

THE MORNING SUN

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022 | 75¢

MORNINGSUN.NET



The Tiny Combo Class, which is a class of kids from two to five years old, practices their tap dance "Dig a Little Deeper" at The Dance Pitt on Wednesday. ANTJEA WOLFF / THE MORNING SUN

The Dance Pitt to host recital

By Antjea Wolff
Morning Sun Staff

FRONTENAC, Kan. — With school out and summer heating up, The Dance Pitt in Frontenac is preparing for its 11th annual recital this weekend, Friday, June 10 and Saturday June 11.

For many dancers, The Dance Pitt is like a second home. McKenzie Lee, 14,

has been dancing at the studio since it first opened when she was two years old.

"It is a way to express myself," Lee said. "Sometimes words can't always get across what you need to say and dance helps with that a lot."

Along with regular recreational dance classes, The Dance Pitt allows dancers to try out for com-

petition classes at which they focus on technique and precision. These classes are taken to various competitions. So far this year, The Dance Pitt has participated in five competitions, and will be going to Nationals the 2nd week of July.

Lee said she likes to see what judges say at each competition.

See DANCE, Page 2A

Music on the Lake



Scout, Kenlee, and Rhuey enjoy the Friday night music at Crawford State Park. They were camping last Friday with their grandparents, Chelle and Doug Eden, of Fort Scott. Music on the Lake continues each Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. through the summer, until Sept. 30. This Friday's performers are John Duling and Sean McDonnell. COURTESY PHOTO / KATHARINE SPIGARELLI

Duck Dynasty comes to Colgan

Alan and Lisa Roberts make a stop supporting the Value Them Both Amendment

By Dustin R. Strong
Morning Sun Staff

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Alan and Lisa Robertson, of the famed Duck Dy-

nasty Robertsons, have been touring Kansas the past week in support of the Value Them Both Amendment to the Kansas Constitution that is on the ballot on Aug. 2 of this year. On Thursday afternoon, the couple made an appearance at the St. Mary's-Colgan Fieldhouse and were met by a crowd of nearly 150 parents and children.

Brittany Jones, director of policy and engagement for Kansas Family Voice, opened the event with a brief overview of abortion rights and alternatives available in Kansas, including over 50 pro-life pregnancy resource cen-



Alan and Lisa Robertson, of the famed Duck Dynasty Robertsons, appeared at St. Mary's-Colgan in Pittsburg on Thursday to support the passage of the Value Them Both Amendment on August 2. During the event, Lisa was the featured speaker, describing her personal abortion experience as a teenage girl in Louisiana.

DUSTIN R. STRONG / THE MORNING SUN

ters throughout the state that provide services and counseling for expectant

mothers. "Pro-lifers don't just care about the baby," said

Jones, "we also care about the mother and the family."

Jones segued into discussing the 2019 ruling of the "activist supreme court" that passed what she said is a virtually unlimited right to abortion, and how that ruling has threatened any attempt to regulate abortions and abortion providers. According to Jones, the 2019 decision practically declares any law to regulate abortion in Kansas to be presumed unconstitutional.

"The court doesn't care about protecting the child," said Jones, "just the abortion industry."

Jones said the Value Them Both Amendment does not abolish abortion outright, but gives state lawmakers the authority to pass certain "common sense" regulations. The amendment, said Jones, is carefully drafted in legal language that specifically addresses the 2019 ruling.

"We want safeguards to remain in place," said Jones. "Parental notification in the case of a minor seeking an abortion, informed consent laws, safety and health inspections, and a ban on tax dollars to pay for abortions."

See DUCK, Page 5A

The Nutty Professor

By Antjea Wolff
Morning Sun Staff

PITTSBURG, Kan. — With the start of summer comes the start of the Pittsburg Public Library's "7 to 11 Program," a program specifically for children ages 7 to 11, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Thursday.

The first program featured Jean Winters, a.k.a. The Nutty Professor. Winters, who has a master's degree in plant physiology and botany, has done fun experiments with librar-

ies in the area for many years.

Since the library's summer theme is "Oceans of Possibilities," Winters demonstrated several science experiments with a water or fish theme to them, and engaged the children by asking for volunteers from the audience. A dozen kids in attendance at the program were eager to help Winters.

Winters showed the children experiments related to density of water, how heat reacts to a bal-

loon filled with air versus a balloon filled with air and some water, and how some fish use air to float towards the water's surface or sink lower.

"I just love the energy of the kids," Winters said. "And they're so interested and they get excited. It's fun. I like to make them laugh."

The Pittsburg Public Library will continue its "7 to 11 Program" on Thursdays throughout the summer with a different theme each week.



Emily Harris, right, assists Jean Harris, a.k.a. The Nutty Professor, with an experiment about the density of water at the Pittsburg Public Library on Thursday. ANTJEA WOLFF / THE MORNING SUN

Big Iron Overland Rally returns for 2nd year

By Sam Kombrink
Morning Sun Staff

WEST MINERAL, Kan. — The Big Iron Overland Rally, a three-day camp out and two-day music festival at the Big Brutus historical landmark, is returning this weekend for its second year. The event will feature bands, local area food trucks, and vendors from all across the country. It will also include classes for people to attend, just in case they want to learn more about overland camping. Festivities will run from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday.

According to Chris Holloway, the owner of Midwest Overlanding and Off-road Expo (MOORE), the event will feature a total of four classes per day. Classes will include an introductory course on first-aid and trauma, and how to use a Gaia GPS (an app-based navigation system that you can use to navigate trails and off-road terrain). There will also be a class on how to camp in the winter, and a three-hour class about



The Big Iron Overland Rally at Big Brutus, returning for its second year in 2022, features music performances, along with vendors, classes and activities geared towards off-road camping, or overlanding, enthusiasts. COURTESY PHOTO

off-road vehicle recovery. Holloway said that they featured the classes last year, "and every single one was completely full, and we expect the same this year," he said.

All classes are open to anyone who purchases an admission ticket for the event.

As far as vendors go, Holloway said that they are coming from all over, including from Springfield, Kansas City, and

even Dallas, with a total of 26 vendors.

Holloway said attendance is up 30 percent from last year, which was the first year it was held. "This year we will have 200 campers on site," said Holloway. "We expect to see probably another 500 people come in just for the day, or even for the weekend that aren't camping, so we've got a great crowd coming in."

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Obituaries

- Cassandra Basgall, 36, Wichita, KS
- Patsy Galvin, 87, Pittsburg, KS
- Jessie Winn, 64, Pittsburg, KS

Miners Reunion

Annual event held at Big Brutus
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Swept

Southeast defeats McAuley Catholic to advance to the boys semifinals in the Lancer Classic.
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COMMUNITY

CORRECTION

Due to incorrect information provided to the Morning Sun, an obituary in the Wednesday, June 8 edition of the Morning Sun stated the incorrect service time of the Celebration of Life for Norma Jean Ewan. The service will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 19. The Morning Sun regrets the error.

Obituaries

Cassandra Marie Basgall

Cassandra Marie Basgall, 36, of Wichita, died at 5:37 a.m., Thursday, June 9, 2022 at her sister's residence.

Cassandra was born Sept. 7, 1985 a daughter of Gary and Kellie (Hyatt) Smardo.

She attended school in Pittsburg, graduating from Pittsburg High School.

On April 26, 2008 Cassandra was united in marriage to Brandon Basgall in Pittsburg, Kansas. He survives of the home.

After graduation she and her husband made their home in Wichita.

She enjoyed watching her children in their sporting events, and spending time with family, friends and her pets.

Survivors in addition to her husband and parents are one son; Christian Basgall and one daughter Zoey Basgall, both of Wichita, one brother; Travis Smardo of Pittsburg, seven sisters; Tamara Nordquist of Prineville, Oregon, Nikki Smardo of Wichita, Amanda Pride of Girard, Michelle Albritton of Girard, Kim Wallace of Pittsburg, Kristie McCubbin of Harrisonville, Missouri, and Crystal Ward of Prineville, Oregon.

Memorials are suggested to family wishes and these may be left at the funeral home or mailed to the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home, 518 W. St. John St., P.O. Box 258, Girard, KS 66743

A memorial service for Cassandra Basgall will be at noon Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Girard Senior Center in Girard.



Patsy Y. Galvin

Patsy Y. Galvin, 87, of Pittsburg, formerly of Ketchum, Oklahoma passed away at 7:10 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at Carrington Place in Pittsburg, Kansas.

She was born May 31, 1935 at Corning, Arkansas, the daughter of Ual and Alice "Mae" (Arnold) Aud. She grew up in Ketchum and graduated from Ketchum High School in 1953, where she was a standout basketball player.

In 1961, she was united in marriage to Michael Galvin at Miami, Oklahoma. They later divorced.

While living in Ketchum, Patsy was a member of the Ketchum United Methodist Church. She served on the city council and served a term as city Mayor. After moving to Pittsburg, she attended South Broadway Baptist Church. Patsy was an avid Oklahoma Sooners fan.

Survivors include a daughter, Michele White and her husband, Glenn of Pittsburg; a grandson, Zach White and his wife, Erin of Cave Springs, Arkansas; and a great-grandson, Jett White.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a granddaughter, Rachael White.

A Graveside Service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Ketchum Cemetery with Skip McClain officiating. Friends are requested to meet at the cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Angels Among Us. Contributions may be left at or mailed to the Brenner Mortuary, 114 E. 4th St., Pittsburg, KS 66762. Friends may also leave condolences online at www.brennermortuary.com. Arrangements are under the direction of the Brenner Mortuary, Pittsburg.



Jessie M. Winn

Jessie M. "Lulu" Winn, 64, of Parsons, passed away at 3:18 p.m., Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at Ascension Via Christi ER in Pittsburg.

Jessie Marie Winn was born on December 4, 1957, to Walter Robert and Irene Louise (Kibbe) Winn in Yates Center, Kansas. From July 1963 to 1986, Lulu lived at the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center. For a time, she lived at New Horizons of Winfield. She returned to PSH & TC in 1987 until moving to Home of the Heart in Pittsburg in 2015.

She was a life-long Baptist. Always looking forward to bus rides, Jessie loved collecting treasures.

She is survived by her brother, Robert Winn, of Chanute, Kansas.

Her parents and one infant brother preceded her in death.

The funeral service will be at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at the Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home at 405 Main Street in Parsons. Burial will take place at the Yates Center Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at www.forbeshoffman.com.



CLUB NOTES

Friday, June 10

Friday Study Club

The Friday Study Club will meet at the Crestwood Country Club on Friday, June 10th at 11:30 a.m. Hostesses for the month are Loretta Parkison, Linda Frihart, and Darlene McLaren with a presentation given by the Pittsburg Public Library. Ladies interested in joining the group may call 620-704-3474.

Monday, June 13

TOPS #0599 Pittsburg

TOPS KS 0599 Pittsburg, Kansas meets Monday evenings for confidential weigh-ins and an informational meeting at the Homer Cole Center at 3003 N. Joplin, Pittsburg, KS. Weigh-ins begin at about 5:15 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:05 p.m. For more details about TOPS #0599, contact Wanda Porter at 620-231-9091.

Co-Dependents Anonymous

As COVID-19 and social distancing has curtailed CoDa meetings, there is now a weekly audio only conference call meeting at noon on Mondays. For more information call 620-704-1309 or email jtknoll@swbell.net.

Little Balkans Quilt Guild Board Meeting

The Little Balkans Quilt Guild holds its regularly scheduled executive board meeting at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of every month at Labette Bank, 801 S. Broadway, Pittsburg.

NAMI SEK

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) support groups for those living with a mental health condition (Connections) and friends and family (Family) meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. In person at South Broadway Baptist Church (office building south of Freddie's) please enter through front door. Attendees are asked to wear a mask while entering, exiting and moving around. Virtually via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/5634478341 with meeting ID 5634478341. For more information email seknami@gmail.com or call 620-240-3740.

Tuesday, June 14

Pittsburg Noon Rotary

Pittsburg Noon Rotary meets at noon on Tuesdays at Via Christi Hospital. To allow more time for networking, the group has added a monthly "Social Hour" on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the community. Ask a Rotarian for the next social hour location or visit the group's Facebook page, Pittsburg Noon Rotary Club.

Pittsburg Duplicate Bridge Club

The Pittsburg Duplicate Bridge Club meets on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Homer Cole Community Center. Fully vaccinated bridge players are welcome to come play with their partners. Masks are mandated at this time, but this policy will be reviewed when possible.

