday, Qatar said it changed its mind after a review of the deal's finances and American's reaction.

American CEO Doug Parker had given a chilly public response to the overture, calling it puzzling and not particularly exciting. Parker said Qatar CEO Akbar Al Baker approached him about an investment during a secret meeting at an airline-industry conference in a Mexican resort city.

Parker vowed that despite the prospect of Qatar becoming a large shareholder, American would continue to fight Qatar, Emirates and Etihad Airways over the allegations of unfair government subsidies. The Middle Eastern airlines deny getting illegal subsidies.

In July, American ratcheted up the tension by announcing that it was dropping seat-selling partnerships with Qatar and Etihad because of the subsidies dispute.

Qatar said Wednesday that it would continue to look for opportunities to invest in airlines around the world to develop "the best possible travel experience for its customers." Shares of American Airlines Group Inc. fell 65 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$50.41 in midday trading.

Some Texas trailer survivors held in same lockup as driver

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal authorities are detaining some survivors of a deadly human smuggling operation in the same facility as the driver of the truck in which they were smuggled, and advocates are worried that it could further traumatize them.

Michael McCrum, an attorney for survivors, says a few of them have even briefly shared a holding cell with James Matthew Bradley Jr., who faces a human smuggling charge with the possibility of the death penalty.

Ten people died after being taken from the Texas border to San Antonio in a sweltering tractor-trailer. Federal authorities in San Antonio have detained 18 passengers as material witnesses. Prosecutors declined to say where all of the witnesses are being held.

Amy Fischer, policy director for the legal group RAICES, says her group has "a lot of concerns" about the survivors' treatment.

Texas university group unhappy over 9/11 memorial relocation

DALLAS (AP) — A group at a Texas university is angry they have to move a 9/11 memorial to a less-prominent part of campus.

The Dallas Morning News reports that the Young Americans for Freedom group has set up nearly 3,000 flags on Southern Methodist University's Dallas Hall Lawn annually since 2010.

But university officials recently told the group to relocate the display to Morrison-McGinnis Park.

The university had originally said the relocation was to protect students from "harmful or triggering" messages but amended that decision Tuesday to say all displays must be at the park.

Some student groups say the new policy is an attack on free speech.

University spokesman Kent Best says the policy was revised because the Dallas Hall Lawn is used for classes and a variety of university events.

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High court juvenile lifer ban spurs wider review of cases



In this Oct. 26, 2004 file photo, Lee Boyd Malvo enters a courtroom in the Spotsylvania, Va., Circuit Court. Malvo plead guilty and was sentenced to two life sentences for the murder of Kenneth Bridges and shooting Caroline Seawell in 2002. In June 2017, public defender James Johnston argued before a Maryland judge that Malvo, one of the D.C. snipers who terrorized the Washington area for a month in 2002, deserved a new sentence. He was 17 and pleaded guilty to murder charges in Virginia and Maryland. He received life without parole in both states, but a Virginia judge recently ruled the term unconstitutional and ordered Malvo resentenced.

By JULIET LINDERMAN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court decision triggering new sentences for inmates serving mandatory life without parole for crimes committed as juveniles has had a far greater effect: The ruling is prompting lawyers to apply its fundamental logic — that it's cruel and unusual to lock teens up for life — to a larger population, those whose sentences include a parole provision but who stand little chance of getting out.

The court in January 2016 expanded its ban on mandatory life without parole for juveniles to more than 2,000 offenders already serving such sentences, saying teens should be treated differently than adult offenders because they're less mature, prone to manipulation and capable of change. The court found that all but the rare juvenile lifer whose crime reflects "permanent incorrigibility" should have a chance to argue for freedom one day, and dozens serving mandatory terms have since been resentenced and released.

But legal challenges are also being argued on behalf of offenders sentenced to life with parole for crimes they committed as teens — a population totaling some 7,300 inmates nationwide, according to Ashley Nellis at advocacy group The Sentencing Project.

"Even states that do have parole, it doesn't give a lot of reason for hope," Nellis said. "The Supreme Court was very clear to say that age-related factors need to be considered at resentencing or parole review, but the feedback we're seeing is that those factors aren't be-

ing considered."

Other courts are applying the 2016 ruling to those whose life-without-parole sentences weren't mandatory or were negotiated as part of a plea deal. In Florida, more than 600 inmates are potentially eligible for new sentences because court decisions there require a new look at anyone serving life for crimes committed as minors — even if their sentences were optional or included the possibility of parole.

