

LAWSUIT FILED

Missouri attorney general sues to stop school mask mandates • News 4A

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Top 50 art stolen from State Fair Artist hopes for its return

By Faith Bemiss fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

A detailed drawing created by a local artist came up missing Monday from the Missouri State Fair Top 50 Exhibit. “Bel Air Reflections,” worth \$900 and created by artist Dina Kowal, of Warsaw, was stolen from the Fair on Monday. Kowal is requesting the artwork be returned with no questions asked. Kowal posted

on Facebook about the missing art, stating she went to pick it up and it wasn’t there. “I’m still numb,” her post said. “This is not a small piece (15-by-21-inches with the frame). The upstairs doors of the Fine Art Building were locked. Only artists should have been in the building, and none of them would have mistaken it for their own. See ART | 8A



PHOTO COURTESY OF DINA KOWAL

A Missouri State Fair Top 50 entry, “Bel Air Reflections,” worth \$900 and created by artist Dina Kowal, was stolen from the Fair on Monday. Kowal, of Warsaw, said she hopes the drawing will be returned due to its sentimental value. She will ask no questions.

Green Ridge returns to classes for 2021-22 year

By Ryan Sheehan ryans@sedaliademocrat.com

Along with La Monte and Pettis County R-V (Northwest) school districts, Tuesday marked the first day of school for the Green Ridge School District. Having been out and about around the school, Green Ridge Superintendent Jamie Burkhart noted it is exciting to see everybody returning and back learning. “Looked like a lot of smiles, lot of giggles, lot of laughter, you know, in the halls,” she said. “Our students are greeting each other once again.” She explained she saw several new students get paired up nicely with current students, this way the new students can

get an idea of how the school works. “My perception of everything is that it’s been an extremely good start to the school year,” she said. “Very positive start.” Unlike the beginning of last school year, Burkhart explained face masks are optional at this time for the school district. “We did consider all of the options,” she said. “It is extremely important to the majority of this community to have that as a choice. So, at this point, with the numbers and information we currently have within our community, the COVID numbers that we have within our Green Ridge community, that is why we have masks optional at this time.” See CLASSES | 8A



PHOTOS BY SKYE MELCHER | DEMOCRAT

Dr. Doug Kiburz announces the launch of MentorTown USA during the Sedalia Chamber After Hours meeting Tuesday evening. MentorTown is a program that helps students get a jumpstart into career development and planning.

MentorTown USA launches nationwide for students

By Skye Melcher news@sedaliademocrat.com

The Forty-Hour Internship Tryouts (FIT) program is expanding its services and demographic into MentorTown USA with its national launch hosted Tuesday evening during Chamber After Hours. MentorTown USA is a program that allows students to start career planning earlier in life through community program opportunities in elementary school, an evaluation of skills and talents at the junior high level, and the FIT Program for high school level students.

Superintendents from multiple school districts joined the meeting to talk about how they are going to integrate MentorTown USA into their home districts. According to the Chairman of the National Institute of Career Development Dr. Doug Kiburz, the MentorTown USA program is made to mimic what many other countries across the world have been doing for years.



State Rep. Brad Pollitt, R-Sedalia, talks about how his daughter joined the FIT program in high school and how much it helped her.

“Europe has been doing this for pretty much forever, towards junior high they start separating kids out for different careers, academic wise, apprenticeships, so we’re just behind in that regard,” Kiburz said. “We’re starting to catch up a little bit, people started to realize how important it is.” The first tier of the program recommends caretakers such as parents or guardians of kindergarten students receive a curriculum that consists of a list of opportunities that interest them or where they can develop skills. Around the junior high level is when students would start taking evaluations of their skills and talents so they can start building a transcript of activities, academics, awards, or volunteer work. Kiburz said many countries around the world begin guiding their youth at a young age toward academic, service, or alternative careers by this early evaluation and it seems to be working well for them. Many of these countries offer specialized schools for a certain career path that a student can attend instead of the American way of four-year degrees. The third tier would be the FIT internship opportunity that allows students to experience a 40-hour internship in a career that they are interested in. See MENTOR | 7A

Bothwell audit reveals financial upturn

By Chris Howell chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Tuesday evening’s Bothwell Regional Health Center Board of Trustees meeting held good news as the hospital’s annual audit showed a positive financial turnaround. “I’m very pleased with the financial results of this last year given that we had a full 12 months in a pandemic,” said Bothwell CEO Lori Wightman. “We made real progress in digging out of a financial hole that we

were in two years ago.” Bothwell is required to conduct the annual audit due to its status as a hospital and during the board education portion of the meeting, the board was briefed by BKD, Baird, Kurtz and Dobson, an accounting firm of Springfield. “It’s basically a \$4.7 million improvement over the prior year,” Bothwell Chief Financial Officer Steve Davis said. “In the prior year we lost \$5.5 million, most of that was COVID related. Our loss this year was going to be \$848,570. Part of that is because we did receive some CARES Act funds that helped us through the COVID, part of the audit involves that, and they found that we could justify all of the COVID funds that we did receive.” Bothwell employees carefully enter all information into a portal and BKD verifies that all the COVID-related expenses or lost revenue may be covered by CARES Act funds. “We closed the books for the year at a \$3.8 million loss and we ended up with just \$848,570 loss, basically a \$3 million swing from the end of the year,” Davis said. “Most of that is in relation to our investments for the retirement plan. The other big thing was they reclassified \$627,000 that was recorded last year at the audit time into this year, so it’s just moving it from last year to this year based on the guidance from the federal government on COVID fund usage.” See BOTHWELL | 7A



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TIGHT-KNIT GREMLINS PREPARING FOR SOCCER SEASON

• Sports 1B

OBITUARIES

John Barton Hern

John Barton Hern, 62, of Malta Bend, MO, died Sunday, August 22, 2021, at his home.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 28, 2021, at Gumbos Point in Malta Bend. A second Celebration of Life will be held 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 29, 2021, at Liberty Park in Sedalia. Memorials are suggested to family choice. Friends may sign the online register book at www.campbell-lewis.com

Born August 29, 1958, in Adair County, MO, he was the son of the late Daniel Eugene Hern and Betty Jean Franklin Hern. He retired from Coreslab. He enjoyed fishing and going to the wildlife area to watch wildlife. The love of his life was his grandchildren.

Survivors include three children, Earin Hern of Lamar, MO, Jonathan Hern (Kaitlynn) of Sedalia and Betty Hern (Dillon Wexell) of Malta Bend; eight grandchildren, Derek Dobbins, Onyx and Serenity Cobb, Lilly Beth Hern, Thomas Sinnett, Brooklynn Hern, Dillon Wexell and Rylie Wexell; eleven siblings, Jean Wahl-Berjarano, Mary Garcia-Berjarano, Shirley Serrano, Mike Hern, Rusty McPherson, Floyd Hern, Katherine Hern, David Hern, Angela Hern, Tracy Diaz and Daniel Jeremiah Hern; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by one brother, Daniel Hern; and one sister, Melinda Perez.



Mark Stephenson

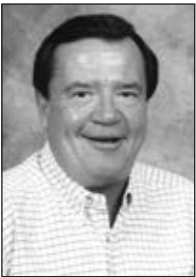
Mark Stephenson, 71, of Columbia, Missouri went to heaven on August 17, 2021. Mark will be so truly missed by his family, friends and radio audience.

This well-known Radio Host spanned the air waves for more than 50 years and had a great following of listeners and friends. His Jack Daniels personality exuded frankness and honesty. He had a Great love for God and this country, and he so valued his friendships. Mark enjoyed people, life, love, and laughter. His sense of humor never left him even during his illness, he brought much laughter and smiles to so many. He was warm and courageous and carried a true belief that we should stand up for what we believe in and do more for others.

Mark's greatest love was his family, his Stepchildren, Jeffrey, Jennifer and Justin and his five Grandchildren whom he adored, Ethan, Emily, William, Christopher and Katie. His sister Jan and brother Brad were both near and dear to his heart

His wife of 34 years, Teresa Stephenson, was his first priority and Mark truly felt blessed for the times and years they spent together.

Mark I will love you forever, forever and ever. Amen.



DEATH NOTICE

Dunham

John A. Dunham, Sr., 77, of Versailles, died Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Scrivner-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Versailles.

Visitation will be from 1:30 p.m. until service time at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the direction of Scrivner-Page-Dady Funeral Home.

CRASH REPORTS

Two men injured in Benton accident

Harold D. James, 71, of Deepwater, received moderate injuries and Lowell R. Swisher, 71, of Warsaw, received serious injuries at 1:15 p.m. Friday in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 2014 Ford F-150 driven west on state Route 7 was struck by a 2008 Ford Escape driven by Swisher, who failed to yield.

Both men were wearing a seat belt. James was transported by Warsaw-Lincoln Ambulance District to Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton. Swisher was transported by LifeFlight Eagle to University Hospital in Columbia.

Blue Springs man injured in Saline accident

Riley D. Burris, 18, of Blue Springs, received moderate injuries at 2:20 a.m. Monday in a Saline County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Burris was driving west on I-70 in a 2008 Dodge Avenger when he lost control, causing the vehicle to leave the roadway.

Burris, who was wearing a seat belt, was transported to Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence by Sweet Springs Ambulance District.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

FUNERALS

Prall, Donald Lee

10 a.m. today at Speaks Buckner Chapel in Buckner. Arrangements are under the direction of Speaks Buckner Chapel.

Ward, Cheryl Lyn

1 p.m. today at the Stover Cemetery. Arrangements under the direction of Scrivner-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Stover.

Lehmann, Cheryl Colene

6 p.m. today at Rea Funeral Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Martin, Robert "Robby" Eugene Jr.

10 a.m. Thursday at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heritage Funeral Chapel.

Poppe, Leonard B.

11 a.m. Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Hoard, Charles L.

3 p.m., Thursday at Davis-Miller Funeral Home in Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Luetjen, Wilbert Harvey

11 a.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home.

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 Aug. 22

1:27 a.m.: Stewart Allen Dennis, 41, of the 1000 block of West 10th Street, was arrested in the 3500 block of Snyder Road for driving while intoxicate and driving with a suspended license. An officer conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle driving in both southbound lanes of South Limit Avenue. The officer made contact with the driver and detected the odor of intoxicants on the driver's breath. During the investigation, it was determined the driver was intoxicated and had a suspended license. He was taken to the SPD where he refused to give a breath sample so a search warrant was obtained and he was taken to Bothwell Regional Health Center for a blood draw. The driver was then taken to the Pettis County Jail.

Aug. 23

6:19 a.m.: Edward D. Miller, 58, of Sedalia, was arrested in the 1700 block of South Osage Avenue for possession of a controlled substance. Officers were dispatched to a possible burglary. During the investigation, a methamphetamine pipe with residue was located. The subject was arrested and taken to the Pettis County Jail where he was placed on a 24-hour hold pending the filing of state charges.

Incidents Aug. 23

11:11 a.m.: An officer responded to a business in the 600 block of East 14th Street regarding a theft that occurred between Aug. 19 and the time of the call. The value of the stolen items was \$1,000.

1:15 p.m.: Lori L. Hadley, 49, of Sedalia, was issued a municipal court summons near the intersection of East 17th Street and South Marvin Avenue for pedestrian walking along roadway. An officer responded to the intersection for a report of a subject walking in the road, approaching vehicles and walking through yards. The subject was arrested and taken to the Pettis County Jail but released with a summons without being booked.

2:39 p.m.: An officer took a report in the SPD lobby regarding theft from a vehicle that may have occurred at several locations in Sedalia city limits.

The value of the property is \$350.

Pettis County Sheriff's Office Incidents Aug.23

9:42 p.m.: Deputies were dispatched to the 25000 block of Tanglenook Run in Sedalia for a drowning. After all life-saving measures were attempted, the male victim was pronounced deceased by Pettis County Coroner Robert Smith.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Aug. 20

3:47 p.m.: Adam M. Moore, 37, of Cole Camp, was arrested in Pettis County for felony warrant probation and parole, felony warrant Pettis County, felony possession of controlled substance, felony resisting arrest, felony unlawful use of a weapon, failure to display registration, and no insurance. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold.

10:50 p.m.: Drake L. Ealey, 21, of Independence, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

Aug. 21

12:01 a.m.: Jeffrey L. Morris, 54, of Sedalia, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated, no headlights, and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

11:43 p.m.: Cody A. Warden, 29, of Mora, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

Aug. 22

12:21 a.m.: Mary G. Fields, 57, of Stover, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

1:17 a.m.: Alexa M. Rizzo, 19, of Sedalia, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated, speeding, and failure to stop at a stoplight. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

8:48 p.m.: Jose L. Coronado, 36, of Marshall, was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and released.

Compiled by Chris Howell and Nicole Cooke.

