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CITY AGREES TO MPEV DEAL

CITY AND ELMORE SIGN MPEV LEASE AGREEMENT

The City of Amarillo and Panhandle Baseball Club Inc. have signed an agreement for a team to play in the multi-purpose event venue baseball stadium for thirty years.

It was announced last night that the members of the Amarillo City Council had signed an agreement with Panhandle Baseball Club to lease the MPEV to a team for thirty years.

Mayor Ginger Nelson praised the agreement, calling it "a long-term commitment to the future of Amarillo." City officials are reporting that the stadium will be funded by Hotel Occupancy Tax collections and the team's $400,000 per year rental payments.

Earlier this year, a spokesperson for the City of Amarillo told the Amarillo Pioneer that the project may also be funded by PID bonds, which are funded by property tax collections with in a public improvement district.

Panhandle Baseball Club, Inc., led by D.G. Elmore of Elmore Sports Group, brokered a deal with the City of Amarillo through the Fairly Group, led by Alex Fairly. The Fairly Group was the recent recipient of a $1.8 million economic incentive package through the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation. AEDC president Barry Albrecht has denied that Fairly's involvement in the MPEV deal played any role in the incentive package.

Within the deal, the City of Amarillo is agreeing to provide the AA-baseball team with 1,000 surface parking spaces around the stadium. A portion of the spaces are expected to be provided within the recently-built parking garage. The newly built parking garage will provide spaces for events at the Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo City Hall, the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts, the MPEV and Potter County.

City officials are also agreeing to provide security for events and advertising space within the stadium that will be utilized by the team. The lessee of the stadium will also have all control over stadium naming rights, media rights and all other revenues associated with the stadium.

The first game is expected to be played in 2019 in the $45 million stadium.

BPI Establishes Fund for Employees

Beef Products Incorporated announced this week that it plans to establish a $10 million fund for former employees of the company.

It was announced on Tuesday morning that the company's founder, the Roth family, plans to establish the fund to assist former employees of the company. In 2012, Beef Products, Inc. closed several of its plants, including a plant in Amarillo. The closures were estimated to affect about 750 employees of BPI.

Other plants closed by BPI in 2012 included a plant in Waterloo, Iowa and a plant in Garden City, Kansas.

"We remain committed to our employees and communities and so are dedicating $10 million to benefit the employees who lost their jobs in 2012," BPI founder Eldon Roth said in a recent news release, "While it took us longer to get here than we had hoped, we are pleased to finally be able to reconnect with those former employees and see what we can do to help them continue to recover."

The company, housed in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, hosts a family of companies including Beef Products, Inc., BPI Technology, Inc. and Freezing Machines, Inc.

Notably, the company recently settled a five year lawsuit against ABC News regarding a media campaign targeting the company's product, Lean Finely Textured Beef. A settlement was announced on June 28th.

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APD Investigating Weekend Robberies

The Amarillo Police Department is investigating a pair of robberies from over the weekend.

On September 23rd, officers were dispatched to a location at 2600 Wolflin Avenue on the report of an armed robbery. The suspect entered the building a pulled a handgun. The male suspect demanded money from the register and then left the location.

Fifteen minutes after the first robbery, a second armed robbery call came in. A business in the 2200 block of SE 27th reported a robbery at 12:09am on September 24th. A suspect with the same description as the first suspect came into the location, demanded money and then left the scene.

The suspect collected an undisclosed amount of money from both businesses.

The suspect is described as a six-foot Hispanic or mixed race male wearing camouflaged overalls. The suspect had a beard, which may have been painted on.

If you have any information, you are asked to call Amarillo Crime Stoppers at 374-4400.

City Council Agrees to Negotiate MPEV Renovations

In the newly signed agreement between Panhandle Baseball Club and the City of Amarillo, City officials have agreed to a renovation schedule for the multi-purpose event venue.

As part of the terms for the agreement's approval, the City is agreeing to negotiate renovations as late as January of 2035. If the City or MPEV owner does not meet the renovation "milestones" for the stadium by the year 2038, the team's owner will have the option to opt out of the MPEV lease.

Stadium renovations are noted in the contract to be estimated to be higher than $15 million.

Renovations of the stadium are not required to be paid for by the City with general fund money, however, the agreement does not prohibit the City from using funds from the general fund to pay for renovations of the MPEV.