Sunflower Kiwanis

Sunflower Kiwanis meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Columbus building, 407 E. 11th St., for breakfast at 6:45 a.m.

Veteran Representative at Homer Cole

The Homer Cole Center will host an American Legion veterans representative on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Any veterans with concerns or questions can stop by. For more information contact Teri at 620-231-9773.

DANCE

Continued from Page 1A

"Certain judges like certain things," she said. "It's really cool to see that some dances will get first place at one competition and not place at another. I think it's cool to get feedback from the judges because we're always learning and trying to make our dances better."

Owners of The Dance Pitt Sadie Bicknell and Sydney Wilson said they like to give their instructors some creative freedom by assigning them what type of dance they will be teaching and then allowing them to choose the music and choreography that will work best for them. They said they have put a jazz/funk dance into the program for the first time this year.

"We have been really fortunate. We've had a lot of growth over the last few years," Bicknell said. "It seems like since the Covid shutdown, a lot of people are very in-

terested in their kids being involved in activities and we're very happy to have them. And it seems like we've had an uptick since then. We try really hard to have a family environment where this isn't just your dance studio, this is like your second family."

"I would say the family vibe is what we go for here," Wilson said. "We have a lot of little ones, and our older girls do a good job mentoring them."

The Dance Pitt will begin its 11th annual recital with a pre-show starting at 5:45 p.m. Friday, June 10 at The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. The pre-show will feature mini and junior competition soloists. The group show starts at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, June 11 there will be a pre-show at 4 p.m. which will feature teen and senior soloists. The group show starts at 5 p.m. and will feature the preschool group, boys, and competition dances. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased at the door.

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Obituaries are published in the Pittsburg Morning Sun as a service to our readers. We do not charge for this service and encourage photos to accompany the article telling about the life of the person.

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6 months	\$80.33	\$94.69	\$105.00	\$54.49*
3 months	\$41.11	\$47.76	\$60.00	—
1 month	\$14.36	\$16.77	—	\$8.71*

*includes tax

NEWS

Big Brutus miners celebrate reunion

By Larry Hiatt
Morning Sun Publisher

WEST MINERAL, Kan. — Nothing brings miners together like the opportunity to visit with other miners and a free meal.

Last Saturday afternoon the Big Brutus Miners Reunion and fish fry supplied an abundance of both those drawing cards.

Practically every miner has a story and most of those present are connected one way or another to the mighty Big Brutus electric shovel.

“I was here the first day they started to build Brutus,” recalled Jim Van Becelaere. “It was June of 1962, when they begin shipping the first of 40 carloads of pieces and parts. I remember that the boom came on one flat car.

“I was a machinist, and I didn’t actually work for P & M at that time, I had a machine shop in Pittsburg, they had me here to help if any parts, such as bolts and pins needed to be modified or to be made from scratch,” said Van Becelaere, who was a coal miner for six years before

opening his machine shop.

There were more than 100 people working to assemble the giant machine, which has become the largest tourist attraction in Southeast Kansas. It took just under a year to put the giant puzzle together, as it was completed in May of 1963.

The shovel ran 24 hours a day for 11 years. The Conoco Mining Company, owners of Brutus, came to the conclusion it was too expensive to move the engineering wonder to another site and also too expensive to cut it up for scrap metal.

The Company decided their best option might be to donate the giant to a non-profit organization. So it was donated to the non-profit organization, led by the men who had operated the shovel. They saw it as a symbol of a declining industry. With 15 volunteer directors and 436 lifetime members of Big Brutus, Inc., the nonprofit corporation was formed and accepted delivery of Big Brutus.

Standing as if in conquest, the giant shovel



Jim Van Becelaere. LARRY HIATT / THE MORNING SUN

stands at the end of the coal vein it had followed across the coal fields of Southeast Kansas surrounded by the excavations dug by the shovel, it towers 15 stories and if counted as a building would rank in the top 10 tallest buildings in Kansas (not including grain elevators).

More than 10,000 people

attended the dedication in 1963. Each year the number of miners returning to recall the glory days of King Coal dwindles as there are few new people entering the industry and most of those attending have passed 70 years, but they continue to return to West Mineral every year to visit with those who have survived.

BRUTUS

Continued from Page 1A

Holloway said he spent the whole year communicating with local musicians and musicians nationally. “We (MOORE) actually go out and scout and find bands that will be the perfect fit,” said Holloway. “This year we’ve got musicians anywhere from Nashville to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, so they are coming in from all over the place.”

There will be 11 total bands performing at Big Brutus, according to Holloway. “Five bands will

play on Friday, and then six bands will play on Saturday on the main stage,” he said. “It’s an event that really brings the off-road community together, and it kind of introduces those who aren’t familiar, but really want to get out and do some more exploring, and kind of go beyond the RV park.”

Holloway said the festival is also a learning experience for those new to overland camping, as well as a networking opportunity. “It’s an opportunity for those people to come in and meet vendors in this industry and fellow campers and get some

cool ideas from other vehicles and learn how they build their build,” he said. According to Holloway, attendees come in from all over the nation. “We have attendees coming in from anywhere between Massachusetts and Utah,” he said.

Hosting the event is nice, but educating people at the same time feels even better for Holloway, he said. “Education is one of the three core values of the events that we put on,” he said. “And that is a huge draw for our attendees to come in, and we believe strongly that it’s important. It protects

our friends and family and keeps everybody safe, to have more education, and it also keeps the outdoors safe by people learning how to protect the environment, and be respectful and to tread lightly when they go out,” said Holloway. “It’s a wonderful feeling to be able to offer the good time and a bit of education and the ability to meet with these vendors that the people don’t get to see in person typically.”

For more information visit the Big Iron Overland Rally website at <https://bigironoverlandrally.com/>.

Pittsburg Post Office recognizes Dog Bite Awareness Week

Staff Reports
news@morningsun.net

PITTSBURG, Kan. — When a dog chasing a mail carrier is portrayed in movies or cartoons, it is done so in a comedic manner. However, in real life, being threatened by a dog is no laughing matter for a United States Postal Service worker, which is why Sunday, June 5, through Saturday, June 11, has been declared Dog Bite Awareness Week, according to the USPS.

The Pittsburg Post Office will be putting flyers with information about

how dogs can affect a delivery carrier’s job in citizens’ mailboxes.

According to the USPS, canine attacks on postal workers decreased roughly 7%, from 5,800 attacks in 2020 to 5,400 attacks in 2021.

It is important to the USPS that it continues educating its customers on the importance of the awareness campaign. Its theme for this year is “USPS Delivers for America — Deliver for Us by Restraining Your Dog.”

Despite the leash law that is in effect in Pittsburg, local postal workers

said they have seen their fair share of loose dogs.

In the event of a dog being aggressive, postal workers are trained to use their airhorn in an attempt to frighten the dog away. If the canine continues to be aggressive, the carriers are urged to use their dog spray.

In order to prevent dog attacks or bites, USPS provides the following advice to dog owners:

- Keep dogs inside the house or behind a fence.
- Keep dogs away from the door or in another room when answering the door for a mail carrier.

• If dogs are outside, keep them on a leash.

According to the USPS, dog bites increase in the summer months due to more outside activities and children being at home and accidentally letting dogs out of the house.

“You owe it to yourself and to your pet to prevent the pain, lost work time, and general hassle that follows when your dog takes advantage of summer dog days (or any other days) to harm a letter carrier who is trying to perform a service to your household,” stated a USPS flyer.

Rare earth manufacturing facility to open in Oklahoma

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and the president of USA Rare Earth on Thursday announced plans for a \$100 million metal and manufacturing facility in Stillwater that’s expected to create more than 100 jobs.

“Currently, the United States, European Union, Japan, and much of the

developed world is largely reliant on China for critical rare earth element production,” Thayer Smith, president of USA Rare Earth, said in a statement. “Our goal with this project is to advance U.S. manufacturing capacity.”

Rare earth elements are 17 raw elements used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, mobile electron-

ic devices and military hardware and considered difficult to mine, Smith said.

The project “embodies the energetic, forward-thinking mentality of our state,” Stitt said. “The USA Rare Earth project will help our state remain a leader in domestic energy production, further diversifying our

economy while reducing U.S. dependence on foreign imports.”

USA Rare Earth works to create a “critical mineral supply chain supporting the ongoing green revolution with no dependence on China,” according to the company’s statement.

AREA EVENTS

Friday, June 10

Friday Music on the Lake

Friday Music on the Lake returns to Crawford State Park at the Lake View Café patio on the northwest end of Crawford Lake (“Farlington Lake”) and is hosted by Friends of Crawford State Park. Musicians play for tips only so please tip generously. Music begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. Some seating is available but bringing your own lawn chair is recommended. Food and drink are available in the café. Please practice physical distancing as much as possible for safety to all. This Friday Jon Duling and Sean McDonnell will be playing.

Friday June 10 through Sunday, June 12

Big Iron Overland Rally

This three-day campout experience will be the hub of a variety of musical acts, swap meets, equipment vendors, food trucks, raffles, activities, and a train ride at the historical site of Big Brutus in West Mineral. For more information visit: bigironoverlandrally.com.

Pittsburg Pridefest Weekend

At 7 p.m. Friday June 10, TJ Lelands will host a Pride Night which will include a costume contest, musical performances, local organizations, and more. At 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11, Toast will host a Pride Brunch which will include a photo booth, BINGO, and more. At 11 a.m. Sunday, June 12, Pride Vendor shops will be set up at the Pritchett Pavilion.

Saturday, June 11

Pittsburg Area Farmers’ Market

Vendors offer seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, baked goods, and more. Local artisans sell handmade crafts. The farmers’ market accepts EBT/Vision/SNAP cards. Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon April 16 to Oct. 30 at the Farmers’ Market Pavilion, 119 E. 11th St., Pittsburg.

Sami Milburn Memorial Barrell Race

To honor Sami Milburn, the family is hosting the third annual Sami’s Legacy 5D Barrel Race which will be held as a memorial to her. The event will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 11 at the Civil War Arena in Carthage.

Monday, June 13

Summer Kicks Jazz Concert

The Summer Kicks Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. Monday, June 13 in the lobby of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. The band is under the direction of Professor Robert Kehle, and the band is comprised of faculty, students, alumni, and community members who will perform jazz standards and a few contemporary numbers.

Social Services Open House with CHCSEK

The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas will be at the Pittsburg Public Library from 10:00 a.m. to noon every Monday throughout June. Representatives of CHC will be available to answer questions about social services available for citizens. This is open to the public. No appointment necessary.

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OPINION PAGE

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Letters must be original, up to 250 words and signed. Include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited. Send letters to: The Editor, 701 N. Locust St., Pittsburg, KS 66762, news@morningsun.net, or fax to 620-231-0645.

Biden barges in

By Byron York
Washington Examiner

There's something remarkable about the gun debate that has arisen in the aftermath of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Compared to years past, the argument on Capitol Hill is somewhat muted. Yes, members of the House of Representatives are yelling at each other, but that's nothing unusual. But in the Senate, where the real work on a gun deal is going on, the talk is quiet and the anticipation low. At least, until President Joe Biden jumped into it.

Before the president's speech on June 2, the mood in the Senate had been managed expectations. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, perhaps the Senate's leading gun control advocate, stressed that Democrats know they cannot pass a big policy initiative, like an assault weapons ban, so they are

instead focused on making progress in smaller steps.

"We probably can't get a universal background check bill," Murphy said May 25 on the PBS NewsHour. "We probably can't get the votes for a ban on assault weapons. But maybe we can do some smaller things." When asked what those smaller things might be, Murphy said, "We're talking about some minor expansions of background checks, getting more sales through the background check system. We're talking about red flag laws. These are the laws that allow you to take weapons away from people who are showing signs of breaks with reality or are showing signs of future violence. Those are the kinds of things that we might be able to find 60 votes on. But we will see."

The message was clear: An assault weapons ban was off the table. There is no way it could pass, and it would just further divide

the Senate to try. An ugly fight over a ban might mean that more modest measures get lost in the battle and never pass. So Democrats are focusing on "smaller things."

That approach appears to be having some success. Murphy and a small group of Senate negotiators — Democrats Richard Blumenthal, Kyrsten Sinema, Joe Manchin and Martin Heinrich, plus Republicans Susan Collins, Pat Toomey, Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy — are said to have agreed on a "framework" for a gun bill. The measures they are said to be discussing include expanding background checks, some sort of "red flag" measure, enhanced school security and more money for mental health services. None of those proposals would make a huge difference in the wave of mass shootings that is afflicting the country, but they might help at the edges. And they

are probably the best that can be passed in today's political environment. Most important, they are under serious consideration by a bipartisan group of senators.