Democrat Salutes



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHYLLIS CARDWELL

Phyllis Cardwell, of Sedalia, took the Democrat on vacation recently to the 1,348-foot long prehistoric effigy mound, The Great Serpent Mound in Ohio. The mound has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Photo Submissions

We invite readers to submit photos for "Community Snapshot," which features images of local residents and events. Images must be current, in JPEG format and must be the property of the person submitting the photo. Please include your name, city and a contact telephone number with your submission (phone numbers will not be published). Please also include the names of all persons in the photo and any additional information. Email your submissions to news@sedaliademocrat.com.

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JOY 40% OFF

Includes fabric. Does not include needle art, candy, food, light sets, light accessories or Scotch® tape

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12 in - 12 ft

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Does not include custom designs

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CLASSROOM DECOR

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From Making the Grade™
Includes fabric

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SETS & ACCESSORIES

25% OFF

Includes Mini Lights, C9s, Net Lights, LED Lights and Battery Operated Light Strands

FLORAL 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled "floral accents"

Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops
Flowering and greenery

Faux Fruit & Vegetables

Potted Trees & Plants

Dried Naturals

Floral Stems, Bushes & Arrangements
Floral and greenery
Does not include custom designs

HOBBIES

PUZZLES & BOXED MODEL KITS

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Does not include Seasonal Department or "Your Price" Items

YARN & NEEDLE ART 30% OFF

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Cotton floss & craft thread packs, nylon, acrylic and cotton crochet threads

Premium Poly Foam, Nu-Foam® & Smart Foam
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Poly-fil® 100% Polyester Fiberfill
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Includes Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts, Baseball & Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Infant & Toddler T-Shirts and Creepers
Does not include Cricut® branded apparel

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THE MARKED PRICE*

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Includes Cake, Cookie and Cupcake Essentials

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16 oz

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All colors
Does not include custom frames

All Pen & Marker Sets
Priced \$9.99 & Up
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Super Value Pack Canvas
ALWAYS **10.99** per pack
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11x14 - 7 pack
16x20 - 5 pack

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Color Gallery™, Bead Treasures® and Czech Glass Beads

Metal Gallery™
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Timeline by Bead Treasures®
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ImpressArt®
Create a personalized look with stamping tools, blanks and accessories

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30% OFF
THE MARKED PRICE*

*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.

621604s

9 women now serving as governors in US, tying a record

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

With Kathy Hochul officially taking the reins as New York's governor, a historic number of women are currently leading U.S. states — a push towards equality and representation that could continue into next year's midterm elections.

There are now nine women serving as governor in the U.S. That ties a record that was set in 2004 and matched in 2007 and 2019, but it's still well shy of gender proportionality.

Taking over on short notice for a scandal-plagued predecessor in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Hochul began her tenure Tuesday with more than enough challenges for a new administration. She also began with an historic opportunity: Hochul is the first woman to hold one of the most prominent governorships in the U.S.

"New York as a whole

has been a tough place for women to break into the highest levels, because there is very much a tight set of powerful gatekeepers," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

"And unfortunately — even in 2021 — women are still seen, in effect, as newcomers," she said.

A century after women gained the right to vote, 19 states still have never been led by a woman. That includes some of the most populous states, such as California, Florida, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Even if it succeeds, California's recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom next month doesn't appear likely to elevate a woman to the state's top job.

Hochul had served as New York's lieutenant governor until succeeding fellow Democrat Andrew Cuomo, who resigned after a decade in

office. Cuomo had faced a potential impeachment battle after an attorney general's investigation said he had sexually harassed or inappropriately touched 11 women. Among other things, Cuomo also had faced a legislative investigation into whether he misled the public last year about COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes.

Hochul pledged "a dramatic change in culture" that will include mandatory ethics courses and improved sexual harassment training for state employees.

"I want people to believe in their government again," Hochul said Tuesday while outlining her top goal.

Hochul already has announced she will seek a full four-year term in 2022.

Taking over in a crisis could benefit her politically, especially since women can face greater scrutiny when running

for office, said Betsy Fischer Martin, executive director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University.

"It gives her an automatic way to shine in the office," Fischer Martin said.

Next year could be a pivotal one for women running for governor. Democratic Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon will be the only female incumbent barred from seeking re-election by term limits. Six male governors also will be term-limited, opening a path to office for fresh candidates from both parties.

In Arizona, where Republican Gov. Doug Ducey can't run again, the field already has several candidates who are women, including Republican state Treasurer Kimberly Yee and Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs. Arizona already holds the record for the most women who have served as gover-

nor — four. Kansas has had three.

In Arkansas, which has never had a woman serve as governor, a high-profile Republican primary pits Attorney General Leslie Rutledge against Sarah Sanders, press secretary for former President Donald Trump and daughter of former Gov. Mike Huckabee. The incumbent, Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, will be termed out.

In 2018, women's political advocates also thought they were primed for success with a record number of candidates for governor. But they did not ultimately set a new record for victories.

Women currently hold 18% of governors' offices — significantly less than this year's new records of 27% of U.S. congressional seats and 31% of state legislative seats. In addition, Vice President Kamala Harris also became the first woman in that role this year.

Part of the challenge in electing women as governors is overcoming stereotypes of men as stronger, more decisive leaders, Walsh said.

Another challenge is deepening the pool of women willing to enter politics, said Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Kansas City, Missouri-based nonprofit United WE.

The organization is coordinating an effort to get more women appointed to positions on state, county and city boards and commissions. It's working with local officials in California, Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania Texas and Washington. The idea is that some women appointed to positions eventually will run for elected offices.

"It's a long game," Doyle said. "But we've got to build the pipeline; we've got to build the bench."

LOCAL BRIEFS

Bothwell to administer booster dose for immunocompromised

Following an order from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Bothwell Regional Health Center has begun administering third doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to certain immunocompromised individuals who have already received the two-dose Pfizer series.

According to the DHSS order, a third dose of the PfizerNBioTech or Moderna vaccines may be administered to moderately to severely immunocompromised people due to a medical condition or combination of immunosuppressive medication or treatments including but not limited to the following:

- Immunocompromised due to solid organ transplant and taking immune-suppressing medications
- Immunocompromised due to active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Immune compromised due to Receipt of CAR-T cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich Syndromes)
- Immunocompromised due to Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Immunocompromised due to "Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress immune response: high dose corticosteroids (i.e. more than 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antineoplastic, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blocker or other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory"

Bothwell currently administers only the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. People who are eligible for the third dose may

receive it at weekly clinics at Bothwell Healing Arts Center and Bothwell Health Center-Truman Lake in Warsaw; by walking in at the Bothwell Walk In Clinic; or by appointment at Bothwell Family Medicine Associates, Bothwell Family Health, Bothwell OB/GYN Associates, Bothwell Internal Medicine and Bothwell TLC Pediatrics.

While eligible individuals will not be required to provide documentation of their health status, they will be required to sign a new COVID-19 consent form as well as a form stating they qualify for the third dose and have received the two-dose series of the Pfizer vaccine. Clinic details and forms can be found at brhc.org/vaccine.

People who received the two-dose series of the Moderna vaccine and are eligible for a third dose should contact the Pettis County Health Center. The order does not apply to those who received the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The state order also indicates that individuals who do not meet the criteria for "moderately to severely immunocompromised" do not need a third dose at this time.

American Institute of Architects to award scholarship

American Institute of Architects Mid-Missouri Chapter will be awarding its annual Roy J. Pallardy Scholarship.

The scholarship recipients will receive a stipend of \$1,000 to use toward his/her architectural education.

Past recipients included students from Jefferson City, Columbia, Sedalia, Lake Ozark and Osage Beach.

The application deadline has been extended to Sept. 30. For more information or to obtain an application, contact Larry Brandhorst, AIA, The Architects Alliance, 631 W. Main St. Jefferson City, Mo. 65101, call 573-636-5000, email lbrandhorst@thearchitectsalliance.com or visit www.aiamid-missouri.com/aiascholarship.

Missouri attorney general sues to stop school mask mandates

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt filed a lawsuit Tuesday that seeks to stop school districts from enforcing mask mandates, requirements aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The action drew a rebuke from President Joe Biden, who finds such lawsuits "unacceptable," his press secretary said Tuesday.

The lawsuit names Columbia Public Schools along with the district's Board of Education and board members, but is a class action lawsuit that "would apply to school districts across the state that have a mask mandate for schoolchildren," said Chris Nuelle, a spokesman for Schmitt.

The new school year began Monday in several districts across the state, and with the delta variant causing a big spike in cases, hospitalizations and deaths, more than four dozen districts are requiring students, teachers and staff to wear face coverings. The lawsuit filed by Schmitt, a Republican, cites the low death rate among school aged children.

"We filed this suit today because we fundamentally don't believe in forced masking, rather that parents and families should have the power to make decisions on masks, based on science and facts," Schmitt said in a news release.

President Joe Biden's believes lawsuits such

as Schmitt's put more children at risk, press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday.

"The president thinks that's completely unacceptable and he has asked his secretary of education, directed I should say, his secretary of education to use all of his authority to help those school districts doing the right thing to ensure every one of their students has access to a fundamental right of safe in-person learning," Psaki said. "This could include a number of considerations but I'll let the secretary to speak to them."

Columbia school district spokeswoman Michelle Baumstark said the district is "extremely disappointed" that Schmidt filed the lawsuit. She said the mask mandate is "not a forever decision" but is currently necessary to keep students safe.

"The decision to file suit against a public school district after a local decision is made in the interest of safety and keeping students in school will waste taxpayer dollars and resources, which are better spent investing in our students. Columbia Public Schools intends to aggressively defend its decision to keep its community and its scholars safe."

Missouri House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, a Springfield Democrat, said in a statement that schools may be forced to close if Schmitt's lawsuit is successful and outbreaks occur. She also noted that

Schmitt is running for U.S. Senate in 2022.

"This lawsuit might help Schmitt win a Republican U.S. Senate primary, but it puts the lives and education of Missouri children in jeopardy," Quade said.

Schmitt successfully sued to stop St. Louis County's mask mandate. He has also filed suits against mask requirements in St. Louis city, Kansas City and Jackson County.

Southwestern Missouri has been the epicenter of this summer's outbreak of COVID-19. But since the delta variant of the virus began its rampage in June, cases have spread across the state. Now, the Bootheel region of southeast Missouri is under siege.

Information on Missouri's COVID-19 dashboard shows that six of the 12 counties with the highest seven-day rates of new cases are in the southeast — Scott, New Madrid, Mississippi, Madison, Jackson and Perry counties.

Cape Girardeau's two hospitals are treating a combined 76 COVID-19 patients, including 24 in intensive care units, according to information from St. Francis Medical Center and Southeast Hospital.

The death toll continues to rise with another 170 deaths reported by the state health department. Of them, 143 were the result of a weekly review of death certificates. One of those deaths was in May, two were in June, 35 were in July and 105 were earlier in August.

The state also cited 27 new deaths, and 1,770 newly confirmed cases. Missouri has reported 618,022 COVID-19 cases overall.

A central Missouri mayor meanwhile pushed for his friend to be given an anti-parasite drug not approved for treating COVID-19.

The Kansas City Star reported that Lake Ozark Mayor Dennis Newberry wrote on Facebook Monday that the friend should be allowed to take ivermectin in a last-ditch effort to save him.

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Correction

In Tuesday's edition, an incorrect weight was listed in "Sale of Champions nets record \$185,948 for Youth in Agriculture." The Grand Champion Steer actually weighed 1,305 pounds. The Democrat apologizes for the error.

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EDITORIAL

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Enjoying the relaxing beaches of Florida

As of this writing, I am in Destin, Florida, sitting on the boardwalk with my grandsons waiting for the boats to come in with their bounties.

If you have never been to Destin, you're missing out. Because our oldest daughter lives here, we have been fortunate to be able to visit multiple times. There are just some things that I never get tired of seeing.



STEPHANIE LEFEVERS
Contributing Columnist

casional alligator.

After parking, there is a short hike up a well-kept ramp that leads to the white sand. When you reach the highest point of the ramp, the brilliant ocean makes its appearance. To me, it's like coming home. There is just something about the beach that makes me so happy.

Maybe it's the salty wind blowing off of the water or the warm sun on my face. It could be the wonder of the tide rolling in and then back out as if to have made a delivery specifically for me. Perhaps it is all of the above.

The fishing boats are beginning to come in now and people are gathering to see who comes in with the biggest catch. It's always a fun time. The kids never seem to lose interest. I'm so happy that there are so many things for them to do that keep them from seeking out mischievous endeavors.

The seafood is incredible and is available in abundance at reasonable prices if you know where to go. It's fun to test the little "hole in the wall" diners. I haven't found one that has disappointed us yet.

But for me, the best part of this area is a town just southeast of Destin called Santa Rosa Beach. It lies between Destin and Panama City Beach and is home to many who work in either of the two larger communities.

