

THE MORNING SUN

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A gripping performance

PCT Jr. Starz to present 'The Claw'

By Antjea Wolff
Morning Sun Staff

PITTSBURG, Kan. — For almost two decades, Pittsburg Community Theatre has been hosting a two-week camp, Jr. Starz, for children ages 6 through 12 during the summer. This year the Jr. Starz will present "The Claw: A New Children's Musical" on Friday, June 17.

"The Claw", written by Beat by Beat and released in 2021, is a 45-minute musical about a broken claw machine in a bowling alley that is suddenly turned back on. All of the toys inside are overjoyed, except for a stuffed cow named Dot, who just wants to hold on to her home and her best friend Aiden.

This fun-filled musical



The cast of "The Claw" practice their opening number for their upcoming performance at Memorial Auditorium on Friday. ANTJEA WOLFF / THE MORNING SUN

is directed by Megan Potter Gabehart, who has been directing the Jr. Starz program for over a decade.

"We as a community theatre feel like this is one of, perhaps, our most important outreaches into the community," she said. "This is not just providing an artistic outlook for the community, but this is

training and teaching the importance of the arts in our society so that Pittsburg Community Theatre will go on for generations."

Gabehart said Jr. Starz has several kids who started when they were six and have come back every year.

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Soprano and Piano



Soprano Dr. Lydia Bechtel, right, a Pittsburg State University music professor, and pianist Isaac Hernandez, a graduate student in piano from Mexico, performed several Spanish songs and piano works by Hispanic composers as part of the Pittsburg Festival of the Arts at ArtForms Gallery on Thursday. The duo also handed out pamphlets that gave information about the composers and translations to the songs. The Festival of the Arts continues through Saturday with several more events planned at various venues. ANTJEA WOLFF / MORNING SUN STAFF

Pittsburg to celebrate 620 Day



620 Day last year featured a rock climbing wall on Broadway, courtesy of the Fun Zone Depot. FILE PHOTO

Staff Reports
news@morningsun.net

PITTSBURG, Kan. — In 2019, the City of Pittsburg's Downtown Advisory Board (DAB) came up with the idea to host a celebration on June 20 as a nod to Pittsburg's area code (620). This year, Pittsburg's annual 620 Day Celebration will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 20, inside the Pittsburg Farmers' Market Pavilion.

"The purpose of this annual event is to cultivate pride, and celebrate the Pittsburg community," said Pittsburg Com-

munity Development Specialist Christi Yockey.

Food vendors such as The Blue Spoon, Outsider Taco, Offshore Tropix, and the Jolly Trolley will be set up for the event, as well as vendors including Southwind Cycle, Simply Sublime Sublimation, L&M Gardens, Onyx Luxury Epoxy, Crawford County Community Coalition, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Masonic Cancer Alliance, and Scentsy. Limelight Marketing will also be handing out t-shirts, and Embellish Boutique will be handing out coupons.

The Y Academy of Dance will have performances before the '90s tribute band, Bill and Monica's Excellent Adventure (BAM), takes the stage at 6 p.m. BAM will perform classic '90s pop, alternative, and rock songs from artists such as Alanis Morsette, 4 Non Blondes, and The Cranberries.

The Downtown Advisory Board is handing out Downtown Pittsburg t-shirts for the first 250 attendees. This event is free and open to the public.



Chris Goodwin, left, and Stacy Butcher are shown here in front of the historic Carver League building on South Elm Street in Pittsburg, which they each played key roles in helping to restore. COURTESY PHOTO / PSU

Open house planned at historic Carver League building

Staff Reports
news@morningsun.net

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Over the past year, the historic Carver Social League building located at 1007 South Elm has been undergoing renovations thanks to the help of Pittsburg State University construction management students and alumni.

On Thursday, City of Pittsburg Director of Community Development and Housing Quentin Holmes met with PSU alumni Chris Goodwin and Stacy Butcher to discuss the

renovations done to the Carver League building and made a Facebook Live video discussing many of the changes that have been made, as well as announcing that a special open house will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 18, with the help of PSU's Office of Student Diversity.

The date of the open house was chosen in observance of the federal Juneteenth holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, which is June 19. Historic images will

be on display, and those involved will provide an informal explanation of Phase 1 as well as the vision and future phases — including an emphasis on inclusion. At 2 p.m., local musician Lem Sheppard will play.

Goodwin and Butcher both said there would be more to come with the Carver League building, and they invited the public to meet with them on Saturday to discuss the future of the building as well as the past.

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New report highlights Southeast Kansas childcare needs

By Dustin R. Strong
Morning Sun Staff

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Kan. — After COVID-19 emerged in late 2019, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly and 42 other governors issued executive orders for non-essential personnel to stay home, restricting all movement outside the home deemed nonessential in an attempt to flatten the curve of disease transmissions. In April 2020, Kelly announced a

plan to reopen the state's economy by June, but recommended gatherings to be no more than 45 people.

Child care in Kansas, and around the nation, was overwhelmed by COVID-19. But as a new report released this month by Child Care Aware of Kansas demonstrates, COVID-19 did not create the strain on child care in Kansas, it only exacerbated it.

Prior to the pandemic, Kansas was already expe-

riencing a child care crisis. 70 percent of children ages 0 to 6 needed child care because their parents worked, but according to Child Care Aware of Kansas, by June 2020, there were 5,044 fewer child care slots than in 2017, and the number of openings continued to decrease through 2021. By May, the state had lost another 938 slots as 78 providers closed their doors; by August, another 279 programs were gone.

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- Norman Miller, 79, Fort Scott, KS
- John Leroy, 80, Chanute, KS
- Joyce Evans, 78 West Palm Beach, FL

History's Hidden Gems

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World Cup 2026

Kansas City is selected as one of 16 host cities for the 2026 World Cup.
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COMMUNITY

Obituaries



Norman "Don" Miller

Norman "Don" Miller, age 79, resident of Fort Scott, Kansas, died Thursday, June 16, 2022, at Nevada Regional Medical Center in Nevada, Missouri.

He was born July 26, 1942, in Fort Scott, the son of Roy and Leora Heitz Miller. He graduated from FSHS with the class of 1960 where he played sports and was a self-proclaimed terrible student. He attended JUCO in Fort Scott prior to entering service in the U. S. Army.

Following the Army, Don graduated from Pittsburg State University with a master's in education. He married Shauneen Bond on Aug. 29, 1964, in Fort Scott. She preceded him in death on Jan. 25, 2007. He began his teaching and coaching career in Coffeyville, Kansas. After moving back to Fort Scott, Don taught at the Junior High School and Fort Scott JUCO. His teaching and coaching career garnered many awards including Master Teacher Award 1981, and the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame 2001. He established the middle school Pride Program as well as Washington Workshop. He was a member of KNEA, served as HPA board President and was a member of Community Christian Church. Don's sense of humor never failed when reminiscing with former students and athletes.

Survivors include two daughters, Tanya Miller, Fort Scott, and Erin Ponte and husband Brian, Fresno, California; a sister, Diane Yager, Smithville, Missouri; a granddaughter, Madison Ponte as well as Tanner, Brityn, Beckham, and Jordy Fox; and nieces and nephews Kim Boham, David Bond, Lindsay Schossow, Morgan Boham, Elise Yager, Kristy Yager, Tony Yager, Justin Parks, Stacey Snodgrass, and Laurie Short. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Connie Miller Parks, and Sharon Short; and his parents.

Rev. Dusty Drake will conduct funeral services at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the Community Christian Church. Burial will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery. A memorial gathering will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 20, at the Fort Scott Middle School, with casual "Tiger" gear encouraged. Memorials are suggested to either HPA or the Don Miller Scholarship Fund and may be left in care of the Cheney Witt Chapel, PO Box 347, 201 S. Main St., Fort Scott, KS 66701. Words of remembrance may be submitted to the online guestbook at cheneywitt.com.



John Leroy III

John Leroy III, Vietnam veteran, age 80, passed away Sunday, May 15, 2022 in Chanute, Kansas.

John was born at home on Nov. 19, 1941, in Scammon, Kansas, to John Leroy, Jr. and Mary (Devlin) Leroy.

He graduated from Columbus Unified School District in 1959. He married his high school sweetheart, Laura (Shelton) Leroy in 1961. They later divorced. They had two children together, John IV and Theresa (Terri).

Shortly after high school John joined the Air Force, serving 20 years. He retired from service in 1980. Later on he worked and retired from Wal-Mart.

John married Wilma (Wahl) Leroy in 2001. She survives.

John loved fishing, hunting, and camping with his family. He loved KU Sports and KC Chiefs football.

John was preceded in death by his parents and his brother-in-law, Willie Wilson.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma, his sister, Beverly Wilson of Girard, his brother-in-law, Bill (Bobbi) Shelton of Topeka, his son John (Terri) Leroy of Humboldt, his daughter, Terri (Kim) Houdashelt of Humboldt, four stepchildren, ten grandchildren, three step grandchildren, and 26 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in John's name to the KDWP Youth Fishing Program. Checks can be mailed to KDWP, Attn: Wild Trust, 512 SE 25th Ave. Pratt, KS 67124 (Please note on the memo line "John Leroy III").

Joyce Elaine (Blessant) Evans

Joyce Elaine (Blessant) Evans of West Palm Beach, Florida died peacefully on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, following a long illness. She was born March 28, 1943, in Pittsburg, Kansas, to Elma L. (Vantrepotte) and Martin Blessant.

She attended College High and Pittsburg State University and was an avid French horn player. She was married to David R. Evans from 1965 to 1991.

Later in life, Joyce worked at Mount Carmel Hospital as a unit clerk then moved to Deland, Florida for retirement where she enjoyed warmer weather, cruising, and bunko with her sister Nancy and her friends.

Survivors include her children Geoff Boynton Beach, Florida, Greg (Gretchen) West Palm Beach, Florida, Jason Wellington, Colorado, and Susan Peters of Findlay, Ohio. Three grandsons, Derek and Allen Peters and Tucker Evans. Sister Nancy (Brent) Schlapper Deland, Florida, sister-in-law Jeanine (Kenneth) Blessant Pittsburg, Kansas, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceded in death by her parents and brother Kenneth Blessant. The family suggests memorials to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Graveside Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 24, 2022, at Mt. Olive Cemetery, 402 E. Quincy St., Pittsburg, KS 66762.



CLUB NOTES

Monday, June 20

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

The Little Balkans Quilt Guild meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Presbyterian Church at 6th and Pine streets in Pittsburg.

Tuesday, June 21

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.

