

Council hears city budget adjustment plans

By Emily Walton
emilyw@sedaliademocrat.com

The Sedalia City Council met for its meeting via webinar Monday night where the city's financials were a major topic of discussion since the COVID-19 pandemic has been greatly affecting the market and sales tax revenue.

City Administrator Kelvin Shaw gave a presentation on March's financials. Shaw explained the month was strong on sales tax revenue and was 8.7% above the previous year. The city had a 3.7% increase in sales tax revenue for the year and use tax revenue is at 11% compared to a budgeted 2%.

Shaw also gave a presentation on the city's budget adjustments to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. He said he's looked at sales tax revenue estimates and what the effects could be.

"Then (I) tried to go through the budget and stole a page out of the state's book where instead of amending the budget and taking things out of the budget we're just doing what we call hold-backs," Shaw said. "So in other words it's still in the budget, it's still appropriated. When we learn more we will free that money up."

Shaw said he informed department heads of the items he'd identified in their budgets that cannot be funded until further notice although the items were still in their budgets.

Shaw said he looked at the city's finances from 2010, the year the city saw the full effect from the 2008 financial crisis, to see what the effects were on the city's sales tax revenue.

In 2010, the city's general fund had roughly \$400,000 less than the year before, according to Shaw, and the city was anticipating a 2% sales tax revenue increase in 2020 (\$118,534). The 2010 figure added with the anticipated increase, which the city expects now won't occur due to the pandemic, would bring the anticipated 2020 funding gap to \$518,534.

Several 2020 projects were put on holdback to make up for the gap including neighborhood revitalization seed money (\$100,000) and an added facilities management employee (\$50,000). The holdbacks, totaling \$295,779, along with the already-adopted budget surplus at \$107,858 bring the net Fiscal Year 2021 change to negative \$114,897. The remaining reserves would then be \$8.3 million.

See BUDGET | 4A



PHOTO BY HOPE LECCHI | DEMOCRAT

Abby Martin stands outside the main entrance to Sacred Heart School on April 17. Martin, who is the principal at St. Andrew Catholic School in Tipton, has been announced as the new principal at Sacred Heart School. She will begin July 1.

Sacred Heart names new principal

By Hope Lecchi
hleccchi@sedaliademocrat.com

Sacred Heart School will welcome a new principal for the 2020-21 school year.

The St. Vincent de Paul Parish leadership, Sacred Heart School Advisory Council, and the Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City announced Abby Martin will become a member of the administrative team. She joins Dr. Mark Register, who will assume the role of President of Schools, and Dean of Students Sam Jones.

"I am excited to start my new role as principal of Sacred Heart School," Martin said in a news release. "Challenges motivate me and I look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow with the Sacred Heart School

family spiritually and academically. It is my desire to see the students expand their faith as they grow into servant leaders of our community, seeking the best possible opportunities to glorify God and working together to uphold the traditions and culture of Sacred Heart, while also expanding on that in ways to improve the experience of our students and staff."

Martin has more than a decade of experience as an educator and eight of those have been in Catholic schools. She is currently the principal at St. Andrew Catholic School in Tipton.

"While it was a difficult decision (to leave St. Andrew), the opportunity to grow in my professional career by being a part of the Sacred

Heart administrative team was one I could not pass up," Martin told the Democrat via email. "Although my certification is in early childhood (education), I am looking forward to working with older students as they continue to grow academically and in their faith through high school."

Register said he is pleased to welcome Martin to Sacred Heart.

"We are delighted to be bringing Mrs. Martin on to our administrative team," Register said in the release. "She brings strong curriculum and instruction experience at the elementary level. We are especially excited to have her working with our stellar faculty to promote and ensure continued academic excellence at all levels of Sacred Heart School."

See MARTIN | 6A

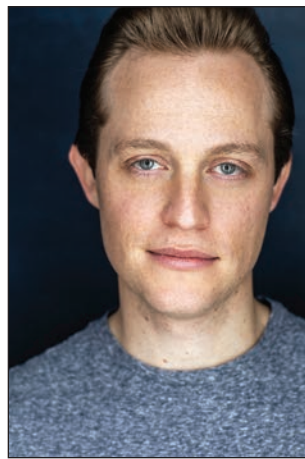
Opera singer: COVID-19 takes toll on performing arts

By Faith Bemiss
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

As the COVID-19 pandemic wreaks havoc across the world medically and economically, the toll it's taking on the arts is, in one operatic singer's words, "catastrophic."

Professional opera tenor Brenton Ryan, a 2005 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School, is the son of Gena and Stafford Swearingen, of Sedalia, and Kenneth Ryan, of Fresno, California. Ryan communicated with the Democrat by email last week from Ireland about how the virus is affecting the performing arts across the world and a relief fund set up to help.

Ryan and his wife, Naomi Louisa



Brenton Ryan

O'Connell, also an opera performer, have lived in New York City since 2016. The couple recently left the U.S., due to the coronavirus escalation in NYC, for Ballyvaughan, Ireland, where Naomi's family lives.

"We decided to leave NYC because we could tell the situation was getting worse," Ryan explained. "The number of cases was beginning to sharply rise, and at

that point, the grocery store nearest to us hadn't begun limiting its number of customers, for example, so things felt panicked and crowded.

See SINGER | 5A

What S-C students are missing

By Alexa Rowe
Smith-Cotton High School

With Sedalia School District 200 being out due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Smith-Cotton High School students are stuck at home. Many students and staff members miss being at school, especially seeing their friends.

Freshman Lauren Grupe said her day at home is no different than her day at school: She does her schoolwork, then she has virtual dance rehearsals, and she does other things to fill up her time.

"I end up being more efficient and get more of what I need to get done throughout the day," she said.

See ROOKIE | 5A

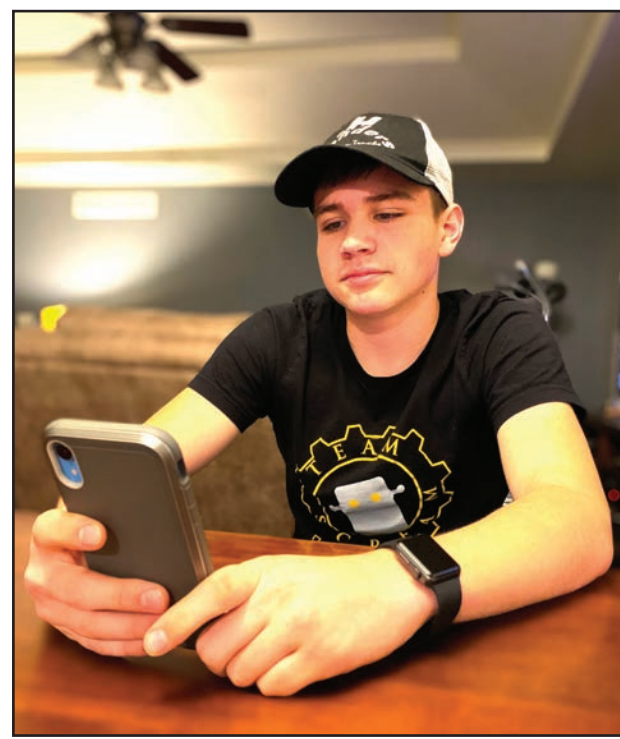
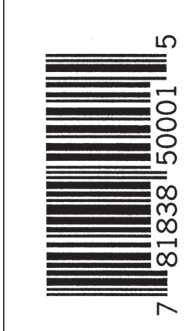


PHOTO COURTESY OF CARA BARTH-FAGAN

Smith-Cotton sophomore Levi Barth-Fagan chats with fellow Team SCREAM member Lowell Pilliard on FaceTime on Saturday, March 28 in his home. Barth-Fagan and Pilliard are discussing setting up group chats to stay connected with friends.



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LOTTERY
Midday Drawing
Pick 3: 6-1-7
Pick 4: 7-7-8-2

Evening Drawing
Pick 3: 7-4-4
Pick 4: 8-7-3-3
Show-Me Cash: 4-10-15-31-35

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
What's your take on today's news? Go to sedaliademocrat.com or visit us on Facebook to share your thoughts @ [SedaliaDemocrat!](https://www.facebook.com/SedaliaDemocrat/)



MINK LEAGUE POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE
• Sports 1B

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OBITUARIES

Mary Margaret Carr-Sparey

SEDALIA — Mary Margaret Carr-Sparey passed away at her home Friday, April 17, 2020, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Mary was 76 years old and a forty-four year resident of Sedalia, Missouri.



She was born Mary Vogl in Saline County, Missouri on December 19, 1943, to the late Carl and Agnes (Brown) Vogl. Mary was one of five children born to the Vogl family. She, her three sisters, and one brother were raised on a traditional family farm. Mary, a cradle Catholic, was a 1961 graduate of Mercy High School in Marshall, Missouri. Upon graduation, she was employed by the International Shoe Company of Marshall. A work romance that blossomed into love took place with the late Robert E. "Bob" Carr Jr. Their relationship was sealed in marriage at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Marshall, Missouri on June 26, 1965. The union bore two children: Tim (Amy) Carr of Sedalia, Missouri and the late Karen Carr-Boggs.

The family traveled with the Midstate Oil Company (Derby Gasoline Stations) from Marshall to Wentzville, Missouri and to Moberly, Missouri. They established forever roots in Sedalia, Missouri in 1976. Mary worked at the J.A. Lamy manufacturing from October 1976 until their closing in 1999. Mary then worked as a cook for the Sedalia 200 School District at Heber Hunt Elementary School until her retirement. The school children "Miss Mary" worked around recharged her spirit and brought a new spin to her life.

Mary was blessed with three grandchildren, Tiffany Boggs-Boehm, Stephanie Boggs-Sanders, and the late Alex Carr. All were touched by Mary's giving nature and love. Her blessing extended to three great-grandchildren as well: Weston Boehm, Maelynne Boehm and Madison Sanders.

After Bob's passing in 1996, Mary became addicted, as did many, to personal computers and

forms of social media. It was via an archaic platform known as ICQ that Mary met the second love of her life, a gentleman from "across the pond," Michael "Mick" Sparey. This English gentleman entered her life and the chance of meeting eventually blossomed into love, culminating in their marriage on February 14, 2009.

Mick, who survives of the home, brought three adult step-children into Mary's world: Jason, Charlotte, and Debra Sparey, all of the United Kingdom. Mary was also blessed with three step-grandchildren, James, Deanna, and Chloe Sparey.

Mary was also known (since 1982) by the nickname her son lovingly bestowed upon her, "Wiz." Wiz had many duties in her life, tasks she fulfilled, and honors that she carried. To say it simply and with a very heavy heart, Mary/Mom/Wiz/Gam Gam/MiMi/Honey, or any of the other names she answered to, she was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

A private graveside service and burial will be held at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Sedalia.

Honorary pallbearers will be Mark Rieckoff, Robert Sanders, Doug Retherford, Rusty Kahrs, Brett Strouse, Weston Boehm, Jason Sparey and Thomas Lonton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to family choice, in care of Heckart Funeral Home, P.O. Box 434, Sedalia, MO 65302.

Friends may pay their respects and sign the guest book from 12 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at Heckart Funeral Home.

For those unable to attend the service due to the pandemic restrictions, you may send a "Hug from the Heart." Send your sympathy message to heckartfh@mail.com and we will hand-write your note and attach it to a balloon which will be displayed at the service. The family will be able to see the love and support that surrounds them in their time of loss and know that you are with them in spirit.

POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

Sedalia Police Department

Arrests

April 15

12:29 a.m.: A theft of several items totaling more than \$1,000 and property damage less than \$750 was reported from an establishment in the 2900 block of West Broadway Boulevard. At 10:51 p.m. the suspects were located and after an investigation, both were arrested. Wesley A. Franken, 32, of the 600 block of North Osage Avenue, was arrested for stealing, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of an illegal weapon, driving while revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, and second-degree property damage. Nichole C. Paxton, 35, of the 600 block of North Osage Avenue, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of an illegal weapon, possession of drug paraphernalia, stealing, and second-degree property damage.

April 17

10:36 p.m.: Officers responded to Brianna Boulevard for a report of a domestic assault. Both parties had an apparent injury but refused transport for treatment. Austin R. Turner, 20, of Brianna Boulevard, was arrested for second-degree domestic assault, armed criminal action and unlawful use of a weapon.

April 19

1:21 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1600 block of South Ingram Avenue for a report of domestic assault. Fights among four domestic partners had occurred and the primary physical aggressor was arrested. Gage A. Fancher, 20, of the 1600 block of South Ingram Avenue, was arrested for two counts of second-degree domestic assault.