Here is where you will find a plethora of National Forest Reserves and Walton County Beaches. My favorite is Grayton Beach.

The entrance is guarded so they can keep track of how many people are on the beach at one time. This ensures the beach is never overcrowded, which is the only way to enjoy the beach.

I have been to a few public beaches where people are elbow to elbow and it's just not fun. There is no way to relax when people are walking over you, kicking sand and playing music that might not be good for little ears (or older ears for that matter).

After passing the guard shack at Grayton Beach, you'll find tall, rolling dunes and small fresh-water ponds that are occupied by the oc-

Before we left Sedalia for our vacation, many people asked if we were afraid of COVID-19. That question puzzled me because COVID-19 is everywhere now. There are "hot spots" but we have had the virus, been vaccinated and know how to wash our hands. I refuse to stop living.

Our time here is winding down and soon we will be back to the same old grind. But one thing that I can tell you with all certainty is this: There is no place like home. Not even the white sand beaches could drag me away from the people I love and love me right back.

Visit sunny Destin sometime if you haven't. Try not to come in August, though. Hurricanes, tropical storms and humidity are not our friends!

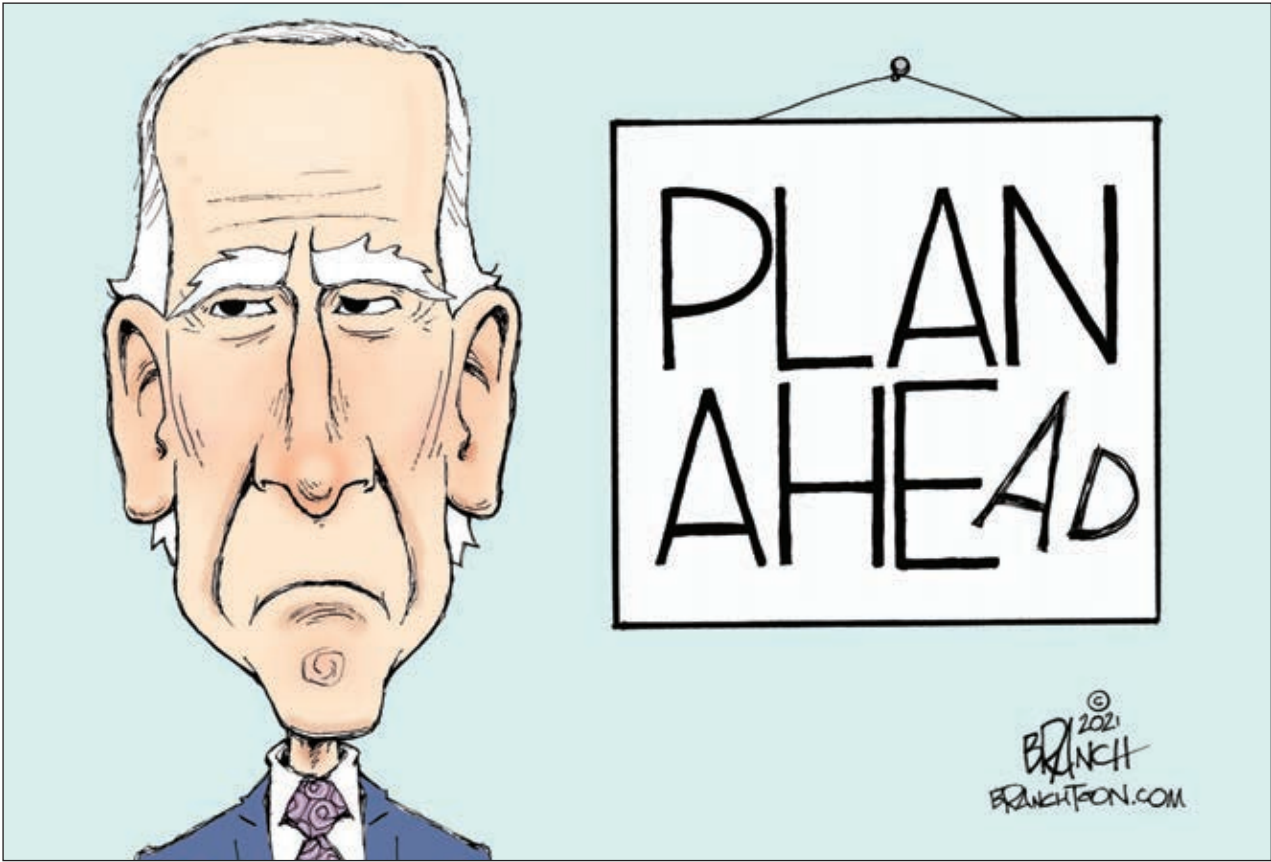
Stephanie Lefevers is a local business owner, former member of the Sedalia 200 Board of Education and a resident of Sedalia for more than 40 years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Masks cannot be compared to Holocaust
Dear Editor:

In regard to the School Board meeting of Aug. 16th, to the speaker who compared mask mandates to the Auschwitz concentration camp or Japanese internment camps during WWII, how could they possibly compare stacks of corpses, crematory ovens, thousands of starving prisoners packed in railway train cars carrying people to their elimination, and the extermination of millions of men, women and children to the wearing of a 3"x7" piece of covering over your face when in public. Asinine — look it up!

Nancy Laurie
Sedalia



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Prosperity in the 1920s was an illusion

After the ravages of the Great War in 1914-1918 and the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1917-1919, a sense of relief, if not euphoria, fell over the United States. The Roaring Twenties roared in, with excessive borrowing and spending in the stock market and bathtub gin in the speak-easies that opened when Prohibition came.

Sedalia was not immune to the feeling that folks should "eat, drink, and be merry." Unfortunately, they did not recognize the consequences attached to that spirit. While Sedalia appeared prosperous, experiencing a building boom, the prosperity was an illusion that fed on itself until it collapsed in the 1930s.

In 1922, workers at the MoPac and the Katy railroads participated in a nationwide rail strike. They were justified in their strike, for the railroad was attempting to cut their hours and thus their already low wages. The railroads were Sedalia's major employer, and according to local historian and banking expert Bill



RHONDA CHALFANT
Contributing Columnist

Claycomb, some 1,800 men were out of work. They were unable to buy goods or pay for services from local merchants, whose businesses were so badly damaged that many closed.

Unemployment in Sedalia was also created by the enactment of Prohibition, which meant that liquor producers, wholesalers, dealers, and saloons closed. Sedalia had one distillery, one brewery, at least one wholesale distributor, and approximately 25 saloons. Each of these paid taxes on the property they owned; they also paid license fees to the city. They employed workers who were paid and who in turn paid

taxes on their property. When these businesses closed and the employees were out of work, the city's economy again suffered.

In addition to the economic stress, even abject poverty, that affected individuals, whether out-of-work employees or unpatronized local businessmen and women, Sedalia showed other signs of an economic downturn.

The local banks were, for the most part, willing to loan money to those who wished to buy more land, which at the time was overpriced. Crop prices had been high during the war, and many believed they would stay high. The agriculture experts recommended planting from fencerow to fencerow.

Unfortunately, neither the economic systems nor Mother Nature complied with the farmers' wishes. After the war crop prices dropped as the demand for produce to feed the troops overseas dropped. In addition, a severe drought hit the Midwest. While Missouri was not as badly af-

ected by the drought as the states to the west, the drought here shriveled crops, leaving the farmers with nothing to sell and no money to pay their mortgages.

The banks that had overextended themselves to lend money to the farmers failed. One county bank — the Bank of Hughesville — failed in 1925. Two Sedalia banks — the Farmers and Mechanics Bank and the American Exchange Bank — closed in 1926. Despite the closing of these banks, Sedalia denied the economic problems it was experiencing, showing what Claycomb calls "an almost blind faith in capitalism and its benefits."

This denial extended until the crisis of the Great Depression hit Sedalia. Next week's column details events of the late 1920s and early 1930s that plunged Sedalia into desperate times.

Rhonda Chalfant is the president of the Pettis County chapter of NAACP and a member of the Pettis County Historical Society.

GUEST COLUMN

Farewell to the Sunday funnies

It was with sadness that I read, the paper will not be running the Sunday funnies anymore.

The funnies were very important to me, and a lot of other people when we were kids. Sunday morning was a time in our house that we waited for that loud "thump" on the front porch that signaled that the heavy Sunday paper had arrived. I do, however, understand why the paper is taking this action; still, I will miss the colorful pages that I have known for all these years.

The funnies have changed through the years. In the 1940s, the funny papers featured Lil Abner and his too shapely wife, Alley OOP, and Little Orphan Annie with her scary round white eyes. There was also Dick Tracy with his



JACK MILLER
Guest Columnist

square jaw. I loved reading them all. During the war in the early '40s, a lot of the heroes fought the Nazis and the Japanese. Kids learned a lot about the war and other problems of the world through the Sunday funnies and comic books.

The Sunday paper was important to me for another reason too. When I was a kid, one of the men who delivered the Sunday paper

hired my neighbors, the McCoy boys, to help him deliver the paper out of an old panel truck, and they talked him into hiring me too. It was my first paying job, and I believe I made \$0.50 for the privilege of getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to throw the heavy paper out of the back of that panel truck.

Sunday was also the only day my father was not working, and the Sunday paper was one of the few things the family was able to enjoy together. The paper would eventually be spread out all over the living room, with mom and dad reading the hard news and my sister and I fighting over the funnies. When I say read, I really mean absorb because I would read the colorful pages over and over until I could almost recite its

contents word for word.

The reason the funnies and comic books got so much attention back then was there was no television to turn on anytime you felt bored. I guess that might explain the trouble the papers have in today's media market. There is too much instant news and entertainment at our fingertips.

I hope the day never comes when print media becomes extinct. There is something about the feel of a book or a folded newspaper that I do not get from a TV screen. As someone who longs for the bump of a heavy Sunday paper again, I will miss its thinner cousin.

Jack Miller is a long-time Sedalia resident, former radio news reporter and former Democrat contributing columnist.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest.

Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

- All letters to be considered for publication must include the name and address of the writer and a daytime telephone number where the writer may be reached during normal business hours.
- All letters must be signed. The name and hometown of the writer will be published.
- Letters must be 250 words or less.
- Letters may be mailed to: *Letters to the editor, Sedalia Democrat, 700 S. Massachusetts Ave., Sedalia, Mo., 65301 or emailed to news@sedaliademocrat.com.*

Mentor

From Page 1A

“They explore that in their junior high and high school years and have an internship and figure out ‘do I want to do this type of career, how long does it take to go to school, how much is it going to pay,’” Kiburz said. Students could participate in the internship and figure out plans in that certain interest or go back and replan because it was something they weren’t interested. The 40-hour internship allows them to learn it isn’t the right fit while in high school instead of going to college, switching majors multiple times and accumulating a large

amount of debt. “As a district, I don’t want us to be measured by what we’re doing in school but what our kids are doing when they leave us and how well they fit into the world once they leave us,” said Lafayette County C-1 Superintendent Aaron Knipmeyer. The plan for MentorTown USA is to fix the way the world has prepared youth for the workforce with the FIT program becoming the model across the state. Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce President Will Weibert, who is also the Democrat’s publisher, said the Chamber is a supporter of any type of program that helps local businesses and the workforce that backs them.

“MentorTown USA is starting the career conversation early with students to set them on a successful path,” Weibert said. “These students will make up our future workforce and we hope MentorTown USA can help prepare them for whatever industry they may choose.” MentorTown USA is providing a six-step career development process that changed the way postsecondary education and training institutions prepared students for the workforce. For more information about MentorTown USA or to start your child’s six-step career development, visit www.mentortownusa.com. *Skye Melcher can be reached at 660-826-1000.*

Bothwell

From Page 1A

Next Wightman announced that a vaccine mandate for employees would not be imposed at this time. “Our infection committee finished their discernment process today around what our recommendation would be for the COVID vaccine,” Wightman said. “We decided that we’re not going to mandate it, we’re going to continue to highly recommend that our colleagues and coworkers get vaccinated. Those who are not fully vaccinated will be weekly tested, a rapid antigen COVID test will be performed. We’re going to continue the mask requirement for all regardless of vaccination status. When we have reached 80% of being fully vaccinated, all people will be eligible for either a prize drawing or an incentive, we still haven’t decided what that will be. Everyone that works here will be eligible for that prize drawing when we reach 80%. We’re currently at 60.2%. This will start Sept. 27 and we’re going to review this quarterly so the next time we review will be Nov. 23.” The hospital’s new linear accelerator has

been installed and will be turned on next week. Substantial hospital income was missing due to the lack of a linear accelerator but with training this week and 10 patients scheduled next week, revenue should be back to normal soon. Patients from Marshall’s Fitzgibbon Hospital should be visiting Bothwell in September as Fitzgibbon installs its new accelerator. Finally, the hospital received notice it had been selected as one of three Missouri hospitals to get temporary infusion clinics to be operated by SLS out of Texas. The infusion clinic will be opened this week and will provide all equipment, staff and supplies to administer monoclonal antibody infusions to patients dealing with COVID. Chief Nursing Officer Rose McMullin said the infusion center and additional staff should prove very helpful with the rising numbers of COVID patients. “The infusion center will be doing all of the infusions,” McMullin said, “so that will help.” The Infusion Center will not be a profit center for the hospital but will be a community service. “They bring all their supplies, all their equipment, all their staff. All we’re doing is supplying the space,” said McMullin. *Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.*

House passes bill bolstering landmark voting law

By Brian Slodysko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats passed legislation Tuesday that would strengthen a landmark civil rights-era voting law weakened by the Supreme Court over the past decade, a step party leaders tout as progress in their quest to fight back against voting restrictions advanced in Republican-led states. The bill, which is part of a broader Democratic effort to enact a sweeping overhaul of elections, was approved on a 219-212 vote, with no Republican support. Its passage was praised by President Joe Biden, who said it would protect a "sacred right" and called on the Senate to "send this important bill to my desk." But the measure faces dim prospects in that chamber, where Democrats do not have enough votes to overcome opposition from Senate Republicans, who have rejected the bill as "unnecessary" and a Democratic "power grab."