Wednesday, June 22

Blanket Brigade

Join the Blanket Brigade in making quilts for those in need. The Brigade meets every Wednesday, except the first Wednesday of the month, at Zion Lutheran Church, 102 W. Jackson, Pittsburg, from 9 a.m. to noon. No experience necessary.

Thursday, June 23

Arma Golden Era

Arma Golden Era, located at 619 E. Washington St., Arma, Kansas, hosts games including cards and dominoes on Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m. Now playing pinochle. Come and visit.

Co-dependents Anonymous

Co-dependents Anonymous meets weekly at 6 p.m. Thursdays as an audio-only conference call meeting. Please call 620-231-6977 for information about how to join.

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Rick Dean Schoeling, M.D.
Service: The family will receive frineds from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 17th at Brenner Mortuary. A service will be held at on Saturday, June 18th at 10 a.m at the Countryside Church, The burial will be at 4 p.m. Saturday June 18th at Hope Cemetery in Arkansas City, Kansas

Bath-Naylor Funeral Home & Crematory

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www.bathnaylor.com

CLAW

Continued from Page 1A

7th grader Lexton Holloway, who is part of the ensemble, said he has been a part of Jr. Starz for 5 years.

"It's fun, and it's fun to work with new peers," Holloway said.

Another camper who has been with Jr. Starz for several years, 5th grader Violet Snider, who plays Wally the walrus, said she likes this play because the costumes are a little bit more elaborate and expressive.

"I like how it gives kids the opportunity to come together and show what they like about acting and stuff and auditioning and getting a part," Snider said. "Even if they don't like it [the part], they still have fun here and are welcomed by everyone."

Snider said she definitely wants to continue acting and being a part of the theatre.

For 7th grader Levi Adam, who plays Moe the moose and one of the Bee-nie Elders, this is his second year being involved with Jr. Starz.

"You get to meet a lot of

different people," Adam said. "And you get to really express yourself in different ways than just how everyone else sees you."

Adam said he likes that this play is about friendship.

"I like the story about this play a lot because it expresses the relationship between these two characters, a mystical dragon and a cow," he said. "And it shows the relationship between them. They want to try and figure out a way that they can stay together forever and get picked together."

Director Gabehart said she has enjoyed this year as much as she has every year.

"We always have a solid cast, and great kids," she said. "Theatre is wonderful because it teaches some

of those soft skills that are needed in the workplace, but it also means that kids that gravitate towards theatre already enjoy and appreciate those soft skills like expression and communication and creativity. So we get some really fantastic young people year after year, whether they are newly coming in at age 12 or they have been with us since they were six. We get great kids."

There will be two performances of "The Claw," at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, June 17, at Memorial Auditorium for one night only. Tickets are \$5 at the door for general admission. Musical director is MJ Harper, and the set was designed by Jason Huffman.

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1 month	\$14.36	\$16.77	—	\$8.71*

*includes tax

NEWS

Rock Creek Bridge on K-146 to close for repairs

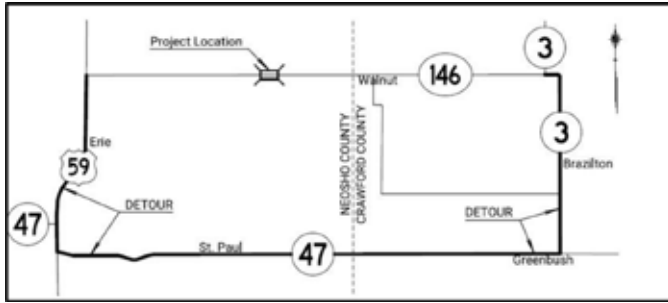
Staff Reports
news@morningsun.net

NEOSHO COUNTY, Kan. — The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) expects to begin making repairs to the Rock Creek Bridge on K-146 next week. The bridge is about three miles west of Walnut, near the Crawford-Neosho County line.

Starting Monday, June 20, the work zone will be closed to traffic. KDOT will sign the state route detour

on K-3, K-47 and U.S. 59 (see map). KDOT awarded Mission Construction Company of St. Paul the \$287,182 construction contract. The work should be completed by late October, weather permitting, according to KDOT.

Persons with questions may contact KDOT Construction Engineer Tyler Farmer, 620-308-7617, or Public Affairs Manager Priscilla Petersen, 620-902-6433. Check KDOT's updated traveler information website,



This map shows the designated detour route around the work zone at Rock Creek Bridge, which will be closed until at least October starting Monday, according to KDOT. COURTESY PHOTO

www.Kandrive.org, for construction details and more road condition and

'Beats and Ballots' event planned for June 24

Staff Reports
news@morningsun.net

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Area musicians, speakers, trivia, free prizes, and more are part of what's planned for "Beats and Ballots," an event designed to encourage undecided voters prior to the Aug. 2 Kansas constitutional amendment vote. "Beats and Ballots" is free and will be held from 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday, June 24, at T.J. Leland's, 108 W. 8th St.

Emily Walters, one of the organizers, pointed out that the night's events include bands, comedians, and speakers and that T.J. Leland's "has a great atmosphere and great drinks, and their AC is also cold." Free snacks will be available and there will also be trivia questions throughout the night with prizes.

"For me, it's the first time hearing Pittsburg's local talent and I'm really excited for that," Event organizer Jordan Metcalf

said.

Confirmed musicians and speakers include Bo Yellis, Cosmic Bean, Sunset Circle, In'ere, Eden and Zoe, Joey Pogue, Joy Leeper, Michael Fienen, Regina Winemiller, and more.

Metcalf added that having medical experts speaking at the event is helpful.

"Having 'actual' medical experts and people with firsthand knowledge of living without access to abortion care or comprehensive reproductive care as speakers is important not just from a voting perspective, but as doing a public service," Metcalf said.

One of the goals of "Beats and Ballots," according to organizers, is to raise awareness about the upcoming Kansas anti-abortion amendment, dubbed "Value Them Both," which is set to be voted on statewide Aug. 2. The amendment would overrule the 2019 Kansas Supreme Court's ruling that that abortion is a

right under the state constitution's right to personal autonomy.

"The framers of the Kansas Bill of Rights centered citizen freedom over government overreach," said Laura Lee Washburn, one of the event's facilitators. "That's why we want people to vote no to preserve the Kansas Constitution and the freedom of all citizens."

If the "Value Them Both Amendment" to the Kansas Constitution is passed, it would open the door for the introduction of restrictive and even life-threatening laws, event organizers said. Washburn stressed that a bill has "already been written for introduction to the legislature," should the amendment pass, "that is so restrictive and has such narrow exemptions that women and children who have been raped would not be allowed even the morning-after pill. Thousands of women would be put at risk for physical harm." Mona Jurshak, one

of the event organizers, added, "We all need to be informed and prepared to go vote. Limiting access to healthcare that could save women's lives worries me. I want to do everything I can to keep women safe."

Walters, who is also set to speak at the event, related why the event matters to her. "This amendment would fundamentally alter the promise of Kansas — a promise that my forefathers fought for — because of misinformation about reproductive care," she said. Walters' family moved to Kansas in the 1850s as part of the Free State Movement.

"They were deeply Christian abolitionists in Indiana," she said, "and they believed so profoundly that all people should be free that they uprooted their families, their lives, and came to Kansas to do their part." She said she feels it's important to do her part to preserve Kansas "as forever a free state."

HISTORY'S HIDDEN GEMS

The Mishmash Strike

By Holly Swigart
news@morningsun.net

On Aug. 31, 1898, Kate and Jacob Mishmash welcomed their first child, a baby boy they named Carl. They could not have known how important that date would become years later to thousands of coal miners in Southeast Kansas.

Carl left school after 3rd grade and went to work in the coal mines with his father. When Jacob Mishmash died in 1914 from an illness brought on by years of breathing coal dust, young Carl became the family's primary breadwinner. This meant the family income was cut by more than half because like all the other children working in the mines, Carl was paid substantially less than an adult worker.

His mother, Kate, struggled to make ends meet while stepping up to the challenge of raising five children alone. Carl was the only child old enough to work. The other children ranged in age from 2 to 9 years old, so Kate had her hands full. She worked as a dressmaker and took in laundry while Carl did what any teenage boy might do in this situ-



Carl Mishmash as a young man. COURTESY PHOTO / THE MISHMASH FAMILY

ation. He tried his best to fill his father's shoes and continued to go to work every day at the coal mine.

When Carl's 19th birthday rolled around, he was supposed to start receiving a grown man's pay of \$5

per day. Unfortunately, he wasn't aware of the mine's policies and continued to work for 8 more months at the children's rate of only \$3.65 per day. When Carl realized the mistake, he notified the coal company

and they agreed to start paying him adult wages. However, they refused to give him the back pay he was due of nearly \$200, a lot of money in 1918. Carl's mother came forward to verify his age, but she was reportedly accused of lying and the back pay continued to be denied. Several more years passed and still there was no payment. Kate had to give up their home and moved the family in with relatives. They had gone from being fairly comfortable, to being forced to live in a dirt floor basement.

When the local United Mine Workers District No.14 president, Alexander Howat, learned of Carl's story, he was determined to help young Mishmash get his back pay. After exchanging letters with the coal company representative for several months with no satisfaction, Howat ordered a workers' strike to bring attention to Carl's case.

See STRIKE, Page 5A

AREA EVENTS

Friday, June 17

Petting Zoo Library Event

The Pittsburg Public Library invites kids and families to their free Petting Zoo event from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, June 17 in Lincoln Park. Look for the library's Bookmobile and all the animals.

Duo Capriccioso at Books and Burrow

A violin and flute ensemble featuring Raul and Denissa Munguia who will explore music inspired by the written word as well as books inspired by music. This performance will take place at 2 p.m. Friday, June 17 at Books and Burrow.

The Claw

Pittsburg Community Theatre Jr. Starz presents "The Claw: A New Children's Musical" at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, June 17 at Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5.

CAC Cornhole Tournament

The Children's Advocacy Center will be hosting their first Cornhole Tournament from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday June 17 at the 200 block on Broadway. There will also be food vendors and many activities for both adults and kids. Live music will be performed by Cole Morris. All the businesses on the 200 block will be participating in this event. Proceeds go to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Summer Wind Band

This wind ensemble is comprised of faculty, students, alumni and community members, who perform a variety of great wind music from band classics, to movie music, to solo features. This concert will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, June 17 at The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

Juneteenth BBQ and Celebration

The Pittsburg State University Black Student Association will be hosting a BBQ to celebrate Juneteenth at 7 p.m. Friday, June 17 at the Gorilla Village on campus. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

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 the Garcia Vibe will be performing.

Saturday, June 18

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.

"Charade" Movie Screening

The classic movie "Charade" will be shown on the big screen in the Linda and Lee Scott Performance Hall at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 18 as a continuation of the Pittsburg Festival of the Arts.