Incidents

April 17

1:08 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1900 block of South Lamine Avenue regarding a rape that occurred in March. A suspect was identified.

April 18

7:32 p.m.: An officer took a report of a theft from a business in the 3200 block of West Broadway Boulevard. The complainant reported on April 16 a known subject left the store with \$283.97 worth of merchandise without paying. The suspect could not be located at the time of the report. Charges of burglary and theft were being requested through the Pettis County Prosecuting Attorney.

April 19

12:23 a.m.: An officer responded to the 2300 block of South Engineer Avenue at the request of the Benton County Sheriff's Office to check the area for a possible stolen vehicle. The owners of the vehicle had received information about the location of the vehicle which had been stolen out of Benton County April 18. The vehicle was located and returned to its owners. The incident was under investigation in Benton County at the time of the report.

4:44 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to Housel Park for five to six people spray painting near the basketball court. After the investigation, it was determined that several hundred dollars in damage was caused by juveniles, consisting of several city property items spray painted. The juveniles were released pending referral to the Pettis County Juvenile Office.

9:34 a.m.: An individual in the 900 block of East 15th Street contacted the police department about a firearm found in their backyard. The firearm was not entered as stolen and was loaded. It was not clear how the firearm ended up in the location. It was recovered and placed into evidence for safekeeping.

2:24 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 2300 block of West Main Street for a report of identity theft. The complainant stated on April 15 they were contacted by a collections agency about a purchase for \$1,369.89 which was made in Las Vegas in March. The complainant stated he did not make the purchase. There had been no arrests at the time of the report and the individual was advised to contact the Las Vegas Metro Police if they wanted to pursue charges.

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Arrests

April 17

9:19 a.m.: Kyle E. Cooper, 48, of Warrensburg, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated, no insurance and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway.

April 18

Robert J. Howland, 59, of Grain Valley, was arrested in Benton County for driving while intoxicated, driving with a revoked license and littering.

9:48 p.m.: Jeffrey L. Summers, 58, of Warsaw, was arrested in Benton County for driving while intoxicated.

April 19

1:17 a.m.: James L. Burcham, 33, of Springfield, was arrested for a felony probation and parole warrant, driving while revoked, speeding and no seat belt.

10:29 a.m.: Terry J. Sieleman, 41, of Appleton City, was arrested in Henry County for two felony St. Clair County warrants and driving with a suspended license.

Compiled by Emily Walton.

CRASH REPORTS

One arrested in Henry crash

A woman was arrested and injured in a crash at 9:25 p.m. Friday in Henry County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Nickita M. Key, 34, of Springfield, was driving north on state Route 13, just south of state Route Z, when her vehicle traveled off the left side of the road, through the median and overturned.

Key suffered minor injuries and was taken to Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton by emergency medical services.

Key was arrested at 10:32 p.m. for driving while intoxicated.

One killed in Johnson crash

A man was killed in a crash at 2:40 a.m. Saturday in Johnson County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Kevin R. Barron, 25, of Imperial, was driving westbound on state Route 2 at Southwest County Road 1651 when his vehicle traveled off the right side of the road, struck a ditch and overturned, partially ejecting Barron.

Barron was pronounced dead at the scene at 5:32 a.m.

The report stated Barron was not wearing a safety device.

Three injured in Morgan crash

Three individuals were injured, including two juveniles, at 2:25 p.m. Sunday in an ATV crash in Morgan County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Linda L. Sanders, 57, of Sedalia, was driving an ATV in a private field off of U.S. Route 50, approximately 1 mile east of Morgan County Drive. The vehicle was traveling east through the field and struck a tree.

The 7-year-old juvenile passenger suffered moderate injuries and Sanders suffered serious injuries. Both were taken to the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia. The 10-year-old suffered serious injuries and was taken by MU Air Care to the University of Missouri Hospital.

Information is taken from preliminary Missouri State Highway Patrol reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved.

Compiled by Emily Walton.

STATE BRIEFS

Report: Woman, child fatally shot in southeastern Missouri

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP) — A woman and child were fatally shot Sunday in southeastern Missouri, law enforcement officials said.

Butler County Sheriff's deputies and the Missouri State Highway Patrol were called to an area near Poplar Bluff for a report of a shooting, according to a report by Cape Girardeau television station KFVS. Arriving officers found a woman and a child shot.

Butler County Sheriff Mark Dobbs said the woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The child was taken to an area hospital and later died, Dobbs said. Police had not released the names of the victims and had not reported any arrested by Monday morning.

Autopsies on the victims have been ordered and were scheduled for Monday.

Police: Man shot, killed outside Springfield gas station

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A man died of his injuries after being shot outside a Springfield gas station, police there said.

The shooting happened Sunday night, and the victim was taken by a private vehicle to Cox North Hospital in Springfield, television station KYTV reported. The victim was then transferred to Cox South Hospital, where he died, police said.

The man was able to give police a brief description of the shooter before he died, investigators said. Police later arrested a 27-year-old man suspected in the shooting after a short standoff with police.

Police had not released the names of the man killed or the man arrested by Monday morning, and did not give details about what led up to the shooting.

Officer shoots, kills man at Kansas City area Walmart

RAYTOWN, Mo. (AP) — Authorities say a Kansas City area police officer shot and killed a man at a Walmart.

Raytown police Capt. Dyon Harper said the officer was in uniform and working at the store in an off-duty capacity Saturday night when an armed man entered the store. Harper says the officer then "encountered the man and shots were fired." The Kansas City Star reports.

It wasn't immediately clear what led up to the shooting or where exactly in the store it happened.

The man died at the scene. Police did not immediately release his name.

Harper said the officer was not injured, and has been placed on administrative leave. No other injuries were reported.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is investigating.

DEATH NOTICE

Barnett

JOPLIN — Everett Lee Barnett, 97, of Sedalia, died Monday, April 20, 2020, at Mercy Hospital in Joplin. Arrangements are pending at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

FUNERALS

Carr-Sparey, Mary M.

Sign the guest book noon to 5 p.m. today at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Skain

Patrick and Nancy Skain, of Pilot Grove, became the parents of a son, Ren Johnathan Skain, born March 9, 2020, at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces. He joins sibling Karsyn Lynn Skain, 3. The paternal grandparents are Mike and Patty Skain, of Jefferson City. The maternal grandparents are Byron and Joy Dillner, of Pilot Grove. The great-grandparents are Frances Martin, Frances Wolfe and Mary Dillner.

CONTACT US

PUBLISHER:
Will Weibert
660-826-1000
ext. 1503
will@sedalia
democrat.com

EDITOR:
Nicole Cooke
660-826-1000
ext. 1482
ncooke@sedalia
democrat.com

CIRCULATION
Nikki Monsees
660-826-1000
ext. 1500
nmonsees@sedalia
democrat.com

NEWSROOM: 660-826-1000 OBITUARIES: 660-826-1000
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Langston named vice provost at UCM

WARRENSBURG — Randall Langston, Ph.D., has been tapped to lead the University of Central Missouri's student recruitment efforts. He begins his new role as Executive Vice Provost for Enrollment Management on May 15.

Phil Bridgmon, Ph.D., UCM's provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced the appointment noting, "Dr. Langston's expertise and consistent record of leading efforts to build record enrollments and student success is highly sought-after."

Bridgmon added that Langston's commitment to collegiality and shared governance are both values that "fit well at UCM." He said he is looking forward to welcoming Langston to campus this spring.

Langston has served since 2017 as Vice President for Enrollment Management at Texas Woman's University (TWU) in Denton, Texas. TWU has a student body of 16,000 and is the nation's largest public university primarily for women, and the seventh most diverse higher education institution in the United States. It also has campuses in Dallas and Houston.

Langston said he is looking forward to working with staff and faculty at UCM in the coming months.

"I am honored and thrilled to be joining the University of Central Missouri during this exciting time in its history," he said. "In speaking with others during the search process, I was inspired by the mission of the institution and was particularly drawn to UCM due to its commit-



Randall Langston

ments to student success and learning as well as its drive to become a nationally recognized comprehensive university."

In discussing his immediate goals at his new position, Langston said he looks forward to building on the great enrollment management work done by others at UCM. He plans to take these efforts to another level both quantitatively and qualitatively through the implementation of data informed methodological approaches.

"College is a significant investment by students and families and I am excited to help articulate the value of attending a high-quality institution like UCM through personalization and outreach which illuminates all of the terrific aspects that the university has to offer the students that we serve," Langston

said.

His success in enrollment has contributed to numerous awards. This includes selection as a "Leader and Innovator" in the field of Enrollment Management by the Enrollment Management Report (Jossey-Bass/Wiley Publication) in 2017. More recently, Langston was honored with TWU's Pioneer Proud Award based on a peer nomination related to leadership embodying values which exemplify the university.

Langston's career in higher education also includes serving as Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, Acting Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the College at Brockport - State University of New York (SUNY), 2012-2017; Executive Director of Enrollment Management at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, 2008-2012; Director of Admissions Services, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2007-2008; and Associate Director of Admission/Southern Regional Director and Assistant Director of Admission (based in Austin, Texas) for the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1999-2004.

Langston earned a master's degree in education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and a Ph.D. at the University of the Free State - Republic of South Africa. He began his formal higher education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.

LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORTS

Windsor livestock auction market report for April 15

HD, 727; 8% cows. Compared to last week, all classes of steers and heifers sold mostly steady. Slaughter cows sold mostly \$5 to \$9 higher.

Steers medium and large frame, 300 to 400 pounds, \$151 to \$185.50; 400 to 500 pounds, \$150 to \$176; 500 to 600 pounds, \$147 to \$167.50; 600 to 700 pounds, \$123 to \$156; 700 to 800 pounds, \$110 to \$135.50.

Small frame or fleshy steers and bulls, 400 to 700 pounds, \$98 to \$158.

Heifers medium and large frame No. 1, 300 to 400 pounds, \$134 to \$156; 400 to 500 pounds, \$131 to \$152; 500 to 600 pounds, \$115 to \$146; 600 to 700 pounds, \$105 to \$135; 700 to 800 pounds, \$91 to \$118.

Small frame of fleshy heifers, 400 to 700 pounds, \$85 to \$120.

Weigh cows bulk, \$50 to \$56; high dressing, \$57 to \$63; low dressing, \$38 back; bulls bulk, \$75 to \$90.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

April 6

Lovell Curry and Pamela Curry to James O. Snavelly and Hazel M. Snavelly, Browns E.T. 1st Addition, lots 5 and 6, block 4; Westenburgers Subdivision lots 7 through 9 of McVeys 1st Addition, lot 11, block 4.

Black Dog Enterprises LLC to Brent Guier and Valerie Sutton, Smithton lots 3 and 4, block 12.

April 7

Marshall Alan Investments LLC to Marilyn K. Lehman Trust, section 9, township 45, range 21.

Cherry Tree Properties LLC to JKM Land Limited, section 4, township 43, range 22.

Andrew M. Klein to Bgatov Living Trust, section 9, township 45, range 23.

Richard Breheim and Barbara Breheim to Nathan Breheim and Billie Jo Breheim, section 36, township 47, range 20.

April 9

Roger C. Austin and Sheri R. Austin to Ronnie L. Richardson, section 31, township 47, range 21.

Hawthorn Bank to Justin James Dick and Darinda Jan Reberry, Woods Addition a resurvey of Woods Addition & Shorts Subdivision, lots 1 and 2, block D.

Robert L. Schwickrath and Kristi A. Mogg to Zaran Melville, West Walnut Hills 1st Addition, lot 52.

Vickie J. Howery to Timothy D. Ehlers and Angela M. Ehlers, section 24, township 46, range 22.

Dana M. Foster to Booze and Byrd Properties Land LLC, Lyons Addition, lot 14, block 1.

April 10

Barbara Jean McNeal to Jon Furrey and Amy D. Furrey, section 11, township 46, range 20.

Jill A. Klein and Brian Klein to Gary S. Bennett and Reita R. Bennett, Chancey's Addition, lot 10, block 1.

Home Point Financial Corporation to Carolyn M. Stumillo, section 15, township 47, range 22.

Alex N. Dake and Emilly L. Dake to Dick J. Luper and Valmeta P. Luper, section 21, township 47, range 20; section 21, township 47, range 20, driveway easement.

American Family Insurance returning premiums to customers

American Family Insurance is returning \$200 million to its auto insurance customers following a decrease in driving and accident claims from the COVID-19 pandemic. The premium relief plan was recently approved by state insurance regulators. Customers will receive payments in the form of a check they can use as they wish.

The premium relief will come as a one-time full payment of \$50 per vehicle covered by an American Family personal auto policy. Payments will be mailed to Missouri customers in the near future and American Family expects to complete the printing and distribution of all checks within 60 days.