Until Biden barged in. In his prime-time speech Thursday, the president made a full-throated cry for an assault weapons ban. "We should reinstate the assault weapons ban and high-capacity magazines that we passed in 1994 with bipartisan support in Congress and the support of law enforcement," Biden said. "Nine categories of semi-automatic weapons were included in that ban, like AK-47s and AR-15s. And in the 10 years it was law, mass shootings went down. But after Republicans let the law expire in 2004 and those weapons were allowed to be sold again, mass shootings tripled. Those are the facts."

Of course, there is some argument about that. There is debate about whether the ban reduced deaths at all. As far as the vote in 2004 was

concerned, six Senate Democrats voted against extending the ban, while 10 Republicans voted in favor of extending it — a bipartisan decision. But mass shootings did increase in the years after 2004, although it is unclear what role the absence of the ban played in that.

In any event, Biden's decision to elbow his way into the Senate negotiations could well have the effect of messing the whole thing up. After the speech, Graham tweeted, "I stand ready to vote on ALL the proposals mentioned by President Biden tonight and encourage the Democratic Leader to bring them forward for votes." Then Graham tweeted, "I also stand ready to work across the aisle to find common ground — something that was absent from President Biden's address to the nation."

By that, Graham appeared to mean: I will happily vote against an assault weapons ban, which I believe Democrats, acting at the president's behest, should bring up for a vote

because it will damage them politically. But I will also continue the work I've done with Murphy to pass other measures. In other words, Thank you, Joe Biden.

The president served 36 years in the Senate. He often talks about how well he knows the institution. Why did he decide to crash the negotiations that seemed to be going well? Because, at least according to some reports, the White House is "bearish" on any gun control deal actually passing Congress. If the White House believes no bill can succeed, then might as well use the issue to score points with the Democratic base. And so Biden, who was not expected to include an assault weapons ban proposal in his speech, instead made it the highlight. The question now is whether he has messed things up again.

This article was originally published by the Washington Examiner. Byron York is chief political correspondent for the Washington Examiner.

Our kids are in crisis

By Steven V. Roberts
Syndicated Columnist

My former student left her job to care for two young children, and now that they're adolescents, I asked if she was going to resume her career. "No," she replied as tears welled in her eyes. "My children are a mess."

Another former student sought mental health counseling for his 8-year-old son, and he had to contact 35 therapists before finding one with an opening. A third parent was worried about her kindergarten, who was overly anxious about returning to school. The waiting list to see a counselor, she discovered, was six months.

And then there is Peter (not his real name), who got a terrifying call from the father of his teenage daughter's friend. Peter's child was at their house and had apparently ingested something dangerous.

She was unresponsive. Come quickly, the father said.

Peter, who was 200 miles away, called his wife. She summoned an ambulance and rushed the child to a nearby hospital, where they spent the night in the emergency room getting her stabilized. The parents had been trying desperately to get their daughter into a residential treatment facility, but beds were scarce. As he talked, Peter wept in fear and frustration.

These stories reflect a brutal truth. Many of our children are in trouble. So are their parents. Help is hard — often impossible — to find. And the crisis started long before the pandemic descended in March 2020.

"Mental health disorders are surging among adolescents," reported The New York Times. "In 2019, 13% of adolescents reported having a major

depressive episode, a 60% increase from 2007. Suicide rates, stable from 2000 to 2007, leaped nearly 60% by 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

The pandemic has made the problem much worse. As Judith Warner wrote in the Washington Post, the isolation and anxiety caused by COVID-19 has ignited "vastly higher levels of both adult and kid distress ... (that) essentially poured gasoline on long-simmering pain, acting less as a cause than an accelerant of the children's mental health crisis."

Experts are struggling to understand both sides of this crisis: both the "long-simmering pain" and the recent "accelerant." Mental and emotional maladies, they've concluded, have largely replaced the more traditional traumas associated with teenagers.

"Young people are more educated; less likely to get pregnant, use drugs; less likely to die of accident or injury," Candice Odgers, a psychologist at the University of California, Irvine said in the Times. "By many markers, kids are doing fantastic and thriving. But there are these really important trends in anxiety, depression and suicide that stop us in our tracks. We need to figure it out. Because it's life or death for these kids."

The pandemic aggravated those trends in many ways. Adolescents were isolated from their friends, their tribe, just when they needed to start separating from their parents and developing independent identities. Zoom classes were a poor substitute for in-person learning, and many fell behind in their schoolwork. COVID-19 caused families to lose jobs, income, security — and in many cases, loved

ones.

And many experts now believe that public policy responses focused too heavily on the purely medical issues while downplaying the cost in mental well-being. Warner described those mistakes as "the child-sacrificing outcome of too-rigid social distancing, too-lengthy school closures and too much mask-wearing."

"The pandemic's disruptions have led to lost learning, social isolation and widespread mental health problems for children," wrote David Leonhardt in the Times. "Many American children are in crisis — as a result of pandemic restrictions rather than the virus itself."

Just when they were needed the most, treatment options declined. Labor shortages and social distancing restrictions limited the number of beds available in some facilities. Flawed federal reimbursement formulas under Medicaid caused other institutions to close entirely. Private insurance plans often

cover very limited mental health services, so some therapists stopped seeing patients who couldn't afford expensive treatments.

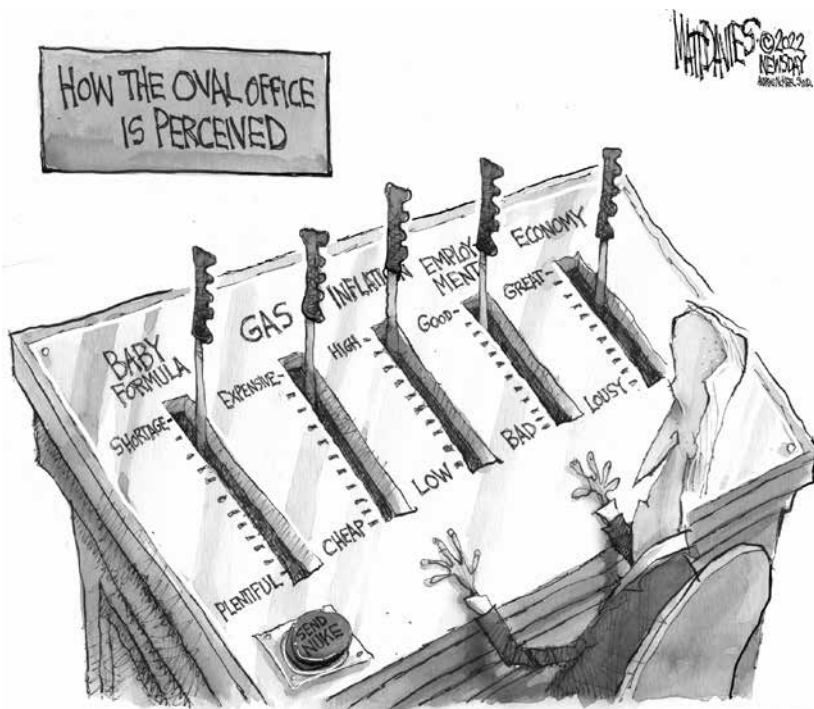
"Demand went up, supply went down," Lissette Burton, the chief policy analyst for a nonprofit advocacy group, told the Times. "Now we're in full-blown crisis."

There is one benefit to all this pain, however. That crisis, which has been building quietly for years, now commands public attention. One small example: President Biden held a highly publicized White House meeting with pop star Selena Gomez, who talked openly about her own mental health battles. "I'm not perfect, I'm human. I have things that I walk through," she said. "I don't have it all put together, I have had to work through this."

So do we all.

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Man struggles amid changes after close friend's passing



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man. A friend of more than 20 years, "Marci," passed away eight months ago after battling cancer for four years. Just a month after the funeral, her wife, "Julia," started dating. She was engaged four months later and married "Leslie" seven months after that. When they started dating, Leslie was still legally married. My husband and I are godfathers to the one child Marci and Julia had. I don't trust Leslie. I think she took advantage of a person

who was grieving. She's a nurse and should know better. I don't like Leslie, and I don't like her kids either. They moved into the house Marci and Julia had built together just a few months after Marci's funeral. I have pretty much removed myself from the situation. I no longer go to dinners or social gatherings with them. Seeing them together makes my heart hurt and stomach ache. My husband still goes out with them and seems to have no issue with it. It has caused problems between us at times. He doesn't understand my feelings, and I can't understand how he can support them. Can you help me cope with this or tell me how I can get him to see my side and end the friendship? -- STILL MOURNING MARCI

DEAR DEAR STILL MOURNING: It might help your husband be more sympathetic to your feelings if you explain you're still in deep mourning over the loss of a beloved friend, and it affects you physically when you see Julia and Leslie together. He is able to "support them" because, even though their relationship may seem premature, he recognizes they have continued on with their lives. A way to cope with your pain would be to make a conscious effort to forgive them for their haste AND KEEP FOREMOST IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU PROMISED MARCI YOU WOULD BE A GODPARENT TO HER CHILD. The most effective way for that to happen would be to be present in her child's life in a way that doesn't

always involve the parents.

DEAR ABBY: I have a co-worker -- and great friend -- who washes her hair maybe once a week and uses dry shampoo in between. (One day, I thought she had gray roots because the dry shampoo was so thick.) I know many people do this, but her hair is excessively oily, and it looks unsightly and unprofessional when she comes to work. It has reached the point that several co-workers (and even an ex-boyfriend of hers) have asked me why she doesn't wash her hair more often because it looks so dirty. I feel embarrassed for her, but I don't know how to bring it up and suggest that maybe shampooing more often would be better. Even when we have a night

out on the town and she has all day to get ready, she still shows up with her hair a greasy mess, slicked back in a clip. Maybe she doesn't realize the impression she is giving. Do I say something to her? -- FRIEND WHO CARES IN MISSOURI

DEAR FRIEND: Good friends take care of each other and watch each other's backs. If the situation were reversed, wouldn't you want to hear it from someone you know cares about you?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

STATE & REGION

DUCKS

Continued from Page 1A

Some laws have been struck down since the 2019 decision. Jones talked about a law that required basic safety and health standards that was struck down, despite allegations of an abortion clinic using a dishwasher to sterilize their instruments.

Jones warned of Kansas becoming a “new New York” as an abortion safe haven as the number of out-of-state residents seeking an abortion in Kansas has risen.

“Between 1999 and 2019, there has been a 44 percent decrease in the number of abortions in the state of Kansas,” she said. “Since 2020, that number has increased by 9 percent.”

According to Jones’ data, 52 percent of the abortions performed in Kansas were because of out-of-state residents, mainly from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Alan Robertson spoke briefly, mainly warming up the crowd, comparing Duck Dynasty to the Andy Griffith Show and the Munsters, and introduc-

ing Lisa, his wife of more than 30 years, as the keynote speaker.

Lisa began by telling the story of her own abortion as a young teenage girl at her parents’ urging. She described the coldness of the clinic and her feeling that she was doing something that “wasn’t quite right.” When she told a nurse about her uneasiness, her feelings were brushed off as “you’re just scared,” she said.

Robertson says she was told three lies that day. The first was, “It’s just a glob of tissue.”

Robertson says that, as a health care professional, the nurse knew it was not just a glob of tissue, but a life. “We know now that life begins at conception,” said Robertson.

The second lie was, “Your body will heal right up and you’ll be perfectly fine in a couple of days,” she said.

Robertson recounted her next three pregnancies, saying she was not “fine.” Her first child was born at 29 weeks, her second was born three months early, and she lost her third child. “I felt I was being punished for my

mistake,” said Robertson.

The third lie was, “Go on about your life and forget this day ever happened.”

“That is not possible,” said Robertson. “They took something from me that day. I have thought of that every day for the last 40 years.” She said she suffered from shame and guilt until she found Jesus. “I don’t suffer anymore, but I still regret.”

With each abortion, Robertson says, “We are not just taking one life, but generations after that.”

Robertson went on to reiterate the points brought up by Jones and urged support of the proposed amendment on Aug. 2.

After Robertson concluded her remarks, Greg Marino, Southeast Kansas regional director for Value Them Both, urged the gathered crowd to “knock on doors of your friends and neighbors. Kansas needs you. Women and babies need you.”

For those wanting to show their support and get involved, Value Them Both will be sponsoring a training event on Saturday, June 11, at 404 W. 5th St. from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. According to Marino, the

training session will take about an hour and focus on door-knocking and phone calls.