Bill and Monica's Excellent Adventure

Bill and Monica's Excellent Adventure will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 18 in the outdoor performance space at Miners + Monroe, 214 S. Broadway as a continuation of the Pittsburg Festival of the Arts.

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OPINION PAGE

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Joe Biden and the powerless presidency

By Byron York
Washington Examiner

There's no doubt inflation is the nation's most pressing concern. All the polls show it. All the data shows it. And everyone just personally knows it.

President Joe Biden will not admit that his policies, and his party's policies, have made inflation worse — and that, if Biden and congressional Democrats had their way, they would make it worse still. He just can't say that. Instead, the president's reaction has been a mixture of denial, finger pointing, ineffective gestures and, perhaps most of all, the argument that he, as president, is virtually powerless to address the nation's most pressing concern.

"Look, inflation is the bane of our existence," Biden said when he appeared recently in a sympathetic forum, comedian Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show. Kimmel was so sympathetic that he didn't even ask Biden about inflation; Biden brought it up himself. But he had little to say. Remember that when Biden published his plan to fight inflation in *The Wall Street Journal* on May 30, his first measure was not to do anything himself but to let the Federal Reserve do the job. His role as president, Biden said, was not to say anything mean about the Fed.

As for all the other, little stuff Biden is doing in the name of fighting inflation, there are reports that he knows they won't do any good. On April 12, for example, he went to an ethanol plant in Iowa to claim that alternative fuels lower energy costs. Ethanol is great, Biden said. It supports agriculture, creates good-paying jobs, reduces U.S. reliance on foreign oil and reduces the price of gasoline.

Recently, though, *The Washington Post* published an article suggesting that Biden knew it was all bunk. "Privately, Biden dismissed the [ethanol] policy as ineffective and questioned the value of the trip," the *Post* reported. "After returning to the White House, he hauled his senior staff, including chief of staff Ron Klain, into the Oval Office, badgering them with questions about the purpose of the event."

Now, the persistence of inflation has become even more serious in the last few days with the growing realization that the Fed might have to intentionally drive the nation into recession in order to bring inflation down — reminiscent of the successful but painful inflation-fighting strategy of Fed Chairman Paul Volcker in the 1980s. "An increasing number of economists ... say it may take an economic contraction and higher

unemployment to bring inflation down to more tolerable levels, much less back to the Fed's 2% price target," Bloomberg reported Monday.

The Fed meets this week amid expectations that it will raise interest rates by another half-point, perhaps even three-quarters of a point. The meeting comes just a few days after the government reported inflation rose 8.6% on an annual basis in the month of May. You might have seen the many reports that characterized the increase as "unexpected," but the fact is, there has never been any consensus that inflation has peaked, and we don't know that now. It is entirely reasonable to expect more.

The price increases were particularly dramatic in the things Americans need and use most. First, food. The price of meat, poultry, fish and eggs rose 14.2% on an annual basis in May. The price of non-alcoholic beverages rose 12.0%. Dairy went up 11.8%. Cereals and bakery products, 11.6%. The price of miscellaneous food products went up 12.6%. And then the cost of eating out went up 9%.

The price of used cars and trucks went up 16.1%. The price of new vehicles went up 12.6%. The price of clothing went up 5%. The price of shelter went up 5.4%.

And then there is ener-

gy, with its astronomical increases. The price of gasoline went up 48.7%. The price of fuel oil went up an incredible 106.7%.

And what did President Biden say when the news broke that inflation hit 8.6% last month? He said, "Today's inflation report confirmed what Americans already know: Putin's price hike is hitting America hard."

Yes, the war in Ukraine is contributing to higher energy prices worldwide. But remember this: It is now generally acknowledged that Biden's policies, like the far-too-large \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan stimulus bill, have made inflation worse. And specifically on the question of energy, clear-eyed critics knew at the beginning of Biden's time in office that his actions would lead to higher energy prices.

Just look at this article from *The Washington Post* on Nov. 12, 2020: "Conservatives predict gas prices will spike under Biden. Experts say those fears are overblown." Of course, the *Post* tried to knock down those "conservatives," but in hindsight, those fears look quite prescient. "A dubious meme has emerged online in conservative circles: The price of gasoline will spike because Joe Biden is taking office," the *Post* wrote. "Conservative corners of Facebook are filled

with viral photos of gas stations with prices above \$5 a gallon."

Imagine that! Gas above \$5 a gallon! What will those crazy, fear-mongering conservatives think of next? Let's just say that article has not aged well. But the point to remember is that those (correct) predictions of rising energy costs had nothing to do with Russian President Vladimir Putin. They were based entirely on Biden's policies.

Now there are growing fears of recession. While there has been some disagreement among economists — there always is — about whether a recession is in fact on the way, the coming Fed actions have intensified those concerns. And that has created the fear that we might be in for a replay of the 1970s, with Biden playing the role of President Jimmy Carter.

More than half the U.S. population was born after 1980, but the older half will remember the terrible inflation and successive recessions that occurred during what former Fed chairman Ben Bernanke recently called "America's Great Inflation." How great was it? From Bernanke: "From the beginning of 1966 through 1981, the Consumer Price Index rose, on average, by more than 7% per year, peaking at over 13% in 1980. This period also saw two major

and two minor recessions and an approximately two-thirds decline in the Dow Jones industrial average, when adjusted for inflation."

That was bad. Really bad. Bernanke argues that we are not in for a similarly extended period of misery, because the Fed knows more about using interest rates to fight inflation. But then again, Bernanke didn't really see the Great Recession coming, so who knows?

But one thing about the 1970s-2020s comparison rings true. Biden is indeed playing the role of Carter, although Carter, elected president at age 52, was sharp and energetic, while Biden, who will turn 80 in November, is not. Perhaps that is what prompted Republican Senator Tom Cotton to tweet recently, "These Jimmy Carter comparisons are very unfair — to Jimmy Carter." In any event, there was a sense, way back when, that Carter was powerless to deal with the severity of the nation's problems. Today, something similar is happening with Biden in the White House.

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

To reduce rising energy costs in Kansas, Everygy must step up efficiency programs

By Joel Campbell
Kansas Reflector

Energy bills are going up in Kansas.

Rising natural gas prices, the cold snap from last year and recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are dramatically increasing the cost of heating and cooling a home. In Wichita, a resident recently paid an unbelievable \$800 utility bill, and the Kansas Corporation Commission recently announced that energy prices will continue to rise.

People cannot pay their utility bills, an especially significant problem given that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. Each summer brings record heat waves. Natural disasters are more common and more destructive than they ever have been. Sheltering ourselves from these hazardous weather events is becoming more

and more important, and yet it's increasingly difficult to do so.

It doesn't have to be this way. Kansas is the fourth-worst state in the USA in terms of energy efficiency, meaning that a disproportionate amount that Kansans pay for energy each month is simply lost. While much of this is due to our Senate Utilities Committee repeatedly refusing to pass legislation to improve the situation, much fault rests with our utility companies. In 2016, Everygy walked away from its energy efficiency filing at the Kansas Corporation Commission after the commission approved seven of the programs, including programs for low-income customers, because implementing a portion of the programs wasn't profitable enough.

Additionally, Everygy recently launched a pilot of the Pay As You Save program (or PAYS) in

Missouri. This is an opt-in program in which Everygy agrees to pay the up-front cost of energy efficiency upgrades, such as insulation, HVAC improvements, more efficient lighting and similar items (all constructed by local contractors to support local economies). The cost of these upgrades is added to the customer's bill over a long period of time, but because the efficiency upgrades drastically lower energy use, bills are noticeably lower.

Because of the baked-in and vetted consumer protections into the PAYS model, customers will usually see about a 20% reduction on their bills over the course of a year. This program is open to renters, too — the person living in the space is the one who enjoys the savings from the PAYS upgrades.

The problem with this is that Everygy has chosen to only launch this pilot

of PAYS in Missouri (after the Missouri Public Service Committee forced it to), while proposing a far inferior version in its energy efficiency filing at the Kansas Corporation Commission. The filing would increase bills by 1.25% and would only start saving customers money in 2028.

This wouldn't be as concerning if we had more information about how these programs will benefit customers who need them the most. However, people are being priced out of their own homes by rising energy costs today. This filing needs to come with more information on where the investments are being spent and how folks with the highest energy costs who experience utility shutoffs, energy-related evictions and a high energy burden will benefit.

Implementing a robust PAYS program would improve the overall filing, but Everygy must gear its

investments to help those who would benefit from them the most: lower-income neighborhoods.

While Everygy currently has an income-qualified weatherization program, including PAYS in the filing would expand access for energy efficiency upgrades to reach those who don't qualify for income-eligible programs and can't front the cost of the upgrades while they wait for a rebate. This gap in access is referred to as the doughnut hole by Tony Reames, who began his energy justice studies at the University of Kansas and now serves as a senior energy advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Energy-burdened areas generally have older housing with worse insulation and fewer appliances that would qualify for upgrades. This leads to those who make less having to pay more on their energy bills simply because of a

lack of efficiency.

Everygy can track what areas are paying the most for energy relative to their income, which ones are least energy efficient, and from there prioritize the areas that require the most improvement. This data needs to be available to the public so affected communities can oversee ongoing implementation of these programs.

To ensure equitability, Everygy needs to partner with its customers, which would give them the chance to show the utility the best path forward. Not only is it crucial for ensuring the upgrades are happening equitably, these partnerships can often be mutually beneficial, creating a better future for utilities companies and the communities they serve.