Relief payments are based on personal auto policies in force as of March 11, the date the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

In addition, the American Family Insurance group, the American Family Dreams Foundation and the Steve

Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation will provide more than \$6.8 million to COVID-19 relief and other nonprofits, including through a 2-to-1 match for charitable donations given by its agency owners and employees in their local communities.

Ahrazue Wilt has been an American Family Insurance agency owner since 2012. Her office is at 762 Winchester Drive in Sedalia. Ahrazue can be contacted at 660-826-1520 or awilt@amfam.com.

Jerry Reid has been an American Family Insurance agency owner since 1983. He has three locations: 310 N. Locust in Sweet Springs, 660-335-4256; 1700B W. Ninth St. in Sedalia, 660-826-7100; and 106 Main St. in Concordia, 660-463-7984.

For more information, visit www.amfam.com/relief-payment or contact the Wilt Agency at 660-826-1520 or Reid 660-826-7100.

Release courtesy of American Family Insurance.

Lawsuit: Christian health care ministry was deceptive

NEOSHO, Mo. (AP) — A Christian health care sharing ministry sold "inherently unfair and deceptive health plans" to Missouri residents and failed to provide them with coverage, a class action lawsuit alleges.

The federal lawsuit against Alieria Companies and Trinity Healthshare comes as millions of people who are unable to afford private insurance are attracted to the low prices offered by health care sharing ministries, KCUR-FM reports.

A health care sharing ministry is a group of people with common ethical or religious beliefs who share health care costs. Many of the plans offer none of the protections of the Affordable Care Act. Alieria said in a statement that its marketing materials make clear that their programs "are absolutely not health insurance."

"Any assertions to the contrary are simply incorrect. We will continue to vigorously defend against false claims about the services our company provides its clients," it said.

Last month, Califor-

nia insurance regulators barred Alieria and Trinity from doing business in the state, saying the two companies used deceptive marketing tactics to mislead consumers. At least half a dozen other states have launched probes.

George Tom Kelly III told KCUR he was looking for health insurance options back in 2018, so when his insurance agent recommended a health care sharing ministry, he signed up with Alieria.

Kelly, who has a lawn care business, first suspected he'd been duped when Alieria refused to cover his claims for some routine medical expenses. When it denied him coverage for hernia surgery he needed.

Kelly filed a federal lawsuit in Missouri on Wednesday against Alieria and Trinity, the health sharing ministry for whom Alieria marketed its products.

Health sharing ministries are exempt from the requirements of the Affordable Care Act as long as they meet certain requirements. They must be tax exempt, have existed since Dec. 31, 1999, and

must have continuously shared medical expenses among members who share common ethical or religious beliefs.

But Kelly's lawsuit alleges Trinity didn't exist until 2018, didn't limit its membership to those of similar faith and siphoned off members' payments for "exorbitant fees and commissions."

"On the one hand, these guys state, in small letters sometimes, that they're not insurance, but they convey the impression that they are insurance," said former Missouri Insurance Commissioner Jay Ango, now an attorney in Washington, D.C., who represents Kelly.

"They do that so they can sell what is de facto insurance, but it's crummy insurance that violates the Affordable Care Act. It doesn't cover preexisting conditions and it has very low annual and lifetime limits."

Because they're not technically insurance providers, health care sharing ministries are not subject to the same regulations as insurance companies.

It's not known how many Missourians are

enrolled in Trinity's plans.

Carrie Couch, director of the consumer affairs division of the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance, said the division had received several complaints against Alieria and Trinity.

Before founding Alieria, Timothy Moses headed International BioChemical Industries Inc., which filed for bankruptcy in 2004 after Moses was charged with securities fraud and perjury. A jury convicted Moses and he was sentenced to more than six years in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$1.65 million.

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Sedalia 200 sets new date set for graduation

By Democrat Staff

The Sedalia School District 200 has announced Commencement ceremonies for both Smith-Cotton High School and Whittier High School will be at 7 p.m. July 18 in the Mathewson Exhibition Center on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

Smith-Cotton Principal Wade Norton made the announcement in his message to seniors in the Class of 2020 on Monday, April 20.

Graduation ceremonies were originally scheduled for May 16.

Norton noted that

many questions about the event remain unanswered at this time, according to a news release.

“We will hold to our two objectives for your graduation ceremony,” he wrote in the message. “The first will be your health and safety and the second will be giving you the opportunity to walk across the stage. To accomplish these objectives, we will work with local, state, and federal health officials as we near the July date.”

Norton also shared that the annual Senior Awards remain as scheduled at 6 p.m. May 6 but as an online event.

“We will share the ceremony on the district Facebook page,” he wrote. “This new virtual platform will be interesting, but we want to continue the tradition.”

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 Adoption Fee: \$150

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COVID-19 cases reach 14 in Pettis County

By Democrat Staff

The Pettis County Health Center reported two additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pettis County over the weekend, bringing the county's total to 14.

According to the Pettis County COVID-19 Task Force's briefing issued Monday,

two people have been released from isolation and the remaining 12 are recovering at home. There are no cases requiring hospitalization. The health center is monitoring 33 people.

The health center is also monitoring groups of individuals who attended gatherings over Easter. “Even small gatherings

can spread the virus,” the information from the health center states. “Please do not gather with people who do not live in your household. We understand that as the weather gets nicer, people want to get together with friends and family.”

According to the briefing, if numbers in the county continue to rise,

county officials will not be able to open the community as quickly the county would like. A decreasing number of cases is one of the points Gov. Mike Parson has included as a factor for when and how communities can open.

A total of 460 tests have been completed as of noon Friday in Pettis County.

Pettis COVID-19 Task Force offers daily briefing

By Democrat Staff

The Pettis County COVID-19 Task Force offered some new information from various local agencies in its daily email briefing Monday.

Bothwell Regional Health Center and the Pettis County Health Center will host a "Myth or Fact" Facebook Live at noon Tuesday, April 21 where community questions will be answered about COVID-19. Individuals can view it on the Bothwell or Pettis County Health Center Facebook pages.

The Sedalia-Pettis County Emergency Management Agency had received personal protective equipment from the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency through the Kansas City Office of Emergency Management. SPCEMA then distributed those supplies to local law

enforcement and fire departments in Pettis County. Later, the KN95 masks were recalled. SPCEMA picked up additional masks Monday to replace what was recalled.

The task force has been releasing daily briefings on Mondays and Thursdays. The briefing is sent via Nixle alert from the Pettis County Sheriff's Office. To sign up for local Nixle alerts, visit local.nixle.com/register or text 65301 to 888777.

Budget

From Page 1A

“That’s why we have that fund balance, or the reserves if you will, is to be able to weather storms like this without having to take knee jerk reactions, laying people off, cutting services and all that kind of good stuff...” Shaw explained. “Even if we hit that they’re (reserves) still at 62% which is a healthy fund balance.”

In the transportation fund in 2010, the city had roughly \$200,000 less than the year before and was anticipating a 2% revenue increase in 2020 (\$52,781), bringing the anticipated 2020 funding gap to \$252,781.

Holdbacks include reducing the transfer from the capital improvements fund (\$150,000) and the Sedalia Regional Airport ground power unit (\$40,000). With holdbacks totaled at \$274,612, the net transportation fund estimated impact is \$21,831. Added to the budget deficit at \$51,254, that brings the net FY21 change to negative \$29,423 and remaining reserves to \$1.7 million.

In the capital improvements fund in 2010, the city had roughly \$200,000 less than the year before and was anticipating a 2% revenue increase (\$53,687) bringing the anticipated funding gap to \$253,687.

“I got more aggressive here, first of all, because we can and second, of all this is where the reserves can have the most flexibility over time of what we can do or what we can cut back on,” Shaw explained.

The city also took \$150,000 out of the capital improvements fund to move it to the transportation fund. Holdbacks include all but one planned stormwater drainage projects (\$1.1 million) and a portion of the road resurfacing budget (\$355,000). Holdbacks total \$1.6 million. The net transportation fund estimated impact is \$1.4 million. With the budget surplus at \$1.8 million, the net FY21 change will then be \$3.2 million and the remaining reserves will be at \$2.2 million.

“Not to confuse the issue too much but the fund balance will actually be about \$4 million but \$2 million of that will be restricted for the community center from the budget,” Shaw clarified.

Council also:

- Recognized the police response to the hostage situation on April 12.
- Approved an ordinance extending the Sunset Provision for Section 2-434 9(b) relating to the Bothwell Regional Health Center Board

of Trustees which added the City Administrator and Mayor to the board. Ward 4 Councilwoman Megan Page voted no.

- Amended the city's Personnel Regulations Manual by amending Section 5.3(d) work schedule relating to Municipal Building employees.

- Addressed the emergency waiver issued April 14 by the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control for retailer-packaged alcohol.

- Approved change order No. 2 from S&A Equipment and Builders LLC for the Katy Trail Extension Project.

- Approved a donor agreement with the Heckart Family Foundation and Sedalia Heritage Foundation Inc. for the Heckart Community Center. Page abstained due to her financial involvement with the Sedalia Heritage Foundation.

- Approved change order No. 2 from Poort Excavating LLC for storm drainage improvements project area No. 27.

- Accepted an agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to locate traffic signal preemption equipment atop the city's west water tower.

- Accepted an ordinance for city maintenance of the sanitary sewer main, force main and lift station located at 4107 W. Main St. within the city from Star Acquisitions Inc. and approved and accepted a permanent and temporary utility easement from Star to the city for said property.

- Amended Ordinance No. 9940 by adding a new classification and job description for the position of Equipment Operator III (Demolition) for the city.

- Amended Section 7.15(c) (Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Policy - Applicability) of the city's Personnel Regulations Manual by adding Equip-

ment Operator III (Demolition).

- Approved a one-year contract extension with Iron Mountain Trap Rock for purchase and delivery of trap rock.

- Formally rejected the bid for two police vehicles from W-K Chevrolet.

- Authorized the Sedalia Police Department to act as an agent for the city in the application process for the Missouri LESO Program administered by the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, Law Enforcement Support Office and authorized the mayor, city administrator and/or chief of police to sign said application.

- Amended section 40-294 of the Code of Ordinances relating to the Firefighter's Retirement Fund Board of Trustees.

- Approved the purchase of two 2018 Dodge Chargers from the Missouri State Highway Patrol for a total of \$39,000 and one 2019 Ford Explorer from the Kansas State Highway Patrol for \$25,350 for the SPD.

- Approved an amendment for Tyler Technologies Inc. for implementation of Brazos Solution E-Ticketing Software and associated hardware for the SPD.

- Authorized the SPD to act as an agent for the city in the application process for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Solicitation grant and authorized the mayor, city administrator and/or chief of police to sign said application.

- Amended the budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 regarding Ballistic Shield Replacement.

- Held a closed door session for legal advice and lease, sale or purchase of real estate.

Ward 2 Councilwoman Bonita Nash and Ward 3 Councilman Charles Lowe were absent.

Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.



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Coronavirus accelerates decline of slumping coal industry

By Mead Gruver and Matthew Brown

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Travis Deti has been working the phones to try to get government support for the U.S. coal industry during the coronavirus pandemic. Between recent calls, the head of the Wyoming Mining Association tried to unclog a sink at home.

But unlike Deti's sink, which eventually started flowing again with help from a plumber, aid remains stubbornly clogged for an industry whose already rapid decline is

accelerating because of the economic effects of the virus.

"We'd take anything right now," said Deti, whose group represents companies that produce about 40% of the nation's coal.

Coal demand has tanked over the past decade amid competition from cheap natural gas and expanded renewable energy sources. Coal companies have faced a reckoning as the world looks to combat climate change and move away from fossil fuels despite President Donald Trump's effort to revive the industry.

Now, the pandemic has made things worse.

Lockdowns have shut off lights and computers in offices and schools, sapping demand for electricity provided by coal-fired power plants. Americans stuck at home binge-watching Netflix aren't coming close to making up for that drop in demand, expected to be 3% for 2020.

The safety of workers is another issue. In the most productive coal region in the U.S. — Wyoming and Montana's Powder River Basin — companies are staggering shifts and running more buses to and from mining towns to create more space between workers.

Singer

From Page 1A

“Even the park across the street – our favorite part about where we live – was no longer feeling safe,” he continued. “Because mostly everyone was told to stay at home, many people sought the park as a place to breathe and relax, ourselves included. However, very few were ac-

knowledg- ing social distancing rules, so we stopped going to the park.” He added they realized they would soon be confi ed to their apartment for an “indefin te period” so they decided to go to “Ballyvaughan, a very remote, rural harbor village on the west coast of County Clare, Ireland.”