The Supreme Court has not ruled on these other circumstances, but some state courts have. In January, New Jersey's Supreme Court ordered new sentences for two former teen offenders with de facto life terms. One was serving 110 years, with parole eligibility after 55 years; the other had 75 years, with parole eligibility after serving 68. The court noted both defendants would "likely serve more time in jail than an adult sentenced to actual life without parole."

The number of years inmates must serve before parole eligibility varies by offense and state: In Tennessee, a lifer must serve 51 years. In Texas, 40. Lifers could qualify for a hearing after 10 years in Michigan, but that doesn't mean they'll get one. In 44 states, parole boards are appointed by governors, and review processes vary greatly. Some boards review prisoner files without in-person interviews. Some states specify factors to consider; others allow significant discretion.

If a prisoner is denied, he'll likely wait several years for another chance and sometimes isn't told why.

Chester Patterson, 63,

has been behind bars for 45 years in Michigan. At 17, he fatally shot a store clerk during a robbery. He got life with the possibility of parole after 10 years. Patterson has earned degrees, completed a substance-abuse program, worked in the library, and avoided disciplinary tickets. He's also been denied parole at least five times, according to records. Each time, the board sends a notice that says, "no interest." He's awaiting a decision after his most recent hearing in April.

"I am not that same 17-year-old kid. I will never commit another crime again," Patterson wrote to The Associated Press. "I caused a terrible tragedy for which I will always be sorry and shameful. What more can I say to the family? I have been here for almost a half of a century, and the parole board is still saying no."

His case isn't unique. In Florida, a state Supreme Court ruling last year said that juvenile offenders who were eligible for parole must be resentenced to ensure they have a real opportunity for release.

The ruling came in the case of Angelo Atwell, who got life with the possibility of parole after 25 years for a murder he committed in

1990 at age 16. When it came time for Atwell to argue for his freedom, the state calculated his presumptive release date as 2130 — 140 years after sentencing.

"While technically Atwell is parole eligible, it is a virtual certainty that Atwell will spend the rest of his life in prison," the justices wrote, and his sentence, "virtually indistinguishable from a sentence of life without parole, is therefore unconstitutional."

Atwell awaits a new sentencing hearing.

Iowa's highest court in 2013 found that the governor didn't comply with the U.S. Supreme Court when he commuted the life-without-parole sentences of 38 juveniles to life with the possibility of parole after 60 years, because they wouldn't be eligible until they surpass their life expectancy. "Often-times, it is important that the spirit of the law not be lost in the application," the court wrote.

More legal challenges have been filed in North Carolina, Illinois and Missouri, among other states.

Maryland, Oklahoma and California are the only three states that require the governor to sign off on parole recommendations for lifers.

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During the debate, candidates John F.

Kennedy and Richard Nixon talked about many important things. Not everyone had a TV. Many who listened to the debate on the radio thought Nixon did better. Those who watched the debate on TV thought Kennedy did better. He looked healthier and more relaxed. Nixon had recently been in the hospital and was not feeling well. He had refused the help of the makeup artist, and it showed.

Who knows who really won the debate. Kennedy, however, won the election and became the 35th President of the United States.

Name That Person

Many famous people were born in September. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) JOH__YA_PLESEED | 5) GE_RGE GER__WIN |
| 2) QUEE_ELI_ABET_I | 6) J_M HE_S_N |
| 3) WI__IAM FAUL_NER | 7) GRE_A GA__O |
| 4) WILL_AM HOWARD TA_T | |

Answers: 1) Johnny Appleseed, 2) Queen Elizabeth I, 3) William Faulkner, 4) William Howard Taft, 5) George Gershwin, 6) George Gershwin, 7) Greta Garbo



Jokes

Q: How does an elephant get out of a tree?

A: She sits on a leaf and waits until fall.

Q: What did one leaf say to the other?

A: I'm falling for you.

What Rhymes with BALL?

List 10 words that rhyme with "ball."



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

Some answers: all, call, fall, hall, mall, small, squall, stall, tall, wall

Fact or Fiction?

September Challenge

September is the ninth month of the year. Here are some questions about the month. How many can you answer correctly?