According to supporters of the amendment, Value Them Both does not abolish abortion in Kansas, but simply allows Kansans, through the state legislature, to pass “common sense” regulations regarding abortion without fear of those regulations being “presumed unconstitutional” and struck down by the Kansas Supreme Court when challenged.

The text of the proposed amendment reads:

“Because Kansas values both women and children, the constitution of the state of Kansas does not require government funding of abortion and does not create or secure a right to abortion. To the extent permitted by the constitution of the United States, the people, through their elected state representatives and state senators, may pass laws regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, laws that account for circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, or circumstances

of necessity to save the life of the mother.”

Opponents of the amendment point out that, while it does not ban abortion on its own, it does open the door to total prohibition of abortion, as there is no provision preventing the legislature from doing so outright.

Many of the safeguards that supporters wish to guarantee, such as parental notification, are already law in Kansas. As of May, 2022, Kansas law requires the following:

- A patient must receive state-directed counseling that includes information designed to discourage her from having an abortion, and then wait 24 hours before the procedure is provided.

- Private insurance policies cover abortion only in cases of life endangerment, unless individuals purchase an optional rider at an additional cost.

- Health plans offered in the state’s health exchange under the Affordable Care Act can only cover abortion in cases of life endangerment.

- Abortion is covered in insurance policies for public employees only

in cases of life endangerment.

- The use of telemedicine to administer medication abortion is prohibited.

- The parents of a minor must consent before an abortion is provided.

- Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.

- A patient must undergo an ultrasound before obtaining an abortion; the provider must offer the patient the option to view the image.

- An abortion may be performed at 20 or more weeks postfertilization (22 weeks after the last menstrual period) only in cases of life endangerment or severely compromised physical health.

- The state prohibits abortions performed for the purpose of sex selection.

A majority of “yes” votes for the Value Them Both Amendment on Aug. 2 will make the amendment part of the Kansas Constitution, while a majority of “no” votes will make no changes to the current state constitution.

3 dead after Arkansas highway crashes during thunderstorms

FRIENDSHIP, Ark. (AP) — Three people were killed after at least a dozen vehicles collided in different spots along heavily traveled Interstate 30 during thunderstorms in southwestern Arkansas, state police said.

The crashes happened Wednesday afternoon in the eastbound lanes of the interstate near Friendship, Arkansas, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Little Rock, the Arkansas Department of Transportation said.

The wrecks, which began with a two-vehicle collision that led to at least two other chain-reaction crashes, were weather-re-

lated, Arkansas State Police spokesman Bill Sadler told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

The crashes shut down all lanes of busy Interstate 30, which links Little Rock to Dallas.

Arkansas State Police reported multiple fatalities Wednesday afternoon and troopers were working to account for all of the motorists involved. Sadler said Wednesday night that not everyone had been accounted for.

“Troopers are going through every vehicle to search for any evidence of deceased that may still be trapped in the wreckage,” Sadler said.

A fire was reported at one of the crash sites, police said, and video from the scene showed multiple large trucks burning.

Traffic was so paralyzed that state workers distributed snacks and water to stranded motorists about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The deadly crashes happened two days after five people were killed and five others injured in a collision between a van and a large truck in southeastern Arkansas. In that crash on Monday, police have said the driver of the van apparently failed to yield when crossing U.S. 65.



In this image taken from video flames and smoke billow from trucks involved in a deadly multiple vehicle crash along Interstate 30 in southwestern Arkansas, Wednesday, June 8, 2022. AP PHOTO/JONI DEARDORFF

Reeling in the big fish



Drake Foster caught the big bass during the 46th annual West Mineral kids fishing tournament last Saturday. With his dad, Tyler, Drake is shown here holding the 5.42 pound fish. A large crowd attended the event, with every youngster taking home a rod and reel whether or not they caught a fish. LARRY HIATT / THE MORNING SUN

Geico facing payout to woman who got HPV after sex in car

By MARGARET STAFFORD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Geico could be required to pay a Missouri woman \$5.2 million because she said she contracted sexually transmitted disease while having sex in the car of a man who is insured by the company.

A three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals on Tuesday upheld a Jackson County Court’s decision affirming an arbitrator’s finding that the woman was entitled to the award.

However, Maryland-based Geico has filed a federal lawsuit arguing the woman’s claim is not covered by the man’s insurance policy. The company said in an email Thursday that lawsuit will determine whether “there is coverage in this matter.”

According to court

documents, the woman, identified as M.O., and a man, who were in a relationship, had sex in the man’s car. She contends she contracted HPV, human papillomavirus, because the man did not tell her he had the disease. HPV can cause cervical cancer, certain other cancers and genital warts.

In February 2021, M.O. notified Geico she planned to seek a \$1 million insurance settlement against the man. She argued the man’s auto insurance provided coverage for her injuries and losses.

The insurance company refused the settlement offer, saying the woman’s claim did not occur because of normal use of the vehicle, according to court documents.

An arbitrator eventually determined she should be awarded \$5.2 million for damages and

her injuries. She then filed a motion in Jackson County Court seeking to confirm the award.

Geico claimed it did not know the man and woman had entered into arbitration and, when it found out, it sought to intervene in the court case. The company argued the arbitration award was reached through collusion and fraud, violated its rights to due process and was unenforceable.

The lower court rejected Geico’s requests and confirmed the award, prompting the insurance company’s appeal because it said it did not have a “meaningful opportunity” to defend its interests, according to court documents.

The appeals court found that Geico did not have the right to “re-litigate” the issues after the award had been affirmed.

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NEWS

Ex-Kansas officer found not guilty in 2017 fatal shooting

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — A second jury has found a former Kansas police officer not guilty in the 2017 shooting death of a man inside his vehicle while responding to a report of a domestic dispute at a home.

Matthew Harrington was acquitted Wednesday of involuntary manslaughter in the death

of 47-year-old Antonio Garcia Jr., the Kansas City Star reported. The decision came after a mistrial was declared in Harrington's first trial in April when that jury could not reach a unanimous verdict.

Mike Nichols, an attorney for Harrington, said the jury made the right decision during the second

trial. In a text message, Nichols said: "there's no question that everyone involved wishes that day had turned out differently."

The shooting occurred when Harrington — then a Leavenworth police officer — responded to a domestic dispute July 11, 2017, involving Garcia. Garcia left the home, but

later returned and was sitting in his vehicle when Harrington approached.

Prosecutors said Garcia had a knife but didn't threaten Harrington, who fired several times into the vehicle after the two men struggled, according to video from Harrington's body camera.

Harrington was fired from the department in

2018 after an internal investigation found he had violated policies on use of deadly force. Later that year, he was indicted by a grand jury.

District Attorney Todd Thompson said Wednesday that prosecutors presented what they believed was a solid case.

"All we can do is put the best case forward and let

the jury decide," Thompson said.

A Leavenworth County judge ruled in June 2020 that Harrington could not claim legal immunity in the shooting, sending the case to trial.

In 2019, the city of Leavenworth reached a \$1 million settlement in a wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Garcia's family.

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LEGALS

(First Published in The Pittsburg Morning Sun on June 10th 2022)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Case No. CRP 2022 PR 64 Samuel Hubbard, Deceased} (Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on June 3rd, 2022, a petition was filed in this Court by Caleb Stultz, executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Samuel Hubbard," deceased, dated December 9th, 2021, requesting the will filed with the petition be admitted to probate and record; petitioner be appointed as Executor, without bond; Petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before July 6th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Crawford County, Kansas District Court, in Pittsburg, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of (4) four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

William Wachter, Attorney for Petitioner
/s/William Wachter
William Wachter # 11863
WILBERT AND TOWNER, P.A.
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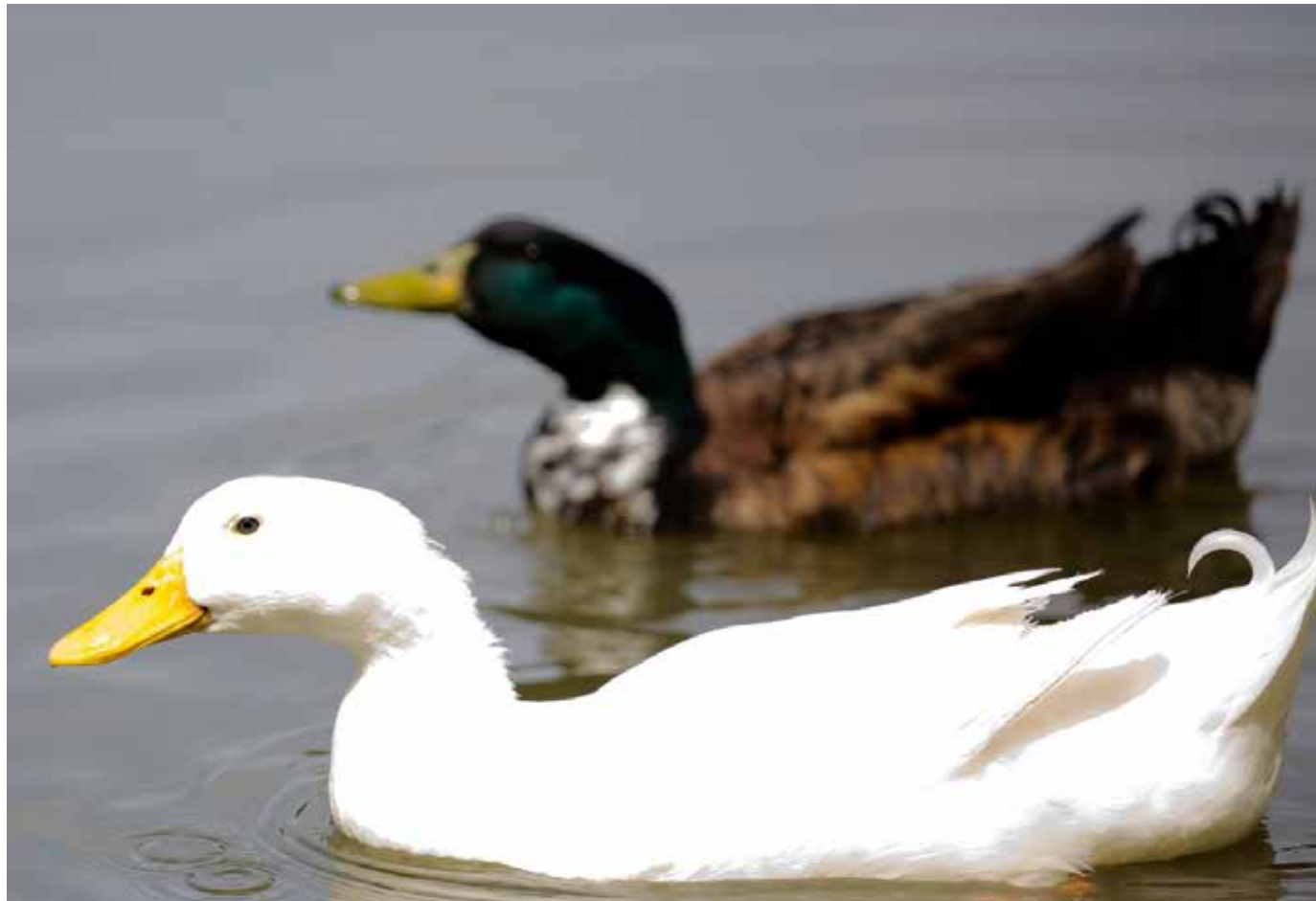
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NEWS

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An American Pekin and mallard take a cool swim through Lakeside Park Thursday afternoon as the Pittsburg Parks & Recreation Department encouraged residents to visit the park in recognition of National Duck Day. AARON

PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

Former Missouri police chief sentenced for excessive force

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The former police chief in a small southeast Missouri town has been sentenced to nine months in federal prison for using excessive force against a woman who was involved in a domestic dispute.

Marc Tragesser, 55, former chief in Marble Hill, was sentenced Tuesday after pleading guilty in January to a misdemeanor charge of deprivation of rights.

On Nov. 25, 2018, Tragesser went to the woman's home with the paternal grandmother of the woman's children. He falsely claimed he had a court order allowing the grandmother to take the children, according to his plea agreement.

When the woman asked to see the court order, Tragesser shoved her and handcuffed and also arrested her boyfriend, according to the plea.

He detained the woman in his police car for 90 minutes until she agreed to allow her children to go with the grandmother, who had no custody or visitation rights, the U.S. Attorney's office said in a news release.