That bottleneck puts Democrats right back where they started with a slim chance of enacting any voting legislation before the 2022 midterm elections, when some in the party fear new GOP laws will make it harder for many Americans to vote. But they still intend to try. Speaking from the House floor, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was imperative for Congress to counteract the Republican efforts, which she characterized as "dangerous" and "anti-democratic." "Democracy is under attack from what is the worst voter suppression campaign in America since Jim Crow," Pelosi said. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, named for the late Georgia congressman who made the issue a defining one of his career, would restore voting rights protections that have been dismantled by the Supreme Court. Under the proposal, the Justice Department would again police new changes to voting laws in states that have racked up a series of "violations," drawing them into a mandatory review

process known as "pre-clearance." The practice was first put in place under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. But it was struck down by a conservative majority on the Supreme Court in 2013, which ruled the formula for determining which states needed their laws reviewed was outdated and unfairly punitive. The court did, however, say that Congress could come up with a new formula, which is what the bill does. A second ruling from the court in July made it more difficult to challenge voting restrictions in court under another section of the law. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Terri Sewell, said "old battles have indeed become new again," enabled by the Supreme Court's rulings. "While literacy tests and poll taxes no longer exist, certain states and local jurisdictions have passed laws that are modern day barriers to voting," said Sewell, an Alabama Democrat. In many cases, the new bill wouldn't apply to laws enacted in the years since the court's 2013 ruling. That likely includes the wave of new Republican-backed restrictions inspired by Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen 2020 election. But if signed into law along with Democrats' other election bill, the For the People Act, many of those restrictions could be neutralized — and likely prevented from getting approved again. Both laws would likely face legal challenges. In the short term, the vote Tuesday was expected to soothe restive Democratic activists who have been frustrated by inaction

on the issue in the Senate. NAACP President Derrick Johnson said he was "encouraged" by the bill's passage. But he also offered a thinly veiled threat, pledging to watch closely as the Senate takes it up and "keep track of every yea and every nay" vote. "Make no mistake, we will be there, on the ground in 2022, in every state that needs a new Senator," he said in a statement. Democrats' slim 50-50 majority in the Senate means they lack the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster. For months, progressives have called for scrapping the filibuster, but a number of moderate Democrats oppose the idea, denying the votes needed to do so. It's also not clear that the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, as written, would be supported by all Democrats in the Senate, where there are no votes to spare. One provision in the bill would ban many types of voter ID laws, including those already on the books. That's at odds with a proposal from West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is the chamber's most conservative Democrat. He's spent weeks working with Senate leadership to develop a more narrowly focused alternative to the For the People Act, and has specifically called for a voter ID standard that would allow for people to use a document like a utility bill. Republicans, meanwhile, blasted the timing of the measure, noting that Pelosi called Democrats back from August recess to pass the bill, as well as to take votes on Democrats' spending priorities, when the U.S. is dealing with its

chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. "If there's any moment in time to put an election aside, if there's any moment of time to put politics aside I would have thought today was this day," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy. Conservatives also criticized the bill as a departure from the 1965 voting law, which used minority turnout data as well as a place's history of enacting discriminatory voting laws when determining which places would be subject to preclearance. The new bill, instead, leans heavily on looser standards, such as using the number of legal settlements and consent decrees issued in voting rights cases, to pull places into preclearance. That would, Republicans argue, play into the hands of Democrats, who have built a sophisticated and well-funded legal effort to challenge voting rules in conservative-leaning states. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, a Minnesota Republican, predicted it would be a boon for Democratic advocacy groups and trial lawyers, who would "file as many objections as possible to manufacture litigation." "It empowers the attorney general to bully states and seek federal approval before making changes to their own voting laws," she said.

STATE BRIEFS

Police: Fire at Kirksville lawyer's office apparently arson

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. (AP) — Police and fire investigators say a fire at a northeast Missouri law firm's office is being investigated as an arson. The fire was reported early Sunday at the Frick and Cundiff law office in Kirksville. Legal Assistant Paula Bradshaw said those responsible for the fire pried open a side door and set the fire near the firm's computers, KTVO reported. The fire damage was contained to that area but smoke and fire damage was found throughout the building, Bradshaw said. The computer hard drives appeared to be salvageable and some legal documents were saved, she said. Fire Investigator Ray Jagger said the investigation is continuing, with assistance from the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office.

Woman dies after being hit by car in St. Louis County

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (AP) — A St. Louis woman died after she was struck by a car on a St. Louis County street, police said. St. Louis County police investigators found Norma Monsivais, 53,

suffering from serious injuries after she was hit Monday night. She died at the scene. A preliminary investigation found that Monsivais was standing in the road when she was hit. The investigation is continuing. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and cooperated with officers, police said. **Busch family to take over operation of Grant's Farm** ST. LOUIS (AP) — Anheuser-Busch has operated the popular Grant's Farm attraction in St. Louis County for nearly seven decades, but five members of the Busch family will soon take over. The change in operation was announced Monday at Grant's Farm, a tourist attraction popular for its wide array of animals. The property was once owned by Ulysses S. Grant. The Busch family bought it in 1903. The five Busch family members who will operate the property bought it from other relatives in 2018, and a lease agreement called for Anheuser-Busch to operate the attraction.

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Steers Med & Large Frame #1

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400-500 lbs.....\$175-\$209
500-600 lbs.....\$161-\$192
600-700 lbs.....\$151-\$176
700-800 lbs.....\$138-\$162
800-900 lbs.....\$122-\$149⁵⁰

Small Frame or Fleshy Steers & Bulls

400-700 lbs.....\$126-\$174

Heifers Med & Large Frame #1

300-400 lbs.....\$160-\$172
400-500 lbs.....\$145-\$174⁵⁰
500-600 lbs.....\$136-\$171⁵⁰
600-700 lbs.....\$131-\$164
700-800 lbs.....\$121-\$149
800-900 lbs.....\$110-\$137

Small Frame or Fleshy Heifers

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Weigh Cows Bulk ...\$68-\$74
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Art

From Page 1A

“It was stolen,” she went on to say. “If you simply compare the sharpened tip of a colored pencil to the size of the artwork you can imagine how much time goes into a piece like this, not to mention the thought, skill, and heart. This piece has sentimental value to me (my sons are reflected in the chrome) in addition to being a published piece and multiple ribbon winner.”

Her post added she had hoped the piece would end up being purchased by someone who would “value it” as much as she does. She asked Facebook friends to please share her post with the hopes someone would see the art and return it.

“Please share,” she posted. “Maybe someone will see the drawing on display and do the right thing. Someone knows where it is.”

The post has been shared many times since Monday.

MSF Fine Arts Superintendent Alan Weaver said artists don’t just exhibit to win ribbons and recognition, they exhibit for the camaraderie and to talk to other like-minded artists about their work. He added the building was secure

Sunday night at closing.

“We have a fairly well-organized system for returning artwork to people who enter our exhibits,” he noted. “And I went upstairs with Dina (Monday) to get her drawing and when we turned the corner we both realized it wasn’t there. It really was kind of unbelievable but we have come to the conclusion that the drawing was stolen.”

Mid-Missouri Artists President Rebecca Limback, of Warrensburg, and her husband, Duane, were volunteers Sunday night at the closing of the MSF Fine Arts Building. She said they were there from 3 to 6 p.m.

“I used the time to go around and read more of the artist’s statements and take a closer look at the art in the MO50,” she noted. “Dina’s piece was definitely hanging in place at 6 (p.m.) when the show closed.

“Then we went downstairs to help with the checkout — Alan locked the two outside doors (so) people could not come in through them but could go out,” she continued. “I’m guessing that fire codes prevent us from not allowing people to leave through them. Dina showed up this morning to pick up her work, and it wasn’t there. A thorough search was done.”

She added she along with others were sharing



PHOTO COURTESY OF DINA KOWAL

“Bel Air Reflections” as seen hanging in the Missouri State Fair Top 50 Exhibit at this year’s fair. The drawing was missing when artist Dina Kowal came to pick it up on Monday.

the post about the stolen art on Facebook

Kowal said this was her first time to show work in the MSF Top 50.

“So that was a great honor for me,” she added. “I didn’t win any ribbons at the fair, but that piece had won Best of Show and People’s Choice at the Benton County Virtual Art Show in 2020, and had been published in ‘Color Magazine’, which is an all-colored-pencil publication.

“The reference photo was one that I took at the Jubilee Days car show in Warsaw in 2019,” she continued. “I normally draw commissioned pet portraits, so it was a fun challenge to draw something different, and to interpret all the different surface textures and reflections of the car in a colored pencil drawing.”

Kowal can be reached at contact@dinakowal.com. MSF Fine Art Superintendent Alan Weaver can be reached at 660-281-8535 or the MSF business office at 660-530-5605.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.

Classes

From Page 1A

Burkhart noted face masks are required while students are on school buses due to federal law. Some students choose to still continue to wear masks, according to Burkhart, which are “encouraged and optional.”

“Our school year is looking pretty similar to last year,” she said. “Where we continue to have our students spaced further apart in the classroom.”

Burkhart explained that extra furniture was removed so students could spread out more. For smaller classrooms, students work in “pods,” so in case there is an exposure to COVID-19, only three students within the pod get exposed.

“We try to minimize the exposure when we’re required to contact trace,” she said, adding the district works with the Pettis County Health Center for contact tracing.

Burkhart explained the district is continuing to practice social distancing to “the greatest extent that we can.”

She noted the district also encourages hand-washing, hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms, and students are encouraged to stay home when they don’t feel well.

“It’s looking a lot like last year,” she said.

According to Burkhart, students are also spread out during lunch, with all students facing one direction so no one is across from one another. She added many elementary classes eat breakfast in their classrooms to make sure there is additional space in the cafeteria during breakfast time.

“I don’t know that we’re doing anything that is incredibly different this year...,” she said. “I think that we learned, you know, many strategies from last year to use to keep our students safe.”

Because the district encourages students to bring water bottles and water fountains have been covered into water bottle filling stations, Burkhart noted the district believes this has helped affect the health of their students.

Ryan Sheehan can be reached at 660-530-0144.

619/526

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THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

96 75

Partly sunny and hot

THURSDAY

95 76

Mostly sunny, hot and humid

FRIDAY

94 75

Warm and humid with sunshine

SATURDAY

91 73

Mostly sunny and very warm

SUNDAY

92 70

A t-storm possible

MONDAY

87 69

Periods of sun

TUESDAY

83 63

Mostly sunny and humid

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:36 a.m.

Sunset tonight 7:53 p.m.

Moonrise today 9:53 p.m.

Moonset today 9:42 a.m.

Last New First Full

Aug 30 Sep 6 Sep 13 Sep 20

WEATHER HISTORY

The temperature plummeted to 10 degrees in Bowen, Mont., on Aug. 25, 1910. This is the lowest temperature ever reported in the United States in August.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Monday

TEMPERATURES

High	94
Low	72
Normal high	85
Normal low	63
Record high	100 in 1938
Record low	47 in 1961

PRECIPITATION

Monday	0.00"
Month to date	1.72"
Normal m-t-d	2.91"
Year to date	31.64"
Normal y-t-d	29.81"

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was above 65 degrees for the day.