See ENERGY, Page 5A

Grown child wants mom to move past divorce



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: When my sibling and I were 6 and 10, our parents sat us down and told us they were getting a divorce because Dad had an affair. Mom was, to say the least, incredibly hurt. Her hurt and resentment haven't subsided to this day. Dad has never apologized to her, but he has supported her financially ever since. Mom has tried therapy, but the minute a therapist upsets her, she stops going. My parents both now live near my sister to help care for her twins. Mom is constantly upset with things Dad does or

that he's not friendly enough with her. She says he is nicer to strangers than he is with her. I don't want to seem insensitive, but they have now been divorced longer than they were married. It's exhausting, and it is starting to feel like we are enabling her. I hate that what happened has defined the last two decades of her life. Is there something I can say to communicate that it's way past time to be over this, but in a nicer way that may be helpful, and maybe won't leave her too much room to tell me I'm victim blaming? -- WHAT'S PAST HAS PASSED

DEAR WHAT'S PAST: I, too, am sorry about what happened to your parents' marriage. That your mother has been unable to move beyond the divorce and quits therapy the minute a ther-

apist says something she doesn't want to hear is very sad -- for her. What you need to understand is that some people cling to their "victimhood" for comfort. It buffers them from having to recognize their own contribution to their failure. Because you have tried in the past without success to help your mother let go of her bitterness, I'm advising you to stop trying. For your own sake, when she starts complaining about your father, change the subject, end the conversation or tune out. Enabling her isn't helping either of you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a business and work together. He takes care of sales, and I keep the books. I have raised his children, scheduled all appointments and taken care of everyone's needs, including the pets. I

also do all the cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping, etc. I tend to suffer from depression and need at least eight hours of sleep each night. Because of this, I work at the office only four to five hours a day. My husband cannot understand why I don't work eight to 10 hours a day. I get done what NEEDS to be done. Of the many other businesses we've known, the wives are expected to do this. How do I make him understand? -- WORKING ENOUGH IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WORKING ENOUGH: From your description of your weekly activities, you are not only living up to normal expectations, but exceeding them. Explain to your husband that people are individuals. Human bodies don't all function alike. If he can't get that through his head, have

your doctor explain it to him. Has he considered what it would cost him to hire someone else to do all the jobs you are doing? Perhaps he should consider that before criticizing and flogging you to do more. Tell him you'll spend an extra hour or so at the office if he agrees to take up some of the slack at home.

P.S. I can understand why you "tend to suffer from depression." You are married to a slave driver.

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

Alumni weekend planned in Girard

By Aaron Pyle
Morning Sun Staff

GIRARD, Kan. — Alumni weekend is back. A weekend of fun-filled festivities is planned for June 17 and 18, when Girard High School alumni come back to town to mix and mingle with fellow Trojans.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join in the fun.

Registration and school tours kick off the alumni weekend from 9:30 a.m. to

noon in the Girard High School common area on Friday. The common area, located on Summit Street, is the new entrance as registration in advance is necessary for the right amount of chicken and sides. The tours will continue on Saturday at the same time.

Following the tours, on Saturday, the Girard Alumni Association will host a dinner at the Wild Iris Event Center, located at 999 E. 620th Ave. in Mulberry. The doors open at 5

p.m. as dinner is slated to be served at 6 p.m. Closing the dinner, at 8 p.m., there is a dance with a performance from Copperhead.

In addition, the program honoring the Class of 1972 and 1962 will begin following the dinner, along with several other classes.

Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$30 this year for advance registration. Reservations are necessary in advance to plan for food. To register, visit mygirardalumni.net.

Class Reunions

The Girard Alumni Association plans to honor three graduating classes — 1962, 1972 and 1982.

The Class of 1962 will meet Friday evening at the Girard Civic Center on the northeast corner of the Square. Dinner will be served at about 6 p.m. Prior to the dinner, a class photo will be taken at 5:45 at the gazebo. The cost is \$10 if picked up at the high school on Saturday morning or at the dinner/dance at the Wild Iris Event Cen-

ter Saturday night. There will be a \$5 additional charge if the photo has to be mailed.

The class of 1972 will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, June 17, at the Angels Among Us building at the Crawford County Fairgrounds, east of Girard. Additionally, alumni can attend the social hour dinner, courtesy of Mengarelli's Italian Table, at 7:30 p.m. followed by a class photo at the fairgrounds. The cost is \$45 per person or \$70 per couple. Checks should be

made out to the GHS Class of 1972 Reunion. Each person attending the reunion will receive a copy of the Class of '72 memory book and a class photo.

Lastly, the Class of 1982 will meet at noon Saturday, June 18, at the Angels Among Us building at the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

For those interested in volunteering for the alumni committee or for more information, contact Ron Gates at rgates002@gmail.com.

Missouri man gets prison term for killing friend in Kansas

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A Missouri man has been sentenced to more than six years in prison for the shooting death of his friend in Wichita three years ago.

Brandon Craig, 25, of Independence, Missouri, was sentenced Wednesday in Sedgwick County District Court to 74 months in prison, television station KSN reported. Craig

pleaded guilty in April to voluntary manslaughter and aggravated battery in the shooting death of Justin Lane, 21, of Grain Valley, Missouri.

Police called to a Wich-

ita home the night of April 12, 2019, found Lane inside, dead with a single gunshot wound to the head. Police described Lane and Craig as best friends who were visiting another friend at

the Wichita home when they began fighting before Lane was shot.

Police said Craig changed his story about what happened several times, first telling inves-

tigators the never had a gun, then saying Lane was taking the gun from his hand when it went off, then later saying simply that he had accidentally shot Lane.

CARVER

Continued from Page 1A

In 1951, the Carver League — named after the great educator, innovator, and botanist George Washington Carver — purchased a plot of land just north of the campus and began construction of the Carver League Building.

The purpose of the

building was to provide a place for social activities for Black students and Black residents, who were denied membership in many community groups and organizations. It was there that they held picnics, game nights, hot dog roasts, lectures, and movie screenings. They also participated in charity work.

Over the years the members aged, the times changed, and the building eventually closed.

In 2009, an all-class reunion was held, the highlight of which was visiting the Carver League building for a brief party hosted by the PSU Office of Student Diversity.

The building had become dilapidated after a few decades of non-use and back taxes were owed. After the reunion, a graduate paid them. Then, more years passed, more taxes accrued, and it was set to be sold by the county

last summer.

Graduate Donna Campbell Brice (BS '68) campaigned to save it, and Chris Godwin and Stacy Butcher (both Class of 2002), eventually joined by Ishmael Elkamil (BBA '12), began coordinating the effort.

Donors from the community stepped up to fund it, and the PSU School of Construction signed on. Professor Jim Otter found a project manager:

Zachary Bures, a senior in Construction Management. He spent the entire academic year overseeing local subcontractors on a complete gutting and restoration of the building.

Students in the PSU Chapter of the Associated General Contractors — Bures was the president — volunteered their time and talent.

Now, Godwin and Butcher said, it's ready to be used by the community

and to preserve history in a way that's sustainable.

"This country is the greatest country in the world, but we have our issues, too, and we just need to work together to continue to educate and focus on inclusion," Butcher said. "I love Pittsburg, there is something special about Pittsburg that keeps you here, that kept my family here. This is our gift to Pittsburg."

ENERGY

Continued from Page 4A

The bottom line is that Evergy is a corporation and will always prioritize profits. It has dragged its feet in launching the pilot of PAYS in Missouri. It has done the same in

Kansas by proposing an inequitable, vague version that leaves out the vetted consumer protections that the trademarked PAYS program contains.

As frustrating as this is, we have the opportunity to make our voices heard and to make real change.

This filing will have a public hearing in front of

the Kansas Corporation Commission at 6 p.m. June 27, and you have the opportunity to give public comment over Zoom by registering at <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?jmtk=7852713100>. Comments also can be submitted until July 8 by calling 785-271-

3100, emailing public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov, or mailing your comment to 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604-4027. If you'd like help writing your comment, a workshop on how to make your feedback more effective is being held from 5 to 8 p.m. June 23. You can drop in at whatever time works

best for you by registering at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?jmtk=7852713100>.

Evergy's plans must improve if we are to solve our skyrocketing energy bills. Join us in speaking out in supporting the health, energy efficiency and economic stability of

our communities!

Joel Campbell is a second-year engineering student at the University of Kansas and has been a member of the Sunrise Movement for more than a year. This article was originally published at kansasreflector.com.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 3A

There was just one hitch. Striking, picketing and boycotting had recently been prohibited under a 1920 Kansas law. Any labor disputes were supposed to be settled using the newly formed Kansas Court of Industrial Relations. The creation of this new law was beginning to receive national attention. Could it be that Kansas had found a legal way to derail labor unions and render them powerless? Other states were considering following suit by passing their own laws designed to eliminate the workers' right to strike. Once again, the eyes of the nation were on Southeast Kansas.

Although union leader Alexander Howat knew he could be arrested for calling a strike, he actually welcomed the publicity it would bring. Union leaders felt it was their duty to challenge this new law because it took away the only real power that workers had, the right to strike. All of the gains previously made by collective bargaining and organized labor might be undone if the Kansas Industrial Relations Act was allowed to stand. The case of Carl Mishmarsh was a perfect example. Carl had tried for years to get the money owed to him, but it took an organized work stoppage to force action on his case.

When the Industrial Court convened in an effort to determine whether or not Carl Mishmarsh was due the eight months of back wages, they had to first establish his birth

date. The Mishmarsh family bible had a record of births listed inside the front cover. However, it was not accepted as evidence. The midwife who had delivered Carl testified that she remembered being there, but since it was more than 20 years ago, she could not say with confidence the exact year. A number of other witnesses were called, but none of them could satisfy the court with real proof.

Finally, a coal miner from Weir City named Michael Spahn came forward with some important information. Mr. Spahn had attended the christening which took place soon after Carl was born. He remembered that some of the guests were terribly upset by news they had just received from their native Austria. The Empress Elisabeth had been assassinated! The shocking story was told and retold during the christening, punctuated with cries of anguish as it spread through the crowd. The Empress Elisabeth and her lady in waiting had been about to board a ship in Geneva, when an Italian anarchist approached them. He appeared to stumble and lose his footing, bumping into the Empress. At first nobody, not even Elisabeth

herself, realized that she had been mortally wounded. Her tight corset kept the stab wound from being immediately visible. She continued to walk some 100 yards and boarded the ship before collapsing. Moments later she died.

Although Mr. Spahn could not say for sure what year Carl Mishmarsh had been born, he knew for a fact that the christening took place right after the murder of the Empress of Austria. The judge quickly turned to the court clerk and ordered, "Get to the library and find the date of that assassination!" A packed courtroom anxiously awaited the clerk's return. When Mr. R.C. Dellinger, assistant clerk of the court, walked into the courtroom carrying an encyclopedia, a hush fell over the crowd. He read aloud to the court. "Empress Elisabeth of Austria was killed on September 10, 1898."

At last, the proof they needed was established. Cheers rose up in the courtroom, which was filled to capacity. The coal company was ordered to pay Carl \$187.64 in back wages, plus interest. But Carl refused to accept the interest. He insisted that the mine should pay exactly what he had been asking for all along, the wages

he had rightfully earned. Carl, along with the union leaders, maintained that the Industrial Court was unconstitutional and therefore had no authority to award him anything more. Eventually the Supreme Court would agree and the Industrial Court was disbanded.

Carl and his wife, Mabel, spent the rest of their lives in Pittsburg. They enjoyed a happy marriage of more than 50 years, and celebrated birthdays into their 90s. Carl's mother, Kate, lived to be 100! Their story, like many of the immigrants who settled here in the Little Balkans, is a story of hard work and dedication to family. Carl Mishmarsh embodied both.