Earlier in the day, Tragesser threatened to arrest the homeowners and allowed the grandmother to take property from the home, including some that did not belong to her son.

The woman did not see her children again until March of 2019.

Report: Police knew of injured at Texas school while waiting

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Police waited for protective equipment as they delayed entering the Texas elementary school where a gunman inside killed 19 children and two teachers, even as they became aware that some victims needed medical treatment, according to records obtained by The New York Times.

The details published Thursday by the Times provided a clearer picture of the slow law enforcement response as the massacre unfolded at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Police waited more than hour to confront the gunman, even as anguished parents outside the school urged officers to go inside.

Pete Arredondo, the

Uvalde school district police chief, led the response on the scene of the May 24 shooting. A man who investigators believe to be Arredondo could be heard on body camera footage talking about how much time was passing.

"People are going to ask why we're taking so long," said the man, according to a transcript of officers' body camera footage obtained by the newspaper. "We're trying to preserve the rest of the life."

Sixty officers had assembled on the scene by the time four officers made entry, according to the report. The two classrooms where the shooting took place included 33 children and three teachers.

Not all the victims were found dead when officers

finally went inside: one teacher died in an ambulance and three children died at nearby hospitals, according to the records obtained by the Times, which included a review of law enforcement documents and video that have been gathered as part of the investigation.

The family of Xavier Lopez, 10, said the boy had been shot in the back and lost a lot of blood as he waited for medical attention.

"He could have been saved," Leonard Sandoval, the boy's grandfather, told the newspaper. "The police did not go in for more than an hour. He bled out."

Steven McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, has

said Arredondo made the "wrong decision" to not order officers to breach the classroom more quickly to confront the 18-year-old gunman. On Thursday, McCraw was interviewed behind closed doors at the Texas Capitol by a legislative committee tasked with investigating the shooting.

Arredondo has not responded to repeated interview requests and questions from The Associated Press.

Law enforcement and state officials have struggled to present an accurate timeline and details, and made frequent corrections to previous statements. No information about the police response has been formally released since the days that followed the

attack.

But the records obtained by the Times offered new details, including that the gunman, Salvador Ramos, had a "hellfire" trigger device meant to allow a semiautomatic AR-15-style rifle to be fired more like an automatic weapon, but did not appear to have used it during the attack. Ramos had spent more than \$6,000 amassing an arsenal of weapons that included two AR-15-style rifles, accessories and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, according to the documents.

The Times reported that some of the officers who first arrived at the school had long guns, and that Arredondo learned the gunman's identity while inside the school and at-

tempted to communicate with him through the closed classroom doors.

Eva Mireles, one of the teachers who was killed, made a phone call to her husband, a Uvalde school district police officer, during the attack. The documents obtained by the Times show that Ruben Ruiz informed responders on the scene that his wife was still alive in one of the classrooms.

"She says she is shot," Ruiz could be heard telling other officers as he arrived inside the school at 11:48 a.m., according to the body camera transcript.

By 12:46 p.m., Arredondo gave his approval for officers to enter the room.

"If y'all are ready to do it, you do it," he said, according to the transcript.

UN elects new council members including Japan, Switzerland

By EDITH M. LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. member nations

elected five countries to join the powerful U.N. Security Council on Thursday with no suspense or

drama because all were unopposed -- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland.

Winning a seat on the 15-member Security Council is considered a pinnacle of achievement for many countries because it gives them a strong voice on issues of international peace and security.

Today, the war in Ukraine is at the top of the list. Although Russia's veto power has prevented the council from taking action, it has held numerous meetings since Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion that have seen contentious exchanges between top diplomats from both countries and their supporters.

But many other conflicts are also on its agenda from Syria and Yemen to Mali and Myanmar as well as international security issues from the nuclear threat posed by North Korea and Iran, and attacks by extremist groups such as the Islamic State and al-Qaida.

The results of the secret ballot vote in the 193-member General Assembly were Ecuador 190, Japan 184, Malta 185, Mozam-

bique 192, and Switzerland 187.

Even if a country is running unopposed, it must obtain the votes of two-thirds of the member states that voted in order to win a seat on the council.

General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid announced the results of the secret-ballot vote and congratulated the winner.

It will be Mozambique and Switzerland's first time serving on the council, Japan's 12th time, Ecuador's third and Malta's second.

Switzerland's President Ignazio Cassi called the election "a very important day" for the country, coming 20 years after it joined the United Nations.

"We want to be part of the solutions for this world," he told reporters after the vote. "We want to contribute to peace, stability and wealth in the world."

Japan's vice foreign minister, Odawara Kiyoshi, said his country will

do its best "to make this United Nations working as a whole."

He said Japan's priorities for the Security Council are "to work effectively," focus on implementation and "human security including energy and food," and also make efforts to address the situation in North Korea.

The five new council members will start their terms on Jan. 1, replacing five countries whose two-year terms end on Dec. 31 -- India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.

They will join the five veto-wielding permanent members of the council -- the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France -- and the five countries elected last year: Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates.

The 10 non-permanent seats on the council are allotted to regional groups, who usually select candidates, but sometimes cannot agree on an uncontested slate.

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SPORTS

PSU's L.J. Kiner honored as Field Athlete of the Year

By Dashuan Vereen
Morning Sun Staff

Punctuating an already accolade-filled 2022 season that included helping Pittsburg State win the Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championship, junior L.J. Kiner was named the NCAA Division II National Field Athlete of the Year for men's outdoor track and field.

"It's a pretty cool feeling," said Kiner. "My coach had texted me that I had won. I didn't even know before then."

After winning the MIAA triple jump championship in Emporia, Kiner remained focused heading into the championships.

"My mindset going into the championships was to go in and win my events and just do the best I could," said Kiner.

Kiner, who earned the ranking as the nation's top athlete in the triple jump during the season, went into the national championships in Allendale, Mich., as one of the top field athletes in the country. In the national championships, Kiner claimed two top-3 finishes, claiming second in the triple jump with a best mark of 52 feet and third in the



Pittsburg State's L.J. Kiner has been named outdoor field athlete of the year by the United States Cross Country/Track and Field Coaches Association. COURTESY / PSU DEREK LIVINGSTON

long jump (7.72 meters).

Kiner was also a member of Pitt State's 4x100 relay team that finished in fifth place.

"Winning the team title was crazy," said Kiner. "It was a great moment. I really enjoyed it."

By winning the title, Pitt

State claimed its first outdoor national title in program history. Kiner pointed to the bond he made with his teammates as his

favorite memories from the historic season.

"My favorite memories during the season were the moments I shared with

my teammates on and off the track," said Kiner.

Kiner, who has returned to his hometown of Humble, Texas, for the summer, said that he has enjoyed his time in Pittsburg.

"Pittsburg is extremely small compared to where I'm from in Texas," said Kiner. "So, in terms of size, there was a huge difference. But I don't do much anyway, so the transition was pretty easy."

Including Kiner, Pittsburg State garnered three national awards from the U.S. Cross Country/Track and Field Coaches Association. Head coach Kyle Rutledge was named Coach of the Year and assistant Jason Crow was named Assistant Coach of the Year.

"Coach Rutledge, he did a great job of keeping us all together and level-headed," said Kiner. "I'm happy that he won."

For Kiner, although he was happy to receive individual recognition, he remains more excited about the team success that the Gorillas captured.

"Winning the title was great," said Kiner. "Winning the athlete of the year feels good, but winning the team title was crazy."

McClanahan wins 5th straight start, Rays sweep 3 from Cards

By MARK DIDLER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Shane McClanahan pitched eight superb innings to win his fifth consecutive start and the Tampa Bay Rays completed a three-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals with a 2-1 victory on Thursday.

Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run homer as the Rays moved a season-high 11 games over .500.

McClanahan (7-2) allowed one unearned run, two hits, walked one and struck out nine. The lefty, who leads the majors with 98 strikeouts, has given up just five runs over 40 innings in his last six starts.

"I think he's putting himself in a category here through two months of the season — pretty special category," Rays manager Kevin Cash

said. It was the first time McClanahan has pitched into the eighth inning.

Jason Adam worked the ninth to get to his second save.

Miles Mikolas (4-4) had an eight-inning complete game, allowing three hits and striking out nine.

The right-hander was the first St. Louis pitcher to have a complete game and lose since Adam Wainwright on April 26, 2021, against Philadelphia.

"I thought Miles actually outpitched him if you ask me, but Shane has something for you," St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "He's (McClanahan) got electric stuff. He did a phenomenal job. Miles also did a really nice job. That was a plus-outing there."

Marmol said the Cardinals had six or seven balls hit at over 100 mph that



Tampa Bay Rays' Ji-Man Choi high fives teammates after his two-run home run off St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Miles Mikolas during the fourth inning of a baseball game on Thursday in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP PHOTO/CHRIS O'MEARA)

were right at people. "The guys behind me made a lot of great plays," McClanahan said. "I owe a lot of success to them." With both pitchers in control, the game at Trop-

icana Field was played in 1 hour, 54 minutes.

Mikolas retired his first nine batters on just 27 pitches before running into trouble during the fourth.

Kevin Kiermaier had a leadoff single and scored on Choi's one-out homer that made it 2-0. Choi has a nine-game hitting streak and has driven in 10 runs over the stretch.

The Cardinals got within 2-1 in the sixth after an error by McClanahan.

Paul Goldschmidt extended his career-best on-base streak to 45 games with a two-out walk and went to second when Nolan Arenado singled for the Cardinals' second hit.

Albert Pujols hit a soft comebacker that McClanahan failed to catch barehanded. McClanahan recovered, but made an errant throw to first that allowed Goldschmidt to score.

Post 64 to play in weekend showcase

Staff Reports

sports@morningsun.net

Pittsburg American Legion Post 64 travels to Southwest Missouri this weekend to play in the Heart of America HOAT/AABC Regional Showcase.

Games are scheduled Friday through Sunday in Joplin, Webb City and Carl Junction.

Post 64 will play pool games on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, and Sunday's schedule will be determined by pool results.

Post 64 is one of 16 teams in the 18-under division. The four pool winners advance to the semifinal round and will play two games on Sunday. The other dozen teams will

play one game.

Post 64 plays WoW Factor Midwest 16U in its opening game at 6:30 Friday at Wendell Redden Field, located inside the Joplin Athletic Complex.

Post 64 plays two games Saturday at Barnes Field in Webb City, facing Redbirds Baseball from Webb City at 1:30 and Willard Baseball at 3:45.

Webb City fell one game short of reaching the Class 4 baseball tournament semifinals, and Willard finished third in Class 5.

Post 64 opened its season last Tuesday by sweeping a home doubleheader over Neodesha at Jaycee Ballpark.

Overlooked no more, Brown shines for Celtics in Finals

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — There was a time when the narrative surrounding Jaylen Brown was that he was a redundant player on a Celtics team shaping its identity around budding superstar Jayson Tatum.

Though he was a recent All-Star on a team packed with young, homegrown talent, Brown was considered by outsiders to be a potential trade chip Boston could use to adjust a roster that didn't get past the conference finals during his first five seasons.

Cries to jettison the third overall pick of the 2016 draft only grew louder after a tepid 18-21 start to this season under new coach Ime Udoka that had veteran Marcus Smart calling out the Celtics' young stars.

Six months and a run to the NBA Finals later, Mr. Expendable is suddenly Mr. Indispensable as the Celtics pursue their 18th championship.

"It's hard for me to re-

flect on moments when I'm in the heart of the storm," Brown said. "But everything, all the adversity, all the ups and downs and negative things, indirectly and directly, has helped build me to where I'm at."

Brown is averaging a team-best 22.7 points and 7.3 rebounds through the first three games of the Finals. He delivered probably his best performance of the playoffs — 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists — as Boston beat the Golden State Warriors 116-100 in Game 3 to take a 2-1 series lead.

His 17-point first quarter set the tone for Boston's attack, but Udoka said Brown's game has evolved on both ends.

"The versatility he gives us on the defensive end, is what it is. I think that goes trickle-down with Marcus and our bigs as well as our big wings," Udoka said. "We're asking (for) more communication, more recognition, and he is one of the guys that's improved throughout the season as far as that."

While Brown has been locked in during the playoffs, Tatum said he and Brown knew there were questions about whether they could coexist after the team's slow start. He said they've figured out how to meld their skillsets and personalities.

"I think all of those things helped, from saying that we need to split the group up, get rid of somebody or me and JB can't play together," Tatum said after Boston beat Miami to win the Eastern Conference title. "That fueled us to figure it out and not run from it. ... That we trust in each other and we had to be better."