Monday	18
Month to date	300
Year to date	1173
Normal year to date	969
Last year to date	1099

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Tuesday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	8.25	+0.33	24
Valley City	3.55	-0.43	22
Lamine			
Oterville	0.85	-0.01	15
Missouri			
Boonville	7.95	+0.63	21

Falls City
91/74

St. Joseph
92/73

Topeka
98/75

Kansas City
95/75

Joplin
98/75

Tulsa
101/77

Kirkville
91/71

Springfield
92/73

Columbia
98/75

Jefferson City
97/75

Springfield
97/74

Mountain Home
97/73

Poplar Bluff
93/72

St. Louis
98/78

Cape Girardeau
94/71

Paducah
94/73

Kennett
95/72

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

BRANSON

High: 98. **Low:** 75. Mostly sunny and hot today; caution advised if outside for extended periods of time. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

KANSAS CITY

High: 95. **Low:** 75. Partly sunny and hot today. Mainly clear tonight. Hot with sunshine mixing with some clouds tomorrow.

ST. LOUIS

High: 98. **Low:** 78. Partly sunny, very hot and humid today. Mainly clear tonight. Hot tomorrow with clouds and sunshine.

NEW YORK CITY

High: 90. **Low:** 76. Mostly sunny, hot and humid today; caution advised if doing strenuous activities outside. Clear tonight. A thunderstorm in spots tomorrow.

LOS ANGELES

High: 88. **Low:** 69. Brilliant sunshine today. Clear tonight. Very warm tomorrow with plenty of sunshine. Friday and Saturday: plenty of sun.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Thurs	Today	Thurs
	Hi/Low	Hi/Low	Hi/Low	Hi/Low
Atlanta	90/72/t	86/72/t		
Baltimore	95/74/s	95/73/pc	Milwaukee	90/71/t
Billings	76/54/pc	77/55/t	Nashville	95/73/s
Boston	89/74/s	92/76/s	New Orleans	92/79/t
Buffalo	91/75/t	87/69/t	Norfolk	89/74/pc
Charlotte	89/70/t	89/70/s	Orlando	91/77/pc
Chicago	92/74/t	87/72/t	Phoenix	109/87/s
Cleveland	93/72/t	86/70/t	Pittsburgh	91/70/s
Dallas	99/79/s	98/76/pc	Portland, ME	87/67/s
Denver	92/63/s	86/59/t	Portland, OR	79/58/pc
Detroit	92/74/t	88/69/t	Sacramento	85/54/s
Honolulu	87/75/sh	87/74/sh	St. Louis	98/78/pc
Houston	97/77/t	93/76/t	San Francisco	68/55/pc
Indianapolis	94/76/s	91/72/t	Seattle	75/57/c
Las Vegas	104/80/pc	105/79/pc	Washington, DC	95/77/s

Weather (W): s - sunny, pc - partly cloudy, c - cloudy, sh - showers, t - thunderstorms, r - rain, sf - snow flurries, sn - snow, i - ice

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Summary: Thunderstorms will drench parts of the Southeast, interior Northeast and North Central states today. Some of the storms over the northern Plains can be severe. Much of the West will remain free of rain.

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Tight-knit Gremlins preparing for 2021 soccer season



Sophomore George Bain IV, left, makes his way down the field with sophomore Reuben Smith in front of him during practice at Clover Dell Park.

PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT

By Nicole Cooke

ncooke@sedaliademocrat.com

Under new leadership, the tight-knit Gremlins boys soccer team is working hard ahead of its first game of the 2021 season this weekend.

The Gremlins ended the 2020 season with a 13-5 record. The team won 10 straight matches, including a sweep of the Kaysinger Tournament, before a season-ending loss in the district championship.

2021 marks the first season for Warren Dey as head coach of Gremlins boys soccer, but he is no stranger to high school soccer. The Smith-Cotton alumnus has

been coaching for 30 years, he said. Dey is a member of the Smith-Cotton Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in soccer and baseball. His parents, Bill and Alma Dey, and his brother Ross Dey are also members of the Hall of Fame for their contributions to the Sedalia baseball community; Dey Field at Liberty Park Stadium is named in their honor.

"This coaching job has been phenomenal," he said of joining Sacred Heart. "It's fun every day waking up coming here. It's not a job, this is fun. You're coaching kids who they listen, there's respect, excellent attitudes. I couldn't ask for a better situation."

While he's familiar with coaching a team, Dey has a whole new crop of players to work with this season. He said he starts by simply getting to know each of them.

"I believe any time you start a team or have a team, you need communication. You have to develop relationships with them," Dey said. "So it's just not even though we're talking soccer or doing a drill or whatever, a lot of times I'll call a kid over to talk to them — 'how's life treating you? What do you do outside of soccer?' Trying to get to know them. Hopefully by the end of the season, I know a lot about each player."

See **SOCER** | 5B

ACC, Big Ten, Pac-12 ally to 'protect the Collegiate model'

By Ralph d. Russo

AP College Football Writer

Facing a rapidly shifting landscape in college sports, the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten and Pac-12 have agreed to work together with the goal of creating stability during a volatile time.

Less than a month after the Southeastern Conference made an expansion power play by inviting Texas and Oklahoma to the league, three of the SEC's Power Five peers countered with the creation of an alliance of 41 schools that span from Miami to Seattle.

During a 45-minute video conference Tuesday, the commissioners of the ACC, Big Ten and Pac-12 pledged broad collaboration on myriad issues and committed to league members playing more football and basketball games against each other in football and basketball.

They also suggested they wouldn't be poaching each

others schools.

"The history of college athletics, one expansion of a conference has usually led to another to another and to another," ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips said. "And to the three of us, we felt the stabilization of the current environment, across Division I and FBS — in Power Five in particular — this was a chance for a new direction, a new initiative that I don't think has ever been done before."

After weeks of discussions, the alliance is still mostly conceptual and collegial.

"There's no contract. There's no signed document," Pac-12 Commissioner George Kliavkoff said. "There's an agreement among three gentlemen and a commitment from 41 presidents and chancellors and 41 athletic directors to do what we say we're going to do."

The SEC sent shockwaves through college athletics when it was revealed that Texas and Oklahoma

would be leaving the Big 12 to join the nation's most powerful football conference no later than 2025.

"I wouldn't say this is a reaction to Texas and Oklahoma joining the SEC, but to be totally candid you have to evaluate what's going on in the landscape of college athletics," Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren said.

As for the Big 12, its future is murky at best as the eight remaining members plot their next moves and try to work out a divorce from the Longhorns and Sooners. The realignment of Texas and Oklahoma could eventually lead the Power Five to shrink to four.

"We want and need the Big 12 to do well," Phillips said. "The Big 12 matters in college athletics."

But it will not be part of the alliance.

The alliance is also being formed as the NCAA shakes off a Supreme Court loss and considers handing off more responsibility to

conferences and schools to run college sports. The NCAA Board of Governors has called a special constitutional convention in November, the first step toward what could be sweeping reform and a decentralized governance model.

"We did the alliance to protect the collegiate model," said Kliavkoff, who is only in his second month on the job of leading the Pac-12 after serving as president of sports and entertainment for MGM Resorts International in Las Vegas.

There is also a proposal to expand the College Football Playoff from four to 12 teams currently in the pipeline. The proposal was crafted by SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick, and unveiled publicly in June.

See **COLLEGIATE** | 5B

Branch, Vermeil selected as Hall of Fame finalists

By Josh Dubow

AP Pro Football Writer

Three-time All-Pro receiver Cliff Branch and Super Bowl-winning coach Dick Vermeil are finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2022.

Branch is the senior candidate and Vermeil is the nominee in the coaches category picked Tuesday by a five-person committee of Hall of Fame voters. To be elected to the Hall of Fame, Branch and Vermeil must receive 80% of the vote from the entire 49-member selection committee when it meets early next year.

Branch was one of the most dynamic receivers of his era as the speedy deep threat for the Raiders that stretched opposing defenses.

Branch played 14 seasons from 1972-85, ranking in the top five in the NFL in catches (501), yards receiving (8,685) and touchdown catches (67) over that span.

He also played a key role on three Super Bowl champions with 73 catches for 1,289 yards and five TDs in 22 playoff games. Only Jerry Rice, Julian Edelman and Michael Irvin have more yards receiving in the postseason than Branch.

Branch led the NFL in touchdowns twice and eclipsed 1,000 receiving yards twice. He was a first-team All-Pro in 1974, '75 and '76.

"He dreamed of this. He wanted this so bad, he could taste it," Cliff's sister, Elaine Anderson, said in a call with Hall of Fame President David Baker on Tuesday. "It was all he talked about — when he would go to the Hall of Fame."

Branch died in 2019 at age 71.

Vermeil won 120 games in the regular season, leading the Philadelphia Eagles (1980) and St. Louis Rams (1999) to Super Bowl appearances. His "Greatest Show on Turf" Rams won the Super Bowl 23-16 over Tennessee.

Vermeil came to the Eagles from UCLA in 1976 and got long-struggling Philadelphia into the playoffs in his third season and Super Bowl two years after that where he lost to Branch and the Raiders 27-10.

He stepped away from coaching following the 1982 season and became a broadcaster before returning to the sideline in 1997 in St. Louis.

He once again quickly revived a downtrodden franchise and delivered the Rams their first Super Bowl title in his third season with one of the most prolific offenses led by Hall of Famers Kurt Warner, Marshall Faulk and Isaac Bruce.

He left the Rams after that Super Bowl and finished his coaching career with a five-year stint in Kansas City starting in 2001.

See **HALL OF FAME** | 5B



PHOTO BY JAMES A. FINLEY | AP PHOTO

In this Saturday, Aug. 28, 1999, file photo, St. Louis Rams coach Dick Vermeil talks to his players before the NFL preseason game against the San Diego Chargers in St. Louis. Three-time All-Pro receiver Cliff Branch and Super Bowl-winning coach Dick Vermeil are finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2022.

Paralympics open in empty stadium — just like Olympics



PHOTO BY JOE TOTH FOR OIS VIA AP

Athletes from Japan Miki Matheson, Mineho Ozaki, Taiyou Imai, Erina Yuguchi, Kaori Icho, and Tskumi Asatani carry the national flag of Japan into the Olympic Stadium at the start of the Paralympic Opening Ceremony Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021.

By Stephen Wade

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The Paralympics began Tuesday in the same empty National Stadium — during the same pandemic — as the opening and closing ceremonies of the recently completed Tokyo Olympics.

Japanese Emperor Naruhito got it all started again, this time under the theme "We Have Wings." Among the few on hand were Douglas Emhoff, husband of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons and International Olympic President Thomas Bach.

It was a circus-like opening with acrobats, clowns, vibrant music and fireworks atop the stadium to mark the start of the long parade of athletes.

"I cannot believe we are finally here," Parsons said in his opening remarks. "Many doubted this day would happen. Many thought it impossible. But thanks to the efforts of many, the most transformative sport event on earth is about to begin."

The opening ceremony featured the national flags of the 162 delegations represented, which included the refugee team. In addition, the flag of Afghanistan was carried by a volunteer de-

spite the delegation not being on hand in Tokyo.

Comparisons to the Olympics stop with the colorful jamboree, save for the logistical and medical barriers during the pandemic, and the hollowing out of almost everything else.

Tokyo and Paralympic organizers are under pressure from soaring new infections in the capital. About 40% of the Japanese population is fully vaccinated. But daily new cases in Tokyo have increased four to five times since the Olympics opened on July 23. Tokyo is under a state of emergency until Sept. 12, with the Paralympics ending Sept. 5.

See **PARALYMPICS** | 5B

SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday
ON AIR
CYCLING
Noon NBCSN — Vuelta a España: Stage 11, Antequera to Valdepeñas De Jáen, 83 miles (Taped)
GOLF
1:30 a.m. (Thursday)
GOLF — USGA Women's Amateur: The Curtis Cup, First Round, Conwy Golf Club, Conwy, Wales
HORSE RACING
Noon FS2 — NYRA: Saratoga Live
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
Noon ESPN — Little League World Series: TBD vs. Ohio, Tom Seaver Bracket Semifinal, Williamsport, Pa.
2 p.m. ESPN — Little League World Series: TBD vs. Nebraska, Hank Aaron Bracket Semifinal, Williamsport, Pa.
4 p.m. ESPN — Little League World Series: California vs. South Dakota, Tom Seaver Bracket Semifinal, Williamsport, Pa.
6:30 p.m. ESPN — Little League World Series: Michigan vs. Hawaii, Hank Aaron Bracket Semifinal, Williamsport, Pa.
MLB BASEBALL
Noon MLBN — Detroit at St. Louis
6 p.m. MLBN — San Francisco at NY Mets OR Chicago White Sox at Toronto
9 p.m. ESPN — LA Dodgers at San Diego
PARALYMPICS
2 a.m. NBCSN — 2020 Tokyo Paralympics: Swimming; Wheelchair Rugby; Track Cycling, Tokyo
7 p.m. NBCSN — 2020 Tokyo Paralympics: Wheelchair Basketball; Wheelchair Rugby; Track Cycling; Goalball, Tokyo
2 a.m. (Thursday)
NBCSN — 2020 Tokyo Paralympics: Swimming; Wheelchair Basketball; Wheelchair Rugby; Track Cycling, Tokyo
SOCCER (MEN'S)
8:30 p.m. FS1 — MLS All-Stars vs. Liga MX All-Stars, Los Angeles
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
9:30 p.m. CBSSN — NWSL: NJ/NY FC at Portland FC
TENNIS
9 a.m. TENNIS — Winston-Salem-ATP & Cleveland-WTA Early Rounds
10 a.m. ESPNEWS — ATP/WTA: The U.S. Open Qualifying, First Round, Flushing, N.Y.
WNBA BASKETBALL
6 p.m. NBATV — Phoenix at New York

Fangio still unsure who to name as his starting quarterback

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Broncos coach Vic Fangio needs more time to declare Teddy Bridgewater or Drew Lock as his starting quarterback.