The account of Carl

Mishmarsh, and his David and Goliath battle with the coal operators of Southeast Kansas, was told in union halls across the country. Although it was an important victory, the Mishmarsh case was just the beginning of a long, hard fight to eliminate the Kansas Industrial Court. And to be sure, the coal miners of Cherokee and Crawford Counties were going to be on the front lines for many more months to come.

Union leaders Howat, Dorchy, Maxwell, Fleming, Titus and McIlwrath were all arrested and charged with contempt for ordering the Mishmarsh strike. Alexander Howat stood up in court and addressed the issue of the

right to strike with his usual fiery enthusiasm, "I could hardly believe that in free America, this great democracy, they would arrest us for trying to prevent the greedy operators from robbing a widow!" The courtroom erupted with wild applause and boot stomping. Judge Curran threatened to clear the courtroom. Howat and the others were convicted and sentenced to one year in jail. Thousands of coal miners responded by vowing to stay out on strike until the union leaders were released. They filled the streets outside the courthouse chanting, "One year jail, one year no work!" And so began the long and difficult strike of 1921.

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NEWS

HISTORY

Continued from Page 6A

Five years ago: The jury in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case declared itself hopelessly deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial for the 79-year-old TV star charged with drugging and groping a woman more than a decade earlier; prosecutors immediately announced they

would pursue a second trial. (That trial resulted in Cosby's conviction, but Pennsylvania's highest court later overturned it.) The Navy destroyer USS Fitzgerald was damaged in a collision with a Philippine-flagged container ship off Japan that killed seven sailors.

One year ago: The Supreme Court, in a 7-2 ruling, left intact the entire Affordable Care Act, rejecting the latest

major Republican-led effort to kill the national health care law known as "Obamacare." President Joe Biden signed legislation establishing a new federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery; Juneteenth, or June 19, would be the 12th federal holiday. A St. Louis couple who pointed guns at social justice demonstrators in front of their home in 2020 pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges; Mark and

Patricia McCloskey were fined and agreed to forfeit the weapons they carried when they confronted several hundred protesters. Zambia's first president Kenneth Kaunda, died at 97; he was a leader of the campaign that ended British colonial rule.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 90. Movie director Ken Loach is 86. Singer Barry Manilow is 79. Former House Speaker Newt Gin-

grich is 79. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 71. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 68. Actor Jon Gries (gryz) is 65. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 64. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 64. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 62. Actor Greg Kinnear is 59. Actor Kami Cotler is 57. Olympic gold medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 57. Actor Jason Patric is 56. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 52. Latin pop singer Paulina

Rubio is 51. Tennis player Venus Williams is 42. Actor Arthur Darvill is 40. Actor Jodie Whittaker is 40. Actor Manish Dayal is 39. Country singer Mickey Guyton is 39. Actor Marie Avgeropoulos is 36. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 35. NHL forward Nikita Kucherov is 29. Actor KJ Apa is 25.

Western Kansas mom, 4-year-old daughter found dead

SPEARVILLE, Kan. (AP) — A western Kansas woman and her 4-year-old daughter were found dead on Thursday, and the woman's boyfriend is in custody, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation said.

Ford County Sheriff's deputies responded to a home in Spearville Wednesday afternoon, where a man reported his girlfriend, 31-year-old Kayla Vasquez, and her 4-year-old daughter,

Aalilyah Vasquez, were missing.

Deputies and officers with the Spearville police department noticed evidence that a crime had been committed inside the home and detained the

boyfriend for questioning, the KBI said.

Kayla Vasquez's body was found in rural Ford County about 4:15 a.m. Thursday. Her daughter's body was found about 90 minutes later in Kinsley,

about 20 miles northeast of Spearville in Edwards County.

Autopsies will be conducted to determine the cause of death.

The boyfriend was arrested Thursday morning

on possible capital murder charges.

Further details were not released.

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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.
506 North Pine
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762
(620) 231-5620
(620) 231-5819 fax
bwachter@wntlaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner

(Summary of the Ordinance Published in The Morning Sun on June 17th, 2022)

Ordinance No. G-1338 Summary

On June 14th, 2022, the City of Pittsburg, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. G-1338, amending Sections 6-190 through 6-195 and Section 6-197 of the Pittsburg City Code to authorize the possession and consumption of Cereal Malt Beverage within the Common Consumption Area boundaries.
The complete text of the ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 201 West 4th Street, or online at www.pittks.org.

This summary certified by Henry Menghini, City Attorney.

In County

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6 Months
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\$158.07

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NEWS

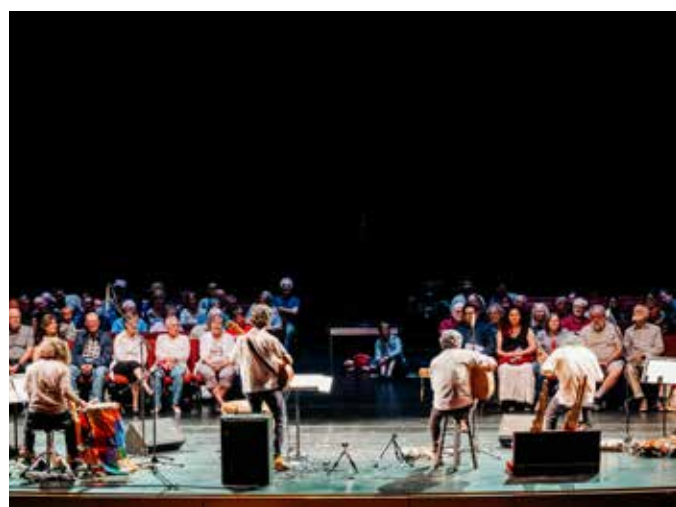
Ensemble Iberica



Amado Espinoza plays the charango while Pedro Calderon plays the guitar during the Festival of the Arts: Ensemble Iberica at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Wednesday, June 15. SETH POTTER / THE MORNING SUN



Robert Castillo plays a drum during the Festival of the Arts: Ensemble Iberica at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Wednesday, June 15. The Andean Quartet showcased the musical traditions of the Andes Mountains. SETH POTTER / THE MORNING SUN



The Andean Quartet performs for Pittsburg community members during the Festival of the Arts: Ensemble Iberica at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Wednesday. For this concert the attendees were seated on stage. SETH POTTER / THE MORNING SUN



Amado Espinoza plays a traditional flute during the Festival of the Arts: Ensemble Iberica at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Wednesday. The Andean Quartet played a few songs that originated in indigenous rituals. SETH POTTER / THE MORNING SUN



Pittsburg community members watch and listen as Brendan Culp plays a traditional Andean instrument called a palo de lluvia (rain stick) during the Festival of the Arts: Ensemble Iberica at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Wednesday. SETH POTTER / THE MORNING SUN

CARE

Continued from Page 1A

According to Child Care Aware of Kansas, as of June, 2022, Crawford County had a total population of 38,874 residents with 2,813 being under the age of six. More than half of those children, 1,916, had both parents in the workforce. Countywide, there are only 1,108 child care slots available — only 58 percent of what is needed. This is a shortfall of 808 slots.

Though Crawford County has lost open slots for child care, it has not suffered a net loss in child care providers. In January of 2021, the Learning Tree Institute at Greenbush published a study on child care in the county and found that despite no loss in the number of child care providers, those providers desired to have fewer children enrolled because of the pandemic. The study also found that cost is another issue facing working parents. The cost of full-time infant care ranged from \$102

to \$133 per week and \$96 to \$122 per week for toddlers, depending on the facility. This is lower than the state average, but Crawford is one of the poorer counties in the state with a median income of \$41,000 per year, making child care costs high for the area. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) does offer subsidies, but does not pay at market rates.

According to the Greenbush study, only one percent of the employers in Crawford County provide child care services for their employees while five percent offer subsidies to their employees and six percent offer some assistance in finding child care. 57 percent of employers say they are open to some sort of partnership to provide child care to employees.

Another survey, conducted for the Imagine Pittsburg 2030 campaign in 2012, showed 81 percent of local employees were frustrated with the lack of adequate child care for infants and toddlers. If Crawford County and Pittsburg continue to grow and promote investment in housing and business, the need for child care will only continue to grow.

“Dependable, high-quality early care and education is a basic requirement that all working families need,” said Kelly Davydov, executive director of Child Care Aware of Kansas.

The issue has not been ignored in Crawford County, but it has been difficult to build momentum. For the past year, county and

city officials and business leaders have attempted to tackle the issue, but come up short, often because of competition for limited funding.

In October of last year, Dr. Jackie Youstos, owner of ReNu Medical and Spa in Pittsburg, came to the county commissioners with a plan to build a 122-child facility. According to Youstos, several organizations expressed interest in supporting the project, including several local businesses. She said she already had a floor plan and that she and her husband owned the land already, allowing for potential expansion.

Youstos asked the commission for \$3.3 million to cover the cost of construction and start-up, but the commissioners were not ready to commit to the project at that time.

With more than a dozen child care providers already established in Pittsburg and Frontenac alone, competition for funding from federal grants or private donations is tight. The Family Resource Center, a major childcare provider in Pittsburg, has also been discussing expansion plans in recent months. And in April of this year, a kindergarten teacher and a PSU professor approached the Frontenac City Council about building a child care facility in Frontenac to provide an additional 96 spaces and create 40 new jobs. The council agreed to let them work with the city to write a grant proposal and provide any support

needed to do so.

The Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce is also heavily involved in this issue, saying it will work to “expand child care options in Pittsburg.” Chamber President Blake Benson has been actively working with the organizations and businesses already involved.

“This is extremely important to all of us, as child care is crucial to growing our community,” said Benson. “This issue was initially identified during an Imagine Pittsburg 2030 visioning discussion with the Pittsburg Area Young Professionals, and by including it in the Imagine Pittsburg plan, we ensured that it became a community priority and not just one for those with small children, as it truly affects all of us.”

Benson said they began by working with existing providers to understand the issue and why the solution isn’t as easy as simply expanding an existing provider. The challenge is that, particularly with infants, regulations heavily restrict the number of children per employee. At only three children per employee, providers actually lose money on newborns, so there’s not an incentive to expand capacity.

“Many providers offset those losses with the older children, where they’re able to have more children per employee, which is why some providers start with three-year-olds,” Benson said. “But that doesn’t address the

for more infant capacity.”

The Chamber has opened conversations with employers that see this as a workforce development issue, especially with Pittsburg’s unemployment rate at an all-time low. “Many employers want to be a part of the solution for their employees, but understandably don’t really want to be in the child care business themselves,” said Benson.