Under the tutelage of Udoka and his staff, both players have learned to play off their teammates more.

Tatum has steered away from his past tendencies of relying on isolation and jump shots. Instead, he's using the double teams he draws to shuffle the ball to Brown and others to share the scoring load.

Brown, too, has morphed his game. Against

Golden State in particular, he's been slashing inside, finding mismatches and picking his spots against the Warriors' small lineups.

Smart said the aggression of Brown and Tatum has become contagious.

"They're very adamant about what they want, what they're going to do with the ball, with making decisions and making reads," Smart said. "They've grown and matured in that aspect. They knew in order for us to reach our full potential that they were going to have to take that step. They took the challenge, and they're showing it and it's proven right now."

Brown has also been a steady voice, reminding his teammates to block out distractions such as Golden State's Draymond Green's attempts to rattle the Celtics with his physical play.

On Jan. 31, at the start of Boston's late-season turnaround, Brown tweeted, "The energy is about to shift." Given his recent performance, his words



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) dunks the ball against the Golden State Warriors during the second quarter of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals on Wednesday in Boston. (AP PHOTO/MICHAEL DWYER)

are looking less cryptic and more prophetic.

And Brown has shown more appreciation for his journey to Finals stardom.

"I feel like I haven't always been put in the best position to be the best version of myself, and that's aided me into getting better and working hard-

er," Brown said. "Everything that I've learned and acquired here directly or indirectly has helped me, and I think it's going to help me going forward. If I would have to reflect, I'm just grateful for each and every experience that you go through because it just makes you who you are."

BASEBALL
MLB STANDINGS

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	40	16	.714	
Tampa Bay	34	23	.596	6½
Toronto	33	23	.589	7
Boston	30	27	.526	10½
Baltimore	24	33	.421	16½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	33	25	.569	
Cleveland	27	26	.509	3½
Chicago	26	29	.473	5½
Detroit	23	33	.411	9
Kansas City	18	37	.327	13½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	21	.632	
Los Angeles	27	31	.466	9½
Texas	26	30	.464	9½
Seattle	26	31	.456	10
Oakland	20	39	.339	17

Wednesday's Games
Detroit 3, Pittsburgh 1
Kansas City 8, Toronto 4
Cleveland 4, Texas 0
Seattle 6, Houston 3
Atlanta 13, Oakland 2
Tampa Bay 11, St. Louis 3
Minnesota 8, N.Y. Yankees 1
L.A. Dodgers 4, Chicago White Sox 1
Boston 1, L.A. Angels 0
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, p.pd.
Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, St. Louis 1
L.A. Dodgers 11, Chicago White Sox 9
Cleveland 8, Oakland 4
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore at Kansas City, 7:10 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Angels, 8:38 p.m.
Friday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Miley 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 4-1), 6:05 p.m.
Oakland (Blackburn 5-2) at Cleveland (McKenzie 3-5), 6:10 p.m.
Toronto (Berríos 4-2) at Detroit (Rodriguez 0-1), 6:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Zimmermann 2-4) at Kansas City (Heasley 0-3), 7:10 p.m.
Miami (López 4-2) at Houston (García 3-4), 7:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 5-2) at Minnesota (Smeltzer 2-0), 7:10 p.m.
Texas (Otto 4-2) at Chicago White Sox (Martin 0-2), 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Megill 4-2) at L.A. Angels (Lorenzen 5-3), 8:38 p.m.
Boston (Hill 2-3) at Seattle (Gonzales 3-6), 9:10 p.m.

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	21	.644	
Atlanta	31	27	.534	6½
Philadelphia	28	29	.491	9
Miami	25	30	.455	11
Washington	21	38	.356	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	33	26	.559	
St. Louis	32	26	.552	½
Pittsburgh	24	31	.436	7
Chicago	23	33	.411	8½
Cincinnati	20	37	.351	12

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	37	20	.649	
San Diego	35	22	.614	½
San Francisco	30	26	.536	6½
Arizona	28	31	.475	10
Colorado	25	32	.439	12

Wednesday's Games
Detroit 3, Pittsburgh 1
Arizona 7, Cincinnati 0
Atlanta 13, Oakland 2
Miami 2, Washington 1, 10 innings
Tampa Bay 11, St. Louis 3
L.A. Dodgers 4, Chicago White Sox 1
Philadelphia 10, Milwaukee 0
San Francisco 2, Colorado 1, 10 innings
San Diego 13, N.Y. Mets 2
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, p.pd.
Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, St. Louis 1
Arizona 5, Cincinnati 4
Philadelphia 8, Milwaukee 3
L.A. Dodgers 11, Chicago White Sox 9
Colorado 4, San Francisco 2
Atlanta 3, Pittsburgh 1
Miami 7, Washington 4
Friday's Games
Arizona (Gallen 4-1) at Philadelphia (Gibson 3-2), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Miley 1-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 4-1), 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Ashby 1-4) at Washington (Fedde 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Contreras 1-0) at Atlanta (Strider 1-2), 7:20 p.m.
Miami (López 4-2) at Houston (García 3-4), 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 2-3) at St. Louis (Pallante 1-0), 8:15 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Megill 4-2) at L.A. Angels (Lorenzen 5-3), 9:38 p.m.
Colorado (Kuhl 4-2) at San Diego (Musgrove 6-0), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 6-2) at San Francisco (Junis 3-1), 10:15 p.m.

No. 1 Oklahoma repeats as national champion

Staff, AP Reports
sports@morningsun.net

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Grace Lyons and Kinzie Hansen slugged three-run home runs as No. 1 Oklahoma downed Texas 10-5 Thursday night to repeat as champions in the Women's College World Series.

The Sooners, who won the best-of-3 championship series, fell behind 2-0 in the first inning as Alyssa Washington and Mary Iakopo hit sacrifice flies.

Oklahoma tied it in the fourth when Hansen reached on a throwing error to score one run, and Taylon Snow hit a run-scoring single to center.

With two outs in the OU fifth, Tiare Jennings singled to center and Lyons was hit by a pitch. Alyssa Brito doubled to left field to score Jennings with the tiebreaking run, and

Hansen hit her homer to left field for a 6-2 lead.

The Sooners padded their lead in the sixth as Rylie Boone beat out an infield hit, Jayda Coleman walked and Jocelyn Alo reached on an infield hit to load the bases.

Jennings hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Boone, and Lyons homered to left.

Jordy Bahl (22-1) gave up four hits in four innings, walked three batters and fanned two. Nicole May allowed one hit and fanned two in 2 1/3 scoreless innings, and Hope Trautwein recorded the final two outs but did allow a three-run homer to Mia Scott.

OU 16, TEXAS 1
Jocelyn Alo and Tiare Jennings fueled Oklahoma's record-setting offensive burst as the Sooners romped Wednesday night in the series opener.

Each hit two home runs and Oklahoma set a World Series record with six home runs. The Sooners also matched World Series records for runs and victory margin.

Alo set a single-game World Series mark with five runs. She went 3-for-3 and increased her batting average to a nation-leading .527.

Alo and Jennings each have five home runs in the World Series, surpassing the single-series record of four set by several players, including Alo last year. Alo increased her career Division I homer record to 122, and Jennings drove in five runs to set a record for RBI in a series with 14.

Alo's second homer was her 34th of the season, matching the Oklahoma school record she set last season.

Hope Trautwein (22-1) gave up just two hits and



Oklahoma players celebrate after defeating Texas 16-1 in the first game of the NCAA Women's College World Series softball finals Wednesday in Oklahoma City. The Sooners also won 10-5 on Thursday to repeat as national champions. (AP PHOTO/SUE OGROCKI)

a run in five innings, and Nicole May allowed just one hit in two shutout innings.

Alo cranked a no-doubt home run into the left field seats in the first inning, and Taylon Snow followed shortly afterward with a three-run

blast to make it 5-1. Jana Johns hit a solo shot in the third to make it 7-1 and Jennings hit a three-run blast later in the inning to make it 10-1. Alo and Jennings hit back-to-back homers in the fifth to make it 14-1.

Curry's diagnosis for Game 4 of finals: 'I'm going to play'

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Even as he lay on the court, with 240-pound Celtics center Al Horford on top of his recently recovered left ankle, Stephen Curry knew what was wrong.

And as soon as he stood up and took a few steps, he knew he would be OK.

"I'm going to play. That's all I know right now," the Warriors star said on Thursday, a day before Golden State will face Boston in Game 4 of the NBA Finals.

"I know exactly what it is," said Curry, who hurt the same ankle on a similar play in a late-season game against Boston. "I guess (there's) comfort knowing I've been through it before, but also you would rather not have to deal with something like that at this point in the season."

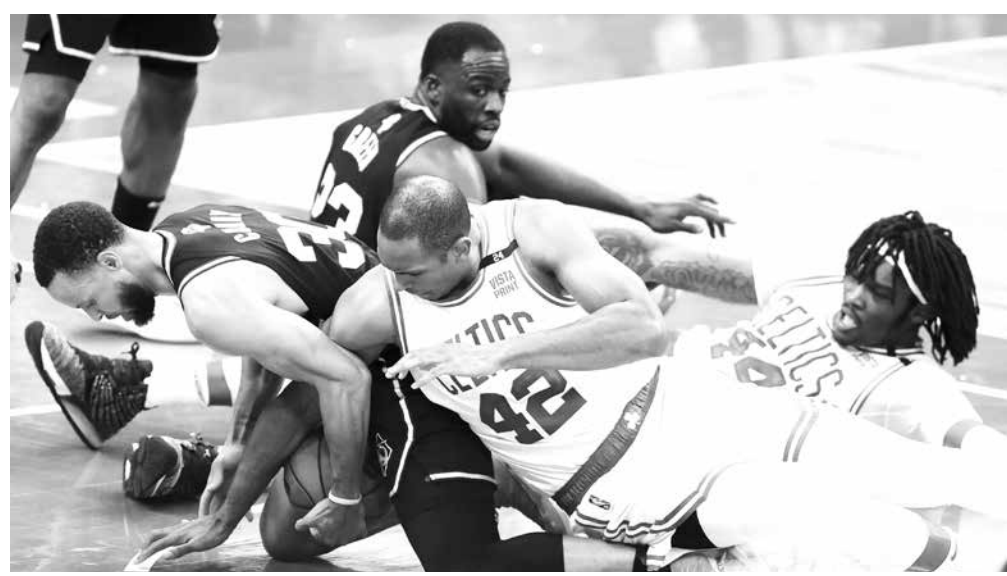
Curry wound up at the bottom of a pile Wednesday night as players from both teams dove for a loose ball late in the

fourth quarter. Teammate Draymond Green said he heard Curry scream in pain, but the Warriors star remained in the game until coach Steve Kerr sent in the bench trailing by 14 with two minutes left.

The Celtics held on to win 116-100 and take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Golden State needs a win on Friday night to avoid falling behind 3-1 before the series shifts back to San Francisco.

A key to them avoiding the brink of elimination: Curry not just remaining healthy, but playing like a two-time NBA MVP. The Warriors guard scored 31 points in Game 3, but just two of them came in the fourth quarter as the league-leading Celtics defense chased him around the court.

Golden State held a film session Thursday, but the team's regulars did not practice. Curry appeared to walk without a limp when he entered the media room to talk to reporters, and he took the steps



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, is caught under Boston Celtics' Al Horford (42) during the fourth quarter of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals on Wednesday in Boston. (SCOTT STRAZZANTE/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE VIA AP)

to the podium three at a time. He had no bandage or brace on his leg.

Curry said he got plenty of sleep — 10 1/2 hours — and spent some time with his foot in an ice bucket. But he said he did not need an MRI because the injury was the same as the one he sustained when Celtics guard Marcus Smart landed on his

foot in a March 16 game in San Francisco.

"This one just wasn't as bad as that one," said Curry, who missed the last 12 games of the regular season. "As soon as you started to take a couple of steps, you kind of know whether you can run normal, cut normal or not. Back then, I couldn't. Yesterday, I could. That

gave me a little bit of confidence knowing it wasn't as bad."

Asked Thursday if he would be sitting out if it were a regular-season game, Curry said he couldn't say for sure.

But for Game 4 of the NBA Finals, there's no question.

"I know I'm going to play," he said.

Pete Carroll optimistic deal will get done for DK Metcalf

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — Pete Carroll still expects a new contract for wide receiver DK Metcalf to get finished this offseason even after Metcalf unexpectedly skipped the Seattle Seahawks' minicamp this week.