“The virus is not as widespread in Ireland as it is in other European countries or in New York, but we are happy to report that the Irish government is taking it very seriously, with the public also taking necessary precautions,” he noted. Ryan said since the outbreak, the virus has had far-reaching consequences for the performing arts industry. “Because this virus is so highly conta-

gious, and because the nature of theaters involves putting large groups of people sitting next to one another in an enclosed building, everything has been canceled and necessarily so,” he said. “It has resulted in a fi nancial disaster for many artists because of a common contractual clause known as ‘force majeure,’ which allows a company to cancel an artist’s contract without having to pay due to an ‘act of God’ or unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstance.”

“Therefore, because there is no safety net for artists, that means that all of that work and expected income has vanished in an instant,” he continued. “However, most opera companies and theaters have made gestures of support by honoring a percentage of artists’ contracts, which legally they are not required to do.” Ryan said he and his wife were scheduled to perform for two companies this spring, but those productions have been canceled although the companies they work for are honoring a “generous percentage” of their contracts. “But, many of our colleagues have lost everything for the spring and summer without any compensation,” he said.

“Companies have also now started canceling their summer seasons, but hopefully things will ease by the fall. It is important to note, however, that public safety is paramount, so theaters should only reopen when it is perfectly safe to do so.” Ryan noted he is “heavily involved” in union meetings with the American Guild of Musical Artists, which is establishing a plan to help artists. “AGMA ... is the union that represents classical singers, dancers, and directors, and there have been fervent meetings to discuss how to best address the COVID crisis, as well as to try and establish a safety net for future generations of artists in case of another disaster,” he said.

When asked if the pandemic could change the face of performing arts and the opera world forever, Ryan said it already has. “There is no doubt that the pandemic is already changing the performing arts,” he noted. “Even if the pandemic ends in a month or two, the psychological trauma for artists and audience-goers will last for a long time.”

“The development of a vaccine will help this effect, but it will take time to process,” he continued. “Many companies and artists are turning to online performances, either from their living rooms or streaming past performances from their theaters, so COVID-19 may usher in more digital performances as a result. For me personally, however, nothing compares to the experience of live theater.” Ryan said his message to everyone back home in Sedalia is “public health and safety is of the utmost importance.” “Regardless of the difficulty that this pandemic has brought upon each of us, our collective efforts need to be focused on supporting our health professionals and the families and friends of those we have lost to the virus,” he said. “Art will survive. The economy will survive. Let’s stay at home when we can, social distance, wash our hands, and support each other while we endure this difficult time.”

He added the Artist Relief Tree is a fund set up to collect donations in support of artists, particularly freelance artists, who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. For more information, visit artistrelieftree.com.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0298 or on Twitter @flbemiss.

“Even if the pandemic ends in a month or two, the psychological trauma for artists and audience-goers will last for a long time.”

— Brenton Ryan, professional opera tenor

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Rookie

From Page 1A

Social Studies teacher Holli Goodrich enjoys her time at home with her pets, but she misses seeing her students and talking with fellow teachers in the D-Wing hallway. She also misses seeing the custodial staff.

“I do miss seeing my students and getting to see who catches my bad puns. Nobody at home laughs at any Law and You jokes,” Goodrich said.

Junior Olivia Poteet is enjoying time at home with her younger siblings and getting some spring cleaning done. She misses being able to attend S-C track practice after school but is getting in workouts on her own.

“I like being able to practice for track (after school) because it’s easier to be motivated than at home,” Poteet said.

Sophomore Levi Barth-Fagan has been playing Minecraft ith his friends when he is not doing his schoolwork. He likes being able to sleep in later and dress in his comfy clothes.


“I enjoy being able to work at my own pace, and I like to work faster so that I can get back to



Missouri School of Journalism
University of Missouri

Rookie Reporters

Smith-Cotton High School journalism students in conjunction with the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia will report and write local stories for publication in the Sedalia Democrat throughout the school year.



playing games with my friends,” he said.

Senior Drake Keele enjoys being at home with his family, but his senior season of baseball was cut short. He is disappointed to be missing social events like prom.

“Instead I am spending my time being happy around others,” Keele said.

Grupe misses seeing her friends at school; since she is so busy with after-school activities, typically the only time she can see them is during the school day. She is connecting with friends through FaceTime while doing her schoolwork to make up for not seeing them in person.

Poteet is making a list of things she needs to get done and checking them off s she goes. Barth-Fagan is connecting with friends more with Snapchat and FaceTime, making the best of the time out of school.

Keele said he is not making up any work; since he has all the credits needed to graduate, he is spending his time being happy about other things.

Goodrich is planning on video conferencing with her students to stay in touch with them. She said she is also drinking a lot of Pibb Extra.

Alexa Rowe is a student at Smith-Cotton High School.

STATE BRIEFS

Florida man dies in crash of homemade plane in Missouri

STRAFFORD, Mo. (AP) — A Florida man died when his homemade plane crashed in Missouri, authorities said Monday.

Alexander Kasimtev, 43, of Plantation, Florida, died when his KOLB Firefly 103 crashed near a farm road near Strafford Sunday afternoon, according to Greene County Sgt. Marc Staegar. He was the only one aboard the plane.

Detectives continue to investigate the cause of the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration was notified but it doesn’t investigate crashes of this type of aircraft, the Springfield News-Leader reported.

Man charged in Wisconsin brothers' deaths to be arraigned

KINGSTON, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri man accused of killing two brothers from Wisconsin is scheduled to be arraigned next month.

Garland Joseph Nelson, of Braymer, waived his right last week to a preliminary hearing in which the judge could hear the prosecutor’s evidence against him and decide whether it was sufficient for him to stand trial.

Instead the 10 felony charges against Nelson will be formally read at his May 4 arraignment. Among the charges are two counts each of first-degree murder in the deaths of 35-year-old Nick Diemel and 34-year-old Justin Diemel, of Shawano County, Wisconsin.

Jack Diemel, the brothers’ father, said the two went to Nelson’s northwestern Missouri farm to collect a \$250,000 debt, according to a probable cause statement. The father reported his sons missing July 21 after they failed to show up for a flight home and did not answer their phones.

Their remains later were found in Missouri and Nebraska.

1 dead, 1 injured in train-vehicle collision near Camden

CAMDEN, Mo. (AP) — A woman was killed and a man was seriously injured when the vehicle was struck by a train in Camden, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

Ashley Harder, 32, of Richmond, died in the collision Sunday night.

The patrol said she was a passenger in a vehicle that drove around a train crossing arm before it was struck, KSHB-TV reported.

The driver, Adam Allred, 30, of Richmond, was seriously injured and taken via helicopter to a hospital.

High court declines to hear Nebraska, Missouri death cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is passing for now on deciding whether juries must find all facts necessary to impose a death sentence or whether judges can play a role, an issue Nebraska and Missouri death row inmates had asked the court to take up.

The high court on Monday declined to hear appeals brought by Nikko Jenkins and Craig Wood. The court, as is usual, didn’t comment in turning away the cases.

Wood is on death row in Missouri after being convicted of kidnapping, raping and killing 10-year-old Hailey Owens in 2014. The jury that convicted Wood couldn’t decide whether to sentence him to death or life in prison without parole. That left the decision up to the judge who oversaw Wood’s trial.

Jenkins is on death row in Nebraska after killing four people in Omaha shortly after his 2013 release from prison, where he had served 10 years for two carjackings. Jenkins pleaded no contest to the killings and a three-judge panel was appointed to sentence him. Jenkins waived his right to have a jury assess aggravating circumstances and the panel sentenced him to death.

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Martin

From Page 1A

Martin will work as a full-time member of the administrative team in the direction, supervision, and evaluation of the school's K-12 instructional program. Although Martin will not officially begin her duties at Sacred Heart until July 1 she is already meeting with Register and Jones to prepare for this fall. Martin said she also worked alongside Register and Sacred Heart during her time at St. Andrew as they worked toward common goals within the diocese. She said those opportunities allowed her to learn about Sacred Heart firsthand. "I believe that I will have a smooth transition from my role at St. Andrew's to my new position at SHS," Martin told the Democrat. "So far everyone has been extremely welcoming. Dr. Register and Mr. Jones have been extremely helpful, including me in conversations as they prepare for next year. In my spare time, I have started reviewing Sacred Heart policies and proce-

dures, that way I can spend more time preparing for the school year and getting to know the faculty, students, and families of Sacred Heart School when I begin in July." Martin will become part of a new leadership structure at Sacred Heart. Register's key priorities will include "spiritual leadership, operations, development, and building and grounds. Martin and Jones will focus on developing and implementing an effective educational agenda for continued faculty and student developmental success," according to information from Sacred Heart. "We are excited to reach another major milestone in our strategic growth plan with the implementation of our new leadership model," Register commented in the release. "The move better positions us to maximize operational sustainability and enhance our academic offerings. Another unique advantage is that Mrs. Martin, Mr. Jones and I will all serve as teaching administrators which, we believe, enhances credibility as school leaders." The change in the administrative structure was first announced earlier this year



Abby Martin stands outside Sacred Heart School on April 17. Martin will join President of Schools Dr. Mark Register and Dean of Students Sam Jones on the administrative team at Sacred Heart.

by Fr. Joe Corel, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. "Abby Martin has the qualities and skills we are looking for in our three-person administrative team to make a strong impact on our Catholic School now and moving us into the future following the good work of our Strategic Growth Plan,"

he said in the release. Martin noted she is eager to meet the families of Sacred Heart as she transitions to her new role. She said her main goal is to work collaboratively with the administrative team, staff, and families to meet goals that are in progress. She also offered a few

other goals as she joins Sacred Heart: "My goals consist of maintaining and building on the current culture of the school with a strong Catholic identity, having a swift transition as we work towards the new stewardship model, creating opportunities for our students to grow in their Catholic

faith, especially with other students from around the diocese, and growing the relationship between Sacred Heart School and St. Vincent de Paul Parish to keep our students more involved in their Catholic faith." Hope Lecchi can be reached at 660-826-1000 ext. 1484.

Feds to track, share information on nursing home outbreaks

By Candice Choi
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Calling nursing homes ground zero of the coronavirus crisis, federal officials said Monday they plan to start tracking and publicly sharing information on infections and deaths in such facilities to help spot trends and early signs the virus is spreading in communities. The move comes as critics, industry officials and local leaders have called for more aggressive actions by the federal government to track infections in homes and contain outbreaks by helping them get greater access to testing and

masks, especially given the vulnerability of elderly residents. "It's our intention to make that information public," Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, said during a call with reporters, adding that details were still being worked out on when or how the information would be distributed. Because the federal government has not been releasing a count of its own, The Associated Press has been keeping its own tally from media reports and state health departments, finding at least 8,496 deaths linked to coronavirus outbreaks in nursing

homes and long-term care facilities nationwide. But the true toll of the mostly frail and elderly people who live in such facilities is likely much higher, experts say, because many homes have not reported their deaths and state counts may not include those who died without ever being tested. For the federal tracking of infections, Verma said homes could start reporting by the end of this week and that questionnaires from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will collect information on deaths as well as confirmed and suspected cases, including among workers. She

also said nursing homes will also be required to tell patients and family members within 12 hours of a confirmed infection. Verma noted that that federal surveillance of outbreaks at nursing homes will be important for re-opening the country since infections in the homes could be early predictors of spread in communities. "It's fair to say nursing homes have been ground zero" for the virus, Verma said, noting that the Life Care Center nursing home in Washington state became the first COVID-19 hot spot in the U.S. That outbreak eventually claimed 43 lives. Some of the biggest out-

breaks since have included 55 deaths at a nursing home in New York City's Brooklyn borough, 49 at a home outside Richmond, Virginia, 48 at a veteran's home in Holyoke, Mass., and at least 40 deaths each at five homes in outer boroughs of New York City. Experts say the outbreaks have been fueled

by the industry's chronic challenges with controlling infections and staffing shortages. Several major outbreaks have been blamed on asymptomatic spreaders who made it past screening measures such as daily temperature checks for staffers that nursing homes were ordered to put in place in mid-March.