1990's County Star to Play at WTAMU

A 1990's country music chart-topper will be playing on the campus of West Texas A&M University on October 5th.

Lionel Cartwright, a 1990's country musician, will be playing at WTAMU on October 5th as part of the WTAMU One Sessions event. Cartwright will perform a one-hour concert, which will then be trimmed by the WTAMU Advanced Video class into a twenty-two minute video cut.

The concert will be hosted inside of the AT&T High Definition Studio located inside the WTAMU Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex.

Cartwright will also serve as the speaker for the National Broadcast Society Regional conference on October 6th and 7th.

Lionel Cartwright performed country hits in the 1990's and had several songs that hit the top ten on the Billboard Country charts. Some of Cartwright's hits include "Leap of Faith" and "Give Me His Last Chance."

For more information about Cartwright's concert, you are asked to contact Randy Ray at rray@wtamu.edu or 806-651-2807.

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QUOTE *of the* DAY

"We don't need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful."

-Taylor Swift

Quote by brainyquote.com

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Building Dreams, Solving Problems

WT Horse Judging Team Finishes Third in Fort Worth

"West Texas A&M University's horse judging team opened its competitive season with an overall third-place finish at the American Paint Horse Association Collegiate World Championship Sept. 22 in Fort Worth. The team took a first-place in halter, fifth in reasons and sixth in performance.

The WTAMU team earned a total of 2,239 points to garner the third-place berth. Black Hawk College took first place with 2,280 points, followed by Oklahoma State University at second with 2,248 points. The event brought in 82 contestants and 25 teams competing in halter, performance and reasons.

In individual placings, Kyle Vanderleest, a junior animal science major from Morrison, Ill., finished as the Reserve Champion overall with a second in halter and ninth in performance. Teammates Brooke Parrish, a junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major from Elmwood, Ill., placed fourth in halter, and Lauren Moore, a junior agriculture communication major from Canyon, placed 10th in halter.

"This was an outstanding start to the fall season," Dr. John Pipkin, director of the equine industry program and coach of the horse judging team, said. "The team has been preparing for some time and were eager to finally compete. I am certain their performance will help give them confidence in their abilities and competitiveness in the three remaining competitions this season."

The WTAMU horse judging team will compete Oct. 18 at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

Members of the team are listed by their hometowns along with their classification and majors.

Allen
Catherine Johnson, junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major

Canyon
Lauren Moore, junior agriculture communication major

Clovis, N.M.
Kyla Myers, junior agriculture communication major

Elmwood, Ill.
Brooke Parrish, junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major

Kingston, Wash.
Madison Worland, junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major

Morrison, Ill.
Kyle Vanderleest, junior animal science major

Needham, Ind.
Katy Hawkins, junior agriculture education major

Rhome
Paighton Kelly, junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major

Wolfforth
Arienne Martinez, junior agribusiness/equine industry and business major"

-West Texas A&M University

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WORD *of the* DAY

Aggiornamento

the act of bringing something up to date to meet current needs.

Definition by dictionary.com

Amarillo Native's Album Lands on Billboard Charts

A popular country duo featuring an Amarillo native recently released an album, which has landed in top ten on the Billboard 200 chart.

Big & Rich's new album, Did It For The Party, landed at number nine on the Billboard 200 chart today. The album in number nine overall, edging out Post Malone's Stoney for its number nine spot within the top ten.

Did It For The Party also landed at number two on Billboard's Top Country Albums chart, falling behind Thomas Rhett's Life Changes, which has held the number one spot for two consecutive weeks. Big & Rich's new album beat out Dustin Lynch's Current Mood, Luke Combs' This One's For You and Chris Stapleton's Traveller in the chart's top five rankings.

Did It For The Party is the sixth album released by Big Kenny and Amarillo native John Rich's duo, Big & Rich. Big & Rich has previously released severally critically acclaimed albums, including 2004's Horse Of A Different Color, which featured the smash-hit "Save A Horse (Ride A Cowboy)."

Big & Rich is the second country group featuring an Amarilloan to hit the Billboard 200 this year. Aaron Watson's album Vaquero previously hit number two on the Billboard Country chart and number 10 on the Billboard 200 when it released this year.

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Pg3: WTAMU
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