- There are 30 days in September. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Fall starts in September in the United States. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Another name for fall is autumn. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" on September 14, 1814. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Sapphire is the birthstone for September. *Fact or Fiction?*

- Most sapphires are brown. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Several holidays take place in September, including Labor Day, which falls on a Tuesday. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Everyone has to work on Labor Day. *Fact or Fiction?*
- National Grandparents Day falls on the first Sunday after Labor Day in the United States. *Fact or Fiction?*
- National Hispanic Heritage Month starts in September in the United States. *Fact or Fiction?*

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fact, 4) Fact, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, 7) Fiction, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

COLORING PICTURE



Another long Gallo HR, Texas skid ends with 5-1 win over M's

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Joey Gallo keeps hitting impressively long home runs for the Texas Rangers. Balls are landing in spots at their home ballpark where few, if any, have ever gone in the past.

"I've never seen nobody hit the ball that far here. Never," said Seattle right fielder Leonys Martin, who made his big league debut for Texas in 2011 and got traded away after the 2015 season. "It's crazy."

Gallo's homer in the fifth inning of the Rangers' 5-1 victory on Wednesday night measured at about 460 feet. The ball went above the hill in center field on a platform with tables for fans to sit and watch the game. One of his two homers Tuesday night landed on the roof of the club in that same vicinity.

"I don't feel like I'm in a groove or anything," Gallo insisted. "I just feel like I'm getting a pitch to hit and not missing it. ... That's it, just things going my way, that's all."

Delino DeShields and Elvis Andrus also homered for the Rangers, who ended a four-game losing streak to wrap up a 3-6 homestand during which Adrian Beltre joined the 3,000-hit club and

ace pitcher Yu Darvish was traded away.

Andrew Cashner (7-8) worked six innings for his third straight victory, matching a career best. He struck out four and walked none, but hit two batters.

Mariners lefty Ariel Miranda (7-5) struck out five without a walk in 5 2/3 innings. But he allowed all three homers as Seattle's four-game winning streak ended.

"Miranda's stuff was actually OK," manager Scott Servais said. "He made a couple mistakes, but they weren't just hits or doubles, they just went over the fence."

Gallo has homered six times in his last nine games. His 28 homers account for nearly half of his 60 hits this season — he has 18 singles, 12 doubles and two triples.

"To hit it to center, that's something I wasn't doing early in the year, so it's a good sign for me, personally," Gallo said.

"The swings have been really good, very aggressive," manager Jeff Banister said. "He's staying on the ball."

The only thing that seemed to bother Gallo was the bug that flew into his eye while in the field the inning after his homer. The 6-foot-5 Gallo went to a knee as a trainer worked to clean

See **TEXAS**, Page 12



AP photo
Texas Rangers' Joey Gallo jogs home past Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Ariel Miranda, rear, after hitting a solo home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

Pruitt, Rays bullpen combine to top Keuchel, Astros 3-0



AP photo
Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Austin Pruitt throws during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Houston Astros, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Houston.

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Rookie Austin Pruitt knew he had a couple hundred friends and family at Minute Maid Park on Wednesday night to watch him pitch for the Tampa Bay Rays in the city where he grew up.

But the right-hander refused to even look for them before his work was done.

Then after he completed the bulk of what would be a combined five-hitter in a 3-0 win over the Houston Astros, the stoic Pruitt cracked a smile and

fixed his eyes on where his personal cheering section was assembled.

"Whenever I got pulled I tried to look at everybody and kind of show everybody a little bit of love," he said.

It was the first loss of the season for Houston ace Dallas Keuchel, who was still trying to regain his form in his second start after missing almost two months with a pinched nerve in his neck.

"He wasn't locating his pitches. He wasn't sharp," manager A.J. Hinch said. "From start to start, you look back

at how much time he missed and then the rehab starts and this being his second start, this was a step in the right direction, but his command wasn't sharp."

Logan Morrison hit a two-run homer. He also connected Tuesday night, snapping his season-long 12-game homerless streak.

The AL West-leading Astros, whose powerful offense has taken a hit with All-Stars Carlos Correa and George Springer on the

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

Don't look for Dak, Zeke, Carson or other stars for HOF game



AP photo
At left, in a July 24, 2017, file photo, Cardinals quarterback Blaine Gabbert throws a pass during an NFL football training camp, in Glendale, Ariz. At right, in a June 13, 2017, file photo, Cowboys quarterback Kellen Moore throws a pass during an NFL football practice at the team's training facility, in Frisco, Texas.

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio — Don't look for too many stars on the field Thursday night when the Dallas Cowboys and Arizona Cardinals kick off the NFL preseason in the Pro Football Hall of Fame game.

Don't look for many starters, either. For those who believe four preseason games are too many, seeing their team play in Canton isn't a welcome sight. Both coaches, Jason Garrett for Dallas and Bruce Arians for Arizona, will covet getting an extra chance to watch their rookies and fringe guys compete. That's it.