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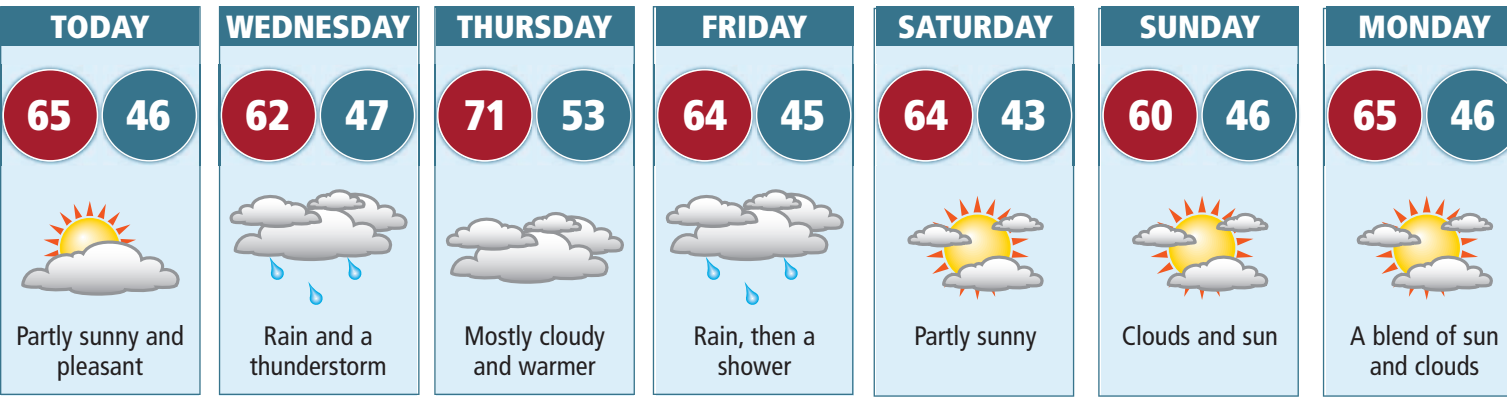
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THE WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

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Sunset tonight	7:56 p.m.		
Moonrise today	6:09 a.m.		
Moonset today	6:44 p.m.		
New	First	Full	Last
Apr 22	Apr 30	May 7	May 14

WEATHER HISTORY

Several hundred people died when flooding reached the Mississippi Delta in Louisiana on April 21, 1927. The flood forced 500,000 residents from their homes.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Sunday

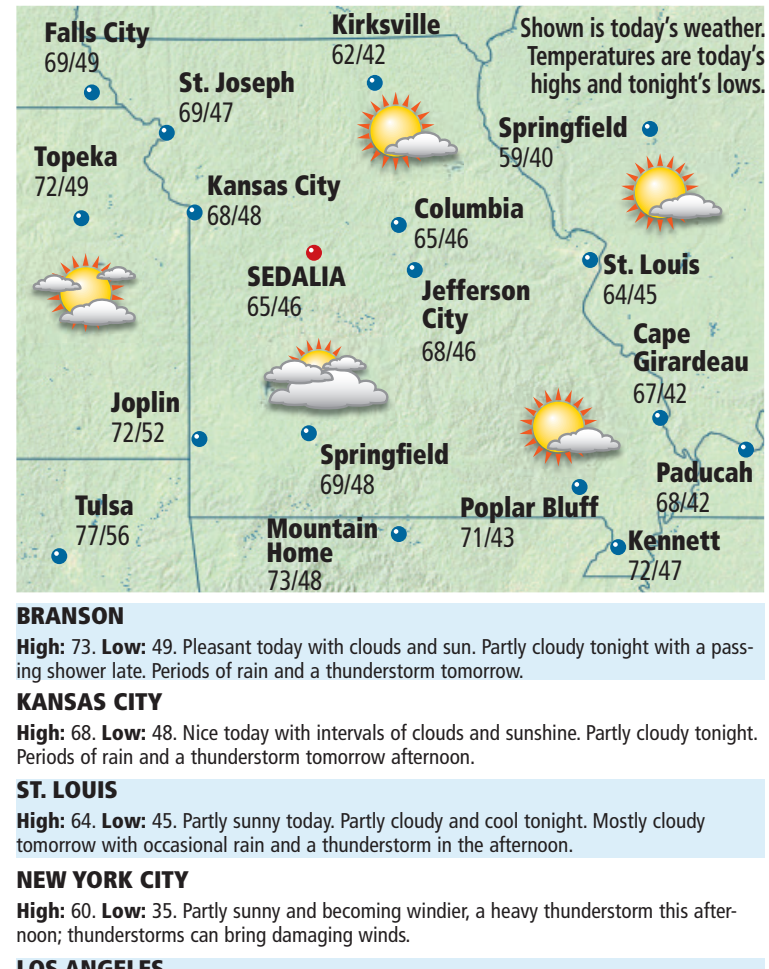
TEMPERATURES	
High	70
Low	46
Normal high	66
Normal low	43
Record high	85 in 2017
Record low	28 in 1983

PRECIPITATION	
Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	1.14"
Normal m-t-d	2.48"
Year to date	10.52"
Normal y-t-d	9.03"

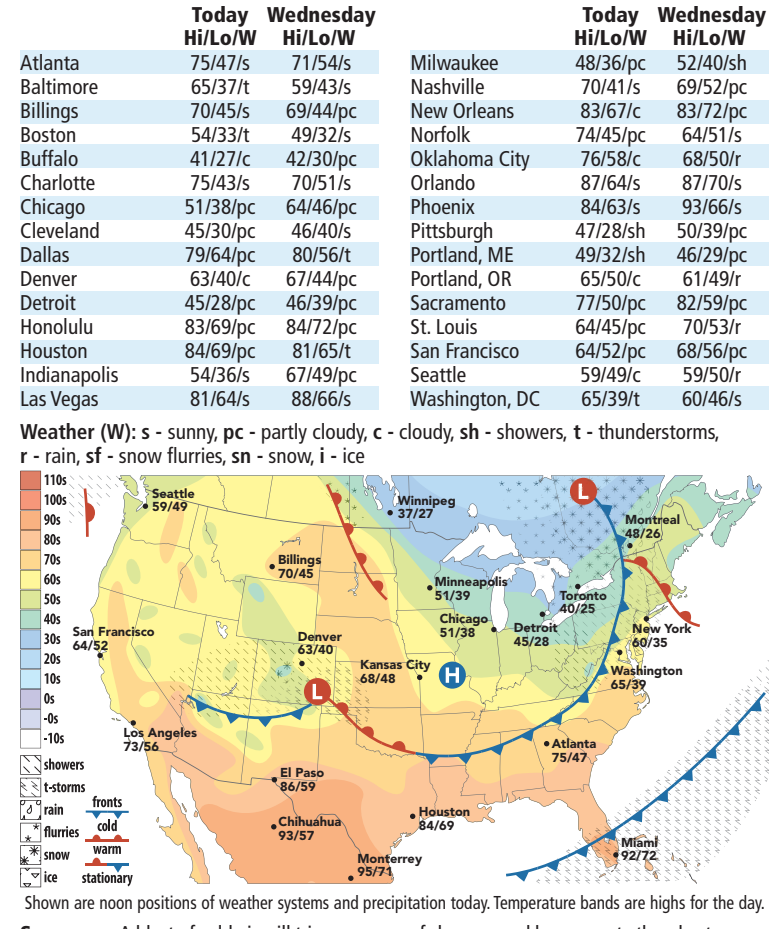
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	
Sunday	0
Month to date	11
Year to date	12
Normal year to date	10
Last year to date	6

RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	9.55	-0.59	24
Valley City	5.14	-0.27	22
Lamine			
Otterville	2.07	+0.11	15
Missouri			
Boonville	16.82	+1.69	21

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NATIONAL WEATHER





Japan scientist 'very pessimistic' Olympics will happen

By Stephen Wade
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese professor of infectious disease says he is "very pessimistic" the postponed Tokyo Olympics can open in 15 months. "To be honest with you, I don't think the Olympics is likely to be held next year," Kentaro Iwata, a professor of infectious disease at Kobe University,

said Monday speaking in English on a teleconference. "Holding the Olympics needs two conditions; one, controlling COVID-19 in Japan, and controlling COVID-19 everywhere."

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, expressed his own reservations 10 days ago. Since then, the organizing committee and the International Olympic Committee have said there

is no "Plan B" other than working for the Olympics to open on July 23, 2021.

"I am very pessimistic about holding the Olympic Games next summer unless you hold the Olympic Games in a totally different structure such as no audience, or a very limited participation," Iwata said, speaking at a forum arranged by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo.

See OLYMPIC | Page 6B



In this screen shot image made from a video news conference by Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ) in Tokyo, Japanese professor Kentaro Iwata speaks Monday, April 20, 2020. PHOTO COURTESY OF FCCJ VIA AP

MINK League officials postponed start of 2020 season



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

Sedalia Bombers head coach Craig McAndrews addresses the team before a game last season at Liberty Park Stadium in Sedalia

By Democrat staff

MINK League officials postponed the start of the 2020 season to June 15 announced Friday via news release, with an option to further delay opening day to July 1.

The release cited state guidelines restricting public gatherings amid the spread of COVID-19.

Sedalia Bombers head coach Craig McAndrews said many other factors, such as travel, lodging and funding are in question before a potential first pitch.

"Main concern is, will we have enough money, regardless of how you get it, be it fans or sponsors or player fees? How are you going to travel?" McAndrews said. "Because sometimes you have 40 to 50 people on your bus. You can't do that either. And host families are dropping off

every place.

"Right now, I have 33 players and we're all squared away," McAndrews said. "Down to the penny. But if one sponsor pulls out. ... That's a big chunk"

McAndrews said MINK League coaches are scheduled to meet via video conference May 1 to discuss further delays and options ranging from a one-month season to cancellation.

"We'll just chalk it up to the corona and hopefully next year we can play," McAndrews said of a potential cancellation. "It's just depending on how much further this goes. It's really out of our control at this point."

The MINK was initially scheduled to begin May 27. On March 15, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised against gatherings of 50 people or more for eight weeks.

Look for 3 QBs in first 5 picks of NFL draft

By Barry Wilner
AP Pro Football Writer

Talk about virtual drafts, that is a mock draft, really? Make believe. The upcoming NFL

remote draft beginning Thursday night has a touch of irony to it. The producers of said mock drafts rely are even remotely accurate.

That said, here's one

view of what might happen in the opening round. This mock draft does not include trades, of which there could be several. Sticking with the existing grid, the Colts, Steelers,

Bears, Rams, Bills and Texans don't have a selection.

1. Cincinnati Bengals can't possibly bungle this pick, right? Last time they took franchise quarterback with top overall selection, in 2003, it worked out pretty well with Carson Palmer. **JOE BURROW, QB, LSU**

2. Washington Best player in this draft is Chase Young. Redskins will get lots of offers, especially from teams seeking QB. If they aren't tempted enough, they go with chalk ... **CHASE YOUNG, EDGE/LB, OHIO STATE**

3. Detroit Lions will get even more pressure to deal this spot with two highly regarded quarterbacks available. Guess what: Matthew Stafford comes off major injury, has got-

ten beaten down through years, and has difficult family issues. So whether they trade it or keep it ... **TUA TAGOVAILOA, QB, ALABAMA**

4. New York Giants So many needs, but hard to see Giants ignoring stud linebacker with winning credentials to build defense around. **ISAIAH SIMMONS, LB, CLEMSON**

5. Miami Dolphins supposedly were tanking for Tua last year, yet won enough games to fall to fifth in the order. That doesn't mean they will ignore a passer here. **JUSTIN HERBERT, QB, OREGON**

6. Los Angeles Chargers Having missed out on top three QBs, Chargers are dumbfounded. They will attempt to trade down for more picks and still get a passer later on. If

not, how about the best defensive back in this draft, even though it's not major need?

JEFF OKUDAH, CB, OHIO STATE

7. Carolina New coach Matt Rhule has retooled offense in free agency, now dedicates first of many choices to defense. **DERRICK BROWN, DL, AUBURN**

8. Arizona Just like Panthers, Cardinals must dive deep into defensive picks, but not here. They address major hole on offensive line with ... **JEDRICK WILLIS, OT, ALABAMA**

9. Jacksonville First of two opening-round picks for rebuilding Jags, who can get desired offensive tackle later on and address D here. **JAVON KINLAW, DL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

See DRAFT | Page 6B



PHOTO BY RICK SCUTERI | AP PHOTO

In this Dec. 28, 2019, file photo, Ohio State defensive end Chase Young (2) moves in on the play during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football game against Clemson, in Glendale, Ariz.

Fans feeling unsafe without vaccine plays into revenue issue

By Schuyler Dixon
AP Sports Writer

With the distinct possibility of pro sports resuming in empty venues, a recent poll suggests a majority of U.S. fans wouldn't feel safe attending games anyway without a COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, 72% of Americans said they would not feel safe attending games without a vaccine, though the number dropped to 61% among people who identified themselves as sports fans. Nearly half the respondents in the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points, said they either didn't follow sports closely or didn't follow sports at all.

So even if fans are allowed back in stadiums or arenas, many may not come. And the financial losses in such a scenario will be significant

without the revenue that comes from tickets, concessions and merchandise, among other things — even if money is flowing from lucrative media rights deals.