Currently, the Chamber is working to see how businesses and communities can partner with providers to make it more feasible for providers to expand their capacity. According to Benson, there are several different models and they’re all on the table, but it will likely take multiple funding sources for any of them to work, so it’s taken some time to work through such a complex issue.

“I am encouraged at how many are now involved in the discussion,” said Benson. “It demonstrates that this is truly a community-wide economic development issue that affects us all.”

Some federal funds have made their way into Crawford County in the form of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In November of 2021, Crawford County received \$7.5 million in ARPA funds, some of which has already been earmarked to provide child care services across the county, but how it will specifically be spent has not been decided.



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SPORTS

PSU hosts second week of girls basketball team camp

By Dashuan Vereen
Morning Sun Staff

Pittsburg State opened its second week of girls team camp on Wednesday, with more than 80 teams descending to Pittsburg and Frontenac for summer basketball games during the three-day camp.

Multiple area schools were among the teams competing in varsity scrimmages that took place at Pittsburg State's John Lance Arena, Pitt State's Student Recreation Center, Pittsburg Middle School, Pittsburg High School, Frontenac High School and St. Mary's Colgan High School.

"Having this time to work together is huge," said Pittsburg coach Chris Popp. "Everybody's new. We got six girls playing today who haven't even taken a high school class yet. We have a whole new group, a new coach and new everything. So, taking the time to get to know

each other and to be able to start letting them know how we want to play as a team has been great."

Entering his first year as head coach, the team camp presents Popp an early opportunity to get to know his new team.

"I'm excited about this group," said Popp. "I don't know where we're going to end up as far as the SEK and the state, but it's a great group of young ladies and I've really enjoyed them to this point. They've bought in, and I think they're pretty excited to be playing together."

Pittsburg played Frontenac in one of three games it played on Wednesday.

"What (Pittsburg State) coach (Amanda) Davied does here is awesome," said Popp. "It gives a lot of teams opportunities to play, and you really only have a limited number of opportunities to play during the summer. There isn't a lot of pickup basketball going on. It's great for the state and the re-



Pittsburg's Jacqueline Hall rises for a mid-range jumper during Pittsburg State's girls basketball camp on Wednesday. DASHUAN VEREEN / MORNING SUN STAFF

gion. Coach Davied does a great job. That's why people keep coming back and it keeps growing."

The camp also provides

Pitt State an opportunity to get a close-up look at top high school athletes, and the Gorillas have ended up signing multiple

campers following their prep careers.

Frontenac head coach Scott Fields also spoke highly of the team camp and the opportunity to compete in a camp close to home.

"It's so nice to wake up and sleep in your own bed," said Fields. "We don't get this in our area very much. This kind of summer basketball is usually in the bigger cities. You walk out, and there's a softball tournament on every field. But there's not a lot of extra basketball around. So, this is a great opportunity in the summer to not have to travel very far and get a lot of games with a lot of good basketball and good teams."

"And it's a quick turnaround," added Fields. "You don't have two or three days to think about what went wrong. You think 30 minutes and you're playing again. It's a great learning experience."

The Purple Dragons captured a close victory in their scrimmage against the Raiders, but for the teams competing in the camp the chance to come together over the summer and play basketball is more important than the final results.

"I feel like the summer time for us is a chance to play a little more open basketball," said Fields. "We really want to work on spacing the floor offensively and talking, hustling and rebounding on defense."

"So, it's less about details and set plays and there's a lot of stuff we save for the season. We just focus on playing basketball and on the next best basketball play. "If someone dribbles at me, where do I go? If someone comes up and sets a screen, what do I do? It's a chance to just play basketball, and hopefully get a little better and enjoy it as well."

Kansas City selected as World Cup 2026 host city

From staff, AP reports
sports@morningsun.net

Kansas City received the call on Thursday afternoon as it was officially named a FIFA World Cup 2026 host city.

FIFA announced the 16 bids selected from the United States, Mexico and Canada to host matches. It's the first time the World Cup has had three co-hosts.

Other U.S. cities selected are Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle.

Mexico will have games in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey, and Canada will have games in Toronto and Vancouver.

"The success of Kansas City's bid is a testament to the accomplishments we can achieve when we work together," Sporting Kansas City Principal Owner Cliff Illig said in a release. "Today's announcement is the celebration of a shared vision that will culminate with the largest event in Kansas City history."

"The World Cup will bring unprecedented tourism and economic



Fans celebrate at KC Live! in the Power and Light District on Thursday in Kansas City, Mo., after it was announced that Kansas City was chosen as a host city the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. (LUKE JOHNSON/THE KANSAS CITY STAR VIA AP)

activity to our community and will provide an opportunity to showcase our city on a global stage. We are excited for Kansas City to proudly welcome the world for the 2026 FIFA World Cup."

"Our team effort to bring the 2026 World Cup to Kansas City has culminated in today's success as we prepare to be one of few American cities selected to host the largest sporting event in the world," said Mayor Quinton Lucas. "The World Cup will bring jobs to our

residents, will generate hundreds of millions of dollars for our region, and will illustrate on a global stage what we've known for some time: Kansas City is the soccer capital of America. I can't wait to welcome the world to Kansas City."

"To be named a host city for not only the biggest single sport event in history, but as part of the most competitive selection process FIFA has ever facilitated is an incredible accomplishment for our city, our bid com-

mittee and everyone involved," said Kathy Nelson, President and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Visit KC. "This is an important milestone in our work to make Kansas City an international destination for sports tourism and I could not be more proud."

Kansas City's World Cup games will be played at Arrowhead Stadium. It was not announced how many games would be played there, but some reports said it could be as many as five.

5 PSU athletes entered in World Championships

By Jim Henry
Sports Editor

Five Pittsburg State track and field athletes will compete in the USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships next week in Eugene, Ore.

Two meets -- the USA U20 Championships and the USA Championships -- will be held concurrently at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. The U20 meet is scheduled June 23-25, and the open championships are June 23-26.

"This is the first time they are having them at the same time," Pittsburg State coach Kyle Rutledge said. "They are mixing in the U20 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and work in the open meet in the evening and on Saturday and Sunday."

The Gorillas will have two men in the open championships -- Louis Rollins in the 110-meter hurdles and L.J. Kiner in the triple jump.

Rollins won the NCAA Division II outdoor nation-

al championship in the 110 hurdles, and Kiner took second in the triple jump after winning the national title indoors.

There are three Gorillas in the U20 Championships -- Blakelee Winn in the heptathlon, T.J. Caldwell in the 110 hurdles and Kyla Davis in the pole vault.

Winn and Caldwell placed third in their respective events at the D2 outdoor championships. Davis qualified for the outdoor nationals but did not place, but she won the pole vault in the indoor championships.

"This is a great experience for the under-20 kids to be around all the top athletes, watch them and compete right there with them," Rutledge said. "I'm so glad they wanted to go. Sometimes they are so tired after the season, they don't want to do it."

"Blakelee and T.J. have a really good shot at making the USA World Team. Louis will have to run well, but he could be in the mix, too. It might be a really fun weekend for us."

Post 64, Midwest Mustangs clash in tourney opener

Staff Reports
sports@morningsun.net

Pittsburg American Legion Post 64 and the Midwest Mustangs square off in the opening game of an 18-under baseball tournament hosted by Pittsburg State this weekend.

The eight-team event runs Friday through Sunday, and all games will be played at PSU's Al Ortolani Field.

Post 64 and the Mustangs, a team comprised of area players, clash in the opener at 8 a.m. Friday.

Both teams will play a second game on Friday as the Mustangs meet Oak Grove at 10 and Post 64 faces Natural Joes at 2:30

p.m.

Games on Saturday pair Post 64 vs. Oak Grove at 9 a.m. and the Mustangs vs. Natural Jones at 11:15.

Teams in the other pool are Edge Black 23, Midwest Scouts, Natural Rich and Scrappers.

Games are scheduled through 7 p.m. Friday and 8:15 p.m. Saturday.

Pool-play results will determine the pairings for Sunday's finals. Fourth-place pool finishers meet in the seventh-place game at 9 a.m., third-place teams decide fifth place at 11:15, second-place teams meet in the third-place game at 1:30 p.m. and the first-place teams clash in the championship game at 3:45 p.m.

Zach Conway prepares for MMA debut

By Aaron Pyle
Morning Sun Staff

After six months of training, Zach Conway, a 2021 Pittsburg State University graduate, is ready to make his amateur mixed martial arts (MMA) debut.

The 28-year-old is scheduled to make his debut on Saturday at Kansas Crossing Casino in the Fight Hard MMA event, which features 12 professional and amateur bouts.

It all started with the help of a friend as Conway found his love for the sport.

"Well, I had a wrestling background and had a friend who trained in an MMA gym in Joplin, and he invited me to come train one day with him," he said. "I just never left."

Conway, a Columbus alumnus, started wres-

ting at the age of 5 and continued the sport until he was 18. He credited the assistance of the Titans' wrestling program in helping him prepare for Saturday's fight.

"It helped a lot," he said. "I wrestled from when I was 5 years old until I was 18, so 13 years. It helps you to determine how the fight is going be if you have the ability to take someone down or resist takedown."

He then outlined his preparation for the debut.

"We'll spend a couple of days a week working on technique," he said. "With strength and conditioning, a lot of it's on you. We do some conditioning in practice. That's one of the big adjustments I've had to make is increasing the cardiovascular portion of my exercises."

Close to home, he expressed his excitement to



Zach Conway

make his debut in Southeast Kansas with several familiar faces in attendance.

"It's fantastic for my debut," he said. "It's nice because a lot of people that I know are coming out to support me, which being local that's awesome, especially for the debut fight. I'm surprised by how many people are going, but the support is fantastic, so that makes it a whole lot better."

In the night's first fight, Conway is slated to face

Sean Taborsky, a former Barton Community College wrestler, in the welterweight division.

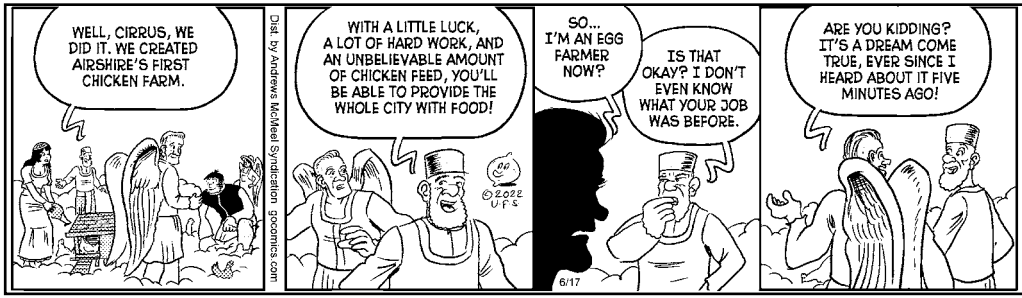
Taborsky has claimed several tournament victories in the last three years, winning the Submission Challenge in Wichita in 2019 with four straight victories by submission. He also competed in the NJCAA wrestling championships in 2017.