As for the Dak Prescotts, Jason Wittens and Ezekiel Elliotts from Big D, forget it. Same for Carson Palmer, Larry Fitzgerald and Patrick Peterson for the Cardinals.

"This will be about the young guys," Arians says, although top draft choice Haason Reddick of Temple, who is making a switch from defensive end to linebacker, will see limited action, too. He "is not going to play a ton," Arians said.

Both teams are heading to Ohio from out west, with Dallas holding early training camp in Oxnard, California. The reason they were chosen for the game is simple: Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and former Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner will be inducted into the hall on Saturday

night. Fitzgerald plans to stay for the ceremony, as does Witten.

Some things to look for as the Hall of Fame game switches from its usual weekend spot to Thursday night on NBC.

BACK IN THE SADDLE: Kellen Moore is likely to see his first action since the end of the 2015 season with the Cowboys, when he made his first two career starts. He made his NFL regular-season debut off the bench that season, his fourth year in the league. It was mop-up duty back then, with Dallas finishing a 4-12 season ruined by Tony Romo's twice-broken left collarbone.

Moore broke his right ankle as Romo's backup in training camp last year, the first domino to fall in Prescott's path to the starting job. Romo's back injury last preseason cleared the way for Prescott. Moore is healthy again, and a backup again — this time to the reigning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

NOT IN THE SADDLE: Not only will Palmer, coming off a mediocre season, be sitting out, so will his backup, Drew Stanton. The quarterbacking duties will fall mostly to journeyman Blaine Gabbert, seeking a spot in Arizona after supplanting Colin Kaepernick as San Francisco's starter last year. With the 49ers going 2-14,

See **NFL**, Page 12

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Public Notice

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Glasscock County will set
the increased amounts in
the 2017-2018 proposed
budget for Elected or Pre-
cinct Officers as follows at
their meeting on August 14,
2017 @ 9:00 AM. The meet-
ing will be held at the
Glasscock County Com-
munity Center

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Sheriff's Longevity \$48.00
Deputy Sheriff #3 Longevity
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Retirement \$2,713.00
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County & District Clerk
Longevity \$48.00
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Longevity \$48.00
Deputy Clerk #2 Longevity
\$48.00
Retirement \$1,869.00
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County Judge Longevity
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Schools & Conferences
\$2,000.00

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ity \$48.00
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Retirement \$1,266.00
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#9478 August 3, 2017
RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37
Case No. 0305788
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Jul
19, 2017
Status/Permit No. 827077
NOTICE OF PROTEST
DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Aug
23, 2017
Address: Railroad Commis-
sion of Texas ATTN: Drilling
Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email:
SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the SM ENERGY COM-
PANY, [RRC Operator No.
788997] has made applica-
tion for a spacing exception
permit under the provisions of
Railroad Commission
Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex.
Admin. Code section
3.37). Applicant seeks excep-
tion to the lease line distance
requirement because the Ap-
plicant is less than the re-
quired Rule 37 lease line dis-
tance to an unleased or non-
pooled interest within the
subject unit for the
AMENDED NEW DRILL per-
mit in Sec. 24, Bk. 35, T&P
RR CO/POWELL, M Survey,
A-797, SPRABERRY
(TREND AREA) Field, MAR-
TIN County, being 13.3 miles
W direction from BIG
SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE
TERMS of Railroad Commis-
sion rules and regulations,
this application may be grant-
ed **WITHOUT A HEARING** if
no protest to the application
is received within the dead-
line. An affected person is
entitled to protest this applica-
tion. Affected persons in-
clude owners of record and
the operator or lessees of re-
cord of adjacent tracts and
tracts nearer to the proposed
well than the minimum lease
line spacing distance. If a
hearing is called, the applic-
ant has the burden to prove
the need for an exception. A
Protestant should be pre-
pared to establish standing
as an affected person, and to
appear at the hearing either
in person or by qualified rep-
resentative and protest the
application with cross-exam-
ination or presentation of a
direct case. The rules of evi-
dence are applicable in the
hearing. If you have any
questions regarding the hear-
ing procedure, please con-
tact the Commission's Dock-
et Services Department at
(512)463-6848. If you have
questions which are specific
to the Application or the in-
formation set forth in this No-
tice, please contact the Com-
mission's Drilling Permit Unit
at rule 37
(512)463-6751.

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THIS APPLICATION, AN IN-
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COMMISSION'S AUSTIN
OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS,
FAX NUMBER, OR
E-MAIL ADDRESS SET
OUT ABOVE BY Aug 23,
2017 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO
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IVELY.