If the NBA and NHL have to cancel the rest of their seasons and Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer play only half their regular schedules, the losses in fan-related revenue could reach \$3 billion, according to Patrick Rishe, director of the sports business program at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Those losses that I mentioned, both in ticket revenue and game day-related spending at the venues on food, beverage, parking, merchandise, you name it, that's money that's gone," Rishe said. "Even if money on tickets is credited to next season, it's still an opportunity lost. So it's pretty sizable."

See VIRUS | Page 6B



PHOTO BY MATT ROURKE | AP PHOTO

In this March 28, 2019, file photo, fans gather for the Philadelphia Phillies opening day baseball game against the Atlanta Braves at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.



PHOTO BY JORGE SAENZ | AP PHOTO

Milagros Espinola plays with her dog named Chocolate in an empty soccer field in Asuncion, Paraguay, Friday, April 17, 2020. The government has extended a quarantine amid the new coronavirus pandemic until April 28.

Djokovic says he wouldn't take coronavirus vaccine

By Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Novak Djokovic says if an anti-coronavirus vaccination is compulsory for tennis players to return to the world tours then he won't take it.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, Djokovic said in a live Facebook chat he wouldn't "be forced by someone to take a vaccine in order to be able to travel."

"Hypothetically, if the season was to resume in July, August or September, though unlikely, I understand that a vaccine will become a requirement straight after we are out of strict quarantine and there is no vaccine yet."

Djokovic spoke on Sunday. He and his wife Jelena, who have two children, have spoken previously against vaccinations.

Prominent Serbian virologist Predrag Kon, a member of the state team fighting the spread of COVID-19, replied to Djokovic on Facebook that he should not make such anti-vaccination statements because of his huge public influence in his native Balkan country.

"As one of Djokovic's most trusted fans, I would have liked to have had the opportunity to explain to him the importance of the immunology in public health," Kon wrote on Monday. "Now it's too late, you have assumed wrong beliefs."

Djokovic won the Australian Open in January for his 17th grand slam singles title.

Concern for players' mental health with soccer shut down

By Rob Harris
AP Global Soccer Writer

Socially isolated, cut off from their teammates. Worried about when they will play again. Concerned about their finances and the future of their sport.

The global union for soccer players has found its members are struggling with increased levels of anxiety and depression during the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down most leagues.

As clubs focus on keeping players fit during national lockdowns and faced with cost-cutting needs, FIFPRO is urging them not to neglect providing mental health provisions.

"If a club has to decide between having a second or third right back or a clinical psychologist within the medical team, you know which choice you are going to make, so it's a kind of priority," FIFPRO Chief Medical Officer Vincent Gouttebauge told The Associated Press on Monday. "Within the medical staff at any club, we know that the physical health of players is a main priority. But now we have enough objective data that show that mental health is as important as the physical health."

"We need to have an interdisciplinary medical team in place within clubs in order to take care of the mental health of the player."

Reinforcing the need for clinical psychologists or psychiatrists to be made

available to players is a survey led by FIFPRO of 1,602 professional players in Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States.

It found 22% of female players and 13% of their male counterparts reported depression symptoms when asked in recent weeks, around twice as many as a separate survey with a smaller sample size of 307 players found in December and January.

The findings are only indicative of the mental health issues in soccer due to the small sample sizes and non-scientific polling.

"When you are not engaged with your family, with your teammates, then you have, of course, a decrease of social support and that is likely to lead to a higher rate of mental health symptoms," Gouttebauge said. "The uncertainty about the end of competition and the uncertainty for the future in the football industry is obviously something that plays a role."

Players have been away from their teams in most of the world for more than a month as governments try to contain the spread of the COVID-19 disease, although limited training has resumed in Germany.

Players will need several weeks to get match fit again before competitive games can resume. Europe's major leagues are

still trying to find a way of completing their seasons by extending beyond their usual endpoints around May and June.

"We have concerns on match congestion that might be related to resuming the competitions right now and trying to rush towards the end of the season," Gouttebauge said. "The number of matches played within a few weeks and the very limited number of recovery days between matches."

If UEFA's optimistic planning allows the Champions League final on Aug. 29 -- three months later than originally scheduled -- next season could begin almost immediately in an attempt to recover lost time. With the 2020-21 season due to end for men with the rearranged European Championship, it could mean a lengthy continuous spell of competitive games.

"This season might be very long for many players, so this is a concern," Gouttebauge said. "The international match calendar has been, of course, under scrutiny for quite a while. We need to find a good balance for players so that they can perform optimally without risk for musculoskeletal injury."

Sufficient breaks will have to be provided to players while leagues try to fulfil television commitments, having lost several weeks without matches already.

"It's of course, very important to provide players with sufficient time to have a proper recovery physically and mentally," Gouttebauge said.

If colleges cut sports programs, could new models emerge?

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Sports Writer

College sports programs are already being cut and more are likely on the chopping block.

The coronavirus pandemic has triggered fears of an economic meltdown on campuses around the country. The cancellation of the NCAA men's basketball tournament cost schools \$375 million and more losses are expected, especially if football season is disrupted in the fall.

In tough times, athletic administrators often drop sports programs to save money. In the past few weeks, Old Dominion said it will drop wrestling and Cincinnati will no longer have men's soccer. Warnings of tough times ahead have come from all over college athletics, even some of the wealthiest Power Five schools.

"To say it's not going to have any economic impact — that, I would say, would be grossly naïve," said Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione, who oversees a program that had \$148 million in operating revenue in 2017-18 and boasts of 20 straight years of balanced budgets.

"We're just hoping to minimize it," he said.

Paving the way for more cuts to come, the commissioners of five Bowl Sub-division conferences have asked the NCAA to waive

over the next four years a slew of requirements for Division I membership, including the minimum number (16) of sports a school must sponsor.

Some observers see the coming crisis as a chance for schools to consider radical changes to how athletic departments are run or for new development paths to emerge for young athletes.

"Budgets reflect our values," said Arne Duncan, a former U.S. education secretary and now co-chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. "I think we'll see now whether in a time of cutbacks, what gets prioritized. Is it the interest of adults and unbelievably high salaries? Or is it the interest of student-athletes and preserving their chance to compete and to put academics first?"

A.J. Maestas, founder of the sports analytics consulting firm Navigate Research, said "a couple hundred" sports programs were cut during the last economic downturn after the 2008 financial crisis. Most programs don't break even and he expects more cuts this time, too.

"If donors are unable to step up and endow the program or at least keep it above water there will be a number of programs that will be cut, especially if it's a sustained economic downturn, which seems

pretty realistic," he said.

Nancy Zimpher, former chancellor of the State University of New York and a member of the Knight Commission, said cutting sports programs is shortsighted at a time when colleges could be facing a decrease in overall enrollment.

Having a large variety of sports programs "provides a great recruitment opportunity for the whole university," she said.

David Ridpath, a former NCAA compliance director and professor of sports business at Ohio University, said he fears schools will use the economic crisis as an excuse to make program cuts they had already been pondering. He also wonders if fewer opportunities for athletes in non-revenue college sports provides a catalyst to sever some of the ties between amateur athletics and higher education in the United States.

In his book, "Alternative Models of Sports Development in America," Ridpath makes the case that the U.S. should move toward a European-style academy system. Elite young athletes develop their games and receive an education, but the two are not tethered the way they are in American colleges.

"My argument has always been schools should not be a primary source of elite development," Rid-

path said. "We need to have other models for those elite athletes to be taken care of."

So for me, it's not throwing college athletics and high school athletics out the window. It's reframing it and also making education-based sports more participatory."

Former Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe has an even more radical idea: College athletics should be broken into spectator sports (ones that make money) and participation sports (ones that don't). Schools would provide athletic scholarships in spectator sports, but not in participation sports.

Participation sports then would not be subject to NCAA scholarship limits, would not require highly paid, full-time coaches and would play regional opponents, keeping costs down.

The scholarship piece of Beebe's plan might seem extreme, but other parts are very much in line with what Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson and others are already thinking.

"Maybe an institution has sports sponsored in five different conferences, if that makes sense because of geography and other things," Thompson said. "What we're trying to do is throw everything at the wall and it might not be a one-size fits all for even the 12 institutions in the Mountain West."

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HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar

A baby born today has a Sun in Taurus and a Moon in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 21, 2020:

Tasteful you is professionally committed. You will go on working even during this crisis. There will be opportunities to correct old financial snafus and to fulfill financial obligations. You bring security to your family. If single, limit your involvement in the affairs of others; you can be overpowering and this prevents a lasting relationship. If attached, you each need to give love and accept help. Fortunately, you are in for the long haul. Enjoy it. **CANCER** can draw out your feelings.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Excitable and rather impatient today, you are drawn to novel ventures. That which drags on or is repetitious will soon be abandoned. Schedule appointments and begin projects. Tuesday is always your lucky day to do this. Carpe diem. Tonight: As you want it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You have an expansion in your consciousness today. You see how when a relationship goes awry, you can become unwell. Be aware of how others affect your health and make an effort to detach a bit. Success is guaranteed. Tonight: Journaling and early bedtime.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take time to release stress by dancing to a favorite tune. Networking is the theme of today, particularly with a social group or organization you'd love to be a part of, and you need to be in a relaxed state. Tonight: You charm them all.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Despite no work, you feel ambitious today. You wish the old days would come back again. Before this zombie movie started. Others offer advice or funding that will help you financially. Something that will supplement your income. Tonight: Draw up a list of your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be receptive to new truths, for today promises change and discovery. A cycle of profound spiritual awakening begins, thanks to the power of Sagittarius. You might be a little more grateful. Sometimes the royal Lion forgets. Tonight: Make it up to that person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You are acting with uncharacteristic secrecy. A loved one's situation is complex. Today, frustrations melt away. You remember your genetic heritage, and this helps you. You might even do some genealogical research and dig deep into the family jewels. Tonight: Amazing dreams.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today brings surprises in love. You discover new qualities within a present relationship and experience a new attraction to an exciting acquaintance. The magic has a mystical quality. But do not change your commitment status if you do not have to. Tonight: Early bedtime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You have scant patience with illness. So remember to allow enough time to heal when you are under the weather. Relationships are subject to sudden change. Balance love and intimacy with freedom and independence, and talk it out. Tonight: Collapse.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Brew a true love herbal tea. Sip it all day. See what happens. It's a play day, which you spend with children too. Your vitality and motivation will be especially high. Tonight: An intimate dinner with the one you love the most.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You need a personal day to go through your clothes and sort out your home. Be careful not to discard memorabilia and keepsakes impulsively. Somehow, through doing this, tense family situations from the past are resolved. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You excel on the internet today -- all your communications, your ideas, your work plans. There's an increasing urge to grow on many levels. Consider options with care and do research on healing. You will shatter old barriers and implement constructive changes. Tonight: Early bedtime.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your resources have been stressed recently. Kind and sympathetic you must not lend or give more to others than you can afford to spare. Those who seek your financial assistance may be offered help and encouragement in other ways. Brainstorm. Tonight: Go over your savings.

BORN TODAY

Writer Charlotte Bronte (1816), naturalist John Muir (1838), actor Anthony Quinn (1915)



PHOTO BY VASHA HUNT | AP PHOTO

In this Oct. 26, 2019, file photo, Alabama wide receiver Jerry Jeudy (4) catches a touchdown pass against Arkansas during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Deep receiver class faces high hopes for immediate impact

By Arnie Stapleton

AP Pro Football Writer

The upcoming NFL draft features a tantalizing class of wide receivers expected to make an immediate impact as rookies.

It's a tall task even for an exceptionally deep group that's expected to produce up to a half dozen first-round picks Thursday night.

Receivers face one of the hardest adjustments to the pros because they have to absorb a monster playbook, beat press coverage and elude D-backs who are quicker, stronger and savvier.

Sometimes the gamble pays off sometimes it doesn't.

"One of the things that makes it tough to evaluate is that there's so much difference playing at the National Football League level because of all the defenses we see and all the adjustments they have to make," said long-time talent evaluation expert Gil Brandt, a Pro Football Hall of Famer.

Quarterback is the only position with a steeper learning curve, Brandt suggested.

"These guys have to do a lot more things in the NFL as far as adjustments — and do it quickly," he said. "And the other thing is separation. There's a lot of guys that can run fast but they can't separate."

Mark Dominik, a SiriusXM NFL Radio host and former Buccaneers general manager, said receivers go from facing "18-, 19- and 20-year-old young men who aren't as strong or as physical as they're going to end up being" to "going up against a 29-year-old man and it's a huge difference.

"I think that's why you see receivers bust, just because of the different player they're going against."

That is starting to change, however.