“Not yet,” Fangio said when asked if he’s decided who will start the opener Sept. 12 against the Giants.

What about Saturday night in the preseason finale against the Rams?

“We haven’t decided that yet,” Fangio said.

Asked if he needs to see Bridgewater and Lock play in that game, Fangio was again coy, saying, “Not necessarily, but maybe.”

Each quarterback has started — and starred in — a preseason game with Lock throwing for 151 yards and two touchdowns on 5-of-7 passing against Minnesota and Bridgewater deftly directing Denver’s offense to two touchdowns at Seattle.

“I think it’s close,” Fangio said. “And it’s close for a good reason: they both have played well. The good news of this competition is we’ve got two quarterbacks that we feel we can go win with.”

Bridgewater’s performance against the Seahawks seemed to tip the balance in his favor, but Fangio extended the audition indefinitely.

“We just want to do it at the right time,” Fangio said. “Meaning, the right time obviously for the players involved, for the team involved and for everybody.

“And we don’t play another game for 19 days,” Fangio added. “We’ve got 19 days.”

Fangio insisted he wasn’t trying to play games or gain any sort of competitive advantage by keeping the Giants guessing, and really, he could name his starter



PHOTO BY STEPHEN BRASHEAR | AP PHOTO
Denver Broncos quarterback Drew Lock passes during warmups before an NFL preseason football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Seattle.

any day now, even before this weekend’s game.

Although Lock didn’t play as well at Seattle (9 of 14 for 80 yards, no touchdowns and two sacks) as he had a week earlier, Fangio came to his defense Tuesday after watching the film.

“I think he was the victim of protection breakdowns there early when he got sacked those couple of times,” Fangio said. “We had a little quarterback-center exchange issue which caused him to get tripped up on that one play where we fumbled it in the red zone and had to settle for a field goal.

“I thought he made some good throws. I thought he stepped up and improved on that one play to (Seth) Williams. I thought he played well overall.”

Fangio was equally effusive in his praise of Bridgewater, comparing his pocket presence after the game to that of Tom Brady’s.

The closeness of this clash that has gone back and forth through 18 practices and two games is exactly how

Fangio hoped it would go.

“It’s pretty damn close,” he said.

Both Lock and Bridgewater are seeking bounce-back seasons in 2021.

Lock’s 15 interceptions last season tied for the league lead. He threw 16 TD passes and went 4-9, missing time with a shoulder injury and for violating COVID-19 protocols.

Bridgewater’s lone season in Carolina wasn’t good, either. He went 4-11 with 15 TDs and 11 interceptions, and he acknowledged this summer that he shouldn’t have continued playing after suffering a knee injury against the Buccaneers in Week 10.

While they had trouble stringing together good practices at training camp, both QBs have shined in preseason games. Bridgewater has completed 16 of 19 passes for 179 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. Lock has hit on 14 of 21 throws for 231 yards, two TDs and zero interceptions.

The Broncos have cycled

through 10 starting quarterbacks between Peyton Manning’s retirement a month after Denver’s Super Bowl 50 triumph and his induction earlier this month into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Denver’s QB carousel includes first-round flop Paxton Lynch, free agent flub Case Keenum and trade washout Joe Flacco but also Trevor Siemian, Brock Osweiler, Brandon Allen, Jeff Driskel, Brett Rypien and Lock.

With all of Denver’s QBs prohibited from suiting up against New Orleans in Week 12 last season because of COVID-19 protocols, practice squad receiver Kendall Hinton filled in at QB. But with the Broncos lining up in the wildcat formation for the first four plays, running back Phillip Lindsay technically started at quarterback that day.

This group has combined to go 32-48 since 2016, and Denver’s four consecutive losing seasons marks its worst stretch since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger.

No matter which one wins the job, it appears Denver will be getting a bargain.

Lock is due just over \$1 million this season and next and Bridgewater’s reworked contract calls for him to earn \$4,437,500 this season with the Panthers paying his \$7,062,500 signing bonus. He’s set to become a free agent next March.

NOTES: TE Noah Fant missed practice with a leg injury, but Fangio said he didn’t expect him to be out for an extended time. Also out were WR K.J. Hamler (non-COVID-19 illness) and DT Mike Purcell (ankle), who got hurt in warmups Saturday night but played anyway.

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021:

You have a strong sense of character and leadership. You are warm, charming and have an analytical mind, which makes you an excellent teacher. You like to share your knowledge. When it comes to romance, you're an idealist. This is a quieter year for you with a stronger focus on your closest relationships. Use some self-scrutiny to figure out what brings you happiness.

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)

★★★★ Today and tomorrow, the Moon is in your sign. This happens for two and a half days every month, and when it occurs, your luck improves! However, you will be more emotional and have a stronger reaction to things. Ask the universe for a favor! Tonight: Patience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Today and tomorrow, you're happy to play things low-key and work behind the scenes, even though this is a playful, upbeat, stimulating week for you. (This is an excellent time for a vacation.) Nevertheless, you need to catch your breath. Tonight: Stay mellow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Despite your focus on home and family, today and tomorrow, you want to interact with friends and groups. In particular, you might have a meaningful conversation with a female acquaintance. Tonight: This is an excellent time to set future goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Today and tomorrow, the Moon will be sitting at the very top of your chart, which means people notice you more than usual. You will be high-viz. In some cases, others will discuss or know personal details about your private life. Tonight: Do damage control, if necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today and tomorrow, you will have a strong urge to "get away from it all." Ideally, you will want to travel because you need a change of scenery. You want a chance to see new places, meet new faces and learn new things. Ideas? Tonight: What you really need is stimulation!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Today and tomorrow, you will have a stronger focus on financial matters, especially anything related to shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. This means you are likely to tidy up loose ends and make sure things go your way. Use this urge to your advantage. Tonight: Stay busy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Today and tomorrow, the Moon will be in a sign that is exactly opposite from your sign, which means you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. It simply means you have to be cooperative and ready to listen to what others have to say. Tonight: It's still your call.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ It will please you to do something so that you feel you're getting better organized today. In fact, today and tomorrow, not only do you want to get better organized, you also want to do something to improve your health and feel like you're more in control of your world. Tonight: "I'm on it!"

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your desire to play and slip away on a vacation or enjoy a social outing will be stronger today and tomorrow. In particular, you will love sports activities as well as playful times with children. You also will enjoy expressing your creative talents in the arts or the entertainment world. Tonight: Enjoy!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Despite your desire to travel and expand your world, today and tomorrow you will be very happy to cocoon at home and relax among familiar surroundings. Basically, you need a breather or a chance to regroup in a private, quiet way. Tonight: Enjoy sweet solitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You're very eager to communicate with someone today -- perhaps several people. In conversations with others, you want to establish a bond -- a real connection. This is why you will avoid superficial chitchat that you view as meaningless. Tonight: Be thoughtful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You have money on your mind today. And perhaps again tomorrow. This is because for the next two days, the Moon will be traveling through your Money House, which will encourage emotional purchases instead of practical ones. Tonight: Watch your money.

BORN TODAY

Actress Blake Lively (1987), actor Sean Connery (1930), singer-songwriter Elvis Costello (1954)

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	48	.616	
New York	73	52	.584	4
Boston	71	55	.563	6½
Toronto	65	58	.528	11
Baltimore	38	85	.309	38

Monday's Games
Boston 8, Texas 4, 11 innings
Toronto 2, Chicago White Sox 1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Atlanta 1
Kansas City 7, Houston 1
Seattle 5, Oakland 3
Wednesday's Games
Detroit (Skubal 8-11) at
St. Louis (Lester 4-6), 12:15 p.m.
Kansas City (Minor 8-11) at

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	72	54	.571	
Cleveland	61	61	.500	9
Detroit	60	66	.476	12
Kansas City	56	68	.452	15
Minnesota	54	70	.435	17

Houston (McCullers Jr. 10-4), 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Ohtani 8-1) at
Baltimore (TBD), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at
Philadelphia (Wheeler 10-8), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 9-9) at Toronto
(Ray 9-5), 6:07 p.m.
Minnesota (Ober 1-2) at
Boston (Pivetta 9-6), 6:10 p.m.

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	73	52	.584	
Oakland	70	57	.551	4
Seattle	69	58	.543	5
Los Angeles	62	64	.492	11½
Texas	43	81	.347	29½

Texas (Latz 0-0) at
Cleveland (Plesac 7-4), 6:10 p.m.
Thursday's Games
L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 12:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Toronto, 2:07 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 6:10 p.m.
Texas at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland, 8:40 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	57	.544	
Philadelphia	63	61	.508	4½
New York	61	63	.492	6½
Washington	53	70	.431	14
Miami	51	74	.408	17

Monday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 5, Atlanta 1
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 5
Chicago Cubs 6, Colorado 4
Wednesday's Games
Detroit (Skubal 8-11) at
St. Louis (Lester 4-6), 12:15 p.m.
Colorado (Gomber 9-7) at
Chicago Cubs (Davies 6-10), 1:20 p.m.
Arizona (Gilbert 1-1) at

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	76	49	.608	
Cincinnati	69	57	.548	7½
St. Louis	63	60	.512	12
Chicago	55	72	.433	22
Pittsburgh	45	80	.360	31

Pittsburgh (Keller 4-10), 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at
Philadelphia (Wheeler 10-8), 6:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Cueto 7-6) at
N.Y. Mets (Walker 7-8), 6:10 p.m.
Washington (Gray 0-1) at
Miami (Cabrera 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 7-12) at
Milwaukee (Woodruff 7-7), 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 13-2) at

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	80	44	.645	
Los Angeles	78	47	.624	2½
San Diego	68	58	.540	13
Colorado	57	68	.456	23½
Arizona	42	84	.333	39

San Diego (Snell 6-5), 9:10 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.
Arizona at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.
San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:10 p.m.

WNBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	17	6	.739	—
Chicago	11	12	.478	6
New York	11	14	.440	7
Washington	8	14	.364	8½
Atlanta	6	17	.261	11
Indiana	5	18	.217	12

Monday's Games
No games scheduled.
Wednesday's Games
Phoenix at New York, 6 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	17	6	.739	—
Seattle	18	7	.720	—
Minnesota	14	9	.609	3
Phoenix	13	10	.565	4
Los Angeles	10	13	.435	7
Dallas	10	14	.417	7½

Thursday's Games
Dallas at Washington, 6 p.m.
Las Vegas at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Los Angeles at Connecticut, 6 p.m.

Friday's Games
Phoenix at New York, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 9 p.m.

MLS GLANCE

NOTE: THREE POINTS FOR VICTORY, ONE POINT FOR TIE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	15	3	4	49	44	26
Orlando City	9	4	7	34	30	24
Philadelphia	8	5	8	32	27	20
Nashville	7	2	11	32	32	20
New York City FC	9	6	4	31	34	19
CF Montréal	7	7	7	28	27	26
D.C. United	8	10	3	27	32	31
Atlanta	6	6	9	27	25	26
Columbus	6	9	6	24	22	27
New York	6	9	4	22	23	24
Inter Miami CF	6	9	4	22	21	31
Chicago	5	11	5	20	23	33
Cincinnati	3	8	8	17	19	34
Toronto FC	3	12	6	15	25	44

Tuesday, Aug. 17
Colorado 2, LA Galaxy 1
Minnesota 1, San Jose 1, tie
Wednesday, Aug. 18
New England 3, D.C. United 2
Atlanta 1, Toronto FC 0
CF Montréal 0, Cincinnati 0, tie
Philadelphia 1, New York City FC 0
Miami 3, Chicago 2
New York 1, Columbus 0
Orlando City 1, Nashville 1, tie
Portland 1, Sporting Kansas City 1, tie
Seattle 1, FC Dallas 0
Vancouver 2, Austin FC 1
Real Salt Lake 2, Houston 1
Friday, Aug. 20
San Jose 2, LA Galaxy 1
Saturday, Aug. 21
Sporting Kansas City 0, Minnesota 0, tie

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	3	6	42	35	17
Sporting Kansas City	11	4	6	39	36	21
Colorado	11	4	4	37	29	19
LA Galaxy	11	8	2	35	32	32
Minnesota United	7	6	7	28	22	23
Real Salt Lake	7	7	6	27	30	23
San Jose	6	7	8	26	24	29
Portland	7	10	3	24	27	39
Los Angeles FC	6	9	5	23	25	28
Vancouver	5	7	8	23	23	30
FC Dallas	5	9	7	22	25	30
Austin FC	5	11	4	19	17	24
Houston	3	8	10	19	23	32

Seattle 2, Columbus 1
Orlando City 1, Chicago 0
CF Montréal 1, Philadelphia 1, tie
Atlanta 2, D.C. United 1
New England 4, Cincinnati 1
New York City FC at New York ppd.
Miami 3, Toronto FC 1
FC Dallas 2, Houston 2, tie
Austin FC 3, Portland 1
Colorado 2, Real Salt Lake 1
Vancouver 2, Los Angeles FC 1
Friday, Aug. 27
Cincinnati at Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 28
Nashville at Atlanta, 2:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 5 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Los Angeles FC, 6 p.m.