Carroll said Thursday after Seattle wrapped up the three-day camp that he remains confident a deal with Metcalf can be reached. He cited the Seahawks' previous success in reaching agreements with star players landing their first big contracts.

"We've been through this for years, you know. And it's a challenging time," Carroll said. "We've had so many high-profile guys that have gone through this process and how's that worked out for us? We figured it out in time. And

so (GM John Schneider) is on it and he's as experienced as you can get at handling this stuff, and DK's got great representation and DK is a heck of a kid."

Metcalf is entering the final year of his rookie contract, which will pay him about \$3.99 million for the upcoming season.

He would seem to be in line for an extension in the ballpark of what A.J. Brown, Cooper Kupp and other wide receivers have received this offseason.

Metcalf has been around the Seahawks for stretches of the offseason workouts while rehabbing from foot surgery.

Carroll noted it will be important not to let the situation linger into August, especially with the Seahawks breaking in a new starting quarterback.

"These are crucial weeks to get something

done," Carroll said.

CARSON UPDATE
Carroll provided an ominous update on running back Chris Carson and his attempt to return following neck surgery last season. Carroll said Carson has not been cleared and is still working to get full range of motion in his neck.

Carson is expected to meet with team doctors and his surgeon later this month to get a clearer idea of whether there is a path forward that would allow him to play. Carson did not attend the minicamp.

"Our guys love this game that they grow up playing, and when they sense that there may be an end to it, it's hard. It's difficult, and it's real," Carroll said. "And we're going to love him through it and help him as much as possible, if that's the case, like we do with ev-

erybody when it comes to the end of it. It's inevitable. It's coming, but it's always too soon, so we're trying to fight that off."

Carroll said the 27-year-old visited the team about 10 days ago. Carson has played his entire career for the Seahawks, but played more than 12 games only twice in his five seasons. Carson's best season was 2019 when he rushed for 1,230 yards and seven touchdowns in 15 games.

"We had a real good chance to hang out with him and feel him, and he's concerned because he wants to play," Carroll said. "He loves the game, and he's a worker. He wants to work and push and all that, (but) there's some things that he was still a little bit restrained to do. So he wasn't quite ready to do everything at that time, and it's just hard on him. He's bat-

ting. He's doing everything he can. He wants to compete all the way to the last word."

QB COMPETITION
Carroll reiterated that Geno Smith has the lead in the quarterback competition ahead of Drew Lock heading into training camp, largely due to Smith's experience with Seattle's offensive system. But Carroll said Lock will get his chances to make up ground during training camp, either through structured opportunities in practice or during the first couple of preseason games.

"Let's put these guys where they have to make decisions. And they have to use the clock and they have to use the field and they've got to use the sticks and all of the stuff that's happening," Carroll said.

MODERATELY CONFUSED



FAMILY CIRCUS



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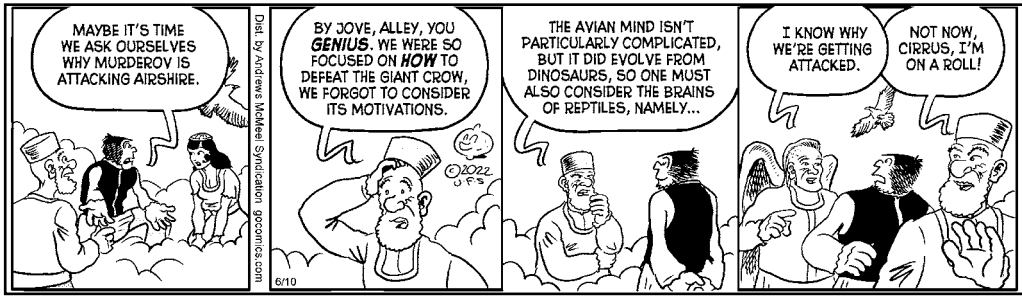
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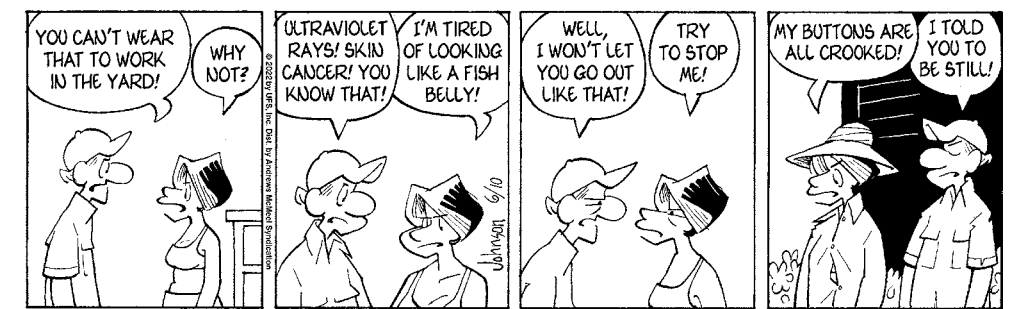
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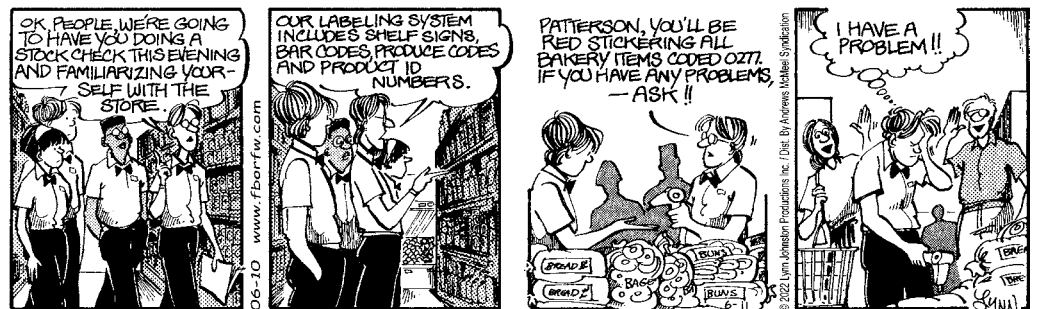
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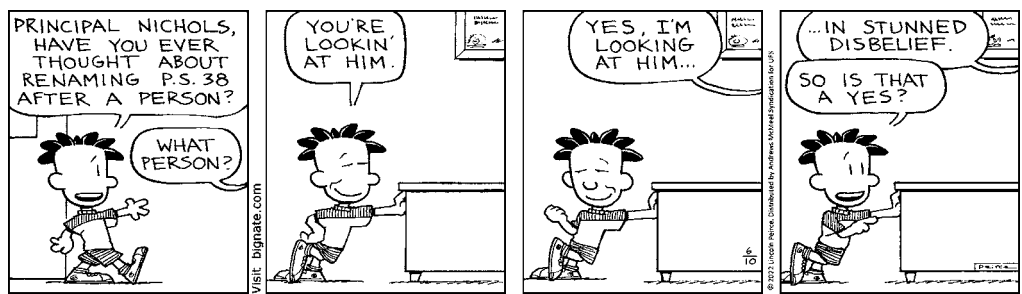
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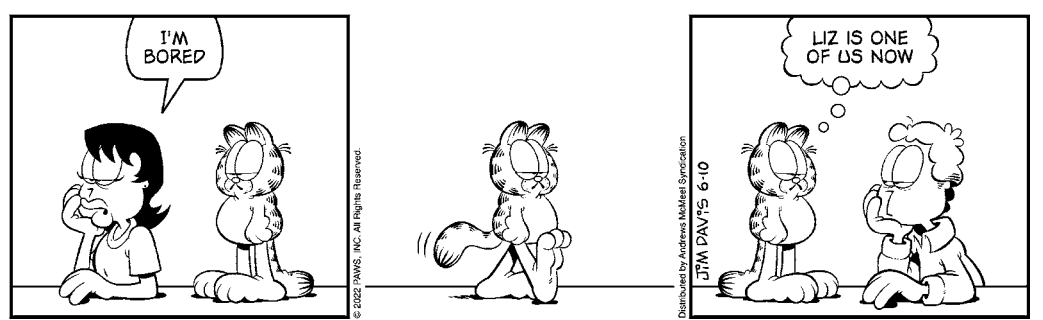
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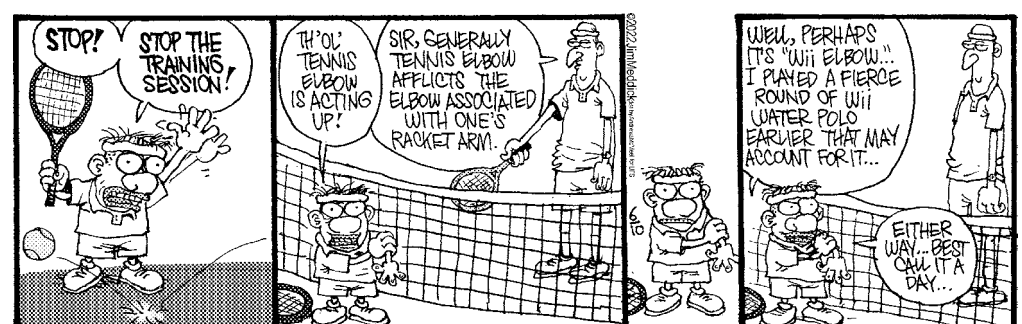
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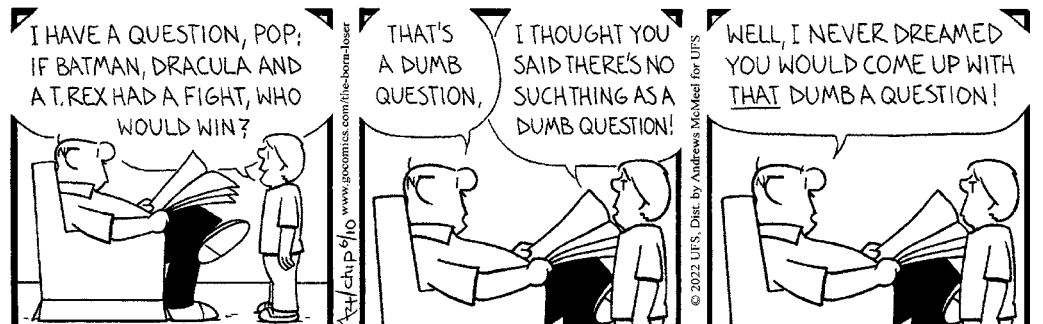
GARFIELD



MONTY



THE BORN LOSER



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ASTROGRAPH by Eugenia Last

Choose your words wisely. Misinterpretation will stand between you and what you want. Leave nothing to chance or up to others to handle for you. Explore how you feel about your options; take the path that suits you best. Don't feel married to someone's ideas and plans when you have your own to pursue. Balance and integrity will enhance the outcome.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Do the research. A biased opinion will cause uncertainty, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Go over details, rules and regulations, and make sure you have taken care of everything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Get expert advice before initiating changes or starting something new. Make sure your plans fit your budget. A physical factor will influence how you go about making a transformation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Challenging yourself physically will ease stress. Put your energy into something that matters to you, and you'll find a way to make a difference. Home improvement projects are favored.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A change will lift your spirits and put you in the mood to get out and have fun with friends or spend a romantic day with someone you love. Worry less about what others think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You'll have the drive and stamina to get things done. Refuse to let someone get in your way or take control. Map out your plan and go about your business. Doing things yourself will pay off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Keep life simple. Don't get into an emotional tiff with a friend, relative or peer. Plan your next move or fix up your space to make it easier to handle your responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Make yourself comfortable by improving your surroundings. Take charge of your happiness, and don't give anyone the chance to ruin your day. Get together with someone who challenges you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Spend time pampering and pleasing yourself. A couple of changes at home will make you feel at ease and assist you in distancing yourself from someone who is a bad influence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Take a moment to figure out what others want or expect from you. Don't feel you have to make a change because someone else does. Stick close to home and work on inspiring projects.

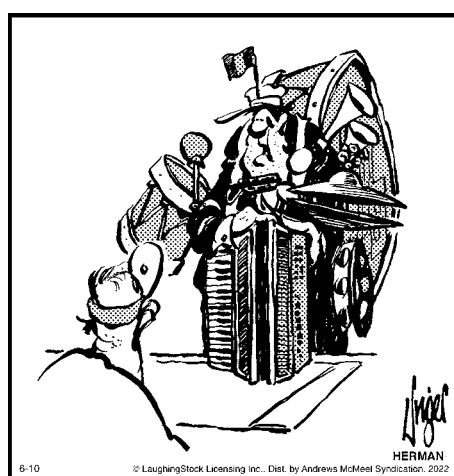
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Keep personal and financial information to yourself. The fewer things others know about you, the easier it will be to avoid being asked for handouts and favors. Protect your assets.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Be realistic. Don't believe everything you hear or take on more than you can handle. Emphasize what you can do to tidy up loose ends. A heart-to-heart chat will give you some perspective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Take care of money matters, your reputation and your position. Leave nothing to chance or up to someone likely to step in and take charge. Keep your opinions and plans to yourself.

(Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.)

HERMAN



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Lightbulb unit
- 5 Political alliance
- 9 Barrel
- 12 Crooked
- 13 Kauai neighbor
- 14 Wyo. neighbor
- 15 Roulette color
- 16 Designer label
- 17 Small, in Dogpatch
- 18 Took it easy
- 20 As of
- 22 Head movement
- 23 Perch
- 24 Bare
- 27 Meditation guide
- 28 "Gidget" actress
- 29 Elmer Fudd, e.g.
- 31 Rotate
- 35 Canine noises
- 37 Sprouted

DOWN

- 39 Curie daughter
- 40 Fictional governess
- 42 See eye-to-eye
- 44 Conical dwelling
- 46 Personal history
- 47 Republic near Italy
- 48 Sinkhole
- 51 Make top honors
- 52 Wet weather
- 54 Get tired
- 56 Artificial hair
- 57 Reebok rival
- 58 She, in Seville
- 59 Messy place
- 60 Toboggan
- 61 Artist Salvador --

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 3 Vocal group
- 4 Despot
- 5 Foreshadowed
- 6 Set down
- 7 Shout of surprise
- 8 Screen blinker
- 9 Brick bakers
- 10 Royal decree
- 11 Windstorm
- 19 Unser rival
- 21 Promises to pay, for short
- 23 Viking letter
- 24 Ben & Jerry rival
- 25 Give -- break
- 26 Sparkle
- 27 Injure in the bullring
- 30 Folklore creature
- 32 Pricing word
- 33 " -- Gotta Be Me"
- 34 Bridal notice word
- 36 Equinox mo.
- 38 Go like a siren
- 41 Aches
- 43 Did 18 holes
- 44 Implied
- 45 Mournful poem
- 46 Filleted
- 47 Gullets
- 48 Summer camp activity
- 49 Mexican pot
- 50 Off the --
- 53 Feel poorly
- 55 Moo goo -- pan

PGA Tour says Saudi-paid players no longer eligible for tour

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Tour says members who are playing in the Saudi-funded league in London are no longer eligible to play tour events. Commissioner Jay Monahan sent a memo indicating the sanctions against Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and 15 other players. The memo went out a short time after the LIV Golf Invitational outside London began with a 48-player field. The decision includes the Presidents Cup. Monahan says even if players resigned their membership, they are not eligible as nonmembers to get sponsor exemptions to tournaments. The USGA already said players can still play the U.S. Open next week. LIV Golf is run by Greg Norman and funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. It responded to the PGA Tour's decision by calling it vindictive and

divisive.

Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and other PGA Tour members who teed off in the Saudi-funded golf league Thursday are no longer eligible for PGA Tour events under penalties Commissioner Jay Monahan shared soon after the first tee shot was struck.

Still to be determined is whether those players are ever welcome back.

The ban includes participation in the Presidents Cup, which for the International team is determined by the world ranking.

The USGA already has said eligible players can still compete in the U.S. Open next week. The PGA Tour does not run the majors.

In a memo sent to tour members, Monahan said that even if players resigned from the tour ahead of the first LIV Golf Invitational outside London,

they will not be allowed to play PGA Tour events as a nonmember by getting a sponsor exemption.

Ten players have resigned from the PGA Tour, a list that includes Johnson and Sergio Garcia. Mickelson, who earned lifetime membership with his 45 PGA Tour titles, has not.

"These players have made their choice for their own financial-based reasons," Monahan wrote. "But they can't demand the same PGA Tour membership benefits, considerations, opportunities and platform as you. The expectation disrespects you, our fans and our partners."

LIV Golf, run by Greg Norman and funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, responded to the tour's decision by calling it vindictive and divisive.

"It's troubling that the tour, an organization dedicated to creating op-

portunities for golfers to play the game, is the entity blocking golfers from playing," LIV Golf said. "This certainly is not the last word on this topic. The era of free agency is beginning as we are proud to have a full field of players joining us in London, and beyond."

At issue is players competing without a conflicting event release from the PGA Tour.

Players typically receive three such releases a year for tournaments overseas, but Monahan denied releases for the LIV Golf Invitational because it is an eight-tournament series that has five events in the United States.

The tour does not allow releases for events in North America.

"We have followed the tournament regulations from start to finish in responding to those players who have decided to turn their backs on the PGA Tour by willfully violating

a regulation," he wrote.

Monahan said the players who resigned will have their names removed from the PGA Tour standings — FedEx Cup and Presidents Cup — after this week. He said the tour will make sure those who haven't resigned will not affect rankings on various lists of tour players.

Questions remain, however, such as whether players can ever return.

The first test figures to be the Travelers Championship in Connecticut, the week after the U.S. Open. Johnson was among those listed in the field.

The LIV Golf Invitational was being streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Before the opening round, Norman said he was thrilled to see an effort 30 years in the making come to fruition.

He tried to start a World Golf Tour in the 1990s for only the elite players and had a TV contract lined up until the PGA Tour

quashed the moment with support from Arnold Palmer. Norman didn't realize until too late that he didn't have as much support from the players as he thought. That circuit never got off the ground.

This one did, with the backing of riches the likes of which golf has never seen. The Daily Telegraph reported that Johnson received \$150 million — more than Tiger Woods' career PGA Tour earnings — just for signing up. Mickelson did not deny reports that he got \$200 million.

Each tournament offers \$25 million in prize money, with \$4 million for the individual winner. The PGA Tour's richest event is the Players Championship at \$20 million. The Canadian Open this week, which has five of the top-10 players in the world, has an \$8.7 million purse.

Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp gets contract extension from Rams

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp agreed to a three-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Rams on Wednesday after a spectacular season in which he led the NFL in every major receiving category.

The Rams announced the deal just two days after signing Aaron Donald to a massive extension. Kupp's new extension is worth \$75 million guaranteed, and it brings his total deal to \$110 million through 2026 when adding the two years remaining on his first extension, which was signed in September 2020.

Kupp had one of the greatest seasons in football history last year in his first pairing with new Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford. Kupp led the NFL with 145 receptions for 1,947 yards and 16 touchdowns for Los Angeles, earning The Associated Press' Offensive Player of the Year award as only the fourth player since the merger to lead the league in all three categories.



Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp, left, talks with quarterback Matthew Stafford, right, as wide receiver Lance McCutcheon stands by during an NFL mini camp football practice on Wednesday in Thousand Oaks, Calif. (AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL)

Kupp catches and yards were both the second-highest totals in NFL history, albeit accomplished in a 17-game season. The first-time All-Pro racked up another 33 catches for 478 yards and four touchdowns in the postseason, capping the season with two TDs in the Super Bowl — including the eventual game-winning 1-yard TD catch with 1:25 to play.

The receiver's extension caps an impressive offseason of deal-making for the Rams and general manager Les Snead, whose front office's ma-

neuvering around the salary cap inspires envy throughout the league. Los Angeles lost a few key players to free agency after winning the franchise's championship in 22 years, but managed to add linebacker Bobby Wagner and receiver Allen Robinson as free agents.

Snead also reached long-term commitments with Donald, Kupp and Stafford, who agreed to a four-year extension through the 2026 season that could be worth \$160 million.

Defectors open Saudi-funded golf series amid pomp, fractures

By **ROB HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

ST. ALBANS, England (AP) — At a distance it looked like a military flypast and Grenadier Guards trumpeting in a royal-style occasion. Only it wasn't an extension of Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations but the launch of the Saudi-funded golf breakaway, attempting to bring a sense of faux regal pageantry to the rebellion splitting the sport.

On a course just outside north London, the band dressed as imitation infantrymen were there to proclaim the arrival of Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson, two of the stars enticed from the PGA Tour to potentially earn hundreds of millions of dollars on the LIV Golf series.

The nine ageing planes rumbling overhead helped to mask the lack of significant crowd noise beyond the occasional shout of "Let's go Phil!" as he prepared to tee off.

At the same time, the message Thursday from the PGA Tour was being delivered — go off. To all the players who defected to the renegade series, they now face banishment from future tour events. Johnson had already given up his PGA membership, but Mickelson is not ready to.

The fury of LIV Golf — a product of the Saudi



Dustin Johnson of the United States, left, and Phil Mickelson of the United States greet each other on the first tee during the first round of the inaugural LIV Golf Invitational at the Centurion Club in St. Albans, England on Thursday. (AP PHOTO/ALASTAIR GRANT)

sovereign wealth fund — was clear, calling the PGA Tour "vindictive" with a decision that will only deepen the divides. There were no signs of the Saudi backing across the Centurion Club, nor any sponsor branding.

Mickelson was sporting a black cap adorned by his personal logo featuring a silhouette of himself playing golf, replacing the KP-MG-branded one that was worn before the corporate sponsors dropped the deal in February after he disparaged the PGA Tour and Saudi Arabia. He matched Johnson with a 1-under 69, with Charl Schwartzel leading at 65.

Across the course, the only branding was from LIV Golf and a sparse number of spectators in

attendance. There was intrigue from those who did turn up, accompanied by a desire to see so many of the world's leading players, although none from the top 10.

Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters champion, had a one-stroke lead over fellow South African Hennie du Plessis. Scott Vincent of Zimbabwe and Phachara Khongwatmai of Thailand shot 67.

Unlike many spectators, Jim Dawkins, who has been coming to golf events for six decades, did pay 67 pounds (\$84) for his pass to the club between Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans.

Wyndham Clark stays hot and takes first-round lead in Canada

TORONTO (AP) — Wyndham Clark started the week with a late charge to play his way into the U.S. Open in a qualifier, and then he stayed hot Thursday in the RBC Canadian Open for a 7-under 63 to take the first-round lead.

Clark opened with five birdies in nine holes and kept bogeys off his card at St. George's Golf and Country Club for the third round of his PGA Tour career at 63 or lower.

Matt Fitzpatrick was a stroke back, and Doug Ghim and Harold Varner III followed at 65.

Defending champion

Rory McIlroy had six birdies in his round of 66 that left him tied with Tony Finau, Lee Hodges and Mackenzie Hughes, who would love nothing more than to become the first Canadian to win his national open since 1954.

McIlroy had to wait three years to defend his title because of the COVID-19 pandemic that canceled golf's fourth-oldest championship the last two years. He closed with a 61 to win by seven shots at Hamilton.

"I felt like the course was there to go even lower just from the rain and how

receptive it was," McIlroy said. "Overall, very happy with the start of the week, especially coming off a disappointing weekend at the Memorial last weekend."

Clark didn't break par over the final three rounds at the Memorial, and he wasn't looking good in his 36-hole qualifier on Monday. But then he put together five birdies in an 11-hole stretch that allowed him to get into the U.S. Open next week at The Country Club outside Boston.

"It's nice to see some putts go in," Clark said. "I haven't shot a low one in a

while. I've had a lot of couple under par, 3-, 4-under pars in my last few events, but really felt like I left a lot of shots out there. This round I maximized pretty much everything out there."

Clark putted for birdie on all but one hole, and he holed an 8-foot par putt on No. 12 early in his round.

Fitzpatrick started and finished his round with a birdie, holing a 35-foot putt on the par-3 eighth hole for a 64.

"Really, really happy with the way I played today, just solid all around," Fitzpatrick said. "Had a

couple opportunities to chip it a little bit closer, but other than that, I'm being really picky. Everything in my game was going well."

PGA champion Justin Thomas, who wanted to play the week before a major because it worked so well the last time, opened with a 69.

Sam Burns, coming off a victory two weeks ago at Colonial, opened with a 67 in the afternoon, and top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler had a 69. The Canadian Open has attracted five of the top 10 players in the world.

They were keenly aware of a rival tour going on across the Atlantic in England, the first of the LIV Golf Invitational series in which 17 players who are PGA Tour members have been declared ineligible for the rest of the season.

McIlroy said he still might watch some of the streaming because he's a golf fan, he's curious and he has some friends in the field. But he's a little skeptical about the names assigned to the 12 teams at LIV Golf, such as Niblicks and Cleeks.

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