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TION

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(TREND AREA)

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BERGH
Lease/Unit Well No.: 2527LS

Lease/Unit Acres: 643.78
Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0

Lease Lines: 501.0F SE

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ANSWERS

1	2	3	6	8	9	4	7	5
9	5	8	4	7	2	3	1	6
4	6	7	5	3	1	9	2	8
6	9	5	7	2	8	1	3	4
7	8	1	3	6	4	2	5	9
2	3	4	9	1	5	6	8	7
3	7	2	8	9	6	5	4	1
5	1	9	2	4	7	8	6	3
8	4	6	1	5	3	7	9	2



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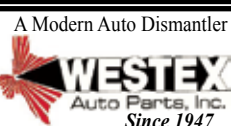
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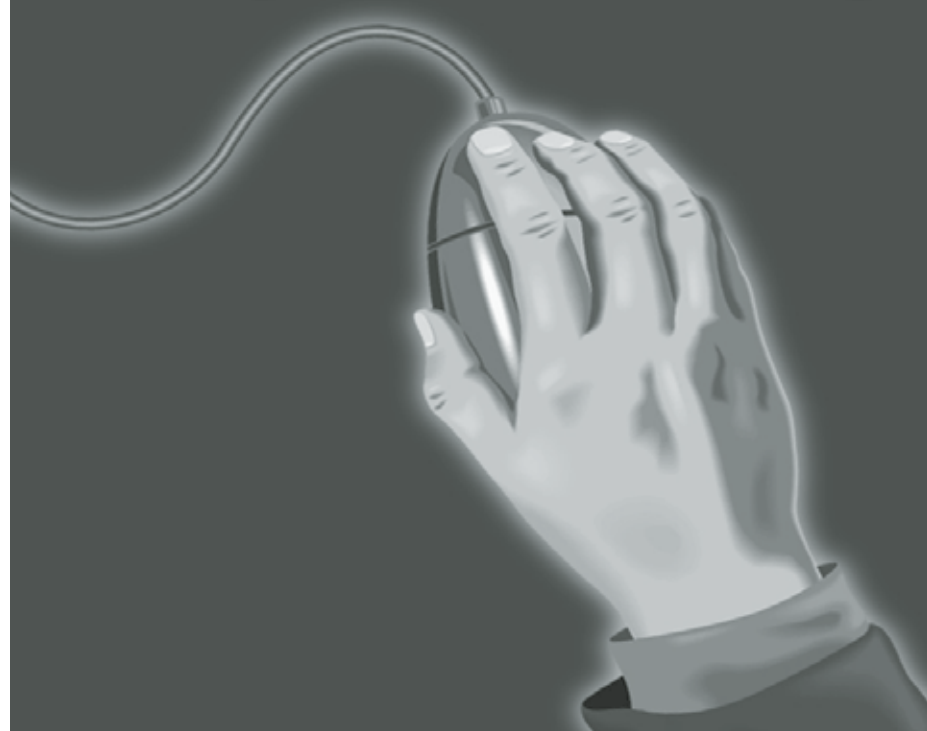
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AP photo

Texas Rangers' Shin-Soo Choo sprints to first after hitting a single to right off of Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Ariel Miranda during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 12

his eye, while his fellow infielders stood around the third baseman with smiles on their faces.

The Mariners led 1-0 in the first after Jean Segura was hit by a pitch, stole second base and scored on Robinson Cano's single.

DeShields tied the game with his second career leadoff homer, both this season. The Rangers went ahead in the fourth when Beltre, who later had a single for his 3,002nd career hit, had a sacrifice fly that turned into a double play.

Shin-Soo Choo scored on Beltre's flyball, but Andrus was thrown out on an impressive peg by right fielder Leonys Martin when trying to advance from second to third base.

Andrus went deep in the sixth, a two-run shot that made it 5-1 only a couple of batters before a 40-minute rain delay. Miranda, who has allowed 27 homers this season, didn't return when the game resumed.

ELVIS LEAVING THE BUILDING

Andrus has a career-

best 15 homers, and is the first Rangers short-stop with a 15-homer season since Michael Young has 24 in 2005. "This year, I've been really lucky," said Andrus, the ninth-season player with 50 career homers. "The wind is going toward the bleachers every time I hit it."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: LHP Jake Diekman (colon) threw BP in the cage before the game. Manager Jeff Banister said there "is still a ways to go" and that there hasn't been determined where Diekman will go for his next step.