New England at New York City FC, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at D.C. United, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Sporting Kansas City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 29
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 7 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Portland at Seattle, 9:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 3
New York City FC at Nashville, 6:30 p.m.
New England at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Los Angeles FC, 9 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 4
Austin FC at Vancouver, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Orlando City, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 9 p.m.

NFL GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	57	30
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	35	21
New England	2	0	0	1.000	57	13
Miami	1	1	0	.500	50	37
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	46	21
Indianapolis	2	0	0	1.000	33	28
Tennessee	2	0	0	1.000	57	6
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	34	46
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	37	17
Cleveland	2	0	0	1.000	40	26
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	66	39
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	32	31
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	63	9
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	36	26
Las Vegas	2	0	0	1.000	37	23
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	23	21

Thursday's Games
New England 35, Philadelphia 0
Friday's Games
Kansas City 17, Arizona 10
Washington 17, Cincinnati 13
Saturday's Games
Buffalo 41, Chicago 15
N.Y. Jets 23, Green Bay 14
Baltimore 20, Carolina 3
Miami 37, Atlanta 17
Pittsburgh 26, Detroit 20
Tennessee 34, Tampa Bay 3
Houston 20, Dallas 14
Indianapolis 12, Minnesota 10

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	1	1	0	.500	30	35
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	20	29
Philadelphia	0	2	0	.000	16	59
Dallas	0	3	0	.000	33	55
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	37	38
Atlanta	0	2	0	.000	20	60
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	21	41
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	17	53
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	35	54
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	35	42
Green Bay	0	2	0	.000	21	49
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	16	45
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	29	33
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	31	29
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	22	30
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	10	50

Denver 30, Seattle 3
Las Vegas 17, L.A. Rams 16
Sunday's Games
Cleveland 17, N.Y. Giants 13
San Francisco 15, L.A. Chargers 10
Monday's Games
New Orleans 23, Jacksonville 21
Friday, Aug. 27
Indianapolis at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Kansas City, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 28
Green Bay at Buffalo, noon

Baltimore at Washington, 5 p.m.
Chicago at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
Arizona at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Houston, 7 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Denver, 8:05 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 29
Jacksonville at Dallas, noon
Las Vegas at San Francisco, 3 p.m.
Miami at Cincinnati, 3 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Giants, 5 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

Will athletes’ new college cash flow impact team chemistry?

By Pat Eaton-Robb
AP Sports Writer

Ohio State freshman Jack Sawyer already has a new truck thanks to an endorsement deal under new rules that allow him to profit from the use of his name, image or likeness. If any of the defensive end’s teammates are jealous of Sawyer’s relationship with actor Mark Wahlberg’s auto dealership, they are so far keeping it to themselves.

“I think it’s great that guys are able now to go out, get these deals and get these things that they wouldn’t have been without NIL,” said offensive lineman Luke Wypler, using the now-familiar abbreviation for the new form of athlete compensation. “Even like Jack’s truck and all those kind of things, I think those are great. I think that only promotes that it’s Buckeye Nation that these people around Columbus will help you and try to give you things and try to make you better.”

The money has been flowing since the NCAA lifted its ban on NIL money July 1. Many deals are modest but some athletes have inked deals with substantial money; Alabama quarterback Bryce Young has a deal approaching seven figures, according to his own coach.

There is some concern the sudden wealth might widen the divide between the haves and have nots and disrupt one of the most important entanglements in sports: team chemistry.

“It’s not going to be all about the team or your university anymore,” said Stacy Warner, a sports management professor at East Carolina. “People are going to want the ball more. People are going to want to make those big plays to get their names in the paper and get on a highlight reel somewhere, because they see the dollar signs for doing that.”

Hall of Fame basketball coach Geno Auriemma of UConn, whose team includes Paige Bueckers, the biggest star in women’s college basketball, warns that NIL will not be equitable. He said he’s happy that athletes like his sophomore guard, who already has

trademarked the name “Paige Buckets,” can make money while in school.

“But don’t be complaining when your favorite team falls apart because five guys are transferring, because they don’t like the fact that five other guys are getting a lot of money,” he said.

Warner said it’s possible that some college teams, especially in low-revenue sports, may disappear entirely if companies and organizations shift their marketing spending to athletes instead of an athletic department. And she wondered what might happen to the team dynamic when some players begin making more money than some of their coaches.

Nefertiti Walker, the chief diversity officer at the University of Massachusetts, said it is clear NIL will provide some needed financial opportunities for minority athletes. But she fears that there will also be negative impacts on gender and racial equity.

“We as a society absolutely idealize what the perfect athlete looks like, which is male and most often white,” she said. “I think that those who are coming to support college athletics through name, image, likeness-type contracts, they’re going to be falling victim to these same sort of racialized gender biases. There’s also going to be a bias for those who appear to be most straight.”

She noted that in women’s basketball, where women of color make up the majority of the players, it is Bueckers, a blonde, white woman, and another white player, Stanford’s Cameron Brink, who have made the headlines by signing big marketing deals.

Less than two months into the NIL era, some players say they are aware of the potential for divisiveness and are actively working to combat it.

Minnesota quarterback Tanner Morgan and running back Mohamed Ibrahim said they are donating money from an autograph session to their offensive line.

“Everybody loves the star player, everybody loves the wide receiver, quarterbacks and running backs and stuff like that,” Ibrahim said. “I

just want to show them some love because without them I wouldn’t be able to profit off of my name and stuff like that, so I’m going to find a way.”

That level of sharing is one thing, but some schools have already set up group licensing deals that should benefit every participating athlete in the program. Ohio State Ryan Day wondered last month whether other revenue sharing arrangements might be set up in the future.

Nebraska center Cam Jurgens said most players understand that higher profile athletes are going to make the most money and he has no problem with that. But Jurgens noted that it’s not just the big names who can cash in; the Nebraska native has begun marketing products under the brand name “Beef Jurgy.” Fellow linemen at both Notre Dame and Wisconsin have deals with local barbecue restaurants.

“Do you think people in the NFL are upset that Patrick Mahomes is getting paid so much money in endorsements?” Jurgens asked. “I think they’re happy that he’s on their team and he’s playing football for them and they’re a winning team,”

And his coach, Scott Frost, may even be using NIL as recruiting tool for Nebraska.

“Nebraska football players and student athletes are uniquely positioned to take advantage of this because of the fan interest in Nebraska,” he said. “It’s the only show in town. All eyes are on them. I expect our players to do as well as anyone in the country with this when the dust settles.”

That may hold true in Connecticut as well, where UConn dominates the sports news. But if Bueckers is the only Husky who ends up cashing in, her teammates say they are fine with that.

“It doesn’t matter if I’m making \$2 and Paige is making a million,” said guard Evina Westbrook. “OK, dinner is on you. That’s how I see it.”

AP Sports Writers Mitch Stacy, Eric Olson and Dave Campbell contributed to this report.



PHOTO BY TOM E. PUSKAR | AP PHOTO
Abilene, Texas’ Ella Bruning (8) connects for an RBI-single against Sammamish, Wash., during the sixth inning of a baseball game at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

Ella Bruning turns into a big name for Little League

By Preston Shoemaker
Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMS-PORT, Pa. (AP) — Ella Bruning has become the person everyone wants to talk to in South Williamsport this week.

The starting catcher for the Wylie Little League team from Abilene, Texas, is the 20th female to play in the Little League World Series and the only girl to compete in this year’s tournament. She can hit, pitch, steal bases and take a foul ball off the knee.

In Texas’s 6-0 win over Washington on Friday, she stole second, scored the first run and led the team with two hits and an RBI, becoming just the third girl to have a multi-hit game in the Little League World Series.

“She’s a role model for my daughter and a bunch of the younger sisters on this team,” Texas manager Reggie Regala said. “She’s always been that way, and now that she’s on this big stage, she’s a huge role model for girls everywhere.”

Baseball is a family affair in the Bruning household. Ella’s father, Bryan, has coached his children for over 10 years and is an assistant on the Abilene squad. Her younger brother, Dillon, is an outfielder and second baseman for the team. Their older brother, Collin, sits in the stands and cheers, admittedly jealous that his teams missed out on this opportunity a few years ago.

Ella’s baseball story began with shagging batting practice balls in the outfield for Collin’s team when she was 7 years old.

“I think she caught a line drive one day and some of the boys teased her about being on the team,” Ella’s mom, Lindi, recalled. “From that point, it was always a joke that she would play and, eventually, she did.”

Her toughness behind the plate has been documented over the course of the week. After taking a foul ball to the knee on Monday afternoon, in a 6-5 loss to Michigan, she stayed in the game and blocked the next three pitches off her chest in the dirt with perfect form.

“She has always been pretty natural and likes the competition that the league provides,” Lindi said.

Ella’s success is not limited to the baseball field — she’s a softball star, too.

But she dropped softball for the summer to join the Abilene team in its pursuit of the LLWS. The adjustment from underhand to overhand pitching was a challenge for her, but she knew how high the stakes were. And she struck out a pair of batters on the mound in a regional matchup against Louisiana.

“We knew this (year) was our biggest shot to go this far,” Ella said. “This is once in a lifetime. I have softball for the rest of my life, so I can do this for one year and go right back.”

Former Williamsport star Mo’ne Davis, now in college, continues to return to the Little League World Series as a broadcast analyst. Both she and Ella have inspired the next generation of girls in the process.

“I gave a pass to a little girl outside who just wanted to see Ella play,” Lindi said. “I saw her back today in an Abilene shirt. I don’t think Ella realizes how far her impact is felt through different states all across the place.”

Ella started at catcher again on Tuesday, playing her third error-free game in a row at the tournament as Texas beat New Jersey 2-1 to stave off elimination and set up a game against Nebraska on Wednesday. But even if her team’s moment comes to an end before the championship on Sunday, Regala said his new star “handles the attention well.”

Preston Shoemaker is a sports journalism student at Penn State.

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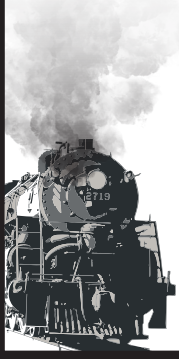
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Soccer

From Page 1B

Dey said Sacred Heart has a lot of returning starters but it is still a young team. Sacred Heart returns sophomore George Bain IV, who scored nine goals as a freshman, and a fellow all-conference pick in junior Osvaldo Garcia. This year's seniors are Bruno Saucedo, Ian Viscarra and Alex Karigan.

"We have a young team, but along with this team, we've got great leadership with our seniors," Dey said. "All three of them ... they provide so much leadership to this team. It's kind of like having other coaches on the field."

A total of 16 players make up the 2021 Gremlins team, which has been officially practicing since Monday, Aug. 9.

"This is our 10th practice (on Friday) and the biggest takeaway I can say about this group, No. 1 is their attitude and their work rate," Dey said. "They've got a high work rate and you mix that in with great attitudes, I mean it makes practice go so much easier, the flow of the game



Sophomore George Bain IV, left, works to keep the ball away from freshman Josh Pacheco Friday morning during soccer practice.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT
Sacred Heart senior Ian Viscarra looks for a teammate during practice Friday morning at Clover Dell Park.

so much easier, and really they're a lot of fun to be around and watch."

Despite the team consisting of nearly half underclassmen, Dey said the freshmen and sophomores have been anything but timid.

"They come in, they play hard and the key to it is they listen to the seniors to what they have to say. When they're out there playing, those younger kids just thrive to it," Dey said. "Typically you don't see that. Typically when you've got seniors out there and a lot more vocal, if you're a freshman or sophomore you might just hang back and be a little bit timid and shy. These kids aren't. They all get along with each other, again great relationships"

Dey called the team a "tight-knit group," pointing out that they end each practice with a huddle that ends on saying "brothers."