Teams are more willing than ever to bypass the old wait-and-

watch standby for a plug-and-play approach with bigger, faster, quicker pass-catchers coming out.

Calvin Ridley and D.J. Moore made big splashes in 2018, followed by Deebo Samuel, DK Metcalf, Marquise Brown, Terry McLaurin and A.J. Brown, who wasted no time establishing their credentials last season.

"Last year was a good year in terms of a bunch of rookies coming in and having a lot of success, but if you look over the last several years, that second- and third-round receiver group has arguably been better than the first-round group," said NFL draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah.

"The challenge in scouting the position is it's almost like two different games for college and the NFL in terms of what routes you're asked to run, which are very limited at the college level," Jeremiah said.

"You watch a college game on Saturday you're going to see a bunch of slants, hitches and go's. It's very limited in terms of what they ask them to do, very limited in terms of them having to read coverage and sight-adjust their routes. They don't see very much press coverage."

Reading and reacting to coverage and keeping defenders from knocking them off their routes can prove difficult even for receivers who dominated college competition.

"There's just a lot of adjustment there, but I give the NFL credit," Jeremiah said. "I think the last couple of years we're seeing the NFL be a little smarter with the transition period for these guys and figuring out ways they can get them on fly sweeps or bubble screens and just get the ball in their hands and let them make plays, simplifying it a little bit while they're young before they can grow and evolve into everything you

want them to be."

Jeremiah said last season in particular provided "the blueprint to get these guys on the field and improve that track record at the position."

Intersecting this meet-you-halfway approach is an uptick in the athleticism of wide receivers, a product of the multiple-receiver sets now the norm all the way down to youth football.

"I think in today's day and age where these guys were starting 7-on-7, it's almost like AAU basketball," Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said.

"The receivers are so much more advanced in terms of their fundamentals coming into college and the league than maybe they have been in the past. It's really just the NFL offense that will take time.

"So I think there's some guys sitting here today that I think will have a chance to make a pretty immediate impact, and I'm excited about that."

Washington Redskins coach Ron Rivera said today's prospects are primed for the pro game as never before.

Top-end receivers this year include Colorado's Laviska Shenault, Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb, LSU's Justin Jefferson, Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk and Clemson's Tee Higgins.

"This receivers' class is honestly unbelievable in my eyes," Lamb said. "You can't really go wrong with anybody you draft" in any round. "You're going to get a great pick."

Whether in search of a crisp route-runner, a deep threat, a fearless player going over the middle or even taking the direct snap, there's someone for everyone in this year's draft

"I think this class is going to do great things," Shenault said.

Right from the start, no less.

Arsenal players, coaches agree to 12.5% pay cuts for year

By Rob Harris

AP Global Soccer Writer

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta and his players agreed to reduce pay by 12.5% on Monday for the next year to help their club deal with the financial impact of the coronavirus.

No games have been played in the English Premier League for six weeks and the competition is not likely to resume until at least June due to the national lockdown and social distancing.

"There has been a clear appreciation of the grav-

ity of the current situation," Arsenal said, "and a strong desire for players and staff to show their backing for the Arsenal family."

The voluntary reduction in annual earnings by the players and coaches will come into effect next month once the paperwork is completed this week.

"If we meet specific targets in the seasons ahead, primarily linked to success on the pitch, the club will repay agreed amounts," Arsenal club said. "We will be able to make those repayments as hitting these targets,

which the players can directly influence, and will mean our financial position will be stronger."

The north London club has 10 games remaining and is eight points from fourth place with a game in hand on Chelsea as it chases a first Champions League qualification in four years.

Arsenal did reach the Europa League final last season, losing to Chelsea, helping the club generate an annual income of almost 400 million pounds (\$500 million). But the business did lose 32.2 million pounds.

When the Premier

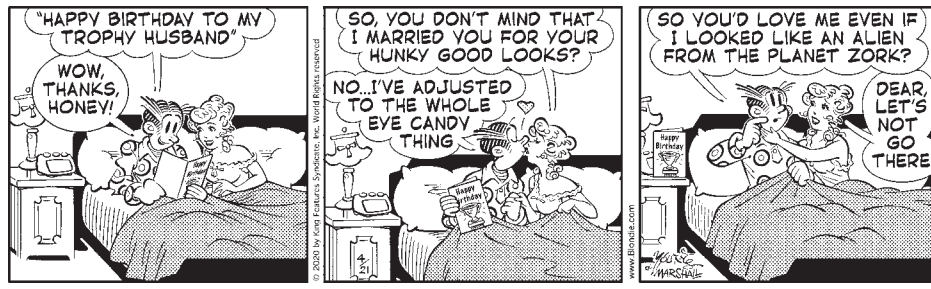
League eventually resumes, games are likely to be held without fans — denying clubs millions of pounds in revenue.

The league remains in talks with the government about when player training and games can restart, with the national lockdown in place until at least May 7.

"We have been clear throughout all of it that the government will not consent to events taking place unless we can be sure it is safe to do so," said Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden, whose cabinet brief covers sport.

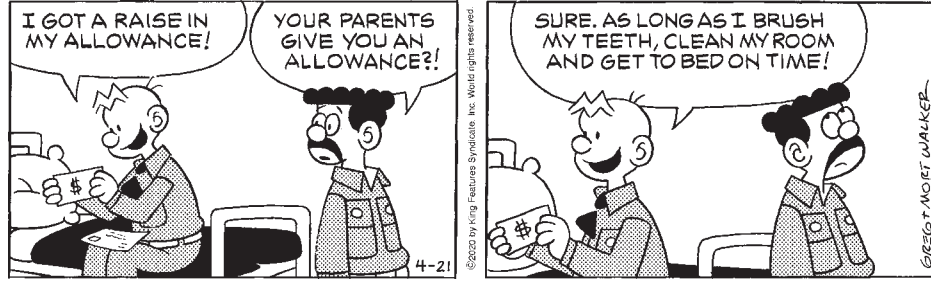
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT, GREG AND BRIAN WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



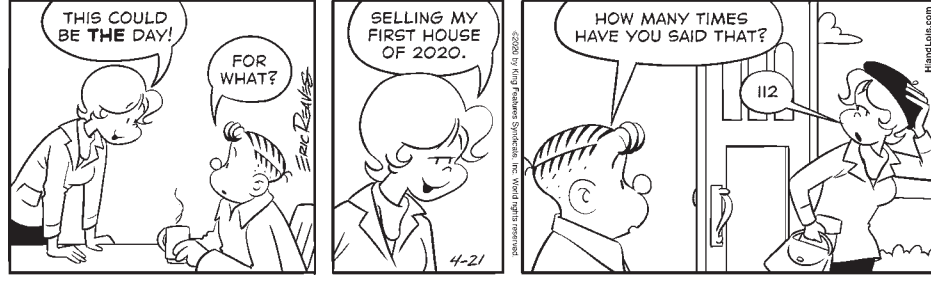
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



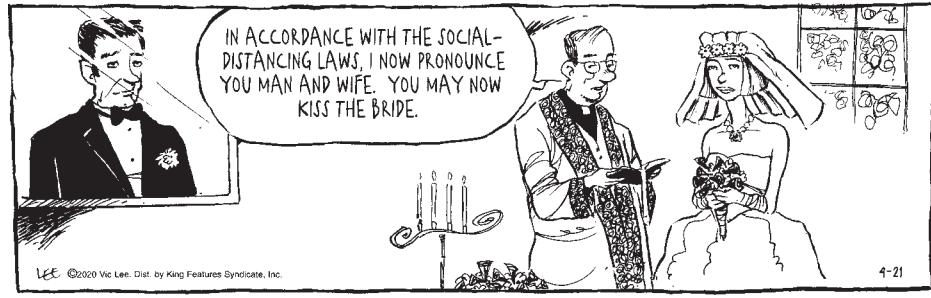
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



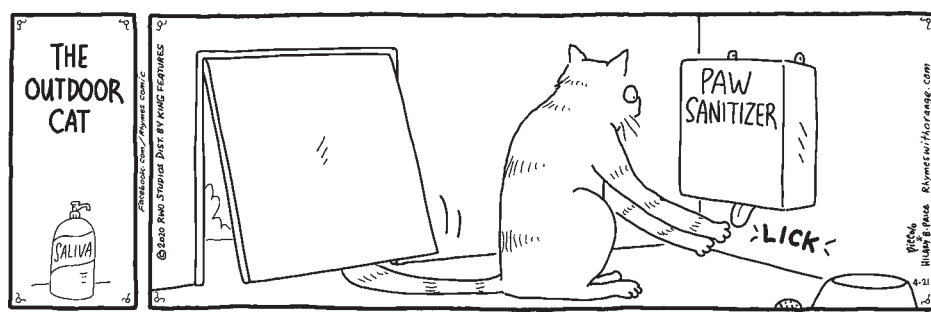
PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



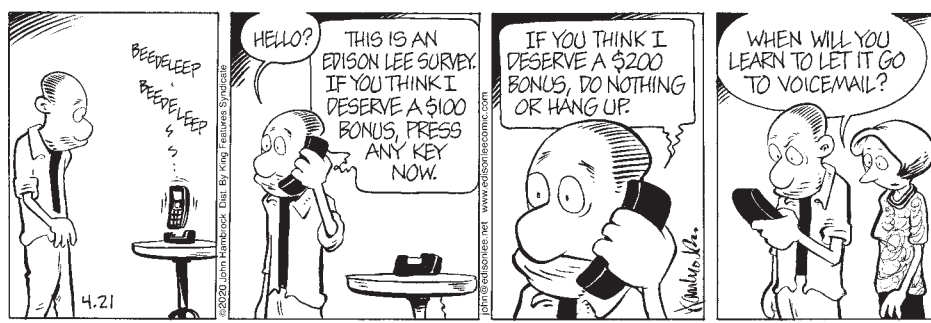
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



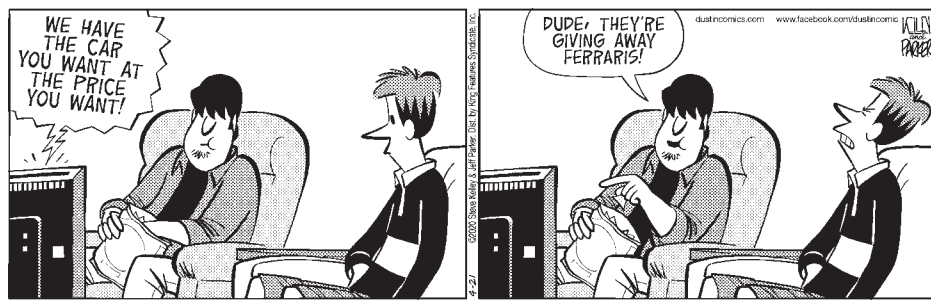
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



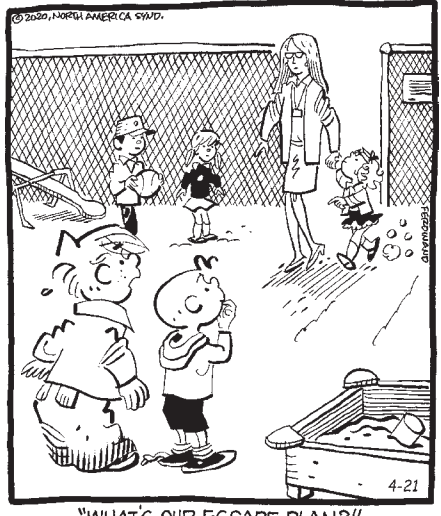
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Was overly fond
 - 1 Wonder-land visitor
 - 6 Extra
 - 11 Did a yard job
 - 12 Grottos
 - 13 Stamp collector
 - 15 — Vegas
 - 16 — Salvador
 - 17 One — time
 - 18 Make better
 - 20 Young one
 - 21 Horse doctor
 - 22 Had on
 - 23 Madrid mister
 - 26 Radials, e.g.
 - 27 Rowing team
 - 28 Ravine
 - 29 Unrefined
 - 30 Made fresh
 - 34 Battleship letters
 - 35 Annoy
 - 36 In the style
 - 37 Coin collector
 - 40 Old car part
 - 41 TV's O'Donnell
 - 42 Comic Youngman
- DOWN**
- 1 Plentiful
 - 2 Lindsay of "Mean Girls"
 - 3 "Wouldn't that be great!"
 - 4 Animation frame
 - 5 "Lou Grant" star
 - 6 Play part
 - 7 Buddy
 - 8 Ace, e.g.
 - 9 Do
 - 10 Manor settings
 - 11 Diplomatic skill
 - 12 State frankly
 - 13 Use a sponge on
 - 14 Compress
 - 15 Sign of error
 - 16 Cronkite, for one
 - 17 Stein's kin
 - 18 Start of an idea
 - 19 Fraught with peril
 - 20 Jeans measure
 - 21 Cow of commercials
 - 22 Out of style
 - 23 Travel stop
 - 24 Overly