UP NEXT

Mariners: Yovani Gallardo, who has been a reliever and starter this season, is scheduled to start the opener of a four-game series at Kansas City on Thursday night. Seattle is playing the fourth of 21 road games in a 28-game stretch.

Rangers: RHP A.J. Griffin (oblique strain) is scheduled to come off the 60-day disabled list to make his first start for the Rangers to make his first start since May 26. They open a four-game series Thursday at Minnesota.



AP photo

Houston Astros starting pitcher Dallas Keuchel winds up during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Houston.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 12

disabled list, went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position and were shut out for the second time in a week.

Pruitt (6-2), who grew up in suburban Houston and attended the University of Houston, allowed five hits in a career-high 6 1/3 innings.

"Austin Pruitt was awesome ... I knew he was excited to pitch here and all the talk about it, but to go out and perform like that had to be pretty special for him," manager Kevin Cash said.

Steve Cishek walked one in 1 1/3 innings and Dan Jennings got the last out of the eighth before Alex Colome walked one in the ninth in getting his 32nd save.

Keuchel (9-1) gave up

Trevor Plouffe's one-out single in the first and Morrison launched his 28th home run with two outs.

Keuchel allowed seven hits and three runs in five innings.

The lefty ace was better than he was in his previous start, when he lasted just three innings and gave up three runs at Detroit. But he was far from the dominant pitcher he was before his second trip to the disabled list, when he was 9-0 with a 1.67 ERA in 11 starts.

Keuchel had a lot of traffic on the bases early. Consecutive singles by Mallex Smith and Corey Dickerson loaded the bases with two outs in the second inning.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rays: OF Steven Souza Jr. was a late scratch from the lineup for the second straight game because of

a bruised left foot. Souza was injured on Monday night when he fouled a ball off his foot. Cash said he was undergoing more tests to determine if the injury was worse than they initially thought.

Astros: Springer (left quadriceps strain) ran sprints and took batting practice before Wednesday's game, but the team doesn't have a timetable for his return. Springer hasn't played since July 24 because of the injury.

JOINING IN

After warming up in the outfield before the game, Smith joined a local Baptist church children's choir on the field to help perform the national anthem. The kids looked surprised when they noticed Smith was standing right behind them crooning along as they sang with a huge smile on his face.

Smith said it was an impromptu decision to join the group.

"I'd been playing catch and I needed to stand next to somebody so I wouldn't be lonely," he said. "So I thought let me just join this national anthem and represent with the kids out there today."

Smith wouldn't call himself a singer, but that didn't stop him from having a little fun.

"I don't know if I'd get a recording contract, but I like to sing still," he said.

THEY SAID IT

Keuchel on his progress since returning from the disabled list: "I feel better, so that's all that really matters. Command wise is a little iffy, so that needs to get a lot better."

UP NEXT

Astros: Collin McHugh (0-0, 4.22) is scheduled to make his third start of the season for Houston on Thursday. McHugh allowed four hits and one run in six innings of a 5-3 loss to the Tigers in his last start.

NFL

Continued from Page 12

Gabbert didn't exactly light up the Golden Gate Bridge.

DEBUT FOR TWO? While it's unclear how the defensive rotation will work, two young defensive ends are ea-

gerly awaiting their NFL debuts: Dallas

rookie first-round pick Taco Charlton and second-year player Charles Tapper. A third-round pick last year, Tapper missed his rookie season, preseason included, with a back injury. Improving the pass rush is a high priority for Dallas, and these

two prospects are supposed to be part of the solution.

FIELD IS READY: Last year's game was canceled when the field was unplayable, an embarrassment to the hall and league that left an empty spot on the national TV scene, too.

Hall of Fame President David Baker prom-

ises the new turf will be as good as any the

Cowboys and Cardinals will play on. He said it "passed the test with the NFL's game operations folks." Baker joked that the football team and cheerleaders from McKinley High School next door had been successfully practicing on it.

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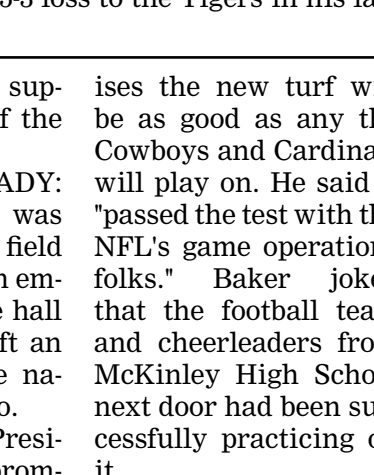
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