For Dey, coaching allows him to watch kids succeed on and off the field. It's what has kept him working on the field over the last three decades with

various teams.

"I've already seen some kids in the last 10 days that have already improved," he said. "I love building relationships with kids not only on the field but you have a good relationship on the field, it goes over into life. You got a friendship for dear life. That's what it's about, relationships and working with kids and trying to make a difference. I'm a firm believer in that. I don't know if that happens, but that's the whole key. I just want to make a difference."

As far as goals for the 2021 soccer season, Dey said he's just looking to work hard.

"Everyone wants the title but what I'm shooting for is let's play as hard as we can, as smart as we can," he said. "And if we play hard and smart, we're going to do just fine."

The Gremlins had a jamboree on Saturday and will face their first regular schedule opponents Aug. 27-28 at the Smith-Cotton Shootout.

Nicole Cooke can be reached at 660-530-0138 or on Twitter @NicoleRCooke.



Sacred Heart soccer head coach Warren Dey, in his first season with the Gremlins, watches his players toward the end of practice Friday at Clover Dell Park.

Hall of Fame

From Page 1B

He posted double-digit wins in six of 15 seasons and had a .524 career winning percentage.

"I am overwhelmed. I'm not sure I belong there," Vermeil said of the Hall of Fame upon

hearing the news of his finalist status from Baker. He said the coach committee had his "deepest appreciation and gratitude."

The selection committee will also consider 15 modern era finalists and one contributor, who will be named on Aug. 31.

The preliminary list of modern era candidates will be picked in September, then trimmed to 25 semifinalists in November and the 15 finalists in January.

The Class of 2022 will be formally enshrined next summer in Canton, Ohio.

Collegiate

From Page 1B

Kliavkoff and Warren both said their conferences support playoff expansion, while Phillips said the ACC had not landed on a final position.

The commissioners and university presidents are scheduled to meet in late September in Chicago to discuss what comes next for the expansion proposal.

"This is not a voting bloc," Kliavkoff said of the alliance in a brief interview with AP. "We've not committed to voting together on anything. We've committed to discuss all of these issues, and to try to come up with solutions that are in the best interest of longterm college athletics."

"I'd be surprised if we come to different conclusions with respect to how we think about CFP expansion, but it's not a voting bloc," he said.

The scheduling piece could lead to numerous nonconference football games per season and multiple team events in basketball involving ACC, Big Ten and Pac-12 teams, potentially creating new and valuable television inventory.

But that could take time to come together, especially in football.

Nonconference football schedules are typically made years in advance and many schools already have mostly full slates in the coming seasons. The commissioners said they did not expect their schools to break contracts to accommodate new agreements within the alliance nor would they prohibit members from scheduling schools from other leagues.

The ACC, Big Ten and Pac-12 tried to make a bold statement by unveiling the alliance, but with no concrete plans in place it will start as a merely a promise to act with mutual interests in mind.

"Hopefully, this will bring some much needed stability in college athletics," Warren said. "I also think what it will do is allow people to understand where everyone else stands. Some of the events over the last couple of months have shaken the foundations of college athletics."

Paralympics

From Page 1B

Organizers on Tuesday also announced the first positive test for an athlete living in the Paralympic Village. They gave no name or details and said the athlete had been isolated.

The Paralympics are being held without fans, although organizers are planning to let some school children attend, going against the advice of much of the medical community.

Parsons and Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the Tokyo organizing committee, say the Paralympics can be held safely. Both have tried to distance the Paralympics and Olympics from Tokyo's rising infection rate.

"For the moment we don't see the correlation between having the Paralympics in Tokyo with the rising number of cases in Tokyo and Japan," Parsons told The Associated Press.

Some medical experts

say even if there is no direct link, the presence of the Olympics and Paralympics promoted a false sense of security and prompted people to let down their guard, which may have helped spread the virus.

The Paralympics are about athletic prowess. The origin of the word is from "parallel" — an event running alongside the Olympics.

Markus Rehm — known as the "Blade Jumper" — lost his right leg below the knee when he was 14 in a wakeboarding accident, but earlier this year he jumped 8.62 meters, a distance that would have won the last seven Olympics, including the Tokyo Games. Tokyo's winning long jump was 8.41 meters.

"The stigma attached to disability changes when you watch the sport," said Craig Spence, a spokesman for the International

Paralympic Committee.

"These games will change your attitude toward disability."

"If you look around Japan, it's very rare you see persons with disabilities on the street," Spence added. "We've got to go from protecting people to empowering people and creating opportunities for people to flourish in society."

Archer Matt Stutzman was born with no arms, just stumps at the shoulders. He holds a world record — for any archer, disabled or otherwise — for the longest, most accurate shot, hitting a target at 310 yards, or about 283 meters.

Wheelchair fencer Bebe Vivo contracted meningitis as a child and to save her life, doctors amputated both her forearms and both her legs at the knees.

"So many people told me that it was impossible to do fencing without any hands," Vivo said in a recent interview. "So it was so important to me to demonstrate and show people that it doesn't

matter if you don't have hands, or you don't have legs or whatever. If you have a dream and you really want to achieve it, just go and take it."

Stutzman and Vivo are both set to compete in Tokyo and have already won medals in previous games, superstars who told their stories last year in the Netflix documentary about the Paralympics called "Rising Phoenix."

The rest of the 4,403 Paralympic athletes in Tokyo — a record number for any Paralympics — will be telling their stories until the closing ceremony.

"I feel like I'm meeting movie stars," said 14-year-old Ugandan swimmer Husnah Kukundakwe, who is competing for the first time.

She acknowledged being a self-conscious adolescent, even more so because of a congenital

impairment that left her with no lower right arm, and her left hand slightly misshapen.

"Since it's the Paralympics and everybody else is disabled, I feel really comfortable with myself," she said. "In Uganda, there are very few people who have disabilities who want to come out and be themselves."

Paralympic organizers played a part last week in launching "WeThe15," a human-rights campaign aimed at 1.2 billion people — 15% of the global population — with disabilities. They've also produced a 90-second video to promote the cause of social inclusion.

"Difference is a strength, it is not a weakness," Parsons said, speaking in the largely empty stadium. "And as we build back better in the post-pandemic world, it must feature societies

where opportunities exist for all."

Shingo Katori, a member of boy band SMAP that had its roots in the 1980s, now works with Paralympic organizers. He acknowledged his early fears of working with people with disabilities.

"Frankly speaking, people in wheelchairs or people with artificial legs — I hadn't had an opportunity to meet these people and I didn't know how to communicate with them," he said. "But through Paralympic sports, such hesitation faded away."

Stutzman, known as the "Armless Archer," has a disarming sense of humor — pardon the pun. He jokes about growing up wanting the be like former NBA star Michael Jordan.

"I gave it up," he deadpans. "I wasn't tall enough."



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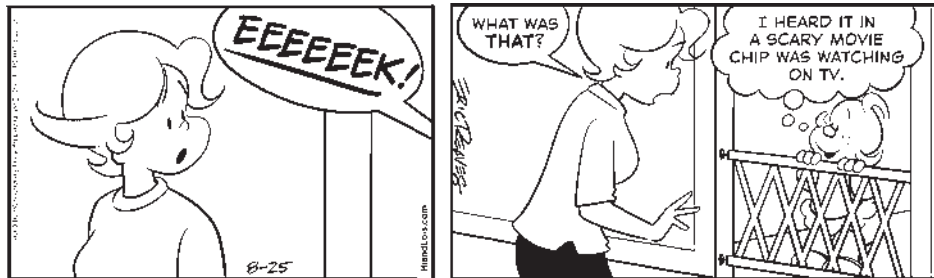
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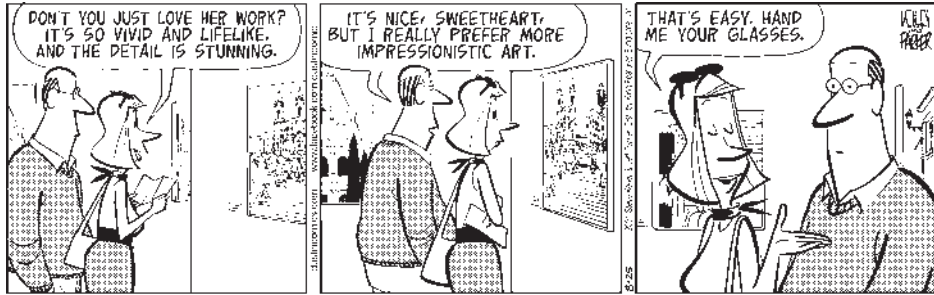
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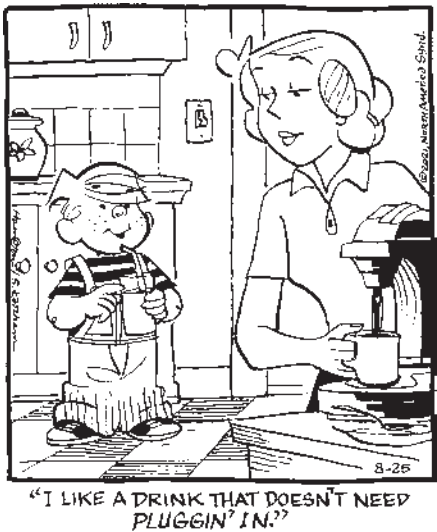
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DENNIS THE MENACE

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1 Gift tag word
5 Pulsate
9 Push away

- 40 Ginger cookie
41 Used to be

DOWN

- 1 Fern part
2 News offering
3 Starting bid
4 Sea, to Simone
5 Hotel units
6 Makes blank
7 Acropolis setting
8 Yonder things
10 Oversights
11 Bakery buys

BOB	CAT		LATE
OLE	ARY		ASIA
PETER	PARKER		
	SOOTY		
	CLAW	ENDS	
BOOR	TAXING		
ART	BAT	TOO	
GETSON	STUD		
DOOR	SCOT		
	CNOTE		
BRUCE	BANNER		
EASE	ELTORO		
DEER	YESMAN		

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Make good as new
27 On the beach
28 Small frog
29 Battle souvenirs
30 Nicholas II, for one
31 Stockholm native
33 Ooze
37 Court concern

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
			22			23		
	24	25		26			27	28
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8-25

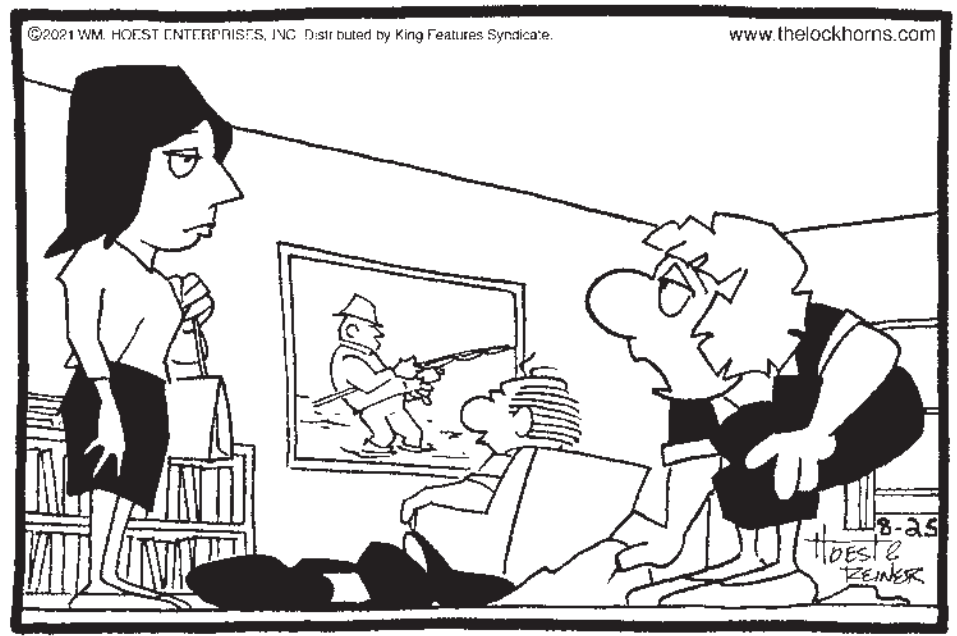
BABY BLUES

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 Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. Parallel Infrastructure, intends to construct a communications facility at 23670 Sacajawea Road, Sedalia, Pettis County, MO 65301 (38.669052, -93.255376). The facility will include a self-supporting telecommunications tower with an approximate overall height of 235 ft. and associated equipment. Parallel Infrastructure, is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We respectfully request that parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties or with questions on the proposed facility should contact GSS, Inc., 1054 Texan Trail, Suite 300, Grapevine, TX 76051; Ph. (682) 651-0034 within 30 days of the posting of this notice. (GSS #D21082-MO) 1x-8/25, 2021

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