"He has a wrestling background and some jiu-jitsu, so I'll have to watch my ground game," Conway said. "... I would say we are pretty well matched as far as skill-set. I'm not sure what his striking looks like, but I'm pretty confident in mine."

Tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased at fighthardmma.com. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the fights begin at 7.

FUNNYPAGE

ALLEY OOP



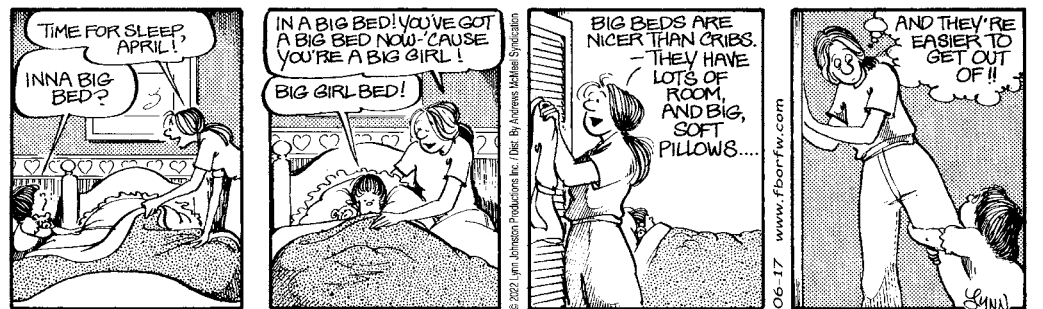
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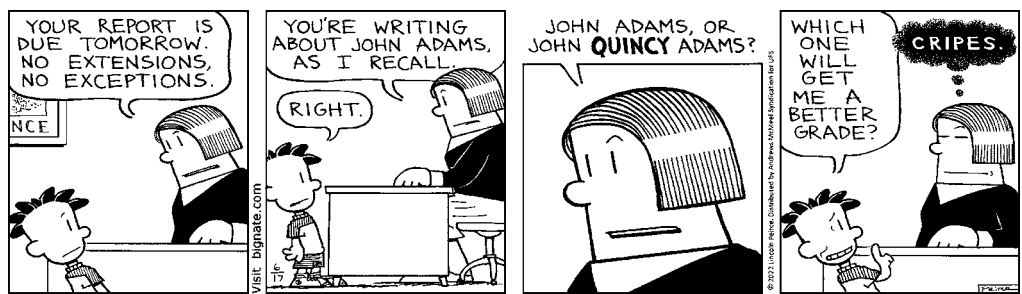
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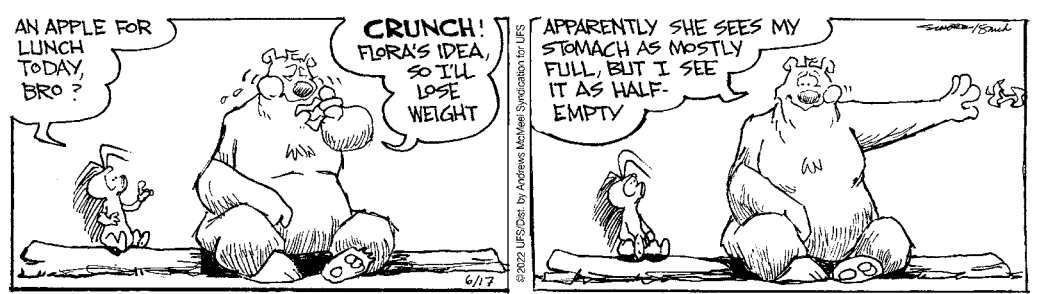
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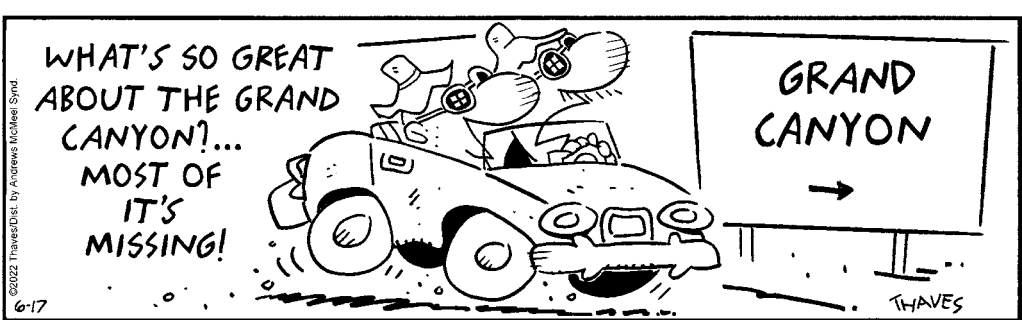
BIG NATE



THE GRIZZWELLS



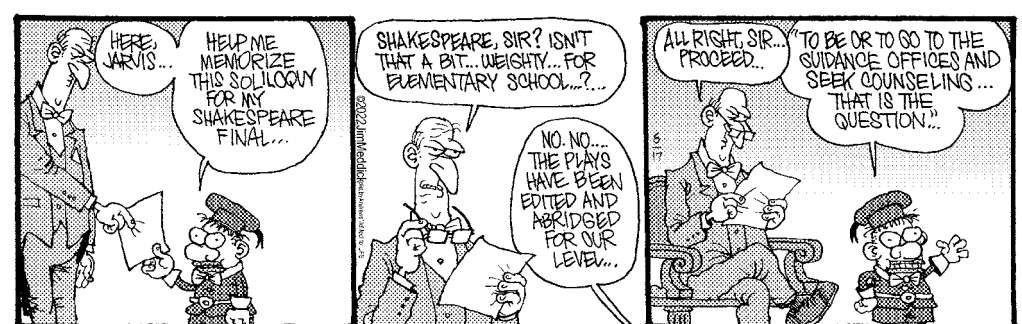
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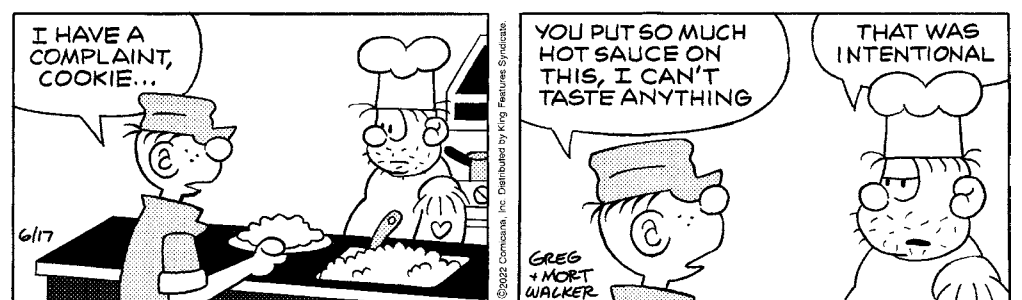
MONTY



THE BORN LOSER



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ASTROGRAPH by Eugenia Last

Think matters through, and plan your year based on your needs. You'll develop a strategy that will help you get things done. Expand as you go instead of trying to do everything at once. Take care of tedious details yourself so you don't fall behind. If you count on others or expect everything to fall into place, disappointment will follow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Consider your options and remind people to honor their promises. Finish what you start. Enhance your chance of victory by staying on top of what's possible. The world can be your oyster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Do what comes naturally. Align yourself with people that intrigue you. You'll figure out how to utilize what you have to offer in effective and diverse ways. You'll make headway by paying attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Avoid letting anyone draw you into something unsettling. Don't make a change for the wrong reason, especially to please someone else. Patience will pay off, as will speaking from the heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Look inward, assess your situation and the changes you want to make, and prioritize what's most important to you. Taking the road less traveled will help you establish yourself as a leader.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Plan to travel, look for something entertaining and socialize with people you find mentally stimulating. Protect your health and financial well-being. You'll learn much through conversation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Handle disagreements cautiously. Listen carefully and reserve judgment until you have all the pertinent facts. Take a positive approach when it comes to relationships. Embrace differences.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Put your heart into finishing what you start. Dedication and discipline will help you outmaneuver anyone who tries to compete with you. Don't take chances with your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Monitor what's being said and done. Stick to the facts, and don't tolerate exaggeration or aggression. Concentrate on what and who matter to you. Romance is favored.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Be a witness, not a participant. Protect yourself from loss, illness or misguided individuals trying to tamper with your life. Be true to yourself and your dreams, hopes and wishes.

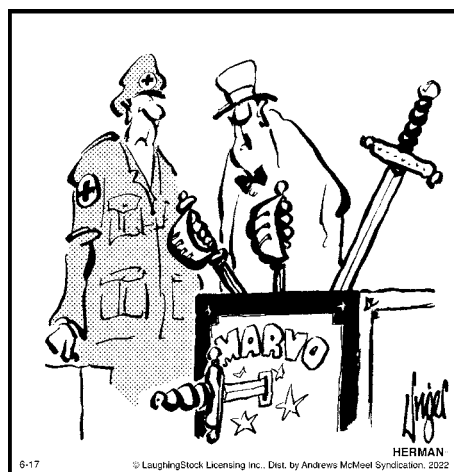
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Choose your words carefully. Leave nothing to chance, and don't risk your reputation or position. Focus on what matters to you most. Sort out any lingering problems that need to be addressed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Call those you can count on for help. Don't limit what you can do because you lack experience. Do your research, and you'll figure out how to reach your objective. Be confident and ask questions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- You've got time. Relax, go over every detail and leave nothing unfinished or open to criticism. Hide your disappointment if things don't unfold the way you want. Work with what you have.

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

HERMAN



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Despondent
- 4 Rink surface
- 7 Blond shade
- 10 Long sigh
- 11 Student quarters
- 13 Deep-voiced lady
- 14 — Beta Kappa
- 15 Links org.
- 16 MGM mascot
- 17 Building inspector
- 19 Drama award
- 20 Fly ball's path
- 21 Negative sort
- 23 — -Luc Picard
- 26 Throbs
- 28 Rover's cry
- 29 Nice summer
- 30 Roused
- 34 Having fences
- 36 Dawn goddess
- 38 — de cologne
- 39 Slightest

DOWN

- 1 Drinks like a cat
- 2 Diamond Head locale
- 3 Fan noise
- 4 Fan bones
- 5 Mimic

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	L	I	T	Z				S	C	A	L	D		
E	E	R	I	E					H	U	M	O	R	
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Hadwin leads US Open as McIlroy makes statement with clubs

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Adam Hadwin wasn't officially in the U.S. Open until eight days ago. He walked off The Country Club on Thursday with his best score ever in a major for a one-shot lead.