P	A	L	O		A	L	T	O	
B	O	R	O	N		B	E	E	P
A	U	D	I	E		A	T	R	I
D	R	E	S	S	E	S	E	N	S
G	I	N		T	R	E	S	S	E
E	N	T	R	E		E	A	S	Y
				O	P	A	R	T	
S	A	P	S		D	E	S	I	G
P	R	E	S	S	E	S		N	E
O	A	T		C	R	E	S	S	E
I	B	I	Z	A		A	L	I	K
L	I	T	E	R		L	O	D	E
C	E	D	E		S	E	E	D	

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
							12				
13						14					
15					16				17		
18			19						20		
			21				22				
23	24	25					26				
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42									43		

4-21

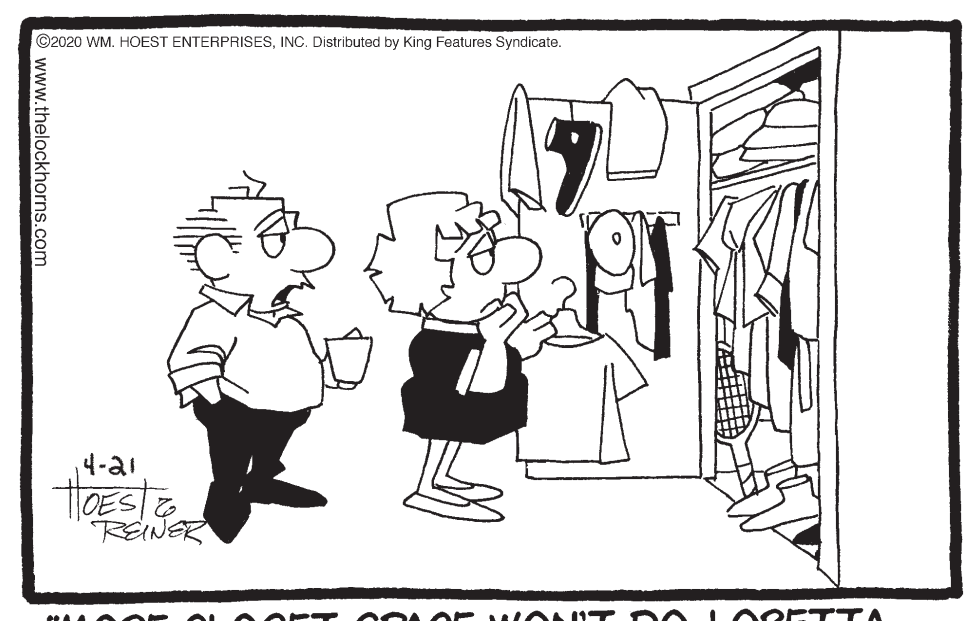
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT & RICK KIRKMAN



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

4/21

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/14

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Sedalia Parks & Recreation Department will accept sealed bids for TENNIS COURT REPAIR/RESURFACING until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at the Parks & Recreation Office, 1500 W. 3rd St., Sedalia, MO 65301.

Bids will be publicly opened at the Parks Office at or shortly after 10:00 a.m. on the above date.

Information and bid forms may be obtained by calling the Parks & Recreation Office at (660) 826-4930. Any questions should be sent to Director Amy Epple at aeppl@sedaliaparks.com.

All bidders are required to submit their proposal on the printed forms contained in the Contract Documents. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked on the outside "TENNIS COURT REPAIR/RESURFACING" with name of bidder.

A bidders bond for the amount of 5% of the total amount of the bid made payable to the City of Sedalia must accompany each proposal. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive

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Sedalia Park Board
2x-4/21, 22, 2020

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Olympic

From Page 1B

"You have to invite so many athletes from many, many places, which is not very compatible with this COVID-19 infection that is causing a pandemic. Japan might be able to control this disease by next summer. And I wish we could. But I don't think that will happen everywhere on earth."

Japan was spared during the initial stage of the coronavirus outbreak. But cases are now spiking, particularly in Tokyo and other large cities. As of Monday, there were about 12,000 detected infections in

Japan and about 250 deaths. Devi Sridhar, professor of Global Health at the University of Edinburgh, said holding the Olympics may hinge on finding a vaccine.

"I think it all depends on whether we have a vaccine," Sridhar said late last week. "And so I think if you talk to some of the scientists, they're saying we'll have a vaccine by the fall and we can manufacture it quickly and we can get it out to people. If we do, then I'd say, actually, we have a great chance of going ahead with the Olympics."

Sridhar said without a vaccine, the Olympics in 2021 were unlikely. This could also apply to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, which are to open in China in February — just

six months after the Summer Games are to close.

"If it looks in the next few months that a vaccine is proving difficult, that actually it has massive side effects or it's not effective or we're not actually building immunity in individuals, then I think it'll (Olympics) have to be delayed," Sridhar said.

Dr. Ali S. Khan, the dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, told The Associated Press in an email that even without a vaccine it may be possible to go ahead.

"Fifteen months is plenty of time for public health to wrap around this problem even without a vaccine or drug," Khan said, suggesting the creativity of

the "medicoindustrial complex" would tackle the problem.

"This handheld personal testing devices the way we test for blood sugar," Khan said.

He also said it might take some "rethinking" of the Olympics in terms "venues, backend, athletes, and spectators."

The Olympics draw 11,000 athletes, with 4,400 Paralympians also attending — all the athletes with large staffs of trainers, coaches and support teams. Athletes are to stay in a sprawling housing complex on Tokyo Bay. The Olympics draw thousands of foreign visitors, and depend on air travel and hundreds of hotels.

IOC member John Coates, who has overseen the preparations of the Tokyo Olympics,

said last week the IOC believes it has given itself "as much time as possible." But he acknowledged the possibility of unprecedented changes.

"It may be there is still an issue about the number of people congregating and those things, testing on athletes," Coates said. "It's too early to say."

Japan is officially spending \$12.6 billion or organize the Olympics, although a government audit board put the figure at twice that. All but \$5.6 billion is taxpayer money.

Local estimates say the postponement will cost between \$2 billion and \$6 billion with Japanese governments picking up almost all the bills.

Video journalist Neil Barker in London contributed to this report.

Draft

From Page 1B

10. Cleveland Browns would love to get left tackle here. They haven't been secure there since Joe Thomas, the best player at the position of last decade, hung it up.

MEKHI BECTON, OT, LOUISVILLE

11. New York Jets GM Joe Douglas has vowed to get protector and playmaker for QB Sam Darnold. Best wide-out in this deep draft at that position is available, and coach Adam Gase is drooling. But the quality of blockers in second next round is too much lower to pass on ...

TRISTAN WIRFS, OT, IOWA

12. Las Vegas Raiders also will select at No. 19. Packaging their two picks to move up is not out of question, but going here will net them ...

JERRY JEUDY, WR, ALABAMA

13. San Francisco (from Indianapolis) How nice. Go to Super Bowl, then make deal for this spot to go with later pick. Niners want dynamic target for Jimmy Garoppolo to go with last year's breakthrough rookie, Deebo Samuel.

HENRY RUGGS III, WR, ALABAMA

14. Tampa Bay That soon-to-be 43-year-old quarterback who came in from up north will appreciate this left tackle as bodyguard.

ANDREW THOMAS, OT, GEORGIA

15. Denver Broncos had productive second half of 2019,

believe they can push toward top of AFC West dominated by Chiefs. Dynamic playmaker helps.

CEEDEE LAMB, WR, OKLAHOMA

16. Atlanta Pass rush has disappeared, as has most of Atlanta's defense. Dan Quinn's job depends on quick turnaround by that unit.

K'LAVON CHAISSON, EDGE, LSU

17. Dallas Cowboys also are in market for someone to get to opposing QBs, and also could use boost in secondary. Regardless, they go defense here.

C.J. HENDERSON, CB, FLORIDA

18. Miami (from Pittsburgh) Dolphins got their passer, and with their second of trio of first-rounders, they can't pass on protection for Herbert — from one of his college opponents no less.

AUSTIN JACKSON, OT, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

19. Las Vegas (from Chicago) Having grabbed outside threat at receiver, it's time for Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden to fill hole at linebacker. Some might see this as reach. We don't.

PATRICK QUEEN, LB, LSU

20. Jacksonville (from Los Angeles Rams) Time for that offensive tackle mentioned above for Jags.

JOSH JONES, OT, HOUSTON

21. Philadelphia Eagles showed tons of gumption winning NFC East with battered roster. They've made plenty of

off season changes, and find need for fast guys: cornerbacks and wide-outs. Go with D-back here.

A.J. TERRELL, CB, CLEMSON

22. Minnesota (from Buffalo) Pick acquired for WR Stefon Diggs, which could wind up in replacement for Diggs.

JUSTIN JEFFERSON, WR, LSU

23. New England Grab QB of future here with Tom Brady off to Tampa? Patriots coach believes he could win with Ryan Leaf.

KENNETH MURRAY, LB, OKLAHOMA

24. New Orleans Few teams have as talented a roster as Saints. So they can look ahead at their most important offensive position.

JORDAN LOVE, QB, UTAH STATE

25. Minnesota With Diggs replaced, time to address secondary. Another Crimson Tide standout in this spot — and Diggs' younger brother to boot.

TREVON DIGGS, CB, ALABAMA

26. Miami (from Houston) Dolphins' third selection following QB Herbert and tackle Jackson. Time to grab defensive help.

YETUR GROSSMATOS, EDGE, PENN STATE

27. Seattle Last decade's best coach-GM combo was Pete Carroll and John Schneider. Their first pick of this decade is ...

TEE HIGGINS, WR, CLEMSON

28. Baltimore NFL's top team in regular season has few weaknesses. One worth

looking at is linebacker, where there's no Ray Lewis or Terrell Suggs on board.

ZACK BAUN, LB, WISCONSIN

29. Tennessee After falling one win short of AFC title, Mike Vrabel bolsters defense. That could be on Titans line now without Jurrell Casey, or secondary missing Logan Ryan.

KRISTIAN FULTON, CB, LSU

30. Green Bay Real nice value pick here for Packers' defense.

A.J. EPEUSA, EDGE, IOWA

31. San Francisco Another chance to enhance strong roster. With Ruggs in hand, future replacement for standout LT Joe Staley

might make sense but also is reach. Instead ...

ROSS BLACKLOCK, DT, TCU

32. Kansas City Super Bowl champs, after 50-year drought,

know they need help in backfield behind Patrick Mahomes.

D'ANDRE SWIFT, RB, GEORGIA

AP Sports Writer Jay Cohen contributed.

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Virus

From Page 1B

David Carter, a professor in the sports business school at Southern California, said there is a difference between a sports fan and a sports consumer. The latter is more likely to return whenever fans are allowed into venues.

"I can't imagine that the sports consumers, or you might call them the committed fans or the hardcore fans, they're not going to stay away for a year," Carter said. "They're champing at the bit right now."

Baseball's TV deal averages about \$1.5 billion annually and runs through next year, and the NBA is roughly half-way through a nine-year deal that pays about \$2.6 billion each year. The NHL's rights deal is just \$2 billion total for 10 years — an average of \$200 million per season.

Carter wondered if owners and league officials are weighing TV money that comes with resuming play against the lost revenue of empty stadiums and arenas.

"Right now, are the media dollars at permanent risk or they just at risk of being deferred?" Carter asked. "And I would argue that because these teams and leagues are working with their media partners as that, as partners, it's

more likely that they'll come up with a workaround that might not be ideal, but might be better than the optics of having to move forward with fans in the building and protecting the turnstile revenue that they would have otherwise made."

College football is facing its own set of questions, including whether students will be allowed back on campuses and when. The sport is critical to nearly all athletic department budgets and officials are bracing for significant dips in revenue even if games are played.

"If public health officials say it's safe to return large events, I don't think it's realistic that everybody is going to feel good about coming to games," Baylor athletic director Mack Rhoades said. "And then, because of the economy, people are going to be impacted and not everybody is going to be able to afford a ticket."

Among other findings in the poll, most fans thought U.S. pro sports leagues acted at the right time to suspend their seasons. The vast majority also agreed that the International Olympic Committee didn't move too quickly in postponing the Tokyo Games until the summer of 2021.

About 70% of respondents said the NFL shouldn't start in the fall, even with social distancing. And 76% said they would have the same interest in watching live sports on TV even if fans are not in the stands.

AP Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins in Fort Worth, Texas, contributed to this report.