With the focus finally shifting away from Saudi-backed rival league, who's going and who's staying on the PGA Tour, Hadwin opened with a 4-under 66 on a breezy but not overly punishing day at Brookline.

The lingering thoughts of the rival league came from Rory McIlroy, not from anything he said but with the golf he played.

It was another bold statement as McIlroy didn't make a bogey until his final hole — his brief



Adam Hadwin, of Canada, watches his shot on the 17th hole during the first round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at The Country Club, on Thursday in Brookline, Mass. (AP PHOTO/JULIO CORTEZ)

fit of anger revealed as much desire as frustration — for a 67. That left him in the large chasing pack with four players who had to go through 36-hole qualifying.

Callum Tarren of En-

gland, David Lingmerth of Sweden, MJ Daffue of South Africa and Joel Dahmen also were at 67.

At the opposite end was Phil Mickelson, who celebrated his 52nd birthday — on the golf course, any-

way — with a four-putt double bogey on his way to a 78.

Hadwin ran off three straight birdies to finish the front nine in 31, and he only dropped one shot on the back nine for his 66. His previous low score in a major was 68 on three occasions, most recently the first round of the 2020 PGA Championship at Harding Park.

McIlroy has become a leading voice on the PGA Tour over the last few years, particularly with his rebuke of the Saudi-funded series that is disrupting golf. Thursday was a reminder he's pretty good at his day job, too.

McIlroy made two straight birdies late in his round to become the first player to reach 4 under, only to miss the ninth green and make his only

bogey.

At the moment, McIlroy isn't concerned with his strong stance against LIV Golf.

"It's been eight years since I won a major," he said. "And I just want to get my hands on one again."

Even with a good start, and coming off a victory last week in the Canadian Open, it doesn't figure to be easy for McIlroy or anyone else. The Country Club might be as accommodating as it gets all week, with moderate wind and cloud cover keeping the sun from making greens crispy and firm.

And the best anyone could do was a 66.

The group at 68 included two-time major winner Dustin Johnson, Justin Rose and Matt Fitzpatrick, who won the U.S. Amateur

at Brookline in 2013.

For McIlroy, it was his second straight major — and third time in his last four U.S. Opens — he opened with a score under par. There is confidence in his game for winning last week in Toronto, and there is passion rare for a Thursday unless the game is going badly.

He tried to drive the reachable par-4 fifth hole and caught an awkward lie in the thick collar above a bunker, forcing him to stand in the sand. He hit that into another bunker, and then twice slammed the club into the sand out of frustration. But he managed to save par.

"You're going to encounter things at a U.S. Open, whether they be lies or stuff like that, that you just don't really encounter any other week," he said.



Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos (91) jumps over Colorado Avalanche defenseman Erik Johnson (6) during the second period of Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday in Denver. (AP PHOTO/JOHN LOCHER)

Lightning unfazed trailing Avalanche in Stanley Cup Final

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

DENVER (AP) — Minutes after losing Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final in overtime, Patrick Maroon scoffed at the idea that it was some sort of gut punch to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"Two really good teams going at it," he said. "That's Game 1. We just got to refocus and be ready for Game 2."

Few teams in recent NHL history are better at doing that, which is why the Lightning are unfazed about trailing the Colorado Avalanche. The two-time defending champions have won 11 consecutive series since their remarkable post-season run began in 2020; in five of them, Tampa has lost the opener — including twice this post-season — and the experience has steeled them for situations just like this.

"It's not about riding the wave of one game," coach Jon Cooper said Thursday. "It's kind of about getting our feet under us. It's understanding we're playing a different team. We can't win the series all in one game, and (players have) been really good at that."

Players wasted no time in moving on to Game 2 on Saturday night. Tampa Bay, after all, had roared back from a 3-1 first-period deficit to tie the opener before Andre Burakovsky's overtime winner. Elements from successful stretches of Game 1 can factor into the team's tweaks and changes moving forward.

"We've done a great job of making adjustments

after losses, so we'll look to do that," captain Steven Stamkos said. "The mindset is we're here to win a series and you don't know when that's going to come: four games, five, six, seven. You never know."

The Lightning have over the past three post-seasons won series in all those combinations. But it wasn't long ago that they were on the wrong side of a stunning defeat. It's hard to forget Tampa Bay getting swept in the first round by Columbus in 2019 after steamrolling the rest of the league all season and winning the Presidents' Trophy with the best overall record. The adjustments, absent any panic moves like firing Cooper or breaking up the core, paved the way for this run.

The memory of that series and the 11 since that ended with them on the smiling side of the handshake line combines to give the Lightning the perspective they have today.

"That's the great thing about our group: There aren't many situations that we haven't been in," longtime winger Alex Killorn said. "It feels like we've seen it all. We're not worried. We're confident going forward. But there's definitely a lot more work to be done."

That includes trying to figure out how to slow down the speedy Avalanche, who want to turn games into track meets and use their offensive talent to pump in goals. Despite not getting past the second round the past four years, Colorado also

has plenty of playoff experience and knows to expect a major pushback from the champs in Game 2.

Coach Jared Bednar believes the best way to handle that is for his team to keep playing its style.

"Regardless of how Tampa plays, we have a certain identity that we need to play to to be successful," Bednar said. "We've learned that during the course of this season, especially. And then for me, it's just managing those momentum swings."

Tampa Bay is the first team since Wayne Gretzky's Edmonton Oilers in the mid-1980s to reach the final three years in a row and is four victories away from the league's first three-peat since the New York Islanders dynasty of the early '80s. Cooper has managed to keep his players' emotions in check so much that defenseman Mikhail Sergachev called the 1-0 deficit "the usual stuff."

As unusual as it was for Tampa Bay to fall behind about 10 minutes until the emotion of the moment and the finality of the decision got the best of her. After 21 professional seasons, one of the greatest basketball careers ever is nearing its end.

"I feel like I've played as long as I can at a really high level both physically and mentally, and it's just gotten harder," Bird said, fighting through tears. The Seattle Storm star and five-time Olympic gold medalist announced Thursday the 2022 season will be her last playing in the WNBA.

Storm star Sue Bird says 2022 will be her final WNBA season

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

Seattle Storm star and five-time Olympic gold medalist Sue Bird says the 2022 season will be her last playing in the WNBA. The 41-year-old considered retirement after last season before returning for a 19th season as a player. She missed two seasons because of injuries. As for the timing of her retirement, she says "you just know when you know." Bird is a four-time WNBA champion, 12-time All-Star and the oldest player in the league. The former No. 1 draft pick has spent her entire WNBA career with the Storm. Her announcement came a day before Seattle's game at Connecticut, the state where she was a collegiate star and national player of the year. The Storm close out their road trip on Sunday in New York, about 30 miles from where she grew up.

Always in control on the court, Sue Bird lasted about 10 minutes until the emotion of the moment and the finality of the decision got the best of her.

After 21 professional seasons, one of the greatest basketball careers ever is nearing its end. "I feel like I've played as long as I can at a really high level both physically and mentally, and it's just gotten harder," Bird said, fighting through tears.

The Seattle Storm star and five-time Olympic gold medalist announced Thursday the 2022 season will be her last playing in the WNBA.

The announcement by Bird, 41, ended any speculation about her future; she had acknowledged in February when she resigned with Seattle that this would likely be her final season. She strongly considered retirement after last season before choosing to return for a 19th season as a player.

Bird's announcement came a day before Seattle's game at Connecticut, the state where she was a collegiate star and national player of the year. The Storm will close out their road trip on Sunday in New York, about 30 miles from where Bird grew up in Syosset, New York.

It's Seattle's only scheduled trip to New York this season, which helped prompt her announcement.

"Knowing it was going to be my last game in New York is really what started the thought process around announcing that this would be my last year," Bird said. "So that's kind of the how, and the when. That was the moti-



Seattle Storm guard Sue Bird (10) plays during the first half of the Commissioner's Cup WNBA basketball game against the Connecticut Sun, on Aug. 12, 2021, in Phoenix. The Seattle Storm star and five-time Olympic gold medalist announced on Thursday that the 2022 season will be her last playing in the WNBA. (AP PHOTO/MATT YORK, FILE)

vating factor on the timing. And I feel like for every athlete, sometimes it really just comes down to you know when you know. There isn't necessarily a recipe for it. You just know when you know."

Bird is a four-time WNBA champion, 12-time All-Star and the oldest player in the league. She has spent her entire WNBA career with Seattle since becoming the No. 1 draft pick in 2002 following her storied college career at UConn. This season is her 21st associated with the franchise although just her 19th playing after missing two seasons because of injuries.

Her resume is the envy of anyone in professional sports, let alone basketball. National championships at UConn in 2000 and 2002. WNBA titles with Seattle in 2004, 2008, 2018 and 2020, the last coming inside the WNBA "bubble" in Florida amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Bird hoisted five additional titles playing overseas in the EuroLeague. Last year, she added a fifth Olympic gold in Tokyo to go along with the ones the United States earned in 2004 in Athens, 2008 in Beijing, 2012 in London and 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

Bird was the AP national player of the year her final season at UConn. She is a five-time all-WNBA first-team selection, the league's all-time leader in assists and the only player to appear in more than 500 games in league history.

She has been honored on every list imaginable as one of best and most influential players in the history of the league. And she's

the standard by which other point guards are judged.

Bird told her current teammates about her decision during a team dinner on Wednesday night and Seattle's coaching staff Thursday morning. Bird also had a long list of former teammates, coaches, executives and friends she wanted to tell personally rather than hearing it through various channels. Among the most emotional was her talk with Karen Bryant, the general manager of the Storm when Bird was drafted in 2002.

Deep down, they all knew that the hints Bird gave over the past several months were leading to this announcement.

"Not a lot of people do something for their entire lives the way that athletes do. Don't get me wrong, I know people are fulfilled in other ways. It's not about a comparison. It's just sports is different, I think," Bird said. "I've been doing this since I was 5 or 6 years old. It's really all I know. So of course, I'm sad. It's a little bit of like a mourning knowing I'm going to miss it. But I mean, I've got no regrets. I feel wonderful about my career, the people I've met, the things we've all accomplished."

Bird said she's not really prepared for the farewell tour that's likely to follow her every time she visits a WNBA road city for the last time.

"I feel like I don't personally need that," Bird said. "But I also understand that there are fan bases that that might want to, you know, take that moment. ... But yeah, I'm not prepared for it."

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